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2020 VISIONS

THE COUNTY'S LEADERS OUTLINE THEIR WISHES FOR 2020

As we greet the year 2020 our thoughts turn to the challenges and changes that the year ahead will bring. As a commuter county, Wicklow is developing rapidly. House prices are high, rental properties scarce; our hospitals and roads are packed and our rural areas cry out for facilities. Meanwhile as we edge ever closer to climate breakdown, the pressure is on the people and politicians of Wicklow to act in the interests of our planet. A general election in the first few months of 2020 will give us an opportunity to make our voices heard on all of these issues. Wicklow Times asked our five sitting TDs, and the Cathaoirleach and County Manager of Wicklow County Council what their priorities and hopes are for County Wicklow in the year ahead.

Minister for Health Simon Harris said "I want to thank the people of Wicklow for their support through 2019 and for affording me the honour of representing them in Dáil Éireann as their TD. At a national level, 2020 promises to be a very busy year with a number of really important issues to pursue regarding Brexit, Locally, I want to

improving our public services, protecting our economy, the Northern Ireland institutions, working to advance climate action and so on.



The Wicklow RFC Under 18's girls team celebrate after beating Port Dara in the Leinster Cup Final. It was one of three cup final victories on the day for Wicklow RFC, with the U14's and U16's also winning their cup finals. See more on page 10

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continue to deliver on key projects. In 2020, as a local TD, I will be focusing on improved



Minister Simon Harris

public transport, easing traffic congestion on the M11 through sensible investment that aligns with public transport, working to ensure the delivery of a number of school projects, securing more funding for our sports clubs and community groups and the

delivery of greenways. I will also be working to help secure a public swimming pool for West Wicklow. I will continue to hold Constituency Advice Clinics where I look forward to linking in with communities, local groups, schools and businesses. We live in a wonderful county and we need to all work together to make it even better."

Minister of State Andrew Doyle (FG) told *Wicklow Times*, "My main aims for 2020 include the continuation of this Government's policy towards strengthening our economy while investing in broadband, housing, education and supporting and developing rural economies and communities.

(continued on p 3)

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Mrs. Clause at the storytelling & Teddy Bear Sleepover which was held in Greystones library. Pictured with her are Tess, Kitty, Elsie and Maisy O'Beirne, with a sign reminding people to 'say thank you to the ladies in the library for all their help'. Pic: John McGowan

New Wildflower Verge in Delgany

Work has begun on a wildflower verge along Delgany Wood Avenue. Overgrowth was cleared with the help of Woods Group on a wet and dreary November morning. The area has now been levelled and raked and planted with native wildflower seeds and nearly 2,000 bulbs! Delgany Community Council said "We can't wait to see the burst of colour and wildlife come spring."

Roundwood Variety Show

The Brockagh Resource Centre will be hosting the ever entertaining and talented Roundwood Variety Show performers again next year at the end of January 2020 with Robin Hood, The Magical Pantomime Adventure. Details will be posted at www.facebook.com/brockaghresourcecentre/ and on their website at www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie when there is more information.

Brockagh Resource Centre

The Brockagh Resource Centre wishes to thank everyone who has supported them over the past year.

"We wish you and your families a very happy, peaceful and joyous 2020. The Centre will re-open at 9am on Monday 6th January. For details of our activities see www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie/events. You can also 'friend' us on Facebook or Twitter. To add your name to our database and be kept informed about events, phone us on 0404-45600 or email brockaghresourcecentre@gmail.com."

Regular classes will resume on the following dates: Happy Days 7th January, Irish Dancing 11th January, Morning Yoga 9th January, Chair Yoga 9th January, Evening Yoga 14th January, Badminton Week of 13th January, We Love Art 6th January, Adult Art 6th January, Taekwon-Do 7th January, Elevation Drama Week of 6th January, Elevation Dance Week of 6th January, Pilates Week of 6th January, Violin Lessons Check with Tutor, Walking Group Check with Contact, Active Retirement 21st January.

Avoca Community Hall EGM

An EGM of Avoca Community Hall Co. Ltd. will be held in Avoca Community Hall on January 16th at 7pm. "We request all members of the community to attend. The purpose of this meeting is to establish if a new board of directors can be appointed or if the hall is to revert back to the ownership of St. Laurence O'Toole Diocesan Trust."

Citizen's Information Clinic

The Citizens Information Centre at the Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh is open for information relating to your rights and entitlements from 10 am until noon on the first and third Tuesday of each month. No appointment is necessary for this free and confidential service.

First Saturday Book Sale

The January First Saturday Book Sale, which supports the Shankill Old Folks Association, will take place in the Shankill Old Folks Association Centre, Lower Road, Shankill, from 10am to 1pm on Saturday January 4th 2020 so make a point of calling in during that morning to obtain some excellent reading material. Donations of books, which must be in a good and clean condition, other than school/text books, will be considered for acceptance on that day.

Mobile Library

The mobile library visits Laragh every second Thursday. It is in Annamoe between 11.30am and 12 noon and in Lynham's car park in Laragh from 12.15 to 12.50 pm. The first visits of the new year will be on Thursdays 2nd and 16th January. For more information, please phone 087-9135229 or email kdownes@wicklowcoco.ie

The Giving Tree says a big thank you to the people of Bray

Bray Rotary Club hosted their annual Christmas Giving Tree over two weekends and on the steps of the Holy Redeemer Church, 7th and 8th December and again on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th. The weather was very unkind and they had to abandon their stand on Sunday the 8th when a ferocious storm with rain, hail and sleet blew in.

However, this their 15th year, was still a huge success with about 400 presents donated to the value €10,000 plus thanks to the generosity of the people of Bray. and help in excess of 300 people each year.

How the Giving Tree works is that Gift Tags are placed on the tree

with first names and ages of local needy children and also vulnerable teenagers and adults.

Bray Rotary get the names from the four St Vincent de Paul Conferences in Bray, Purple House Cancer Support, Five Loaves Soup Kitchen, Ark Housing, Bray

Community Helpers, Open Door Day Centre and CASA, the Caring and Sharing Association.

The public take a gift tag; buy that person a suitable present, bring it back to the tree and Rotary distribute them to the Charities.

Organiser Una Whelan said "We realise people

have many calls on their generosity especially at this time of year and were a little concerned that the weather might keep people away, but the opposite seems to have been the case. People came out to support us, especially young families and we are very grateful to them."

Dave Fox tribute

Delgany Golf Club will host a celebratory 'This Is Your Life' tribute to local sporting legend Dave Fox, on Saturday 11th January at 7:30pm. The evening will be hosted by RTE's Sean O'Rourke.

Dave played for and had success with many sports clubs around Co. Wicklow, including Delgany Golf Club, Greystones Rugby Club, Eire Og and Bray Wanderers. For Greystones Rugby Club he was part of the team that beat the All America Team in Soldier Field, Chicago. He was also on the first Greystones hurling team to win the county championship, and is one of only three surviving members from that team - the other two being Andy Byrne, and Derek Mulrooney, outgoing President of Delgany Golf Club and organiser of this event in Dave's honour. Come along and hear all about Dave's incredible life. Tickets are €30 per person including meal and entertainment, and must be purchased at the bar in advance. The bar can be contacted on (01) 287 4536.

Wicklow Willow basket weaving

Spring courses begin in February and are suitable for both beginners and improvers. All courses are full-day (9 am to 5 pm) and take place in the Brockagh Centre.

They include materials, tuition, tea/coffee and lunch (with cake)! You will make and bring home your own basket on the day. Courses cost €85 and booking is essential (vouchers are available and make a wonderful Christmas or birthday present). A deposit of €50 is required to ensure a place. Places are limited, so please book early to get the dates you want. Courses are available on the following dates but extra dates may be added if there is enough demand: Saturday February 15th, Sunday February 23rd, Sunday March 1st, Wednesday March 25th and Sunday April 12th.

For more information, contact local basket maker and artist, Aoife Patterson, on 087-977 3622, email info@wicklowwillow.ie or visit www.wicklowwillow.ie.



Well done to six-year-old Conor and his nine-year-old sister Niamh from Roundwood, who spent Sunday 15th December making Christmas Yule logs. They set up a stand outside their house to sell the logs and are going to donate the profits to St Vincent De Paul. They came up with the idea together. Conor suggested that they donate the profits to charity, and Niamh then suggested that they donate to SVP.

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2020 VISIONS



Minister Andrew Doyle

(continued from p 1)

"Regarding Brexit, I hope that the clear majority in the House of Commons will result in ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement which guarantees no border and protects citizens' rights.

"As Minister of State for Agriculture, my priorities are to continue to grow new markets for our agri-food products, delivery of the Forestry programme and recognising the integral role that afforestation plays in meeting our climate change objectives.

"In Wicklow, I will be continuing to work closely with stakeholders towards the provision of improved public

transport options for commuters in the overall context of the N11 improvement scheme, as well as providing regular input on the proposed routes with the aim of ensuring minimum disruption on surrounding residents and communities, as well as remaining mindful on the potential environment impact on the Glen of the Downs area."

Deputy Stephen Donnelly (FF) said his word for Wicklow in 2020 is 'momentum'. "Lots will be happening - Bray's Florentine Centre, Greystones' IDA land, Wicklow Town's library, Arklow's water treatment plant, Blessington's Greenway, Baltinglass' town centre



Stephen Donnelly TD



John Brady TD

revival, Ashford & Ardmore film studios, Newtown's community pitches, the Hospice and much more. But there are also huge challenges to sort out. The commuter nightmare continues on the N81, N11 and public transport. Thousands of children in Wicklow can't access urgent healthcare. And services like St. Joseph's and Purple House need our support.

"Many of Wicklow's schools need investment - in new schools, extensions and upgrades. We need far more Gardaí and our Fire Services need support. People need affordable homes. Crazy insurance hikes for Wicklow's business-

es and childcare providers need to be dealt with, and we need far more local jobs (the real answer to commuter gridlock). And we need radical action on the environment, from national and local government, and from each and every one of us. It's going to be a busy year!"

Deputy John Brady (SF) said, "Housing is currently the biggest issue in the County and will continue to be in 2020. It is clear that Rebuilding Ireland has failed, and we need new policies to address this crisis.

"Wicklow has largely been ignored and forgotten by this government. In 2020 we need considerable investment in our public transport system.

"Unfortunately, more jobs have been lost in Arklow with the recent closure announcement of Rondo Food. We immediately need an Unemployment Task Force to be established to help bring jobs to Arklow and Wicklow Town.

"I would also like to see moves to address the

need for more public amenities. Blessington needs a swimming pool, a home found for Vartry Rowing Club and progress on the development of a Sports Campus in Bray.

"In 2020 we need to see significant improvements in our health service and put an end to forcing organisations to mount public campaigns to secure funding. We also need to see the Primary Care Centre delivered for Arklow."

"2020 is going to be a critical year for the people of Wicklow and Ireland," said Deputy Pat Casey (FF).

"Housing delivery must be the top priority and, solving the shame of family homelessness.



Pat Casey TD



CE, Frank Curran

We can provide homes for all who need them if the political will is there. We can ensure that older people live in dignity and not in fear of homelessness or lack of adequate health care. The General Election in 2020 will give the people of Wicklow the choice to decide who can deliver solutions not just peddle the politics of outrage.

"We need to ensure housing and economic progress throughout Wicklow, in all our towns and villages. Rural Wicklow and towns such as Wicklow, Arklow, Blessington and Baltinglass can be centres of local employment thus reducing the commuter chaos that is seeing the N/M11 and N81 at a standstill. I hope the people of Wicklow all take part in those decisions that will be made in 2020."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said "On behalf of Wicklow County Council, I wish the people of Wicklow a peaceful New Year. I will continue to work with my staff and the elected members to enhance the quality of life for citizens and communities throughout the County during 2020. Throughout 2019 we made significant progress on the delivery of social housing. Indeed, over the course of the next two years, we will deliver newly constructed homes for more than 400 families on the Council's social housing list.

"Urban regeneration projects are underway in Arklow, Wicklow Town and Bray while one in Baltinglass will also commence. Bray will see the new Town Centre opening, bringing a cinema, shops and restaurants in the heart of the town.

"We look forward to major tourism initiatives such as the development of Avondale and Glendalough; the commencement of the Avonmore Footbridge and the Blessington Greenway."

Cllr Irene Winters, Cathaoirleach of

Wicklow County Council, said "As Cathaoirleach my hopes for the new year are to see the continued roll out of the social housing programme. Almost 300 houses were delivered in County Wicklow in 2019 and double that is the target for 2020. The ongoing need for better Public Transport and a real workable plan to alleviate traffic congestion will also continue to be a top priority for me.

"On a personal level my wishes for my fami-



Cllr Irene Winters

ly and myself are no different to everyone else, health, happiness and good fortune. 2019 has been a very busy but good year for me and I hope for the same in 2020. I will again aim to get fitter and I'd like to be a better golfer but that may be a wish too far!"

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The advertisement features a brown leather sofa as the central element, set against a blue background with white snowflake patterns. The sofa is decorated with a blue blanket, patterned cushions, and a dark blue textured cushion. To the left, a small round table holds decorative pumpkins. To the right, a potted plant sits on a stand. The text 'EZ living INTERIORS' is at the top, followed by 'EVERYTHING REDUCED' and 'Winter SALE' in large letters. Below this, it lists 'Sofas • Dining • Bedroom • Accessories'. The 'Scott 2.5 Seater Leather Sofa' is specifically named. At the bottom left, 'Now On!' is written in a large script. At the bottom right, the price 'Now Only €1399' is shown, along with a 'Save €1000' offer and a monthly payment option of '€46.63 per month APR 0%'.

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A Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue vehicle comes to the aid of a stranded motorist in the Wicklow Uplands.

Vehicles stranded in Wicklow Uplands

Dublin & Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team and Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team were tasked on December 15th to a number of incidents involving stranded vehicles on upland roads in Wicklow.

The incidents occurred on the R759 and R115 that cross the Sally Gap and the L2083 between Laragh and Glenmalur. Near the Shay Elliot Recreational Area, on the L2083, mountain rescue (MR) personnel evacuated 13 people from a stranded bus, and later MR personnel evacuated people from multiple vehicles that became stranded on the R759 and R115.

Both MR teams were operational from approximately 1pm and 8pm on the day assisting members of the public who had fallen foul of wintry weather.

Road conditions on untreated upland roads in

Wicklow were extremely hazardous last week, with widespread sheet ice.

The DWMRT stated last week "To complicate matters, there is very little snow on the ground meaning snow chains are of limited use. Both mountain rescue teams ask - echoing the advice of An Garda Síochána and Wicklow County Council - that people avoid untreated upland roads in Wicklow at the moment. Much of the R759 and R115 are above an altitude of 400m meaning that, even when road conditions are clear elsewhere, these roads can still be extremely difficult to drive safely."

Education and Training Board is patron for new Greystones school

The Education and Training Board will be the Patron for the new Greystones Second Level school, it was announced last week.

Minister Simon Harris said "I am delighted to announce that the Education and Training Board has been selected to be patron of the new Secondary School in Greystones. I would like to thank all the families who participated in the patronage selection process. Over 800 families participated and more than 50% of these indicated the Education and Training Board as their first preference."

"Greystones has seen a surge in school enrolments not only due to more families living in our community but also more parents choosing to enrol their children in local schools. This announcement will provide peace of mind for many families who have struggled to find a sec-

ond level place for their child. The new school will have a capacity of 800 and will open in Autumn 2020. This is another significant investment in Greystones with the announcement last week that St David's has been given the green light to proceed with their new buildings.

Social Democrats Councillor, Jennifer Whitmore, said "I am very relieved that the decision as to who will run the school has been finally made. It is over 10 weeks since the patronage competition closed and many parents and students have been understandably concerned with the delay in the announcement."

"I have been inundated with parents asking when a decision would be

made, and it's great that this has now happened and parents have some certainty about who will run their child's new school and can see progress being made in setting it up."

Cllr Whitmore continued "There will be lots of work to be done to get this school up and running for September 2020. As patrons to a number of excellent schools in the area, including Colaiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole, the KWETB is well placed to get this new school established quickly. I look forward to seeing some fast progress on the establishment of this school as the principal is hired and a new Board of Management is established."

Whitmore said "It's very exciting to have a

new school open in our district and I look forward to working with the new Patron to help in any way I can to ensure a quick and smooth path for its establishment. I would also like to recognise the effort put in by the other patron applicants and their supporters, who worked very hard over the course of a very competitive campaign."

KWETB stated "we are delighted, a thank you to all concerned and to all parents who voted for KWETB. It is a real honour to be able to bring the ETB Secondary School to Greystones ready for academic year 2020." KWETB will be opening enrolments and announcing parents meetings soon.

Junk to Christmas decorations

Creative students who made Christmas decorations out of junk materials were rewarded at a prize-giving ceremony organised by Wicklow County Council on Tuesday December 17th.

The Christmas Decoration Competition provided students with the opportunity to show their creativity, making decorations with items of junk. The challenge was to produce a decoration from items of waste that would often end up in the bin. Students responded by making decorations as diverse as snowmen, angels, cribs, ornaments for the tree, stars, and candleholders.

Waste items reused included plastic bottles, light bulbs, sweet wrappers, toilet rolls, drink cans, polystyrene and bits of old toys, socks and fabrics. The students showed an amazing ability to see the potential to use items of junk creatively. Winners were presented with their prizes by the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Irene Winters, and Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, at a ceremony in County Buildings.

All prize winners received a family pass to Cool Planet in Enniskerry which provides an interactive workshop on Climate Action, a great way for children to learn about Climate Change and the actions we can all take to reduce our impact. Presenting the prizes, Mr Curran paid tribute to the role young people played in pushing for Climate Action during 2019.

Christmas is the ideal time to take a second look at what we are throwing out. Over 20 per cent of our annual waste is produced at Christmas time. Food waste in particular reaches high levels and Wicklow County Council is encouraging people to avoid wasting food this year through better planning and shopping. The Environmental Awareness Office of Wicklow County Council has produced a recipe book to help use up all those leftovers - including the turkey, ham, cheeses or salmon - and turn them into interesting dishes for the Christmas holiday. Recycling centres in County Wicklow will be reopen after Christmas for what is the busiest time of the year. Christmas trees will be accepted for recycling from Friday, 3rd January



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Winners of the Wicklow County Council annual Recyclable Christmas Decoration Competition with Frank Curran, Chief Executive of WCC, and Cathaoirleach of WCC Irene Winters, and Cathaoirleach of Arklow, Greystones and Bray - councillors, Pat Fitzgerald, Tom Fortune and Steven Matthews.

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Institute of Technology Carlow recently awarded academic and sports scholarships for the 2019/20 academic year to students who have distinguished themselves, both academically and through their exceptional sporting ability. Pictured are Wicklow students who were awarded such scholarships; Xena Jrdon (rowing); Bethany Sharpe (rugby); Kim Connors (football); Katie Anne O'Neill (rugby); Cathal Condren (parasoccer); Sean Hurley (soccer); Padraig O'Toole (football); and Gearoid Murphy (football). Pic: Mary Browne

Bray Boy Eric has deportation order lifted

Young Bray boy Eric Zhi Ying Xue has had the threat of deportation lifted and has his future in Ireland assured.

Speaking after hearing the good news, John Brady TD said "I welcome news this afternoon that Eric is no longer facing the threat of deportation and has had his future in Ireland secured.

"I am in no doubt that the threat to Eric's future in Ireland, the place he was born and in fact, has never left, has been an extremely worrying time for his family. It has been a nightmare for him, for his family and for the community in Bray, and especially all at St. Cronan's Primary School.

"All of this came about due to the 2004 referen-

dum which ended the automatic right of babies born in Ireland to claim citizenship. Sinn Féin were one of few political parties to oppose this at the time. However, the result of that referendum, or any referendum should not blind us from common sense. His family have suffered immeasurably as a result.

"Today is a good day for Eric, for his mother and for all at St. Cronan's Primary School who sprang into action when the deportation order was first served. They are due huge credit for that."

M11 submission deadline extended as calls for route rethink grow

Friday 13th this year became a day of victory, albeit a small one, for local residents around the proposed new M11 Motorway routes as Wicklow County Council (WCC) confirmed an extension to the deadline for submissions on the N11/M11 upgrade scheme.

After just two weeks of campaigning an estimated 2,000 submissions were received on the new Orange, Pink, Red and Cyan routes planned for the N11.

The news of the extended deadline was welcomed by the locally based volunteer information team helping residents around Delgany, Kilmurray, Ballydonagh, Foxborough and Greystones to understand the colossal scale of the motorway proposals being hatched.

The team, who have set up the Facebook group M11 Friday 13th, estimates that already over 2,000 people have now made submissions to N11M11@ARUP.COM. This huge tally comes after just two weeks of effort and the team says it shows the anger, frustration and opposition among local residents.

The campaign started in early December. With flyers and petitions the teams have taken stands at local church and school Christmas markets, trekked door-to-door for leaflet drops, created social media groups, opened

online petitions, hosted local information evenings, and contacted local Councillors and national TDs.

At people's doors the team has been met with widespread dismay at the proposals and almost total support in calling for a rethink on these proposed new routes. Issues raised by residents included concerns about homes and farms to the wider issues of climate change, public transport, water and air quality and community severance.

The information team stated that "the proposed new routes, which are a departure from previous suggestions, would rip through homes, farms, sporting grounds, heritage trails, and more. They would also decimate local village access in Delgany with the knock on impact on businesses in the village. A further major concern is the impact of new routes on the hydrology in the area. With proposed routes - particularly the Orange and Pink routes, requiring 30m (9 story) to 40m (12 story) deep cuts into the ground over a

wide and long run, the impact on water quality for the wider area could be a cause of major concern."

With little previous experience of this type of community-based campaign, the volunteer team has focused on getting and sharing information so that local residents can inform themselves. The local residents helping out come from groups in Drummin, Ballydonagh, Delgany, Kilmurray, Bellevue, Foxborough Lane and more. These local groups are now joining forces to fight the new 6-lane motorway routes.

However, concerns have also now emerged as residents have learned that flyer-based submissions with a range of multiple-choice options signed by local residents will not be considered.

The information team said "the initially scant information about the routes has since been supplemented with some additional reports now available on the official motorway website. Requests for more information were originally refused and these new reports have

arrived after significant pressure and multiple requests from local residents."

Meanwhile, Stephen Donnelly TD, Wicklow's Town Team and State agencies, met recently to explore a plan to turn the hard shoulder of the N11 into a dedicated bus corridor, as part of a new integrated public transport plan. Deputy Donnelly said "The NTA has now agreed to fund a short term project to see what technical specifications and works are required to turn the hard shoulder into a dedicated bus corridor. Serious safety concerns for cyclists and commuters need to be looked into.

"Critically, this work can be done years ahead of the 2027 proposal. We're also investigating options for park and rides, express bus, and higher rail frequency - both the Dart from Greystones and the line from Arklow through Wicklow Town to Greystones. Again these are being looked at with a view to getting things moving in a much shorter time frame than previously being spoken about.



ARKLOW

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Tuesdays at 5:30 and 7:30
Call Tony on 087 1785384

Wednesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Clare on 087 1722536

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Coffee Delights, IDA Business Park
Southern Cross, Bray
Saturdays at 9:30am
Call Grainne O'Toole on 086 4661566

Coffee Delights, IDA Business Park
Southern Cross, Bray
Wednesdays at 9:30am, 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Alison on 085 2727 541

Bray Wheelers Clubhouse,
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Off the Boghall Road, Bray
Thursdays at 9:30am, 5:30 and 7:30pm
Fridays at 7:30 and 9:30am
Call Lesley on 087 1489110

GREYSTONES

All 3 groups meet here:
Greystones, Eire Og GAA Club, Mill Road,
Greystones

Tuesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Wednesdays at 9:30 and 11:30am
Call Penny on 087 7093841

Wednesdays at 7:30pm
Call Patricia on 083 4434288

KILCOOLE

Byrne's Pub, Main Street, Kilcoole
Thursdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Patricia on 083 4434288

Saturdays at 9:30am
Call Gloria on 083 3922395

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY

Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy
Mondays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Call Jackie on 083 0353633

RATHDRUM

RAD Hall / Annexe
Fair Green, Rathdrum
Thursday at 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Call Caroline on 087 7853600

TINAHELY

Parochial Hall, Hacketstown Rd, Tinahely
Mondays at 5:30 and 7:30
Call Tony on 087 1785384

WICKLOW TOWN

All 3 groups meet here:
Upstairs in Ernie's Bar
Market Square, Wicklow

Tuesdays at 5:30 and 7:30pm
Wednesdays at 5:30 and 7:30
Thursdays at 8 and 10am

Call Grainne Reynolds on 087 1470704

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The Wicklow RFC U14 team after their cup final victory over Naas

Triple triumph for Wicklow Rugby Club

The year has ended on a high for Wicklow Rugby Club with the Under 14's, 16's, and 18's girls teams all winning their respective Leinster cup finals at the Energia Stadium in Donnybrook on Sunday 15th December.

The U14's won the first trophy of the day, beating Naas 38 to 17. Up next was the U16 team, and they didn't disappoint against Portlaoise, beating them 31 to 19. Finally it was the turn of the U18's, who dispatched Port Dara by a score of 29 to 7.

The Wicklow RFC Clunhouse was opened up on Sunday evening to welcome the teams home and celebrate their success.

Meanwhile the club's boys teams had success in their South East semi-finals on 14th December. The U13s beat Carlow 26-10, while the U14's beat Kilkenny, and U16s beat Wexford. Their finals will be played in April.

All this meant it was certainly a weekend to remember for the club from Ashtown Lane. Wicklow RFC has seen much success and growth over the last number of years, and with these young teams showing so much promise the club's success looks set to continue into the future.



The Wicklow RFC U16 team after their victory over Portlaoise

Plans announced for 598 new homes at Shanganagh

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in partnership with the Land Development Agency (LDA) have announced plans to deliver 598 new homes at Shanganagh in Shankill.

This partnership enables the Council to fast-track the delivery of much-needed homes. The proposed development will incorporate state-of-the-art sustainable design principles, combining sustainable density, high-quality materials, environment-friendly techniques and dedicated measures to enhance the attractiveness of the development as a place to live for families and individuals, in addition to promoting car-free living to the greatest extent possible given its proximity to quality transport connections.

This significant development will be one of the first projects to be backed by the LDA, which was established by the Government to unlock State land for new homes and improve the supply of new homes throughout Ireland.

It will include (subject to planning permission and the final decision of the Council's elected members): 307 cost-rental homes, which will offer long-term security of tenure to people who struggle to access homes at affordable levels; 200 social homes; 91 affordable purchase homes.

The development is consistent with the Council's ambition to exceed its housing targets and the LDA's mandate to deliver new homes on publicly owned land, helping to address the current supply shortage and to make access to homes

more affordable for both buyers and renters. About half of the proposed development will be devoted to cost rental homes, which is a new form of tenure in Ireland and will result in more affordable rents for households who struggle to pay private rents.

Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Councillor Shay Brennan commented: "This is excellent news for people looking to buy or rent a home in our area and will make a significant contribution to meeting the Council's social housing requirements and will provide an opportunity for people to purchase or rent a home at an affordable cost. The development will offer people an attractive place to live that is close to key transport links and supported by a wide range of local amenities. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the LDA to complete these homes and have people living in them as soon as possible."

LDA Chief Executive John Coleman said: "This landmark development for the LDA is the first of many projects in our pipeline. It will be one of the largest residential construction projects in Ireland and is a major statement of our intent to help renters, buyers and people in need of social housing with large-scale delivery of high-quality new homes. It also points to the effectiveness of the LDA and the potential to

work with local authorities and other public landowner partners.

"This development will offer renters long-term security of tenure while also adding to the supply of social and affordable housing in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area. Its proximity to the planned DART and BusConnects transport options is consistent with our ethos of engendering reduced need for car journeys.

"Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is an excellent partner and we are grateful to the Council members, its executive team and its staff for the ambition, expertise and co-operation they have brought to getting the project to this stage. This project is an excellent

example of what can be achieved by local authorities and the LDA by working towards our shared goal of delivering more homes."

A planning application will be submitted by the Council to An Bord Pleanála in January.

The proposed development comprises a diverse range of home types and focuses on sustainable density levels. It features a wide range of ancillary facilities including (subject to planning): a crèche to take care of children living at the development; a gym which will be available to all residents; In excess of 1,200 bicycle spaces; a local shop and café to create a sense of community; communal lounge areas, community space and function rooms which can be used for social events and will engender community integration; business

units which will assist tenants who work from home or run small businesses; a central energy centre which provides heating and hot water in the most sustainable and efficient way; concierge and storage facilities for tenants to secure their belongings in a safe manner; electric car charging points from commencement, with all spaces future proofed for additional charging points; shared car facilities; children's play areas.

The site occupies approximately 9 hectares and is zoned for residential development. It is adjacent to Shanganagh Castle, Shanganagh Park and Castle Farm and will be within 5 to 10 minutes' walk of the proposed DART station at Woodbrook and BusConnects route on the nearby Dublin Road (N11).



An artist's representation of the finished Shanganagh development

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*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges as a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement

€3.75 million invested in new Rathnew site

The Maxol Group has commenced works on a new greenfield site at Rathnew.

The 1.45-acre site is the first greenfield site for the company in two years and is expected to open in April 2020, creating 20 jobs.

With a substantial investment of €3.75 million, the latest site will offer first class forecourt with pay at pump and convenience facilities and will include the all-new Maxol Deli with seating for 32 customers, ROSA Coffee, free WIFI, a new car wash and 39 car park spaces.

Speaking of the company's latest greenfield investment, Brian Donaldson, CEO of The Maxol Group said: "Today's announcement is significant for us as it is our first greenfield site since A26 Tannaghmore in Antrim Northern Ireland, which opened in 2017."

Maxol Rathnew will be located at Tighes Avenue and will serve the local community of Rathnew and surrounding Wicklow Town as well as commuters travelling between Dublin and Wicklow.

Pat
Casey
TD



*Wishing everyone a Happy New Year
Looking forward to working for you in 2020*

Office will be closed from 4pm on Friday 20th December 2019 to 10am on Monday 6th January 2020.

Contact me:

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President of Wicklow Lions Club Sean Olohan with Ann Chambers presenting the Wicklow Fire Service donated Hamper to the Patton family at the Wicklow Lions Christmas Concert in Tinakilly.

Lions Christmas concert a success

The very first Wicklow and District Lions Club Christmas Concert which took place in Tinakilly on Saturday evening last.

The sold out event featured the very best in entertainment and production in the wonderful surroundings of the Pavilion at Tinakilly House Hotel.

Performers taking part were the ladies and gentlemen from Ireland's top musical society the Rathmines and Rathgar who travelled from Dublin to give their support to Wicklow Lions. Singers from the Wicklow area but who perform internationally were Lorna Breen, Kirsty Mc Dougall, Ciaran Olohan and Analiesa Evens.

The local MYTh Academy were represented by a very talented group of boys and girls all dressed as Santa's for the occasion under the direction of Aisling Doyle.

Jimmy Dixon as compere kept the evening flowing wonderfully with his songs and stories. The lady who put so much into making the concert such a fantastic success was Musical Director Jackie Olohan who worked tirelessly over the past few weeks. Diane Owens assisted as accompanist and singer.

The wonderful sound production was achieved by sound engineer Noel Dicker from Bray. President of Wicklow and District Lions Club Sean Olohan thought up the idea and organised the concert with the support of other members to raise vital funds to be distributed in the local area and thanks to everyone who attended this can now be achieved.

Sean thanked the audience for their support and especially all the wonderful performers who gave their time to help others through Wicklow Lions. He also thanked Abi and his staff in Tinakilly for their help on the night.

St Laurence's awarded bursary for research and innovation

St Laurence's National School in Greystones has received one of 24 bursaries awarded by Teaching Council for Research and Innovation.

The Teaching Council has awarded 24 bursaries to teachers and others engaged in a range of education-related research projects as part of the first public service wide Innovation Week.

The bursaries, totalling more than €86,000, are being awarded under the third cycle of the John Coolahan Research Support Framework - a key element of the Council's CROI (Collaboration and Research for Ongoing Innovation) research series.

Through the Research

Support Framework, and CROI more broadly, the Council highlights the fact that research, innovation, and collaboration are at the heart of teaching and learning. The Framework is designed to support teachers' ongoing professional growth through their engagement in and with research, and the sharing of learning from that process.

The research activities being supported by the Teaching Council under the Framework cover a range of topics from professional learning, to wellbeing, to student

teachers' attitudes to teaching in a Gaelcholáiste.

Teaching Council Deputy Chairperson, Séan McMahon, said "Through the John Coolahan Research Support Framework, the Teaching Council is supporting teachers in leading cutting-edge research, and in sharing learning from research, in schools across the country. And through this research awards programme we are publicly celebrating primary, post-primary, and further education teachers as researchers, as innovators,

and as collaborators."

Teaching Council Director, Tomás Ó Ruairc said: "The John Coolahan Research Support Framework is itself an innovation in how the public sector supports the sharing of best practice amongst teachers. The research projects which we are recognising this week connect learning between schools, Universities and colleges of education. This connection of innovation will enhance the quality of teaching and learning for all of our pupils and students."

Wicklow student receives top CPA Ireland prize for academic excellence

Lyndsey Kavanagh from Wicklow Town was the recipient of an award for academic excellence which was presented by CPA Ireland in Dublin on Saturday 7th December.

The award recognises her accomplishment as the top performer in the Professional 2 paper on Strategic Performance Management and the award was kindly sponsored by White Bear.

Gearóid O'Driscoll, President of CPA Ireland, speaking at the graduation ceremony challenged young accountants to show leadership in the fight against climate change. O'Driscoll said "The scale of the climate crisis is now widely understood, but too few businesses and individuals are examining how society can combat this. Every business in Ireland from the largest multinational to a fledgling start-up will avail of the advice of

qualified accountants. As a profession, we have a responsibility to help businesses measure their climate impact and lead businesses to transition to a low carbon economy."

"In conjunction with our sponsors, CPA Ireland each year presents an award to those students who have achieved the highest examination mark in each subject for the CPA examinations. Congratulations Lyndsey and to all the 2019 prize-winners who come from diverse roles in both practice and industry and thank you to all our partner firms involved in this event."

Lyndsey Kavanagh who works as a company accountant for Synchro said "I am extremely proud of myself for making it to this day. I contemplated giving up on many occasions. But with the support of my family, not only have I reached graduation, I also achieved top marks in one of the final stage subjects."



Lyndsey Kavanagh receiving her award for academic excellence from Gearóid O'Driscoll, President of CPA Ireland

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Baltinglass designated a Rent Pressure Zone

The Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) has published the quarterly Rent Index for the July-September period (Q3) of 2019. It shows that the Baltinglass Local Electoral Area (LEA) was one of four LEA's around the country that now meet the criteria for being a Rent Pressure Zone.

The RTB Rent Index, which is compiled in conjunction with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), is the authoritative report on the Irish rental market. It is based on actual rents paid on 21,236 tenancies registered with the RTB in the quarter, which is made up of new housing stock to the rental sector, new tenancies and renewals of existing tenancies.

For an area to be designated as a Rent Pressure Zone, it must meet the following criteria: The annual rate of rent inflation in the area must have been 7% or more in four of the last six quarters;

The rent is above comparison standardised average rent appropriate for that area.

As of Q3 2019, there were seven counties where the standardised average rent exceeds (or equals) €1,000 per month - Cork, Dublin, Galway, Kildare, Louth, Meath and Wicklow.

While Limerick, Carlow and Kilkenny all have a standardised average rent between €900 and €999. The high rental levels in these areas relative to other counties reflect the concentration of demand close to the country's largest employment hubs.

RTB Director, Rosalind

Carroll said "We recognise that affordability continues to be an issue in the rental sector with rents peaking over €1,700 in Dublin despite the increase in housing completions.

"It is also important to be aware that since July 1 the RTB has increased powers to investigate and sanction breaches of rental law. To date, the

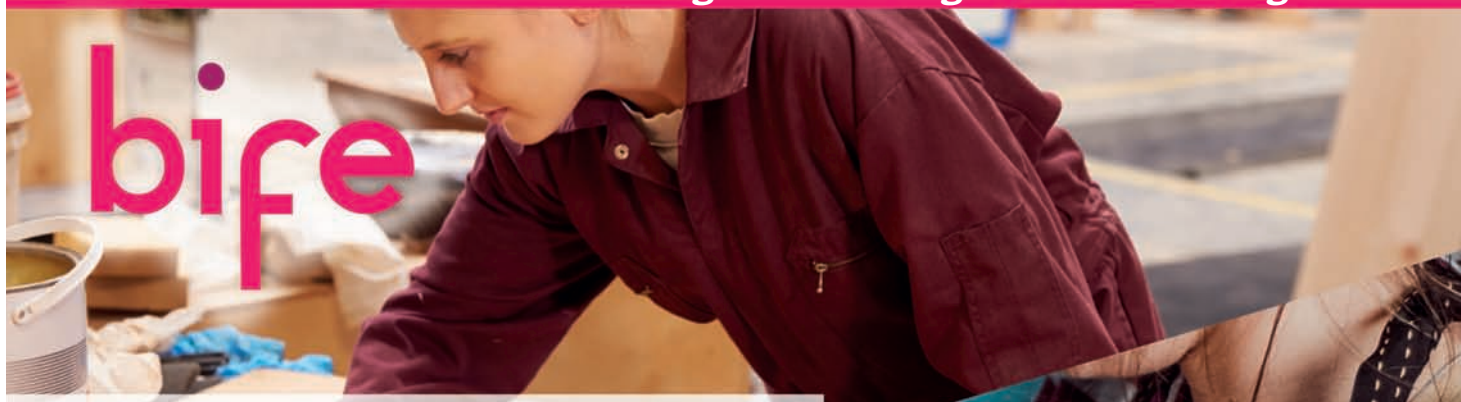
RTB currently has 38 investigations in progress.

"It is important that people use the new regulatory powers the RTB now has. If anyone has concerns they can contact us and call our investigations tip off line on 0818 776297 or 01 6753724, which is operational from 8:30am to 6:30pm Monday to Friday or visit www.rtb.ie."



Emma Nicholls, Gillian Byrne, Mags Power and Jo Byrne are pictured at the Ladies Christmas Charity Ball in the Woodenbridge Hotel in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation.

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Classes begin January 27th at 7.30pm and end at 9.30pm and are of 10 weeks duration unless otherwise stated.

Please go to **bife.ie** for full details

Redevelopment of AO Smith site in Bray to commence in 2020

Wicklow Sinn Féin TD John Brady has welcomed confirmation that the derelict AO Smith site on the Boghall Road will be redeveloped next year. Lidl Ireland has confirmed to Deputy Brady that they will start development of a new store on part of the old AO Smith site in June next year.

Deputy Brady said "The AO Smith site on the Boghall Road has unfortunately lain derelict since 2005 when the factory closed with a loss of 140 jobs. Last year Lidl Ireland secured planning permission to develop a new store on the site; however there were concerns in the community that the development wouldn't precede."

"Over the last number of months I have been in contact with Lidl and they have now confirmed that they are committed to developing their new store on the site. They are at detailed design stage and anticipate that work to demolish the old AO Smith factory will commence in June next. The opening of the new Lidl store is expected to take place in early 2021."

"The new Lidl store is the first phase of the redevelopment of the AO Smith site. No planning application has been submitted for the remainder of the site. There is residential zoning on it that could accommodate 120 apartments."

Cllr Dermot O'Brien said "I note that Lidl as the national partner of Jigsaw, the National Centre for Youth Mental Health is committed to supporting that service across the country. I am particularly interested in exploring if the second phase of the development of that site might include a community asset such as a Jigsaw building."



Deputy John Brady and Cllr Dermot O'Brien at the derelict AO Smith factory on the Boghall Rd.





Members of the Arklow Fire Service receive their 1916-2016 commemorative medals from Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, Cllr Stloester Bourke and Cllr Tommy Annesley

5Rhythms New Year's Eve event at Whale Theatre

Ignite creativity, connection, and community with the 5Rhythms dynamic movement practice Upstairs in Greystones Studios above the Whale Theatre on New Year's Eve.

This will be an opportunity to bring 1-5 clothing items that you love, essentially in good condition, swap for something new, and maybe even wear it! Surplus items will be donated to Greystones' St Vincent De Paul. Feel free to bring something small to share to eat, we are focusing on the healthy. Fruit, nuts, veg, home cooking. This is an alcohol free event, and non-alcoholic drinks can be purchased on the night.

The night will be divided into three parts: 8pm-10pm 5Rhythms class. 10pm-11pm break for refreshments. 11pm-12:30am DJ Set.

Organiser Sherron St Clair has been working with authentic movement and dance for 10 years, qualifying as a 5Rhythms teacher in Oct 2014. Over the years, Sherron has brought the 5Rhythms to the Earthsong camps, Body & Soul, and Electric Picnic, to Wexford, Cork, Clare and Paris, and her 2-monthly drop in classes in Greystones. This will be Sherron's 3rd New Year's Eve Alcohol-Free event.

It is in the practice of the 5Rhythms that, says Sherron, she has come to know it as a safe container to "Let Go and be Myself". Through movement, breath and dance, says Sherron, whatever condition she may be in, "shift happens".

Tuesday 31st December @ 8.00pm Tickets €25 www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550



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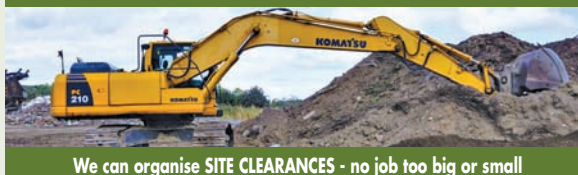
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HSE urges the public to play its part in reducing infection from flu

The HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) has asked the public to help prevent the spread of flu, as the latest figures show that the disease is now actively circulating in the community.

"People in high-risk groups need to get vaccinated against flu if they have not done so already" said HPSC director, Dr John Cuddihy. "The ILI (influenza like illness) rate for the week ending 8th December was 37.5 cases per 100,000 population which is above the baseline threshold of 18.1 cases per 100,000, used to assess influenza activity."

Dr Mary O'Meara, Specialist in Public Health Medicine, HSE Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow is asking the public to be aware of the symptoms and for those most vulnerable to get the vaccine, stating, "The symptoms of influenza usually develop over a matter of a few hours and

include a high temperature, sore muscles, dry cough, headache and sore throat. This is different from the common cold, which tends to come on more gradually and usually includes a runny nose and a normal temperature."

"The flu vaccine is a safe and effective prevention measure against flu and it is provided free of charge for people in at risk groups, which includes everyone aged 65 years and over, pregnant women, anyone over six months of age with a long term illness requiring regular medical follow-up such as chronic lung disease, chronic heart disease, diabetes, cancer or those with lower immunity due to disease or treat-

ment. The vaccine is also recommended for all healthcare workers to protect themselves and those they care for."

Vaccination remains the most effective means of preventing infection by seasonal influenza viruses and can reduce severe disease that can lead to hospitalisation and death. The vaccine takes two weeks to take effect once received.

Anyone who gets flu should stay at home, rest, drink plenty of fluids and use over-the-counter remedies like paracetamol to ease symptoms. Anyone in one of the at-risk groups who develops flu symptoms or anyone who is not in an at-risk group, but whose flu

symptoms are severe or getting worse, should contact their GP. GPs may wish to prescribe antiviral medication for patients in these categories. If you need to visit your GP or the Emergency Department, please phone first to explain that you might have flu.

Covering your cough and sneeze can also help stop the spread of flu. Use a tissue and place it immediately in the bin. Wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve. Don't cough or sneeze into your hands. If you do, wash your hands immediately. This is to prevent spreading germs on the surfaces you touch.

What a difference a year makes

Aisling O'Brien, aged 44, lost 3 stone in less than a year. Aisling joined Slimming World in March 2019 after becoming increasingly unhappy with her size.

"I had been seriously thinking about losing weight in 2018. A number of family events and death of my Aunt in Feb 2018 (my Dad's younger sister), died at the age of 65 of a massive heart attack".

She was overweight for the majority of her life and suffered serious health issues as a result. "In the coming months between Feb 2018 and Christmas 2018 there was a number of occasions with extended family. Everyone always said how much I was like my aunt. What I didn't really realise at the time was that not only were we similar in family resemblance but I too, by now had put on lot of weight."

The final straw was when Aisling saw a picture of herself and her Dad at Christmas 2018.

"We both had big round tummies in the picture. I really had not realised just how much weight I had put on. By the time this picture was taken, I had been avoiding mirrors for a while and was wearing loose clothes. At this stage I was heading for the heaviest I had ever been. My family and friends are amazed at how much I can eat and still lose weight. I love, with

food optimising, that I am never hungry and there are endless food options. Before I started food optimising; I had become very bored with the food I was eating. This led to grazing on snacks. I enjoy eating all types of food, but just did not know what to cook. Food optimising provided me with the opportunity and information to cook beautiful, tasty and healthy dishes, my favourite and go to meals are Spaghetti Bolognaise and Caribbean Pepper Pot."

Aisling lost four pounds in her first week and was blown away that the changes she'd made had such a big impact so quickly. Initially she did not feel able to exercise.

When Aisling lost her first stone, she felt able to take up an exercise class and did not feel as self-conscious as she was more physically able to participate, she has much more energy now and doesn't get those afternoon slumps anymore.

Her Consultant says she is so proud of Aisling: "She has grown and soared in confidence as she has lost the weight. Aisling is an inspiration to everyone in our group and I hope she inspires other women and men to change their lives in the same way."

Slimming World groups are held all over the county of Wicklow. To find out more check out www.slimmingworld.ie for all group times and locations.



Aisling before



Aisling after

County winners named in 'Someone Like Me' national art competition

Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara, Brittas Bay and Wicklow Montessori Primary School, Ballyguile have been named Junior and Senior County Winners, respectively, of the prestigious national art competition, Someone Like Me.

The competition, which is supported by the National Disability Authority, attracted more than 2,600 entries from national schools across the length and breadth of the country. Now in its fourth year, Someone Like Me aims to raise disability awareness among primary school children and give them a greater understanding of what unites children of differing abilities.

In order to enter the competition, teachers and their pupils worked through a special lesson plan which challenged them to respond artistically and creatively to the theme of Someone Like Me, while, at the same time, appreciating and respecting similarities and differences in people, developing a shared understanding of how we should treat others in a caring, sensitive and inclusive way, and promoting a sense of belonging and connectedness.

The judges were particularly impressed with the submissions from Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara and Wicklow Montessori Primary School, selecting them as County Winners based on their insightful and

inspirational responses to the theme.

Congratulating Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara and Wicklow Montessori Primary School on being named County Winners, Minister of State with special responsibility for Disabilities, Finian McGrath T.D. said that he was hugely encouraged by the growing interest in the competition.

"We are exceptionally pleased with the response to this year's competition which illustrates just how willing our primary school teachers and pupils are to help build a more inclusive Ireland where everyone, irrespective of ability or disability, is treated with equal respect and feels like a valued member of society," he said.

"There are almost 650,000 people in Ireland with a disability which equates to 1 in 7 of the population. Almost 10% of that number are children aged 15 and under. Initiatives like this are an important part of the work carried out by the Department of Justice and Equality to promote inclusiveness and I would like to pay tribute to the commitment of the

teachers who invested important classroom time in working on their competition entries.

"While I know it will be an anxious wait for the pupils and teachers to hear which of the 49 county winners has been awarded the national title, we must not lose sight of the fact that every entry is a winning entry when it comes to helping to nurture a new national understanding of, and attitude towards, disability. Each and every single teacher and pupil who has taken part in the competition has been encouraged to treat others the way that they like to be treated themselves and has developed a greater understanding of what unites children of differing abilities which is enormously positive in itself."

The competition, which offers a range of prizes up to the value of €750, was open to all primary school pupils from junior infants to sixth class and more than 2,600 entries were received from individual pupils, class groups and whole schools right across Ireland. Entries ranged from posters and collages to large sculptural installations and multi-media pieces.



Pupils from the 1st and 2nd Class at Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara were presented with their Junior Category County Winner's plaque for their entry in the 'Someone Like Me' art competition. The competition, which is supported by the National Disability Authority, attracted more than 2,600 entries from national schools across the length and breadth of the country. Now in its fourth year, Someone Like Me aims to raise disability awareness among primary school children and give them a greater understanding of what unites children of differing abilities. Pictured with the pupils is Director of the National Disability Authority, Siobhan Barron.



CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING JANUARY 2020

Bring your Christmas Tree to any of the collection points below. They will be shredded, composted and used again!

No wreaths, plastic trees or decorations please.

	LOCATION	TIME	DATE
Arklow	Arklow Recycling Centre, Croghan Industrial Estate	Mon-Thurs: 9.00am-4.30pm Fri: 9.00am-3.30pm Sat: 9.30am-1.45pm	3rd - 18th January
Aughrim	Tidy Towns Pavillion	Mon-Sat: 9.00am-4.00pm	3rd - 18th January
Avoca	Avoca Recycling Centre	Mon-Thurs: 9.00am-4.30pm Fri: 9.00am-3.30pm Sat: 9.30am-1.30pm Closed for lunch 1.00- 2.00pm every day.	3rd - 18th January
Baltinglass	Rampere Landfill & Recycling Centre	Mon-Thurs: 8.30am-4.00pm Fri: 8.30am-3.30pm Sat: 8.30am-1.00pm	3rd - 18th January
Blessington	County Council Yard, Naas Road	Mon to Fri: 10.00am-4.00pm	3rd - 18th January
Bray	Bray Recycling Centre, Beechwood Close, Boghall Road	Mon-Fri: 9.00am-4.00pm Sat: 9.30am-1pm	3rd - 18th January
Bray	Festina Lente Foundation, Old Connaught Avenue	10am-4pm Daily	3rd - 18th January Donations in aid of Festina Lente
Greystones	Carpark in front of the Wicklow County Council Offices on Mill Road opposite the bottle banks	This site is monitored by CCTV Only Christmas Trees accepted	3rd - 18th January
Hollywood	Church Carpark, Hollywood	10.00am - 12.00 midday	11th January Donations in aid of Tidy Towns
Wicklow	The Murrough Recycling Centre, Wicklow	Mon-Thurs: 9.00am-4.00pm Fri: 9.00am-1.00pm Sat: 9.30am - 1pm	3rd - 18th January
Wicklow	Green King, Coolbeg (road opp. Beehive)	Mon-Fri: 8am-5.30pm. Sat: 9am - 1pm	3rd - 18th January

Illegal Waste Collection

Beware of unauthorised waste collectors operating in the County Wicklow area.

Only give your waste to Collectors who have a valid Waste Collection Permit. Always ask to see the Waste Collection Permit. Always note the Waste Collection Number on the Waste Collection Permit.

The Waste Collection Permit will display the Waste Collector's Name, Address and Waste Collection Permit Number. The vehicle should clearly show the Name of the Waste Collection Permit Holder and the Waste Collection Permit number.

It is a criminal offence to give waste to a unauthorised collector. Penalties upon conviction can be up to €5,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment

Report any information you have on illegal dumping to Litterline, 1890 548837 or 0404-20127

COUNTY WICKLOW RECYCLING CENTRES

Monday 23rd Dec	Closed
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
St. Stephens Day	Closed
Friday 27th Dec	Closed
Saturday 28th Dec	9am-1.45pm
Sunday 29th Dec	Closed
Monday 30th Dec	Closed
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	9am-4.30pm
Thursday 2nd Jan	9am-3.30pm
Friday 3rd Jan	9am-1.45pm
Saturday 4th Jan	9am-1.45pm

Arklow

Monday 23rd Dec	Closed
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
St. Stephens Day	Closed
Friday 27th Dec	Closed
Saturday 28th Dec	9am-1.45pm
Sunday 29th Dec	Closed
Monday 30th Dec	Closed
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	9am-4.30pm
Thursday 2nd Jan	9am-3.30pm
Friday 3rd Jan	9am-1.45pm
Saturday 4th Jan	9am-1.45pm

Avoca

Monday 23rd Dec	Closed
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
St. Stephens Day	Closed
Friday 27th Dec	Closed
Saturday 28th Dec	9am-1.45pm
Sunday 29th Dec	Closed
Monday 30th Dec	Closed
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	9am-4pm
Thursday 2nd Jan	9am-4pm
Friday 3rd Jan	9am-4pm
Saturday 4th Jan	9am-1.45pm

Bray

Monday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
St. Stephens Day	Closed
Friday 27th Dec	9am-1.45pm
Saturday 28th Dec	9am-1.45pm
Sunday 29th Dec	Closed
Monday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed
Thursday 2nd Jan	9am-4pm
Friday 3rd Jan	9am-4pm
Saturday 4th Jan	9am-1.45pm

The Murrough

Monday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
St. Stephens Day	Closed
Friday 27th Dec	Closed
Saturday 28th Dec	9am-1.45pm
Sunday 29th Dec	Closed
Monday 30th Dec	Closed
New Year's Eve	9am-4.30pm
New Year's Day	9am-4.30pm
Thursday 2nd Jan	9am-4.30pm
Friday 3rd Jan	9am-3.30pm
Saturday 4th Jan	9am-1.45pm

Rampere Baltinglass

Monday 23rd Dec	8.30am-4pm
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
St. Stephens Day	Closed
Friday 27th Dec	Closed
Saturday 28th Dec	8.30am-1pm
Sunday 29th Dec	Closed
Monday 30th Dec	Closed
New Year's Eve	8.30am-1pm
New Year's Day	Closed
Thursday 2nd Jan	8.30am-4pm
Friday 3rd Jan	8.30am-4pm
Saturday 4th Jan	8.30am-1pm



Stop Food Waste for Christmas

One third of the food we buy goes into the bin with twice as much waste over Christmas. Try to plan your shopping better, store the food more carefully, cook a bit less for the main meal and parties and save the leftovers by freezing. All help to reduce food waste.

Check out the 12 days of Christmas recipe book for leftovers on www.wicklow.ie or ask for a copy from eao@wicklowcoco.ie or Local 1890 222276

For more tips on avoiding food waste visit www.stopfoodwaste.ie

Composting at home is great for the environment but don't forget to ask your bin collector to provide you with a brown bin for food waste which will result in lower bin charges.



WHAT GOES IN THE GREEN BIN?

Free talks available from the recycling ambassadors programme by VOICE.

For Details See www.voiceireland.org/general-news/voice-launches-nationwide-recycling-and-waste-management-workshops/

#RecyclingListIRL



Pupils from the 3rd and 4th Class at Wicklow Montessori Primary School were presented with their Senior Category County Winner's plaque for their entry in the 'Someone Like Me' art competition. Pictured are pupils Rhys Murray and Ben O'Leary



Eimer Kavanagh, Grainne Monaghan, Sinead Wixted-Hurley, Paula Wixted-Lynch, and Liz Bermingham are pictured at the Ladies Christmas Charity Ball in the Woodenbridge Hotel in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation.

Helping young brain injury survivors rebuild their lives

Be a STEP AHEAD in 2020 with Acquired Brain Injury Ireland's national vocational assessment initiative designed to help young people return to work or education after brain injury.

According to the national brain injury rehabilitation charity, returning to work after a brain injury can be extremely daunting, not least because many people experience difficulties with fatigue, memory and confidence after their injury.

With centres in Cork and Dublin, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland's new STEP AHEAD initiative has proven extremely successful at the end of its first year in supporting participants aged 18-29 years old with practical strategies to overcome obstacles returning to work or college. An estimated 19,000 brain injuries are acquired annually in Ireland from causes such as stroke, road traffic accidents, falls and assault.

Senior Occupational Therapist with the Step Ahead programme in Cork, Sinead Stack said: "Following a brain injury, there are so many steps involved in returning to education or employment and Step Ahead is here to help you. Throughout 2019 we have seen individuals make incredible progress in areas such as managing fatigue at work, memory strategies, and the number one area everybody struggles with - building confidence! There's no time like the present to set your New Year's resolution and sign up for STEP AHEAD to maximise your potential."

Through the STEP AHEAD programme many participants work on goals including CV development, confidence building, interview skills, organisational skills, interpersonal skills and how to advocate employers for supports they need.



Pictured at the launch of Step Ahead are Senior Occupational Therapist with the Step Ahead programme in Cork, Sinead Stack, broadcaster and author Diana Bunici and Niamh Cahill Acquired Brain Injury Ireland Board Director and brain injury survivor.

cate employers for supports they need.

Ms Stack continued: "When you join STEP AHEAD, you will complete a vocational assessment which informs a personal vocational plan just for you. In this plan we outline the steps needed to achieve your personal goal whether you want to return to education or build confidence to start your career journey. Our STEP AHEAD programme is here to help you develop practical strategies and supports so you can reach your goal of working or learning. We also help people return to work in a previous role and provide advice to employers on how to accommodate an employee returning to work after a brain injury."

STEP AHEAD is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020. The programme is designed to equip young brain injury survivors with the skills to proactively engage in job searching and to self-advocate their needs to employers and third level education bodies.

An estimated 40 percent of people with traumatic and non-traumatic brain injuries can return to work after one- or two-years post injury. But according to Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, many brain injury survivors attempt to return to work too soon, without the necessary supports and the effort fails once the impact of the injury is apparent.

Emer Duffy, Senior Occupational Therapist with Step Ahead Dublin also stressed the impact of brain injury and the need for positive support to help young people rebuild their lives. She added: "Brain injuries can happen in the blink of an eye. When it happens, it turns your life upside down, often interrupting your career or education. After a brain injury, an individual's brain is often working harder than someone who hasn't gone through such a trauma and so that can cause fatigue, memory problems, frustration and stress. So while people with brain injury can often look fine on the outside, inside they may be experiencing problems which impact on their day to day lives. Our vocational assessments are vital to identify a person's strengths and needs so they can learn strategies to cope with stresses that might occur when returning to work or education."

Ms Duffy concluded: "Like any rehabilitation programme, it's important to say that there are no quick fixes and it takes time to work on goals. But very positively, the results are worth it. We have clients who have successfully transitioned into part-time work, volunteering and education. That could be you."

STEP AHEAD is a national service and Acquired Brain Injury Ireland has two teams located in Dublin and Cork. Anyone wishing to take part must be aged between 18 and 29 years and have sustained a brain injury. For more details on referral criteria see: www.abiireland.ie/stepahead.

'New childcare scheme means Wicklow families receive subsidies quickly'

Minister Simon Harris has encouraged all parents in Co. Wicklow to apply directly for subsidies to meet the cost of quality early learning and care for school age childcare at www.ncs.gov.ie. So far 207 Wicklow families have been awarded under the scheme.

The scheme, under the guidance of Children's Minister Katherine Zappone, means financial supports can be used with any participating Tusla registered, early learning and care and school age childcare service, including Tusla registered childminders.

The scheme's innovative, purpose-built IT system aims to process a universal application in a matter of minutes, and an income assessed application in a matter of days.

As of December 10th, a

total of 277 applications have been received in Co. Wicklow from parents, with 207 awards issued. More than 8,000 awards have been issued nationwide in three weeks with applications processing smoothly and quickly.

"Under the National Childcare Scheme, families will be supported to meet the cost of quality early learning and care and school age childcare through a system of universal and income-related subsidies. Using a verified MyGovID account, I



Minister Simon Harris

encourage families to apply directly for subsidies at www.ncs.gov.ie.

"Additional funding provided under Budget 2019 ensures that an estimated 7,500 additional children will benefit from the scheme, with over 40,000 other children, already eligible, seeing increases to their subsidies.

"Income based subsidies are available to families with reckonable household incomes of up to 60,000 which can translate into as much as over 90,000 gross for families in certain specific circumstances," Minister Harris concluded.

Music Network presents Anxo Lorenzo, Jim Murray, Dónal O'Connor & Jack Talty

Music Network kick-starts 2020 with an exciting new quartet of traditional musicians from Galicia and Ireland. Anxo Lorenzo, Jim Murray, Dónal O'Connor and Jack Talty to perform at the Mermaid Arts Centre during Music Network's 14 date nationwide tour in January.

Music Network's January traditional music tour presents an exciting new combination of artists from Galicia and Ireland. Anxo Lorenzo (gaita/whistles), Jim Murray (guitar), Dónal O'Connor (fiddle) and Jack Talty (concertina) will perform together for the first time on a 14-date Music Network tour that runs nationwide from 14th-26th January, including a performance at the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray on Thursday 23rd January.

Over the past ten years Anxo Lorenzo, Jim Murray, Dónal O'Connor and Jack Talty have been at the forefront of highly creative Galician and Irish music-making. The set list on this tour will combine both of these rich musical cultures and will include a Music Network commission from all four performers.

As individual players, composers, arrangers, accompanists, producers and record label owners, Anxo, Jim, Dónal and Jack have initiated hundreds of thoughtful and innovative projects to date and have made a massive contribution to music in both local and international arenas. Thrilling, soulful, sincere and highly communicative, theirs is a music of people and place, of stillness, of confluence and of us.

Known for his exceedingly high octane performances, Anxo Lorenzo is a virtuoso award-winning Galician piper who has toured extensively throughout the major European festival circuit, having featured in WOMAD, Cambridge Folk Festival, Celtic Connections, Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Ortigueira, Cork Folk Festival and William Kennedy Piping Festival to name but a few.

Guitarist Jim Murray has gained the respect of both national and international musicians. He has recorded and toured with Sharon Shannon across five continents and performed and recorded with artists including Sinead O'Connor, Shane McGowan and Mary Black. His two critically acclaimed albums with Seamus Begley collectively scooped many prestigious awards such as The Irish Times and Hotpress Traditional Irish Music Album of the Year.

Son of the celebrated fiddler Gerry O'Connor and renowned singer Eithne Ní Uallacháin, Dónal O'Connor has inherited a great musical legacy of at least five generations of fiddle playing. Regarded as "one of the outstanding players of his generation" by J.B. Vallely, recent collaborations have included tours with Lúnasa, Guidewires, Buille and Cathal McConnell and television performances with The West Ocean String Quartet and the legendary Sligo Flute player Séamus Tansey.

Concertina player Jack Talty has contributed to over 70 albums as a performer, producer, composer, arranger and engineer. In 2013 he co-founded the award-winning Ensemble Ériu, and the ensemble's latest recording Stargazer, an album of original music inspired by the work of Jack B. Yeats, was listed in Songlines' top essential Irish albums of all time. In October 2019 Jack was appointed Traditional Artist in Residence at University College Cork.

Tickets cost €20/18 and are available from Box Office on 01-2724030 and online at mermaidarts-centre.ie



Bray Camera Club presents awards at Christmas dinner

Bray Camera Club held its Christmas dinner in the Strand Hotel, Monday, December 16th. At the dinner, Roisín McArdle was awarded with the club's hotly contested Photographer of the Year award and Norman Davies was awarded with the Runner-up medal.



Bray Camera Club Photographer of the year Runner-up, Norman Davies (right) with Competition Organiser, Pat Judge. Photo by Gerry Kelly, Bray Camera Club

It was also a special night for Bray Camera Club member Tony O'Connor who celebrated his 80th birthday on the night.

Since its foundation in 1971, Bray Camera Club has provided a forum for its members, an eclectic mix of amateurs, professionals and competition prize-winners to learn from and support one another in improving their photographic skills. The Club members use all sorts of camera equipment from mobile phones, to compact cameras and digital SLRs to photograph abstract, street,

wildlife, landscape and studio images.

Meetings are held in the Mermaid Arts Centre every Monday night from 7.30 pm (just ask at reception) and new members are always made to feel most welcome.

The club will be showing its "2020 Vision" exhibition of the members' work in the Signal Arts Gallery, Albert Walk, Bray from January 6th to January 19th.

This exhibition is sure to appeal to anyone with an interest in photography or who has a curious eye. Admission is free.



Bray Camera Club Photographer of the year, Roisín McArdle, with Competition Organiser, Pat Judge and Club President, Elis Taves O'Sullivan. The award ceremony was held at the Club's Christmas Dinner in the Strand Hotel, Bray. Photo by Gerry Kelly, Bray Camera Club

Additional funding for seven new courses at IT Carlow

Institute of Technology Carlow is to receive €723,000 for 77 additional places across seven of its newest courses.

The announcement was made this morning by Minister of State for Higher Education Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D., as she released the results of the call for additional places on undergraduate courses under Pillar 2 of the Human Capital Initiative that will provide for almost 3,000 additional places on 138 courses, to commence in Autumn 2020 and 2021.

The seven courses at Institute of Technology Carlow that will receive funding for additional places are: Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Creative Computing and Digital Innovation; Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Cybercrime and IT Security; Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computing in Interactive Digital Art and Design; Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Brewing and Distilling; Bachelor of Science in Digital Marketing with Analytics; Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Digital Marketing with Analytics; Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Mechanical Engineering.

The Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Creative Computing and Digital Innovation is delivered at the Institute's Wexford Campus; the remaining courses are delivered at the Carlow campus of Institute of Technology Carlow.

Welcoming the announcement, Dr. Patricia Mulcahy, President of Institute of Technology Carlow said, "This morning's announcement by Minister Mitchell O'Connor is a further endorsement of our newest courses at both Carlow and Wexford campuses. Institute of Technology Carlow prides itself on developing and providing an undergraduate course portfolio that is both diverse and relevant and, because we engage with a broad range of partners in industry, provides every opportunity for employability and career success".

The additional student places represent an allocation of over €24 million from the Human Capital Initiative, which is a key part of the Enhancing Skills and Developing and Attracting Talent Pillar of Future Jobs Ireland. They will address identified key areas of enterprise skills needs and are provided through increased and incentivised provision in full time undergraduate provision.



Delgany Guides and Senior Branch pictured just before they attended the Aladdin panto at The Gaiety with 2,000 other members of Irish Girl Guides (Guides are aged 10-14 and Senior Branch is the Irish Girl Guides' branch for 14-30 year olds)

BirdWatch Ireland concerned with MickKinnon forestry report

BirdWatch Ireland, headquartered in Kilcoole, says it is 'very concerned with the shortcomings of a newly published external review of the forestry licence approval process', carried out by Mr James MacKinnon CBE, on behalf of Andrew Doyle TD, Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture.

BirdWatch Ireland say that "The review does not sufficiently address the root causes of the backlog in afforestation license approvals".

The review was carried out by Mr James MacKinnon, CBE, former Senior Planner with the Scottish Government and was commissioned by Minister Doyle, following a similar review in Scotland carried out by M. MacKinnon.

Minister Doyle said "The Government has set some ambitious targets for the forestry sector not least in the Climate Action Plan and I commissioned this review to ensure that collectively we are fit for purpose to help deliver these targets. I would like to thank James for his comprehensive report and for delivering it in such a timely fashion. I know that he met with a long list of industry stakeholders, the Environmental Pillar, Department staff and other interest groups during his time in Ireland. I am grateful for their time and constructive input which will no doubt add import and relevance of these findings."

Mr MacKinnon was commissioned to examine the process for approving afforestation proposals and the linked issues for other forestry related operations. His remit was to make recommendations on issues identified which would improve the process, taking account of his experience with the Scottish forestry system.

Minister Doyle added "I would encourage all stakeholders to take the time to study this report carefully and I and my Department will do likewise. It contains a number of important recommendations on which we all need to reflect. Implementation of the Plan is now a priority. I propose to publish a detailed implementation plan early in January next after discussions with stakeholders on the Forestry Programme Implementation group".

BirdWatch Ireland stated that "Irish afforestation policy and its licensing and approvals system must be set in the context of Ireland's declared state of climate and biodiversity emergency (Dáil Éireann May 2019). The review has done little to

address BirdWatch Ireland's concerns relating to biodiversity protection or public participation as they relate to forestry. In reality several of the report recommendations further entrench the view that these important public concerns are just red tape that should be bypassed instead as being seen as the foundations for a sustainable future and wellbeing of communities.

"The report itself rightly highlights the Government's failure to address environmental issues and highlights inadequate expertise and resourcing as contributing factors to the current backlog in approvals.

"But the recommendations do not go far enough to address other fundamental issues which include concerns relating to the current unsustainable model of forestry.

"The suggestion that the public should have to pay fees to make observations on applications would also do more harm than good as it would limit public participation in the process potentially rendering communities voiceless on afforestation in their own areas.

"Current government afforestation policy is a major threat to several bird species especially ground nesting birds which occur outside of Special Protection Areas including Hen Harrier, Skylark and Curlew and riverine species like Freshwater Pearl Mussel.

"According to research carried out by BirdWatch Ireland current afforestation policy is failing to include basic environmental safeguards required by Irish and EU law for High Nature Value farmland, breeding birds and threatened habitats protected under the Birds Directive and Habitats Directive. It also needs to address the issues with the planting of trees on peat soils that are already carbon stores."

Fintan Kelly, Policy Officer at BirdWatch Ireland said "Increasing forest cover in Ireland has the potential to deliver positive social and environmental benefits but the reality is that the current approach is resulting in a situation where the sector is one of the leading drivers of biodiversity loss and is a significant pressure on water quality".

Mr Kelly added "The right trees need to be planted in the right place with the right management to safeguard carbon stores, protect biodiversity and meet our legal obligations.

"BirdWatch Ireland's report 'Greening Irish Forestry' provides a vision for nature-friendly forestry in Ireland".



Bray Credit Union is delighted to announce our November Car Draw Winner is Patricia Connolly who is driving home in a brand-new Ford Fiesta ST Line.

Any member of Bray Credit Union Ltd, aged 18 years or over, can join the Bray Credit Union Ltd Monthly Car Draw for less than €1 per week.

Application forms are available at Bray Credit Union or can be downloaded at www.braycu.ie. Membership of Bray Credit Union Ltd is open to those living or working in their Common Bond which extends from Kiltarnan to Ashford inclusive and includes Enniskerry, the Sallygap, Roundwood and Glendalough. Pic: Charlie Sharkey

Royal Opera House Presents The Royal Ballet: Petipa's The Sleeping Beauty (Encore Screening)



Petipa's The Sleeping Beauty screens in Mermaid Arts Centre on Friday 24th January at 7pm.

This production of The Sleeping Beauty has been delighting audiences in Covent Garden since 1946. A classic of Russian ballet, it established The Royal Ballet both in its new home after World War II and as a world-class company. Sixty years later, in 2006, the original staging was revived, returning Oliver Messel's wonderful designs and glittering costumes to the stage. Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky's enchanting score and Marius Petipa's original choreography beautifully combine with sections created for The Royal Ballet by Frederick Ashton, Anthony Dowell and Christopher Wheeldon. This ballet is sure to cast its spell over anyone who sees it.

Tickets cost €14/12 and are available from the Mermaid Box Office on 01-2724030 and online at mermaidartscentre.ie

Students shown benefits of learning foreign languages

Languages Connect welcomed Transition Year students from Wicklow to the Convention Centre Dublin for their flagship event, 'Think Languages'. As an awareness raising campaign, facilitated by Post-Primary Languages Ireland, Languages Connect aims to highlight the personal, social, professional and economic benefits of language learning.

Students attending were encouraged to think about the global work opportunities, the wider circle of friends, the richer life experiences and the greater travel opportunities that foreign language skills can offer them.

Students from 4 schools in Wicklow attended the annual TY event which saw 70 exhibiting organisations, 30 fun language-learning workshops as well as a talk from keynote speaker and multi-linguist, Hector Ó hEochagáin, and interpreting demonstrations from seven European Commission interpreters.

Additional talks were delivered by French speaking, and former BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamp 'Best Individual Student, Heather Murphy, and Brightwater Recruitment's Supply Chain and Pharma Consultant, Marc Bentley, who sees first-hand the demand for employees with foreign language skills. Heather discussed how an additional language has opened doors for her while Marc detailed the increasing demand they are seeing from companies for bi-and multi-lingual candidates.

Workshops available ranged from French food-tasting, Portuguese with Capoeira and also Chinese Calligraphy. Think Languages gave students the opportunity to experience and understand how learning foreign languages can have a tangible, real-life impact

socially, cultural and professionally. Commenting on the event, Karen Ruddock, Director, Post Primary Languages Ireland, said: "We are active at all of the major student events throughout the year, so it was great to be able to welcome the TY students from all 4 Wicklow schools to our own Think Languages event. TY students are now considering what they will study for their Leaving Cert and beyond. By showing them the benefits that foreign language skills give them in their life and career, we want to encourage them to keep up their foreign languages and maybe even take on another language for the Leaving Certificate. Think Languages was a language class with a difference - it opened student's minds and really brought

many different aspects of languages to life."

Discussing the atmosphere at Think Languages, Aoife Dungan, Marketing and Communications Manager, Languages Connect, said: "From the moment the students entered the Convention Centre they saw the vibrancy that foreign languages and cultures offer. We had an Olympic Taekwondo gold medallist in Dong Min Cha, as well as people with real insight into the French film and fashion industries. There was also international food tasting, music and dance - something for everyone. We had great buy-in from the language departments of higher education institutes, industry and governmental agencies such as Enterprise Ireland, Bórd

Bia and IDA Ireland - everyone pulled together to ensure that the 3,000 TY students had an unforgettable day!"

Recognising the increasing demand for a multilingual workforce, the France Ireland Chamber of Commerce, French TV station, TV5Monde, and the European Parliament among others all took a stand at Think Languages. Third level colleges showcased their courses in foreign languages as well as organisations that offer opportunities to students for language exchange. Part of the purpose of the event was to establish greater links across sectors to support language learning, cultural awareness and to raise awareness of career options and opportunities for studying abroad.



Eimhin Morgan Fennessey with Stephane De Baireid and James Byrne from Presentation College, Bray, at the 'Think Languages' event.

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Mildred Fox & Christian Hind to feature in TradFest

TradFest showcases the cream of both Irish and international trad and folk artists.

One of the many artists taking part will be Mildred Fox and Christian Hind aka Hidden Stills, who have been writing and performing their own style of pared back contemporary folk songs since the start of 2017. They will be performing on Friday January 24th, 6pm at The Morgan and Saturday January 25th, 4pm at The Oak Bar as part of TradFest Smithwick's Sessions. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance. For more information or to book tickets see: TradFest.ie

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College choice - a different pathway with BIFE

While in many cases students, schools and parents see the CAO as the 'be all and end all' for those seeking third level education, nothing could be further from the truth according to Gabriel Allen, deputy principal at Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE).

"Over recent years many new avenues have opened up to students to enable them pursue their dream career via a different route."

He added, "Further Education offers a learner, who may not have achieved the required CAO points, the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto honours degree programmes, both in Ireland and abroad."

The huge range of courses available at BIFE offers learners fabulous opportunities, not only for those looking for additional skills or hoping to go directly into employment, but also as an alternative route on to a college course in a university or institute of technology in Ireland or abroad.

Over the past few years, graduates of BIFE have achieved honours degrees across a wide range of programmes, opening up a myriad of career opportunities from graphic design to performing arts to psychology.

This year BIFE will offer Higher National Diplomas in the following: Fine Art - Art Practice; Acting; Dance; TV & Film (Moving Image); Music Production; Music Performance; Applied Social Studies; Graphic Design; Fashion Design.

As Gabriel Allen explained, "These nine courses will allow graduating students to proceed to the final year of an honours Degree Programme in Ireland or Britain if that is their ultimate ambition."

Bray Institute will offer a number of new courses in September '20:

- Architectural Technology HND Level 6
- Occupational Therapy Assistant Level 5

- Construction & Joinery Level 5
- Jewellery Making Level 5
- Pharmacy Assistant Level 5
- Sports Injury & Soft Tissue Massage Therapy Level 5
- Teacher Training & Education Pre-University Level 5
- Inclusive Education & Training with Assistive Technology Level 6
- Canine Husbandry Level 5
- Animal Care - Start your own business Level 6
- Equine Studies Level 5
- Applied Ecology & Biodiversity Studies Level 5
- Tour Guiding Level 6

All of the above courses will offer progression routes to higher education.

Allen assured that there are many opportunities for mature students to study and progress at BIFE. "All courses have valuable certification and offer progression routes to Higher Education, yet you don't need CAO points to study at Bray Institute." Bray Institute will be holding a Career / Open day on Friday 17th January from 10am to 4pm. Potential students, parents, and career guidance teachers will have the opportunity to speak to the staff who, with their educational knowledge and specialist industry experience, can guide you in the right direction. Workshops, demonstrations, presentations and career lectures will run throughout the day and visitors can speak to students and get their views on the courses.

Applications for September 2020 Courses are now open. Apply on-line at www.bife.ie or call any day during office hours on 01-2829668 for further information.

Skin Deep: An exhibition by Lynn Kennedy

An exhibition of work by artist Lynn Kennedy will run in the Signal Arts Centre in Bray from March 2nd-15th 2020.



tion in the National Gallery, her self-portrait was exhibited in London in the biennial Ruth Borchard Self-Portrait Prize, and she has two paintings exhibit-

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
Andrew McClean and Annemarie Lysaght seek Planning Permission for the construction of a dormer window to the front to facilitate the conversion of the attic to habitable use at 118 Saran Wood, Killarney Road, Bray, Co Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

Lynn Kennedy is a figurative artist based in Dublin. She graduated from the Institute of Art, Design + Technology in 1993, and since then has worked in several creative arts, including design, illustration and photography. Lynn now works primarily in oils, and much of her work is commissioned for private collections.

This year, her painting 'I am Claudia' is part of the Zurich Portrait Prize exhibition.

ed in the Belfast Museum as part of the RUA Annual exhibition.

Her solo show consists of a body of work based on our skin. It shows a series of paintings exploring how our skin can affect how

people see us. Whether it is young or old, dark or light, damaged or inked it is merely an outer covering for who we are.

Opening Reception Friday 6th March 7pm - 9pm.

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Lizzie Lott and Breda Tobin at the Blainroe Nursing Home Christmas Party.

SuperValu commit to keeping Little Bray store open

John Brady TD has welcomed confirmation that SuperValu are committed to keeping their store on Castle Street in Little Bray open. There have been concerns that it would close following the opening of their new store on the Southern Cross which is due to open next summer.

Speaking after getting the confirmation Deputy Brady said "Following confirmation last week that Supervalu would be the tenants in the new supermarket that is currently under construction on the Southern Cross, there has been considerable concern the Little Bray store would close. Whilst I'm absolutely delighted that after many years of pushing to get services onto the Southerncross, the construction of the new 2,493sqm Supervalu supermarket did raise concerns about the store on Castle Street. This week the confirmation that I have from Supervalu that they intend on operating the 2 stores in Bray is a relief to the staff and the community of Little Bray."

Cllr Grace McManus said "There was real fear that the Castle Street store might close because Supervalu are going to open a larger store on the Southern Cross. There are a lot of elderly people in the area and they are particularly happy with the news it's not closing and that they don't have to travel far to get to the local supermarket."



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