

LOCAL Wicklow Times

WE DELIVER!- for 31 years

SOUTH EDITION

Delivered to 44,500 homes & businesses



MARATHON WOMEN page 4



MOVIE MONEY page 5



THINK BEFORE YOU FLUSH page 8

SOUTH EDITION DELIVERED TO HOMES & BUSINESSES IN: RATHNEW, WICKLOW, GLENEALY, BRITTAS BAY, AVOCA, WOODENBRIDGE, ARKLOW, SHILLELAGH, TINAHELY, REDCROSS, BALLINACLASH, AUGHIRM, RATHDRUM, DONARD, DUNLAVIN, CARNEW, COOLATTIN, BALTINGLASS, BLESSINGTON.

Tuesday 3rd March 2020 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

VIRUS: WICKLOW BRACES ITSELF!

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is in Ireland and County Wicklow is bracing itself for its first cases. Concerns hit Wicklow last week as many secondary school students returned to their homes and schools after mid-term ski trips to northern Italy.

Students from Presentation College Bray (2nd year) were on a ski trip in the Lombardy Province in Northern Italy, currently Europe's main hotbed for the COVID-19 virus. There are a number of ski resorts in the region which are now in lockdown. At the time of going to press one Pres student was in isolation in Crumlin Hospital awaiting test results.

Also returning from trips were students from Templecarraig School in Greystones and Loretto Bray. Fifty students from Loretto Secondary School in Bray were on a ski trip

over the mid-term break, at Grandvalira, Andorra. Loreto principal, Emma Louise Raughter, told Wicklow Times that although they were not in an affected region the school was continuing to monitor the situation.

St. Gerard's Junior School Standard 6 students were also on a ski trip in Italy the week before the mid-term break. The students were skiing in the Lavarone area in Northern Italy and were also in Venice.

Meanwhile, ATC language School, also based in Bray, will not be receiving students from northern Italy for the

time-being, with restrictions on travel from the region now in place until mid-March. It's understood that a group that had already arrived from Italy before the restrictions were put in place were not from the 'red zone'. The school is monitoring students and keeping in contact with the HSE.

Also north Wicklow and Bray in particular has a very high number of residents from the Chinese community, many of whom travelled home to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Lombardy is currently Italy's 'red zone' - the



Three year old Jordi Butterworth takes a walk in the snow at Drumgoff during last week's cold snap. Pic: Michael Kelly

worst affected region where the following towns were put on lockdown: Codogno, Castiglione d'Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Fombio, Maleo, Somaglia, Bertonico, Terranova dei Passerini, Castelgerundo, and San Fiorano. In the region of Veneto, the town of Vo'Euganeo is also on lockdown. Parent teacher meetings at Presentation College Bray, which were due to take place last Tuesday evening, were postponed as a precaution. The school's 2nd year pupils had returned on Saturday 22nd February. It's understood that all but a few of the pupils continued to attend school as normal the following Monday. Presentation College Bray was originally advised by the HSE that as their tour group was not in one of the affected towns or villages in the previous 14 days, they would not be automatically assessed for the virus. However, the school was later updated by the HSE and told that the affected area had since been expanded to cover the entire Lombardy region. In a statement, the school said "We have just been advised by the HSE that the area in which our students were staying in Italy has now been included in the affected area (the whole province of Lombardy is now being outlined as opposed to the towns or villages where there are cases of the virus which was the previous protocol). The advice given earlier remains the same, i.e. There is no need to close the school - no need to exclude students who were on the trip unless they are unwell.

Continued on page 3



Our New Virtual Google 360° Showroom.

K&K Windows LTD

WINDOWS · DOORS · CONSERVATORIES
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

CONTACT US NOW FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATION



ALL-IRELAND BUSINESS AWARDS 2019 WINNER

K&K Windows Ltd, Craanford, Gorey, Co. Wexford, Ireland

visit us online WWW.KKWINDOWS.IE

Freephone: 1800 250 260
Phone: 053 9383526
Post Code: Y25 N2T7
Email: info@kkwindows.ie

NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL

FREE



Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
Cill Mhantáin · Wicklow

Does your website need to be updated?

- Do you have a limited online presence?
- Do you have less than 10 employees?
- Do you have less than 2 million turnover?
- Is your company registered in County Wicklow?
- Will you be in business for at least 6 months at time of drawdown?

Then you should attend our
Trading Online Voucher Seminar

And learn how you could receive a Trading Online Voucher worth up to €2,500 (or 50% of eligible expenditure)

Date: Thursday, 12th of March 2020
Time: 9:30am - 1:30pm
Location: Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew. Co. Wicklow
Book: www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/



Guest Speaker
Noel Davidson
of **the entrepreneurs academy**

[@localenterprisewicklow](https://www.facebook.com/localenterprisewicklow)
[@leo_wicklow](https://www.instagram.com/leo_wicklow)
[@LEOWicklow](https://www.twitter.com/LEOWicklow)

European Union European Regional Development Fund



Kyle Clarke with Liadh and Sadhbh Fitzsimons at the Smiley Pancake Fun Day in aid of Wicklow Mental Health, which was held in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town

Family Fun Table Quiz!

Stagebratz are hosting a 'Family Fun Table Quiz' and 'Monster Raffle' on Saturday March 28th at 2pm in Lynham's Hotel Laragh. Come along for a fun-filled afternoon of quizzing, spot prizes and a special performance from our Starz.

Table Quiz is open to the whole family and has questions for all ages :) And only €25 per table!

There are some AMAZING prizes available in our 'Monster Raffle' also (including €100 vouchers for The Bord Gais Theatre and Seafield Hotel & Spa!! Plus many more fabulous vouchers & prizes!!).

Raffle card lines are €2 and on sale from members of Stagebratz, Keith Grant Butchers, The Green Room and on the day of quiz :)

Kilmacanogue History Society

Following last month's exceptionally well attended and riveting Talk given by Frank Nugent on Irish Arctic Explorers and our recent well attended A.G.M (incorporating a very interesting Talk from an historical point of view on "The Lemass Tapes" by Ronan McGreevy), our next Talk is on Tuesday 3rd March at 8p.m in the Glenview Hotel. The subject is "The Second Wave of Irish Feminism". Our Speaker is Catriona Crowe- well known Archivist and Historian who contributes regularly to the broadcast and print media on cultural and historical matters, she takes a look at Irish feminism in the 1960's- 1970's.

Glendalough Country Market & Car Boot Sales

These are back for 2020 on every 2nd Sunday and will be selling bargains throughout the year!

Encouraging local and non-local producers of plants, vegetables, crafts etc. Sustainable shopping on practically anything from household items to garden additions, vintage or antique treasures, entertainment, animal products, clothes/shoes/handbags, Aloe Vera/CBD products, local honey and home baking, jewellery, 2nd hand bikes, tools, you name it we have it!!!!. Greet other enthusiastic shopper and stop for a chat with tea/coffee, soup, cakes (available to purchase at event). Vans must be booked in. Please pre-book indoor spaces early. Contact the Brockagh Centre on 0404-45600, email brockaghcarboot@gmail.com or brockaghoffice@gmail.com if you wish to book an indoor space or if you prefer to sell outside just show up at 8am on the morning.

Rathmichael Historical Society

Larry Breen will be the guest speaker for the Wednesday March 4th 8pm meeting of the Rathmichael Society, in Rathmichael School, Shankill, at which he will present his lecture on 'Wolfe Tone, Matilda and Family.' All welcome - admission €5. Members of the Society are reminded that annual membership subscriptions for 2020 fell due for renewal on January 1st and can be renewed at this meeting or any future meeting of the Society.

Aughrim Active Retirement

Line Dancing continues in the Parish Hall at 11am each Friday. International Women's Day is being celebrated on Sunday 8th March. "To recognise this event we hope to go out to lunch. Anyone interested can let us know. A Spa Day has been arranged for Wednesday, 25th March. The cost is €60 including lunch. The Community Nurse will be the speaker at the next meeting on Tuesday 3rd March. Monday walks continue at 10.30am, followed by coffee and a catch up."

Bray Tidy Towns seeking volunteers

Bray Tidy Towns are seeking volunteers to help with a clean-up on 14th March at 10:30am. Meeting at the arcade off the Main Street in Bray. They are also seeking volunteers for a scraping and painting session on 4th April at 10:30am - meeting at Grotta, Wolfe Tone.

First Saturday Book Sale

On Saturday March 7th the March First Saturday Book Sale, which supporters of the Shankill Old Folks Association, will take place in Shankill Old Folks Association Day, Lower Road, Shankill, from 10am to 1pm so make a point of calling in during that Saturday 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.

Public meeting on Laragh 'energy masterplan'

The Laragh / Glendalough Sustainable Energy Community has appointed consultants from the 3 Counties Energy Agency to undertake a survey of energy usage in the area and to identify options for reducing our dependency on fossil fuels.

This will form part of an Energy Master Plan that will help them to draw down funding to upgrade buildings, both domestic and public, with a view to making them more energy efficient and more comfortable.

A public meeting with the 3 Counties Energy

Agency and a representative from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) will be held on Wednesday March 11th at 7.30pm in the Brockagh Centre to outline details of the survey and to explain the data that will be needed to compile the Energy Master Plan. Information

will also be provided on grants available from SEAI for energy upgrades. Come along and help support this endeavour and please bring a friend or two.

The survey will cover the following townlands; Laragh village, Laragh East, Laragh West, Brockagh, Camaderry,

Derrybawn, Lugduff, Dummin, Glebe, Carrigeenshinnagh, Carrigeen Duff, Cloghoge, Cullentrath Big, Cullentrath Little, Ballard, Ballard Park, Ballylug, Ballulusk, Trooperstown, Clara More, Clarabeg North, Clarabeg South, Knockrath Big.

Consumers encouraged to switch to save on their mortgage

The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is encouraging mortgage holders across Wicklow to consult its online comparison tools and step-by-step guide to mortgage switching at CCPC.ie, to ensure they are availing of the best interest rates in the market.

With the potential for significant savings to be made from switching to a lower mortgage interest rate, the CCPC is encouraging consumers across Wicklow to avail of its online mortgage comparison tool, which compares the costs and benefits of alternative mortgage options, across all the major financial institutions. All of the information and resources available from the CCPC is completely impartial and freely accessible to all consumers, to help make the process of switching as simple as possible. For more information, visit www.cpc.ie

Local family to cycle from Kilpedder to Spain for Irish Cancer Society

This summer local Kilpedder woman Donna Marshall and her family will cycle from Kilpedder to Spain (with the tiniest bit of help from the ferry to get from Dublin to Cherbourg), in aid of the Irish Cancer Society.

Donna, John Baugh, Ellie (13) and Laila (10), were inspired to undertake the 1,500km journey after they lost friends and family members to cancer this past year. They want to raise money for new treatments and research that can help to prevent the suffering caused by cancer.

"Ifm you fancy coming along for any of the route get in touch and we can let you know where we'll be and when," says Donna. "That's if we make it!"

You can donate to this great cause by visiting the GoFundMe page at: www.gofundme.com/ireland-to-spain-by-bike



Senior members of Poseidon Lifesaving Club completed 160,000 CPR compressions over 24hrs as a fundraiser for Bray Lakers, raising approximately €4,000. There was tremendous support for Poseidon club members from family, friends and public who had the opportunity to learn CPR skills for themselves. There was a raffle and a cake sale also.

BRAY
ACMEblinds Vevay Rd, Bray

- Free Fitting
- Free Measuring Service
- Free In Home Advice & Design Service
- No Obligation Quote

12 Month Guarantee on ALL Blinds

Tel: 286 5057 Fax: 201 4335 www.acmeblinds.com
email: bray@acmeblinds.com

WICKLOW
Times

is published by
Wicklow Times, 5 Eglinton Road, Bray.
Tel: 01-2869111

Contacts:

Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - shay@localtimes.ie

Ian Colgan, News Editor - ian@localtimes.ie

General enquiries - info@localtimes.ie

'ARE WE EVER GOING TO LEARN FROM HISTORY?'

Independent Councillor Tom Fortune has railed against planning permission being granted for more large-scale residential developments in the Greystones area without the proper infrastructure in place.

Speaking last week, Cllr Fortune criticised the green light being given for 700 houses in Charlesland and Delgany. He said "Are we ever going to learn from history? The mistakes of the last 10 years keep getting repeated. Planning permission has just been granted for over 700 houses in Charlesland and Delgany, without proper additional infrastructure.

"Planning Departments must be about more than granting permission for houses. Infrastructure has to be part of this process. Right now we do not have enough places for children to go to school in September. Our existing schools are bursting at the seams. Work that should have been done over the past five years is only being considered now.

"The various departments are not talking to each other. The people who suffer are our children. This is not good enough. Parents are forced to form committees in

order to fight for fair play. It is not good enough."

Planning permission was granted to Cairn Homes in January by An Bord Pleanála for a Strategic Housing Development of 426 new homes (45 houses, 93 apartments and 88 duplex units) at Farrenkelly, Delgany.

Cairn has also got permission for 294 homes in Charlesland (124 houses and 170 apartments), 10 percent of which will be social housing units. Reacting to this news, Cllr Derek Mitchell said "2,700 sq. m of Community Enterprise Centre and offices are required to be built first. I asked Bord Pleanála to get this built first as developers only seem to want to build houses in Greystones. I wrote a paper in 2005 with the Chamber of Commerce about the need for start up businesses and it was then incorporated into the zoning requirements. We need jobs so we don't all have

to commute. This zoning 15 years ago also provided for the two school sites one of which is just completed and the other will open, in temporary premise, this September. The Bord also insists on 52 extra childcare places above the space applied for. The apartment development will include a concierge, security room and communal amenity room."

The crisis of school places was one of the main issues among Wicklow candidates in the recent General Election campaign, and children protested outside Colaiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole over the lack of school places.

Minister Simon Harris stated that it was his intention to convene a forum on school places and school capacity in County Wicklow and invite all school principals, parents' associations and Boards of Management to attend.

He said that "The purpose of this meeting

would be to bring forward proposals on how we can ensure all school children in County Wicklow have a school place and also to draw up plans as to how we can support our schools with requests for extra capacity, new buildings, extensions, etc.

He told this paper recently that "We have invested significantly in schools in County Wicklow in recent years but there is much more to do and the Department of Education need to listen to us as a community and need to act quickly.

"I want to work with the community to develop proposals quickly in this area and then to bring those plans to the Department and make progress on them. We need to make sure school extensions needed are expedited, that we see more Autism facilities in our schools and that real problems in terms of lack of feeder schools for some children are addressed."

VIRUS: WICKLOW BRACES ITSELF!

Continued from page 1

"Only students who were on the trip and are unwell should stay out of school. We would like to reiterate that there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in the school community. Again, please consult the HSE website and HPSC website for educational guidelines on the virus."

The Department of Education and Skills has updated information for schools, "Public health doctors are available to liaise with schools and advise on precautions if staff and/or students have any concerns. Anyone who has been to affected regions in the last 14 days and has a cough, shortness of breath, breathing difficulties or fever should self-isolate and phone their GP immediately. Anyone who has travelled from the affected regions and has no symptoms should visit www.hse.ie for advice. The most important action we can take to

protect ourselves from Covid-19 is regular hand-washing and good respiratory hygiene. As further advice or information is provided, it will be issued to schools and posted on the Department's website. Travel advice for all Irish citizens is provided through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade."

This contrasts with the actions of schools in the north of Ireland. Around 50 pupils and staff at an Antrim grammar school have been sent home as a precaution against coronavirus after returning from an Italian ski holiday. They were in the Lombardy region but did not visit any of the nine towns affected by the Covid-19 infection and are showing no symptoms.

Cambridge House Grammar school principal Elma Lutton said: "Taking cognisance of advice from the Public Health Agency and following advice from the

Education Authority, the pupils and staff on that ski trip have been sent home for 14 days' self-quarantine.

"This is precautionary, none of them were in those nine towns, none are showing any symptoms. They were in the Lombardy region but went through Milan airport."

Calls have been made for a dedicated phone line for people to contact if they have concerns regarding the coronavirus, amid claims that GPs are being inundated with calls and queries. Dr Maitiu Ó Tuathail, former President of the National Association of General Practitioners (NAGP) warned that the general practice does not have the capacity to deal with the level of demand that has occurred in light of the coronavirus Covid-19 outbreak.

Dr Ó Tuathail, said "Currently, GP practices are inundated with calls from concerned patients with regards to the coro-

navirus. Patients have difficulty getting through to GP surgeries at the best of times and the capacity simply doesn't exist in general practice to adequately deal with the huge demand that this will create. In other EU countries, and in the UK, they have one dedicated number that everyone who is concerned can call for advice and further information. This is to ensure that general practice doesn't become inundated. We need to adopt a similar approach here, otherwise general practice and emergency departments will become overwhelmed.

"Currently, the approach taken has been inconsistent, with some schools where children have been back from affected areas advising children to self-quarantine for two weeks, and other schools in the same jurisdiction advising children to attend as normal."



New Councillors Jodie Neary (Social Democrats) and Erika Doyle (Green Party) with Cathaoirleach Irene Winters and Chief Executive Frank Curran at the special meeting of Wicklow County Council last Monday where the new councillors' co-option onto the Council was ratified.

Noro-Virus at St. Columcille's Hospital

St Columcille's Hospital is currently caring for a number of patients with the Noro-Virus, it was revealed last week.

As a result, there's a visiting ban currently in place for the Medical Observation Unit and Lourdes Ward in St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown, to prevent further spread of the virus. The situation is to be reviewed this week on Monday 2nd March.

Hospital Management is asking members of the public not to visit the Medical Observation Unit and Lourdes Ward unless absolutely necessary. Please make contact directly with the Nurse Manager on duty on both Wards in advance of travelling to the hospital. Only exceptional cases will be granted access to the Wards.

All other wards in the Hospital will have visiting times restricted to 14:00 - 16:00 and 18:30 to 20.30. St Columcille's would like to thank frontline staff, patients and their families for their cooperation at this time.

Whatever tool we use, we always use our nut.

Every mechanic has the right tools. What you want is the right technician. That's exactly what you get with a ŠKODA Service. Technical expertise from world-class technicians who live and breathe ŠKODA.

Sinnott Autos Ltd.,
Dublin Road, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow.
Tel: 0404 25200 • www.sinnottskoda.ie

Community groups invited to apply for new Begin Together Fund

Local community groups in Wicklow are invited to apply for Bank of Ireland's new 'Begin Together Fund'.

The Fund will provide funding of up to €5,000 to over 100 local groups to support financial, physical and mental wellbeing projects in communities across the island. The Begin Together Fund for 2020 is now open for applications until 31 March at www.bankofireland.com/begintogether

Bank of Ireland is investing €3 million in the 'Begin Together' initiative, a three-year campaign to improve the financial, physical and mental wellbeing of Ireland's communities, while supporting the underlying local economies.

Begin Together is an all-island initiative with three strands - the Begin Together Fund, the Begin Together Awards and Begin Together Colleagues. Each strand has a specific purpose and combined will deliver a significant positive impact on communities across Ireland.

The Begin Together Fund (€500,000 per annum) will provide funding of up to €5,000 to over 100 local groups to support financial, physical and mental wellbeing projects in communities across the island. The Bank is working with The Community Foundation

for Ireland, which will administer the fund, and a number of expert partners - the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Sport Ireland, Action Mental Health and Sport NI - who have supported the development of the fund and will assist in short-listing applicants for funding.

The Begin Together Awards (€200,000 per annum) will support the great work done by those striving to improve their communities and empower local economies. Working with local authorities across Ireland and Northern Ireland, the Begin Together Awards will stimulate economic development while celebrating local economic success.

Begin Together Colleagues (€300,000 per annum) is designed to support the voluntary efforts of colleagues to support local projects. Up to €5,000 will be awarded to local charities and community groups working to improve financial, physical and mental wellbeing.

Maria Coleman, Head of Bank of Ireland for County Wicklow, said: "I encourage community groups in Wicklow to apply to our Begin Together Fund. As a leading lender in Ireland we are supporting families and businesses across the island - north, south, east and west. The Begin Together initiative will further enable communities to thrive,

and make a tangible positive impact on the communities where we live and work.

"The power of community in Ireland north and south is impressive. When we come together to do something we can really make a difference. At Bank of Ireland, we're proud to support communities develop their financial, physical and mental wellbeing over the coming years."

The Begin Together Fund is now open for applications. Local groups interested in applying can enter through the Bank of Ireland website www.bankofireland.com/begintogether. Applications for the Begin Together Awards will open in March.



Niamh O'Ceallaigh and her mum Mary

'Why I'm running for the Wicklow Hospice'

Niamh O'Ceallaigh from Wicklow, a longtime participant in the Women's Mini Marathon with her mum Mary O'Colmain, has outlined why they love to take part and have chosen the Wicklow Hospice as their charity of choice. This year's marathon takes place on Sunday 31st May.

Niamh said "For as long as I can remember, the June bank holiday has meant one thing... the Women's Mini Marathon. From when I was two years old, my Dad would bring us into town to cheer Mum on as she crossed the line. I remember the buzz and excitement and the sense of wonder on seeing the big shiny medal. Mum has now completed the Mini Marathon 38 consecutive years since its inception. I think this is an amazing achievement and I'm so proud of her.

"When I started running in 2002, I was so excited to be able to take part in the action, and have completed 13 mini marathons. It is now such an important part of my year as the day is all about family, friends and charity. I love that my own four little girls come along to soak up the atmosphere and be inspired. There are bands, face painting, balloons, refreshments and games.

"It is incredible to see all the different t-shirts for all the different charities, big and small, but all so important. My charity of choice is the Wicklow Hospice. Since I moved to Wicklow 12 years ago, I have seen the Hospice go from idea to plans to reality. It is incredible to see what has been achieved through the determined efforts of the people of Wicklow.

"By running the Mini Marathon for a charity such as the Wicklow Hospice, you not only feel personal pride at having run 10km, but also pride that you are playing your small part in making a difference in the lives of patients who need specialist palliative care. 40,000 women each doing their bit, together, can make a huge difference." Registration for the mini marathon is open from the 3rd of March, to sign up as part of the Wicklow Hospice and arrange to get a t-shirt and sponsorship card visit www.wicklowhospice.ie or contact Sinead on 0870954137 sinead@wicklowhospice.ie. It is a really fun event is for all levels of walkers and runners, so don't delay sign up, have a great day and raise much needed funds for the Wicklow Hospice.

Wicklow's Way With Words

Wicklow County Council marked the launch of its second Way with Words literature festival for readers and writers in Arklow and Blessington Libraries on Friday February 21st.

Way with Words features an exciting line up of authors, illustrators and music for adults, children and families including top Chef Catherine Fulvio, Pat McCabe in conversation with Dermott Bolger, Sunday Miscellany Celebrating 50 years with Catriona Ní Anluáin, Colm Keegan Poet, Karl Henry Fitness Expert, Sarah Webb for children and much, much more. It takes place in the two libraries from February 29th to March 14th and this year has outreach partners in the Whale Theatre in Greystones, Mermaid Arts Centre Bray, Baltinglass Hospital and local schools

Way with Words was first established and curated in 2018 by curator Nell Regan on behalf of Wicklow County Council's arts and library services. Arts Officer Jenny Sherwin and author Olivia

Fitzsimons in partnership with Executive Librarians Laura Larkin, and Deirdre Priestly have curated the lineup for 2020. The event will cater for approximately two thousand audience members over the two-week period. The Festival has been made possible through the Creative Ireland Programme, supported also with investment from Wicklow County Council. Creative Ireland is a five-year all of Government initiative from 2017 - 2022. The Creative Ireland Programme is guided by a vision that every person in Ireland will have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. 'Arts Officer Jenny Sherwin commented that it is an extraordinary opportunity for Wicklow County Council's cultural services to extend our programmes and reach into communities in

an unprecedented way.'

The programme in Libraries is completely free with workshops, talks and events during the daytime and in the evening time. Small ticket charges apply to our partner events. There are several opportunities also for schools. Mouthful (UK) a Capella music group will provide workshops, Niall de Burca will regale with tales in English and Irish, Colm Keegan will work on new writing and Sarah Moore Fitzgerald presents in Arklow.

To book free tickets for all events see Eventbrite at or for Arklow phone (0402) 39977 or email: arklowlibrary@wicklowcoco.ie, for Blessington phone (045) 891 740 or email: blessingtonlib@wicklowcoco.ie. The website is www.waywithwordswicklow.ie.



Laura Larkin (Brand Librarian, Arklow Library), Helen McNulty (The Writers Room, Arklow Library), David Wilcoxson (Librarian, Arklow Library), Olivia Fitzsimons (writer), and Noline Foleoy, pictured at the launch of Way With Words.

Benville Robinson
SOLICITORS

Riverview House
Seapoint Road,
Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 276 1330 Fax: 01 276 1336
Web: www.benvillrobinson.ie
E-mail: info@benvillrobinson.ie

Personal Injury Lawyers*

Medical Negligence* Catastrophic Injuries*
Workplace Accidents* Road Traffic Accidents*
Trips and Falls*

For professional, confidential and expert legal advice regarding Personal Injuries suffered, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Robinson or Clare-Ann Temple.

Benville Robinson
SOLICITORS

Rory P. Benville B.C.L.
Brian Robinson B.B.L.S., L.L.M.
Eilish Bradshaw B.A., L.L.B., L.L.M.
Clare-Ann Temple L.L.B.

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

MOVIE MONEY WARNING

An Garda Síochána and the Office of the Revenue Commissioners wish to highlight that there has been a significant increase in the detection of novelty Euro notes.

These notes are often marked as "movie money" or "prop money" and bear a strong resemblance to genuine Euro notes, however they do not contain the security features. Revenue Officers have seized notes in varying denominations representing a value of €430,895 in recent mail centre detections.

Gardaí stated "We advise businesses and members of the public who deal in cash to be aware that such notes are in circulation and take appropriate precautionary measures. Business owners should ensure staff members handling cash are alerted to watch out for these fraudulent notes.

"An Garda Síochána would also like to highlight that the use of fraudulent currency when trying to purchase goods or services is an offence under the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act 2001 and carries a potential prison sentence of 10 years. These fraudulent notes should not be accepted as legal tender and any incidents of persons trying to pay with 'prop money' should be reported to Gardai immediately."

Detective Superintendent Michael Cryan of the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau has advised that: "People need to be aware that

such notes exist and at busy times, especially late at night, they need to exercise a little care and attention. These notes are easily identifiable if precautionary checks are made. Also people who try to tender such notes as real face prosecution, a possible prison sentence and a conviction, which is for life. Such convictions have serious ramifications if one wanted to travel, to work in certain sectors and it can affect their credit rating".



One of the fake €10 notes in circulation. Note the 'Copy' text.



Fake €5 notes with 'Movie Money' printed on them

bife BRAY INSTITUTE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Dedicated, Professional, Passionate

- THE SOUTH EAST'S LARGEST COLLEGE OF HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION -

OPEN EVENING THIS WEDNESDAY

4th Mar, 4pm - 6pm



ART & DESIGN

- Art Portfolio Preparation Course
- Art, Craft & Design
- Art Practice / Fine Art HNC
- Architectural Design & Technology
- Architectural Technology - Advanced HNC
- Graphic Design HND
- Fashion Design
- Fashion & Textiles HNC
- Garden Design
- Furniture Design & Manu. Level 5
- Furniture Design & Cabinet M. Level 6
- Construction & Joinery
- Jewellery Making & design

NEW
NEW

MUSIC & COMPUTER GAMING

- 3D Game Design
- Games Development
- Music Production HND
- Music Performance HND
- Sound Engineering
- DJ Techniques & Music Production

NEW

SPORT

- Sports, Exercise & Fitness Instruction
- Personal Trainer, Strength & Conditioning
- Soccer & Fitness Instruction
- Sports Injury & Soft Tissue Massage Therapy

SOCIAL STUDIES & APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

- Early Childhood Care & Education
- Supervision in Early Childhood Care & Education
- Social Studies & Community Care
- Applied Health & Social Care HND
- Applied Psychology

BODY THERAPIES & HOLISTIC HEALTH

- Beauty & Body Therapy
- Nail Technician & Salon Administration
- Hairdressing Junior Stylist
- Hairdressing Senior Stylist
- Barbering
- Fashion Theatre and Media Make-Up
- Holistic & Wellbeing Studies

SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & COMPUTING

- Animal Care & Management
- Animal Care
- Animal Care
- Canine Husbandry
- Animal Science Advanced
- Companion Animal Science - Start Your Own Business
- Equine Studies
- Science - Pre University
- Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Science
- Forensics - Applied Science
- Applied Ecology & Biodiversity Studies
- Engineering Pre-University
- Computer Software Development
- Computer Science Level 5
- Computer Networks & Cyber Security Level 6
- Teacher Training & Education Pre-University
- Inclusive Education & Training Through Assistive Technology

NEW

NEW
NEW

NEW

NEW
NEW

BUSINESS

- Business Management & Administration
- Business Management - Advanced Cert
- Accounting Technician
- Business Tourism & Event Management
- Legal Administration
- IT & Office Administration
- Medical Administration
- Security Studies
- Estate Agency Practice & Auctioneering

ADULT LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Adult Leaving Certificate

NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

- Nursing / Midwifery Studies
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Pharmacy & Retail Selling
- Pharmacy Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician

NEW

NEW

ACTING & DANCE

- Acting for Theatre & Film
- Acting-Advanced for Stage & Screen
- Dance Technique, Performance & Chor. ND
- Dance Technique, Performance & Chor. HND

FILM

- TV & Film Production
- TV & Film (Moving Image) HND
- Film FX: Special Effects in Film Production

TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

- Tourism, Reception & Event Management
- Tour Guiding
- Restaurant & Bar Management
- Professional Cookery
- Professional Cookery Advanced

DEGREE, DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES FOR 2020 - 2021



Free Wellness Workshop in Bray

To celebrate Social Prescribing Day 2020 on 12th March, Bray Area Partnership is collaborating with SOS to bring one of their Wellness Workshops to Bray.

This informal and relaxed morning workshop is free of charge and open to anybody aged 18 and over. It will cover relaxation & stress management; how to bring calm to your life; the relationship between thoughts and emotions; wellness toolkit and daily wellness plan; and an introduction to mindfulness and meditation - and includes a light lunch.

Bookings will be on a first come, first served basis and early booking is advised. See www.brayareapartnership.ie for more information and a link to the booking form. You can also find out more there about the Partnership's free Social Prescribing Well-being service, which can link you with sources of support and social activities in your community to support your health and wellbeing.

This workshop is being provided by Suicide or Survive (SOS), with funding support from Bray Area Partnership's Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022, which is funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.



www.bife.ie

01 2829668
bifeenquiries@wicklowvec.ie



Noelle Ryan, CEO of Oesophageal Cancer Fund, and Minister for Health Simon Harris, are pictured with Amy Dempsey at the launch of Lollipop Day, which took place on 29th February. The day was held to remind the public of the importance of recognising the early symptoms of this cancer and how vital early diagnosis can be. These symptoms include difficulty swallowing food, persistent acid indigestion, heartburn or reflux.

Limited reopening of Bray Harbour right of way to Old Golf Club lands

Wicklow Sinn Féin representatives John Brady TD and Cllr Grace McManus have welcomed the reopening of the public access from the Bray Harbour area to the new Coláiste Ráithín and Ravenswell schools are located on the old Bray Golf Clubs Lands. The reopening will allow limited access for 1 hour in the morning and afternoon to accommodate students going to school. Both representatives have said that common sense must now prevail and the access should remain permanently open.

Deputy Brady said "I welcome confirmation that there has been an agreement to reopen the right of way which links Bray harbour to the Old Golf Club lands. The agreement will allow limited access for pedestrian and cyclists and it will open for an hour in the morning and again in the afternoon to accommodate children getting to Coláiste Ráithín and Ravenswell schools. This is a welcome start, however it makes no sense only having restricted opening for a couple of hours each day and only when the schools are sitting. It needs to be opened permanently, but I welcome this opening as a starting point.

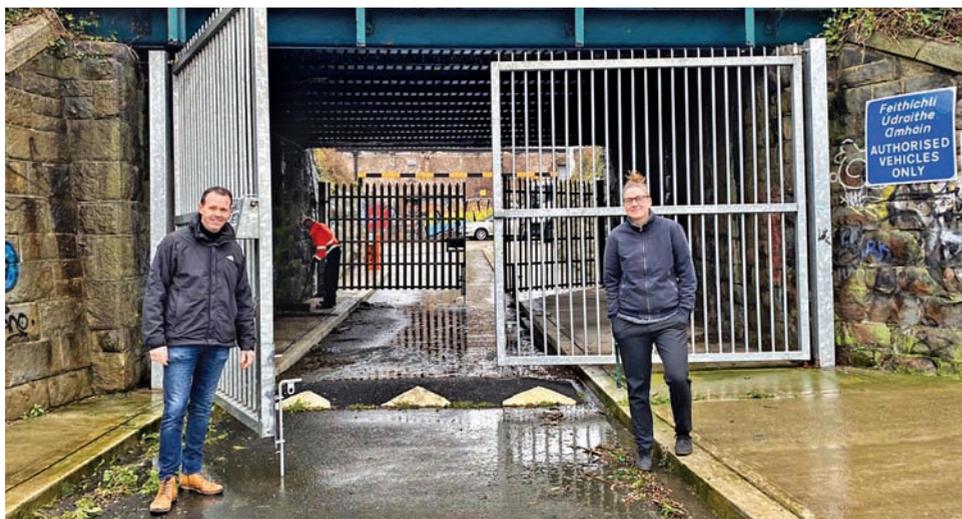
"Over the last 18 months I have been engaging Wicklow County Council, Irish Rail and the National Transport Authority (NTA) with a view of getting the public right of way to the harbour reopened. It was closed temporarily for the duration of

the Dargle flood protection works. Since the two new schools opened on the golf club lands having it opened has become more pressing as many students and teachers could walk or cycle to the school that way. So this opening is welcomed by many teachers and students who can now use it."

Cllr McManus said "I warmly welcome that the Harbour underpass is being used, albeit for a limited time each day. It offers another route for school traffic, and particularly during warmer weather I hope it will alleviate some of the school congestion we have in the town, children can be dropped to the harbour and then walk to the schools. I tabled a motion on the underpass in December that asked that the council will commit to exploring how best to ensure public right of way is protected long term and I believe that to be necessary work. I think the officials who have been working on this, including the

staff who we met recently who are working hard to keep the underpass clean and ready for use of children and adults alike."

Deputy Brady continued "Unfortunately a bit of a standoff has developed on the issue between the Council and the NTA. Planning permission was granted for the schools with a condition that there would be pedestrian and limited vehicle access under the railway line at this location. Now however the NTA are opposed to the reopening as they have concerns regarding vehicles going through the underpass. Discussions have been happening over the last 18 months, these have led to this limited reopening. Having the right of way opened for an hour in the morning and the afternoon shows how important of a link that it is. I will continue to engage all the stakeholders on the issue to ensure that common sense prevails and it opens permanently."



BRAY BOOK SHOP CHAIN SOLD

The family-owned Dubray Books business, which started in Quinsboro Road in Bray and has eight shops around the country has been sold to Eason Retail.

Founded by Helen Clear in Bray in 1973, Dubray was acquired by her daughter Gemma and her late husband, Kevin Barry, in 1988. Dubray has been owned by the Barry family ever since. The new owners decided to develop the company further, beginning with a move to larger premises on Bray's Main Street. In 1990 they took the bold step of opening The Dublin Bookshop on Dublin's premier shopping street, Grafton Street. Building on the success of the Dublin Bookshop, they opened shops in Rathmines and Kilkenny in 1994, and the burgeoning group took the name Dubray Books.

In 1997 the four shops were joined by a fifth, in Stillorgan (formerly the Paperback Centre) and in 1998 they opened a new branch on Galway's Shop Street.

By 2002 the Grafton Street branch had outgrown its original home and moved up the street to its current location. The flagship of the group, the new shop extends across three floors and is a popular location for book

launches, signings and other events.

The 2003 acquisition of Bookstop in Blackrock and Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centres brought the group up to eight bookshops. Most recently, in 2019 they opened a new shop in Liffey Valley shopping centre.

Dubray employs about 90 people, has annual sales of over €9m and generates operating profits of roughly €0.7m.

The two companies said the deal was "a very positive initiative" for both businesses.

Under the terms of the deal, Dubray will continue to operate in its current format as a stand-alone division within Eason under the Dubray brand. The current Dubray management team, led by Maria Dickenson, will continue to operate the Dubray stores.

No price for the deal was disclosed. Corporate finance sources said it probably traded at between five and six times its operating profit, which would put the deal within the range of €3.5 million to €4.2 million.

In a statement, Eason said it has "long admired Dubray's customer proposition as a specialist bookseller", and said the transaction will make a "significant positive contribution" to its overall financial performance.

It intends to retain Dubray as a separate brand, along with its retail outlets in their current format.

Eason said the deal for Dubray has been facilitated by the injection of €20m of capital into the Eason retail business by Eason shareholders in 2019. The company said the purchase is consistent

with its retail strategy to position its business for a sustainable future

Founded in 1866, Eason is Ireland's oldest book retailer and they say they will continue to develop their own retail offering, which serves a different customer profile, based on a broader product offering and five core categories that see a popular book range complemented by stationery, cards, gifts and newspapers and magazines.

Dubray will continue to operate in its current format as a stand-alone division within Eason under the Dubray brand.



Gemma Barry and Liam Hanly, CEO of Eason

Greystones retains lowest commercial vacancy rate

Co. Wicklow's commercial vacancy rate has decreased by 0.1 percentage points (pp) to 12.1% according to the latest GeoView Commercial Vacancy Rates Report published by GeoDirectory last week.

In Wicklow, Arklow was the area with the highest commercial vacancy rate at 19.0%. Greystones had the lowest vacancy rate at 7.6%. The report, prepared by EY-DKM Economic Advisory Services, found that the commercial vacancy rate increased in all four provinces in 2019. The national commercial vacancy rate stood at 13.3% in Q4 2019, 0.1pp higher than the same period in 2018.

In total, 16 counties recorded increases in their commercial vacancy rate, with a decrease occurring in only 6 counties. Sligo, at 18.9%, was the county with the highest commercial vacancy rate. The five counties with the highest vacancy rates were all located in Connacht, a sign of the prominent east-west divide in terms of commercial activity.

The GeoView Commercial Property Report also highlights the developing trends in commercial property usage over the past decade. Through the analysis of urban areas in the Greater Dublin Area, Cork, Galway, Waterford, Kilkenny and Limerick, the GeoDirectory data shows the changing uses of the Irish commercial property sector.

Thanks to an increased focus on health and fitness, there has been a significant rise in the number of gyms in urban areas over the past decade. From a total of just 311 gyms in 2010, the figure stood at 831 in 2019, representing a 167% increase. In the last ten years there has been a 58% increase in the number of cafés in main urban areas, while there has only been a 3.1% increase in

the number of bars in the same areas over the same period of time.

The number of commercial properties offering beauty/men's grooming services has also increased notably, rising by 22% over the last ten years.

Commenting on the GeoView Commercial Property Report, Dara Keogh, CEO GeoDirectory said, "GeoDirectory's recent commercial property reports have shown that there is a deepening divide between the east and west of the country in terms of economic activity, and this trend is showing no signs of slowing down. The report also provides a fascinating insight into the changing nature of commercial property usage. For example, the cultural trend of health and wellness has seen a 167% increase in the number of gyms in the country over the past ten years, while the number of cafés in main urban centres has increased by over 50%."

Annette Hughes, Director, EY-DKM Economic Advisory said, "The persistently high national commercial vacancy rate, 13.3% in this latest GeoView report, is difficult to reconcile with the strong economic recovery experienced over the past six years. With 16 counties recording increases in vacancy rates, this is a cause for concern. One reason for this could be that the economic recovery has not fully expanded to all areas of Ireland. With almost one quarter of all commercial address points in Ireland located in Dublin and one-third in the Greater Dublin Area, the figure increases to 50% when Cork and Galway are included. This suggests that economic activity is concentrated in a small number of counties. Similarly, the ever-increasing level of internet shopping may also be contributing to the high commercial vacancy rates in many towns across the country."

Slipping business sentiment in hotels

Business sentiment in Wicklow and across the country has slipped according to an industry survey undertaken by the Irish Hotels Federation ahead of its annual conference in the Galmont Hotel, Galway.

While 40% of hotel and guesthouse owners across the country report an increase in business levels compared to this time last year, a slightly higher number (45%), are reporting a drop. With the survey also highlighting continued concerns around the high cost of doing business, business sentiment, not surprisingly, has slipped for the second year in a row. Just one third are reporting a positive outlook for the year, compared to 40% this time last year.

Hoteliers' concerns about the high costs of doing business include what Gerard O'Brien, a spokesperson from the Wicklow branch of the Irish Hotels Federation, described as 'hidden' costs, which he says aren't readily considered when discussing the challenges facing sector. "Local authority rates, for example, are the single biggest cost that tourism businesses have no control over. Hotels are making a disproportionate contribution to local authority funding with many hoteliers levied rates of up to €3,000 per bedroom while the average

local authority rates equate to €1,500 per room."

"A shake-up of local government funding is long overdue. We are calling on the incoming government to ensure a fairer distribution of the rates burden right across the country. Hotels are willing to pay fair and reasonable rates but recent commercial revisions have led to excessive increases in many cases," he said.

Higher water charges are another worry raised by members in the survey. Mr O'Brien said that hoteliers have serious concerns about the approach taken by Irish Water in relation to harmonisation and increases in the overall cost burden on businesses. "These proposals will impact significantly on our sector given the relatively high usage of water by hotels, particularly by those premises with leisure facilities. The proposed increases, in many cases, amount to 30% over three years, which are completely unreasonable and a significant added pressure for a sector that is so price-sensitive."

The threat of a disruptive Brexit remains a sig-

nificant concern for the vast majority of hoteliers. The survey shows that both the British and Northern Ireland markets continue to be challenging for the hotel sector. Amongst those surveyed, over 40% report a fall in business from Northern Ireland with more than 60% seeing a drop from Great Britain. These reductions are being offset to some extent by the performances of the domestic and US markets, which remain buoyant. Home grown business is up year on year for close to half of hoteliers surveyed (46%) while over a quarter are reporting an increase in business levels from the US. Just over 40% are reporting an increase in forward, or advance, bookings for the remainder of the year, while a similar number are reporting a fall.

While business sentiment may be subdued, hoteliers are continuing to invest in their properties with over three quarters planning to undertake refurbishment or capital expenditure projects during 2020. "Irish tourism cannot afford to stand still.

It supports approximately 260,000 jobs including 13,900 in Wicklow, contributing over €135 million in revenue to the Wicklow economy. It is also highly competitive and we compete internationally for business every day of the week. Irish hotels are renowned across the world for the quality of our properties and our high standards of service. Maintaining such a reputation requires continued investment to ensure our product remains fresh and relevant in the face of evolving consumer tastes," said Mr O'Brien.

Most hoteliers, according to the survey, are planning refurbishment projects for their existing guestrooms and common areas. One in ten are planning to upgrade or expand their leisure facilities with seven per cent planning to add new leisure facilities.

Conferences and meetings continue to be an important source of business for many hotels around the country. Of those, over a quarter reported an increase in business compared to this time last year.



Amy Early, Molly Poer and Halle Skuse at the Smiley Pancake Fun Day in aid of Wicklow Mental Health, which was held in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town.

Fatal road traffic collision in Glenealy

Father of five Dernaun Hayden was killed as a result of a fatal road traffic accident near Glenealy Village last week.

Gardaí at Ashford are investigating following the single vehicle collision which occurred on the L2166 near Glenealy at approximately 7.50pm on Sunday 23rd February.

Mr Hayden's car is believed to have collided with a ditch at the above location. Gardaí and Emergency services attended the scene.

The L2166 at Glenealy was closed for an investigation by Garda Forensic Collision Investigators. Mr Hayden was aged in his 40s and was a husband to Liz and father to Grainne, Katie, Ryan, Sarah, and Molly. His funeral took place on Friday afternoon.

Gardaí are appealing to anyone who may have information regarding the collision, particularly any road users with camera footage who were travelling on the L2166 this evening, to contact Ashford Garda Station on 0404 49220, the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111 or any Garda Station.

KENNY FUELS.ie
Heating Oil | Gas Oil | Diesel | Lubricants

053 9372765

SPECIAL DEAL
for Wicklow Times Readers

1000 Litres Kerosene	€629
500 Litres Kerosene	€329
300 Litres Kerosene	€220
200 Litres Kerosene	€160

You must mention this ad to avail of these prices
T & Cs apply.

MAXI ZOO

Makes pets happy

buy 2 for €30

each 19.95

Valid from 1 - 10.3.2020:
Gain Original 15kg

Bray RETAIL PARK

Woodie's

Maxi Zoo Bray, Unit 5 Bray Retail Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow



Aine O'Gorman, Edel Kennedy, and Claire Walsh at the Wicklow Sports Partnership/Wicklow Hospice Sports Awards in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

A new approach to bereavement support

About 2000 families are devastated by the death of a child every year - where can they access support? Three national organisations, Anam Cara, Feileacain and Pieta House are combining their resources to support bereaved mothers and fathers by facilitating a Bereavement Support Evenings in Dublin's Ashling Hotel, Parkgate St on Wednesday 11th March at 7pm, registration opens at 6.45pm.

Every year tragically about 2,000 families experience the death of a son or daughter through different circumstances (CSO Statistics age 0- 44 years). The cause of death includes: road traffic collisions, serious illness, stillbirth, suicide and accidents at home or abroad. A recent parent survey conducted by Anam Cara found that some parents were seeking specialised support after the tragic and sudden death of their child. In particular parents who have experienced the death of a baby or have been bereaved by suicide. This new innovative approach by Ireland's main organizations specializing in parental bereavement will ensure parents are signposted to the service most suited and relevant for them around the circumstances of their child's death.

Sharon Vard CEO Anam Cara said "as a bereaved mother I would have welcomed attending an event like this where I could access the information and support our family needed in the aftermath of our Rachel's death. We were so lost at that time and struggling with the grief and pain. To be able to get information and support we needed along with being with other parents who understood the devastation

and the our pain would have helped".

Marie Cregan CEO Feileacain said "There is no doubt the death of a child at any age is uniquely devastating and the intense grief can leave families feeling isolated and struggling to cope with the loss of their loved one."

The Dublin Bereavement Support Evenings will give newly bereaved parents an opportunity to hear an experienced bereavement specialist speak on the many challenges and difficulties a mother or father face into after the death of their child, regardless of the age of their child or the circumstances of their death. The parents will then have an opportunity to connect with the organization that can provide them with the support they need at a very difficult time in their lives. Josephine Kiernan, Bereavement Support Services, Pieta House, commented "we are delighted with this partnership which will make sure parents have the opportunity to connect with the support service we provide to parents and adult siblings who have been bereaved by suicide."

Tickets are free for this event and can be found at eventbrite.ie.

Campaign asks people to think before they flush

The Think Before You Flush campaign aims to highlight the problems caused by flushing inappropriate items such as wipes down the toilet. This can cause blockages in homes, the wastewater infrastructure or end up on the beach as marine litter.

The campaign is run by Clean Coasts in partnership with Irish Water and is currently in its 4th year. Each year there are regional campaigns in chosen cities, towns and villages across Ireland and last Tuesday the campaign was in Wicklow library.

At the event, Annie Byrne from Clean Coasts, spoke about bathroom behaviours and particularly Wicklow as a coastal town and how it was affected by sewage related litter. The attendees were very engaged with lots of questions and answers at the end. They were keen to get involved in local beach cleans coming up as a result.

The 2019/20 regional campaigns are based in Mallow, Tralee, Sligo town, Bundoran, Dundalk and Wicklow town. In each location, the campaign will be running workshops, events and clean ups throughout the year, working with the local community, businesses and schools.

The campaign found that 30% of people are flushing items they should bin, such as wipes and cotton buds, down the toilet with detrimental effects on the wastewater network and the environ-



An 8ft blockage that was removed from the Bollarney Wastewater Pumping Station last year. The blockage serves as a reminder of the problems caused by inappropriate items being flushed down the toilet.

ment. The goal of the campaign is to encourage people to always #think4flush

Speaking about the campaign Elaine Doyle, Clean Coasts Officer said

"The Think Before You Flush campaign was set up as a result of finding sewage related waste such as wipes on Irish beaches. 80% of marine litter originates from inland sources.

Something as simple as a wipe can travel from a flushed toilet to the ocean and finally the beach possibly causing blockages and damage to marine life as it makes its journey. We are delighted to partner with Irish Water to spread this important message. Simply put a bin in your bathroom and always #think4flush".

Speaking about the campaign, Annabel Fitzgerald, Irish Water said "We are delighted to work in partnership with Clean Coasts to deliver this important campaign. Placing a bin in the bathroom and disposing of wet wipes and other sanitary items appropriately has a hugely positive impact on the wastewater network and the environment. We're urging all residents in Wicklow to 'Think Before You Flush'. Last year, we removed thousands of sewer blockages across the country. The size and scale of the impact of flushing the wrong items down the toilet is incredible. An 8ft blockage was removed from Bollarney wastewater pumping station by Wicklow County Council last year and this serves as a reminder of the impact of flushing the wrong thing down the toilet."

Funding application to reinstate Arklow Coastal Walk rejected

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has expressed anger and disappointment that an application for funding of €115,000 to reinstate the Coastal Walk at North Beach in Arklow has been turned down.

The application for funding was made under the Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure scheme to the Department of Rural and Community Development. The popular walk was destroyed during Storm Ophelia in 2017.

Expressing disappointment Deputy Brady said "I'm both angry and disappointed that Arklow has again been forgotten by this outgoing government. The application was made to the Minister of Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD under the Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure scheme. The coastal walk in Arklow has remained closed since it was destroyed during Storm Ophelia in 2017.

"Last November having spoken to officials within the Department about the application for funding, I expressed concerns about the application. Arklow simply didn't appear to be on their radar for funding. On foot of my concerns some local public representatives stated publicly that funding from the Department to reinstate the walk would be forthcoming. Unfortunately, their assurances have proven incorrect. It appears that as one of their last acts in government Fine Gael have decided again to ignore Arklow."

Deputy Brady concluded "Funding must be secured for the immediate reinstatement of the widely used

amenity. We can't have a situation where nothing is done with the coastal walk until the upgrade of the coastal protection scheme in Arklow happens. This could take a number of years and the people of Arklow can't be left waiting for the reinstatement of the popular walk. I will continue to work on securing funding to have the work carried out, so it can be reopened as soon as possible."



John Brady TD at the Arklow Coastal Walk, which was damaged in 2017 by Storm Ophelia. A funding application to reinstate the walk has been turned down.

MILLER BROTHERS

Awakening Stone, Creating Beauty



We create beautiful worktops, floors and surfaces with craft and precision, we awaken stone, allowing it reach its true potential.

Charvey Lane Rathnew Co. Wicklow A67 V635 T. 0404 32222
F. 0404 32838 E. sales@millerbrothers.ie www.millerbrothers.ie

HEATING, PLUMBING AND BATHROOM SUPPLIES



SKC Providers, operating from three branches in Rathnew, Co. Wicklow, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim and Gorey, Co. Wexford, is your one-stop shop for all bathroom, heating and plumbing supplies. We sell to both trade professionals and the general public.

All of our branches have showrooms displaying an extensive range of bathroom suites, showers, shower trays, shower enclosures, traditional and modern heated towel rails, bathroom furniture, a wide variety of taps and bathroom accessories, and a comprehensive range of stoves.



Our opening hours in all branches are convenient and consumer friendly:
Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm

www.skc.ie info@skc.ie

Wicklow 0404 20088, Leitrim 071 964 0593
and Gorey 053 942 2352





It was big baby smiles all round when the winner of Greystones' Most Beautiful Baby 2020 accepted his framed cert last week. Sitting with proud parents Vicky and Aaron, six-month-old Jason Fawcett took his newfound fame and glory in his stride, and was far more interested in biting his rubber giraffe toy than thinking about how he might just spend his prize money. Now in its fifth year, Greystones' Most Beautiful Baby voted a bumper crop of entries for the 2020 title, with each of the 45 babies relying on a public vote to grab that crown. Sponsored by The Byrne Group, there were over 1,000 votes, and Jason managed to find fans as far away as Australia and Japan. Organised by The Greystones Guide, the online magazine was quick to point out that each and every one of the babies this year deserved to win - and if it had been left to judges, choosing a winner would have taken all year.

Apprentices from Wicklow and Kildare graduate

Graduating apprentices from Kildare and Wicklow, who recently completed their apprenticeship were last week presented with their Advanced Certificate Craft. The event was co-hosted by SOLAS and Kildare and Wicklow ETB.

There has been a growing demand for people with vocational skills. The skills learned through an apprenticeship are invaluable and offer real job opportunities. Businesses need employees with strong practical skills, and apprenticeships and vocational training are key to delivering these.

The Irish apprenticeship system develops highly skilled workers, like those receiving the Advanced Certificate today.

Andrew Brownlee, CEO, SOLAS, spoke of the apprenticeship programme and drew particular attention to the calibre of the Irish apprenticeship system which is recognised nationally and internationally. "You have completed a comprehensive apprenticeship that is recognised at home and abroad as one of the best in the world. An example of the standards achieved by apprentices during their apprenticeship is the success obtained by the Irish Team at successive World Skills

Competitions. This is a remarkable achievement and it proves beyond doubt that our apprenticeship system and our apprentices are among the best in the world".

At the most recent World Skills Competition held in Russia in August 2019, four gold medals, one bronze medal, a Best of Nation medal and seven Medallions for Excellence were achieved by the team of 17 young apprentices, trainees and students who represented Ireland.

The Advanced Certificate Craft is at Level 6 of the National Framework of Qualifications and is an internationally recognised qualification.

There has been an increased focus on Apprenticeships in recent years. Apprenticeship in Ireland has traditionally been the path to skilled occupations in a range of sectors such as construction, engineering, motor and electrical. However, under the guidance of the Apprenticeship Council, the apprenticeship system in Ireland is expanding. Things are changing, with an expanded model of apprenticeship, in which a wider range of occupations are attracting more people into apprenticeships.

New apprenticeships have been launched in sectors such as auctioneering and property services, finance, biopharma, ICT, logistics and hospitality with more in development across a range of sectors. Alongside this, we are seeing an increase in the number of new apprentices being registered across all of the current trades. This is a testament to the high regard which the apprenticeship system in Ireland is held. It has long been respected as a comprehensive and successful career and education route for people of all ages.

Representing the Education and Training Boards, Dr Deirdre Keyes, CE, KWETB, congratulated the graduating apprentices and said "The Irish Apprenticeship system with both on and off the job training builds the capacity for a modern day workplace. The Apprentices are armed with knowledge, skillsets and competencies to enable career pathways for a brighter future. This celebration of Apprenticeships today is wider than the trades that are receiving their certificates as we have experienced in the demonstration of the wonderful food prepared and cooked by our very own Commis Chef Apprentices from Bray and Wicklow, a true example of putting theory into practice."

Concluding the ceremony, Andrew Brownlee congratulated the apprentices who received their Advanced Certificate Craft on their achievement of being recognised as highly skilled craftspeople and wished them every success in their careers.

Vast majority want more services at local Post Office

The vast majority of people favour Government financial support to keep their Post Office open and would like to see more State services becoming available. That's according to new independent research, on a representative sample of 1,015 Irish adults, carried out by RED C.

Ninety-one percent said their Post Office provided a valuable service to the local community, 86% support the Government providing financial support to keep their Post Office open and 86% want more State services available at their Post Office.

Support was strongest among older people and outside of Dublin. However, it was shared across all age and social groupings - with in excess of 80% of young people wanting action to maintain their Post Office.

The Irish Postmasters' Union (IPU) welcomed the findings and it said gave a clear message to the next Government.

IPU General Secretary Ned O'Hara said: "the IPU has commissioned a major report to cost and recommend a system for the introduction of a

Public Service Obligation (PSO) for the Post Office Network. The detailed findings and recommendations will be published in the coming months.

"It is critical that the next Government is from the outset clearly committed to a Post Office PSO, and the expansion of services.

"This research shows that this is what the public wants Government to do," he said.

The Post Office Network continues to be Ireland's largest retail and face-to-face service Network. It is at the heart of over 950 communities serving approximately 1.5 million customers each week. However, business across the Network is falling by 6-7% per annum and many are at the brink of viability. Changes in the delivery of social welfare payments is the major reason

for reducing business.

Currently, support payments are being made to most Post Offices as part of a new contract introduced in 2018. However, these are to end in 2021 and the IPU fears hundreds of closures if a PSO is not delivered within 12 months.

IPU President and South East Spokesperson Seán Martin (Tramore Post Office) said the contribution to local economies and social value which Post Offices bring is far in excess of the level which a PSO is likely to be - and letting the Network collapse would prove far more costly.

"Post Offices have a central role to play in future economic and civic regeneration in villages, towns and urban communities.

"In the past two years, new financial and bank-

ing services have been successfully introduced and Postmasters have extended opening hours to meet customer needs.

"All State services, which are transacted over the counter, should become available in all Post Offices such as Motor Tax payments, Driving Licences, Passports, Public Service Card renewals, identity verification and admin for Departments.

"For example, the Road Safety Authority is about to go to tender for the national Driving Licence service, and the network could extend accessibility of Driving Licence services for citizens," Mr Martin said.

There are currently 952 offices in the Post Office Network including 897 Postmaster run offices, 45 An Post company offices and ten temporary closures.

Wicklow Tidy Towns honoured by Municipal District Reception

Wicklow Tidy Towns' Gold Medal category win in the national Tidy Towns competition was marked by a Cathaoirleach's Reception in the town last Monday arranged by Wicklow Municipal District.

Wicklow won a Gold Medal in Category E (population of 5,001 to 10,000) and was also named '1st in County' in the SuperValu Tidy Towns competition last year.

The results achieved by the Wicklow Tidy Towns Group have been remarkable, going from Bronze to Silver and now to Gold over the past three years.

Commenting on their win, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District, Cllr Shay Cullen, said: "Your passion, hard work and dedication have led you to this success. Your approach to inclusivity and community involvement has brought about huge benefits to the town in terms of fostering a sense of pride and building community spirit. I wish to congratulate each and every one of you here today on your remarkable achievements and for giving of your free time so selflessly for the betterment of the town."



Pictured at the Wicklow Municipal District's Cathaoirleach's Reception to honour the Wicklow Town Tidy Towns Group are: Back row L/R - Cllr John Snell, Cllr Irene Winters, Caroline Lynch, Cllr Paul O'Brien and Jim Murphy; Front row L/R - Cllr Mary Kavanagh, Kathleen Murphy, Jennifer Vickers, Louise Kelly, Cllr Shay Cullen, Margaret Reilly, Mary Owens and Cllr Gail Dunne

Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services
Harold's Cross Blackrock Wicklow

We would love if you would consider choosing the Wicklow Hospice as your charity of choice for the Women's Mini Marathon and be part of this fantastic achievement.

Fundraising will always be an integral part of the care that will be provided by the Wicklow Hospice.

Please contact Sinead
on: 087 0954137 or
sinead@wicklowhospice.ie
and I will help you with your fundraising



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Sunday 8th March

International Women's Day (IWD) takes place this year on Sunday 8th March, and the theme for this year's campaign is 'Each for Equal'. This theme is drawn from a notion of 'Collective Individualism' - how individual actions, conversations, behaviors and mindsets can have an impact on our larger society, and how collectively, we can make change happen. Collectively, we can each help to create a gender equal world.

IWD has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911. The day is not country, group or organization specific - and belongs to all groups collectively everywhere.

IWD is now an official holiday in over two dozen countries.

The tradition sees men honouring their mothers, wives, girls,

friends, colleagues, etc with flowers and small gifts. In some countries IWD has the equivalent status of Mother's Day where children give small presents to their mothers and grandmothers.

IWD is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

Floral Affairs



Anna & Chloe of Floral Affairs.

Anna Hayden brought 10 years of experience as a qualified florist to Arklow when she opened Floral Affairs on the main street in Arklow a little over a year ago. Anna has brought to life her daughter Chloe's dream of owning a flower shop, and Chloe can now often be found in the shop with Anna herself, helping out and entertaining customers.

Quickly establishing Floral Affairs as the 'go-to' place for bouquets, wreaths and arrangements, by September last year Anna had already been shortlisted for the Best New Business Award with the Arklow Chamber of Commerce and just recently was a finalist for Best Wedding Florist in Leinster in the 4th Irish Wedding Awards.

The Green Room



Ciara Quigley of The Green Room.

Ciara Quigley opened her first flower business in 2008 and since then has opened three successful flower shops. Ciara moved to the beautiful village of Roundwood five years ago, and saw an opportunity to open a new flower shop in the village.

The Green Room Flowers and Gifts was opened in September 2017. Not only a successful entrepreneur, Ciara is the only Irish florist to have competed in the RHS Chelsea Flower Show three times. In 2014 she won the Chelsea Flower Show Irish Hub, from there she went on to compete in one of the world's most prestigious flower shows, The Chelsea Flower Show in London where she was delighted to bring home a Silver Medal, she competed again in 2015 and won the Irish Hub. In 2017 she won the Irish Hub for a third time and went on to bring home a Bronze medal.

Ciara also teaches QQI Level 5 Floristry in Sallynoggin College of Further Education for people looking to start their career in the floral industry or for people looking for a career change. Graduates of the course have gone on to have very successful careers in the industry themselves.

Rosie Cooney



Rosie Cooney

Rosie Cooney is the Manager of AIB in Wicklow since 2017, having previously worked there in the late 90s.

Rosie originally hails from Waterford, but has been living in Wicklow for the last 30 years and has been working with AIB "for ever", as she says herself. She was recently elected as President of the Chamber of Commerce for Wicklow, a role she is greatly looking forward to. In this, the week of International Women's Day, Rosie wants to recognise Network Ireland, who are partners with AIB and are a tremendous support for women in business. In her spare time, which is not a lot, Rosie enjoys being involved in her local drama group. She was honoured to be asked to contribute to this special feature.

Irene Winters

The theme of this year's International Women's Day is 'each for equal' and Cllr Irene Winters subscribes to that theme.

She outlined "I am honoured to have been elected as Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council this year and found it hard to believe that it is only the third time in the history of the Council that a woman has achieved this honour.

"I want society to move towards a time and place where gender becomes unremarkable, where people think of a person in terms of their capabilities without considering their gender, but we are not there yet and so it is important that we highlight this issue and International Women's day creates a platform to do that. We are all responsible for our own actions, our own thoughts and we need to be considered in how we impact on society around us.

It is important to celebrate women's achievements, it is important to take a firm stance against bias and to continue to highlight inequality until it no longer exists.

Louise D'Arcy says 'give golf a try'

"Following on last year's hugely successful International Women's Day event we again this year offer all women the chance to try golf at no cost or obligation!" says Louise D'Arcy.

"If you feel golf is for you, or you're just not sure, come to Wicklow Golf Club on Sunday 8th March and celebrate International Women's Day with a free golf group lesson with me Louise D'Arcy, PGA Head Professional. You will learn something new and get a chance to meet women who embarked on their golfing journey last year. With one of the friendliest clubs in Wicklow you will have lots of fun and feel at ease immediately! You only need comfy warm clothes and runners, I'll provide golf clubs and all you need for the lesson. There are limited places so please call me on 087 7510 727 to secure your place. Looking forward to meeting you!"



Louise D'Arcy, PGA Professional.

AIB WICKLOW TOWN
Rosie and her team of experienced staff are available to discuss your individual banking needs.
Open Monday 10am-5pm, Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm
ABBEY STREET, WICKLOW TOWN
T: 0404 67311 E: wicklow@aib.ie

FINE GAEL
Cllr Irene Winters
Cllr Irene Winters was first elected to public office in 2004 and has been re-elected in each local election since then. She was elected as Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council in June 2019, the third female to hold that honour in over 100 years. Outside of politics Irene ran a successful travel agency alongside her mother in Wicklow Town for 20 years and spent 10 years as a director and volunteer with Wicklow Cancer Support. During her time as a public representative she has served as a director of Wicklow Tourism, Wicklow Enterprise Park and Wicklow Gaol.
23 Wicklow Heights Court, Wicklow Town
087 244 3610 | iwinters@wicklowcoco.ie

The Green Room
NOW TAKING ORDERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY
22nd MARCH
Delivering across Co. Wicklow and Nationwide
Main Street, Roundwood, A98 FF86
Ph: 01-201 9810 www.thegreenroomflowers.ie

Floral Affairs ~ Arklow ~
32 Main Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow T: 086 217 2659
floralaffairs.arklow@gmail.com
Delivery areas covered include Arklow, Aughrim & Avoca

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT WICKLOW GOLF CLUB 8TH MARCH 2020
COME & TRY GOLF FOR FREE WITH LOUISE
No experience or equipment needed
BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN IN A GROUP SESSION AT 2:30PM-3:30PM AND 3:30PM-4:30PM
Contact Louise for details on Junior Easter Golf Camp
GREEN TAG HALF PRICE SALE for St. Patrick's Day in Pro-Shop
Contact Louise to book a spot 087 751 0727 or louisedarcy@yaho.ie



Freya Browne and Liam O'Dwyer at the Smiley Pancake Fun Day in aid of Wicklow Mental Health, which was held in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town

Early bird registration for Pieta's Darkness into Light 2020 now open

Registration is now open for Darkness Into Light 2020 which will take place on Saturday, May 9th in venues nationwide.



Sandra, Andrew, and Evamah Mahon at last year's Darkness Into Light in Phoenix Park.

Pieta and Electric Ireland are calling on as many people as possible around the country to join in the global movement to end suicide by coming together to walk from Darkness Into Light. The walk not only raises vital funds for Pieta and awareness for mental health, it brings people together in a spirit of solidarity and hope. To register now and avail of the discounted early bird rates, visit www.darknessintolight.ie

The unique event, which is symbolic of the journey from despair to hope, will begin in darkness at 4.15am on May 9th. Thousands of people will walk a 5-kilometre route into the light of dawn. Funds raised from Darkness Into Light help

keep Pieta's counselling services free of charge and freely accessible to those in suicidal crisis, people who engage in self-harm, and to those bereaved by suicide.

In 2019, a total of €5.4m was raised from Darkness into Light walks with over 200,000 people taking part around the world. In Leinster over 77,000 people took part in the 5km walk and this year, Pieta and Electric Ireland are encouraging more people to register and take part to raise vital funds for mental health.

Pieta has supported over 43,000 people with face to face therapy across centres nationwide. Since opening its doors 13 years ago, Pieta has heard painful truths from thou-

sands of people who have come to the organisation at the point of suicidal crisis or actively engaging in self-harm.

Speaking about Darkness Into Light and the movement of hope, Rachel Murphy, Director of Fundraising at Pieta, said: "We rely on the support of the public to keep our doors open. Without this support the life-saving work of Pieta around the country would not be possible. It gives us tremendous hope to see the incredible solidarity of people across Ireland who walk together towards the dawn. Darkness Into Light is a community event so, if possible, walk with friends and family on May 9th to show your support. We are proud to

partner with Electric Ireland this year, and every year, since 2013 because together we are stronger"

As Pieta's flagship fundraising awareness event, Darkness Into Light has grown from a single walk in the Phoenix Park, Dublin with just 400 walkers into a global movement dedicated to raising awareness around suicide and self-harm. Almost 250,000 people in 24 countries across 5 continents are expected to come together in the pre-dawn hours to take part, and to spread Pieta's message of hope around the world.

Speaking about the long-term partnership between Electric Ireland and Pieta, Marguerite Sayers, Executive Director at Electric Ireland, has seen the Darkness Into Light event grow from 20 venues in 2013 to 200 globally last year. "We're proud to support Pieta and walk from Darkness Into Light with them each year. We know we live in a difficult world, with many challenges but we believe that together we can make it brighter. Individually we can all take action; to be kinder, to listen to someone, to reach out to them, to walk with them; through collective actions we can make this world a more hopeful place. We are ready to stand with Pieta - join us and let's walk on Saturday May 9th, because we are brighter together."

Quest Glendalough to feature in 2020 National Adventure Race Series

Building on a hugely popular series last year, the 2020 National Adventure Race Series was launched last week with some exciting additions for the year ahead.

The multisport adventure race series includes running, cycling and kayaking across some of Ireland's most challenging - and picturesque - terrain including the stunning Glendalough, the Dingle Peninsula and Killary Fjord in Leenane, Co. Galway. The Glendalough section of the series takes place on April 4th

The 2020 series starts on March 7th at Quest Kenmare, with thousands of adventure racers expected to take part in the 11-event series between March and November

The National Adventure Race Series features two competitive category options including Expert level where participants climb higher, cycle longer and paddle further. Sport level is shorter in all elements, but somewhat faster and highly competitive with some of the country's fittest athletes participating.

The series gives both experienced and novice adventure racing enthusiasts an opportunity to become national champion. Athletes must compete in at least five races to have a chance of winning the overall title, but many complete all the events.

For the first time since the series began in 2013, this year's event will include a much-anticipated cross-border race. 'FEAR' in Co. Fermanagh will see athletes race along the rugged shores of Lough Erne in September, adding a welcome Northern Ireland element to the series

Continental Tyres will support each race by profiling local winners and offering a range of exciting prizes including top-of-the-range adidas trail and running shoes with Continental's patented rubber sole grip as well as the company's most advanced bike tyres, the GP5000s.

Speaking at last week's launch, Tom Dennigan of Continental Tyres Ireland said: "Adventure Racing has become a fantastic part of our sponsorship portfolio in Ireland. This partnership allows us to showcase the growing community of outdoor adventurers and we are delighted to help promote this exciting sport and hopefully get more people involved."

"The events themselves take place in some of the most breathtaking areas on this island," Mr Dennigan added. "Getting to the events is an

adventure in itself and we are keen to make sure not only the racers themselves but their friends and supporters have the right grip for the journey, whether it's on their car, bike wheels or the soles on their shoes!"

Also at today's launch was Paul Mahon, founder of the Continental Tyres National Adventure Race Series, who said: "We are thrilled to have Continental Tyres on board with us again, and really looking forward to the 2020 series with a brand new event in the shape of 'FEARmanagh'. The addition of a cross-border event shows how popular the series is becoming and we can't wait to get up North in September."

"We saw last year that the standard in both men's and women's races has surged up to a new level," Mr Mahon went on. "This year we expect to see even more barriers broken and records set, with athletes pushing themselves and each other to the very limit. It's going to be an unforgettable year of adventure racing!"

To follow the National Adventure Race Series, visit www.masi.ie or www.kay-athlon.ie for regular updates.



At the launch of the Adventure Race Series at the Sugar Loaf were Niamh Cleary, Barry Cronin, Noel Dunne, Bernard Smyth, Kellie Farrell, and Pdraig O'Connor. The multisport adventure race series includes running, cycling and kayaking across some of Ireland's most challenging - and picturesque - terrain including the stunning Glendalough, the Dingle Peninsula and Killary Fjord in Leenane, Co. Galway. The Glendalough section of the series takes place on April 4th

Wicklow has third highest rate of reliever inhaler overuse in Ireland

The Asthma Society of Ireland has released research conducted by hmR Ireland which looks at the over-reliance on reliever inhaler medication by people with asthma in each county in Ireland. Reliever inhalers, which most people will recognise as the blue inhalers, if over-used, are strongly linked with severe asthma exacerbations and asthma related deaths.

Using three or more reliever inhalers a year indicates a person is at risk of a severe asthma exacerbation while the use of twelve or more a year is an indication someone is at risk of an asthma-related death.

In the year of diagnosis, Wicklow had the third highest rate of reliever inhaler overuse in the country at 21%. In the year after diagnosis, that number nearly doubled to 38% of people who overused their reliever inhaler. By year five, 46% of people with asthma in Waterford were overusing their reliever inhaler.

The results also found: Three in ten use more than 12 reliever inhalers a year, putting them at risk of an asthma-related death; Seven in ten are using more than three reliever inhalers a year, putting them at risk of an asthma attack (or some form of asthma exacerbation); In

the year after diagnosis, 30% children aged 0-17 are overusing their reliever inhaler; In the year after diagnosis, 60% people aged 50 or over are overusing their reliever inhaler.

Sarah O'Connor, CEO of the Asthma Society of Ireland, said: "Today's hmR research revealed that a huge proportion of people in all age groups are overusing their reliever inhalers in every county throughout Ireland, putting them at risk of an asthma severe exacerbation or asthma related death.

"If you are using your reliever inhaler several times each week, you are over-reliant on it and your asthma is not controlled. The exception to this is people with asthma who participate in sport/exercise, where it is still recommended you use your reliever inhaler prior to warming up before exercising."

The Asthma Society is calling on all people who are over-reliant on their reliever inhaler to act now to get their asthma in control. People with asthma should take the following actions:

- Download an Asthma Action Plan from asthma.ie
 - Complete your Asthma Action Plan with your healthcare professional and speak specifically about your usage of your asthma medications
 - Call the Asthma Society's free Asthma and COPD Adviceline on 1800 44 54 64 to help you understand asthma, its triggers and how to manage it, and to better understand your asthma control
- This Asthma SafetyCare campaign and the hmR research is supported by AstraZeneca.

The HMR Research also revealed a trend where reliever over-use scales up drastically after the first year and is very high by

five years after initial diagnosis:

- In the initial year of diagnosis, one in five people overuse their reliever inhaler.
- In the year after diagnosis, there is a 6% increase in the number of people using 12 or more reliever inhaler a year (2% to 8%) and a 17% increase in the number of people using three or more reliever inhalers per year (16% to 33%). There is a corresponding drop of 23% of people using two or less (considered the appropriate amount) reliever inhalers per year (82% to 59%).
- In the year after diagnosis the following numbers of people over-use their reliever inhaler: three out of 10 children aged 0-7, three out of ten children aged 7-17, two out of five people aged 18-32, half the people aged 31-50, and three out of five people aged over 50.



Lucy Mulhall, Trevor Doyle, and KatieAnn O'Neill at the Wicklow Sports Partnership/Wicklow Hospice Sports Awards in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

Free CV Workshop in Bray for National Jobs Week 2020

If you're actively seeking work, why not come, with your current CV if you have one, along to a CV workshop.

National Learning Network, in Beechwood Close, Boghall Road, Bray (beside the Recycling Centre) are running a free CV workshop on Friday 6th March from 9am to 1pm. This initiative is being run as part of National Jobs Week 2020. Tea & coffee provided!

For more information, or to book a place, contact National Learning Network on 01 282 9643 or email bray@nlw.ie

WE CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

Whether you are a startup or an existing enterprise Wicklow Times' **Dedicated Business Profiles** will let you spread your message throughout the community and generate new business.

For information on booking your slot or to enquire about our very affordable rates call our Sales Manager Jennie Finane on 01 2869111 or email jennie@localtimes.ie to talk through how we can help your business succeed!



Representatives from the six local charities receive cheques from Bray Lions Club from the proceeds of the Charity Sea Swim on New Year's Day. Pic: Joe McQuillan

€11,000 for six local causes

Six local voluntary organisations were presented with cheques totalling €11,000 by Bray Lions Club at a reception in the Esplanade Hotel Bray on Thursday 27th February.

The presentations were from funds raised at the 2020 Bray Lions Club Charity Sea Swim on New Year's Day and the recipient charities are SVP Bray, Sunbeam House Dignity Packs, Ark Housing Association, St. Fergal's Resource Centre, Little Bray Family Resource Centre and Liberty Church Homeless Charity.

Making the presentations, Danny Bohan, president of Bray Lions Club said that this year's recipients represented six outstanding causes and added to the list of more than 45 local charities which have been supported by the Sea Swim over its 37 years. The total funds raised by the Bray Lions New Year's Day Sea Swim now exceed €366,000.

President Danny thanked more than 300 swimmers who participated this year as well as the many sponsors, support services and volunteers who contributed to the success of the event. He also thanked the management and staff of the Esplanade Hotel hosted the 2020 Sea Swim.

Further information from Frank Corr at fcorr100@gmail.com /086 8274710.

'Give up clothes for good'

People of Wicklow are being urged to donate unused clothes to TK Maxx in Arklow to support Enable Ireland.

The Irish TV personality Baz Ashmawy has lent his star power to TK Maxx's Give Up Clothes for Good campaign, encouraging people of Wicklow to donate their pre-loved quality clothes, accessories and homeware to raise money for Enable Ireland services across the country.

TK Maxx has launched its annual Give Up Clothes for Good campaign, with well-known Irish TV star Baz Ashmawy taking part to raise money for Enable Ireland. The initiative is Ireland's largest clothing collection campaign and

encourages people to bring unwanted items to any TK Maxx store throughout the year. All items donated will be sold in Enable Ireland shops around the country or recycled to raise funds to support children with disabilities.

Ambassador for the TK Maxx Give Up Clothes for Good campaign, Baz Ashmawy, is urging anyone planning a spring clean to donate their unused items to their nearest TK Maxx store. Speaking at the launch, Baz said "I am really excited to be teaming up with TK Maxx for

this year's Give Up Clothes for Good campaign. Enable Ireland is such a vital service for children and this campaign makes it so easy for everyone to support the brilliant work they do. Next time you are doing a clear out I'd urge you to drop your bags off at your nearest TK Maxx store and give your clothes a new lease of life while raising money for an amazing cause!"

Enable Ireland supports local service users such as 10 year old Cahz O'Neill, who uses a wheelchair to get around and attends

Enable Ireland's Children's services in the Marino Centre in Bray, where he received Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. He especially loves going in the new hydrotherapy pool in the Enable Ireland centre.

Since 1997, TK Maxx Give Up Clothes for Good has raised over €3.4 million to support children and young people with disabilities in Ireland. With over 40 facilities in 15 counties, Enable Ireland expert teams work with individuals and their families to develop a plan for each life stage.

John O'Sullivan, Chief Executive of Enable Ireland said: "We are so grateful for the continued support we receive from TK Maxx each year for Give Up Clothes for Good.

"The campaign is always a fantastic fundraiser for us and helps us to provide vital therapy and support services to over 8,100 children and young people across Ireland.

"Disability can affect any family at any time and when it does, Enable Ireland is there to provide advice and support from the very start. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to get involved and donate what they can to their local TK Maxx."



Baz Ashmawy with Enable Ireland service user Moya May Kelly.

Register your events for National Tree Week

Coillte is again partnering with the Tree Council of Ireland for National Tree Week 2020 a partnership that has successfully been in place since 1989. National Tree Week 2020 will take place from Saturday 21 March to Friday 27 March 2020 and this year's theme is "Healthy Trees Healthy Planet".

The theme this year is to promote tree health and the important role trees play in protecting our planet by taking on climate change and providing natural renewable resources. It also references the health benefits, both physical and mental health that trees and forests provide.

Trees will be available for collection across the country through local County Councils and the number of trees available in County Wicklow will be based on demand. Coillte are urging all schools, companies and community groups to register their events here to ensure they get the number of trees they want.

Coillte will look to donate 30,000 native tree saplings during National Tree Week 2020 such as; oak, birch, alder, and wil-

low in coordination with the Tree Council of Ireland.

Pat Neville, the Communications Manager for Coillte, said: "We're extremely proud to be continuing our partnership with the Tree Council of Ireland for what we hope will be the best Tree Week yet! National Tree Week reminds us of all the benefits of trees and helps bring attention to climate change issues, and the positive role trees play in our communities. We are encouraging everyone in County Wicklow to register their events and use the campaign hashtag #TreeWeek2020 to promote their events."

National Tree Week 2020 is also in message with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation who has declared the year 2020 the

International Year Plant Health. National Tree Week 2020 supports this theme by striving to raise awareness about protecting plant and tree health while protecting the environment, and boosting economic development, as the Irish forestry sector supports 12,000 rural based jobs in Ireland and contributes approximately €2.3 billion to the economy every year.

Coillte has supported National Tree Week since 1989, providing over half a million trees to the annual campaign.

President of the National Tree Council, Joseph McConville, said; "National Tree Week provides the ideal opportunity for local groups to get together and make a lasting difference in their communities. Last year we saw over 300 events

take place around the country and we'd love to see more parents and teachers get involved and educate their children about trees and the diverse role they play in rural and urban environments."

As the week draws closer you will find a list of all registered events in County Wicklow on the Tree Council of Ireland's website. There will be tree planting and educational events taking place across the country, where the public can find out what trees do for our environment, which trees suit the Irish ecosystem and how you can ensure your tree stays healthy throughout the whole year.

To learn more information about National Tree Week 2020, please visit www.treecouncil.ie or www.coillte.ie.

Wicklow RFC Warriors win Silver award at national event

Wicklow RFC Warriors - the inclusive rugby team - won a Silver Award at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards 2020.

The team was nominated in the "Best Community Sports Team/Club category along with seven others from around the country.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership and Wicklow County Council expressed their delight at the win.

The team was formed from an Easter Camp in March 2018 funded by Healthy Ireland and run by Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, Wicklow RFC and Leinster Rugby Coaches.

Wicklow RFC Warriors is an inclusive rugby team that runs alongside all other teams in the Club,

giving families the opportunity to have siblings play alongside each other no matter what their abilities.

The team has an age range of 5 to 50 and includes players with an intellectual disability and special needs.

Wicklow RFC Warriors train every Thursday at 6.30pm. Contact Head Coach James Keating on 086 8152141 at wicklowrfcwarriors@gmail.com to join the team on Thursday 5th March 2020 when they start back for their new season.

Wicklow Warriors is at the centre of Wicklow RFC and their community. Leinster and Irish Rugby International Josh Van De Flier is the ambassador for Wicklow RFC Warriors and often visits training sessions and matches and is a keen supporter of the team.



L/R - Eamonn Whelan, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership; Aisling Hubbard, Co-Ordinator, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership; Clara Jenkinson, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership; James Keating, Wicklow Rugby Club, and Denise O'Shea, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.

Wicklow Uplands Council welcomes funding announcement

Wicklow Uplands Council has warmly welcomed the recent announcement that County Wicklow's growing trail network is to receive a funding allocation of €152,560 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

The allocation will be used to interconnect and further develop new and established trails throughout the north and east of the county. One of the key objectives of the project's funding, is to connect a series of existing trails such as the Bray Head Loop, Belmont Way, Sugar Loaf Way and the Roundwood Reservoir Vartry Trails.

This network of trails forms part of Wicklow Uplands Council's ambitious vision to develop and map a series of walks on designated trails that will offer visitors a scenic 60km route beginning at the Bray train and bus depot. This extensive route will take in some of the most beautiful scenery found in Ireland and could link the villages of Kilmacanogue, Roundwood, Annamoe, Laragh and Rathdrum before finally finishing at Woodenbridge.

Once fully completed, the trails could be enjoyed in sections or in its entirety and offer endless choices through its connection to established trails such as the pilgrim path of St Kevin's Way, the long-dis-

ance Wicklow Way and transport services allows for greater access and the choice of starting and the planned Shillelagh to Arklow Greenway. A host of public and private finishing points.

Following the announcement, Brian Dunne, Coordinator of Wicklow Uplands Council said: "News of this funding along with last year's allocation for the construction of the Avonmore Way Link Bridge, brings the council's overall vision of creating a new, long distance upland trail from Bray to Woodenbridge ever closer to becoming a reality.

"We are delighted that the scheme recognises the valuable contribution that these trails make to opening up parts of our uplands and other natural settings for local communities and visitors to enjoy".

County Wicklow continues to grow its international reputation as a leading centre for outdoor recreation, with its unique setting as Ireland's largest continuous upland region, varied coastline and abundant rivers and lakes.

As well as the numerous health benefits associated with walking, County Wicklow Tourism's 'Wicklow Outdoors' brand, which focuses on attracting national and international visitors keen to enjoy the many recreational activities on offer in the county, is proving to be hugely successful. According to official figures, 2018 saw 2.6 million overseas tourists engage in hiking or cross-country walking, spending an estimated 1.4 billion during their stay in Ireland.

Speaking about the project's partnership approach, Mr. Dunne added, "It is through close cooperation with all stakeholders including landowners and local communities, that has enabled over 500km of waymarked trails currently found in Wicklow, to be developed and maintained".

Led by Wicklow County Council in conjunction with Wicklow Uplands Council, the funding is allocated under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme which is designed to provide funding for the devel-

opment and maintenance of outdoor amenities such as trails, walkways, cycleways and blueways in rural areas across Ireland. The scheme is a collaborative initiative between the Department of Rural and Community Development, Fáilte Ireland and the National Tourism Development Authority and this announcement sees a total of 8.4 million being allocated to 44 projects, on foot of applications made in 2019 under Measures 2 and 3 of the scheme.

Michael Nicholson, Director of Services at Wicklow County Council, said "Wicklow County Council are excited that Wicklow's growing network of trails has received this important funding allocation under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. We have a spectacular landscape that deserves to be discovered and enjoyed by all, and our trails offer a perfect opportunity to attract visitors keen to experience Wicklow's renowned beauty".



Frances and Fiona Carter at the Wicklow Sports Partnership/Wicklow Hospice Sports Awards in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

Funding for Woodenbridge WW1 Memorial Park

Minister Simon Harris last week announced that the Department of Rural & Community Development is to provide a solar lighting system at the WW1 Memorial Park at Woodenbridge.

Minister Harris said "The funding granted by the Department of Rural & Community Development will enhance the memorial park. The new lighting will be solar powered and use low voltage LED lighting. This is part of a wider package of leader funding to rural communities across the country that enable local communities to develop and enhance the amenities in their area.

"While the war memorial commemorates the nearly 1200 Wicklow people that died in the great war it is of wider national significance. The funding granted by the Department of Rural & Community Development will also go towards the development of a website and video to promote the park.

"The memorial is located in beautiful surroundings on the bank of the river Aughrim at Woodenbridge and I am glad to see it is getting the enhancement and support it deserves. I would like to commend the Woodenbridge Development Association for all their work on this project".

Marrakesh Ltd is a family run business specialising in Construction and Demolition Waste Management & Recycling, Site Clearance and Supply of Material from 4" down to Blinding, Recycled Screened Topsoil, Sand, Gravel etc.

EPA LICENCED FACILITY • ALL TRUCKS CARRY WASTE PERMITS

Recycled:

- Screened Topsoil
- Screened no 2 soil
- 4" Down Crushed Concrete
- 4" Clean Crushed Concrete
- 3" Down Crushed Concrete
- 3" Clean Crushed Concrete
- Crushed Concrete Fines
- Crushed Tarmac Fines
- No 2 Stone

Also available:

- Granite • Pebble • Sand



We also accept for recycling: • Clay • Stone • Concrete • Tarmac • Sand



We can organise SITE CLEARANCES - no job too big or small



Tel: 01 286 8119 Mobile: 087 664 1866
www.marrakeshltd.com



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
 COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN

SECTION 75 - ROADS ACT, 1993 PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC ROAD

Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice of the temporary closure of the following roads to public traffic from 2.00 pm until 4.00 pm on 17th March, 2020, to facilitate the Bray St. Patrick's Day Parade.

ROADS TO BE CLOSED

Strand Road, Bray from the DART Station to the Boathouse Coffee Dock on Bray Seafont.

To include the junctions of:

- Seapoint Road and Strand Road
- Seapoint Road and Seymour Road
- Quinsboro Road and Strand Road
- Albert Avenue and Strand Road
- Sidmonton Avenue and Strand Road
- Victoria Avenue and Strand Road
- Convent Avenue and Strand Road
- Putland Road and Strand Road
- Vevay Road and Church Road and Killarney Road and King Edward Road

The parade route is from the Town Hall, Vevay Road, Bray (opposite St Patrick's School) proceeding down Main Street, turning right onto Quinsboro Road, turning left onto Seymour Road, right onto Seapoint Road and concludes on the Strand Road. Traffic management will be in place during the passing of the parade.

Local access will be facilitated in so far as possible. Wicklow County Council regrets any inconvenience this may cause.

David Forde,
 District Administrator,
 Bray Municipal District,
 Civic Offices, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Email: braymd@wicklowcoco.ie



Skin Deep by Lynn Kennedy at Signal Arts Centre

'Skin Deep', an exhibition by Lynn Kennedy, will run in the Signal Arts Centre from 2nd-15th March.

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 in the National Gallery, her self-portrait was exhibited in London in the biennial Ruth

Borchard Self-Portrait Prize, and she has two paintings exhibited 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. This collection of paintings will show how incredible our skin is and how although it is sometimes used by others to hurt us we can also use it as a canvas to show the world a little more about ourselves.

All Welcome! Opening Reception Friday 6th March 7pm - 9pm.

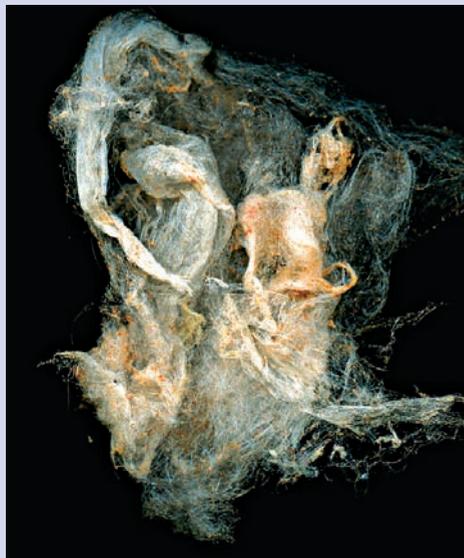
Coming up at the Courthouse...

Anna Maye's 'Evanescence'

The latest exhibition features 12 large scale pieces by Anna Maye.

Anna is a recent graduate from the National College of Art and Design with a BA in Fine Art with Critical Culture. Anna's practice explores how time epitomises the unstable and disintegration of life. It exhibits a freedom in what is unpredictable and unknown that captures the essence of time. In seeking a material representation of time, Anna works with a delicate, dissolving sugar based material, that evokes the fluidity of time. Anna organically prepares.

Opening reception Sunday 8th March 4pm - 6pm
Runs until Friday 27th March.



Leslie Dowdall & The Cowslips

Leslie Dowdall, a musician who needs no introduction to Irish music lovers, will perform at the Courthouse Arts Centre in Tinahely.

A unique evening with a wonderful repertoire of Leslie Dowdall's musical work, as well as an added traditional aspect in collaboration with a group of talented musicians "The Cowslips".

Leslie will also be joined by some of her fabulous students from Crossbridge National School. A community concert not to be missed!

Friday 13th March at 8.30pm. Tickets €18/€16.



St Patrick's Day at Whale Theatre with traditional favourites KERN

Louth folk favourites Kern are back with the trio's eagerly awaited new album, their first since their critically acclaimed debut *False Deceiver*, and they play the Whale Theatre on March 17th.

The Left and The Leaving is a similar showcase of the band's unusual mix of personalities: Barry Kieran is a former Leinster champion fiddler, steeped in the raw, pure music of Oriel; Brendan McCreanor is an uilleann piper of rare passion and versatility whose distinctive playing is at once both modern and rooted in tradition and SJ McArdle is a critically acclaimed songwriter and singer who has previously toured and recorded internationally.

Kern's music is a distillation of skillfully executed traditional elements - including a deep respect for native songlines - combined with fresh and often raw contemporary perspectives. Mining the deep cultural seams of their native Louth, the band presents thrilling interpretations of the music of the past and blistering, sometimes heart-wrenching new songs and compositions. The eclectic weave of their music is a result of their myriad influences and diverse formative experiences and backgrounds.

The Left and the Leaving was produced

by Trevor Hutchinson and features the Lúnasa/Waterboys man on double bass throughout. There are also appearances by Dónal O'Connor (Ulaid, At First Light) and Eamonn Moloney (Full Set, Aoife Scott).

Kern have been hard at work since the extensive press and radio coverage which accompanied the first album's release, clocking up the miles on Ireland's highways and

byways. Along the way the band have also played shows in Germany, Canada and the US, including at Milwaukee Irish Fest and Folk Alliance International in Montréal. The band also won the 2018 Temple Bar TradFest showcase.

The new album's release comes hard on the heels of the band's sell-out showcase concert at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2019 and resulting

live appearances on Fleadh TV, RTE Radio 1's John Creedon Show and Raidió na Gaeltachta and their debut appearance at Other Voices. The release will be marked with an extensive Irish tour.

Tuesday 17th March 2020 at 2.00pm (Doors 1pm) Tickets €15 or Family of 4 €30. See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550.



Kern are coming to Whale Theatre on 17th March

Arklow Twinning Association seeks artists for French exhibition

Arklow Twinning Association has been invited to participate in an Art Exhibition in Arklow's twin town of Chateaudun, France.

Five artists from Arklow and surrounding areas are invited to submit paintings and some of these paintings are to feature aspects of "Our Town". The exhibition will take place from the 15th-19th September and will include paintings from each of the other four towns in Europe with which Chateaudun is twinned.

Arklow Twinning Association will be inviting interested artists to submit four or five paintings each and these will be on show in June in Arklow. An independent judge will choose the paintings which will be transported to Chateaudun in time for the September exhibition. Arklow Twinning Association will meet these costs. Chateaudun Town Council will offer accommodation with full board to the five nominated artists. The nominated artists will travel at their own expense to Chateaudun in time to set up their paintings and will take part in an Open Forum with other artists on a theme which they may choose. For further information or to express interest in this event please contact mariamfitzm@gmail.com.

The Frank and Walters - Acoustic duo

The Frank and Walters are out on the road for a series of intimate acoustic gigs, and will be coming to the Whale Theatre on March 7th.

With a back catalogue of hundreds of songs penned over 3 decades the band play all your favourites and some long-lost classics in all their acoustic glory.

Paul also shares some of the stories behind the songs and anecdotes from the hippy diddy crazy world of life in one of Ireland's most enduring bands.

Expect to hear hits such as 'After All' and 'Fashion crisis hits New York' coupled with timeless classics like 'How can I exist' and 'Landslide'.

Paul said "It's been a while since we'd done any acoustic gigs so we've dusted off our acoustic guitars and I can't wait to share the songs and stories with our fans, old and new".

The Frank and Walters Paul Linehan is one of Ireland's most talented and inspirational singer / songwriters.

For nearly 30 years Paul has penned and performed hundreds of songs with The Frank and Walters which have captured the hearts and minds of generations.



The band originally became world famous on the '90s indie scene and have produced seven studio albums.

Recently the band captured a whole new audience when their '90s hit single 'After All' featured on the cult comedy show 'The Young Offenders' (the infamous 'Billy Murphy' bus hijack scene).

Saturday 7th March at 8.00pm Tickets €22/€20. See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

DRUG FREE HEALING

FOR

(F.D.A. APPROVED)

AIR OR GAS EMBOLISM
DELAYED RADIATION INJURY (SOFT TISSUE AND BONY NECROSIS)
REFRACTORY OSTEOMYELITIS (INFECTED BONE)
SKIN GRAFTS AND FLAPS (COMPROMISED)
THERMAL BURNS
CRUSH INJURY, COMPARTMENT SYNDROME,
AND OTHER ACUTE TRAUMATIC ISCHEMIAS.
ENHANCEMENT OF HEALING IN SELECTED PROBLEM
WOUNDS (DIABETIC WOUNDS)
EXCEPTIONAL BLOOD LOSS (ANEMIA)
INTRACRANIAL ABSCESS, ACTINOMYCOSIS
NECROTIZING SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS
DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS
CLOSTRIDAL MYOSITIS AND MYONECROSIS, (GAS GANGRENE)
IN ADDITION, THE UK MS SOCIETY RECOMMENDS ITS USE
AS AN ADJUNCT TREATMENT FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

WITH HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY (HBOT) IS A TREATMENT OF THE ENTIRE BODY WITH 100-PERCENT OXYGEN AT GREATER THAN NORMAL ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURES.

While not new, HBOT has only lately begun to gain recognition for treatment of chronic degenerative health problems. Wherever blood flow and oxygen delivery to vital organs is reduced, function and healing can potentially be aided with HBOT. For further information contact us on the numbers below or check out www.hyperbaricireland.com



National Hyperbaric Centre, 53-54 Great Strand Street, D1.
P: (01) 873 3044, Fax: (01) 873 3969
Emergency: 087 972 9366
Email: hyperinfo@eircom.net www.hyperbaricireland.com



A whopping €137,983.27 was raised for Temple Street Children's Hospital throughout Tesco Ireland's five-year partnership with CHI at Temple Street. Nationally, €5 million was raised by Tesco stores throughout this period. In April 2019 in one day alone, Tesco colleagues and customers in Wicklow raised €3,841.73 in aid of Temple Street as part of their annual Great Irish Bake initiative. These funds specifically helped Temple Street to purchase specialised Ophthalmology YAG Laser which is used to improve a patient's vision after cataract surgery. Pictured are Ethan and Jacob Byrne, patients of Temple Street and their sister Alannah from Greystones.

Entrepreneurs and start-ups encouraged to plan for short and long-term success

The Law Society of Ireland is encouraging entrepreneurs and start-ups across Wicklow to make sure they get the right advice from the beginning to help plan for short and long term success.

"The decisions made at the very start of the life of a business can impact every aspect of its future. We cannot stress enough the importance of getting the right advice at an early stage," said Teri Kelly, Law Society of Ireland Director of Representation and Member Services.

Ms Kelly says that, for example, one of the most important decisions to make when starting a business is which type of legal structure to use. "Different structures suit different types of businesses. A small business can choose to be structured as a sole trader, for example. This is an uncomplicated structure where the liability of the business is attached to one person. Some of the benefits of this

structure include less paperwork and less regulatory compliance to deal with. However, the trade-off is an increased personal liability for claims or debts.

"To get this and all the other critical elements right, we always recommend seeking the expert advice of your local solicitor. It's important to remember that the small law firm or sole practitioner down the street from you in Wicklow town or Bray is a small business owner as well as a legal expert. They are rooted in the Wicklow business community, as well as being uniquely plugged in to a local, national and international network of fellow, highly qualified legal experts. No start-up challenge is too big or too small for your local solicitor."

Solicitors can also advise across all other areas of the business, including tax, employment, GDPR and more. "It's also worth remembering that your local solicitor's firm was once a start-up business itself," Teri Kelly added.

Top local restaurants eager for the All Ireland Restaurant Awards

The Leinster Regional Final of the Irish Restaurant Awards took place in the Knightsbrook Hotel last week and the top restaurants in each county for 2020 were announced.

Over 700 restaurant owners and staff celebrated their hard work and achievements at the Awards, which saw many well-known restaurateurs of Leinster turn out to see if they had won one of the prestigious awards. All of the Wicklow winners now compete for the Regional and All Ireland Titles, which will be announced at the Irish Restaurant Awards. These will be held in the Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road, Dublin on Monday 18th May, 2020.

The Wicklow winners were: Best Restaurant - The Pigeon House Delgany; Best Chef - Oisín Kehoe-Clarke of The Pigeon House Delgany; Best Newcomer - Double 8; Best Restaurant Manager - Jay Johance of Pink Salt Indian Restaurant; Best Hotel and Guesthouse Restaurant - Strawberry Tree Restaurant at Brooklodge & Macreddin Village; Best Customer Service - Chakra by Jaipur; Best Gastro Pub - Wicklow Heather Restaurant & House; Best Cafe - The Fat Fox; Pub of the Year - The Glenmalure Lodge; Best Wine Experience - Ripasso Restaurant and Wine Bar; Best World Cuisine - Chakra by Jaipur; Best "Free From" - The Happy Pear; Best Kids Size Me - Tiffin by Sunil; Best Local Food Hero - Hilda Crampton

& Dominic Quinn of Castleruddery Organic Farm; Best Emerging Irish Cuisine - Strawberry Tree Restaurant at Brooklodge & Macreddin Village; Best Casual Dining - Box Burger.

Speaking at the awards early this evening, Chief Executive of the Restaurants Association of Ireland Adrian Cummins said; "Now in their 12th year, the Irish Restaurant Awards continue to showcase the incredible food that is on offer in the cafes, pubs and restaurants of Ireland, as

well as recognising the teams behind these establishments and the hard work and dedication that they put in. With well over 100,000 nominations received from the public this year, the standard for the judging process was higher than ever.

Ireland may be a small country, but it boasts everything from fine dining to high quality gastropubs, from the comfort of traditional Irish food to exploring the world though exotic world cuisine, the Irish restaurant industry has much to offer. We have an appreciation for what

we eat and where our food comes from, as well as the dedication of those working in the food industry".

Food outlets were nominated under the categories of Best Customer Service, Best Café, Best Gastro Pub, Best 'Free From', Best Casual Dining, Best World Cuisine, Best Hotel & Guesthouse Restaurant, Best Chef, Best Restaurant, Best Wine Experience, Pub of the Year, Best Restaurant Manager, Best Kids Size Me, Local Food Hero, Best Emerging Irish Cuisine and Best Newcomer.



Emma Luk from Double 8 dumpling restaurant in Bray accepts the Best Newcomer Award

TILE | MERCHANT
TILE SUPPLIERS COVERING Co. WICKLOW AND SOUTH Co. DUBLIN
 ✓ New Builds
 ✓ Extensions
 ✓ Bathroom Refit
 For **FREE** measurements & advice phone: **089 439 6308**

SELF-STORAGE
 24hr access own door/key, Secure dry storage units various sizes. Suit house contents etc, reasonable rates.
ASHFORD AREA
Tel 086 259 1538

DENTAL REPAIRS
 • PROFESSIONAL SERVICE •
 Hours: 9am-5pm Monday - Friday, 10am-2pm Saturday
 Emergency No : **086 8260511**
 Tel: **01 276 2883**
 Email: infodentalcare@eircom.net
DENTAL CARE LTD
 40 Main Street, Bray

ANTO'S TREE SERVICES
 Fully Insured Tree Surgeon
 Pruning, Reductions and Removal
 All Aspects of Tree Surgery
Tel: 087 610 9128

DND CLEARANCE LTD
 • Household Rubbish • Garage Rubbish
 • Garden Clearance • WEEE Removal
 • Office Clearance • One Call Clears All
 • Fully Licensed and Insured
 Phone Derrick: **087 4195506**
 E: info@dndclearance.com

TIRE CENTRE
TIRE SALE
BUY 4 TYRES - FREE WASH & VAC. BUY 2 TYRES - FREE WASH
 • Fit & Balance
 • Tire Puncture Quick Repair
 • Service - break pads supply & fit
Tel: 085 217 7715. Aughrim, Co. Wicklow

LOCAL BUSINESS
 Reach the **MOST** people for the **LEAST** money with **Wicklow Times**
 For details of our amazing deals please call **01 2869111**

Countdown is on for Junk Kouture's South Eastern Regional Final

Local teenagers from across Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny and Laois are adding the finishing touches to their haute couture recycled designs, before strutting their stuff at this year's Regional Final of Junk Kouture, in the hopes of bagging themselves a place at the inaugural Grand Final on the 3Arena stage on April 30th.

After months of preparation and planning, the time has now come for students to showcase their recycled designs at the ten-year anniversary of the national fashion competition Junk Kouture. With over 1,300 entries nationally, 80 designs from across the South Eastern region were chosen to progress to the live show, which in itself is a huge achievement! The South Eastern Regional Final will take place on Tuesday 3rd March in The Helix, Dublin where

judges Tracey Fahey from Limerick School of Art and Design, Jane Leavey of Griffith College, fashion designer Stephen McLaughlin and student judge Rebecca Mc Nally will lend their expertise to proceedings on the night.

Troy Amour, CEO of Junk Kouture revealed: "I am very proud to be involved in one of Ireland's most prestigious post-primary competition. Each year, more and more students are entering which brings a new wave of creativity and fresh tal-

ent to Junk Kouture. I cannot wait to see what this year will bring; it's looking like it will be our strongest and most competitive yet".

As Junk Kouture celebrates its ten-year anniversary, the brand-new partnership with RTÉ was announced early this month. The partnership will see RTÉ 2FM's podcast queens, Laura Fox and Emma Power, hosts of popular Unlocked with Laura and Emma, present the Junk Kouture regional events and grand finale, while RTÉ 2FM DJ, Tara Stewart will provide the

party atmosphere at the Grand Final, unleashing her musical prowess on the decks and on stage at 3Arena.

Since its inception ten years ago, Junk Kouture has attracted over 40,000 students, 8,000 teachers and 100,000 audience members. Taking in elements of fashion, design, engineering and environmental sustainability, the competition is all about unleashing young people's creative brilliance and empowering them to embrace sustainable living as they are challenged to produce high-end designs- from junk!



Cllr Gerry Walsh presents Aisling Beacom of the Blue Dolphins with her award at the Wicklow Sports Partnership/Wicklow Hospice Sports Awards in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

• PLANNING •

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

J. Michael Ledwith, intend to apply for retention permission for development at this site: Site 7, Druids Avenue, Druids Glen Resort, Leabeg Upper, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow. The development consists of: Permission for retention of changes to rear of dwelling as constructed from approved plans under application refs. PL16/484 & PL12/6472 including incorporation of first floor terrace area within floor area of dwelling.

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. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission. Signed: CCH Architects Ltd. [Agent on behalf of applicant]

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling with connection to services, garage, entrance and associated works at Blackthorn Close, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow for T. Nolan. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority 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.

2 MEAT PROCESSING OPERATIVES REQUIRED

for Polonez, Bray, County Wicklow.

Accommodation, company operating procedures and English language training will all be provided. Salary €22kpa 39hpw.

ALSO REQUIRED PROCUREMENT OFFICER

and a

MEAT EXPERT

both salaries €30kpa 39hpw.

Contact Call on (01) 457 6845 or email Emma@polonez.ie

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Rebecca Howes intend to apply for permission for construction of detached dwelling to side of number 84 Mountain View, Wicklow Town, connection to all services, new entrance to proposed, 2 new car parking spaces for proposed, new car parking space for existing dwelling at 84 Mountain View and associate works at 84 Mountain View, Wicklow Town, 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 Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Vicky & Martin Quinn seek retention permission for house and garage together with associated sitework at 5A Rocky Road, Wicklow Town, 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.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for demolition of existing garage and proposed single storey extension to side of dwelling and associated works at 17 Seafield, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow for J. and L. Sexton. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority 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.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (Mention request) Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. St Anthony and St Jude, helper of the hopeless, aid me in my distress. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. B.C.

RECRUITMENT

Launch Your Career

Sales staff required. Full time position. Email CV to jennie@localtimes.ie

WICKLOW Times WE DELIVER

CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

CALL 01 2869111 EMAIL: jennie@localtimes.ie

PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS

AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY





Flanagan Kerins

FURNITURE FOR LIFE



THE GREAT SOFA SCRAPPAGE SCHEME

**Up to €100 allowed for your replaced sofa
Up to €150 allowed for your replaced suite**

**Purchased during this Event
and we take it away for FREE**

Southern Cross Retail Park Bray Co. Wicklow.
01 2813338.
www.flanagankerins.ie

Free Delivery
Free Assembly
Free Recycling of
Replaced Beds/
Mattresses