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Tuesday 10th March 2020

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FIRST CASES OF COVID-19 IN WICKLOW

There are now two confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in Arklow. The men arrived back from Italy last week after being on a skiing holiday and it's believed they contracted the virus while there. Both men are in the Mater Hospital, while their families are in self isolation. It is understood that one of the men is the spouse of a health practitioner.

The HSE when contacted to confirm the cases in County Wicklow refused to comment saying "Please be advised that the HSE and the Department of Health are not providing information about individual activations of preparedness plans or about individual cases of Covid-19 (coronavirus) other than confirmed cases" and directed us to email the Department of Health, who didn't respond.

St. Mary's college Arklow issued a statement on Friday saying

"We wish to update the school community on the current situation in St. Mary's college in light of a reported incidence of Coronavirus in the locality. Following conversations with the HSE we have been advised that any risk to students in the school is classified as low risk. Contrary to reports on other platforms, St. Mary's College remains open for students as normal. Should this situation change, the Board of Management will communicate information immediately through our normal communication channels."

munication channels."

Also last Friday visitor restrictions were announced by Nursing Homes Ireland "For the protection of nursing home residents, NHI has confirmed that visiting restrictions are now in place in nursing homes nationwide. No non-essential visiting, children or groups will be allowed. All visitors are asked to contact prior to attending. Visitors should only seek to attend in urgent circumstances and the management reserve the right to impose full restrictions



Katie Hurley, Meadh O'Connor, and AnnMarie Keegan at the Arklow Geraldines/Ballymoney GAA dinner dance in the Arklow Bay Hotel. Pic: Michael Kelly

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where necessary. We urge prospective visitors to nursing homes to be cognisant and understanding of the measure that is required in the interest of resident and staff safety. Older people and people in nursing homes with pre-existing medical conditions are particularly vulnerable if they contact the virus. The virus presents an unprecedented situation for our nursing homes and the care provided within them. Nursing homes are imposing the visitor restrictions in the best interests of residents and staff. We thank people for their understanding and patience during this period of unprecedented challenges presented by Covid19."

Speaking at government buildings last Friday evening Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar said people should not

act unilaterally, including creche owners, school principals, business owners or event organisers as that causes problems. Mr Varadkar confirmed that the Dublin St Patrick's Day parade would go ahead. Chief Medical Officer Tony Holohan said they will continue to monitor the public health advice. Asked if they might cancel St Patrick's events at a late stage, Mr Holohan said that would be possible if the advice indicated such a move should be taken.

His comments come as the organising committee behind the St Patrick's Day parade in Youghal, Co Cork, said the parade has been cancelled due to concerns about Covid-19. In a statement, the organisers said "the health of our community is our primary concern".

Continued on page 4

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Marcella and Clifford Kinch with ewe Mary Jnr who gave birth to six lambs at their farm in Tinahely. Mary Jnr has scanned for four lambs, so it was a big surprise when she gave birth to sextuplets. Marcella said that although it was a surprise it was not a record on her farm, as Mary Jnr's mother holds the record for the largest birth when she gave birth to 7 lambs in 2008.

Delgany Daffodil Show

The Society's Annual Daffodil Show will be held on Saturday 21st March in the Old Schoolhouse, Delgany between 3.00pm and 5.00pm.

This show also features a floral art exhibition and classes for a variety of other plants and for Juniors. Teas are served during the show. There will also be plants for sale. New members and exhibitors are very welcome. All exhibits must be staged before 11.30am on the day of the show. Staging is available from 6.00-7.30pm on the Friday before the show or on the morning of the show from 9.00-11.30am. Entries must be advised to the Show Secretary in advance preferably by email at ddhs.showentries@gmail.com. See online brochure for further details. Further details can be found on our web page at www.delganydhs.com and on Facebook.

The Road to Roundwood

The Road to Roundwood is a voluntary group, set up by local people. "Our goal is to welcome and help resettle a refugee family in our Community who are fleeing war in the Middle East. We are part of 'Community Sponsorship Ireland', an initiative of the Department of Justice and Equality. It is part of the United Nations response to the Humanitarian Crisis which developed in southern Europe due to mass forced displacement of people from conflict areas, particularly the Middle East. "As a group, we must raise €10,000 through fundraising activities and sponsorship.

"The money will then be used to support the family with various costs such as housing, start-up needs, access to education, costs for physical, mental and/or dental health. You can find us on www.roadtoroundwood.ie, or you can contact our chairperson Loraine Creane at 089 4576602."

Upbeat Choir

Do you love to sing? Do you miss performing? A brand new adult choir The Upbeat Choir was launched in Bray on 24th February. They rehearse Monday evenings 7.30-8.30pm at The Taylor Centre, Vevay Road. Anyone aged 18 years+ is welcome. You do not need to have previous singing experience and there is no audition. They sing a range of styles including contemporary chart hits, classic hits and musicals with original arrangements. Emailtheupbeatchoir@gmail.com or call 0872900040 for further information. They are also on Facebook and Instagram.

Wildlife photography

The East Wicklow Rivers Trust are holding an exhibition of wildlife photography from the Great Avoca Estuary to the Irish Sea, by wildlife photographer John O'Brien. Supported by Cllr Peir Leonard, Arklow Municipal District, and Arklow Library, the exhibition, titled 'Transition', can be seen this month in Arklow Library. There will be speakers on Thursday 19th March (7pm-8:45pm); Mary Reynolds (reformed landscape designer), Donal O'Keefe (water catchment officer LAWPRO); Jason Monaghan (National Parks & Wildlife).

Rural Transport

Local Link is a great resource for our county transport. Anyone can avail of this service. Free Travel pass holders and children under 3 years travel free with adult return €5 and student return €3. For online information please visit www.localink.ie or phone LoCall 1890 42 41 41, landline 056 771 5912. Email ringalink@gmail.com.

Violin Lessons

Violin teacher in the Brockagh Resource Centre generally on Thurs from 1-2pm and Sat, 11-12pm but this may vary as needed. All types of music for beginners to advanced levels. Lessons that will make learning the violin fun and fast. To book phone Siobhan Kelleher 087 92 82 650 or email skellehe@tcd.ie

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HERE WHEN YOU NEED US

Brittas Bay's big beach biodiversity survey workshop

A one-day "Explore your Shore" training workshop is planned for Brittas Bay on Saturday, 21st March.

The workshop is a "citizen science" initiative co-ordinated by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council in partnership with the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC).

Led by Dave Wall from the NBDC, the event is designed to assist beginners and non-professionals in identifying species commonly found cast up by the tide along our coasts.

The workshop will run from 10am to pm (field work included).

Brittas Bay National School is the venue for the morning session which will consist of a short introduction to the project, followed by an illustrated talk with particular emphasis on key

identification features of bivalves (mussels and oysters).

The afternoon session involves an outdoor trip to Brittas Bay Beach to practice field skills and, hopefully, record a wide variety of bivalve species.

This workshop is suitable for beginners and those wishing to refresh their identification skills. The workshop is limited to 20 people (adults only) and booking is essential to

secure a place. To book a place please email d.burns@wicklowcoco.ie.

This initiative is part of a larger programme of biodiversity awareness and citizen engagement co-ordinated by Wicklow County Council through the actions of the County Wicklow Biodiversity and Heritage Plans.

For more see www.wicklow.ie and www.countywicklowheritage.org

Newcastle tree planting project forms part of '50 million trees' pledge

A group of 20 employees from Enterprise Rent-A-Car participated in a tree planting day at the Ardeo Sport Horses facility at Mount John, Newcastle, last week.

The group was joined by Councillor Shay Cullen, Cathaoirleach of the Wicklow Municipal District, who helped the team to plant a mix of whitethorn, hawthorn and holly shrubs.

The tree planting project took place as part of Enterprise Rent-A-Car's pledge to plant 50 million trees in 50 years across Europe and North America.

George O'Connor MD of Enterprise Rent-A-Car Ireland said: "Our team had a great day in Co.

Wicklow as another group of our Ireland employees played their part in achieving our 50 million trees pledge. As part of the initiative, to date we have supported the planting of some 115,000 trees at various sites across Ireland. Giving something back in the communities where we live and work is a really important part of our business mindset and today's activity helps to make that commitment a reality."

Councillor Cullen said: "I was delighted to see the Enterprise team come to Wicklow as part of their tree planting pledge. I am only too happy to get out and support such corporate social responsibility projects that bring about real benefits to communities across Ireland, including our own here in Co. Wicklow."



Cllr Shay Cullen with some of the Enterprise Rent-A-Car tree planters and six-year-old eventing horse Arti.

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WICKLOW Times

is published by
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GREENS DON'T WANT N11 FUNDING

Following recent remarks about the N11 improvement scheme made by Green Party Leader, Eamon Ryan TD, advocating not proceeding with them, Independent councillor Joe Behan has urged Wicklow County Council not to delay the works as it could result in the project missing out on vital funding.

The Green Party leader said that money spent on widening the N11 would be better invested in improving the rail line between Wexford and Dublin.

Speaking at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Behan said "As we know, there are negotiations in progress at the moment for the formation of a new Government. The Green Party are central to those negotiations at the moment. And the leader of the Green



Green Party Leader Eamon Ryan TD

Party made a statement in the Dáil about the N11 and works that may be happening with regard to the N11/M11. It was to the effect that if they get into Government they are going to stop those works and I think there is a very serious threat to improvement works on the N11 if that particular threat is carried out.

"I raised this before the election and I remember the one issue that I think most people were agreed on at the time is that there needs to be a combination of works done there, not just widening a road, but also public transport options for people and we all agree with that.

"But the Chief Executive at the time said we are on a particular funding track for that work. Having got to this stage, I am concerned that that particular funding track will be taken away from us."

Cllr Behan asked that the Council send a let-



Cllr Joe Behan

ter to the Department outlining the view that funding for the upgrade must be retained.

"As a body, we should be indicating very clearly to the Department of Transport and the Department of Local Government that we do not want to see the priority of that particular road being removed by a future Government and we should make our views very clearly known on that subject.

"I am sure we would all agree, that whatever

else happens we don't want to lose the funding. We have to do something for the tens of thousands of people stuck in this misery gridlock morning and night, who are still stuck in it three weeks after an election with very little hope of things improving in the short-term."

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Frank Curran, said that the scheme is mentioned in the National Development Plan as being among the category of schemes that will progress to design phase and that could get the green light. He said "Obviously we don't want to delay it, because we are in with a chance of it progressing, we want to stay in that category and complete the design work."

Green Party Councillor Lourda Scott said that Cllr Behan's remarks were a "moot point" until a new Government is formed



Firefighters last Wednesday attended a fire which broke out in a derelict building on Arklow's Main Street. There have been several fires in the building in recent years but last week's was the largest, with fire crews from Wicklow and Arklow joining forces to fight the blaze.

Harris raises the need for increased police presence

Minister Simon Harris has written to the Minister for Justice about the need for an increased police presence in Charlesland and Enniskerry

Minister Harris said that the recent attack on two joggers in Charlesland "caused great alarm in the community. I have requested the County Wicklow Policing Committee discuss the recent increase in burglaries in residential areas adjacent to the N11 including the communities of Enniskerry, Delgany, Charlesland and Kilcoole.

"I have also written to the Minister for Justice seeking an update on how to extend the opening hours for Enniskerry Garda station in light of a number of incidents in the community since the start of the year including the recent attempted robbery on Enniskerry Post Office. The North Wicklow area has a rapidly growing population and policing resources must keep up with the related demographic and social pressures that come with new housing developments."

Three teenage males were arrested for the mugging at knife-point of three female joggers that took place in Charlesland on the evening of Thursday, 20th February.



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PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS

CORRIDOR	VENUE	DATES & TIMES
Clongriffin to City Centre & Swords to City Centre	Bonnington Hotel Swords Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9	11th March - Wednesday 11:30am-19:30
Bray to City Centre	The Talbot Hotel Stillorgan Road, Co. Dublin	12th March - Thursday 11:30am-19:30
Blanchardstown to City Centre	Crowne Plaza Blanchardstown Town Centre, Dublin 15	18th March - Wednesday 11:30am-19:30
Ringsend to City Centre	Hilton Garden Inn Custom House Quay, Dublin 1	19th March - Thursday 11:30am-19:30
Kimmage to City Centre & Rathfarnham to City Centre	Camden Court Hotel Camden St. Lower, Dublin 2	23rd March - Monday 11:30am-19:30
Ballymun to City Centre & Finglas to Phibsborough	AXIS Centre 9 Main St. Ballymun, Dublin 9	24th March - Tuesday 11:30am-19:30
Lucan to City Centre & Liffey Valley to City Centre	Clayton Hotel Liffey Valley, Dublin 22	26th March - Thursday 11:30am-19:30
Tallaght to Terenure	St Marys RFC Templeogue, Dublin 6W	30th March - Monday 11:30am-19:30
Clondalkin to Drimnagh & Greenhills to City Centre	Our Lady's Hall Mourne Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12	31st March - Tuesday 11:30am-19:30
UCD Ballsbridge to City Centre & Blackrock to Merrion	The Clayton Hotel Burlington Leeson St. Upper, Dublin 4	1st April - Wednesday 11:30am-19:30
All Corridors	Alex Hotel 41 - 47 Fenian St. Dublin 2	3rd April - Friday 11:30am-19:30

This public consultation is in relation to Core Bus Corridors only.



Mini bus drives into Avoca River

A mini bus ended up in the Avoca River in Arklow in the early hours of Tuesday morning last week. The Arklow RNLI rescued the male driver who was the only occupant of the vehicle. He was taken to hospital with minor injuries. The accident occurred at the junction of South Green and South Quay.

The volunteer RNLI crew left their beds and within minutes of the request were aboard RNLB Ger Tighelearr and underway. In good conditions, The Allweather Trent Class lifeboat Ger Tighelearr made its way to the reported position in the Avoca River.

Once at the scene, it was ascertained that the vehicle was located in a shallow part of the river. It was then decided that RNLI volunteers would access the semi submerged vehicle from the riverbank as due to the river depth the lifeboat could not enter the area. The boat then completed further searches of the river downstream.

A crew member managed to wade out and gain access to the vehicle and it was established that there was one person inside.

Following efforts to open the doors and equalise the pressure, one of the RNLI volunteers was able to extricate the injured man from the vehicle. The man was then brought to shore and treated and removed to hospital by a waiting ambulance crew.

Following the incident, Mark Corcoran, Volunteer Press Officer at Arklow RNLI said "Thankfully this morning was relatively calm, had conditions been worse and had the river been in flood, the situation might not have ended so well. I would like to say thanks to all of our volunteers who through teamwork got this positive result. We would like to once again remind people to respect the water."

COUNCIL'S ST PATRICK'S DAY NEW YORK TRIP STILL ON

Despite the fears of contracting the dreaded COVID-19 the annual trip to New York by County Council personnel is still going ahead. On the 14th March, Chief Executive Frank Curran and Cathaoirleach, Irene Winters will be flying out to the Big Apple to represent County Wicklow in the St Patrick's Day festivities and returning on the 19th

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NO FAIR 'FAIR DEAL'

A new analysis shows HSE nursing homes in Co Wicklow are being paid 60% more per resident, per week, than private and voluntary counterparts in the county under the Fair Deal scheme.

The fees payable high-light Fair Deal funding for nursing home care is 'fundamentally flawed', Nursing Homes Ireland (NHI) says, with no recourse for private and voluntary nursing home providers to independently appeal the fee they are set under the Scheme. This arises as HSE nursing homes pay their homes fees that are a multiple of those payable to private and voluntary counterparts, with no negotiation entailed.

The analysis undertaken by Nursing Homes Ireland shows that the 20 private and voluntary nursing homes operating

in County Wicklow receive an average Fair Deal fee of €1,066 per resident per week. Three nursing homes - St. Columban's in Magheramore, Aisling House in Arklow, and Asgard Lodge in Arklow - receive a fee of less than €1,000 per week. The largest fee in Co. Wicklow among private and voluntary nursing homes was Kinvara House in Bray (€1,200 per week).

In contrast, the two HSE nursing homes in the county (St. Coman's Hospital in Rathdrum and Baltinglass District Hospital) receive fees of

€1,669 and 1,750 per resident per week respectively.

The HSE homes are receiving on average 60% more than the private and voluntary nursing homes. The disparity within the county is long standing. When the fees were published for January 2019, the differential was 58%, with the average for the two HSE nursing homes being €1,657 but only €1,051 for the 20 private and voluntary

Tadhg Daly, NHI CEO says that the figures lay bare "the gross disparity in fees payable between HSE and private/voluntary nursing homes under

the scheme". He said that private and voluntary nursing homes are seeking fair fees to provide specialised care and are dismayed that fees under the Scheme are not commensurate with the reality of costs or those given to HSE homes.

He states: "As it stands, Fair Deal is leading to the closure of private and voluntary nursing homes and placing unsustainable cost pressures upon nursing home providers. We are insisting that the next Government introduces a commitment to the introduction of an independent appeal process for nursing

home providers under the Nursing Home Support Scheme (Fair Deal). This is a very legitimate and fair ask for private and voluntary providers within a scheme that is inherently unfair between public and private sector fees.

"The State is effectively applying mass discrimination against older people supported by Fair Deal in private and voluntary nursing homes. Private and voluntary nursing homes have had to close their doors due to fees payable under Fair Deal not being sustainable and are operating under unnecessary severe financial pressure."

Bray student selected to receive Intel scholarship

On Tuesday February 25th, Intel Ireland awarded the latest recipients of a scholarship programme for Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) students.

Among them was Glen Carton, from Bray who attended St. Kilian's Community School. He is the Control and Automation System Engineering Scholar.

Taking place in Kevin Street, the event also saw TU Dublin graduate Eamonn Sinnott, Vice President, Manufacturing and Operations, and General Manager of Intel Ireland, return to his alma mater to talk about his memorable journey from Kevin Street to leading Intel in Ireland.

For over a century, Kevin Street has been synonymous with scientific and technological education in Ireland. Generations of graduates have gone on to become leaders and innovators in high-tech sectors in Ireland and across the globe, carrying with them memories of Kevin Street. One of the most successful graduates of his generation is Eamonn Sinnott who the University invited back to Kevin Street for one last time as it prepares to move 10,000 students to its flagship campus in Grangegorman. In conversation with Dave Kilmartin, Head of the Career Development Centre at TU Dublin, Eamonn shared his memories of student life in Kevin Street, lessons he has learned along the way and his thoughts about the skills and competencies that students need to forge a successful career in this technological era. Concluding the event, the Intel Ireland Scholarship recipients were presented with their awards. The Scholarships were established as part of a far-reaching programme of collaboration in future talent development, research and engagement announced by Intel and the University in February 2019. It provides recipients with €3,000 to support their academic studies and a mentor from Intel Ireland to help them build a direct relationship to the world of work.

Eamonn Sinnott, Vice President, Manufacturing and Operations,

and General Manager of Intel Ireland, Bernie Capraro, Intel Research and Higher Education Programme Manager and Professor David FitzPatrick, President of TU Dublin, presented the Intel Ireland Scholarship recipients with their awards.



Glen Carton, from Bray, who attended St. Kilian's Community School

FIRST CASES OF COVID-19 IN WICKLOW

Continued from page 1

Speaking last Friday evening, Minister for Health, Simon Harris said: "Ireland remains in the containment phase. While countries are in different situations, it is vital we work together."

"We are better protected if we work together on this. We need rational, coherent decision-making based on science and public health."

"It is clear this virus is going to have an impact for a prolonged period of time. It is essential we plan ahead, protect our healthcare workers and do our best to provide accurate, evidence based and timely information to our people."

Minister Harris added: "Public communications is an important focus in our response. Europe must act together to stop the spread of misinformation about this virus."

"Those who spread such lies are increas-

ing the stigma attached to this virus. They are endangering lives and they are stopping us from doing our jobs. Our public health doctors should lead our response to this matter."

Sinn Féin Social Protection Spokesperson John Brady said the Government must revise the illness benefit for people who are made to self-isolate from Covid-19, and that a simplified application process must be rolled out to ensure people do not have to attend either the INTREO office or a GP to attain a medical certificate.

Deputy Brady said: "With recent international health events it is critically important that every effort is made to ensure workers are protected and to contain further spread of illness. "I have serious concerns that thousands of low paid or precarious workers may be unable to afford to self-isolate."

"The government must ensure that nobody is forced to work if medical advice

to self-isolate is given. Employers then should continue to pay workers who fall ill or are made to self-isolate due to the virus."

"Unfortunately, some employers have said they will not pay their workers in this context. IBEC refused to give an assurance that employers would provide sick pay to workers affected by the Covid-19 virus on an across-the-board basis. The only possible option for many workers will be to avail of illness benefit. However, due to criteria requirements, many workers might not have enough PRSI contributions to qualify. Even if a worker qualifies for full illness benefit, there is no entitlement at all for the first six days of absence from work. The government must make immediate changes to ensure illness benefit is paid from day one. There must also be an emergency payment for anybody that doesn't meet the qualifying requirements for the illness benefit, where there is a financial need."



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Senator Alice-Mary Higgins, daughter of President Higgins, was in Bray last Friday, canvassing with supporters including Social Democrats councillor Jodie Neary and former Fianna Fail local election candidate Saran Fogarty. Senator Higgins said she is seeking re-election as "a progressive independent voice on equality and environment".

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Darkness Into Light

The Wicklow branch of Darkness into Light held its first meeting last Monday in Colaiste Chill Mhantain.

This year's 5K walk/run event will take place on May 9th very early in the morning starting from the Brass Fox in Wicklow town.

The meeting was attended by Deirdre Hayden and Sinead Ronan Well representing Pieta House.

Local committee members in attendance were Declan McInerney Joe Kirwin Geraldine Mooney (Chairperson) Ann Chambers (Secretary) and Sean Olohan, all Lions in Wicklow.

Online registration officially opened on Tuesday February 25th with early bird prices available until March 17th. Full detailed prices for 2020 are available online.

DIL is more than just a walk on May 9th, it is a global movement against suicide and self harm. This particular event is the flagship fundraiser for Pieta House and it helps to keep their doors open which in turn allows them to help more people every year and the service is always free of charge.

This is the fifth event to take place in Wicklow town and as usual is fully supported by Wicklow and District Lions Club.

Rare Disease Day celebrated in Aras thanks to hard work of Wicklow man

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said that he was honoured to have been invited to spend Rare Disease Day with President Michael D Higgins and many families from the rare disease community in Aras an Uachtarain.

He also said that a lot of work has to be done to ensure Ireland stops failing so many citizens. Speaking after the event Deputy Brady said "I was honoured to have been invited to spend Rare Disease Day with President Michael D Higgins and his wife Sabina and many families from the rare disease community in Aras an Uachtarain."

"The reason the event was held on the last day of which was held on Saturday 29th February was held in Aras an Uachtarain and improve access to

Uachtarain is down to the hard work of Wicklow man Les Martin and his campaign to expand the Newborn Screening Programme. In his travels he met with President Higgins and convinced him of the merits of hosting a party at his home to celebrate the diverse rare disease community of Ireland on Rare Disease Day.

"Rare Disease Day is held on the last day of which was held on Saturday 29th February was held in Aras an Uachtarain and improve access to

treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases and their families. I want to thank Cogs and Kiwi, Les and Lynda Martin for the invite and allowing me to be part of the day and meeting so many families from the rare disease community.

"There are actually between 6,000 and 8,000 rare diseases and in Ireland, it is estimated that there are 300,000 people living with a rare disease.

"There's a lot of work

to be done to ensure Ireland stops failing so many citizens. A starting point needs to be implementing the National Rare Disease Plan."

Deputy Brady concluded "I will continue to work with Les and others for the expansion of the new born screening programme to test for a wider range of rare diseases and conditions and introducing legislation to ensure EU standards for new born screening are exceeded."



President Michael D Higgins, The Martin family and Deputy John Brady marking Rare Disease Day in Aras an Uachtarain



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Is ionann BRATACHA DEARGA

agus BEO-LÁMHACH

Bí ag faire do na comharthaí foláirimh

AGUS BÍ AR d'AIRDEALL!

Energy Master Plan for the Laragh & Glendalough area

An information evening will be hosted by the Laragh/Glendalough Sustainable Energy Community on the next steps following receipt of funding from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland to develop an Energy Master Plan for the local community.

The Laragh/Glendalough Sustainable Energy Community stated that "This Plan will help us identify where and how we can improve the energy sustainability of our community. It will take place on Wednesday, 11th March at 7.30pm in Brockagh resource Centre. Speakers from the 3 Counties Energy Agency (who will prepare the Plan) and from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland will outline how you can get involved and will provide information on energy efficiency grants for homeowners and businesses. The evening will be a great opportunity to get involved and to find out how we can improve the energy efficiency of our homes while at the same time make them much more comfortable."

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Minister Simon Harris with members of Greystones Active Retirement Association who he recently welcomed to Dail Eireann

West Wicklow pool could form part of 'Leisure Complex'

Having the West Wicklow Swimming Pool form part of a larger leisure complex development could be a way to get the project over the line, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran said.

The setback for the West Wicklow Swimming Pool project was raised by several councillors at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council. Cathaoirleach of the Baltinglass Municipal District, Cllr Gerry O'Neill, vented his frustrations with the Blessington Town Development Plan being put on hold and said that he could see a swimming pool being part of a leisure complex.

Responding, Chief Executive Frank Curran said "maybe that is the way we should go and have it part of a bigger development, maybe the Department would be more interested in that." He said that the Council would have to examine where it had gone wrong with its application.

The Council applied to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for funding under the Large-Scale Sports & Infrastructure Fund, to carry out an in-depth feasibility study to confirm the site for the swimming pool and to commission specialist architect drawings. However, the application was unsuccessful.

Councillors Gerry O'Neill, John Mullen, Sylvester Bourke, Joe Behan, Lourda Scott, Patsy Glennon, Peir Leonard, and Avril Cronin all raised the matter of the West Wicklow swimming pool.

Cllr Joe Behan said "Any of us who attended the recent public meeting in West Wicklow were left in no doubt how important that project is to the community in West Wicklow.

Obviously, anything that the Chief Executive can do to support that, I am supportive of it."

Cllr Cronin asked if it were possible to get a report regarding the funding that was applied for: "It would be great to see the areas that were unsuccessful and why they were unsuccessful in that application, if a report could be provided it might help for future applications."

The Chief Executive assured her that this was possible.

The Council's Director of Finance, Brian Gleeson said "The build of the Swimming Pool would be subject to the feasibility study and the securing of grant aid for that. It's a big project, about €10 million, but the first step will be undertaking a feasibility study in relation to it. If

we can't secure funding, we will have to look at our own resources and see if we can use some of our own funding, but obviously the first port of call is to try and see if we can get any funding towards it from different sources."

Cllr Cronin asked that if the Council is unsuccessful with the application again next year, would it commit to funding part of the project. The Chief Executive replied that "We will have a look at it but we are going to be funding part of it anyway even if we get the full grant. There is no point in us spending unless the Department is on board with following it through, because it can't happen without them. So, I think if they are serious about it, they will fund the design of it."

My first library card launched

A joint initiative to get young children to join their local libraries was launched recently in Blessington Library by Wicklow and Kildare County Library Services.

The idea behind the 'My First Library Card' project is to encourage parents of all newborns and children aged 0-5 to join the library.

My First Library Card is free, all children can borrow up to 12 books at a time and libraries no longer charge fines. The initiative sees the launch of an attractive and colourful library card, designed by award-winning author and illustrator Chris Judge.

My First Library Card came about as a direct result of the national library programme 'Right to Read' campaign which is all about embedding the development of literacy into our communities through the local authority.

Libraries, as local champions of literacy support, have taken a leading role in the delivery of the "Right To Read" campaign across the country, because they have the experience and resources and are a trusted local community service and well placed to promote reading to all ages.

Wicklow County Council Library service is delighted to be working alongside Kildare County Council Library Service on this project. Both library services have collaborated on projects in the past, most recently the Shelf Help programme.

That project purchased and promoted a special collection of books on mental well-being and social issues. The collection was selected in conjunction with experienced professionals working in primary care within counties Wicklow and Kildare.

Public Health Nurses across Wicklow and Kildare will be distributing brochures to the parents of newborns at their first meeting and they will also be encouraging parents of all children up to the age of five years to get a library card for their child.

"The ultimate aim of this project is to have all children reading ready by the time they start in primary school," explained Cllr Irene Winters, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council, adding: "Reading to a child is a powerful way to help children grow their vocabulary, language skills and imagination. It will help them develop life-long skills that will support their future learning and literacy."

She said research shows that a child that is read to every day will have heard up to 30,000 more words than a child who is not read to. "The child who is not read to is at a considerable disadvantage when he or she is in the same class as a child who has been read to regularly from birth," Cllr Winters said.

Cllr Winters said it was appropriate that the launch should be held in Blessington library as it has been the heartbeat of the community since it opened in 2006. There are 3,000-plus members while last year set a new record with 73,000-plus items borrowed from Blessington library.

The libraries of Wicklow and Kildare host a wide range of activities to promote reading awareness, throughout the year.



Pictured at the launch in Blessington Library were Cllr Irene Winters, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council; Cllr Avril Cronin, and Margaret Birchall, Wicklow County Council.

2020 Greystones Municipal District People of the Year Awards



The Awards will be presented in the Greystones Golf Club, Greystones on Thursday 7th May, 2020 at 8pm

Application forms and tickets are available from Greystones Municipal District, Tel: 01 2876694 or Email: Kcoughla@wicklowcoco.ie / greystonesmd@wicklowcoco.ie
Ticket Price €35

www.wicklow.ie

Closing date for receipt of nominations is Friday 3rd April 2020

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- **Special Person of the Year**
- **Cultural Person of the Year**
- **Commercial Award**
- **Young Entrepreneur of the Year**



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SSE address public lighting outages

Representatives from SSE Airtricity attended last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council to address frustrations regarding the number of public lights which are not working and the length of time it takes to fix them.

Patrick Rooney, Regional Head of Operations at SSE Airtricity, disputed the figure that was given at last month's council meeting (that there were over 700 public lights out around the county). Mr Rooney said that there were only 310 lights not working, 56 of which were out of SSE's control.

Cllr Gail Dunne, who raised the matter at the February meeting, said that the figure of 700 had come from the Council's Director of Services.

Mr Rooney said he believed that the actual number of broken lights may have appeared to be higher than it was due to factors such as a 'doubling up' of reported faults, but he added that the company was working on improving its reporting system so that this no longer happened.

He said a lot of Wicklow's SOX lanterns have been there for 45 years plus, long past their

shelf life, so "obviously they are breaking down and failing".

There are over 15,000 public lights in the county and over a third of them are SOX lamps, which are no longer manufactured. Mr Rooney explained that faulty SOX lamps therefore have to be replaced by LED lamps, which is a longer process.

"The current replacement rate for those new lanterns is seven lanterns per crew per day and we currently have five crews working in Wicklow, so we are doing LED lantern refit," Mr Rooney explained.

A little under a third of Wicklow's lights are on ESB poles, which also adds to delays Mr Rooney said: "The wooden poles belong to the ESB network, we are not allowed to put up new lights on those poles. So, if there is a wooden one, a new steel column has to be erected."

He said that in other cases delays were explained by severe cable faults - "It involves us discovering it, doing a lot of civil work and replacing the cable. These things take time, I am afraid there will be delays. There is also issues with the connections, where lanterns have not been energised. This sits again with ESB. We are escalating it to them, we deal with them on a weekly basis and we are speaking to their new public lighting interface manager, Sean Scannell. We are meeting with him this Thursday to escalate this point with him."

Addressing the SSE representatives, Cllr Paul O'Brien said it has been "the not knowing factor that is killing us. If we can go back to our constituents and tell them what will happen, then at least we can give them knowledge and can pacify

them until the new lights are installed."

Cllr Lourda Scott said "this is my first winter as a councillor and I have been amazed at how many complaints I am getting about street lights not being repaired and particularly complaints coming in from elderly people who are feeling unsafe leaving their own house and not being able to walk down their own cul-de-sac because of lack of lighting."

Mr Rooney assured councillors that "we are very aware of what these lights are and mean to people across Wicklow. Safety is our number one priority and we understand that, so we take our job seriously. We fix nearly 4,500 lights for you every single year, every single day our teams are out there across the country, out there reporting faults and out there repairing them, we are very aware of the safety implications."

St. Cronan's Celebrates 200 Years

St. Cronan's School celebrates 200 years educating boys in Bray this year, and kicked off the celebrations last week with a drone photo of all of their students.

"We have planned a number of events and activities to celebrate this momentous year" says Chairperson of the 200th Anniversary Committee Karl Ó Broin.

"There are very few schools in the country which have served their community for 200 years, and we are very proud of this tradition in Bray".

The school began in 1820 in a number of cottages as Bray Male School. In 1880, due to rising numbers the school moved into what is now known as The Little Flower Hall beside The Holy Redeemer Church.

It was during this time it's most famous past pupil was enrolled; Cearbhall Ó Dalaigh, who would go on to become the 5th President of Ireland. Cearbhall was born in 1911 above 85 Main Street, Bray, which is now the Jasmine House Restaurant.

In 1932, the school moved into a new premises on the Vevay Hill, and was renamed St. Cronan's Boys'

National School. The school was lead by many noteworthy principals during this time, including Paddy McDonnell, Martin Daly, Jim French and Seán Cotter.

When Vaughan Dodd arrived as principal in 1991, he lead a campaign for a new school building to cater for the growing school. A new building in Vevay Crescent was completed in 1999 and has been home to St. Cronan's ever since. The original Vevay Hill school building is now used by Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh.

"We are very excited about the 200th anniversary of our school and of celebrating the great history that St. Cronan's has in Bray," says current school principal Maeve Tierney.

"We are appealing to all past pupils of the school to get in touch with us if they have photos from St. Cronan's in times gone by, or if they have stories from bygone years to share with us," says teacher Karl Ó Broin.

They can do so by emailing history@stcronans.ie. You can follow St. Cronan's 200th anniversary celebration on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stcronans and on their website www.stcronans.ie



St Cronan's pupils launch the school's 200th anniversary. Pic: Ciaran Lennon



Darragh Cullton and Darcy Burke at the Arklow Geraldines/Ballymoney GAA dinner dance in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

Wicklow Educate Together NS celebrates Culture Week 2020

Wicklow Educate Together National School celebrated its annual in-school Culture Week from March 2nd with an even bigger and better timetable of events.

With almost 50 countries represented by the school community, this year's events included language classes, multi-lingual story time, quizzes, dance and games, as well as the annual International Fair incorporating stalls with food, clothing and country-specific objects last Thursday.

Representatives from many of the embassies of the school community visited the School during the International Fair on Thursday, and RTE News2Day were also back to report on this year's Culture Week, and the pupils showcased the art, music and cross-curricular project work they have been undertaking on the various different cultures and countries.

Culture Week is an in-school event for pupils and members of the WETNS school community, but highlights of the week are available for viewing on the school's website: www.wicklowetns.com and on RTENews Today.

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Jennifer Mitchell, Eibhlís Forde, Sinead Redmond, Joanne Murphy, and Kerry Ward at the Arklow Geraldines/Ballymoney GAA dinner dance in the Arklow Bay Hotel.

Campaign to investigate famine grave site steps up

The Committee for the Commemoration of Irish Famine Victims (CCIFV) is stepping up its campaign to have a site in Woodenbridge investigated as the possible location of a mass famine grave.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady and Councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien recently visited the site to see for themselves the memorial stone near the Woodenbridge Hotel engraved with 'MH 1847', which indicates it to be from the year 1847 (Black '47), the worst year of the famine. The stone is located on Coillte land.

Also at the site there is the remains of a semi-circle stone structure similar to the dimensions of the holy grotto which is in pristine condition at Rathdrum Workhouse, the site a mass grave of over two thousands people, the majority of which are believed to have died during the famine.

The site was hidden under bushes and undergrowth and was found accidentally a few years ago.

CCIFV and local forester Barry Coad have for the last two years been informing Ministers, the National Museum of Ireland, National Monuments, Coillte and Wicklow County Council about the memorial stone, in order to have the site

investigated properly.

Michael Blanch from CCIFV told *Wicklow Times* that "Without investigation we will never know. What we do know is that a National Treasure 1847 Memorial Stone needs immediate protection, and the semi circle needs to be investigated. The National Museum of Ireland and the National Monuments Service both have a duty and obligation to protect such memorials. National institutions are duty bound to enlighten and

educate the people on our greatest loss of life in Irish history nothing compares to An Gorta Mor.

Mr Blanch said that when it comes to the Famine there is a lot of "shamefully hidden and forgotten history", and "national amnesia", and he doesn't want this site in Wicklow to be ignored.

As examples he named Kilkenny Workhouse and Letterkenny Workhouse, where unmarked mass graves were discovered

when there was construction activity at the sites. "At all of these sites there was no X to show or mark the mass graves. Ministers, Wicklow County Council, and Coillte are looking at maps for burial sites, but as proven in all the other cases they will not find such graves marked on maps."

He added "CCIFV wish to thank Deputy John Brady, Cllr Dermot O'Brien and Barry Coad for supporting this worthy cause."



Michael Blanch, Barry Coad, John Brady TD and Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien at the memorial stone in Woodenbridge

Farewell to Delgany Garda Pop up Clinic

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore last week said a farewell to the Pop-Up Garda clinic she helped set up in Delgany. The clinic, which closed on Wednesday 4th March was based in the Cheers Wicklow Arms premise and was open to the public until recently. It will be closed until a new venue can be secured.

Speaking on the closure Deputy Whitmore said "the pop up Garda clinic in Delgany has been a great success since it opened in November 2017. It has been a shining example of how links between the community and Gardaí can be facilitated and fostered on a local level.

"It has been a great facility for providing crime prevention advice, or if people needed to get a Garda stamp for forms like passports and it was instrumental in facilitating voter registration ahead of the various elections carried out since 2017. I want to thank the Gardaí in Greystones who were instrumental in getting this project up and running and who have provided a lot of comfort for residents in the area particularly throughout the winters. I hope to continue working with them on future projects. The owners of the venue were also fantastic throughout and it couldn't have worked without their support. They were very open to the Gardaí using their premise and I am very grateful for their generosity.

"While I'm sad to see it go, I am hopeful that the links fostered between the local community and the Gardaí will continue to benefit people in the area. I would like to see this kind of set up rolled out across Wicklow and will be looking into how this can be facilitated on a greater scale" concluded Deputy Whitmore.

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A successful Local Enterprise Week

Figures released at the beginning of Local Enterprise Week (2nd - 6th March), revealed that 2019 was a very successful year for Local Enterprise Offices nationwide. Figures show that 77 new jobs were created by last year by companies supported by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow. This is an increase of 4.05% since 2018.

This is the 6th year of continuous employment growth for the Local Enterprise Offices since they were set up in 2014. LEOs saw increases across all supports in 2019 including training, mentoring and funding. The number of those trained in 2019 was up 6.4% last year with 37,306 availing of training through their Local

Enterprise Office. There was also an 10.5% increase in mentoring assignments completed, with 10,756 clients benefitting from LEO mentoring.

Local Enterprise Week is a large contributor to the above figures. This year saw over 100 clients participate in the 5 events held by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow.

Events included a Start Your Own Business Course, Digital Marketing Clinics, GDPR Clinics, Green Your Business Seminar, Business Advice Clinics and Enterprise supports, Self-Employment, & Future Employment Fair.

The Green Your Business Seminar had guest speakers; Dr. Joanne Rourke, Eastern Regional Office, Ron Immink, Entrepreneur in Residence, Sustainable Nation, and Maeve Morrissey, Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland highlighting the various ways

companies should adjust their views on the climate and take advantage of the opportunity's sustainability presents. The event aimed to highlight the supports available to Micro enterprise looking to become more sustainable and resource efficient. Two LEO Wicklow clients, Pamela Walsh of Wicklow Way Wines and Martin Cullen of O'Hanlon Herbs illustrated the different ways in which they have greened their business's and made them more sustainable for the future.

The Enterprise Supports, Self-Employment, & Future Employment Fair was ran during Local Enterprise Week and Jobs Week 2020 in conjunction with the Wicklow, Arklow & Bray Intreo Offices, Bray Area Partnership and County Wicklow Partnership. The fair provided enterprise and self-employment supports to over 50 attendees.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise with



Pictured are Martin Cullen (O'Hanlon Herbs), Vibeke Delahunt (Head of Enterprise, LEO Wicklow), Pamela Walsh (Wicklow Way Wines), Ron Immink (Entrepreneur in Residence, Sustainable Nation), Maeve Morrissey (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland), and Dr. Joanne Rourke (Eastern Midlands Waste Regional Office), at LEO Wicklow's 'Green Your Business' seminar last week in the Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkennedy



Pictured are Aileen Carter and Catherine Fulvio at LEO Wicklow's Enterprise Week 'Green Your Business' seminar last week

Local Enterprise Office Wicklow said: "The successful figures for 2019 continue to emphasise the positive impact that the Local Enterprise Office is having on indigenous businesses across the county and indeed the country. Whether it's through training, mentoring, funding, or expert one-to-one business advice, the Local Enterprise Offices are 'making it happen' for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Our expertise and experience is the bedrock of our ability to help businesses and we look forward to helping many more in 2020.

Local Enterprise Week is a valuable addition to the figures for 2019 and will be for 2020 figures. It is also a fantastic chance for people to learn from the array of great speakers and to network with other like-minded entrepreneurs and business people in their area. It is also ben-

eficial as every year there is an array of different events that reflect the emerging trends for businesses.

"Local Enterprise Week is the perfect opportunity to learn what resources are available on your door step and who in your network can help your business to plan, start and grow."

Since the Local Enterprise Offices were established in 2014, they have helped create over 20,000 jobs nationally

and provide a range of supports to small businesses including mentoring, training and sector specific expertise to help guide businesses at any stage of their development.

For more information on supports available through Local Enterprise Office Wicklow visit www.LocalEnterprise.ie/Wicklow

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PLANNING AHEAD FOR PEACE OF MIND



You really should have an Enduring Power of Attorney
The power to put your mind at rest and your affairs in order for the future



Many people are alarmed to be told that just because you are the 'Next of Kin' that you do not have the authority to make decisions for your loved one if they become mentally incapacitated due to injury or accident. The medical profession will require that an Enduring Power of Attorney be in existence, as indeed will other professions such as accountants and banks. Safeguarding Ireland says more people 'Thinking Ahead' would help to reduce and prevent abuse of vulnerable adults.

Recent research, commissioned by Safeguarding Ireland, showed that just 6% of adults had appointed an Attorney under Enduring Power of Attorney, and just 8% had discussed a preferred place of care.

"When people don't have their choices, preferences and decisions legally stated - and they have a life-changing accident, become seriously ill, or frail due to age - they are reliant on the honesty of friends and family. In most cases people's wishes are upheld by loved ones.

"Unfortunately, it is estimated that up to 10% of people are dishonest in how they manage a vulnerable person's money. That is why it is very important for all of us to appoint an Attorney and also put in place an Advance Healthcare Directive.

SO, WHAT IS AN ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY?

An Enduring Power of Attorney is a legal document which allows an individual to choose to appoint a specific individual (usually a close family member) to look after both your person and financial affairs in the event that for any reason you lose your mental capacity in the future. We at Probate Ireland must stress that an enduring power of attorney is only valid or effective if you lose your mental capacity at some future point in time. An enduring power of attorney can be an extremely powerful document that significantly bypasses the hurdles and problems your family could face when trying to deal with your affairs should you become incapable. The main purpose of an enduring power of attorney is to enable somebody of your choosing to have the entitlement to manage your financial and personal affairs for you if you lose your mental capacity at some future date.

AN ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY CREATES PEACE OF MIND

The execution of an enduring power of attorney is an excellent way of

planning for the future and provides a mechanism for the management of the donor's affairs in the event that the donor becomes incapable of doing so themselves in the future.

Unlike a general power of attorney which has immediate effect once executed, an enduring power of attorney will only come into effect at a later date should the donor become incapable of managing their affairs. The enduring power of attorney will not come into force should you remain in control of your affairs.

As a donor of an enduring power of attorney, there are a number of safeguards designed to protect you.

When executing an enduring power of attorney, you can decide as to the scope of your affairs that you wish to have delegated to your attorneys. As donor, you can decide whether to grant authority for the control of your financial affairs, personal care, housing, medical affairs etc. Your solicitor will take great care in discussing all options so as to determine what is best for you.

An enduring power of attorney therefore allows you to maintain control of your affairs until such time as you may become unable to do so yourself through mental incapacity.

WHY BOTHER WITH AN ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY?

Have you considered how you or your family would cope if you were to suffer from some accident or illness which deprived you of the mental capacity to look after your own affairs?

With advances in medical care, increasing life expectancy and varying property values there is a growing need for people to make arrangements which can be brought into effect in the event of mental incapacity arising.

Under the Powers of Attorney Act 1996 it is possible for you to make provision for these situations by setting up an enduring power of attorney. Your solicitor can explain the formalities

and arrange for you to sign the necessary document now while you have the good health and the capacity to make the decision as to the person or persons whom you would wish to look after your affairs should the need arise. If a person loses mental capacity without having signed a valid Enduring Power of Attorney then in order to manage the person's property and affairs it is necessary to have such a person made a Ward of Court. This can be an expensive and lengthy process so having an enduring power of attorney in place is preferable.

There are many ways in which a person might lose mental capacity:- Alzheimer's disease; Dementia; Stroke; Accident etc

By setting up an enduring power of attorney in advance you are able to choose some person or persons to deal with your affairs in a situation where you are no longer capable of doing so yourself. If you suffer such a setback and you do not have an enduring power of attorney in place then if your financial and property affairs are to be administered it will be necessary for an application to be made to the High Court to have you made a Ward of Court and to have someone appointed to take charge of your affairs.

An EPA must also include Notice Parties which are usually further family members who will be notified by Registered Post that you have made such an EPA. The Notice Parties will have the power to object if they believe anything untoward regarding request for same or prior to registering your EPA. Once the EPA is registered your Attorney(s) will have the authority and power to deal fully with your finances and property and in addition may also be given power over your personal care decisions, ie, where you will reside, diet and dress. An EPA does not come into force unless it is registered.

neey in place then if your financial and property affairs are to be administered it will be necessary for an application to be made to the High Court to have you made a Ward of Court and to have someone appointed to take charge of your affairs.

THE EFFECT OF CREATING ENDURING POWER

An enduring power of attorney enables you to choose a person (called an "attorney") to manage your property and affairs in the event of your becoming mentally incapable of doing so. You may choose one attorney or more than one. If you choose more than one, you must decide whether they are to be able

to act: jointly (that is, they must all act together and cannot act separately), or jointly and severally (that is, they can all act together but they can also act separately if they wish).

If you give your attorney(s) general power in relation to all your property and affairs, they will be able to deal with your money or property and may be able to sell your house.

If you do not want your attorney(s) to have such wide powers, you can include any restrictions you like. For example, you can include a restriction that your attorney(s) may not sell your house.

You may authorise the attorney(s) to take certain personal care decisions on your behalf, e.g. deciding where you shall live. If you decide to do so, you should indicate, the particular personal care decisions you want to authorise. You should also name any person you would like the attorney to consult so that the attorney can have regard to that person's views as to your wishes and feelings and as to what would be in your best interests.

Unless you put in a restriction preventing it, your attorney(s) will be able to use any of your money or property to benefit themselves or other people by doing what you yourself might be expected to do to provide for their needs.



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for an appointment

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PLANNING AHEAD FOR PEACE OF MIND



You may also appoint an attorney or attorney(s) to act in the event that the original attorney is unable or unwilling to act.

You must give notice of the execution of the enduring power of attorney as soon as practicable to at least two persons. None of

them may be an attorney under the enduring power of attorney. At least one must be the donor's spouse, if living with the donor. If the donor is unmarried, widowed or separated, notification must be given to a child of the donor (if applicable) or

otherwise to any relative (i.e. parent, sibling, grandchild, widow/er of child, nephew or niece).

Mark Felton of Felton McKnight Solicitors in Greystones says "For the majority of people, various types of insurance policies are part of life.

Whether it is car insurance, house insurance, health insurance or even travel insurance the concept is the same. The insurance policy enables you to make provision for something you hope will never happen and ensures that if it does you can get the assistance you need with the minimum of difficulty. An Enduring Power of Attorney is in effect another form of insurance

and it too enables you to make provision for something you hope will never occur. In this case you are making arrangements for what you want to happen if you lose your mental capacity at some later date. It is an extremely powerful document and it enables you to choose who it is you want to have your authority to manage all of your property and affairs if you are no longer able to

do that. Your attorneys can also be allowed to make personal care decisions about you. That is decisions about where you live, who you live with, your dietary requirements and other similar matters. You can choose to appoint one or more than one attorney, it's up to you. There is no doubt that having an enduring power of attorney in place can and does in the main, ensure

that if it is necessary, your affairs can be managed for you in a manner that you have chosen by people you have chosen. This will give you great peace of mind. Talk to your solicitor today about this extremely important concept."

Kaley Jameson from Benville & Robinson Solicitors (kaley@benvilleroobinson.ie) in Bray says "In advance of

an EPA consultation you will need to have given careful consideration as to whom you would like to act as your Attorney(s) and who you would like to appoint as your Notice Parties. In addition, we will need your date of birth and the name of your current General Practitioner. You can call into us and we will walk you through the entire process."

Preliminary information required to prepare an Enduring Power Of Attorney

- You will need evidence of your identity - in order to comply with the Anti Money Laundering Regulations - simply the same as if you were opening a bank account, that is photographic evidence (your passport or driving licence) and a utility bill to confirm your address. You will also need to provide your date of birth, your occupation and your marital status.
- Your doctor will have to certify that you are mentally capable of signing the document so you need to give me his/her name address and contact number.
- You may choose one or more reliable people as you attorney(s) to act on your behalf in the event of you becoming incapable of looking after your own affairs. You need the names addresses and contact numbers for the selected person(s).
- It is advisable to appoint one or more substitutes who will act as attorney in the event that the originally nominated person(s) cannot do so.
- You are required to give notice of the making of the power to two of your closest relatives (other than an attorney(s) You need to provide the names, relationship, addresses and contact numbers for the selected person(s) At least one of these people must be your spouse, if living with you. If you are unmarried, widowed or separated, notification must be given to your child (if applicable) or otherwise to any relative (i.e. parent, sibling, grandchild, widow/er of child, nephew or niece).
- If you give your attorney(s) general power in relation to all your property and affairs, they will be able to deal with your money or property as they think best and they may for example sell your house. If you do not want your attorney(s) to have such wide powers, you
- Although you need not do so you could name any person you would like the attorney to consult so that the attorney can have regard to that person's views as to your wishes and feelings and as to what would be in your best interests. You will need to let your solicitor know the name address and contact number for any such person so that reference may be made to the person concerned in the document.
- You may also appoint an attorney or attorney(s) to act in the event that the original attorney is unable or unwilling to act. Again you need to provide the names, relationship, addresses and contact numbers for any such person(s)



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Wicklow Town & District
CHAMBER

President

Rosie Cooney elected president of Wicklow Town and District Chamber of Commerce

Wicklow businesswoman Rosie Cooney has been elected as 2020 President of Wicklow Town and District Chamber of Commerce at the Chamber's AGM which was held on Thursday 20th February. At this same meeting, Matt Forkin from REA Forkin Estates was elected as Vice President.

Rosie who hails originally from Waterford has been living in Wicklow for the last 30 years.

She is the Manager of the AIB in Wicklow for the last 2 years but previously worked there for seven years. As a member of the Chamber of Commerce over the past couple of years, Rosie is a long-standing enabler of local business initiatives and events. Rosie is a strong believer in building relationship with the local community and involving new generations in the future of the community.

At the recent AGM, Rosie told Chamber

members at the meeting that she wishes to continue Robin's legacy in re-energising the Chamber so that it can be inclusive, progressive, and relevant and support its members and the wider community.

She thanked all who had offered their support and paid tribute to outgoing president, Robin Bradley, and the Chamber Council for all their hard work and progress made over the past year. In her spare time, which is not a lot, Rosie enjoys being involved in her local drama group.

Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce's mission statement is "To create a strong local network of business owners to represent the business community and to provide relevant services and information for our members. To promote local communities activities that encourages civic spirit and community pride that showcases our Town & District in a positive manner."



Rosie Cooney of AIB, new President of Wicklow & District Chamber of Commerce

Wishing Rosie all the best as Chamber President

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Best wishes Rosie

Augustus Cullen Law

Wishing you all the best Rosie, as you take on the role of President for Wicklow & District Chamber

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Catherine O'Reilly

Congratulations Rosie from all in Sherry Fitzgerald Wicklow & Arklow

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Tel: 0404 66466
45 Main St, Arklow. Tel: 0402 32367

Wicklow Town & District Chamber is the leading business organisation in Wicklow, representing a wide variety of businesses, and it currently has nearly 200 members.

Wicklow Chamber members include manufacturing businesses, professional services, retailers, distributors, engineering businesses, general service providers, cultural organizations and those to do with the arts. Businesses of all manner of size are represented by the Chamber, from SoleTraders to SME's to

Multinationals. This diverse variety of members enables Wicklow Chamber to be a united voice for the local business community.

New Chamber President Rosie Cooney, and the Chamber Council, are committed to ensuring that the Chamber dedicates itself to delivering the following key objectives:

To continue to increase the value of membership to new and existing members on an ongoing basis.

To continually develop the Wicklow Chamber Website so that its full



Wicklow Town & District
CHAMBER

President

potential is maximised for the benefit of the members.

To work actively with Wicklow Municipal District Council and the retail Community to regenerate the Town Centre and develop Wicklow as a full vibrant and unique retail experience.

To work actively to attract commercial/industrial investors to

locate in the greater Wicklow area (working closely with the Wicklow County Council Economic Development Team and the other relevant statutory agencies).

To work actively to attract leisure, hotel and tourism investors to invest in the greater Wicklow Area (working closely with Fáilte Ireland, Wicklow

County Tourism and the Wicklow County Council Economic Development Team).

To campaign for and ensure that the Wicklow County Campus located at Clermont is developed to its full potential and achieves its full status as a full time Third Level College.

The Chamber schedules regular meetings with the management of

Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Municipal District Council to achieve mutually beneficial objectives and to increase economic development in the local area.

When a business joins Wicklow Chamber it means that it automatically has access to management and staff training courses at highly competitive rates. Training can be provided locally and can be tailored to the business's individual needs.

Wicklow Town & District Chamber is the principle voice of its members' interests and is a major influence in ensuring that Wicklow is perceived by investors as an attractive location to invest in and prosper.

The Chamber is key point of contact with Wicklow's Local Enterprise Office, and works with the LEO to provide relevant business courses and support for the Chamber's members.

Joining Wicklow Chamber brings with it many networking and marketing opportunities. The chamber is the recognised voice of business and the more members there are, the louder the collective voice the Chamber can speak with on members' behalf.

The Chamber is a lobby group working to build and maintain a strong and flourishing business environment in Wicklow Town & District.

WISHING ROSIE GREAT SUCCESS IN HER ROLE AS CHAMBER PRESIDENT

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Best Wishes to
Rosie & Matt
In their roles as
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*Best Wishes to Rosie
as Chamber President*

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Wishing Rosie all the best in her role as Chamber President

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Best wishes Rosie, in your year as Chamber President, from

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CONGRATULATIONS ROSIE AND WISHING YOU WELL AS NEW PRESIDENT OF WICKLOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Veronica and Robert Le Roux with Andrew Manson at the Le Roux exhibition in the Arklow Visual Arts Gallery which took place from 20th February to 4th March.

Greystones Municipal District's Battle of the Bands

Calling all Hoziers, Arianas & Radioheads - here's your chance for a major leap forward!



Yep, it's that time of year again for the annual Greystones Battle Of The Bands, with over €1,500 worth of prizes to be won - including a professional recording at Kilcoole's Hive Studios, a professional photo shoot, and an even more professional live video shoot with Never Meant Records.

Sponsored by Greystones Municipal District, and with a live final at The Hot Spot in April, the battle is open to musicians and singers of all ages across Kilcoole, Delgany, Newcastle, Killincarrig, Charlesland and Greystones itself. Artists just need to send their MP3 or YouTube clip to info@greystonesguide.ie, along with a pic and a short bio by March 31st.

Previous winners include Feuds, Talk Like Dog, Emily Beattie, Hail & Rain, Taken, Overture and Nicolaas Walle. You can find out more by emailing hello@greystonesguide.ie.

Bone Machine: A Tom Waits tribute at The Hot Spot

Bone Machine play the music of Tom Waits on Friday March 13th at The Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones.

There are songs that have defined our lives through the good times and the bad, you have heard them sheltering at the crossroads of misery and abandon, you have heard them at the altar of ecstasy and elation. Songs that portray everything from sin, murder, love, death, regret and hope to songs that are simply enjoyed for their time defying melodies and their inexplicable lifting of the soul. When such songs and music are discussed there is one name that is routinely referred to...Tom Waits. Mr Waits has spent his lifetime fathoming the depth of power of the written word through the art form of music, amounting to a force that conveys emotions that are seldom captured in any other artistic form.

For the past year Irish audiences have witnessed an incendiary show performed by Bone Machine, that captures the character and musical genius of Tom Waits. An exhilarating performance that's playing to packed houses of increasingly adoring fans. The world of Mr Waits is uniquely presented with a characteristic authority rarely harnessed by mere mortals within any single show to date. Bone Machine are a band of internationally renowned touring and recording musicians that perform a firebrand, melancholic, and punk jazz set of Tom Waits songs. The band comprises Jack Healy on vocals and social

strategy, Martin O'Malley on guitars and sonic sculpting, Jon O'Connell on bass and positive vibes and Adam Shapiro on drums and rhythmic karma.

Each member of Bone Machine has performed in front of thousands of people at home and abroad over the past number of years in bands such as The Van Diemens, The Walls, Serious Mischief, The Fiddle Case and Raise the Rafters. They've also laid down countless tracks on albums, EP's and singles in their spiritual home Malbay Studios. Whether or not the songs and music of Tom Waits play a central roll in your music collection, you simply have to experience this show live to feel the heaven-opening maelstrom of beauty scarcely captured by a live band. From blood soaked ballads to evocative Godliness and anarchic elegance there has never been a show that has captured the golden thread of what makes Waits such a legend until now!

Bone Machine are the crusading dark horses that keep the mysteries of life alive, offering an escape route and destination to anyone seeking liberation from the norm. A night out with Bone Machine will reinforce your belief in the songs of Tom Waits. From Martha to Downtown Train this band bring the heart, atmosphere and sweat to performances brimming with a ramshackle sophistication and honesty that the songs of Waits are universally celebrated for. Ladies and gentlemen let us present... Bone Machine.

Doors 8pm / Show 9pm. Tickets Adv €14 / On door €16

An exhibition of paintings by the Mansons in Arklow

The Arklow Visual Arts Gallery will host this exhibition from 9th March - 20th March with an evening opening with the artists on Thursday 12th March from 6 pm - 8 pm.

Sarah Eva Manson completed a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Fine Art from the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, in 2012. During this time Manson took part in a workshop in the Netherlands with the European League of the Institutes of the Arts and was selected to represent Ireland in the Prix Europa, Languages through Lenses best video competition on multilingualism. Her short film was awarded 4th place out of fifteen shortlisted entries selected from 27 European Union Member States with her entry Choose Wisely. Manson's work has been collected by AXA Insurance, The Royal College of Surgeons and is housed in numerous private collections. Sarah Eva's work was selected for the 121st RHA Annual Exhibition in 2011. In November of the same year, she was invited to exhibit in The Cockleshell Gallery, Waterford. There she

showed an installation of 52 palimpsest etchings along with a short video piece, this ran for two months. Her work was also selected for the traveling Irish Wave exhibition curated by Fionn Gunn, this exhibition traveled to Beijing and Shanghai in 2012. Attracta Manson is a graduate of NCAD, Dublin, in Fine Art Painting (2009). Her works are collected by the OPW, Dept of Foreign Affairs, The Central Bank and many private collectors and have been selected for exhibitions both nationally and internationally. Attracta had a subtle minimalist approach. Her work reflects concepts of identity and explores the painting process used to distort, transform and interpret ideas that can only be realized in painting. She creates intense personal moments by means of rules and omissions, acceptance and refusal, luring the viewer round and round in circles. By applying abstraction, she makes work that deals with the documentation of events questioning how they can be presented. The results are then deconstructed to the extent that meaning is shifted and multiple interpretations are created. Attracta is a co-founder of Ballyrogan House and lives and works on site. Andrew Manson is a graduate of the Dun Laoghaire art school. He specialises in fine art painting but also works in photography, performance, and film. His work embraces the tradition of remembrance in art and daily practice. Andrew's collections of small paintings and accompanying photography often become the ingredients of his larger 'Diary' pieces or 'This Is Not A Game' series 1980's on the Gulf and Yugoslavian wars and his more recent 'This Is A Game' paintings: Concerning the artistic life. Andrew's works are

characterized by the use of everyday activities in which shared differences play an important role. He takes daily life as his subject matter, making work using creative game tactics, but these are never permissive. His serious works demonstrate how life extends beyond its own subjective limits and often tells a story about the good effects of questioning our place in the false histories that propound the here and now. Andrew's works have been selected for the RHA 1982, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively. Andrew is the founder of Ballyrogan House and works and lives there.

This show promises to have an array of style, colour and form to suit all tastes so do pop in for a look and follow our social channels for daily updates throughout the exhibition. The Arklow Visual Arts Gallery is located in the heart of Arklow Town, an active part of the community for over twenty years.

Coming up at Whale Theatre...

Social Fabric Podcast: Are we there yet?



Are we there yet? We speak to a number of guests about their various quests from Ice Swimming in Antarctica, crossing the Arctic circle, running ultramarathons and explore what drives people to push themselves to the limit of what most of us would consider humanly possible.

There will some music, some visuals and Q+A at the end of each half. Conversations with people about their passion and interaction with their community. We cover a number of topics to help rebuild the Fabric of Society. An all inclusive event to explore what makes people think.

Thursday 26th March at 8.00pm Tickets €15. See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Bolshoi Ballet: Romeo and Juliet

The star-crossed lovers' tragic fate inspired Prokofiev a remarkable cinematic score, from the delicate theme of Juliet to the ominous Dance of the Knights. Bolshoi stars Ekaterina Krysanova and Vladislav Lantratov wholly embody the two eternal lovers in Alexei Ratmansk's stunning evocation of love at first sight.

Music Sergei Prokofiev; Choerography Alexei Ratmansk; Libretto Sergei Prokofiev, Sergei Radlov and Adrian Piotrovsky (after William Shakespeare); Cast Ekaterina Krysanova (Juliet), Vladislav Lantratov (Romeo), Igor Tsvirko (Mercutio), Dmitry Dorokhov (Benvolio), Vitaly Biktimirov (Tybalt), and the Corps de Ballet

Sunday 29th March at 3.00pm (Doors 2.30pm) Tickets €20/€17.50. See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550



Funding for sensory facilities in Wicklow libraries

Funding of nearly €28,000 is being made available for the provision of sensory facilities and equipment in branches of Wicklow County Library Service.

The Minister for Rural and Community Development has announced that funding of €20,720 has been approved for Wicklow County Council for the project while the Council itself will match this amount by an additional 33%, bringing a total of €27,630.

This much welcomed support will enable Wicklow County Council Library Service to acquire the necessary equipment and make provision for individuals with sensory impairments, special educational needs, ASD and other learning difficulties.

Minister Simon Harris said "I welcome that the government are supporting Wicklow County Council in providing sensory facilities in our public libraries. The entire Wicklow library network

will benefit with the provision of sensory play equipment and toys, assistive technologies and autism-friendly signage. Baltinglass Public Library will have a sensory room installed whilst Arklow public library will have a sensory pod.

"I am delighted to announce this investment as it makes our libraries a safe and welcoming space for all families and ensures everyone can access their local library service to the fullest extent".

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Mr Frank Curran, said: "Our libraries are essentially a space for all, and this funding will go towards ensuring that they are welcoming spaces where the experience for parents and carers of children and teens with senso-

ry needs is more comfortable".

In 2018 funding from the Department provided for the purchase of Tovertafels or Magic Tables in our main library branches. These are being used by families in our communities with dementia, autism spectrum disorder and learning differences.

In 2020 Wicklow County Council wants to make our libraries more accessible places for everyone in our community. Libraries can be very busy places with lots of activities happening throughout the day. Awareness that those with ASD, or indeed any member of the community, can suffer a sensory overload has guided our decision to ensure that every library in the county will benefit from this funding.

The plan includes the provision of a Quiet Space/Sensory Room in one of our libraries. This room will be equipped with a columnar bubble tube which will be both mesmerising and calming and the room will also feature mirrors, soft furnishings, fibre optic lighting and other sensory toys.

All other libraries will be provided with a sensory area which will feature padded tactile corners, mirrored walls and also pop-up sensory tents - depending on space and suitability. Each library will also have Sensory Kits which comprise a selection of sensory toys such as mini bubble tubes, fidget toys and various tactile objects which will calm a child experiencing sensory overload.

New insight into the rocks and soil below Wicklow

The Tellus Programme in Geological Survey Ireland has released the latest data from the ongoing airborne geophysical survey along with a series of photographic highlights taken by the survey pilots capturing the amazing Irish landscape.

The Tellus survey is a national mapping programme, and the data collected provides important information to the agricultural, mineral and environmental sectors. In 2019 airborne surveying was completed over the southeast of Ireland crossing the skies over Counties Wexford, Carlow, and Wicklow, and parts of Kilkenny, Kildare and Waterford. These new data map over 600 million years of complicated and varied geology; from traces of long lost continents, dramatic volcanic arcs and the massive granite intrusions which still dominate the landscape today.

Previously released electromagnetic data from the Limerick region have been re-worked using newly developed software allowing detailed vertical sections of varying resistivity values to be imaged down to a depth of 60 m along each flight line. These show differences in the soil and rock properties below the surface allowing a better understanding of the geology of the region.

Since the start of the Tellus survey in Ireland in 2011, the survey pilots have been taking photographs from their unrivalled vantage point of the stunning landscape below them. The Tellus team has collated these images along with facts from the localities and digitally mapped them to provide a 'Tales from

Tellus' ESRI storymap which shows the varied landscape of Ireland. While the survey collects geochemical and geophysical data that can image the deep geological features beneath our feet, these photographs show the human story of the survey and the dramatic coastlines, hills, fields and people who make up this island. The storymap can be viewed here.

Koen Verbruggen, Director of Geological Survey Ireland commented "We're are delighted to release further geophysical data collected by the Tellus aircraft and in particular the new EM inversion dataset providing further value added products from the data which will be of use to people engaged in construction, mineral exploration and environmental management. Releasing the new data at the annual Irish Geological Research Meeting, held this year in Athlone and hosted by GSI, among the young geoscientists who will be using this information for years to come is most appropriate. We look forward to the next phase of the Tellus survey over the counties of Kilkenny, Laois and Tipperary which will take to the skies this summer".

Tellus is funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. All data are made freely available to the public and data and maps are available to view and download from www.gsi.ie/tellus. The data and results were presented at The Irish Geological Research Meeting, hosted by the Geological Survey Ireland in Athlone, from February 28th to 1st March.



Wolf of all streets made it back-to-back wins when taking the 2m handicap hurdle at Leopardstown on Sunday. Philip Rothwell's charge made much of the running under Adam Short to again get the better of the 12-year-old Youngnedofthehill, he beat him by two lengths at Naas in January but the winning margin was five lengths this time.

Rothwell said, "I thought the handicapper had caught up with him, but I'd never seen him in as good a form as he's been over the last three days. He's like a horse possessed so it's nice to come to the races and see it work out. His owners Carol Hogan and Eric Newnham are super supporters of the yard so it's great for them. I felt there was a race for him at Navan next week, but he wouldn't love it heavy and I thought here would be the lesser of two evils and we got away with the light weight."

Katie Taylor to put undisputed lightweight status on the line

Katie Taylor is already being backed to cement her status as undisputed lightweight champion after securing herself a blockbuster bout against Puerto Rican pro Amanda Serrano.

The dream fight was confirmed on Friday afternoon with Promoter Eddie Hearn dubbing it the 'biggest female fight of all time,' as Taylor is set to be pitted against a world champion in seven divisions on a current streak of 24 straight victories.

That stellar record however isn't putting punters off backing the Bray boxer, who has already been backed into 4/11 with BoyleSports who chalked her up as the 1/2 favourite minutes after the bout was announced for May 2nd in Manchester, on the undercard of Dillian Whyte's heavyweight clash with Alexander Povetkin.

Serrano, who began a war of words with the Irish star last month by labelling her 'average,' is the early 9/4 outsider as she bids to put the first defeat on Taylor's professional boxing record.

Lawrence Lyons, spokesperson for BoyleSports said: "Katie Taylor will be testing herself at the very highest level in May and there's no doubt this will be the biggest assignment of her career to date. But confidence is already high that she will come through it and her odds quickly shortened into 4/11 from 1/2 within a couple of hours of the betting opening up."

Incorrectly fitted child car seats major cause for concern

Research from the Road Safety Authority's 'Check it Fits' Service, which checks child car seats and restraints nationwide for free, has revealed that 4 out of 5 child car seats are incorrectly fitted nationwide.

To help address this problem, the RSA 'Check it Fits' service will be visiting Wicklow where child car seat installation experts will be available to ensure car seats and restraints are correctly fitted.

You can see the 'Check it Fits' service at SuperValu on Castle Street in Bray on Wednesday 18th March (10am-5:30pm), Pettitt's SuperValu on Wexford Road in Arklow on Thursday 19th March (10am-5:30pm), and SuperValu in Charlesland, Greystones, Friday 20th March (10am-5:30pm).

The service takes between 10-15 minutes, is free of charge and offers parents and guardians reassurance that their child is safe while travelling in the car. If your child's car seat or restraint is incorrectly fitted, the 'Check it Fits' experts will advise on how to fix the problem, demonstrate how to fit the restraint correctly and answer any queries participants

might have to avoid potential serious or fatal injury in the event of a collision.

Aisling Sloyan, Senior Road Safety Promotion Officer for the RSA commented: "The reality is that if a child's car seat isn't fitted correctly, it could lead to a serious or fatal injury in the event of a collision. Having a correctly fitted car seat is a simple measure parents, grandparents and guardians can take to ensure children are safe while travelling by car. I would encourage people to visit the 'Check it Fits' when it comes to Wicklow and give yourself the peace of mind that your children are travelling safely."

Moyagh Murdock, CEO of the RSA, while speaking about the service said: "The RSA 'Check it Fits' service is there to provide professional, trustworthy advice to parents and guardians around child car seat safety. Parents all

over the country are availing of this service to get practical advice and expert fitting of their car seats. We would advise all parents to ensure that when they buy a new car seat, that they get the seat fitted by an expert. We would also advise that parents to check the label on their car seat to make sure it's appropriate for your child's age, weight and height, to make sure your seat is firmly installed in the car, and to always ensure that your child's harness is fitted snugly for every trip. Clothing can affect how the harness fits, so you should use blankets instead of bulky jackets in the winter. This makes sure that the harness is making contact with your child's body and you should check this before every journey."

For more information on Check it Fits and for an up-to-date schedule of upcoming road shows, visit www.checkitfits.ie.

Wicklow's young entrepreneurs count down to county final

Hundreds of enterprising students from secondary schools across Wicklow are making final preparations for the annual Wicklow Student Enterprise Programme County Final, taking place on Thursday, 26th of March 2020.

Organised by the Wicklow Local Enterprise Office, over 1100 students from secondary schools have been taking part in the programme since last September. Representatives from these local schools will now compete in March's County Final in Clermont Campus, Rathnew, where they will compete for a host of prizes. This event is the culmination of months of hard work for these students, who will showcase their enterprises, filling 45 exhibition

stands and taking part in the eventful day. The students will meet a number of successful and experienced entrepreneurs who have been invited to the event and the students will have the opportunity to share the stories of their entrepreneurial journeys with them. The day will come to a close with an award ceremony in the afternoon to announce the winners in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories. These students will go on to represent Wicklow at the National

Finals which take place in Croke Park on 1st of May 2020.

Wicklow have had great success at National level over the years - Ciara Whooley from St David's Secondary School in Greystones, won the Senior Category in 2012 with her enterprise 'Irish Baubles'. Luke Byrne, a

transition year student at Colaiste Craobh Amhann in Kilcoole, won the senior category with his enterprise 'Headphone Helpers' in 2016 and Cillian Scott from Colaiste Chill Mhantain took the top prize in the Intermediate Category with his business 'Scott Engine Tables' in 2017.

Wicklow's Student Enterprise Programme is part of the National Student Enterprise Programme, which annu-

ally sees over students compete on the national stage. It is coordinated locally by the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow. Head of Enterprise, Vibeke Delahunt said, "This programme enables students to explore the world of business, starting in the classroom. The Standard of entries in Wicklow is extremely high which is a credit to students and teachers in schools across the county"



Pictured at Network Ireland's International Women's Day event in Tulfarris House in Blessington, are Fiona Ferris from autism charity AsIAM, and President of Network Ireland Louisa Meehan. The theme of the event was 'Power Within' - a celebration of women in business. AsIAM was announced as Network Ireland's national charity partner for this year at the event.

Voluntary groups urged to sign up to Wicklow Community Directory website

The Wicklow Community Directory Website team is giving a shout out to community and voluntary groups, clubs and not-for-profit services across Co. Wicklow to log on and claim their free listing on the website.

Wicklowcommunitydirectory.ie is a website managed by Bray Area Partnership as a service to the community. It lists community-based groups, clubs and public services and also features

community news from around the Garden County.

The website is a great way to find out what's going on in your local area, with around 700 listings under 70 cate-

gories such as arts, sports, leisure, health and well-being, community groups, schools and colleges, information and advice, employment supports and public services. There is no charge for

listings, it's easy to register your organisation and well worth doing, with around 26,000 individuals browsing the site every year for information on what's going on in their area - simply log onto www.wicklowcommunitydirectory.ie and click register. It's important to note that the site

does not list commercial companies or services.

Wicklow Community Directory is grateful for financial support from Wicklow County Council's Community Awards scheme and Bray Area Partnership's Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.



The overall winners, Shane Browne and Robert Davey from Colaiste Bhride, Carnew, with Head of Enterprise, Vibeke Delahunt at last year's final.

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Arklow accountants up for 'Small Practice of the Year' national award

Heaney Keogh Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors in Arklow have been nominated as finalists in the Irish Accountancy Awards in the 'Small Practice of the Year' category. The black-tie ceremony will take place on 16th April in the Clayton Hotel in Dublin.

Launched in 2016, the Irish Accountancy Awards has established itself as the benchmark for those demonstrating excellence in the accountancy profession in Ireland over the past year.

Heaney Keogh in Arklow have been named as finalists after their work was reviewed by an expert judging panel which seeks out those

firms that have provided the highest quality of service and that can demonstrate they have added significant value and competitive advantage to their client organizations.

Principal of the firm is Lisa Heaney Keogh, a native of Arklow who started the practice as the beginning of 2019. The offices are located in Arklow Business Enterprise Centre.



Lisa Heaney Keogh

"I am delighted to be selected as a finalist and

get this recognition from my peers," she said. "I look forward to the celebrations on 16th April."

Lisa is a qualified ACA accountant and registered auditor with over 13 years of professional experience. The practice offers all professional audit, accountancy and tax services to a variety of clients including SMEs and local trades people.

PLANNING • PLANNING • PLANNING • PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, 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, and retention of 3 nr. roof windows to the front elevation. 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

We, Longtown Partnership, intend to apply for permission for development at this site: Charlesland Neighbourhood Centre, Charlesland, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of: Amalgamation of first floor Office Unit 9 with existing Office Units 7 & 8 (previously amalgamated under planning ref. 18/881). 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 change of use from three commercial units to doctors surgery/ clinic and associated works at Units 11,12 and 13 Merrymeeting Neighbourhood Centre, Rathnew Co. Wicklow for Broomhall Estates Ltd. 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.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a two storey dwelling with connection to services, entrance, and associated works at 3 Castle Street, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow for R. O'Reilly. 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.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Steven Gough seeks (a) retention permission for the change of use of former garage to residential use; (b) permission for extensions to the side, front and rear of the former garage to provide for a single storey, 2no. bedroom detached residential unit in the side garden of the existing dwelling; (c) widening of the existing vehicular entrance to serve the existing dwelling; (d) 2no. new velux windows to the side of the existing dwelling; (e) connection to mains and all associated site works at 64 Garden Village Avenue, Kilpedder, Co. Wicklow, A63 HH93. 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

We, Aofie Finan & David Aherne seek planning permission at Villa Maria, Kilbride Road, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of, a new entrance gate, refurbishment of the existing house, demolition of 'front porch' and side conservatory and the construction of a new single story extension to the front, two story extension to the side and extension at first floor to the rear of the house along with all associated site works including a new effluent treatment system. 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

FULL PLANNING PERMISSION Sought for: 1. Construction of New 3 Bed Two Storey Dwelling (218Msq) to land to rear of existing dwellings facing onto Ballyman Road, at Brookville, Ballyman Road, Enniskerry. 2. New Foul & Surface Connections to existing sewers to facilitate new dwelling. 3. All Associated Requisite ancillary site works at 'Brookville', Ballyman Road, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, A98 AV24. Signed: Gerard McGlinchey. 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

Noel Heatley and Chris Dunne seek a planning permission for the demolition of an existing two storey dwelling and the construction of 3 No. terraced dwellings together with all required foul/surface water services connections and site developments works, at Waverly, No. 16A Monkton Row, 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.



Day 1 of the Allianz sponsored Cumann na mBunscol Coughlan Cup took place on Thursday 27th February in Bray Emmets GAA Grounds. It was a super start to the tournament with lots of fine skills on show, particularly point taking which was the focus of the day. Pictured is the St.Cronan's team that took part. Well done to all who participated. Day 2 will take place on the 12th March

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.

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