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SWIFT BOXES
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Tuesday 18th August 2020 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

NO (GREEN) WAYS!

Green Party leader says "no" to Garden County funding for Greenways

There was disappointment last week as two Greenway projects in County Wicklow were not included in the recent funding announcement of €4.5 million to 26 Greenway Projects across the country. The Eastcoast Greenway connecting Wicklow Town to Greystones was turned down for funding, as was the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway.

The Eastcoast Greenway connecting Wicklow Town to Greystones was turned down for funding, as was the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway.

Expressing disappointment, Sinn Féin TD John Brady said "It's really disappointing that Wicklow has been completely overlooked by the Government for any funding to develop

Greenway projects in the county. Recently the Green Party leader and Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Eamon Ryan TD announced funding of €4.5 million to 26 Greenway Projects.

"This is a real missed opportunity to help generate badly needed economic development to Wicklow. Considerable work has been done on

these two Greenway proposals in Wicklow.

"The East Coast Greenway Group which is driving the Greystones to Wicklow Town Greenway estimate over 500,000 visitors per year will be attracted to Wicklow with a Greenway set up. The project would generate badly needed economic development for Wicklow Town, Kilcoole,



Grainne Lambert and Lucy Tarmey pictured at Minmore farm in Shillelagh where over three acres of sunflowers have been grown in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation and the Irish Cancer Society

Newcastle and Greystones with tourists spending significant amounts in amenities including hotels, B&B's, cafés, bars and restaurants.

"In 2018 Wicklow County Council commissioned a feasibility study to be carried out on the Eastcoast Greenway project. The study showed that the project was viable. The project would also have seen a coastal defence built, in order to prevent coastal erosion that has increased at an alarming rate in recent years. I believe that coastal erosion protection, along with a cycle and walking Greenway could be built at the same time."

Deputy Brady went on to say: "Wicklow County Council have said that they are committed to the delivery of the Eastcoast Greenway, however they don't have the capacity to fund the works needed to move the project forward. Why was Wicklow overlooked for this important funding. Deputy Brady concluded: "The council needs to

be proactively engaging with the Department and the five Wicklow TD's, particularly the three government TDs which include two senior ministers."

Green Party councillor, Erika Doyle said "It's very disappointing that Wicklow County Council failed to receive funding for the Greenway proposals. Now that we have commitment in the new Programme for Government to prioritise walking and cycling infrastructure and a Green minister, I'm looking forward to progressing these projects throughout Co Wicklow."

"I recently received a feasibility study for the Wicklow coastal Greenway proposal. That route consists of very sensitive and protected conservation areas and will need a comprehensive environmental impact study."

Regarding the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway, Wicklow County Council told *Wicklow Times* "the Arklow to Shillelagh

scheme was unsuccessful under the Carbon Tax 2020 fund. The reason given was that there was significantly more proposals submitted than funding.

Considerable time and effort had been put in to this application by Council officials and our consultants, we are endeavouring to seek a more detailed

explanation as to why the application failed. The Council will explore options for other possible sources of funding for the Coastal Route."

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Eli and Art Davis collecting entries at The Road to Roundwood 5k. A fundraiser to help a refugee family fleeing war in Syria relocate to Wicklow.

Open Door Day Centre

Unfortunately, due to recent increases in COVID-19 cases, Open Door must delay reopening the Centre in order to synchronise with NPHE's phase IV, which is 31st of August. This decision has been taken in the interest of health and safety of our members, volunteers and staff. Should you have any queries please email Rudy at manager@opendoor.ie or Suzanne at developmentofficer@opendoor.ie.

Progress on St Catherine's Special School

Wicklow Minister Simon Harris welcomed the news that contracts have been finally signed for the site for St Catherine's Special Schools permanent home. Minister Harris said "I recently met with the board and management of St Catherine's where they outlined their new plans for the St Catherine's campus in Kilcoole. Not only will the new campus provide the first rate facilities families and pupils at St Catherine's deserve but it will also provide a wider community dividend for the community in Kilcoole with a new public park. This project has my full support and I look forward to the project advancing to the next stage."

Laragh Glendalough Active Retirement

The Active Retirement Group will be meeting Tuesday morning 18th August for Tea/Coffee, light exercise and a catch up from 10.45am - 12pm at the Brockagh Centre. They will hopefully be returning in September for weekly meetings, date yet to be finalised by the Committee. Active Retirement group meet every Tuesday morning from 10.45am - 12pm in the Brockagh

Centre and they have a great line up of activities each week. So if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and some light exercise, bowls, dancing and music come along on Tuesdays. "We hope to start doing other activities e.g. bingo, arts & crafts and informative talks. The group meet for lunch once a month at various local venues (new members welcome).

"We will have a full schedule of activities planned each week and we always welcome new members to join our group. If anyone would like to offer their services or share their skills with the group please contact the centre. For more information call Denise on 0404 45600, email brockaghoffice@gmail.com or drop in to the centre."

Sunbeam House operates limited services

In these difficult times families are often very stressed. Add to these external pressures the need to provide welfare to a loved one who has a disability and families can reach crisis point very quickly.

Day services for people with disabilities have been suspended for more than three months throughout Wicklow and surrounding counties. It is welcome to see that Sunbeam House Services started to resume services from late June.

The organisation, one of the biggest employers in the county, has opted to open limited services on a phased basis to alleviate some of the stresses felt by families and to meet the needs of their clients in some way.

Sunbeam House stated "With services now operating at 40% in most areas it is hoped that these can be increased soon. The HSE is examining a plan for Sunbeam and other services in regard to reopening services fully. We hope a resolution is reached soon."

Free Car Park In Laragh

Wicklow Co. Co. had opened a new free car park in Laragh. This is a secure facility with staff on duty, and shall be open daily between 8am and 8pm. It is located beside the Woollen Mills and GAA grounds and is well sign-posted. The car park is perfect for hill walkers with access along the beautiful Green Road to Glendalough and all its walking trails.

La Touche Leagacy Festival postponed

The La Touche Leagacy Festival of History has been postponed until 2021. The Festival will now take place 10th and 11th September 2021. A Launch Lecture will be held in May 2021. The La Touche Leagacy Society thanks all for their support over the years and looks forward to seeing everyone once again next year.

Local rowing clubs launch the 'Braystones 500'

Bray Rowing Club and Greystones Rowing Club have just announced an exciting fundraising collaboration for Saturday 22nd August. The aim of the Braystones 500 is to raise much needed funds to increase participation in traditional skiff rowing in the communities of Bray and Greystones.

The Challenge is for each club to row 250km culminating in a total rowing distance of 500km. Multiple crews will row legs of the journey starting in Bray and Greystones.

The benefits of participation in sport are well proven and both clubs would like to be able to increase their youth membership and continue to offer all adult rowers an opportunity to improve their physical and mental well-being. Crews will be made up of all club members from 16 years old to senior rowers working together in relays.

Chairperson of Bray Rowing Club, Andy O'Reilly said: "2020 has been a tough year for the rowing clubs, as it has been for all sport, but we're hoping to lift spir-

its with this fun and challenging event. Bray Rowing Club has a great history in the town of Bray with a strong and growing membership of men and women. Last year our ladies and junior teams won gold and silver in the All Ireland Rowing Championships among many other club achievements. Bray Rowing Club urgently needs funding to facilitate their growing membership and to purchase a safety boat. A safety boat is essential for the clubs continued participation in the regatta series. Any support big or small is appreciated by the club and will go a long way to enhancing opportunities for people to participate in the wonderful sport of rowing."

Sharon Fitzpatrick of Greystones Rowing Club

said: "Greystones Rowing Club are hoping to raise the necessary money to cover the cost of a new skiff to ensure the old tradition of skiff racing is kept alive for future generations in what is now a modern town. The new skiff will be named the Colleen Bán after an original boat built in 1920 by local man John Spurling. The Colleen Bán was almost unbeatable for ten years, suffering only two defeats in that period. Greystones Rowing Club changed the boat name in the 1950s to the Shamrock 1, built by Smiths of Ringsend. The Shamrock 2, 3 and 4 followed. All boats enjoyed success over the years, most notably the Shamrock 1 winning four successive Wicklow Regattas (1953 - 1956).

To celebrate 100 years of rowing in Greystones the present GRC committee decided to name the new skiff the Colleen Bán as per the first skiff all those years ago."

Please donate to Bray Rowing Club (gofundme.com/f/braystones500) or go to Greystones Rowing Club (gofundme.com/f/braystones-500km).

This will be a social distanced event adhering to all the current Sporting Ireland Covid-19 restrictions and advice.

Only event participants are allowed to come to either clubhouse but supporters can watch the event from a distance anywhere along the coast. They will also be posting videos and updates to social media throughout the day.



Pictured at a presentation to recognise frontline healthcare workers' outstanding work during the Pandemic are (left to right): Front: Olivia Reidy, student nurse; Paul Reid, CEO, HSE; Back row: Rob Tatten, General Operations, CHC Helicopters which operates search and rescue for the Irish Coast Guard and Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow County Council. Tatten said, "Today we are paying tribute to the outstanding work of our fellow frontline workers in the health service who sacrificed so much, and continue to fight on behalf of us all, during this Pandemic." Bray Air Display 2020 was due to take place at the weekend and will take place next summer 2021. Photo: Frank Grealish.

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SERIOUS SCHOOL ISSUES IN GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Independent Councillor Tom Fortune has written to the Kildare & Wicklow Education & Training Board (KWETB) seeking an emergency board meeting regarding the lack of school places in Greystones Municipal District.

This follows the news that the new Community National School building in Charlesland will not be able to open at the beginning of the new school year as planned.

The new school building was to provide permanent accommodation for Greystones Community National School and interim accommodation for Greystones Community College.

Parents of children due to start school in the new Greystones Community College were informed on Wednesday that the building is not yet fit for handover and contingency arrangements are to be put in place.

Cllr Fortune, Member of the board of KWETB, member of the board of Greystones CNS, and Chairperson of the board of management of Colaiste Croabh Abhann, said "At this meeting we need to immediately have a solution to: The opening of national and secondary schools in Greystones for September. The contractor is saying that the school is ready, the department are saying something else and I sense we are getting mixed messages, certainly the parents are. This cannot be allowed to continue. Our local TDs are really not helping with their approach, some just want to play games with the government, others write letters and some are saying very little. Really they should all be working together and we must request them to do this immediately.

"The extension to Colaiste Croabh Abhann in Kilcoole. This is beyond urgent and got plenty of attention prior to the general election but has since gone into a black hole. This must also be dealt with now. This school is bursting at the seams,

and this puts unnecessary extra pressure on the whole school community and also has health and safety concerns. As an organisation we cannot tolerate this continuing. Really the previous board of the KWETB should have ensured that this important project was completed."

Also speaking on the issue, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said "I know there is a lot of concern in relation to the news that the new Community National School (CNS) building in Charlesland won't be ready in time for September.

"As former Chair of the CNS, I know how disappointing this is for parents, the children and the staff of the CNS and the Community College - everyone was very excited about seeing the new school finally open.

"There are many questions to be asked about how this could happen. It has been over two years since the developer began on the building programme and yet the school still is not completed. This is unacceptable and there needs to be accountability with regard to this failure to build such a fundamentally important piece of community infrastructure.

"However, my focus at the moment is ensuring that the children of both schools have sufficient and appropriate accommodation for September. I am in contact with the Department regarding contingency plans to ensure this happens. I am also working with Principals from both schools on this and will continue to help where I can," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady also expressed deep concern, saying "The news that the new school building will not

be ready for the start of the school year was given to parents of children due to start school in Greystones Community College on Wednesday. It is a cause of deep concern as they don't know if, when or where their children will attend school at the start of the new term.

"The new school building is due to provide permanent accommodation for Greystones Community National School which is currently located in prefabs in Greystones Rugby Club and interim accommodation for the newly established Greystones Community National School.

"The school was due for completion in time for the start of the new year, however the Department have informed the KWETB that they need to ensure that they are completely satisfied that the building is fit for handover prior to accepting it. The Department is currently engaging the contractor and there is no clarity as to how long the delay will be. The news that the new school will not be ready will come as a big blow for the children, teachers and everyone connected to both schools.

"Reopening all schools was going to be difficult due to Covid-19, the Roadmap was only issued this week. The difficulty now is that contingency arrangements will need to be put in place for both schools for the start of the new school year which is only a few short weeks away.

"The Department needs to work with both schools and the KWETB to ensure that contingency arrangements are in place as quickly as possible and that teachers, students and parents are kept fully informed on the plans," concluded Deputy Brady.



Bridie Deegan and Colin Tyner pictured at Minmore farm in Shillelagh where over three acres of sunflowers have been grown in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation and the Irish Cancer Society.



Services Reopening at Sunbeam House

Sunbeam House provides day, residential, respite and supported living services to adults with learning disabilities in the Wicklow area. Respite and day services were suspended in March this year in line with Covid-19 Government guidelines. With some easing of restrictions respite services resumed on a limited basis in late June, however not all services can be recommenced at this time. Siobhan Murray, manager of a new respite house based in Shankill, tells us, "Everyone has been working very hard to offer as many breaks to people as possible. All our clients have been delighted to be back and are safe and well in the service."

Sunbeam are resuming day services across the county on a phased basis using HSE guidelines to ensure the health and wellbeing of everyone using the service. Staff in the Student Learning Centre in Bray were excited to reopen the service on 13th of July, having worked hard to reconfigure the premises. Manager Tracey McKenna said, "All the students were very excited to come back and catch up with their friends. The clients have been practicing social-distancing games and wearing their masks. There is a great atmosphere and buzz about the place again!". Staff and clients from Ballyraine, Bri Nua and Glenvale day services, in the south of the county, are also excited to be seeing each other again. Day services are not fully reopened in all areas. However, Sunbeam has worked hard to open as many services as possible at this time and are working towards more access to services in the coming months.

This October Sunbeam plans to welcome 14 school-leavers who will join programmes in Bray and Arklow. All Sunbeam services, including those in Ashford, Wicklow, Rathdrum, Kilcoole and Greystones, have been assessed and reconfigured, where possible, to enable safe and effective environments. CEO Joe Lynch says, "This has been a very difficult time for clients, families and staff, but now that we see some restrictions being eased, we are working towards new routines. We have approximately 40% of our day and respite services working, but we want to achieve a full service again as soon as this is possible.

I would like to thank everyone who has worked with us during this time."

Sunbeam House Services,
Southern Cross House,
Southern Cross Business Park,
Wurzburg Road, Bray.
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Andrew Kinsella and Miley Doyle of the Wicklow County Council Recycling Centre in Avoca present Garda Eamonn Furlong and the members of the Avoca GAA Club with a set of training tops. Pictured are: Back Row: Ger Doyle, Michael Doyle, Jack Doyle, Darren Keogh, Rob Wilson, Liam Dickenson, Andrew Byrne; Centre Row: Garda Eamon Furlong, Andrew Kinsella, Miley Doyle, Stephen McCauley, Kevin Harper; Front Row: Jordan Kinsella, John Murray Porter, Robbie Warde, Zach Wolohan

Miley keeps giving!

Since the Avoca recycling centre was set up by Wicklow County Council in 2001, it has proven to be an absolutely essential service to the public for the disposal of waste materials and equipment.

But the added bonus over the years has been the financial benefits gained by local charities, volunteer groups and Avoca National School. Miley Doyle and his staff have consistently provided much needed funds, generated from the clothes bank and waste metal, to local organisations.

This year has been no different with the Avoca GAA Junior B team the beneficiary. Miley reckons this is the tenth sports team to receive funding for

jerseys over the years.

On Saturday 8th August Miley and his staff (Andrew Kinsella and Andrew Byrne) presented the Avoca Captain Stephen McCauley and Avoca Manager Garda Eamon Furlong with a new set of training tops for the panel of players and management. The O'Neill tops were designed in the black and amber club colours with the club crest, Wicklow County Council and Avoca Recycling logos and looked very smart indeed. Avoca GAA club thanked Wicklow County Council, Miley and his staff and acknowledged the public support of the recycling centre. Without the waste metal and clothes bank, funding for local organisations would not be possible.

Could take years for 20-min Greystones DART

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said that increasing the frequency of DART services to and from Greystones must be given priority by the government and the National Transport Authority (NTA).

Deputy Brady made the call following correspondence he received from the NTA stating that it could take a number of years to implement a 20-minute DART to Greystones, if the plans are approved.

The NTA informed him that "There would be some significant works involved, particularly at Greystones, where approximately 2.4 kilometres on the single line track north of the station would need to be doubled to twin track. This would be likely to necessitate the removal and replacement of the La Touche Place Bridge, just north of Greystones Station.

"While an overall concept design has been developed, further work is required to assess some of the issues in more detail, and to develop a clearer analysis of the costs and schedule involved. It is our intention to undertake this work during next year. While the NTA is including

this work as part of the overall DART Expansion Programme, it is likely to be a number of years before this proposal, if approved, could be delivered. However, if implemented, a 20-minute DART service would represent a 50% increase in capacity over the current DART schedule at Greystones."

Speaking after raising the issue of increasing the frequency of the DART to and from Greystones Deputy Brady said "In April 2019 a report which looked at the feasibility of achieving a 20-minute frequency DART service to/from Greystones was published by the National Transport Authority (NTA).

"The report was carried out by rail consultants Jacobs Engineering Limited. This report showed that increasing the DART service from a 30-minute service to a 20-minute service could be achieved, however, the

NTA are saying that it is likely to be a number of years before the proposal, if agreed, could be delivered.

"I believe that if the proposal to increase the service to Greystones to 20-minutes was made a priority by the government and the NTA it could be delivered much faster. What we need is a commitment that this project will proceed and that it will be prioritised. The study by Jacobs showed that with extensions of the twin track on either side of Bray Head it would be feasible to operate a 20-minute service to/from Greystones.

"This would be welcomed by the many people that use the DART to get to and from Greystones, it would also be welcomed by the many people who currently don't use it due to its infrequency. The DART Expansion programme which is set to cost €2.6 billion is one of the Government's key transport projects and involves the

provision of electrified rail services from Drogheda, Maynooth and Celbridge to Dublin city centre as well as upgraded signalling systems and junctions. The NTA has included increasing the DART frequency to Greystones in the overall expansion programme, unfortunately it appears as if it is only a footnote in the programme.

"Recently the European Commission awarded Ireland an €8.8 million grant for part of the Government's DART expansion programme which seeks to upgrade the main commuter rail lines into Dublin. The grant will be used for the design phase of the Kildare rail line upgrade and was secured under the EU's Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). Given the massive traffic congestion on the N11 and our poor public transport service in Wicklow, the government and the NTA must give priority to the Greystones expansion."

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Members of Bray Tidy Towns are pictured at the cleanup of the Albert Walk last Wednesday. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Frontline workers honoured with flypast

A flypast by a Rescue helicopter of Bray seafront was held recently in a tribute by the Irish Coast Guard and Bray Air Display to recognise the dedication of frontline workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The event was attended by Mr Paul Reid, CEO of the HSE, and colleagues along with representatives of the Irish Coast Guard and Wicklow County Council. Welcoming everyone, the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, told the frontline workers: "You have all done, and continue to do, tremendous work during this Pandemic and for that we are extremely grateful. It really is an honour to have you here with us in Bray today. Today is about acknowledging, and honouring your sacrifice, dedication and contribution to keeping our families and communities safe. Bray has a very strong aviation link and in normal times, the seafront would be thronged this weekend with families enjoying the annual Bray Air Display. But of course, in the midst of this Pandemic, that is not possible this year. Instead, it was considered fitting to host a 'fly past' in honour of the frontline workers to pay tribute and acknowledge all the wonderful work that you do, to protect us. We truly are indebted to you for your commitment and dedication, and to the sacrifices you have made, and no doubt will continue to make over the coming period. Thank you so much."

A presentation was made to Paul Reid and HSE representatives on behalf of Bray Air Display and Wicklow County Council at the event.

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COUNCILLORS CONDEMN HATE SPEECH GRAFFITI

Labour Party councillors Anne Ferris and Paul O'Brien and Local Labour Party representatives Anne Waithira Burke and Ian McGahon are strongly standing against the recent spree of hate speech graffiti in Bray and the targeting of Green Party councillor Erika Doyle.

Cllr Paul O'Brien said "Since I was elected last year I have continuously highlighted the issue of online hate and bullying. This is a worrying development of people emboldened with hate against LGBT people, black and ethnic minorities taking to our public places. It's not acceptable to bully and harass people in any town or village in Co Wicklow through racist, homophobic and misogynistic hate speech like this."

Cllr Anne Ferris said "As Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District this worries me that our town is being covered in hateful messages. This vile hate has been painted on numerous walls and even a car in our town. I know many people of colour and lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans residents who are ashamed but also scared."

"I will work with all my Council colleagues to send out a clear message. Bray people stand for love and reject this hate. Furthermore all of us in Bray condemn the vile hate campaign against Cllr Erika Doyle."

Bray Green Party councillor Erika Doyle recently condemned the homophobic and racist graffiti around the town and has now become a target for abusive messages. On separate occasions last week Cllr Doyle was named in offensive graffiti messages at different locations around Bray.

Cllr Doyle has made a statement to the Gardaí, who are taking the matter very seriously and will be investigating the matter fully.

Speaking to *Wicklow Times* last week, Cllr Doyle said "Two weeks ago, following a spate of racist and homophobic graffiti around Bray I released a statement asking people to call out hate speech when they see it. I had a great response from people from across our community, from those who had been directly affected by this hate speech to numerous more reports of newly sprayed locations."

"Some days ago I heard that my name had been sprayed on the old Industrial Yarns building on the Dublin Road. Along with some far right abuse the message 'Erika Doyle does not speak for me' was sprayed in letters big enough to be visible from the main road. Presumably this is the same individual responsible for the other racist and conspiracy driven nonsense that is being sprayed around the town at the moment. My response is simple - we are in agreement. I do not speak for this person or others like them. I do not give a voice to hate. Bray Municipal District Council and Bray Tidy Towns are helping out where they can but it is difficult to stay on top of the amount being generated."



Graffiti targeting Green Party councillor Erika Doyle

"This is a terrible thing for our community and creates a negative impression of Bray for visitors. This is our town and these people are trying to destroy it with their ugly words. It is up to us all to be useful allies to minority communities and show our intolerance of any negative messaging towards our friends, relatives and neighbours. I would appeal to anybody with any information about the identities of these hate vandals to please report them."

Bray Labour representative Ian McGahon said "I was proud in 2019 to organise that over 50 local election candidates for Wicklow County Council signed an anti racist pledge. As an out gay man this vile hate speech about LGBT people worries me. This hate is openly threatening us and could potentially become violent. I am confident the vast majority of Bray people reject it."

Greystones representative Anne Waithira Burke said "During 2019 local elections I was targeted with racist and misogynistic abuse. It is time for us all locally to stand together against these hate campaigns."

The four Labour representatives are standing in solidarity with Cllr Doyle and with all targets of Brays recent spree of graffiti hate speech.

Sinn Féin Councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien has said all of us have a role to play if we want to prevent the growth of hate in our communities: "It's not just the role of the Gardaí to deal with this although legal frameworks can be a valuable asset in both prevention and responses. Each one of us can increase our understanding of hate, where it comes from, how it grows and how it might present itself in our own lives and in our communities."

'Council must heed concerns of Farrankelly residents'

A number of residents of Farrankelly Close in Delgany have expressed disappointment with Wicklow County Council which they claim did not adequately heed any of their concerns regarding a new pedestrian access route recently constructed at their estate.

Many residents of the estate are concerned about children's safety, and believe that lives are now being put at risk as the new ungated access ramp leads from the main playing area used by children onto a main road.

Supporting the residents, Independent councillor Mags Crean stated that "Wicklow County Council need to heed the concerns raised by the residents committee, who have spent many years maintaining, planting and tending to this area".

Residents also fear that the new concrete structure will be a target for graffiti.

A residents spokesperson stated "Wicklow County council need to heed our concerns regarding our children's safety and ensure their playing environment

is a safe one. We as an estate have put so much work into that green area and now part of it is left to over grow and the other part is now a great big wall of concrete, with no added street lighting, which will attract graffiti and anti-social behaviour. This will not only effect us as an estate but will also effect our surrounding community."



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Butternut the Persian Kitten is representing Wicklow in the Nose of Tralee competition organised by Pet Sitters Ireland. The deadline for voting is 20th August. Butternut is 9 months old and her owner Lucy Simpson got her from 'Persian Kittens and Cats' in Gorey just before Christmas. There were over 1500 entries across the country and Butternut has made it through to the finals. Butternut now holds the title Wicklow Nose 2020. The link to vote is on her instagram in the bio @lady_butternut or on Pet Sitters website.

A decade of centenaries

The Wicklow County Archives Service is honouring the work of County Wicklow's historians who serve their communities in documenting our county's history and heritage.

This Wicklow Decade of Centenaries project features articles from 12 Wicklow historians working across the county.

They describe the tumultuous period of the War of Independence and Civil War in Wicklow, capturing local information and human stories for generations to come. The project will also feature podcasts in the coming weeks of these Wicklow historians from History Ireland Hedgeschools, and an exhibition and county publication will follow in the coming months. Enjoy these articles on the online community archives Our Wicklow Heritage - wicklowheritage.org/

A Wicklow County Archives Service project supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 initiative and by Wicklow County Council.

The first tranche of articles will cover the lead up and War of Independence era. Civil War articles will be released periodically also.

The historians involved are: Arklow - Jim Rees; Ashford - Sheila Clarke; Bray - Henry Cairns, James Scannell, Brian White; Carnew - Kevin Lee; Dunlavin - Chris Lawlor; Enniskerry - Brian White; Greystones - Rosemary Raughter; Wicklow - Stan O'Reilly, John Finlay, Brendan Flynn, John Goodman.

Rathdown residents concerned about roadworks

Several residents have expressed concern about Wicklow County Council roadworks taking place on the Rathdown Road in Greystones. This includes lifelong Greystones resident Francis Glynn and family who say that residents were not consulted adequately.

This has resulted in concern for the Glynn family, and others who fear losing parking facilities unnecessarily.

Francis's daughter Linda Murphy stated: "There is ample room for both a new footpath and the current parking. At the moment the Council is planning to spend money on removing the parking for no good reason."

Francis (88) has Alzheimer's so this issue is even more pressing. Their neighbour Vivion Glynn stated: "the lack of advance consultation is a head scratcher."

On Thursday, August 6th the Senior Engineer for Greystones met with residents, but a resolution was not found.

Former Greystones Mayor Stephen Stokes stated: "I am calling on Wicklow County to compromise. The Rathdown Road residents have been more than reasonable in trying to find a positive resolution."

Greystones Town Engineer, Ruairi O'Hanlon, has written to one of the residents explaining that although there is opposition from some residents, that "many of the other households have expressed to Wicklow County Council their satisfaction with the proposed works and how the works have been progressing to date."

He said that "access to properties will in no way be impeded as vehicular access to the private driveways of each and every property will be maintained and access for emergency services will always be possible. This includes the provision of a vehicular width driveway access to the property known as St Joseph's, which currently does not have its own internal driveway, and in doing so we are catering for the future provision of an internal driveway as well as the occasional parking by visiting vehicles outside of the property but not on the footpath."

He went on to say "The road layout of Rathdown road has remained unchanged for over 50 years since these properties along it were built. Local and national policy on road and street design has changed much since Rathdown Road was last built resulting in improved street design with the focus being on prioritising walk-

ing, cycling and public transport, and minimise the need to use cars.

"The redesign of Rathdown Road will reduce the hard landscaped space and increase the green space along it, the benefits of this are many: Firstly it will reduce surface water runoff, which is an issue for many of the properties along Rathdown Road.

"The reducing in the width of tarmac area creates a visual narrowing of the road and so as well as the physical narrowing of the road carriageway width which we have done it also visually closes in the space at the sides of the carriageway and so creates an environment where driver speeds will be reduced.

"The green areas will help control undesirable vehicular movements of driving along the footpath and illegal actions of parking on the footpath. Undesirable parking along Rathdown road has long been an issue, particularly at school drop off and pick up time and again these green spaces are an integral part, along with other measures to be provided elsewhere, of the overall solution to that issue.

"The softer landscaping as opposed to the hard surfacing will also create a more enjoyable environment for residents and passers-by alike.

"The redesign of the road layout will make it easier and more attractive prospect for more vulnerable road users

such as persons with mobility issues to use it and so encourage people to walk rather than use the motorcar to travel. For elderly residents this can reduce the sense of being trapped in one's home as it is safer to walk out the door rather than having to use, or wait for someone with, a car to go out. Whilst it is appreciated that the area outside your property has long been used for parking this does not convey a right to do so as a right to carry out an offence cannot be conveyed. All properties along Rathdown Road have ample space within them for the parking of at least 2 cars, which is the current requirements for properties of this size under the County Development Plan."



Newtown receives investment under Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

Newtownmountkennedy is to get an investment of nearly €500,000 to upgrade the public realm, street landscaping, traffic management, public spaces and community facilities.

Some €357,750 has been received from the Government's Rural Regeneration and Development Fund while Wicklow County Council will provide matching funds of €119,250.

The funding was announced by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, as part of an allocation of €5.5 million in funding to seven projects under the €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. This funding builds on the €150,000 that Newtownmountkennedy received in 2018 from the Town and Village Enhancement Scheme, which funded streetscape improvements in the town. The project is being led by Wicklow County Council and will design upgrades to the public realm, street landscaping, traffic management, public spaces and community facilities.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council,

Cllr Pat Kennedy pointed out that "the fund will enable Newtownmountkennedy to achieve sustainable social and economic development and greatly improve the quality of life for people living in the area."

The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund aims to transform communities through ambitious and strategic projects that revitalise and regenerate towns and villages. Projects of this scale are only successful if they involve the local community. Deputy Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Michael Nicholson, said: "This is a brilliant example of what can be achieved when local communities and the local authority work together to bring about transformative change and development. Our towns and villages have to be prepared to face the challenges and the changes that are ongoing. This is Wicklow County Council doing what we do best: Working in the Community, with the

Community, for the Community."

This announcement relates to Category 2 of the Fund, which provides seed capital funding for strategic, large-scale projects which will assist in delivering town and village regeneration and contribute to economic development and recovery. Category 2 seeks to provide a ready-made pipeline of projects which can be progressed in the future with the support of the Fund or other funding streams. The funding provided will allow for further development of the projects to take place enabling them to be developed to a high standard and be ready to commence works in the future. The applications for funding were subjected to a comprehensive assessment process by the Department, with oversight provided by an independent Project Advisory Board, made up of representatives drawn from key Government Departments along with external independent experts.

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Whale Theatre to re-open in September

After being closed for almost six months as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, The Whale Theatre in Greystones has announced that it will be reopening from Friday 4th September with a programme of socially distanced live shows from performers including comedian Alison Spittle, acclaimed classical guitarist Redmond O' Toole, the Degani Trio and energetic contemporary Irish duo, Lucia & Maria.



The theatre will also be participating in this year's national Culture Night programme on Friday 18th September, with more details coming soon.

Speaking of the theatre's reopening, owner and founder Ross McParland says "We're thrilled to be reopening again after such a long interval and we can't wait to see people walk through the doors on 4th September. The team have been working very hard to make sure the

place is ready to welcome people again. We had said we'd be back 'after the interval', so we've introduced what we're calling the 'Second Act Charter', which outlines all the Covid-19 safety measures we're implementing and what audiences can expect when they come to a show. Things will be a bit different, but we're all still here and raring to go!"

The Whale Theatre's Second Act Charter is a succinct description of the safety measures

which have been put in place and it paints a vivid picture of the amount of work that has gone on in the background while the venue was closed. The capacity has been significantly reduced to accommodate social distancing, performances will be shorter, intervals scarce, face masks mandatory and movement restricted inside the venue. The theatre is even using a high-tech electrostatic disinfectant sprayer to ensure all areas of the venue are thoroughly disinfected. The Whale Theatre's Second Act Charter can be found on www.whaletheatre.ie and audiences are encouraged to read it in full before booking their tickets.

Given the uncertainty around the coming months, the Whale is cautiously announcing new shows on a month-by-month basis with a selection of rescheduled shows beyond September also on sale now. These include acclaimed contemporary Irish band Kern on 3rd October, Cork comedian Chris Kent on 15th October and Wicklow singer Luan Parle as far away as 27th February 2021. And as if

that wasn't enough, the theatre will also play host to two art appreciation courses delivered by local art historian Rosemarie Devereux. After the success of her previous course, 'The Visual Story of Ireland', Rosemarie presents a new 6-week course titled 'The Story of Europe - Painting History', alongside a repeat of her Irish course.

As with all other venues, theatres and arts centres both in Ireland and around the world, the last 6 months have been tough, with a huge level of uncertainty for the future. The next 6 months will be challenging, as audiences, performers and venue staff constantly adapt to new guidelines and restrictions to suppress the spread of Covid-19.

But as venues like the Whale Theatre emerge from their extended intervals, there is a glimmer of light at the end of this long tunnel and everyone has a role to play to nurturing this light and making sure it is not extinguished.

For details of what's coming up at the Whale Theatre, please visit www.whaletheatre.ie



Robyn, Lorraine, Kirsti and Alan Keogh at Minmore Farm in Shillelagh where over three acres of sunflowers have been grown in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation and the Irish Cancer Society



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RNLI responded to four incidents during a 24-hour period

Wicklow lifeboat volunteers responded to four incidents during a 24-hour period as the Station resumed crew training over the weekend of 8th and 9th August.

The first callout on Saturday afternoon (August 8th) involved both the Inshore and all-weather lifeboat, which were diverted from a crew exercise after being tasked to Brittas Bay by the Coast Guard at 4:15pm to reports of a jet ski in difficulty off the popular beach. On arrival at the scene the Inshore lifeboat located two men on a drifting jet ski with engine failure one mile off Brittas Bay beach. They were transferred onto the all-weather lifeboat and landed safely at Potter's Point, while the inshore lifeboat towed the jet ski ashore.

The second callout came on Sunday morning as the all-weather lifeboat launched at 3:25am to join Arklow lifeboat in a combined operation, to assist a solo sailor on a yacht with a rope fouled prop. Initial reports indicated the yacht's position was a few miles north of Arklow port, but it was located by Arklow lifeboat about two miles south of the Horseshoe Buoy near Wicklow head. The eight-metre yacht was fouled in ropes and unable to make any headway. Arklow lifeboat transferred a crew member onto the yacht to assist the sailor and free the obstruction from the prop. A towline was established with Wicklow Lifeboat before 4am and the stricken yacht was

towed back towards Wicklow harbour. The vessel alongside the South Quay shortly before 6am and landed the solo sailor safely ashore. The third callout came two and a half hours later on Sunday morning when the all-weather lifeboat was launched at 8:39am to reports of an 11-metre fishing vessel in difficulties near the Six Mile Point.

The lifeboat was alongside the fishing vessel 20 minutes after launching seven miles north of Wicklow harbour. The vessel with three fishermen had developed mechanical problems and was unable to return to the harbour under power. The trawler was taken in tow back to Wicklow harbour and the lifeboat crew brought it alongside the South Quay just after 10am.

The fourth call came after 2pm on Sunday afternoon as the all-weather lifeboat diverted from a crew exercise to assist a yacht in difficulties four miles off the harbour. The yacht was brought safely alongside the East pier a short time later.

Speaking about the call outs, Lifeboat Press Officer for Wicklow RNLI, Tommy Dover said "This was an extremely busy weekend for Wicklow RNLI as we also resumed crew training this weekend since the Covid-19 restrictions curtailed all training earlier this year. Between the crew exercises and callouts nearly all of our volunteers were involved over the weekend and it was a milestone for trainee Ger Kennedy, who completed his first 'Shout' on the all-weather lifeboat."





Megazyme

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MEGAZYME: COPING WITH COVID-19

Megazyme is a biotechnology SME based in the IDA Business Park on the Southern Cross Road in Bray, employing 50 staff. The company develops, manufactures and supplies analytical reagents for a wide range of industries including cereals, dairy, malting, brewing and distilling. It celebrated its 30-year anniversary in 2018.

Megazyme started the year on a very positive note and, at the start of March, agreed a new 5-year strategy. The prospect of new initiatives and projects was welcome and very exciting.

However, the following evening Ireland entered the 'delay phase' in the management of the Coronavirus pandemic. The terms 'social distancing' and 'self-isolation' became part of our vocabulary. Homeworking was encouraged and socialising limited. In other words, this was the beginning of lockdown and a complete change in our way of working and living.

Megazyme had an 'essential business' designation in the US and other global markets in relation to food quality so they retained that status in Ireland when lockdown was implemented on c. 24 March. They acted quickly to ensure that the business stayed operational. They identified the areas of Customer Services, IT and Finance as key functions to ensure ongoing operations and chose to concentrate on supporting these key functions. Megazyme's business model proved ideal in this situation as they ensure a 5/10 year stock of all materials onsite from raw material to finished product. This is an enormous undertaking for a website company with c. 600 products to its name, but it certainly paid off in this emergency by allowing the flexibility to respond at such short notice. Their strong business partnership with DHL ensured that all deliveries continued as normal (1-3 days anywhere in the world!) and with SNAP Printing, Dun Laoghaire ensured all required printed materials



The Megazyme building on Southern Cross Road, Bray.



One way system in place in Customer Service area to allow for social distancing.



Customer orders being packed to be shipped to customers via DHL.

were available immediately.

Steps taken by the company to ensure the security and safety of staff were numerous but social distancing is the most visible change. Staff that remained on-site were relocated

throughout the building from their normal working areas to allow for 2-metre social distancing in laboratories and offices.

Lunch and tea break rosters were introduced to allow for distancing in the canteen, and Teams now oper-

ate as defined groups so that contacts are limited.

Eibhlín McCleary, Director, says: "We place great importance on



The Megazyme Leadership Team (left to right):

Dr. Vincent McKie, Technical Director; Edel Woods, Commercial Sales Director; Eibhlín McCleary, Company Director; Prof. Barry McCleary, Owner and CEO; Paul Comerford, Chief Operations Officer and Dr. David Mangan, Research Director.



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Covid-19 signage visible throughout the company.

making every effort to keep our people safe. We are very proud of the ownership everyone has taken of their own actions, towards keeping themselves, their families and friends safe."

Home Working also proved quite challenging initially. However, routines were quickly established to accommodate working/home schooling/cocooning and many other aspects of the 'new way' of living. Initially, 30% of staff were designated to homeworking in order to keep vulnerable staff safe, guarantee back up for critical functions and create sufficient space for the safety of those remaining onsite.

Dr. David Mangan is the Research Director at Megazyme and has been working from home since mid-March: "What is it like at home? You might be surprised to hear that it isn't very different! I think our productivity has actually increased because there are fewer distractions, but you definitely miss out on all of the casual encounters and the friendly chats around the building."

To support staff through these changes, staff engagement and wellbeing has taken a particular focus. The company's Wellbeing and Social teams have rolled out a number of initiatives, from highlighting both mental and physical health supports available from the company health providers, to group quizzes and bingo using IT platforms so

that all onsite and at home could participate. The whole company enjoyed an afternoon off on 30 July to participate in a Treasure Hunt at Killruddery House and Gardens.

Sarah Hurley, Senior Analyst, started her employment at Megazyme in May: "Starting a new job during a global pandemic I had no idea what to expect. What struck me the most about Megazyme was the sense of community. Even in difficult times, keeping 2-meter distance, I was made to feel so welcome. In no time at all I felt like part of the family even though there are still some colleagues I have yet to meet in person!"

Through all of this, business continues as normally as possible. Megazyme continues to be vigilant. It has implemented a rotating homeworking/onsite roster to help with staff engagement while continuing to safeguard back-up for key roles and functions. The company is proud to have continued trading thus far in the pandemic without any lay-offs or recourse to Government schemes. Megazyme has, in addition, continued to practice its strong tradition of corporate responsibility by partnering with the Light House in Pearse Street to ensure that their team has the resources needed in these difficult times.

Despite the pandemic, Megazyme has managed to pack in a number of achieve-



Social distance working in Megazyme's Molecular Biology laboratory.

ments during 2020. Particular highlights include winning the award for Irish Food Laboratory of the Year 2020 and achieving method accreditation for the McCleary method for the measurement of Total Dietary Fibre from the Association of Official Analytical Collaboration (AOAC).

We'll leave the last comment to Dr McCleary, CEO and Owner, who says: "A lot of recognition and thanks must go to each individual and team in the company. It's their commitment and resilience that has enabled us to get this far and will allow us to face whatever comes next."



Megazyme canteen - From this ...



...to this.



Sinn Fein TD John Brady with Sinn Fein Rep Aidan Kinsella and Donal McCormack from the Blessington Allotments Campaign at one of the proposed allotment sites in Blessington

Calls for Council to provide land for Blessington allotments

Sinn Fein TD John Brady has called on Wicklow County Council to provide land for allotments in Blessington. He made the call following a meeting with representatives from the Blessington Allotments Campaign group.

Deputy Brady and the group members inspected a number of possible locations in Blessington where allotments could be provided.

Deputy Brady said "It was great to meet up with members of the Blessington Allotment Campaign Group. The group have been campaigning for the provision of allotments in the Blessington area since 2018. We had a really positive meeting and we looked at a number of possible locations where allotments could be provided.

"Over 40 members of the Blessington community have registered their interest with the group since they started their campaign in 2018. Allotments help to promote healthy eating by encouraging locally grown organic fresh fruit and vegetables, they also have a positive impact on the carbon footprint."

Deputy Brady concluded "There is clearly a demand for allotments in the area. The current 2016-2022 Wicklow County Development Plan commits the local authority to providing allotments and it lays out the criteria for them. The land we looked at is owned by Wicklow County Council and another State Body, and it would be ideal for community allotments. The group has been engaging with the council and I fully support them in their endeavours. I will continue to work with both the Council and the Blessington Allotment Campaign on this project. I ultimately think the council should be working with communities across the County with a view of having at least one community allotment in each of the Municipal Districts."

Mitchell seeks improvements to Greystones Media Campus

Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Cllr Derek Mitchell has welcomed plans for the Greystones Media Campus but is asking for minor improvements to be made.

Cllr Mitchell said "I welcome the planning application for the Media Campus in Greystones as with only 14% employed locally this should address a major weakness in the infrastructure of the town.

"I have asked that a number of details of this large development should be improved: There was a walkway across the site. I want to see a Greenway along the Three Trout Stream to Delgany eventually and am asking for a path to be left between this development and the plastic factory to allow this.

"I have also asked for better screening of the

Woodlands apartments from the large studio buildings and better access for cycling and walking to the site from the DART."

The planning application was lodged by Greystones Media Campus Ltd for the development on the site of the former IDA lands at Killincarrig. The planned development will include film studios, sound stages and production facilities on the 18.5 hectare site. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been submitted as part of the planning application. The planning application and proposed development is being supported by the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF), Ireland's sovereign development fund with a remit to invest on a commercial basis in Ireland in a way that supports economic activity and employment, Capwell, a SISK Group company, and Conor Harrington, a TV and film producer."



MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ON FORMER BRAY GOLF CLUB LANDS STILL POSSIBLE

Shankill Property Investments Ltd is seeking an extension to the planning permission granted for a mixed-use development of over 600 housing units and significant commercial development on the former Bray Golf Club lands and Industrial Yarns Land in Bray.

A five-year extension is being sought, with Shankill Property Investments Ltd aiming to begin construction in 2021 and have the development substantially completed by 2025. The extant permission is due to expire on 30th August.

Shankill Property Investments Ltd say that there is a significant amount of construction work to be done and that the Covid-19 outbreak may impact on the programming and undertaking of works in the short to medium term.

Wicklow County Council is due

to make a decision on the application on 8th September.

Previous owners of the site, Pizarro Developments Limited, applied for planning permission in 2007, the proposed €2 billion mixed-use development including 603 residential units, 57,967 sq.m of gross retail floor area (excluding storage), 5,797 sq.m of office space, and eight-screen cinema, a 103-bedroom hotel, six bars, 11 restaurants, two creches, doctor's and dentist's surgeries, and a community building.

Planning permission was granted to Pizarro in 2008. An appeal

was made to An Bord Pleanála which approved the development in 2010. The financial crash however stopped the development going ahead at the time.

The application comprises part of an overall development site of 20.47 ha which straddles the boundary line of Wicklow County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown (DLR) County Council. Planning permission was granted for the adjacent development within DLR in June 2010. An application for extension is also being submitted to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

Planning application submitted for over a thousand new homes on Cherrywood site

One of the largest developers in Ireland has sought permission to build 1,000 new homes before the end of 2020 in Cherrywood north of Bray.

The Quintain development is set for Cherrywood Village in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area of the capital. Once complete, the Village will be filled with over 1,300 homes, two public parks along with primary and

secondary schools and cycling and walking tracks. The first planning application for the new location was submitted last month for a total of 134 three and four bed houses and duplexes, which Quintain hope will be available for

sale in early 2021.

Four further applications for over 800 additional homes are planned before the end of the year, with these applications likely to be a mix of houses, apartments and duplexes and will include

the village centre.

A full masterplan for Cherrywood Village is due to be published in September including an extensive in-place infrastructure showcasing a road network, the Green Luas line, and public parks.

ABP reject appeal against levy on vacant Rathdrum site

An Bord Pleanála has rejected an appeal against a Vacant Site Levy on a site at the Market Place in Rathdrum.

An Bord Pleanála determined that the site was a vacant site within the meaning of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, 2015, as amended, and the amount of the levy has been correctly calculated in respect of the vacant site.

The site is valued at €1 million and a Vacant Site Levy of €70,000 was issued by Wicklow County Council.

The landowner submitted an appeal to the Board, against the decision of Wicklow County Council to retain the subject site on the Register.

In its appeal, the site owner, Pinturas Limited, argued, among other reasons, that the site would be better dealt with

by the Derelict Sites Act, that the market has failed to support the previously intended residential uses for the site, and that an incorrect assessment of market value had been made, meaning that the amount of the levy had been incorrectly calculated.

The site is located behind the retail units that front onto Market Place and the site stretches north westwards with Gilberts Row to the north and Brewery Lane to the south.

It is a large extensive site that comprises unfinished development at its eastern end with cleared ground now overgrown at its western end. The

ground level rises to the west from Market Place.

ABP determined that "the Board is satisfied that the site was a vacant site on the 1st of January 2019 and was a vacant site on 21 February 2020, the date on which the appeal was made and the amount of the levy has been correctly calculated.

"The demand for payment of the vacant site levy under Section 15 of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 is, therefore, confirmed.

"The Board considered that it is appropriate that a notice be issued to the planning authority who shall confirm the demand for payment."

RECYCLE BICYCLE!



WE WANT YOUR OLD BIKE!

COLLECTION DAYS 22nd & 29th AUGUST, 9am to 1pm

The Rotary Clubs of Bray and Wicklow in conjunction with Wicklow County Council's recycling centres are seeking used bikes to refurbish and send to schoolchildren in The Gambia in West Africa.

Collection days are the next two Saturdays 22nd and 29th of August between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm.

Rotary Clubs all around Ireland have collected hundreds of bikes that have been refurbished by the Irish Prison Service and are then shipped to the Gambia as part of their Bikes4Africa project. In the past few years hundreds of old bikes were donated by people from all around the country through the network of 70 plus Rotary clubs. But County Wicklow has been the stellar performer with over 400 bikes most years. Bikes came from sheds and garages, schools, bike shops and garda stations.

President of Bray Rotary, Pat Hastings said "These unwanted bikes are going to enable children in The Gambia to get an education. A bike gets a child to school safely, on time and alert instead of exhausted after what can be a 7 mile walk in the searing heat.

"Thanks to Governor of Loughan House Open Prison in County Cavan the Irish Prison Service is partnering with Rotary to refurbish the donated bikes.

"The project provides prisoners with an opportunity to give back to the community

and learn new skills. It teaches them about bike technology and repair as they service, clean and recycle the bikes in the newly constructed Bikes4Africa workshop in Loughan House prison."

Andy Bulger, President of Wicklow Town Rotary Club said "This is a great initiative as it is a coming together of Rotary Clubs and the local authority and local residents to transform an often-forgotten bicycle into a means of school transport for needy children in Africa. We are hop-

ing for a great response this year."

He continued "Life is difficult for a child in Africa, especially Sub-Saharan Africa. The early life of a child faces multiple health issues from trying to survive malaria to having a balanced diet. Education suffers especially for children from rural areas, many children have to walk a long distance to school, some over 10 km, often without adequate food or water. A typical journey could take at least 90 minutes with children arriving late and tired for school.

"Having to walk such long distances in hot sunshine to school and face the return journey in the afternoon when the sun is at its hottest is not conducive to students regularly attending school but having a

bike to cycle to school makes a huge difference as they tend to be more attentive at school having not had to walk a long distance.

Students look after the bikes and they last them for many years. In Africa the advantage of bike ownership in a family can enhance life immeasurably and can significantly also improve their lives through access to work and essential services. Often, when the children return from school in the evening, with the addition of a simple attachment the bikes are used by mothers to collect water. So many people benefit from this scheme - prisoners learning a skill which can lead to a City and Guilds qualification, the children themselves, their parents and teachers. Old bikes give new lives to families in Africa.

Jim Callery of Wicklow Environment Services said "We are delighted to be involved with this project because it has at its heart Recycling, Upcycling and Re-use of often forgotten bikes that might otherwise have gone to landfill. Our recycling centres in Bray, Wicklow and Arklow and the carpark of the municipal offices in Greystones will be the collection point for bikes on both Saturdays."

So why not help a good cause and clear some space in your garage or shed?



Pictured are some of the hundreds of bikes donated to Bray Rotary at the last collection.

For preference WE NEED

- Strong, Sturdy bikes that can withstand rough terrain
- Bikes to suit both primary & secondary level students
- Minimum 24 inch wheel size if possible
- Mountain bike tries if possible
- Bikes in reasonable repair



Bray Recycling Centre
Beechwood Close, Boghall Road, Bray.

Arklow Recycling Centre
Croghan Industrial Estate

Wicklow Recycling Centre
The Murrough, Wicklow Town

Greystones Municipal office's
Mill Road carpark

Saturday 22nd & Saturday 29th August
9 am to 1.00 pm



Bray & Wicklow Rotary Club



Wicklow County Council



Therese Hicks (left) and Grace Garde, who both spearheaded the recent production of the Newtownmountkennedy Heritage Map & Guide.

Get to know Newtown

Newtownmountkennedy & District Tidy Towns has announced a series of Heritage walks to celebrate their new Heritage Map and Guide.

People can take part in a socially distanced walk any day during Heritage Week, from Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd August. Participants should allow about two hours for the walk which will cover most of the Main Street and some of the Coillte woodlands.

There will be a knowledgeable tour guide to talk about the areas on the map. There will also be ushers present to help with social distancing and any practical issues that may arise.

Please bring adequate water and don't forget inhalers or medication or a piece of chocolate if you require them. Wear suitable walking shoes and, depending on the weather, bring light rainwear.

Tidy Towns look forward to welcoming residents and visitors alike on this heritage tour.

The meeting point for the socially distanced forest and Main Street tour is Texaco Garage, and the walks take place every day during Heritage Week between 2pm and 4pm.

You can go to heritage.wicklowheritage.org to find the Newtown Heritage Map route.

Ultra-Cycling Charity Challenge takes journey through Wicklow

A group of adventurers will bring their ultra-challenge to Co. Wicklow as they take on the ultimate task of cycling a whopping 1,900 kilometres across 32 counties in Ireland in just six days - all in aid of charity.

The 'Mayo Ultra-Cyclists' are a group of adventure cyclists who take on an ultra-cycling challenge for charity every year. Since 2016, they have completed 4,823km over four different cycles in just twelve days in five different countries and in the process have raised an incredible €88,000 for various local charities. More recent cycles have been the 2,000km trek from Lourdes to Knock in June 2019 and the 1,600km from Lands' End to John O Groats in June 2018.

On Sunday 16th August, this group is under taking the enormous challenge of cycling 1,900km through the 32 counties of Ireland from start to finish - all within six days - and in memory of James Alexander Moore, who was cared for in CHI at Temple Street.

They will be starting in Mayo and cycling clockwise through every county - a staggering 320km per day. Whilst doing this tough six-day, 1,900km ultra cycling challenge, they are using the



The Mayo 'Ultra-Cyclists' will travel through Wicklow as part of their 1,900km cycle around Ireland

opportunity to raise some much-needed funds for four deserving charities: Temple Street Foundation, Down Syndrome Ireland West, Mayo Roscommon Hospice, Turn2me.ie.

The event is self-financed by all the cyclists and all of the proceeds collected will go directly to this year's four chosen charities.

"Over the past three months, we have spent hours cycling the roads of Mayo, Galway & Sligo getting the long miles in. Typical training sessions entail 75 - 150km spins, early morning and late evening. We do this three times per week to condition the bodies and build up miles in the legs. While we are in pretty good shape physically, the 1,900km charity cycle over six days will be a huge challenge. This is our sixth charity ultra-cycle and we are really looking forward to it," says Alan Heaney, Mayo Ultra-Cyclists.

Denise Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of Temple Street Foundation, which is part of the Children's Health Foundation family said: "We are thrilled and so grateful to be chosen to benefit from the Mayo Ultra-Cyclists Challenge. The funds will be put to use in CHI at Temple Street where they are needed most - from funding vital, life-saving equipment and providing essential patient and parental supports to making ground-breaking paediatric research possible. On behalf of all the patients, families and staff of the hospital, thank you to everyone involved for your wonderful support."

Deirdre Saul, Interim CEO of Down Syndrome Ireland said: "We are so incredibly grateful for the fantastic support of the Mayo Ultra Cyclists who are taking on this challenge to raise much needed funds for us. Money raised will help us build a dedicated Down syndrome centre and fully accessible playground in Swinford, Mayo which will directly support children and adults with Down syndrome in the wider Western region."

The cyclists have thanked all who have donated to date, their wives and families for their support, fellow cyclists, virtual fans and last but not least their support team who will be at their beck and call for the whole 1,900km journey.

Project aims to halt the decline in Swift population

Wicklow is playing its part in protecting the Swift population in Ireland which is under serious threat due to the loss of nesting sites and suitable feeding habits.

However, there is a lot that can be done to halt the decline in Wicklow's Swift population.

The Wicklow Swift project, managed by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council with funding support from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Heritage Council, sets out to help protect this species and stop the decline.

"Following on from the 2019 survey of Swifts, we now know where Swifts occur in the county and which towns and villages host the biggest numbers. The support and active engagement of local communities is critical to building greater awareness of this unique bird species and in undertaking conservation action, locally where it is needed", commented Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer.

Swifts are a small migratory bird that visit

Ireland each year to nest. They travel from southern Africa in early summer, to spend only about 13 weeks in Ireland.

Despite restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, local co-ordinator Oran O'Sullivan, managed to focus efforts to get local communities and residents involved in proactive work to protect swifts.

One of the best activities is to provide suitable nesting sites near existing colonies. Working with the local authority in Wicklow and Arklow, the Library Service and community and Tidy Town groups, a project that will encourage Swifts to nest in 2021 is now in place.

Towns such as Arklow, Bray, Greystones, Rathdrum and Wicklow town have all come on board to provide nestboxes designed specifically for swifts. In west Wicklow, communities



Wicklow is playing its part in protecting the Swift population in Ireland which is under serious threat due to the loss of nesting sites and suitable feeding habits.

have similarly embraced the challenge, with Swift nestbox projects underway in Blessington, Dunlavin and Grangecon. "We are confident that other villages in Wicklow are suitable for swift nestbox schemes, why not contact us for advice and information," added Deirdre Burns.

If you would like to learn more about the

County Wicklow Swift Project and how you can get involved for next seasons project, contact the Wicklow Co Ordinator, Oran O'Sullivan, by email: oran@irishgardenbirds.ie. 'Saving Wicklow's Swifts' is an online presentation for Heritage Week 2020 (15th to 23rd Aug), visit www.heritageweek.ie for more.

Poetry is in bloom

Powerscourt Estate has launched a novel initiative to encourage people to connect with and be inspired by nature. To create inspirational stories, in the forms of poems and lyrics, as part of the "Poetry in Bloom" initiative.

This poetry initiative is an invitation to everyone from 7-year olds up to create a poem or write lyrics, inspired by nature they have observed at Powerscourt Gardens and Waterfall, throughout August and September 2020. All submissions are online and will automatically be entered into an open prize draw to win a variety of amazing prizes.

"Poetry in Bloom", was developed by Powerscourt, in partnership with creative writing organisation

Fighting Words and is in homage to the late Viscountess of Powerscourt Shelia Wingfield who was a gifted poet, with many of her poems inspired by nature and her surrounds at Powerscourt Estate. The initiative is supported this year by renowned International/Irish/ Hollywood actor Patrick Bergin. Patrick Bergin is a lover of poetry and a great supporter of the arts, especially encouraging and supporting poetry and the arts in the young in

London, Dublin, and LA. Patrick will be reading through the submissions to "Poetry in Bloom" and helping to select a number of poems to be used as a basis of a short poetry film to close the initiative.

Submissions can be sent to fiction@fightingwords.ie. Visit www.powerscourt.com/poetryinbloom or www.fightingwords.ie/poetryinbloom for more details. Facebook @powerscourtestate, Instagram @powerscourt_estate



Cousins (who spent the recent lockdown together) Charlie Miller, Scarlett Miller, Iveagh Slazenger and Lydia Slazenger pictured at the launch of the Powerscourt Estate 'Poetry in Bloom' nature poetry initiative at Powerscourt Estate.

HEATING, PLUMBING AND BATHROOM SUPPLIES



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

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Pictured at a Covid-19 adapted announcement of the Arts Council prestigious Next Generation award are Maureen Kennelly, Director of the Arts Council, Minister Catherine Martin, Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht and Kevin Rafter, Chair of the Arts Council along with 23 artists from around the country represent only in the form of their head shots

Wicklow artist receives Arts Council next generation award

Wicklow artist Hugh Farrell has been awarded a prestigious Next Generation award by the Arts Council, the government agency for funding and developing the arts.

The award means Hugh, involved in theatre, will receive €20,000, in effect to buy time to develop his practice. Hugh is just one of 23 artists from all over the country who has been selected for the award.

Artists will also take part in a collective week-long residential programme in The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, Co Monaghan, in early 2021. There, they will have the opportunity to engage with mentors and other supports to help shape their work into the future.

The Next Generation programme recognises and promotes a selection of artists from different disciplines, such as traditional arts, music, dance, film, theatre and literature.

Hugh Farrell said: "I'm absolutely chuffed to become a Next Generation Artist in 2020. This award gives me the stability to grow as a producer, dramaturg and writer, and the guidance of established mentors to transform my biggest ideas into reality."

Arts Council Director Maureen Kennelly said the agency had received a large number of applications for the award this year, and that the standard had been particularly high.

"All of the artists have demonstrated an exceptional ambition and vision for their work, and the Arts Council is delighted to support them," she said. "I look forward to following them in their work over the coming years."

Previous recipients of the Next Generation award have included Donegal poet Annemarie Ní Churraíin, Kerry musician and composer Alma Kelliher and traditional musician Liam Scanlon.

Gap Day - produced by Lian Bell and Mermaid Arts Centre

As lockdown begins to ease, venues and cultural organisations across the country are re-opening their doors to independent theatre artists for the Gap Day programme. This is one of the first small steps towards the theatre community being able to work again.

A Gap Day is where freelance theatre makers are paid to spend a day working creatively, hosted by a cultural organisation close to their home, and in 2020 there are 39 artists who will take 59 Gap Days in approximately 30 venues across the island. Finding time and space to think creatively during lockdown has been a challenge for many artists, while venue managers have been working hard to keep afloat.

Gap Day is a rare opportunity for theatre artists to be paid for their creative thinking time. Most freelance theatre artists work multiple jobs to survive, and time for creative thinking is often what gets squeezed out. It is widely acknowledged that the significant unpaid

and underpaid work done by individual freelancers and artists is what subsidises the creative industries to keep going.

The Arts Council's recent Paying The Artist policy, and the report of the Expert Advisory Group on the Covid 19 crisis in the arts both acknowledge how crucial the financial support of independent artists is within the sector. The National Campaign for the Arts recently estimated that 19,000 days of paid work for freelance artists and art workers have been lost to the end of April.

Producer Lian Bell says "After a really difficult few months for our community. Gap Day is a small beacon of hope, and signals that

artists can and should be supported and treated with dignity if we are to expect the performing arts to re-emerge from this crisis."

It's also a chance to forge connections between artists and venues at a local level. Gap Day has been run by creative producer Lian Bell and Mermaid Arts Centre since 2015, and one of the core intentions is to help strengthen the resilience of the performing arts ecology at a regional level.

After months of waiting, the first freelance theatre artists began to take their Gap Days in July, and will continue through the autumn. Gap Days is funded through Mermaid Arts Centre's grant from the Arts Council.

Macalla at The Mermaid

Mermaid Arts Centre is hosting an exhibition by Sinéad Ní Mhaonaigh, which opened to the public on Friday 14th August.

Sinéad Ní Mhaonaigh graduated in 2001 from Fine Art Painting, TUI Dublin. She was elected as an associate member of the Royal Hibernian Academy in 2018. In 2010 she was awarded The Hennessy Craig Scholarship and in 2019 awarded the HOTRON Art Award. In addition she was nominated for the prestigious John Moores Painting Prize, held as part of the AIB Prize shortlist, 2009, The Marmite Prize for Painting V shortlist, 2016 and the Liverpool Biennial, 2018.

Represented by Kevin Kavanagh Gallery, Ní Mhaonaigh has exhibited extensively in both Ireland and abroad, at venues including The Dock, Limerick City Gallery of Art, Anthony Slayter-Ralph Fine Art, Los Angeles, Centre Culturel Irlandais Paris, Millenium Court Arts Centre, Armagh, Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery, The Living Room Gallery, New York, Ard Bia Berlin. Ní Mhaonaigh's work is represented in numerous public and private collections including The Arts Council of Ireland/An

Chomhairle Ealaíon, Royal Hibernian Academy, Office of Public Works, Ernesto Ventós Barcelona, Limerick City Gallery of Art, Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, and Drogheda Municipal Art Collection at Highlanes Gallery. Irish Times Art Critic Aidan Dunne in a 2019 review of her work wrote "Ní Mhaonaigh's work certainly allows many readings and interpretations, but it is fair to say that it is not prescriptive in intent. And at its heart is an exceptional investment in and love for the medium of paint."

Sinéad's work to date has referred to spatial experience through her use of words in the Irish language that describe the lived environment. 'Imlíne, Eatramh, Iméall, Ardán. This alliterative litany of nouns in Irish is derived from titles of solo exhibitions Ní Mhaonaigh has presented nationally and internationally in various venues over the past decade. As their equivalent terms in English - 'Contour', 'Interval', 'Margin', 'Platform' - cumulatively suggest, a prevailing concern in her work is the elaboration



and exploration of bounded space. Given the particular nature of her painting, we are free to interpret this primarily in formal terms, as a concern with the construction of a pictorial architecture; or, alternatively, we may opt to relate it to the distinct varieties of socio-cultural or symbolic space invoked in individual pictures, and sometimes affirmed by their attendant titles. Such openness to ambiguity is telling. After all, she has always drawn freely on the legacy of modernist abstraction, while remaining happy to accommodate

what modernist painting's sternest gatekeeper, the American critic Clement Greenberg, dismissed as 'homeless representation' more than half a century ago. This determined indeterminacy, if we might call it that, has been a consistent aspect of her working method from the outset. Sinéad prefers to regard vagueness as a virtue rather than a vice, and prize evasion as a useful strategy as an artist.

Exhibition runs until Saturday 3rd October 2020, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free.

Wicklow artist shortlisted for Zurich Portrait Prize 2020

Wicklow artist Nicholas Benedict Robinson has been shortlisted for the Zurich Portrait Prize 2020 at the National Gallery of Ireland, for his painting Dr Maeve Robinson, Family Planning Doctor & Educator.

Twenty-six artists, working across a variety of different media, have made it through to the final stage of the Zurich Portrait Prize, while 20 young artists aged between three and eighteen years old have been shortlisted for the Zurich Young Portrait Prize.

The winner of the Zurich Portrait Prize will receive a prize of €15,000 and a commission worth €5,000 to create a new work for inclusion in the National Portrait Collection at the National Gallery of Ireland.

An exhibition of works shortlisted for the Zurich Portrait Prize and Zurich Young Portrait Prize will open at the National Gallery of Ireland on 21 November 2020. Following the success of the run of last year's exhibitions at Crawford Art Gallery, the Zurich Portrait Prize and Zurich Young Portrait Prize will travel to Cork once again in April 2021.

Sean Rainbird, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland, said, "In November, our visitors will be able to see wonderful new works by artists of all ages at the Gallery, and later at Crawford Art Gallery in Cork. It's terrific to welcome Zurich back to partner with us once again to showcase portraiture in such an exciting way."

Neil Freshwater, CEO of Zurich, said, "The quality of works shortlisted for both the Zurich Portrait Prize and Zurich Young Portrait Prize is impressive,

and we are delighted to see such a diverse selection in this year's competitions. We look forward to seeing these works unveiled in the Gallery in November and enjoying the new perspectives that they bring. We are very proud to continue to sponsor these prizes and to foster the creativity of artists of all ages."



Dr Maeve Robinson, Family Planning Doctor & Educator, oil on birchwood, by Nicholas Benedict Robinson

Wicklow business women proceed to next stage of Network Ireland Awards

Network Ireland Wicklow has re-launched the 2020 Businesswoman of the Year awards in response to the current circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking about the awards, Network Ireland Wicklow President, Dawn Leane said "The businesswoman of the year awards allow you to look at the bigger picture of your business and yourself, particularly as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. It's important that we all acknowledge and celebrate our successes and triumphs during this time".

Continuing Dawn says "We have been blown away by the response to our awards and the quality of applicants that have stepped up to demonstrate their power within".

The judging took place over Zoom on the 6th of August. Judging this year's applicants were; Tony Dignam - Managing Director of The Agile Executive; Ciara O'Connor - CEO of East Coast FM; Joe Lynch - CEO of Sunbeam House Services; Vibeke

Delahunt - Head of Enterprise - Local Enterprise Office Wicklow; Alice McGarry - AIB (Official Network Ireland Sponsors); Rachael Dagg - AIB (Official Network Ireland Sponsors).

The awards night will be held on 21st August in the stunning Belmont Demesne. Tickets are on sale now through EventBrite but are strictly limited in numbers due to Social Distancing guidelines. It is advised that you book early to avoid disappointment.

Network Ireland Wicklow are proud to have Sunbeam House Services as their charity partner for 2020. Sunbeam House Services CLG (SHS) is a voluntary organisation, registered as a charity with the Revenue Commissioners and the Charities Regulator in Ireland and is also an Approved Housing Body. The charity provides a wide range

of services to adults with intellectual disabilities in Wicklow and South County Dublin in compliance with national standards monitored by HIQA. Sunbeam House Services is primarily funded by the Health Service Executive but does receive other grants and donations to fund its work. We aim to empower people with the necessary skills to live full and satisfying lives as equal citizens of their local communities. We do this through appropriate housing, creative day services, job supports, respite services, school leaver programs, training and a range of other community supports to over 470 clients. Sunbeam House Services in one of the largest employers in Wicklow with over 500 staff.

Each category are being sponsored by local businesses: Emerging Business - Eva Blake Photography; Power

Within Champion - Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy; Online Business Transformation - Pretty Woman Greystones.

If you would like to support these awards, there are a number of packages still available. Please contact wicklow@networkireland.ie for more information.

Established in 1983, Network Ireland now has over 1,200 members across fifteen branches around Ireland. Each year they organise over 200 events for members. They also run several flagship national events, including an International Women's Day Celebration and the Annual Conference and Business Awards. In Wicklow, they welcome all to join them at their two monthly events, an evening event with guest speaker and an informal networking breakfast meeting, all of which are currently taking place on Zoom.



Henry Vance with Daniel Tully and Audrey Vance in Bray School Project at the launch of Health Desk Pads.

Bray company launches pad for schools that kill 99.95% of all known viruses

An Irish company is creating 10 new jobs with the launch of desk pads for schools which kill 99.95% of all known viruses.

Specialist print management company RV International, based in Bray, is partnering with a German company which has developed a water-based varnish that can be applied to a wide range of materials following the discovery of an antimicrobial agent at the University Hospital Regensburg.

"We're delighted to provide 10 new jobs and to help with what most people in the country want - getting children back to school in a safe and healthy way," says Rory Vance, Managing Director of RV International.

"The schools will open, this helps them stay open. We have already filled three of those positions and we plan to recruit for the other seven over the next 12 months, primarily in sales and logistics.

"We at RV International are delighted to be the first company in Ireland to introduce Lock 3 to its customers.

"We're very excited by our product which gives

long-term protection against pathogens - germs, bacteria and viruses remain active on surfaces for long periods of time and disinfection only helps at the moment of application.

"The Healthy Pad with the clinically tested Lock 3 water-based varnish is the perfect solution for schools and creches as it is guaranteed for 12 months.

"This closes gaps in hygiene, reduces the risk of germ transmission and consequently increases safety for our children and teachers.

"This varnish is environmentally safe, fully recyclable and contains no harmful metals or chemicals."

The patented Lock 3 substance takes advantage of the principle of photo dynamics which is activated by visible light - which transfers this energy to the surrounding oxygen. So-called singlet oxygen is created, which efficiently kills germs by oxidizing the germ shell.

Smarter Surfaces named as SFA's Exporter of the Year

Smarter Surfaces was recently presented with the 'Exporter of the Year' award at the SFA awards ceremony sponsored by Enterprise Ireland. The annual Small Firms Associations' awards celebrate the achievements, innovation and excellence of businesses across a wide range of industries in Ireland and to recognise their vital contribution to the Irish economy.

Founded in 2011, by Arklow native Ronan Clarke, Smarter Surfaces is now a leading manufacturer of innovative commercial wallcoverings, films, paints and plasters designed to help businesses increase collaboration

and productivity by making walls writable, magnetic and projectable.

Founder of Smarter Surfaces, Ronan Clarke said, "I am delighted to accept this award on behalf of the entire Smarter Surfaces team as well as our customers worldwide. To be recognised among so many other successful Irish companies and to receive this award is a boost for us all particularly during these challenging economic times.

"I would like to thank the Small Firms Association for putting together a brilliant programme this year despite constraints and I wish to extend my congratulations to each of this year's finalists."

Enterprise Ireland Regional Director in Dublin, Eoghan Hanrahan added, "Over the past 9 years, Smarter Surfaces has steadily expanded its business and boosted its global presence with its innovative solutions. In being recognised at this year's 'Exporter of the Year', the Smarter Surfaces team are demonstrating that entering overseas markets and exporting can lead a business to new heights of success.

"Enterprise Ireland is committed to ensuring that these companies are supported and encouraged to generate world beating products and services. This award reflects the tireless work and effort that Irish entrepreneurs invest into forging a strong and resilient business. Well done to Smarter Surfaces on a well deserved recognition."

Ronan is a proven entrepreneur with a background in construction and property investment at home and overseas. From 1998 to 2008, Ronan founded and managed a successful multi-million euro construction business, which employed fifty staff. In 2011, Ronan founded Smart Wall Paint. Ronan's entrepreneurial talent has been recognised with the awarding of the 2013 David Manley Business Category Award and the 2013 PwC Docklands Innovation Awards. In 2015, Smart Wall Paint rebranded to Smarter Surfaces to reflect the growing range of products.



Pictured from left to right; Ronan Clarke - Smarter Surfaces, Audiola Lumnica - Smarter Surfaces, John Byrne - Smarter Surfaces; Front Centre, Sven - SFA Back Centre; Marta Giovannini - Smarter Surfaces, Eoghan Hanrahan - Enterprise Ireland.

Getting your business back up and running post-Covid

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Wicklow works as a first-stop shop for new entrepreneurs, existing micro-enterprise and small business owners in County Wicklow. The LEO is the front door through which all information on State supports for small and micro-businesses can be accessed and signposted to other supports and agencies.

Due to the impact of the COVID 19 lockdown on local businesses LEO Wicklow has seen a sharp increase in the number of businesses availing of the Trading Online Voucher Scheme.

The Voucher worth a maximum of €2,500 or 90% of eligible expenditure has provided to many businesses through the past few months the ability to trade with their customers/clients in new, socially distant ways.

With this increase in demand the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, along with the other 30 Local Enterprise Offices, welcomed additional funding worth €19.8 million through the July Jobs Stimulus Package for the Trading Online Voucher Scheme. The LEO encourages micro businesses to check the Trading Online offer on their website and apply for this support.

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar TD had this to say about the announcement made by Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD: "The stimulus package is the next

step in our national recovery story. It is designed to help businesses which haven't reopened yet and those struggling to do so. We have listened to businesses and responded with a package of scale and speed to meet their most immediate needs."

Along with this support Local Enterprise Office Wicklow has launched its Autumn/Winter Training Programme which offers a range of training courses that are specifically designed to assist entrepreneurs whether they are in the pre-start, start, or grow phase of business in County Wicklow. Course are as follows:

- Start Your Own Business Courses (over 10 weeks) commencing 25th August & 22nd September 2020 - Online delivery.
- Trading Online Voucher Seminar - 25th August 2020 - Online
- Essential Idea Exploration: Proven Tools & Techniques to Test the Market - 23rd September 2020 - Online
- Tax & Vat for Start Up Businesses - 12th, 14th & 16th

October 2020 - Online

- Design Your Own Social Media Campaign: Beginners - 12th November 2020 - Online
- Bookkeeping for Small Businesses - 19th & 26th November 2020 - Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew
- Bookkeeping Using Excel - 3rd December 2020 - Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew.

All Business Advice Clinics and client interactions through the Local Enterprise Office continue to be facilitated remotely in order to ensure safety of staff, business advisors and members of the public. For those who wish to speak to a Business Advisor in a free, one-to-one, and confidential meeting facilitated remotely, call Local Enterprise Office Wicklow on 0404 30800 to schedule your appointment. All training courses and further information on the Trading Online Voucher scheme can be booked on the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow's website: www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow



Pictured at the launch of Open Week 2020 at Arklow Golf Club, are Alex Hutchman, Captain; Deborah Coleman, SSE Renewables and Phyllis O'Rourke, Lady Captain. Open Week is sponsored by SSE Renewables, the energy company developing the second phase of Arklow Bank Wind Park off the coast of Arklow

PLANNING • PLANNING • PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission is sought for construction of new bungalow dwelling on site at Birch Grove, Kilfin, Laragh, Co Wicklow, Eircode A98C1P3, for Rob and Talita Dagg. The application includes the provision of a gateway, driveway, soakaways, well, domestic biofiltration sewage treatment unit, and associated siteworks. 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

Application is being made to Wicklow County Council by Richard & Catherina Kilbride for Planning Permission for a one storey extension to an existing dwelling and retention and alterations to an existing extension including all ancillary site works at Coolboy, Tinahely, Arklow, Co Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission is sought for removal of existing mobile home, and for construction in its place of a new lower-garden-level extension comprising of a bedroom, en-suite bathroom, and study area, all at 71, The Grove Cottages, Redford, Greystones, Co Wicklow, (Eircode A63VH34), for John Hoban and Maeve Meister. This extension will be at lower garden level immediately adjoining the rear of the existing house, and the flat roof of the extension will be presented as a deck to replace the deck already existing on site. 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, Emmett & Fiona Kinsella, intend to apply for planning permission for development site at Ballyguile Beg, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of a new dwelling, garage, secondary effluent treatment system to current EPA guidelines, percolation area, new entrance, and all associated site development works. 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. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Planning Authority of the application and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions or may refuse to grant permission.

'Restart Grant Plus will help more businesses to re-open'

The recently launched Restart Grant Plus will help businesses in Wicklow reopen and will help local people get back to work, Minister Simon Harris has said.

"The Restart Grant Plus is a key part of the government's July Stimulus package, a €7.4bn package of measures designed to stimulate a jobs-led recovery and build economic confidence while continuing to manage the impact of Covid-19.

"This expanded and improved Restart Grant Plus will see €300m additional funding in addition to the €250m previously committed.

"The Grant amount has increased substantially. The minimum grant available is now €4,000 up from €2,000 previously. The maximum grant available is €25,000, a significant increase from €10,000 previously.

"More Wicklow businesses could now find themselves eligible for

this grant than before, and key Businesses that received a grant under the first scheme can re-apply to receive addi-

tional funding. Non-rateable B&Bs, sports clubs with commercial activities and trading charity shops are now eligible.

Previously only small companies could apply for this grant but now medium sized companies are also eligible.

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. St Therese Little Flower, St Catherine, St Pio, hear my prayer. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail
B.D.; G.B.

Gospel: Luke 6: 20-26

Fixing his eyes on his disciples Jesus said: 'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! this was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

C.J.

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New Renault Zoe Electric shows its spurs

One aspect of Wicklow that has encouraged international motor manufacturers to use our county as a venue for global car launches is the mixture of history, geography and mixed roads that it offers. Driving in Wicklow can be a lovely adventure.



As an example, to drive the old Military Road which runs from Rathfarnham to Aghavannagh is steeped in history, transits magnificent geography and provides a great test of man and machine - all in less than two hours. Google map says it takes 1h 7min - but why rush?

The 1798 rebellion shook the confidence of the British Empire and the savagery with which it was put down ensured the embers to ignite the next rebellion smouldered afterwards. The county where the rebels held out longest and were most difficult to capture was Wicklow and this was why Dublin Castle provided huge funds to run a road right down the middle of the Wicklow highlands - with four barracks along to way.

The Road, still fully intact, starts at the Yellow House Pub, ascends up to Glenree, then onto the Sally Gap, down in Laragh, from where it

heads south westerly and finishes in Aghavannagh.

Construction started in earnest in May 1800 and even though the resistance leader Michael Dwyer was captured in 1803, construction continued in 1809.

In a good Irish tradition, the local landowners lobbied Dublin Castle hard to get the route to go through their lands - in the hope of improving its value.

I drove the 60 km route recently and it is immensely charming, poignant in places, but also with so much to admire - the scenery and the construction of the road itself which was a huge challenge especially to get the men and materials in all weathers to the work sites.

Renault have been making electric cars for more than a decade and now at last the cars are become a practical option - with sensible range, sensible prices - and the inherent advantage of

By Martin McCarthy

smooth and ultra-reliable motoring.

The new Zoe looks great, costs €26,990, has a summertime range of 350km + and what I discovered is that it is superb in hilly terrains. The torque at low speed makes it ideal for this type countryside - certainly compared to a manual transmission petrol or diesel car.

It is worth considering spending an additional

€800 for CCS fast charging capability

The R115 terminates at Laragh, at a junction with the R 755 and the 'Wicklow Gap' road, R756 The Military Road continues south past Glenmalur to Aghavannagh.

For many years, the road was used as a special stage in the Circuit of Ireland car rally and in 1979 local Formula One driver Derek Daly drove his only Rally stage at a

special event at Aghavannagh forest. I mention this because the Zoe is quick - 0-100kph in 11.4 seconds but the more powerful version gets there is less than 10 seconds.

More than 200,000 Zoe's have been sold since launch and being Ireland's most affordable electric car, the French have high hopes that this is the car to bring electric power mainstream, in Wicklow and Ireland.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which future permanent /temporary vacancies may be filled

• PERMANENT PART-TIME BRANCH LIBRARIAN

REF: 07/2020 Salary - hourly rate of €12.49 - €20.61 gross including LSI 1

• PERMANENT TECHNICIAN GRADE 1

REF: 26/2020 Salary €40,098 - €47,981 per annum gross

• PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (GRADE VII)

REF: 28/2020 Salary €49,835 to €64,786 per annum gross includes 2nd LSI

• PERMANENT SENIOR STAFF OFFICER (GRADE VI)

REF: 29/2020 Salary €47,588 to €58,157 per annum gross includes 2nd LSI

• PERMANENT STAFF OFFICER (GRADE V)

REF: 30/2020 Salary €42,777 to €51,374 per annum gross includes 2nd LSI

• PERMANENT LIBRARY ASSISTANT

REF: 32/2020 Salary €24,120 to €39,793 per annum gross includes 2nd LSI

Application Forms and further details may be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 or by emailing recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie and on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST 2020 SHARP.

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Lorraine Gallagher
Acting Director Of Services
Enterprise & Corporate Services
Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings, Wicklow
Phone: 0404 20159, Fax: 0404 20112
e-mail: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

RECRUITMENT



MUNSTER JOINERY

SERVICE ENGINEERS

MUNSTER JOINERY are currently looking to recruit a **Service Engineer** to repair and maintain windows and doors in **Wicklow and County Wicklow.**

Candidates must be:

- Able to work on their own initiative by planning and organising their daily workload
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- Carpentry / Cabinet Making / Building - Experience Essential

A full clean Driving Licence is essential as company transport will be provided. Full training will be provided.

In you are interested in applying for the is position, please forward a current CV via email to: hr@munsterjoinery.ie

www.munsterjoinery.ie



Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin

Kildare and Wicklow ETB applications from suitably qualified persons for the post of:

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Dr. Deirdre Keyes, Chief Executive



etb

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Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin
Kildare and Wicklow
Education and Training Board

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PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS
AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY





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