

WICKLOW Times

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SOUTH EDITION



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Tuesday 1st September 2020 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

FEAR 3000 JOBS WILL BE LOST

A local County Wicklow travel agency has started a petition to highlight a lack of support from the Government and the serious crisis they are currently facing. It was started by Linda Jones from the Travel Boutique in Bray. Travel agencies from Greystones and Arklow have lent their support to the petition also, with thousands of jobs in travel agencies now on the line due to the Government's restrictions on non-essential travel.

The petition has gained widespread public support from around the country, with over 3,000 people signing it so far.

Since March travel agents have worked for zero income processing thousands of refund requests and changing holidays for their clients.

"The travel industry is the most highly regulated sector with all travel agents Government licensed and bonded to protect all of clients. We are all viable businesses and our goal is to retain all our staff and get through this crisis together. We need people's support in lobbying the government

to help save our industry and protect the livelihoods of the 3,500 people. What we are looking for is the wage subsidy to be retained as it is. We also need a Government grant for our industry which has been devastated by the Pandemic."

Linda says that their pleas for help to the Government have been ignored so far and that the supports announced to date are inappropriate for a business that has been handing out cash to

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Pictured is Robyn Whelan starting her first day of school at Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mor, Arklow

customers for the past six months and is likely to be doing so for another nine months.

Linda adds "Our companies' retained reserves have been almost wiped out in keeping the company operating and servicing the refunds, etc. for our clients. The change in the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) from €350 per week to the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) of €203 per week will effectively make 3,000 people unemployed from 31st August.

"We need to have the wage subsidy retained and to get a grant for our industry to help us to keep our doors open and save jobs. We feel the Government just do not understand what a micro-business is and have designed supports for an entirely different type of business."

"In just a few short hours, the 'Support Irish Travel' petition has got 3,000 signatories and substantial donations to fund a campaign. This will only get much bigger until we manage to get the Government to listen.

"Our experience is that the Government do not understand the effect their non-essential travel ban has had on our businesses as it has effectively stopped us trading. Young Irish people, with mortgages, creche fees, utility bills are being made redundant in their hundreds already; Soon to be thousands. We have good forward business but need to get to Easter of next year. Without tailored supports from the Government this will not be possible."

To sign the petition, go to change.org and search for 'save 3000 Irish travel industry jobs'.

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Under 16s girls medalists Jessica Doyle, Lucy Greene, Jessica Kelly, Lauren Johnston, and Meadbh Wogan Murphy, are pictured before the 'Braystones 500', a fundraising collaboration to raise much needed funds to increase participation in traditional skiff rowing in the communities of Bray and Greystones. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Cumann na mBunscol

After careful consideration and taking into account the guidance from the Department of Education and the National Cumann na mBunscol Committee, the decision has been made not to hold any activities in this term. The National Committee will meet again on the 31st of October and provide further information at that time in line government guidance.

"Cumann na mBunscol aim to resume activities as soon as possible but the health and safety of all children and teachers is our priority at this time. We are also very much aware of the huge change that lies ahead of us as we return to school and the immense work that is being done by schools and teachers in ensuring that all children return to the classroom safely. We wish all school communities the best of luck on their return to school in the coming days."

Rathdrum Cancer Support Group

Rathdrum Cancer Support Group is looking for volunteers for transportation of clients to and from hospital for appointments. If you hold a full Irish Driving licence and would like to volunteer to drive please contact Bill Porter on 087 2928660. Applicants must live within a 5 mile radius of Rathdrum.

Valhalla extras

The 'Vikings: Valhalla' TV series is currently casting extras, however no more open casting days will be held due to current Covid-19 restrictions. For further information and application forms, please email extras@vhproductions.ie. They are looking for people from all backgrounds and filming will take place in Ireland.

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Glendalough Heritage Forum

Visit Glendalough Heritage website at glendalough.wicklowheritage.org. Explore local history collections and discover unique articles, photographs, documents, oral histories and personal stories. Glendalough Heritage Forum is working together to record and make accessible the county's rich built, natural and cultural heritage. You are invited to participate by contributing your information, stories and photographs.

Tree Planting Grant

Applications are now being accepted for Wicklow County Council's Tree Planting Grant. Trees are to be planted in public places for native or designated trees. The grant will cover 75% of the cost of the trees to a maximum of €500. Trees should be planted in suitable places to allow them to reach full potential and to minimise future maintenance issues.

Greystones Municipal District will be consulted to ensure good site selection. Details and application available from James Callery, 0404 20100, jcallery@wicklowcoco.ie.

Katie Taylor Bursary

Applications are now open for the Katie Taylor Bursary sponsored by Wicklow County Council.

The Bursary was established to honour one of County Wicklow's greatest ever sports persons, who added to her astonishing list of achievements at the weekend when she retained her lightweight world champion title.

The aim of this Bursary is to support a sports person who is entering college to continue playing the sport/sports they love, while in third level education, and is worth €1,500 per year for up to four years. In order to apply: You must be a resident of county Wicklow; you do not have to be studying a sports related course; You must be entering 1st year of college; You can be playing at a high level in ANY sport; The bursary is open to Male and Female applicants.

Closing date for applications is Friday, 2nd October 2020. For further information and an application, please contact Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership on 0404 - 20100 or wicklowsp@wicklowcoco.ie.

Clarification

We wish to clarify that in the article in last week's issue on Bray's heroin crisis (page 12, August 25th), Aontú representative Mr Ciaran Hogan was incorrectly referred to as Mr Hayden. We regret any confusion caused.

Huge demand for Lions masks

Since the members of Wicklow and District Lions Club launched their very own Face Masks with the club's own distinctive logo there has been huge demand from not only the local community but from various Lions clubs far and near.

Banbridge Lions Club and Bray Lions have come up with this novel idea during very difficult times.

Masks are available from Joe and Olive in Curtain and Blinds in Wicklow as well as Jimmy Balbontin from his stall in Kilmacanogue on Fridays and South Quay in Wicklow every Saturday or from any member of the Lions.

Any club can purchase them directly and have their own design and logo printed on the masks and supplied by Wicklow Lions.

Unfortunately masks are going to be with us for quite some time and the local Wicklow club is the first club in the country to

come up with this novel idea during very difficult times.

Masks are available from Joe and Olive in Curtain and Blinds in Wicklow as well as Jimmy Balbontin from his stall in Kilmacanogue on Fridays and South Quay in Wicklow every Saturday or from any member of the Lions.

The club is very grateful to Eamonn White for his ongoing support to so many Lions projects.



Leo the Lion modeling a Lions Club Covid mask

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

We know, according to the most recent statistics available to us, that there are 1,485 people in County Wicklow who are living with vision impairment or blindness.

Our free course for people with sight loss will begin online on Thursday, September 17 and run every Thursday from 11am to 3pm. The course will finish Thursday, October 15.

Living with Sight Loss is designed to increase the confidence and independence of people who are living with any form of sight loss. The informal course will provide information and practical advice on a range of essential everyday topics such as getting out and about, information about welfare rights, and how technology can make life that bit easier.

Places are limited and must be booked in advance by contacting Fighting Blindness on 01 674 6496 or neotalk@fightingblindness.ie. To find out more, visit fightingblindness.ie.

Yours sincerely,
Peter O'Toole
Head of Support and Counselling
Fighting Blindness



Elaine Hackman, Jamie Webb, David Hackman, and Ger Pender at the Queen of Peace Confirmations ceremony for St. Cronin's. Pic: Joe McQuillan

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'FAST TRACK THE DOUBLE TRACK'

The planned DART+ programme will result in an enhanced DART service with a double track between Bray and Greystones, it's been announced. However, it could be several years before it's delivered.

The Minister for Transport, Eamonn Ryan TD announced that the DART+ enhancement will start with improvements to the Maynooth line, with a planned completion in late 2024. The enhanced service to Greystones is included in a later phase of the programme.

In May the tender for the design of the tracks and signalling was sent out by Irish Rail as part of the design of the Coastal line from Drogheda to Greystones.

It's hoped that an enhanced DART service will help to alleviate the problem of traffic congestion on the N11.

Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, Cllr Derek Mitchell, has welcomed the news that the planned DART+ enhancement will benefit Greystones.

Cllr Mitchell explained: "In a January 2018 study I set out how to do a 20-minute DART service from Greystones (it's currently every 30 mins), because the Greystones service was being ignored. Subsequently the National Transport Authority got Jacobs Engineering to validate this and it is now firmly



Cllr Derek Mitchell

in their plan. The plan is to partially double track the line from Greystones to the tunnel with a shorter double track from the Bray end."

According to Irish Rail, "DART+ is a transformative programme of projects that aims to modernise and improve existing rail services in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA). It will provide a sustainable, electrified, reliable and more frequent rail service, improving capacity on rail corridors serving Dublin.

"The current DART network is 50km long, extending from Malahide/ Howth to Greystones. The DART+ programme will increase the length of the DART network to 150km of railway corridor through



John Brady TD

the electrification and upgrade of existing lines transforming commuter train travel in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA). The DART+ Programme also includes the purchase of a new train fleet."

In a letter to John Brady TD in July, Hugh Creegan, Deputy Chief Executive of the National Transport Authority (NTA), explained that the 2018 study "was intended to be a high-level concept study. It was completed in April 2019 and the broad conclusion of the work undertaken was

that with extensions of the twin track on either side of Bray Head, which then shortens the single line section through the various tun-

nels on Bray Head, it would be feasible to operate a 20-minute DART service with careful management of the timetable and signalling system.

"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."

Mr Creegan also said that it is likely to be a number of years before this proposal, if approved, could be delivered.

Deputy Brady has urged the Government and NTA to make the improvements on the Greystones line a priority.

"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," he said.



Ailbhe O'Riordan, Emily Conan, Alison Cronin and Lisa Smith of Bray Rowing Club are pictured at the 'Greystones 500', a fundraising collaboration to raise much needed funds to increase participation in traditional skiff rowing in the communities of Bray and Greystones. Pic: Joe McQuillan

'Nursing Home Report must lead to urgent reform'

The report on Covid-19 in nursing homes which was published recently must lead to urgent reform of the sector, Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said.

Deputy Whitmore said "I welcome the publication of this report but it must lead to the urgent reform of the sector to ensure the highest standard of care and statutory clinical oversight at public and private nursing homes. This is particularly important as we face into a resurgence of Covid in the community."

"The report highlighted the glaring gaps in the system which led to so many deaths of vulnerable people in our nursing homes during this pandemic. We saw first hand the devastating impact of this on our elderly in Wicklow. We need to rapidly rethink how we approach the care of vulnerable, older people as it is obvious that privatisation is not working for this sector."

"Key recommendations of the report include the development of infection prevention and control strategies in nursing home settings, as well as the need for a robust and effective test and trace programme. It says the influenza vaccine should be prioritised for all residents and consideration should be given to making it mandatory for staff. It also recommends a review of the employment terms and conditions of healthcare workers in the sector and seeks to end the practice of staff working in multiple nursing homes, which has been considered a factor in the spread of the virus. These are all important recommendations that must be implemented urgently, if we are to avoid repeating the costly mistakes of the past."

Permission granted for care home in Rathdrum's Market Square

Wicklow County Council has approved a planning application from Pintarus Ltd for a three-story care home with over 100 beds in Rathdrum's Market Square.

Rathdrum Development Association and Rathdrum Tidy Towns were among those who submitted objections to the development.

Rathdrum Tidy Towns said they felt the development is too large for the area and "will only add to the chronic traffic problems" of the village, and that it's "contrary to the objectives" of the Rathdrum Development Plan.

Rathdrum Development Association believe that "the height and bulk of this development is not in keeping with the architecture of the town. The additional traffic generated by this development [...] will greatly add to the already chaotic situation with traffic in Rathdrum".

Frieds of Rathdrum/St. Colman's also submitted an objection, citing potential traffic issues. They raise the concern that "If an emergency arose requiring a fire brigade or ambulance, time delay in emergency provision could have a serious impact on an outcome for the individuals in need of attention due to traffic congestion". They

also say that "St Colman's already meets this need with ties to the Community and day care facilities".

The site is an unused Brownfield site bounded by Brewery Lane and Back Lane.

The development will consist of the demolition of existing derelict structures, the construction of a part two-storey and part three-storey care home building consisting of 119 beds, external landscaped areas, a roof top landscape garden, 65 car parking spaces, six bicycle parking spaces, and pedestrian entrance link.

The derelict structures were constructed on foot of the previous granting of planning permission but left unfinished.

The Council's planner's report concluded that "Having regard to the location of the proposed development and the provisions of the Rathdrum Local Area Plan 2017 in relation to this area, it is considered that subject to compliance with the conditions, the proposed development would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or properties in the vicinity; would be acceptable in terms of traffic safety and convenience and would therefore be in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area."

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Rachel Doyle at the communions ceremony at the Queen of Peace Church in Bray for St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's schools.
Pic: Joe McQuillan

Hospice Coffee Morning

Together for Hospice, which consists of fundraising representatives of Hospice and specialist palliative homecare services throughout the country, have launched this year's Hospice Coffee Morning.

The campaign is celebrating its 28th year and Hospices nationwide together with long-standing partner Bewley's, are calling on the people of Wicklow to host a coffee morning on Thursday 24th September to help raise vital funds for Wicklow Hospice Foundation.

This year due to COVID 19 restrictions, coffee morning hosts are encouraged to host socially distanced or virtual coffee mornings to ensure the safety of attendees and that government guidelines are adhered to. It is hoped that this year's events, whether held in small groups in homes or virtually with colleagues and friends, will raise much needed funds for hospices across Ireland, to meet growing demands for the services.

To register to host a coffee morning on Thursday 24th September, or on a date that suits you, go to www.hospicecoffeemorning.ie or call 1890 998 995. Hosts are provided with a Coffee Morning Pack containing Bewley's coffee, posters and invitations free of charge. Remember, every cup counts.

The public can support Hospice Coffee Morning Together with Bewley's on Thursday 24th September 2020 by: Hosting a Virtual Coffee Morning; Hosting a Socially distanced Coffee Morning with a small group of family or friends; If you can't host or attend a coffee morning, please consider making a donation to your local hospice. Text COFFEE to 50300 to donate €4. (Text costs €4. Hospice Coffee Morning Together with Bewley's will receive a minimum of €3.60. Service Provider: LIKECHARITY. Helpline: 076 6805278.)

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Flooding leads to contamination of Kirakee water supply

Irish Water working in partnership with Wicklow County Council has issued a 'Do Not Use' notice for customers on the Kirakee public water supply serving approximately 90 people.

The notice was issued after consultation with the Health Service Executive (HSE). The water treatment plant and a raw water borehole flooded following heavy rainfall and subsequent flood of the Avonbeg River, which has contaminated the drinking water from the plant.

The water treatment plant has now been shut down temporarily, therefore this Do Not Consume notice applies to any water remaining in the network at this time. Customers on the Kirakee public water supply will be impacted by a water outage while works are carried out at the plant.

It is especially important that mains drinking water is not given to bottle fed infants.

This is not a Boil Water Notice. Boiling the water is not a suitable measure to make the water safe to consume. This notice does not apply to any other areas or water schemes in County Wicklow.

Irish Water and Wicklow County Council last week mobilised water tankers which have been made available at Kirakee community hall and Ballinacor

Community Park last Tuesday evening.

Irish Water's drinking water compliance and operational experts are working with colleagues in the Wicklow County Council to resolve this situation as soon as possible.

Water from the supply should not be used for: Drinking; Drinks made with water; Food preparation, washing or cooking of food; Brushing of teeth; Making of ice. In particular, children under 12 months old should not drink this water.

This water should not be used for making up infant formula for bottle fed infants. An alternative source of water should be used. Bottled water can also be used to make up infant formula. All bottled water, with the exception of natural mineral water, is regulated to the same standard as drinking water. It is best not to use bottled water labelled as 'Natural Mineral Water' as it can have high levels of sodium (salt) and other minerals, although it rarely does.

'Natural Mineral Water' can be used if no other water is available, for as short a time as possible, as it is important to keep

babies hydrated.

If bottled water is used to make up infant formula it should be boiled once (rolling boil for 1 minute), and cooled in the normal way.

Ready-to-use formula that does not need added water can also be used.

Domestic water filters will not render water safe to drink.

Caution should be taken when bathing infants to ensure that they do not swallow the bathing water.

Discard ice cubes in fridges and freezers and filtered water in fridges. The water can be used for personal hygiene, bathing, flushing toilets, laundry and washing of utensils.

Irish Water and Wicklow County Council will continue to liaise with the Health Service Executive with a view to lifting this drinking water restriction as soon as practicable.

Updates will be available on our Water Supply Updates section, on Twitter @IWCare and via the customer care helpline, open 24/7 on 1850 278 278.

Irish Water progressing with water main replacement works in Ashford

Irish Water is working in partnership with Wicklow County Council to replace old, problematic water mains in Main Street, Ashford to reduce high levels of leakage and provide a more reliable water supply for the community.

These works begin on Monday 31st August in line with Government and HSE guidance, and will be carried out by Ward and Burke Ltd on behalf of Irish Water. The works will involve the replacement of approximately 2,624 metres of problematic water mains along Main Street with high density polyethylene (plastic) pipes. Works will also involve laying new water service connections from the public water mains to customers' property boundaries and connecting it to the customers' water supply.

Short-term water shut-offs may be necessary, however, Irish Water will ensure that customers are given a minimum of 48 hours' notice prior to any planned supply disruptions. To facilitate the safe delivery of the works, temporary road closures and traffic management will be in place and the local community will be notified in advance. Diversion routes will be clearly

signposted and emergency and restricted local access will be maintained. Irish Water and Wicklow County Council regret any inconvenience these necessary works may cause.

Speaking about these works, Joe Carroll, Irish Water's Regional Lead, commented "These works are vital to ensure a more secure water supply to homes and businesses in Ashford and are part of a significant investment by Irish Water to safeguard the water supply. We understand this type of work can be inconvenient and we will ensure our work crews make every effort to minimise any disruption these works may cause."

These works are being carried out as part of Irish Water's national Leakage Reduction Programme which involves an investment of over €500 million between 2017 and 2021 and helps provide a more reliable water supply to Irish communities, reduce

high levels of leakage and improve water quality. To date, Irish Water has saved almost 1.9 million litres of water per day across Wicklow following a collaborative and strategic approach to reducing leakage. This is the equivalent amount of water used daily by

14,700 people and involved replacing

almost 20km of ageing water mains and repairing over 250 leaks through the First Fix Free scheme. The First Fix Free scheme alone has saved almost 150,000 litres of water every day in

Irish Water is working at this time with the Local Authority, contractors and others to safeguard the health and well-being of both staff and the public and to ensure the continuity of critical drinking water and wastewater services.



€3.4m for road, path and cycle lane improvements

Wicklow is to receive more than €3.4m in funding for road, footpath and cycle lane improvements aimed at supporting pedestrian and cyclist movement and enhancing accessibility in towns and villages.

The funding was allocated as part of the July stimulus programme announced by the government last month in order to stimulate a jobs led recovery and build economic confidence in response to the Covid crisis.

Welcoming the funding, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said, "I'm delighted to see this funding coming through to construct, extend or complete cycle lanes around Wicklow. Many of these are projects and improvements that are long overdue and I have been calling for funds to be made available for some time."

"The Green Party committed to increase the spend on public transport and cycling infrastructure in government and we are now seeing it borne out in allocations such as this from Transport Minister

Eamon Ryan, with more to come. "During lockdown, something I heard time and time again was that people enjoyed being out and about, either walking or on their bikes more often as the reduction in traffic made them feel safer. Better infrastructure, safer cycle routes will encourage more people to cycle, particularly young families. Cycling is good for your health, good for the planet, it's fun and sociable. We need to make sure that those who want to get on their bikes or walk in their towns and villages, feel safe doing so and have connected, segregated lanes, intact adequately sized footpaths, and safe crossings."

The funding for cycle lane infrastructure includes €200,000 for Bray Strand Road to the Harbour cycle lane and

€8,000 for cycle lane works at the aquarium, €15,000 for various cycle lane works through Arklow town, €25,000 for pedestrian crossing upgrade works in Carnew village and various works including lighting, pavement renewal, €150,000 footpath in Leg of Mutton Wicklow, €245,000 for upgrade of footpath linking Avoca and Meeting of the Waters, €80,000 for Aravon Court laneway works in Bray including drainage and lighting and a clean up of adjacent space, €45,000 footpath works on Convent Hill in Bray, €25,000 for works on the Kiltegan Road in Baltinglass including upgrade of pedestrian crossing, €80,000 for on road cycle lanes to off road cycle lanes at Blacklion Manor Greystones, €60,000 for new pathway works at Sans Souci, Bray,

Slaney high street, works at the aquarium, €100,000 for Rathnew to Ashford footpath works, €200,000 for Delgany Wood Avenue including a controlled crossing, €352,000 for Aughrim wall and footpath construction along a treacherous stretch of roadway, €37,500 for footpath and road edge strengthening at Rocky Road Wicklow, €25,000 for a new pedestrian crossing at the public park in Shillelagh, €260,000 for a new footpath between Meeting of the Waters and Rathdrum, €220,000 for a range of works along Windgates Greystones including a new footpath and south-bound cycle lane and relocation of bus lanes, €32,000 for Laragh to Glendalough footpath works, €427,000 for resurfacing and relining of roads in Stratford on

Sans Souci, Bray,

€330,000 for resurfacing and relining road works in Kilcullen Street in Kilcullen, €100,000 for new footpath from Kilcoole to Greystones, €60,000 for design and infrastructure to address cycle/pedestrian/roads in Rathdrum, €215,000 for new and widened footpaths in Hollywood. The works are expected to be completed by November.

In welcoming the allo-

cation for Wicklow, Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council said: "I am delighted that the NTA is supporting these key pedestrian and cycling projects in the county which will make our towns and villages more attractive and accessible both for local residents and leisure visitors alike. I look forward to seeing these projects implemented in the weeks ahead."

Mr. Michael Nicholson, Deputy Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, also welcomed the NTA's quick turnaround and approval of the projects for Wicklow and complimented the preparatory work put in by staff and local communities in bringing local projects to this stage.

He indicated that "the projects that the NTA is funding will make a real difference in terms of delivering a safe and sustainable environment for active travel, whether that be to work, school or to shop in our local communities. The Council will be acting quickly to deliver these projects in advance of the end November 2020 deadline."



Green Party TD Steven Matthews was asked by Mark McQuaid to launch his new bike store Republic of Bike in Bray. Deputy Matthews said he was delighted to be asked. He said: "It's a difficult time for everyone in business but it's great to see local investment and job creation. With over €3m funding for Co Wicklow for investment in cycling and pedestrian improvement announced this week and more to come over next few years I wish Mark and his team the very best with the business. Great selection of eBikes too and with the increase in allowance for the 'bike to work' scheme it makes them a very affordable choice. Congratulations and good luck Mark. Republic of Bike is located just off Bray Main Street behind old Central Garage building."

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Sile Seoige is pictured on the East Pier in Dún Laoghaire helping to launch the Boots Ireland Night Walk in aid of the Irish Cancer Society Night Nurses, which will take place on Monday 7th September - you choose the location and time of your 5km walk. Anyone wishing to join in and do their own Night Walk on Monday, 7th September can do so by registering and fundraising online at BootsNightWalk.com.

New Greystones Coastguard Station has gone to tender

Minister Simon Harris TD has welcomed the progress on the new Coast Guard Station for Greystones.

Minister Harris said "I am delighted to confirm that tenders will be advertised today for the construction of the new Coastguard Station for Greystones. It is hoped the contract will be in place by the end of the year with works to commence in early 2021.

"The development of the new Coastguard Station will free up space at Greystones Garda Station which will allow for its refurbishment and enhancement. When the building works for the new Coastguard Station commences it is expected that the project will take 14 months to complete.

"I would like to pay tribute to the work of everyone in the Greystones Coast Guard and you can be assured of my continued support."



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF LAND REGARDING OBLIGATION TO CUT/TRIM ROADSIDE HEDGES/TREES

Hedgecutting - Landowners including householders and occupiers of lands are advised that all hedge rows along public roads / footpaths that require cutting or trimming back should be cut during the period **1st September, 2020 and 28th February 2021** and all cuttings removed from the roads and verges. Adequate signage and traffic management should be in place during the trimming.

Roadside trees should be inspected, and necessary action taken to prevent any potential hazard to the public. Such inspections should be carried out by suitably qualified personnel.

Japanese Knotweed SHOULD NOT BE CUT. No ground disturbance should take place at these sites at any time of year. Please report any instances of Japanese Knotweed to roadtrans@wicklowcoco.ie.

Liability for damage or injury resulting from such hazards will rest with the landowner/occupier.

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'Bray For Love': Town takes a stand against offensive graffiti

All eight members of the Bray Municipal District Council have now come together to state their opposition to recent graffiti targeting groups within the community, including elected members. A new campaign, 'Bray For Love', has also been started in response to the graffiti.

There has been a spate of racist and homophobic graffiti around Bray in recent weeks, as well as graffiti personally attacking Green Party councillor Erika Doyle.

The councillors released a joint statement, saying "We, as the eight elected representatives of this town, wish to state our unity in our stance against the recent spate of harmful graffiti in Bray.

"Messages which target minority groups and incite hatred are very harmful and damaging, and do not have any role to play in a healthy community. We wish to assure our constituents that we are taking this matter very seriously and this type of messaging will not be tolerated.

"Furthermore, any graffiti targeting an elected member is also absolutely unacceptable. We are keeping a close eye on the situation and working with other author-

ties in this regard.

"We are uplifted to see so many in the town mobilise to counter this recent trend, and we have real hope and belief in the community of Bray to rise above and transform this hate.

"As elected representatives, we will continue to work to counter this behaviour and to ensure that Bray remains an inclusive and safe community for all people, including those elected to represent it."

Recent events, both locally and nationally, have also led to the formation of 'Bray For Love', a campaign by SPEAK for Racial Justice - a group of local people who value the strength of Bray's diverse community.

The group stated "We have come together with a common goal - to stamp out racism and hate in our local area, to keep our community inclusive, to foster mutual respect

and be a space where each person who makes our town their home or visits our county, feels welcome no matter their nationality, ethnicity, religious or cultural background."

The group is asking local businesses and members of the community to show support and stand with them to call out racism and racist language where they see it.

"With your help, the Bray for Love Campaign will send a clear message to those inciting division and fear: you do not speak for us, our town is a vibrant, open-hearted, diverse and welcoming community.

"There is no tolerance in our town for anything less. Together let's spread love and acceptance, celebrate our shared humanity and ensure our town remains a great place to live and to visit!"

PURE Project secures funding for 2020

After a long wait, the Pure Project has secured funding for 2020, it was confirmed last week. The project, which was founded in 2006, is the first of its kind to record all incidents of illegal dumping by GPS.

Since 2006 the PURE Project (Protecting Upland and Rural Environments) has successfully tackled illegal dumping in the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands.

The group have been behind highly successful projects such as The Pure Mile initiative which encourages communities to adopt a mile of road and keep it litter free.

Welcoming the news, Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "I have worked closely with Pure over the past few weeks to secure this important funding. The work they carry out is so important in protecting our beautiful upland countryside. To date they have removed over 3,200 tonnes of illegally fly tipped rubbish from the Wicklow and Dublin mountains.

"We now need to work on a consistent funding stream to enable forward planning on future projects by Pure. This model of community and local authorities working together to protect and improve our environment is a model that should be expanded to other rural parts of the country. There also needs to be stronger

support for local authorities for enforcement and prosecution of those engaged in illegal dumping."

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly confirmed he had received notification from the Department for Communications, Climate Action and Environment that the Pure Project is being allocated €115,000.

Concerns have been raised this year over Pure's future due to a lack of certainty over future funding. Funding for the following year is usually announced in December by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, however no such announcement was made in December of 2019. It's understood however that Pure received verbal assurances from the Department that the project would continue.

"I'm absolutely delighted to see the Pure project get the funding they need to continue their invaluable work in keeping our environment litter free," said Minister Donnelly.

"We live in one of the most beautiful counties in Ireland but it has suffered from the blight of fly tipping in the past. In recent months we have seen horrendous examples of rubbish being left behind by groups wild camping in the county."

"The work Pure do by providing a 24-hour lo-call phone-line to report dumping as well as installing CCTV cameras in remote areas has never been more vital".

The Minister added: "If you spot any incidents of illegal dumping or you know of anyone involved in such activities you can contact Pure on 1850 365 121".

The Pure Project incorporates statutory and non-statutory organisations, including; Wicklow County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. Funded by Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment Pure was established to combat illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

Each of the organisations associated with Pure are continually affected by the illegal dumping problem.

In September 2016, the Project Manager of Pure submitted an Evaluation Report and Submission of Extension to Minister Denis Naughten, of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. In December 2016 Minister Naughten announced that Pure would receive funding for a further three years, up to the end of 2019, expressing his satisfaction with the progress of the Pure Project to date, stating that "Pure addresses a problem in a unique way with a partnership approach, addressing the problem of illegal dumping and fly tipping in the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands.

This partnership between local communities, local authorities and government agencies has enjoyed great success in keeping one of our most beautiful and most visited landscapes free of litter and the blight of illegal dumping."

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Sinead McKeever of Little Lingua, winner of the Online Business Transformation award at the Network Ireland Wicklow Businesswomen of the Year Awards which were held in Fishers in Newtownmountkennedy.

Wicklow to receive funding of €1.5 million for Housing Adaptation Grant

Wicklow will receive funding to support home adaptations for older people and those living with a disability in private houses, Minister Simon Harris has said.

"These grants are vital as they enable older people and people with disabilities and mobility issues in Wicklow to remain living independently in their own homes for longer should they wish and will also facilitate early return from hospital."

The grants are 80% funded from the exchequer by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with 20% funding from the relevant local authority.

"Grants of up to €30,000 are available to assist people with a disability in carrying out necessary works to make a house more suitable for their needs, up to €8,000 to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out and up to €6,000 for mobility aids to address mobility problems for a member of the household."

"The Government remains committed to supporting older people to live in their own home with dignity and independence, for as long as possible. We also want to empower and give those with a disability the ability to choose the supports that most meet their needs. These grants are so important as they also create employment opportunities for builders and businesses in Wicklow and help reduce the dependency on our health services by supporting independent living for as long as possible."



The Franchise Department would love to hear from anyone who will be 18 on or before 15th February 2021 who are looking to register to vote by contacting 0404 20161 or franchise@wicklowcoco.ie and we will issue a form to register them to vote

'Childcare providers need Fast-tracked COVID 19 testing'

Social Democrats spokesperson for Children, Jennifer Whitmore has called on the Government to fast-track Covid testing for childcare staff saying "Wicklow providers need to be supported during the pandemic in tandem with schools".

Deputy Whitmore said "I welcome confirmation from the Department of Health that the testing of school children and staff for Covid-19 is to be enabled results within 24 to 48 hours.

"However, this same rapid turnaround in tests is needed for those working in the childcare sector to ensure that childcare facilities can remain open in the coming weeks and months. I've spoken to some in the sector who report that nationally, staff are waiting up to five days for a Covid-19 result. With over 150 childcare providers in Wicklow alone, this would obviously be a cause for concern. A five-day turnaround is

simply not fast enough and will place enormous stress on providers and may mean that they will have to close if a staff member needs to isolate while awaiting results.

"It will also place an additional burden on parents and their employers if they have to take time off work to look after their children. In the event that a staff member has to isolate, this will leave the childcare facility without sufficient staff to meet the adult to child ratios as set by Tusla and would mean that the facility would be in breach of their regulations. We want to ensure that supports are provided to child-

care facilities in tandem with schools as they open up across Wicklow. Rapid testing would be an important tool for childcare providers to help combat the risk of infections with schools benefiting from this in turn.

"Early Childhood Ireland (ECI) recently warned that providers won't be able to keep their doors open if staff members are out sick awaiting test results and the Government needs to act on these concerns. I will be raising this issue in the Dáil and at every opportunity afforded to me to ensure that adequate supports are made available to the childcare sector."

Covid silver lining: Wicklow Traveller women make masks for asylum seekers

Traveller women in Wicklow Town are busy making masks for asylum seekers in Direct Provision Centres. In a show of solidarity between women from disadvantaged communities, Traveller women in Wicklow began making masks last month with the aim to provide them to people most effected by Covid-19.

The mask-makers are part of an entrepreneurial venture called 'Shuttle Knit' and the masks are sold online. All of the proceeds from the sale of the masks are put back into the company to further their mission of community support.

The asylum seekers are part of a project called 'Hope and Ambition' run by the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation. Glencree has historically worked with groups related to The Troubles, but has expanded to work with international groups, refugees, school groups, and others on intercultural learning and peace-building.

Direct Provision Centres in Ireland have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19, with 235 confirmed cases since March. Residents live together and often cannot practice social distancing, providing an ideal environment for the virus to spread. Residents also often work as frontline carers, and in low-paid roles in meat processing factories.

"It's dreadful what's happening in those centres - if there's an outbreak there, where would you go? Hopefully our masks will be of some

help," said Shuttle Knit staff member Kathleen Berry.

Shuttle Knit's tagline is 'Knitting communities together', which is particularly pertinent in this case.

Sheila Cannon, Chair of the Board of Shuttle Knit and Assistant Professor of Social Enterprise in Trinity Business School said: "It's great to see women supporting each other across different communities - it's a real show of solidarity between people who are at the receiving end of systemic discrimination. In fact there is so much positive community work going on during the Covid crisis - it really has been a silver lining during a difficult situation."

"Times have been challenging for everyone, but people in direct provision centres have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, as they live together and many work in healthcare settings. We are thrilled to receive masks made by Irish Travellers in Wicklow," said Louise Keating, Glencree Programme Manager.

Shuttle Knit was founded in 2001 by Travellers and settled people to produce knit wear and to

provide employment for Travellers in Wicklow. Glencree was founded in 1974 and is dedicated to peacebuilding work in Ireland north and south, and internationally.

Unemployment in the Travelling community is

much higher than in the rest of the population. Shuttle Knit provides supported employment for Travellers, which has a positive ripple effect throughout their communities.

To order masks, see www.shuttleknit.ie.



Kathleen Berry making masks for asylum seekers

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Luke Reis, with parents Luis and Grainne at the Queen of Peace Confirmations ceremony for St. Cronin's. Pic: Joe McQuillan

IT Carlow receives funding for online learning and wellbeing

The president of Institute of Technology Carlow, Dr. Patricia Mulcahy, has welcomed the announcement by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD of €529,694 - the highest allocation to any institute of technology - to assist with online learning for students of the Institute. Meanwhile, Minister Harris has also allocated IT Carlow with €242,000 to support students' mental health and wellbeing.

The fund for online learning will allow for the purchase of some 17,000 laptops across the sector and is part of an overall funding of €15million for student devices earmarked by the Minister. For Institute of Technology Carlow, it allows for the procurement of some 700 laptops and other equipment for students as the college embraces hybrid learning in the new academic year.

Dr. Mulcahy commented, "The pandemic has resulted in a changed college experience. The new academic year will see a move to hybrid learning at IT Carlow with students combining in-class and online learning for which they will need to access laptops and other equipment. This funding will allow for more equal access to education".

The initiative is a laptop loan scheme with a means tested application process. In accordance with HEA Guidelines, priority will be given to registered students with no access to laptops and other equipment from targeted under-represented groups as outlined in the National Access Plan; specifically, students disadvantaged by socio-economic barriers, mature students, lone parents, those with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

Students will be provided with information on the laptop loan scheme, and the application process, shortly after they register for the academic year in late September.

Commenting on the funding, Minister Harris said, "This funding will work to ensure disadvantaged students will have access to the technology they need to complete their education. However, we must also recognise that many students and

their families have fallen on hard times as a result of COVID-19. We must ensure they do not fall behind in their studies and ensure they can access this support fund also. We still have significant work to do to address the digital divide in Ireland but this will go some of the way to doing that."

The grant funding for the devices will be provided to higher education institutions through the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and to education and training boards through SOLAS. The bulk order of laptops was organised by HEAnet, which provides internet connectivity and ICT services to education bodies throughout Ireland.

The funding for mental health and wellbeing will be used to: recruit additional student counsellors and assistant psychologists; implement the soon to be published National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework; and implement the Framework for Consent in HEIs; Safe, Respectful, Supportive and Positive: Ending Sexual Harassment in Irish Higher Education Institutions.

Commenting on the announcement, the president of Institute of Technology Carlow, Dr. Patricia Mulcahy said, "We warmly welcome the €242,000 earmarked by Minister Harris for Institute of Technology Carlow. It comes at a time of great challenge and change in the lives of students around the country. We will use it wisely to continue the great work of our Student Services and our medical centre in supporting the health and wellbeing of our student body".

Minister Harris said: "The number one health issue for young people in Ireland today is concerns or worries around their mental health. These concerns have been compounded by the isolation and uncertainty brought forward by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"For students, the college experience has been different this year from ever before. Students have had to adjust to remote learning and carried out without face-to-face support from their college or their peers. For these reasons, I have sought to support student counselling services, key mental health interventions and the provision of a safe, respectful, supportive and positive environment in our higher education institutions."

Green light for St. David's to start extension

Building work on St David's secondary school in Greystones is set to start in the coming weeks, it was confirmed last week.

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly said he was delighted to be able to confirm the good news.

The plans include a new sports centre, fitness suite, new classrooms, a new technology room, arts room and a media room, parking spaces, and refurbishment of the existing buildings.

The Minister visited the school last week to see the work being done by the staff in preparation for this week's opening.

Speaking last week, Minister Donnelly said: "I'm absolutely thrilled the school has finally got a start date for these much needed works. This project is one I have been working on for a long time so it is extremely satisfying to get a positive outcome.

"For a long time St David's has been in desperate need of additional facilities but now building work is due to start it will allow them to expand and offer state-of-the-art facilities.

"The staff have been working around the clock to get reopened in time for next week. I would like to congratulate all of the teachers including Principal Mary O'Doherty, Deputy Principal Simon Carey

and teacher and Covid Aid Daniel Boland for their incredible work.

"I know they have been putting in ten hour days five days a week for the past six weeks to have everything ready for the arrival of their First Years early next week.

"School is very important for the mental health and social wellbeing of our children, as well as their educational development which is why it's so important we get our classrooms back open."

The original planning

application was submitted in December 2015 for "a four storey building comprising entrance hall, administration areas, library, classrooms, guidance room, religion suite, arts rooms, technical graphics room, ancillary accommodation, and associated external play area, external store and external covered area. The proposed PE block comprises PE hall, fitness suite, entrance and ancillary accommodation."

The development will consist of the demolition



Deputy Principal of St. David's Simon Carey, Principal Mary O'Doherty and Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly

Yoga course at SCFE

Two years ago, Sallynoggin College of Further Education (SCFE) launched a hugely successful Yoga Teacher Training course including Wellbeing and Holistic Studies.

This one-year course runs from September to May from 10am to 2pm, is certified by International Therapy Examination Council (ITEC) and Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and leads to the Diploma in Yoga Teaching.

It is also recognised for membership by the Complementary Therapists Association (CTHA) and the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPS Ireland). The course also encompasses practical holistic studies such as Reflexology, Massage and Indian Head Massage, new for September 2020, thereby enabling the student practitioner to develop the personal qualities, knowledge, confidence and skills to progress and pursue a career as a Yoga teacher and a Complementary Therapist.

Features of the course include

Holistic workshops delivered by industry specialists and Work Experience placement in a variety of settings. SCFE's recently refurbished facilities include fully equipped complementary therapy rooms, a large mirrored studio and access to fully equipped IT suites, Library, Wifi and Moodle.

Those who successfully complete the course may set up their own business as a Yoga Practitioner, a Reflexologist, a Massage Therapist and a Nutrition Adviser. There are also opportunities to progress to further studies, e.g. SCFE is introducing a Pilates Teacher Training course for September 2020, for details see www.SCFE.ie.

The course costs €700 with exemptions of €250 for holders of a medical card and €200 for SUSI grant recipients. Funding is also available for Social Welfare





Steven Matthews TD in Roundwood with volunteers fundraising for the Road to Roundwood campaign

The Road to Roundwood

Green Party Deputy Steven Matthews has urged the local community to support the Road to Roundwood campaign, which seeks to house a refugee family fleeing from conflict in the Middle East to a new home in Co Wicklow.

Deputy Matthews was speaking after attending a fundraising family barbecue at the Old Schoolhouse in Roundwood recently.

"This project is a wonderful example of a community pulling together to help a family at risk. The fact that the fundraising has remained live during the upheaval of Covid is a testament to the charitable spirit of the cam-

paign team. As well as fundraising the team plan to identify accommodation for the family, co-ordinate access to services, provide logistical support and ensure the family feels welcome in their new community. I hope people can support this initiative by attending a fundraising event or donating directly, through the website roadtoroundwood.ie."

The Road to Roundwood was set up under the Community Sponsorship Programme Ireland, part of the United Nations response to the humanitarian crisis which developed in southern Europe due to mass forced displacement of people from conflict areas, particularly the Middle East.

Greystones retains lowest commercial vacancy rate in Ireland

The commercial vacancy rate in Wicklow increased by 0.1 percentage points (pp) to 12.2% in Q2 2020, according to analysis in the latest GeoView Commercial Property released by GeoDirectory and EY-DKM Economic Advisory Services last week. This is lower than the national average of 13.5%.

Despite recording an increase of 1.1pp, Greystones was once again the town with the lowest commercial vacancy rate in the State at 6.9%.

However, according to the analysis it is too early to gauge the impact of Covid-19 on commercial property stock and vacancy rates. With a Europe-wide recession predicted and working from home to become more commonplace, it will likely be 2021 or 2022 before the full impact of Covid-19 on commercial property trends becomes apparent.

The total stock of commercial properties in the country was 211,194 in June 2020, with 28,469 (13.5%) listed as vacant. Almost half of all commercial properties in the country were located in

Leinster (49.5%), with Dublin accounting for 23.6% of the overall total.

Increases in commercial vacancy rates were recorded in three out of four provinces, with only Leinster (12.4%) remaining unchanged. Connacht had the highest commercial vacancy rate at 17%, further emphasising the east-west divide in economic activity that has been evident in previous GeoView Commercial Property reports.

The top five counties to record the highest vacancy rates in Q2 2020 were all in Connacht.

Sligo, at 19.3%, was the county with the highest commercial vacancy rate, followed by Leitrim (17.1%), Mayo and Roscommon (16.6% each) and Galway (16.6%).

Commenting on the findings of the latest GeoView Commercial Property Report, Dara Keogh, Chief Executive of GeoDirectory said, "This is the third report in a row in which the national commercial vacancy rate has increased compared to the previous year. We can expect to see further significant changes in the coming years with the moderation in economic growth predicted as a result of Covid-19, international tourism in significant decline, the risk of a no-deal Brexit on the table and working from home becoming more prevalent. Our analysis of ten-year property trends also provided some interesting data. While online banking appears to have resulted in a reduction in the number of physical

banks and credit unions, perhaps surprisingly, the number of travel agents and cinemas has remained stable."

Annette Hughes, Director, EY-DKM Economic Advisory said, "Right now, the hardest hit sectors have been those with a high dependence on face-to-face contact or physical interaction, such as: Accommodation and Food, Travel and Tourism, Retail, Construction and those with less 'working from home' potential. As the full impacts of Covid-19 become apparent, it could lead to an even greater disparity between the east and west, and urban and rural areas, in terms of vacancy rates in these sectors in years to come."

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Eva Blake with Deborah Sudding of the Ultrasound Suite, winner of the Business Innovation award at the Network Ireland Wicklow Businesswomen of the Year Awards which were held in Fisher's of Newtownmountkennedy.

First phase of National Broadband Plan gets underway

National Broadband Ireland (NBI), the company working on behalf of the Government to deliver high speed broadband as part of the National Broadband Plan (NBP), has surveyed homes and premises in parts of Wicklow.

NBI contractors on the ground have now surveyed more than 70,000 premises in 17 counties. More recently, surveys have been ongoing in parts of Wicklow including Powerscourt, Kilmacanoge, Calary, Greystones, Newcastle, Delgany, Killiskey, Glenealy, Kilcoole, and parts of Roundwood. Other areas under surveying include townlands in the Blessington area and Lackan, Lugglass, and Hollywood.

This involves physically walking the routes and documenting images, notes and measurements of the poles, cables and underground ducts in each area. This will enable design solutions for the provision of a fibre network to every premises in the Intervention Area - a map of almost 537,000 premises nationwide identified by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) as not being served with adequate broadband services.

In Wicklow, there are 14,871 premises in the Intervention Area (IA), which includes homes, farms, commercial businesses and schools. This equates to 23% of all premises in the county. Under the National Broadband Plan, Wicklow will see an investment of €59m in the new high speed fibre network. This will enable e-learning, remote monitoring of livestock or equipment, e-health initiatives, better energy efficiency in the home, and more remote working - all of which support the National Development Plan (NDP).

The first homes in Wicklow will be connected early next year, while over 115,000 premises nationwide will be passed and available for connection with future-proofed high-speed FTTH (Fibre-to-the-Home) within the next 18

months. NBI has updated its website www.nbi.ie with a search tool to enable the public to check whether their premises is within the rollout area, and to show indicative dates for early surveying areas. All areas must firstly be surveyed to enable low level designs for building out the new high speed fibre network. The first of these - for the townlands in the Blessington area and Lackan, Lugglass, and Hollywood. BCPs in Wicklow include Clermont House, Killurney Community Centre, Brockagh Resource Centre and St Kevin's School, Laragh and Dunlavin GAA Club. Some schools will be connected for educational access, in the rollout area, as part of the BCP initiative.

BCP locations are subject to change and a number of the premises initially identified are in the process of being replaced with alternative locations.

The remaining BCPs remain on track for delivery and will be operated by Vodafone.

NBI chief executive Peter Hendrick said the company is pleased with the progress being made: "We started physical work on the ground in January and I am delighted to report that this is going very well. We are acutely aware that people want access to high speed broadband as soon as possible, and our goal is to deliver that."

"Future proofed fibre broadband will be key to ensuring that Ireland is fully and reliably connected in this digital era - and for future generations to come. The BCPs are a milestone in delivering access to high speed internet in the Intervention Area, and we're working hard to ensure the first BCP launches are delivered in the next few months."

The public can log onto www.nbi.ie for more information or to sign up for updates in their area. They can also call 0818 624 624 (local call rate) or email contactus@nbi.ie.



Bray wastewater pipe damaged during site investigation works

An underground wastewater pipe was accidentally hit and damaged last week during site investigation works close to Shanganagh wastewater treatment plant near Bray.

The site investigation works were not related to Irish Water, the wastewater treatment plant or network.

In order to carry out repairs to the pipe it was necessary to turn off Bray pumping station. This resulted in an overflow of screened wastewater to the bay at Bray. Crews were onsite working to carry out the repair as quickly and as safely as possible.

The Environmental Protection Agency, Wicklow County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and other relevant stakeholders were notified.

As a result of this incident Wicklow County Council in consultation with the HSE, last week placed a precautionary bathing restriction notice

at Bray South beach.

A notice was already in place south of Bray Harbour. Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in consultation with the HSE placed a precautionary bathing notice on Killiney beach. It is likely that these notices will remain in place for a number of days pending the repair of the wastewater pipe and the results of further sampling of the bathing waters early next week, at which point the notice may be lifted. Please refer to www.beaches.ie for updates.

Local Authorities are responsible for managing and monitoring bathing waters. The Local Authority collects information on bathing water quality on a regular basis and, in consultation with the HSE provides information and guidance to the public on using bathing waters. Notices are displayed at the bathing water locations and on the Environmental Protection Agency website, www.beaches.ie, advising the public on water quality and of any bathing restrictions.

Irish Water said that it regrets any inconvenience caused.

'Architectural vandalism' at Oldcourt Castle

John Brady TD has expressed serious concerns about the repeated acts of vandalism on Oldcourt Castle in Bray. He has also expressed fears for public safety after a number of children have been seen on top of the castle which dates from the 1430s.

Deputy Brady said "Unfortunately there have been more acts of archaeological vandalism on Oldcourt Castle in Bray. In May I reported serious damage that had been caused to the walls of the castle to Wicklow County Council and to the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Monuments Service had been in contact with the owner of the castle who had repaired the breach in the wall in an attempt to prevent unauthorised access to the Castle."

"Unfortunately, it appears that the repairs have been breached. Children have also been seen on top of the castle which is a cause of serious concern. I have been in contact with the Monuments

Service again and they are very concerned about the acts of vandalism which have taken place to the protected structure. They are planning on meeting with the landowner on site and they are also liaising with Wicklow County Council to see if there is anything they can do on the ground to alleviate the issue.

"Damaging a recorded monument is a specific offence under the National Monuments Acts and is subject to severe penalties on conviction. The Monuments Service have also said that they are available to assist An Garda Síochána in the event that sufficient evidence is secured to support a prosecution of the offenders who are causing the damage."

Local Councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien said "Whether

it's mindless, misinformed or mischievous, the reality is that we must prevent and discourage people from misusing and vandalising this valuable piece of our heritage. In fact, we should really be recognising and celebrating these protected sites and ensuring that people are aware of their significance rather than seeing them as derelict playgrounds and of no material value."

Deputy Brady concluded "Public safety needs to be protected so I appeal to people to stay away from Oldcourt Castle which is privately owned, particularly children. We also need to ensure that the castle which is a protected structure, is protected and that these acts of archaeological vandalism are stopped."

New Chief Executive for Ardmore and Troy Studios

Ardmore Studios and Troy Studios last week announced that Elaine Geraghty, currently CEO with Screen Producers Ireland, is joining the Studios later this autumn as Chief Executive.

Elaine has had a rich career and one that has seen her manage several large organisations and she comes to the studios with over 30 years' experience in the audio-visual and media sector. Having held a variety of senior management positions in

Communicorp Group, The Sunday Tribune and 98FM - in her role as CEO of Newstalk she led Newstalk from being a local Dublin radio station to securing its licence and to becoming Ireland's first independent national talk radio broadcaster.

Joe Devine, Chairman of Ardmore Studios and Troy Studios stated that "Elaine brings a wealth of media and business management acumen to her new role at an exciting time in the history of a global explosion in the demand for audio-visual content creation. She is a great fit for our Studios, as she understands the unique workings of the sector and has the skill sets needed for our business. Siún Ní Raghdhaigh will remain as Executive Director with both Studios and will focus on overseeing, managing and delivering our expansion at Ardmore."

Ardmore Studios is embarking on a major investment programme that will significantly increase its studio capacity, and deliver the highest standard of sound stages and support buildings to compete with the best in the world. The plan is to deliver three new sound stages to facilitate the ever

increasing international demand for high quality sound stage space. When complete, Ardmore Studios will comprise over 140,000 sq.ft of sound stages and some 120,000 sq.ft of support buildings on its Bray site. The strategy for redevelopment will significantly enhance the existing studio infrastructure ensuring the studios continue to attract high quality international and national productions into the future.

In the space of three years, Troy Studios has become a world renowned quality studio facility and Ireland's largest studio all under one roof. It is home to international productions where the excellent calibre of the facilities has helped further consolidate Ireland on the international production location map.

Established in 1958, Ardmore Studios has seven international standard sound stages with full support services on site. It has been home to hundreds of international and national films and TV productions over the years including Braveheart; My left Foot; Excalibur and in more recent times The Last Duel, The Green Knight, Penny Dreadful, Into The Badlands, The Tudors. Productions at Ardmore have received 14 Oscars and many BAFTA, Golden Globe and Emmy awards. Offering film industry standard sound stages with full support facilities on site, Ardmore Studios currently comprises some 170,000 sq.ft of production stages and support facilities.

Troy Studios is Ireland's largest studios. Following significant private investment of over €13 million to date, Troy Studios is home to a 350,000 sq. ft hub of stages and support infrastructure for content creation. Troy has four sound stages totalling over 103,000 sq.ft.



Elaine Geraghty will be the new Chief Executive of Ardmore and Troy Studios



There's good news for Wicklow's classical musicians as the Top Security Frank Maher Classical Music Awards for sixth years is going ahead this year, with a €5,000 prize for the winner. Violinist Mia Cooper, leader of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra is pictured at the launch. The search has begun for entries for the largest such competition for secondary schools in Ireland. The closing date for this year's entries is Friday 11th September. A maximum of seven finalists will be selected by an independent board of adjudicators. More information on www.frankmaherclassicalmusicawards.com



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
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PART-TIME RETAINED FIRE FIGHTERS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form panels from which vacancies may be filled on the following Fire Brigades:

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- BRAY FIRE BRIGADE REF: 19/2020
- CARNEW FIRE BRIGADE REF: 20/2020
- BLESSINGTON FIRE BRIGADE REF: 21/2020
- GREYSTONES FIRE BRIGADE REF: 22/2020
- ARKLOW FIRE BRIGADE REF: 23/2020

Candidates should not be more than 55 years of age on the latest date for receipt of applications.

Candidates should reside and work within a maximum of 5 minutes distance to the Fire Station as there are strict requirements regarding availability to attend fire calls.

Remuneration: Retainer starting at €8,033.00 per annum gross (paid on a quarterly basis) plus hourly rates for attendance at fires.

Candidates will be subject to Garda Vetting.

Application Forms and further details can be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20100 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 17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

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

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'Engaging Wicklow communities key to climate action success'

The Government is being asked to invest €1 per person per year to ensure communities in Wicklow are fully engaged on the issue of climate action.

The call is being made in a submission by The Community Foundation for Ireland which warns that the national €500m Climate Action Plan will not succeed unless there is better engagement, awareness and education with people in Wicklow and across the country.

The Foundation says Wicklow risks being impacted by severe weather events unless policymakers begin the process of listening to the concerns, the ideas and the initiatives of communities. It is proposing an annual investment by Government of 5m a year over the next three years.

Part of the funding would see the development of community energy projects, sustainable shopping and nature projects in Wicklow. The Community Foundation for Ireland has translated almost €60m in gifts, donations and legacies into grants for local areas over the past 20-years.

The submission to Ministers seeks two actions: Establish a Climate Friendly Communities Fund (€3.75 million per annum), and establish a Climate Justice Fund (€1.25 million per annum).

With the Climate Friendly Communities Fund, thriving communities rely not only on people but also on a number of aspects such as a healthy biosphere, sustainable/circular economies as well as innovative community initiatives that sup-

port more vulnerable members.

The Climate Friendly Communities Fund, managed by The Community Foundation for Ireland, would encourage and support the development of solutions to social issues that arise in communities across Ireland during the period of transition to a resource efficient economy and society.

Types of projects which could be developed include community energy projects, sustainable shopping as well as the development of pollination corridors.

The Climate Justice Fund (€1.25 million per annum) would be used to foster local dialogue, increase awareness and support key activities that will promote a just transition.

Based on the Mary Robinson Foundation's definition of Climate justice, which links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable people and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly.

The Climate Justice Fund would encourage and support the development of new solutions to local social issues that arise during the period of transition to a resource efficient economy and society.

Climate Justice projects are being seen as

crucial to ensuring a just transition, with states such as Scotland establishing a specific Climate Justice Fund to support such work.

Publishing the submission Denise Charlton, CEO of The Community Foundation for Ireland, said: "Again this summer we are seeing the impact of Global climate change on Wicklow's communities. A season which started with the threat of drought is ending with high winds, torrential rains and August storms with flooding and extensive structural damage.

"The debate about whether action is needed is over. Now we must work to try and ensure that the plans in place to help our communities, counties and our country become successfully sustainable are delivered.

"Ensuring community education, awareness and support is key to achieving this. For a relatively small investment this localised engagement could create a wider understanding of why the radical changes being proposed by Government are needed.

"At The Community Foundation for Ireland we know the impacts local initiatives can have. We know how mobilising a community can make all the difference. For our part we are willing to offer the Government our expertise in knowledge on how this can be achieved."



Detailed study will inform Bray harbour development options

In response to Cllr Tom Fortune's concerns about the re-development of Bray Harbour (Wicklow Times, 25th August), Wicklow County Council has said that options for the harbour will be informed by information about the coastline which is currently being assessed.

In a statement to *Wicklow Times*, the Council said: "In approximately 2001 there were grants available from the Department of Environment to examine possible Public Private Partnerships projects."

"Bray Town Council applied for such a grant and a competition was held to engage an architect to prepare a possible plan for Bray Harbour. A plan was produced by the architect and was discussed at a subsequent meeting of Bray Town Council."

"Following a financial assessment, it was recognised that the project would not qualify as a PPP. As a result, the plan did not progress any further."

"Consultants were engaged in February 2020 to carry out a study on Bray Harbour. This project requires the consultant to carry out detailed surveys, report on the options available to protect the harbour from storm conditions, look into options to provide additional berthing facilities including the possibility of providing a short term drop on/drop off berth for a small passenger vessel plying between different harbours within an hour or so of Bray."

"Information in relation to the coastline, which will inform harbour options, is currently being assessed and it is hoped to present this to the Bray Elected Members before the end of the year."

Casey welcomes €50m Beef Finisher Payment scheme

Fianna Fáil Senator Pat Casey has welcomed the details of the Beef Finishers Payment (BFP), an Exchequer funded scheme of €50 million to provide income support for up to 42,000 farmers with beef finishing enterprises, who have been impacted by the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Senator Casey stated "I am fully aware of the difficulties caused by Covid-19 in the Wicklow beef sector and the consequences for those in beef farming and for the rural economy as a whole. Farmers with finished animals suffered from both reduced prices and other restrictions in getting animals to market. The closure of the food service market in Ireland, the UK and beyond has had a dramatic impact on the industry and in particular those who supply it to make their living."

This measure is targeted at farmers who finished animals and comes on top of a significant increase in targeted environmental and welfare supports for suckler production earlier this year, in the form of the BEEP-Sucklers scheme.

Senator Casey noted that though the scheme will be funded by the Irish exchequer, details of the scheme have been notified to the European Commission in accordance with the Covid-19 Temporary State Aid Framework.

An estimated 42,000 farmers will be eligible

lion. The opening date for applications was 19th August and the closing date will be 9th September. Details of the measure including terms and conditions and how to apply will be made available in due course on agriculture.gov.ie.

Applications will be made online through the agfood.ie portal. In the event of an over subscription, the rate of payment per animal will be subject to a linear cut in order to comply with the available budget of €50 million.

The opening date for applications was 19th August and the closing date is 9th September. Detail of the measure including terms and conditions and how to apply will be made available in due course at agriculture.gov.ie. Applications will be made online through the agfood.ie portal.



Senator Pat Casey

to apply for the scheme, which will be based on the number of cattle sent for slaughter in the period from 1 February to 12 June 2020, subject to a limit of 100 animals per herd. Based on estimates of eligible animals, a rate in the region of €100 per animal will be payable. In the event of an over subscription, the rate of payment per animal will be subject to a linear cut in order to comply with the available budget of €50 million.

Virtual confidence building course for visually impaired people in Wicklow

Sight loss charity Fighting Blindness is opening up their popular confidence building course, Living with Sight Loss, to visually impaired people living in Wicklow and across Ireland.

The free course will begin on Thursday, September 17 and run every Thursday from 11am to 3pm. The course will finish Thursday, October 15.

Previously, due to funding restrictions, the course was only available to those living in the border counties. To meet Covid-19 social distancing guidelines, the charity transformed the face-to-face five week course into a virtual webinar series. This new format has enabled them to open the course to people living in all 32 counties.

According to the most recent statistics¹, there are over 1,485 people in Wicklow who are living with vision impairment or blindness.

Living with Sight Loss is designed to increase the confidence and independence of people who are living with any form of sight loss. The informal course will provide information and practical advice on a range of essential everyday topics such as getting out and about, information about welfare rights, and how technology can make life that bit easier.

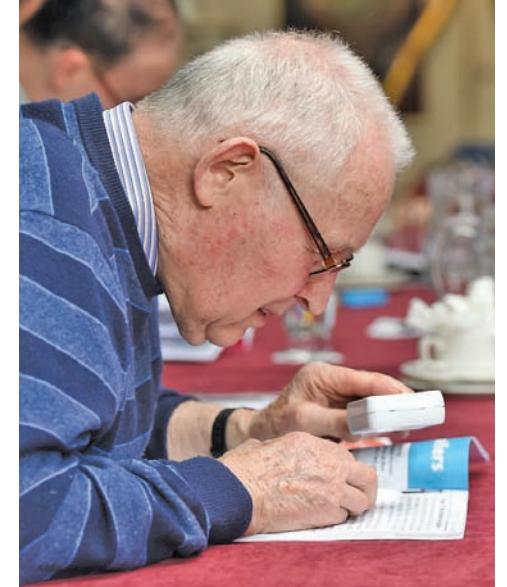
Connor (30, Drogheda), a participant in the last virtual Living with Sight Loss course in June, said, "The course was brilliant. I only lost my sight earlier this year and I picked up a lot of useful information - about everything from assistive technology to the benefits of counselling. My partner Aoife learned even more than I did; she thought it was great. We both recommend the course to anyone living with sight loss and their family members."

The course is delivered through the accessible video conferencing platform Zoom. A telephone dial in

option is also available. Places are limited and must be booked in advance by contacting Fighting Blindness on 01 674 6496 or needtotalk@fightingblindness.ie.

This course is delivered through the 'Need to Talk' project, an emotional support and confidence building service supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

For more information about the Need to Talk counselling and confidence support service visit www.fightingblindness.ie/support/need-to-talk



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Nearly 2,000 living with dementia in Wicklow

The latest figures compiled by the Health Service Executive have revealed that there is an estimated 1,838 people living with dementia in County Wicklow. The publication of the data comes as the Dementia: Understand Together campaign is urging members of the public to consider becoming a Dementia Champion and joining the network of 340 other champions across the country who promote inclusivity and action in their communities.

The campaign is also taking the opportunity to highlight the availability of the local Memory Technology Resource Rooms in Wicklow town and Loughlinstown - a service that has become increasingly valued during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are over 400 different types of dementia, the most common of which are Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia. It's estimated that there are over 64,000 people currently living with dementia in Ireland and this figure is set to more than double to over 150,000 by 2045. Each year more than 11,000 people develop dementia in Ireland - that's approximately 30 people every day.

Symptoms of dementia include memory loss, confusion with time or place, difficulty communicating, changes in behaviour and issues with problem-solving. There are a number of ways that people can reduce their risk of dementia - by eating healthily, exercising regularly, not smoking, having regular blood pressure checks, avoiding excess alcohol, keeping socially connected and challenging ourselves mentally.

For Dr Suzanne Timmons, Consultant Geriatrician and Clinical Lead of the HSE's National Dementia Office, World Alzheimer Month offers a valuable reminder of the importance of reaching out to people with dementia: "For people with dementia, we know that maintaining involvement in activities and social contact are vital for maintaining physical and mental health and wellbeing. With the arrival of COVID-19 in Ireland, recent months have been very difficult for everyone. For people with dementia, many of whom have had to cocoon or stay at home to minimise their risk, they have been especially difficult, depriving them of friendship and routine. World Alzheimer Month is an ideal opportunity to reach out and support people living with dementia and their families in our neighbourhoods. A first step can be checking in on someone you know with dementia."

With many traditional supports changed due to COVID-19, technology has played an important role in enabling champions and others to connect with people with

dementia. Technology can also help day-to-day living and a range of assistive technologies can be purchased to help people with dementia maintain their independence, to continue doing what is important to them, and to feel safe at home. These technologies range from picture phones, personal alarms and night lights with sensors, to medication reminders, locators for items such as keys, and talking photo albums. The Memory Technology Resource Rooms in the Wicklow Primary Care Centre, Knockrobin, Wicklow town, and St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown, showcase a range of products and devices that can help manage with memory and recall. Members of the public can speak to an occupational therapist for free expert advice on what technology best suits their situation, as well as receive information on other local services. To make an appointment with your local memory technology resource room, telephone the Wicklow town service on 076 6958374 / 086 7733880 and the Loughlinstown service on 01 2115186 / 2115196.

Dementia - Enjoying Life and Staying Safe

As part of World Alzheimer Month this September, the Wicklow Times is featuring a series of articles on aspects of life with dementia. In this second article, HSE Occupational Therapist Emma O'Brien focuses on living well despite these challenging times.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect our day-to-day living, health and well-being. Many of us are spending more time at home, have reduced contact with others and are participating in fewer social activities. For people with dementia and their families, the impact has been particularly challenging.

As dementia progresses it can become difficult for a person to communicate their needs. It is important for family members and carers to look out for signs and to try to understand why the person is behaving in that way.

Being Creative

In recent months, some family members have moved home to support loved ones. Others have learned how to use technology to reach out. New activities such as gardening and listening to music have been taken up to help with connection.

At the same time, many dementia services



Emma O'Brien, HSE Occupational Therapist

Being Supportive

Since August 18, people over 70 and people who are medically vulnerable are advised to limit their interactions to a small network, avoid public transport and shop during designated hours. If supporting a person with dementia, help them to stay safe by planning ahead if going out.

The Dementia: Understand Together campaign is led by the HSE in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland and Age Friendly Ireland. For information on supports such as weekly Virtual Dementia Cafés for people living with dementia and family carers, as well as information on how to become a dementia champion in your community, visit www.understandtogether.ie or Freefone 1800 341 341 (Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm).

Being Engaged

Like everyone else, engaging socially and participating in activities provides purpose and value for people with



Members of Bray Rowing Rowing Club at 'Braystones 500', a fundraising collaboration to raise much needed funds to increase participation in traditional skiff rowing in the communities of Bray and Greystones. Pic: Joe McQuillan

Musicians band together for Wicklow Cancer Support

A large group of local musicians in Wicklow Town have collaborated on a special project to raise money for Wicklow Cancer Support.

The summer season in Wicklow has long been associated with outdoor events, music and festivals - however with the current climate our pubs and music venues have been dormant. Taking their talents to Social Media several local musicians have banded together to create a video to raise money for Wicklow Cancer Support. In the past local bands and musicians in Wicklow have organised fundraiser gigs and events for WCS, and although this year sees a different approach, the music community wanted to offer their services from a safe distance with the aid of Social Media.

The eclectic group includes: Annalisa Evans, Courtney Cullen, Ciarán Olohan, Robin Kelly,

Shane Doyle, Conor O'Donnell, Brian Meakin, Mie Synnott, Cormac Redmond, Jackie Curran Olohan, Simon Quinn, Kate Lally, Eugene Waters, Louise Jaemeson, Anthony O'Flaherty, Jason Moran, Breifini Doyle, Kevin C Olohan, Sean Rooney, Fergal Canterbury, Wayne Dunne, Robbie Rowden, Mickey Rooney, Seán Olohan, Erin Lane, Padraig Cahill, Mark Murphy, Derek Treacy, Ben Roe, Spud Murphy, Séan Devitt and Brendan Porter. The song 'With a Little Help From My Friends' is available on YouTube and is paired with an iDonate link, all proceeds go to WCS - any and all donations are greatly appreciated.



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Pictured is the Degani Piano Trio who will perform in the Whale Theatre in Greystones on Saturday 26th September at 8pm. The Degani Piano Trio is an established Irish Piano Trio of distinguished and award winning musicians Alan Smale on violin, Rachel Quinn on piano and Annette Cleary on cello. They have recorded albums in recent years of repertoire including Haydn, Dvorak, Chopin, Brahms and Piazzolla. They are renowned for their insightful and joyful interpretations of the classic trio repertoire. For tickets see whaletheatre.ie

Coming up at Signal Arts Centre



Divergence By Papillion Art Group (9th Nov-22nd Nov)

Papillion Art Group is an eclectic group of artists from a wide range of artistic backgrounds.

The group was originally founded by artist and tutor Gill Mac, who sadly passed away in 2019. Being a socially close-knit team, the artists decided to continue painting together at Signal.

'Divergence' represents the group's transformation from having a much-missed friend and tutor to individual learning and exploration within the framework of a supportive and motivative team. The exhibition is colourful and vibrant, depicting various subjects, such as animals, nature, landscapes, still life and maritime.

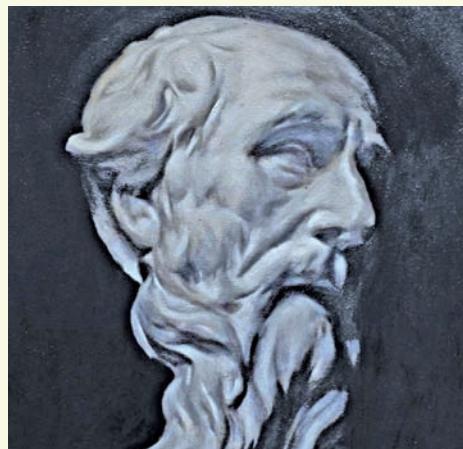


Akademiska Stilleben by Nicholas Benedict Robinson (23rd Nov-6th Dec)

Akademiska Stilleben is an exhibition of still-life and cast paintings by artist Nicholas Benedict Robinson.

The paintings are made with specific consideration to formal elements of the academic style such as the effect of light and space on form.

This is Robinson's second solo show and second show at the Signal Arts Centre. Wicklow artist Robinson is a prize-winning graduate from the Forence Academy of Art, Royal Society of Portrait Painters/ Royal Society of Oil Painters/ Hennessy Portrait Prize and Zurich Portrait Prize exhibitor.



New documentary unveils Wicklow's dark past

In a new online documentary George Fitzgerald, the director of 'The Dublin Behind the History', delves into the hidden past to reveal what life was like for Wicklow's poor.

Fitzgerald, the author of several books, including, The Secret Life of Ashley Brown and The Promise Maker, opens his new documentary ('George Fitzgerald's A History of a Nation: Part One') by talking about the characters in his latest novel Mary Apple Jaws, Frankie Harry-boy and Codswallop and the tenement Dublin in which The Promise Maker is set. The book becomes the catalyst from Fitzgerald to search out what other parts of the country was like in the famine time.

Fitzgerald gives us an overview of the nation's history from Saint Patrick's arrival in the fifth century, to Henry VIII and his rule, and The shillelagh, the fighting stick that the Irish used for settling disputes. He shows how the Irish carried this stick with them in the Five Points of New York in the 1880s. In this gripping documentary, we travel into America's worst slum and discover the Irish as the first immigrants to organise crime.

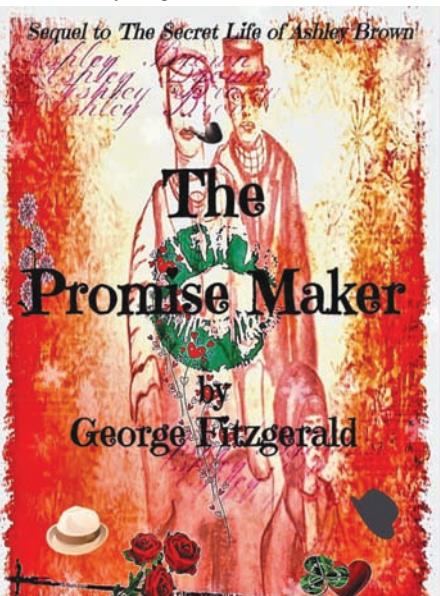
Fitzgerald stated that



George Fitzgerald

personality of the woman, in her family life and daily activities. And in what she set forth as her goals, achievements, and her concerns, including politics, foreign affairs, religion, and the role of women in the world she lived."

Wicklow's closeness to Dublin influenced the county's demographic formation to a large degree. The soaring rate of inter-county migra-



The Book of Kells 2020 Creative Competition

Trinity College Dublin has announced the launch of its annual Book of Kells Creative Competition, which invites artists and writers of all ages to submit a work inspired by the famed book.

This year, contestants are invited to share art and writing that evokes the theme of 'colours in the Book of Kells'. There are entry categories for adults and school-aged children at both primary and second level, with winners receiving an individual cash prize as well as a cash prize for their arts club or school. Winners will also be honoured at the annual Book of Kells Creative Competition awards ceremony held in Trinity College Dublin and will also receive a VIP trip to the Book of Kells. What's more, the Book of Kells exhibition has reopened following a period of closure, meaning would-be entrants can once again visit the famous book and discover its beautiful colours up close and personal.

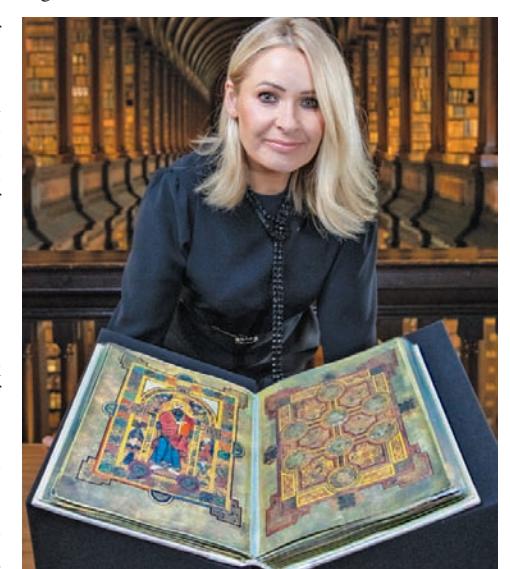
This year's judging panel includes notable bookworms Sharon Ní Bheoláin of RTÉ News and Rick O'Shea, RTÉ radio presenter and founder of Ireland's largest book club. The pair will be joined by Dr Rachel Moss, Head of the art history and architecture at Trinity.

Speaking at the launch, Sharon Ní Bheoláin said, "It is an honour to be a part of this unique competition for the third year running. 2019 saw individuals from all walks of life and all corners of the globe share their artistic rendering of this most celebrated manuscript. I was truly bowled over by the vision, imagination, application and enthusiasm on display and look forward to seeing exciting and innovative interpretations of this year's theme".

Radio personality Rick O'Shea added, "The Book of Kells holds a special place in Ireland's collective imagi-

nation, and rightly so. This year we are looking for people to use their creativity to celebrate the magic and enduring charm of Ireland's most famous book".

For more information and to enter please visit www.bookofkells.ie/competition. The competition closing date is October 30th.



Sharon Ni Bheolain with a replica Book of Kells, launching the annual Book of Kells Creative Competition in the Long Room Library at TCD.

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Anne Tarpey McNally with Deborah Brock of Nua Fertility, winner of the Emerging Business category award at the Network Ireland Wicklow Businesswomen of the Year Awards which were held in Fishers of Newtownmountkennedy.

The right way to feed your pet

Cats and dogs like routine - at least when it comes to their food. A healthy adult dog should ideally be fed at least twice a day - cats between three and four times a day.

Our four-legged friends attune themselves to these times, with the added benefit that they are less likely to beg you for food at any time of the day or night. As for the amount of food, it makes sense to follow the manufacturer's recommenda-

tions. However, these will only provide you with typical average values, and your pet's individual size, his level of activity, daily routine and even the outside temperature will also play a role. For example, an outdoor cat that spends hours roaming around her territory, even in winter, will use up far more energy than a cat who just lounges around on the sofa. To prevent excess body weight or malnutrition, owners should therefore consider the animal's individual requirements when it comes to their diet. It is always advisable to constantly monitor if the animal noticeably gains or loses weight, and to adjust the amount of food, snacks and chews accordingly.

Call in to your local Maxi Zoo store and chat with our staff members about your pet's nutrition today, and stay up to date with Ireland's largest pet retailer on Facebook and Instagram @maxizooireland or maxizoo.ie

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Wicklow Gaol wins Trip Advisor award

Wicklow's Historic Gaol has won a prestigious 2020 Trip Advisor Travellers' Choice - Best of the Best award.

Every year, Trip Advisor - the online travel site - assess all the reviews, ratings, and saves that travellers share from across the globe and use that information to spotlight the very best.

The results are used for the Travellers' Choice, Best of the Best awards. Wicklow Gaol is now rated in the top 10 per cent of attractions worldwide.

Prior to this Wicklow's Historic Gaol had received five consecutive Certificate Excellence awards from Trip Advisor.

"This is global validation for Wicklow Historic Gaol as Tourist Attraction", said Emeir O'Connell, the Gaol's Manager, who added: "It is hugely significant when so much of tourism is driven by social media and influencers. It is especially welcome this year as all businesses are particularly challenged and we want people to know we are open for business."

She said to receive such an award was a massive boost for the team involved: "The success of Wicklow's Historic Gaol is due to the hard work, commitment and personal service provided by all those who welcome and mind the customers and those that provide background support - it's a

team effort all the way".

Describing this as a "wonderful win" for the Gaol, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, added: "Growing our thematic experiences is one of the cornerstones of Wicklow's Tourism strategy as this capitalises on the rich heritage of County Wicklow and aligns us with Ireland's Ancient East. This is recognised by Failte Ireland, through their investment in Wicklow's Historic Gaol which one of Wicklow's top attractions."

Chairman of Wicklow Enterprise Park, Mr Blaise Treacy, stated: "The Wicklow Gaol reopened its doors to visitors on the 29th of June this year following closure due to COVID-19 restrictions which is hugely important to support business in the locality, 'shop local' campaigns and the work of the Town re-opening committee". He acknowledged the support of the Board of WEP; Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Frank Curran, Elected Members and all of the staff involved.

The Gaol has operated as a Tourist attraction for the last 20 years and is now a key attraction in Ireland's Ancient East welcoming over 40,000



visitors a year. It also provides valuable local employment, including in the very popular Jailer's Rest café.

The Gaol has been the recipient of two Failte Ireland grants in the last six years, the most recent of which allowed the business to develop Ireland's premier Virtual Reality Experience, the "Gates of Hell". The customer demand for the Experience has surpassed all expectations.

The Gaol has been under the management of the Wicklow Enterprise Park since 2010 and has been supported also by Wicklow County Council.

LOCAL BUSINESS

Reach the **MOST** people for the **LEAST** money with **Wicklow Times**
For details of our amazing deals please call 01 286 9111



Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you, offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away. You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you: in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect'.

C.J.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a revised house type on previously granted site (ref. no. 17/1506) and associated works at Ballinastoe, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow for H. Fitzmaurice. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Full planning permission being applied for a two story detached dwelling (256 sq.m) with future habitable attic space (66 sq.m) on a site with shared entrance and all associated site works at Castlefield, Fassaroe Avenue, Fassaroe, Bray, Co. Wicklow for Julie Farrar and Dieles Huibregts.

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.

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, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

PLANNING PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

SK Design (0402 94680) on behalf of Emma Kavanagh & Kevin Hickey seek full Planning Permission for demolition of sunroom to the rear of dwelling and permission to construct a replacement single story extension to the rear of dwelling at Kevin Street, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling with connection to services, revised entrance and associated works at 2 Ballybeg, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow for H. Murphy. 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.

Waste Management Act, 1996

**AFF Logistics, Rathnew,
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CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

CALL: 01 2869111 EMAIL: jennie@localtimes.ie
PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS
AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY

Lotto cash for Wexford and Wicklow players

Two Lotto players from Wexford and Wicklow will share a Lotto prize of €136,234 after both came to within one number of last week's €2 million Lotto jackpot.

Both matched five numbers and the bonus ball on the main Lotto draw and will each get a cash prize of €68,117. The Wexford winner bought their ticket at the Top Oil service station at Tomnalossett, Enniscorthy, in Co. Wexford. The winner from Co. Wicklow, bought their ticket online.

A spokesperson for the National Lottery said: "With two Lotto jackpot winners in the past week, it would have been incredible to get a third in such a short space of time. Two Lotto players were so close to last night's €2 million jackpot."

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.C.

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Tiglin Challenge is looking for:

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To work at Tiglin Women's Centre in Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow

Applicants must have experience in 'programme development' and a working understanding of the 'Whole Person Model' with emphasis on the Christian spiritual component.

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Please send your CV and cover letter to Gary O' Heaire at

gary@tiglin.ie

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