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Tuesday 25th August 2020 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# COVID CLUSTER IN BRAY

**Residents of the Direct Provision centre currently operating out of the Esplanade Hotel on Bray Seafront have been told to restrict their movements following a cluster of Covid-19 infections in the centre.**

A letter was sent out by the HSE on August 20th addressing the Esplanade's residents and explaining that all residents were being tested. Those not tested on August 18th were to be tested on Friday August 21st.

There are 115 people receiving emergency accommodation residing at the centre, including 20 children.

The hotel was recently targeted with leaflets from right-wing group 'Anti-Corruption Ireland' peddling conspiracy theories about Covid-19, such as that wearing masks is dangerous, that the pandemic itself is 'staged' and that 'social distancing is fraudulent'.

At the time of going to press two residents had tested positive for the virus, but it's being treated as a cluster due to the nature of the conditions which have strangers sharing living spaces.

The Esplanade's residents have been advised to restrict their movements as much as possible, to not go shopping, to not use public transport or go to any crowded settings. Those in employment were told to not attend work until it's safe to do so. The letter states that "these instructions are enforceable under the law. You have a legal obligation to follow them".

Reacting to the news, the Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI) group, which is campaigning to end direct provision, said "this will continue until there is a vaccine if the government maintains their policy of overcrowding".

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said "Recent reports of a small Covid cluster in the emergency accommodation in the Esplande Hotel are very concerning. I have written to the Minister to seek clarity of the extent of the outbreak and to ask that sufficient supports are put in place for the residents, as their living conditions will make it very difficult for them to isolate. I have also raised the need for supports for school children and to ensure that information is provided to residents by the HSE in a number of languages. Those in the centre are already in a vulnerable position, and that will be made much worse by this outbreak.

"Our system of Direct Provision has been exposed even further by Covid to be a wholly inhumane way of us to deal with those individuals and families that are hoping to find respite and refuge in our country. I am glad the programme for Government has committed to end this system - it's important that it happens quickly and is replaced by something that provides dignity, respect and independence to asylum seekers."

Sinn Fein TD John Brady has written to the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee, urging her to take more urgent steps to reduce the Covid 19 risk in Direct Provision centres.

Deputy Brady said "There is growing fear and uncertainty among residents in Direct Provision centres about their risk to Covid-19 infection. This week we have seen a Covid outbreak at a facility in Wicklow being used for emergency accommodation. Many residents have been raising concerns about the Department of Justice and its slow response to the need to remove asylum applicants from communal accommodation.

*Continued on page 3*

*Nora and Molly with the new Wicklow Passport which was launched last week. The passport is aimed at encouraging locals and visitors to explore the Garden County. See story on page 11.*

LOCAL WICKLOW Times

*Grace Rogers, Laoise and Declan at the communion ceremony at the Queen of Peace Church in Bray for St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's schools. Pic: Joe McQuillan*

# Former Greystones mayor fundraises for town's First Responders

**Former Greystones Mayor Stephen Stokes recently completed the Wicklow Way in aid of Greystones Community First Responders (GCFR). At a socially distant presentation it was announced that €1,921 had been raised for GCFR.**

Margaret Duggan, Chairperson of GCFR stated: "Greystones Community First Responders would like to thank Stephen Stokes for completing this sponsored walk on our behalf. We are very grateful to receive this money and appreciate the great effort and hard work Stephen put into this fundraiser. We are especially grateful to receive the money as we were unable to hold our annual fundraising table quiz due to Covid-19. This money will go towards the cost of maintaining the public access defibrillators in and around Greystones."

Greystones Community First Responders receive no public funding and must finance everything including PPE. Stephen stated: "I would like to say a big thank you to all those who donated. We had donations from all over Ireland, the UK and even the United States. The money will go directly to saving lives. I'd also like to especially thank family and friends for all their logistical and moral support."

Normally GCFR host two fundraisers per year, but it is now expected Stephen's Wicklow Way walk will be their only fundraiser of 2020.

Stephen added: "I was delighted to give back to people who do so much for the community. The First Responders can get to people in under 6 minutes. A Loughlinstown ambulance can take 12-15 minutes depending on traffic and if they are available. Those few minutes can be vital. Additionally the costs are significant. Every time a defibrillator is used the pads have to be replaced at a cost €120 + vat. That is why every cent raised is vital."

*Former Greystones Mayor, Stephen Stokes*

The Wicklow Way is 131km between Marlay Park, Co. Dublin and Clonegal, Co. Carlow. Stephen added: "It is an amazing walk, but it can be done in little sections too. We are lucky to be from such a scenic county."

For more information about getting involved in GCFR people can email greystonescfr-group@gmail.com. Additionally there is a Greystones Community First Responders Facebook page for regular updates.

## New Pure Mile Group

The Irish Mountain Running Association has formed a new PURE Mile Group, adopting as their area the Sugar Loaf Mountain and car park. Their recent litter pick and cleanup resulted in the removal of 23 bags of rubbish from this area.

## Brockagh Resource Centre

The clothes bank, located behind the building is emptied regularly and is in aid of the Brockagh Resource Centre. If you find the container full please leave your bags at the back door of the centre to avoid them getting wet.

A music and art camp is coming soon in the Brockagh Resource Centre for children between age of 4 to 12yrs. Dates to be confirmed. You may contact martanielsenmusic@gmail.com for more information if you have an interest.

The Brockagh Resource Centre is a HSE Civil Registration Service approved venue for weddings. If you wish to make a booking call (0404) 45600 or email brockaghresourcecentre@gmail.com. Check out up to date information on their website at www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie or check out on Facebook and Twitter.

## Free Start Your Own Business Bootcamp

Bray Community Enterprise is running a free online Start Your Own Business Bootcamp on Thursday 27th August. The workshop will help you determine if you might be suited to self-employment and teach you about setting up and managing your own business. Topics covered will include: Goal-setting; Market Research; SWOT Analysis; Legal Structures; Taxation and Record-keeping; Time Management; Sales and Selling Skills; and Promoting Your Business. The bootcamp is supported by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022, which is co-funded by the Government of Ireland, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

Qualifying criteria apply. To find out more call BCE on 01 205 0111 or see www.brayarea-partnership.ie.

## Bone Machine at the Hot Spot

Tom Waits tribute band Bone Machine will play at the Hot Spot Music Club in Greystones on 25th September. Bone Machine captures the character and musical genius of Tom Waits. An exhilarating performance play to packed houses of adoring fans. Mr. Waits' music is uniquely presented with a characteristic authority rarely harnessed. Bone Machine are a band of internationally renowned touring and recording musicians. They perform a firebrand, melancholic and punk jazz set of Tom Waits songs. Doors open 8:00 p.m. Show starts 9:00 p.m. Tickets €14/€16. Full details from www.thehotspot.ie.

## Biodiversity projects

An invitation is extended for expressions of interest for biodiversity projects.Funding available for community groups and individuals under the LEADER/Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.You must submit a completed Expression of Interest (EOI) form to County Wicklow Partnership, 3rd Floor, Avoca River House, Bridgewater Centre, Arklow, by close of business on Friday 4th September. EOI forms and further information is available on www.wicklowpartnership.ie. You can also contact us by phone on 0402 20955 or email info@wicklowpartnership.ie.

## Free car park in Laragh

Wicklow Co. Co. had opened a new free car park in Laragh. This is a secure facility with staff on duty, and shall be open daily between 8am and 8pm. It is located beside the Woollen Mills and GAA grounds in Laragh.

The car park is perfect for hill walkers with access along the beautiful Green Road to Glendalough and all its walking trails. You can even avoid the valley floor if you wish by following the orange trail up towards Derrybawn, the Spinc and Mullacor.

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*Leanne Walker and Tony Nobbs at the Arklow Positive Ageing charity evening in the Midway, Arklow.*

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# 50 NEW COVID CASES IN LAST TWO WEEKS

**In total there have been 719 official confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Co. Wicklow since the beginning of the pandemic, the seventh highest in the country, according to Ireland's Covid-19 Data Hub. This is an increase of almost 50 cases in the last two weeks, with the latest available data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) revealing 670 cases in Wicklow up to August 7th.**

The data is based on official figures provided by the HSE and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC).

A breakdown of the figures by Electoral Division reveals that most of Wicklow's Covid cases so far have been in the Bray area; with 159 in the Bray Central area, 49 in the Rathmichael /Shankill/Shanganagh areas, 95 in Bray's southern electoral division (which includes Kilmacanogue and Fassaroe), and 12 in Enniskerry.

Looking at Greystones and its surrounding areas, there have been 28 confirmed cases in Greystones, 16 in Delgany, 36 in Kilcoole, 8 in Newcastle Lower and 9 in Newcastle Upper which includes Newtownmountkennedy.

There have been 16 cases in Wicklow Town with a further 21 cases in the town's surrounding area, as well as 6 cases in Glenealy.

In the Arklow area, there have been 50 cases in the town's urban areas and 28 cases in the Kilbride area.

In West Wicklow, Blessington has had 17 cases, Dunlavin has had 6 cases and Hollywood has had 6 cases. Tinahely has had 5 cases. The Burgage Electoral Division has had 11 cases, while there have been less than five cases in the Baltinglass electoral division.

Elsewhere in the county, Aughrim and Rathdrum have each had 5 cases, while the Togher electoral division which includes Roundwood has had fewer than five cases.

According to the CSO, there were five active Covid cases in Co. Wicklow as of the week beginning August 7th, and 15 new cases between July and August, before the number of infections began to rise sharply.

From 28th February to August 7th, there have been 43 Covid related deaths in Wicklow. The median age of those contracting it is 49 and the median age of those dying is 83..

*Making their communion from Rathcoyle National School at Killamoat Church, Rathdangan, were Sarah Kinsella, Una Goggin, Teagan Hussain, Tommy Roche, Leilaine Love, Amanda Woodroofe, and Kara Nolan, with teacher Ruth Nolan*

# COVID CLUSTER IN BRAY

*Continued from page 1*

"Residents of these centres are particularly vulnerable to the spread of Covid-19 due to the nature of the accommodation.

"The government must find a way to get people out of dormitory style or congregated accommodation as quickly as possible and into environments that are much safer. Direct Provision has failed for the vulnerable people seeking our protection, it has also failed public health.

"The must also communicate better with the residents of direct provision centres as to what plans are being put in place in terms of alternative accommodation for those with underlying conditions or for those who need to self-isolate. This is causing a lot of fear and uncertainty among residents. I have written to the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee, raising these concerns and seeking clarity on the measures in place in terms of self-isolation and for those who need to 'cocoon'."

Speaking to ***Wicklow Times***, Bray's Green Party councillor Erika Doyle said "It is distressing to hear of any Covid outbreak within a community but even more so when it takes place in an environment where people do not have full control over their own behaviours and actions. The absolute unsuitability of hotels as accommodation for asylum seekers is shown here in cold light. Living at close quarters and sharing facilities is a breeding ground for this virus, not to mention the myriad other physical and mental health issues that can arise.

"I trust that all management concerned are dealing with the situation in a manner that respects the dignity of the residents and they are receiving the support they need at this time. This type of accommodation was never suitable. When the Green Party entered coalition talks, the abolition of direct provision was a key demand.

"This government has committed to ending direct provision within the lifetime of its term and replacing it with an international protection not-for-profit accommodation policy. I have every faith in Minister Roderic O'Gorman to work with the Justice Department to oversee this commitment."

In a statement to ***Wicklow Times***, the HSE said "The HSE is aware of the dangers of the spread of Covid-19 in congregated settings such as Direct Provision Centres. We actively manage every outbreak in Direct Provision Centres and are currently finalising a plan to mass test residents of Direct Provision Centres to further control the risks to these residents."

Also last week, Wicklow Rovers, the Wicklow Town-based soccer club, announced that it has suspended all club activities for 14 days after one of their players in their Wicklow Dublin Football League (WDFL) Senior Squad tested positive for Covid-19.

The player had no symptoms but tested positive for the virus during a routine test at his workplace. The club stated that close contacts of the player were being identified and contacted by the HSE.

Wicklow Local Times

*Rubi Berkley with Ross and Carol at the communions ceremony at the Queen of Peace Church in Bray for St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's schools. Pic: Joe McQuillan*

# Coillte gifts 100 helmets to Wicklow Fire Service

**Tuesday, August 18th 2020: Coillte presented Wicklow Fire Service with 100 specialist wildland firefighting helmets in recognition of the vital role local firefighters play in helping combat forest and wild fires in County Wicklow.**

Wicklow Fire Service work closely with Coillte staff to manage both forest and wild fires.

This gift from Coillte is a recognition of the close working relationship between both agencies and a thank you for the hardworking men and women of Wicklow Fire Service for their commitment.

Barry Coad, Operations Manager at Coillte says; "Forest fires pose a real health and safety risk to local communities and to the local landscape.

Coillte are fortunate to enjoy such a strong working relationship with our partners in the Wicklow Fire Service who have responded to dozens of forest fires across County Wicklow over recent years.

We wished to express our gratitude for the incredible work they've done, and continue to do in combatting forest fires both in Wicklow and across the county. The presentation of 100 specialist wildland firefighting helmets from Coillte to the Wicklow Fire Service is a small token of our appreciation for the work they do in keeping our forests and communities safe."

Aidan Dempsey, Fire Chief of the Wicklow Fire Service says; "We appreciate the generous gift of 100 fighting helmets from Coillte, who we are proud to continue working with Coillte to protect the local environment around County Wicklow.

"Wicklow Fire Service provides a 24-hour emergency response from ten Fire Stations across the county, responding to various emergencies and protecting the local community as a frontline defence against forest fires.

"As always, we urge the residents across County Wicklow to immediately report any suspected forest fires to the Wicklow Fire Service by calling 999 or 112."

Coillte, Ireland's largest commercial forestry company manages approximately 7% of the country's land on a fully sustainable basis. Coillte is the largest supplier of roundwood in Ireland which underpins a vibrant Forestry Sector.

*Members of Wicklow Fire Service with their new helmets which were donated by Coillte*

# Anvil owners yet to commit to new premises

**Following the recent closure of the sale of Anvil's premises on Bray Main Street, the store's owners made a statement to say that they have yet to commit to a new premises despite continuing preparations to vacate the premises.**

Citing the challenges and uncertainty as a result of Covid-19 restrictions and Brexit, they say that they are now reassessing their options.

The homeand accessories store has been a fixture in Bray for almost 50 years.

They said "After 49 years, Avil will be moving out of our home, here on the Main Street. For some time, we have been looking for a suitable, alternative premises, and it has always been our intention to relocate, ideally here in Bray.

"However, the world has changed greatly over the past 12 months. The new challenges of the current pandemic and the uncertainty of the impact of Brexit on ur business, have caused us to press pause and reassess our options. This is not an easy decision, but, currently, we have not committed to a new premises.

"As we need to vacate the building. We are beginning to clear out our stock. While we are very conscious of the need of social distancing we do hope to see many of you in the coming weeks."

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

# Francisco wins award for care work

**Home carer Francisco Carrillo from Dublin has been announced as the winner of the inaugural Dublin South & Wicklow Carer of the Year Award run by home care provider Right at Home Ireland. The company has extended their congratulations and gratitude to Francisco, following the announcement.**

Right at Home Ireland established the Carer of the Year Awards this year to acknowledge the work and commitment of its staff to their clients and colleagues, and to recognise those who go above and beyond for the people they care for.

Speaking about the announcement, Managing Director of Right at Home Ireland, David McKone said: "We are delighted to be awarding Francisco today. Francisco has been chosen as the winner of this award because of his commitment to his clients, his kindness and his wonderful way with the people he cares for. Francisco goes above and beyond for his clients, and all clients who have met him only have great things to say about him. Francisco goes about his work with the utmost respect and always has the dignity of the people he cares for at the front of his mind.

"Francisco has been working throughout the pandemic assisting clients wherever they need help. He has an excellent attitude towards work with a keen eye for detail and always goes the extra mile."

Speaking about his award, Mr. Carrillo commented: "It's great to be receiving this award. It means a lot for my work to be recognised. I love what I do, and the people that I meet and care for. So it's great to be given an award for something that I am so passionate about. I think that the work that we do is so important - to help people live with dignity in their own homes.

"This has never been more important than in recent times when so many vulnerable people could no longer leave the house or have loved ones visit, so it was good to know that I was able to brighten up my clients' day. To be that point of contact and to put a smile on their face - those little things are so important."

Speaking about the awards, Mr. McKone said: "We have started the awards to recognise the hard work of Right at Home team members who provide exceptional care to their clients, carrying out their roles in line with Right at Home's values of respect, dignity and trust; and who go the extra mile with humour, kindness and a personal touch. This has been even more important in recent times, give the extremely challenging environment in which our carers have had to operate due to the ongoing pandemic. Francisco exemplifies these attributes and we're very grateful to have him as a part of the Right at Home team."

As the winner of Carer of the Year South Dublin & Wicklow, Francisco will now go forward to the national awards where an overall winner will be chosen as National Carer of the Year. There are five regional winners, one from Dublin North, Cork, Galway and Kildare, as well as Dublin South & Wicklow. They each represent one of the five regions in which Right at Home provide home care services to people who require assistance with living at home. Each regional winner has been presented with a €200 One4All voucher.

The national awards will take place during an online event in September during which the Carer of the Year national award winner will be announced and presented with a further €500.00 One4All voucher and a Dublin Crystal trophy to mark their achievement.

*Francisco Carrillo, the Dublin South & Wicklow Carer of the Year*

# 'Urgent clarity needed over sporting events for children'

**Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore says the latest announcement on COVID 19 restrictions has created 'untold confusion and anxiety for parents, children and sports club organisers at the height of outdoor sporting season for children across the country."**

Speaking on the issue, Deputy Whitmore says "Since the latest announcement by Government on restricting outdoor sporting activities, conflicting advice has been given to parents and club organisers resulting in numerous sporting clubs shutting down or reducing their capacity, potentially needlessly, as a result of this information vacuum.

"Clubs have been left perplexed at mixed messages coming from the Minister for Health who recently stated that parents could not attend their children's sport club training and matches as part of the recent Government restrictions. Yet the Acting Chief Medical Officer and head of NPHET Dr. Ronan Glynn has reiterated that there is no problem with parents attending their child's sporting events.

"The logic would dictate that if up to 50 people can attend an indoor cinema, with social distancing enforced, surely it is appropriate that a much smaller number of parents can attend an outdoor, spacious event to monitor and supervise their children's sporting activities?

"Due to the Government's failure to provide clear guidance on the issue, many sporting clubs feel forced to shut their doors. Many clubs require that parents attend training and matches for child for protection issues but if

*Jennifer Whitmore TD*

parents can't attend, that leaves clubs with very little choice but to close.

"This has been devastating for children who were excited to see their friends, coaches and engage in physical activity once again but are then told their club isn't open anymore. Most unfortunate of all is the fact that these clubs could be closing needlessly which is why I am calling on the Minister for Health and his Cabinet colleagues to issue clear and direct guidance on children's sporting training and events.

"What is clear, is that public anxiety is heightening due to increasing mixed messages, unclear guidance or lack thereof in relation to managing COVID 19. I want the Government to listen closely to people on the ground dealing with the real lived experience of life under COVID 19 and offer them the guidance and support that is so urgently needed at this most uncertain time" concluded Deputy Whitmore.

*Billy Brownie in action against JP Lynch and Evan Quirk during the Leinster Rugby Summer Camp in Greystones. Pic: Sportsfile*

# Rents continue to rise despite Covid-19 impact

**In Q2 of 2020 the average rent in County Wicklow was €1,435 which is 1.6% higher than a year previously. Average monthly rents rose by an average of 1.2% in the year to July, according to the latest Daft.ie Housing Market Report released last week.**

The new monthly report gives key figures on the health of both sale and rental markets, with figures for the sales market showing prices on average unchanged in July compared to a year ago. The average listed sale price nationwide in July was €259,733, while the average monthly listed rent was €1,412.

Rents in Dublin are largely unchanged, year-on-year, having risen by just 0.2% in the last 12 months to July. In the rest of Leinster and in Munster, rents have risen in the last year - by 3.3% and 2.7% respectively. In Connacht and Ulster, however, rents are 0.6% lower than a year ago. In the sales segment, prices have risen in both Dublin (+1.2%) and the rest of Leinster (+2.1%) in the last 12 months, but have fallen elsewhere in the country - by 2.8% in Munster and by 2.5% in Connacht and Ulster.

Figures measuring the availability of property on the market show very different trends across sale and rental segments.

Figures measuring the availability of property on the market show very different trends across sale and rental segments. In the sale segment, there were just 19,538 properties for sale nationwide on August 1, down 22% year-on-year and the lowest August total since 2006. In the rental market, however, availability has improved, with 41% more properties for rent on the 1st of August 2020 than on the same date a year ago. This increase is driven by Dublin, where stock on the market is almost twice what it was a year ago - elsewhere in the country, availability is largely unchanged.

Commenting on the report, Ronan Lyons, economist at Trinity College Dublin and author of the Daft Report, said: "Both sale and rental segments show very little fall-off in housing prices since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, despite the extraordinary economic contraction. Various policy supports, for both owner-occupiers and tenants, appear to have made prices sticky. Nonetheless, given the potential for successive waves of Covid-19 in Ireland, this may be tested in the coming quarters. As it stands, both sale and rental segments appear to have weathered the initial impact of the pandemic and the underlying shortage - especially of rental accommodation - remains.

"Both sale and rental segments show very little fall-off in housing prices since the start of the covid19 pandemic, despite the extraordinary economic contraction."

Commenting on the report, Raychel O'Connell, Communications Manager at Daft.ie said: "Since May of this year Daft has been releasing monthly reports so that we can better analyse the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Irish housing market. After large price drops in April the industry has, for the most part, bounced back and in this report we are even seeing price increases compared to pre-Covid-19 figures.

"In addition, on Monday 17th of August Daft.ie had its best day ever for traffic with over 560,000 sessions recorded. This record day goes to show that, despite the rising prices in sales and the significant increase of supply in rental, demand for properties in Ireland is as strong as ever."

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Local Times Wicklow

*Sophie Loy and Mia Boyle Dawson celebrating their Communion at the Queen of Peace Church in Bray. Pic: Joe McQuillan*

# Is this the year not to go to university?

**The start of a new academic year brings with it new and exciting opportunities, especially if you happen to be venturing into the university grounds for the very first time. While it is easy to forget when you are staring at a pile of textbooks that are stacked up on your desk from week one, there is more to university life than attending lectures, reading countless articles and completing large assignments.**

University life is meant to be fun. The transitional phase from secondary school to starting a degree can be one of the most exciting times for many students who are eager to break away from their tight-knit group of secondary school friends and immerse themselves in the university culture. However, as Leaving Certificate Students await their calculated grades, the new academic year will hold many challenges in the area of teaching and learning and the 'University Experience'.

"Maybe this is the year not to go to university and instead do a one-year Further Education course in a similar area of interest," says Gabriel Allen, Deputy Principal of Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE). "The COVID-19 restrictions will have a dramatic effect on students' first year at university with some Universities reporting that students will be asked not to come in at all and that lectures will take place on-line. Other Universities are saying that 50% of student lectures will take place in the college and the other 50% will be online. Whatever the solution, it will make for a very disjointed year with students missing out on the University culture that is so important to their time at University".

He added, "The huge range of courses available at BIFE offers learners fabulous opportunities, not only for those looking for additional skills or hoping to go directly into employment, but also for those who might want to defer their place at University or IT for the year so as to complete a further education course, whether it be related to their University choice or one of the fabulous niche courses on offer at Bray Institute such as Music Production, 3D Game Design, DJ Techniques, TV, Science Pre-University, Furniture Design, Animal Care and much more."

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

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

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

Bray Institute will offer a number of new courses in September '20: Construction & Joinery Level 5; Jewellery Making Level 5; Pharmacy Assistant Level 5; Sports Injury & Soft Tissue Massage Therapy Level 5; Canine Husbandry Level 5; Animal Care - Start your own business Level 6; Equine Studies Level 5; Applied Ecology & Biodiversity Studies Level 5; Tour Guiding Level 6.

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

Allen assured that there are also many opportunities for mature students to study and progress at BIFE. "All courses have valuable certification and offer progression routes to Higher Education, yet you don't need CAO points to study at Bray Institute."

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

# Students can benefit from a new fund

**Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has confirmed over €240,500 will be given to students in Wicklow and Wexford ETB.**

A fund for student devices worth €15 million was part of a €168 million package for further and higher education sectors to deal with the impacts of Covid-19.

Mr Harris said: "Covid-19 has disrupted many aspects of our lives. For students in third level, it has resulted in a changed college experience. This new academic year will mean many students will be attending courses online and will need access to devices. This investment will allow us to help 16,700 students access laptops and will ensure they can keep up to date with their studies. It will also go some way to bridging the digital divide, support students and ensure equality of access to education."

The 168m funding package includes an additional 10m for access supports which complements the IT support package. Students in higher education institutions experiencing exceptional financial need can apply for support via their local access office. The devices will be distributed through targeted lending schemes run by the higher education institutions and will be overseen by Student Access Offices. In the further education and training sector, this will be overseen by the Education and Training Board (ETB) management.


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WICKLOW LOCAL Times

*William Temple with Alan and Marian at the communion ceremony at the Queen of Peace Church in Bray for St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's schools. Pic: Joe McQuillan*

# Ballymoney solar farm gets go ahead

**An Bord Pleanala has granted permission for a solar farm on a 19ha site at Ballymoney just outside Arklow.**

Wicklow County Council granted BNRG Neoen Holdings Ltd permission for the development in August 2019 but its decision was appealed by a third party.

The site is comprised of a parcel of land made up of five fields. Permission has already been granted for solar farms in close proximity to the site, at Coolboy, Johnstown North, and Templerainey.

The grounds for the objection included claims that: Notices had failed to adaquetly describe the development; there had been a failure to conduct the Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment adequately; the development is of a size and scale that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment.

A response to the appeal was received from Highfield Energy Services on behalf of the applicant, outlining that: the site notices comply with the requirements and an indicative grid route connection has been submitted; The drawings submitted comply with the requirements; the electrical cabling referred to is the internal electrical cabling; The applicant originally erected two site notices and then erected a third at the request of the planning authority; Solar farms do not require a mandatory EIA.

ABP's report stated that "the landscape in the area is robust and would be capable of absorbing both the proposed development and the cumulative impact of other recently granted solar farms".

On the matter of an Environment Impact Assessment, ABP's report stated that "a mandatory EIA, and the submission of an EIAR, is not required". ABP's report also concluded that the site notices did comply with the Planning and Development regulations.

Concern was expressed in the appeal regarding the loss of agricultural lands in the area having regard to the number of solar farms in the area. ABP's report states that "the impact on land-use is minimal for the proposed development as agriculture can co-exist with the solar farm. Agricultural use could also co-exist on other solar farms in the area in the same manner and as such the cumulative impact on the loss of agricultural lands would be minimal."

# Appeal against Rathdrum residential development

**A third party appeal has been lodged with An Bord Pleanala (ABP) against a planning application to construct 17 dwellings at the Stewart's Hall estate at Ballygannon, Rathdrum. Permission has already been granted for a development in the field adjacent to Stewart's Hall.**

The application was submitted to Wicklow County Council, and approved. It seeks "17 dwellings consisting of 12 two storey semi-detached, 4 two storey terraced and one single storey dwelling served by existing road network, with connection to services, boundaries and boundary treatments, attenuation system, and associated works."

The appeal is on the grounds of health and safety, environmental impact, noise and disturbance, visual amenity, and traffic movement.

The health and safety concerns are related to large vehicular access throughout the construction of both developments, and the fact that children play on the green areas adjacent to and across from the proposed developments.

The concerns about the environmental impact are related to the potential impact on the flora and fauna and natural hedgerows in and around the proposed site that are a habitat for nesting birds, small animals and a hunting ground for red kites.

The fears about the visual impact on the residents of Stewart's Hall are that the view of the woods and the fields will be replaced by the housing development.

ABP is due to make a decision on the appeal by 1st December.

# Planning news...

## Newcastle residential development

A planning application has been submitted for nine residential units and one commercial unit in Newcastle. The development, in Newcastle Lower, would also consist of pedestrian access from the village Main Street, vehicular and pedestrian access from the Leabeg Road, and upgrade and extension works to existing footpath and public roadway on the Main Street and Leabeg Road.
Wicklow County Council is due to make a decision on 1st October. The deadline for submissions is 10th September.

## Kilcoole Primary School

The Board of Management of Kilcoole Primary School is seeking to make alterations to the application for the redevelopment of the school. It wishes to make alterations and nominal amendments to the primary school redevelopment to include: Roof mounted photovoltaic panels of approx. 110m2; Existing roof replaced with new pitched and flat roof; Level of permitted extension roof raised 450mm; Minor modification to approved pedestrian access route from Kilcoole Road, and internal layout of approved building. The Council is due to make a decision on 4th October.

## Development at Killmacullagh

Papaver Ltd is seeking to develop 24 dwellings at Killmacullagh, main street, Newtown. The application was submitted to Wicklow County Council on 31st July, hwoever the Council deemed the application to be incomplete. The application seeks construction of 24 dwellings, new hard landscaped civic space comprising 988 sqm; A series of new external steps connecting the proposed civic space to the proposed residential development.


COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME:**
**2020 FUND FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS**

**What is it?**

Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) invites applications from community and voluntary groups and not-for-profit organisations for small scale capital projects that will enhance community facilities for individuals and communities that are impacted by disadvantage. These grants are funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) provides capital grants to community groups with the aim of enhancing facilities in disadvantaged areas. Separate to the €2m CEP launched in June 2020, the Department is now launching a new €5m fund, under the CEP, which will provide capital grants towards the maintenance, improvement and upkeep of community centres and community buildings. Similar expenditure on other community facilities will also be allowed. This funding is being made available under the Government's July stimulus package, and is targeted at measures that stimulate local economies, while enhancing facilities in disadvantaged areas. This €5m fund will be administered in a manner similar to the €2m CEP that was launched in June 2020.

**What does it fund?**

Capital expenditure on adaptations or equipment needed as a result of COVID-19 may be eligible, depending on the work being completed. Capital projects only that comply with the objectives of County Wicklow's Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the development of community facilities including adaptation or equipment needed as a result of COVID-19 (please see guidelines for further information).

**There are two parts to this funding scheme:**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. | Grants up to a maximum of €1,000 for small grassroots community projects that address disadvantage and fulfil the objectives of the LECP. |
| 2. | Larger grants greater than €1,000 for projects that can clearly demonstrate that they address disadvantage and fulfil the objectives of the LECP including adaptation or equipment needed as a result of COVID-19. |

**How to Apply?**

Applications for funding can now be made under this Programme to the relevant LCDC by **5.00 p.m. on Thursday 15th October 2020**.

**Application Forms are available from:**

The Council's website, www.wicklow.ie or from Community, Cultural & Social Development, Wicklow County Council, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96.
Telephone 0404 20208 or Email cep@wicklowcoco.ie

**An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and Community Development

# Immediate Actions

to Counter the Rising Rate of COVID-19

Coronavirus **COVID-19** National Programme

**What is happening with the disease?**
The disease is increasing and the profile is changing. In recent weeks, there have been multiple COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces, households and resulting from social events including sporting activities.

Government has decided to put new measures in place to try to change this trajectory, protect the vulnerable, enable schools to reopen and health services to resume. These measures will be in effect until 13th September. If we can get this right, we can avoid going back.

## What everyone should do:

1. **Adhere strictly to the basic hygiene guidelines.**
2. **Avoid places and situations which are crowded.**
3. **Keep visitors to your home or garden limited to six from no more than three households.**

### Cultural, Sporting and Social Activities

**Restaurants and cafes, including pubs that serve food:**

- **All close by 11.30 pm.**
- **Customers wear face coverings** until seated and again on departure.
- **Table service only** – no bar seating and no more than six at a table.

**Sporting events and matches continue but behind closed doors.**

**Classes and training sessions limited to six indoor and 15 outdoor.**

For full details see **gov.ie**

### Work and Transport

**Work from home** unless workplace attendance is essential.

**Avoid using public transport** where possible.

**Avoid sharing cars** with people from another household. Wear face coverings if this is not possible.

### Over 70s and Medically Vulnerable

**Limit interactions** to a small network for short periods of time.

**Maintain 2 metre distance** when exercising outdoors and wash hands on returning home.

**Avoid public transport.**

**Shop during designated hours and wear a face covering.**

There will be an **enhanced level of enforcement** to ensure that workplaces, venues and organisers of activities adhere to the guidelines.

Special measures for County Kildare will remain in place until **6th September.**

## Public Health Advice

- **Wash your hands regularly**
- **Maintain a 2 metre distance from others**
- **Practise good cough and sneeze etiquette**
- **Wear face coverings in accordance with public health advice**
- **Limit your social contacts**

For more information go to **gov.ie**

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Wicklow Local Times

*Joe Ryan and Caroline McGrath are pictured at the Arklow Positive Ageing charity evening in the Midway, Arklow.*


**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN**
**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

## REGULATION OF SHORT TERM LETTING

As part of Government measures to help address pressures in the housing market, reforms to planning legislation regarding **Short Term Letting** came into effect on 01 July 2019. **Short term letting is defined as the letting of a house or apartment, or part of a house or apartment, for any period not exceeding 14 days.**

The reforms, which are underpinned in legislation[1], are primarily aimed at addressing the impact on the private rental market by the use of residential homes for short-term tourism type letting in areas of high housing demand. Accordingly the new provisions will only apply in areas designated as **"rent pressure zones"** under the Residential Tenancies Act 2004, (as amended). Currently all of County Wicklow is designated a "Rent Pressure Zone" and therefore the new regulations apply across the entire County.

The new provisions are as follows:

**Homesharing**

- The letting of up to 4 rooms in a person's principal private residence (where the homeowner remains in occupation) will continue to be permissible on an unrestricted basis and be exempted from the new planning requirements.
- The letting of an entire principle private residence (house or apartment) on a short term basis (14 days or less) for a cumulative period of 90 days per calendar year where the home owner is temporarily absent from their home will continue to be exempt from the new planning requirements.
  However where the 90 day threshold is exceeded, change of use **planning permission** will be required.

Anyone homesharing their principal private residence who wishes to avail of the new planning exemptions will need to **register this with Wicklow County Council** and fulfil specified reporting obligations. To avail of the new planning exemptions for short term letting the submission of the following forms to Wicklow County Council will be required:

**Form 15:** Start of year notification

**Form 16:** For notification when 90 days of short term letting has been reached in the current year.

**Form 17:** For confirmation of the specific amount of days of short term letting carried out during the previous year (on or before January 28th)

These can be found on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie

**Letting of 'second homes'**

Anyone wishing to utilise a second property that is not their principal private residence for short term letting, will need **planning permission** unless the property already has a specific planning permission to be used for tourism or short-term letting purposes.

Guidance and forms for making a planning application can be found on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie

**Concerns regarding unauthorised / unregistered short term letting**

If you have any concerns about properties in your area that you believe are being let on a short term basis without the required registration / permission, you can contact the Council in confidence on plandev@wicklowcoco.ie

A "Frequently Asked Questions" document has been prepared to assist in providing a more comprehensive and detailed understanding of the new short term letting reforms and the new reporting obligations on homesharers. This can be found on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie or by emailing plandev@wicklowcoco.ie

For any questions or queries, you can contact the Short Term Letting team, on 0404 20100 or plandev@wicklowcoco.ie

[1] Section 38 of the Residential Tenancies Amendment Act 2019 (No 14 of 2019) and the Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No 235 of 2019)


# Greenfield site acquired for St. Catherine's

**Green Party Deputy Steven Matthews has received an update on the current status of the proposed building project for St. Catherine's Special School, Newcastle.**

"I have been informed that the Department has now acquired a greenfield site for the new school building for St. Catherine's," said Deputy Matthews.

"The Schedule of Accommodation for the project has been finalised and a copy has been provided to the school. As part of the brief formulation process, a member of the Department's architectural staff will undertake a technical visit to the site and it is intended that this will take place within the next three weeks. Following the visit, a document known as a Brief Formulation Report will be prepared which will form the basis of the briefing for the Design Team that will design and manage the project."

An update on the current status of the project has been furnished to the school and the Department will keep the school updated on progress.

*Steven Matthews TD*

Fianna Fail TD Stephen Donnelly has also welcomed the news a green field site has now been bought for St.Catherine's Special School.

The school is set to have 25 classrooms and will serve children with moderate and severe disabilities living between Bray and Arklow.

Minister Donnelly said the new school site in Kilcoole is desperately needed.

"I know the staff and board of St Catherine's Special School have been working tirelessly to get their new school up and running.

"So this is really fantastic news to have confirmation from the Department of Education that a greenfield site has been acquired.

"St Catherine's do incredible work for some of the most vulnerable young people in our society.

"I know the staff have been a long time waiting for this day and are eager to get the project up and running but this news is a brilliant start.

*Stephen Donnelly TD*

"Finding them a permanent and state-of-the art home is something I will be working hard to make sure is delivered over the coming months."

As part of the brief formulation process, a member of the Department's architectural staff will undertake a technical visit to the site and it is intended that this will take place within the next three weeks.

Following the visit, a document known as a Brief Formulation Report will be prepared which will form the basis of the briefing for the Design Team that will design and manage the project.

St. Catherine's Special School opened in 1972 with 12 pupils and two teachers. Iy gained full recognition from the Department of Education in 1975, and from then until present day it has continued to grow and develop.

# Winners of the Bee Route Short Story Competition announced

**Social Democrats Councillor for Greystones has announced the winners of the Bee Route Short Story Competition during National Heritage Week. The competition was launched by Cllr Neary in June, open to children from ages 5-12 living in the district.**

It formed part of the Greystones District Bee Route Project which involved over 100 residents from the area planting pollinator friendly plots in their gardens and which is currently being mapped.

"I'm delighted that so many children took part in the short story competition . The quality of work has been so heartening, particularly the children's knowledge and intimate recollection of pollinator and flower life cycles. Children really understand the natural world around them. It has confirmed how important it is that children's perspective and voices are considered when we talk about protecting our biodiversity. That is why with the help of Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer of Wicklow County Council I chose National Heritage Week to announce the winners of the competition. "

The winners of the Short Story Competition are: 5-6 age category: **Siena Murphy**, Age 5, Greystones; 7-8 age category: **Kayla Chiverton**, Age 8, Delgany; 9-10 age category: **Martha Woodley**, Age 10, Delgany; 11-12 age category: **Paddy Marrinan**, Age 12, Greystones; OVERALL WINNER!! **Tia Ann**, Age 11, Greystones.

"Our natural heritage is under so much strain at the moment and remains the poor relation to climate action strategy and policy at national level. Part of the reason why so little attention has been paid to the protection and enhancement of our biodiversity on a national level is that children's perspectives are not adequately included, and national policy is not effectively communicated to children in turn.

"Storytelling provides an engaging platform for children whose voices can be heard and we could all learn from their enthusiasm and appreciation of our natural heritage.

"I want to thank all the judges who took part and who have reiterated to me their enjoyment of the project and reading all about the wonderful tales children have submitted. An important part of this competition was to keep business and talent local. All the judges are from Wicklow and work in Wicklow and the project could not have happened without the support of local writers and broadcasters Jillian Godsil and Marlena Murphy who I want to thank for their contribution.

"Winners of each category also received prizes from local businesses and craftspeople including a voucher from the Arboretum in Kilquade, a professional photo opportunity with local photographer Eva Blake, a gorgeous "B Kind" necklace made specifically for this project and generously donated by Peppi Daly of My Beading Heart Designs from Newcastle., Deirdre Burns has posted each winning story on the Wicklow Heritage Site where people are free to read and hopefully learn from these powerful contributions. I want to thank all the children who sent in their lovely stories, the judges that deliberated and had the difficult task of picking winners, and Deirdre Burns for promoting local talent through Wicklow County Council. I have no doubt that this won't be the last time we hear from our talented and environmentally conscious future guardians of our planet!"

# Record your journey with new passport

**A Wicklow Passport aimed at encouraging locals and visitors to explore the Garden County has been introduced by Wicklow Tourism Alliance.**

Passport holders can collect various Wicklow Stamps and discover the activities, attractions, and hospitality on offer across the county.

Loosely based on the 'Camino Passport' in Spain, the Wicklow Passport is a series of stamps that can only be collected at the respective towns or villages represented on each stamp. For example, you can only get the Shillelagh stamps at stamping locations around Shillelagh.

The Wicklow Passport can be stamped through a network of participating businesses within each area which include: Arklow, Ashford, Aughrim, Avoca, Baltinglass, Blessington, Bray, Dunlavin, Enniskerry, Glendalough, Greystones, Hollywood, Rathdrum, Roundwood, Shillelagh, Tinahely and Wicklow Town.

"We are building our network of stamping locations across the County and particularly welcome attractions, activity providers, shops or any business involved in tourism at this very challenging time", according to Fred Verdier of Wicklow Tourism Alliance.

He added: "We feel that the Wicklow Passport project has the potential to help in the recovery of the local tourism industry.

"Any business wishing to get involved can contact us at info@visitwicklow.ie".

Praising the project, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, commented: "This is an excellent concept initiated by Fred Verdier of the Wicklow Tourism Alliance.

"Even for those of us who have an in-depth knowledge of Wicklow, there is always somewhere different to explore.

"It brings a whole new appreciation of the beauty of County Wicklow, the range of things to see and do and and the high-quality accommodation, food and drink on offer."

Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, and Chair of Wicklow Tourism Alliance added: "This offers fun for all the family, It is a great way to spend weekends or the mid-term break".

The Wicklow Passport can be purchased for €2 online at: visitwicklow.ie/passport. Or it can be collected free-of-charge from participating stamping locations, or through the Wicklow Libraries at Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Blessington. The list of stamping locations is available at visitwicklow.ie/passport by clicking on each icon.

Anyone can become a Wicklow Ambassador by collecting 15 or more Wicklow Stamps and claim their Ambassador Certificate by sending in a photo of the stamped passport via the online form .

Passport holders can use it to enjoy offers, discounts and deals at participating Wicklow businesses.

*Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council and the Cathaoirleach of the Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, launching the new Wicklow Passport*

# Car sales bouncing back

**New car registrations in Wicklow for the year to date are down 18% from last year, according to new statistics from the Society of the Irish Motor Industry (SIMI).**

A total of 1,737 new cars have been registered in Co. Wicklow this year, compared to 2,123 from January t July to last year.

This reflects the massive dip in sales from March to May as a result of Covid-19. However, the last two months have shown an increase in sales compared to last year, with 533 new car registrations in Wicklow in July alone compared to 466 in July 2019.

Toyota, Volkswagen and Hyundai have been the most popular makes among Wicklow car buyers this year, particularly the Corolla, Tuscon, Golf, Kona, C-HR, and Tiguan.

Grey, blue, white and black are the most popular passenger car colours among Wicklow buyers this year, and most people are still buying petrol cars with manual transmissions. Sales of petrol electric cars and petrol/plug-in electric hybrids however have increased from last year.

Nationally, new car registrations for July were down 14.1% (21,213) when compared to July 2019 (24,681). While registrations year to date are also down 29.8% (74,069) on the same period last year (105,439).

Wicklow Local Times

*Aughrim's Aoife Connolly taps home one of her four goals against Carnew during the Junior Camogie Championship in Aughrim.*

# Significant increase in visitor numbers to forests

**Coillte has released new figures revealing that there was a large increase in visitor numbers to some recreation forests and forest parks in Wicklow. Four of Coillte's forests in Wicklow track visitor numbers, Ballinastoe, Crone and Devil's Glen recreation forests and Avondale forest park, and these recorded 20,183 visitors between June and August.**

This was a significant increase on visitor numbers in April and May, during the height of COVID19 travel restrictions.

During March and April 2020, when COVID restrictions were at their most limiting, Coillte saw a large drop in visitor numbers as non-essential travel was restricted. However, since travel restrictions were lifted on June 19, visitors have begun returning to Coillte's forests across Ireland.

Coillte is Ireland's leading provider of outdoor recreation activities in Ireland with more than 3,000 kilometres of trails, 260 recreation sites and 12 forest parks across the country.

Imelda Hurley, Chief Executive of Coillte said: "Since restrictions were eased and people could move more than five kilometres from their homes, we, unsurprisingly, saw an immediate large increase in visitor numbers. In fact, there was a significant increase in visitor numbers in four of Coillte's Wicklow recreation forests and forest parks since lockdown restrictions were eased in June, Ballinastoe, Crone Wood, Devil's Glen and Avondale. This continued, steady increase is heartening for all of those who cherish our amenities.

"Access to nature is very important for the body, mind and spirit and that is why we work hard to maintain our tracks, parks and outdoor recreational facilities across Wicklow.

"As we approach the end of August, and people take time to enjoy our forests, we ask that visitors continue to adhere to the social distancing rule of two metres when meeting others outside of their household, as well as the other guidelines on outdoor gatherings announced by the Government. I want to thank the public for adhering to the Government's travel restrictions during the COVID19 lockdown. If we continue to remain vigilant, we can all play our own part in protecting our communities."

# Guided walk in West Wicklow

**Wicklow Uplands Council in partnership with Lacken Community Development Association is inviting you to join a free guided walk titled 'A Journey to 1870's Lacken'.**

Led by local guide Alfie Zeller, the event follows the mountainous route once taken by the communities of Lugnagun and Blackrock to Lacken, home to the nearest church, school and other amenities. Linking with the recently restored Mass Paths, the walk passes numerous examples of abandoned settlements and historical sites, each with their own intriguing tale to tell. Climbing up to the ridgeline between Lugnagun and Sorrel Hill, the panoramic views that take in the Wicklow Mountains National Park and the Blessington Lakes, provide a stunning setting for the occasion.

Two options have been organised to accommodate interest and to allow for strict adherence to government measures on outdoor gatherings. In response to adverse weather, the walks have been rescheduled to the following dates: Thursday the 27th of August at 7pm and Saturday the 29th of August at 2.30pm

These two events are free, open to everyone above the age of 12 and promise to be an informative, fun and enjoyable experience with plenty of stories and anecdotes shared along the route.

In line with Covid-19 guidelines, the Council needs to carefully manage the number of attendees, so we request that you confirm your interest in attending either of the events no later than 2pm on Thursday the 27th of August. ( (Please correspond by email: bdunne@wicklowuplands.ie or phone: 01- 2818406.

# Funding for towns under renewal scheme

**Significant funding for towns across Wicklow has now been announced as part of the government's Covid-related Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Arklow, Bray, Delgany, Greystones and Wicklow Town are all to see enhancements as part of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.**

Welcoming the funding, Minister Simon Harris said "I am delighted that my colleague, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has announced the expansion of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. As part of the changes, 41 towns with populations of over 10,000 will be eligible to apply for funding for the first time specifically for Covid-related measures.

"Arklow, Bray, Delgany, Greystones and Wicklow Town will be assisted in funding projects for Covid-related projects such as; The creation of outdoor areas to accommodate social interactions in a safe environment to include furniture and awnings; Enhancement of town centres by painting, cleaning and improving pedestrian access; Provision of equipment to run local festivals or events to bring people back into towns and villages; The enhancement of community buildings to accommodate remote working.

"Arklow, Bray, Delgany, Greystones and Wicklow Town can each apply for up to €40,000 to increase social activity in towns and address social distancing measures that we all now face as a result of Covid-19.

"I would encourage large towns, as well as towns and villages with populations of below 10,000, to engage with Wicklow County Council to identify projects that will help to bring confidence back to communities and businesses in the locality," concluded Minister Harris.

# 'Bray's heroin crisis'

**Bray area representative for Aontu, Ciaran Hogan, has spoken out about the 'heroin crisis' in Bray after discovering a dirty needle beside the Fran O'Toole Bridge.**

Mr Hayden was clearing some weeds and rubbish from the area beside the Dargle River near the bridge recently during lockdown when he came across the needle laying very near to the path with no cap on it.

Mr Hayden secured the syringe in a plastic bottle where it couldn't harm anyone.

"The most heart wrenching thing for me is finding a used heroin needle laying about without even a cap, just waiting to prick some innicent person, maybe even a child or a beloved animal," he said.

"This situation happens far too often, in fact 'far too often' is any number of times more than zero, because it shouldn't be happening at all.

"It boggles the mind that there can be a heroin trade and supply line operating during this pandemic, it makes a mockery of our safety measures and sacrifice if there is an element in society that carelessly and selfishly dispose of used needles like this in towns and villages across the country, and not alone those who risk injecting themselves with substances."

Mr Hayden is calling for a 'proactice' rather than 'reactive' approach to the issue and is encouraging people to write to the newly elected public representatives to ask them what's being doine about it. "Who know where you might find the next syringe," he said.

# Dementia - what you can do for your community

**As part of World Alzheimer Month which kicks off next week, Fiona Foley, National Co-ordinator, Dementia: Understand Together in Communities, outlines what you can do to support people with dementia and their families locally.**

She says "Stigma is a significant barrier for people with dementia in living as well as possible. It can prevent them seeking support and stop others talking to them, excluding them from community life. Dementia: Understand Together aims to raise awareness and increase people's understanding of dementia, to inspire the nation to stand together with those affected.

"The majority of people with dementia in Ireland live in the community. These communities have been going through significant changes this year that have brought challenges for people with dementia and their families. The nature of business and community services is also changing. Businesses, service providers and community champions can, and are, making a big difference to quality of life for people with dementia and their families by enabling them to become actively engaged in communities.

"Making businesses, services and activities accessible to people with dementia, especially with COVID-19 restrictions changing the way we interact, is immensely important for their well-being. Alongside more than 340 community champions, over 40 national partner organisations from the retail, transport, banking, health, voluntary and community sectors have joined the campaign to help create dementia-inclusive communities.

"There are six simple actions we can all take to support people with dementia and their families: See the person, not the dementia; Talk about dementia; Ask how you can help; Stay in touch; Support the person to keep up hobbies and interests; Make sure your space or service is easy to use.

*Fiona Foley, National Co-ordinator of Dementia: Understand Together in Communities*

"The Dementia: Understand Together campaign has created tip sheets for businesses and community-based organisations to support them in making their services dementia-inclusive. To support our community champions, we have a range of resources including our virtual Champion Cafés where you can connect with other champions and listen to interesting guest speakers, as well as providing guides, flyers, and badges for distribution.

"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, Sunday 10am to 4pm)."

*Sheila and PJ Busher at the Arklow Positive Ageing charity evening in the Midway, Arklow.*

# New funding to modernise libraries

**New funding will help upgrade and modernise libraries in Wicklow and will also help them adapt to COVID-19 distancing requirements, Minister Simon Harris has said.**

"The Department of Rural and Community Development will provide €2.5 million to support a Small Scale Capital Works Programme for public libraries. The Department funding will be matched by local authorities to the value of approximately €280,000 giving a total investment of almost €2.8 million."

"Libraries can also use the funding to adapt their premises to meet social distancing requirement and to provide additional remote working facilities. The funding could be used to provide technology / software to support contactless user services e.g. apps for borrowing, user e-services access management, booking management services etc.

"Libraries are an integral part of communities across Wicklow and it was great that some libraries could stay open during the pandemic, keeping their services going in new and innovative ways. This government wants to ensure they are supported in continuing this service in upgraded facilities."

# Wicklow Lions make masks

**Wicklow and District Lions Club has been very active during the past few very difficult months and the club's much appreciated charity work continues as the members serve the local community in any way they possibly can.**

Having been part of the national distribution of the Hero Face Shields from the beginning of the lockdown, which were also used in the Wicklow area, the club has now designed and printed its own Face Mask with the official Lions logo in a very distinctive blue colour.

As it is now compulsory to wear masks, there is already huge interest in the Lions Masks which are now available to the public from Lions members throughout the area.

The masks are handmade, washable, reusable, made from 100% cotton, and they come with a filter pocket. They are very sturdy and give a complete fit for all sizes.

A striking slogan which should always be remembered is 'I wear one to protect YOU, you wear one to protect ME'.

The local Lions mugs are still available which are proving to be the ideal gift from Wicklow as well as supporting local charities.

Lions clubs worldwide including Wicklow has served 275 million people so far this year, this very valuable work will continue especially from the ladies and gentlemen in the local club.

# Golfers invited to compete in global charity challenge

**A unique charity golf tournament is giving players from Wicklow the chance to compete against a global field, thanks to a new mobile phone golfing app.**

The inaugural 'Global Golf Classic' allows players from across Ireland to test themselves on the biggest stage, and post their score against a field that will include players from the US, UK and around the world, including South African PGA pro, Louis Oosthuizen.

Hosted by Irish development charity Self Help Africa and running worldwide until the end of August, the tournament is supported by the '18Birdies' app. The phone app includes Bray, Delgany, Charlesland, Coolattin, Wicklow, Arklow, Druid's Glen, The European Club, Blessington and Baltinglass GC amongst the local courses on its database.Proceeds from the event will support Self Help Africa's work with women farmers and small-business owners in sub-Saharan Africa. Register at www.selfhelpafrica.org/globalgolf, pay your tournament fee, download the free 18Birdies app, and receive your tournament ID code. Entry fee is €25 per player.

Wicklow Local Times

*Pictured is Joseph Byrne from Baltinglass driving at the 17th tee in the final round of the Irish Boys Amateur Under 18 Championship at Thurles Golf Club. Joseph went on to finish in the top 10. Pic: Pat Cashman.*

# 'Bray Harbour - what's the story?'

**Independent councillor Tom Fortune has said that any re-development of Bray Harbour must include input from local people.**

Cllr Fortune said "I believe that county Wicklow has so much to offer, that you can enjoy in Wicklow what you can enjoy any where in Ireland. Bray is a great example. For example I love the walk along the Promenade. There is a lovely harbour that has a lot of potential and a really nice atmosphere. Recently I am hearing that there is talk of it getting redeveloped. It is very important for the people of Bray to have real input into any proposed development plan. A development such as this would be massive and would make or break Bray."

Cllr Fortune says Bray should not allow or accept what has happened in Greystones, where the harbour development was, in his opinion, "plainly wrong and not at all what was originally envisaged". He said "There were many changes to the original concept and a lot of them not to the advantage of the local community."

He went on to say, "When you see or hear something that is not right you must say something. Whenever any plans for a full project are being prepared a good cross section of the community should review thoroughly what is being considered. The Greystones experience should be used as a case study that we can learn a lot from. We should not tolerate it when assets that should be for the benefit of the community, are lost to the community and are just used for profit."

*Cllr Tom Fortune*

Cllr Fortune posted his views on Bray Open Forum where it sparked much discussion and constructive feedback and concern for the proper management of any project where the community is to be the main benefactors.

"The harbour area is the biggest asset that Bray potentially has and its future has to be to the advantage of the entire community of Bray and north Wicklow,' concluded Cllr Fortune.

# 'We have the largest class sizes in Europe'

**New figures from the Department of Education have revealed class sizes of as many as 39 pupils in some parts of Co. Wicklow.**

John Brady TD has called on the government to immediately carry out an audit of class sizes across the country and work to address this issue sooner rather than later.

Deputy Brady said "It is clear that overcrowding in classrooms is a huge problem. New figures show that the median class size in 2019 was 25 students. The EU average is 20 students per class. Classes in Kerry had up to 38 children, whilst schools in Galway, Limerick, Louth and Meath were not far behind, with up to 37 kids sharing one classroom.

"Schools in Wicklow had up to 39 kids in the classroom, while in Westmeath there were 45 pupils in one class last year.

Speaking recently, the Sinn Féin TD said that the planning for a return to school is being made more difficult because "we have the highest-class sizes in Europe".

"The Government failed to tackle this in its plans for the reopening of schools, whilst one in every five primary school children here is in a class of over 30. There are countless classes that are far too big, in buildings too small, and not fit for purpose," added Deputy Brady.

"The first step in ensuring that educational standards and safety protocols are maintained, is by drastically reducing class sizes down to the EU average of 20.

"It is extremely disappointing, then, that the government parties voted against our recent Private Members' Motion that would have committed the Government to doing just that."If there ever was a time to tackle this issue, surely this is it. To start, all classes of over 30 kids should be abolished, and never allowed to return."

# New social enterprise programme for 18-35 year olds a 'first of its kind'

**Wicklow Partnership on behalf of Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has asked The Entrepreneurs Academy to recruit and engage with 40 Wicklow Rural Youth members (age 18-35), with an interest in starting up a social enterprise or in early design stage.**

The National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland defines Social Enterprises as: Innovative, entrepreneurial and increasingly utilising new technologies and creative approaches to address social, societal or environmental challenges. If you (or somebody you know) live in rural Wicklow and are aged between 18-35 with a passion to build a project that will create and sustain a significant impact then the Social Enterprise Climb programme can really help you make that happen.

This is a first of its kind programme, delivered by The Entrepreneurs Academy on behalf of Wicklow Partnership. The Social Enterprise Climb Programme is a 15 week part time course aimed to help participants develop practical entrepreneurial skills in Social Enterprise.

Participants will explore and develop new or existing business ideas to determine their viability. In accordance with current government guidelines, the programme will take place on Zoom.

The participants will be guided on a journey of enlightenment on all things entrepreneurial, covering everything they need to know from A - Z. From ideation and idea twisting and testing, to leadership and team building, through to all the nuts and bolts required, such as financials, legal aspects, marketing, networking and sales.

There will be an emphasis on how tech can support new entrepreneurs and how to maximise time using these tools. The course itself comprises of the following: 8 boot camps on Saturdays; 7 weekday evening workshops that will take place on Wednesday/Thursday evenings; 8 participants will receive a complete bespoke website for their Organisation to help convey their vision and mission to all. The flexible scheduling of the programme is designed to facilitate access to the programme to all eligible learners. Expressions of interest are being accepted at entrepreneursacademy.ie/social-enterprise-climb/

# Changes to Student Support Scheme for people living in Direct Provision

**Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD recently announced changes to the support scheme for students living in Direct Provision.**

Following a review, Minister Harris confirmed the rules of the scheme will be relaxed and the scheme placed on a long term footing.

The scheme was introduced in 2015 and provides supports along similar lines to the current Student Grant Scheme (the SUSI scheme) to eligible applicants who are in the protection system and who are either: Asylum applicants; Subsidiary protection applicants; or Leave to remain applicants.

The requirement for prospective applications to have attended three academic years in the Irish school system and to have obtained the Leaving Certificate in the State, will no longer be required. Prospective applicants will still have to meet the requirement to have been in the protection or leave to remain process for three years.

The Minister said: "The Government is committed to a new long-term approach to Direct Provision. This will take time to implement but in the meantime, we will continue to make improvements for residents in Direct Provision.

*Minister Simon Harris.*

"Relaxing the criteria for the student support scheme will hopefully result in more people accessing third level education.

"This support scheme will also be put on a more long-term footing. I am acutely aware of the stress that students feel at this time and I hope that the changes that I have approved will address the fears of prospective applicants."

The closing date for 2020/21 applications is the 6th of November 2020. Any student who has already applied for support under the scheme, will have his/her application reviewed under the new more favourable conditions of the scheme.

# HEATING, PLUMBING AND BATHROOM SUPPLIES

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

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Local Wicklow Times

*Violin virtuose duo Lucia & Maria (Lucia Mac Partlin and Maria Ryan) will return to the Whale Theatre in Greystones on Friday 25th September to present you with a concert of new music. They met while studying in Cork, where they also formed contemporary Traditional Irish quartet Strung. They combine traditional, classical and folk influences to stunning effect.*

# Threshold Ritual Haunting at The Courthouse

**Threshold Ritual Haunting is an immersive aerial dance installation and performance created by Katie Joyce Holmes, Artist in Residence at the Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely.**

Joyce Holmes, is from Ballymanus, lives in Tinahely and has been Artist-in-Residence at the Courthouse since 2018. She has created a multi-dimensional performance art piece inspired by her local ecology, local theologies, ideas of home, ritual, lineage and natural devotion.

The show involves a scheduled aerial dance performance and a permanent immersive art installation to create an experience that explores how we can untie our anchors to the past to be fully present in the multiplicities of now.

The installation and performances will cycle over a 3-week period for a show that has taken anything from 10 years to 3 years to 4 months to create. The first performance was on Saturday 22nd August and it will continue until Saturday 6th September.

Combining aerial dance and a large-scale projected animation in collaboration with Bray artist Liing Heaney, the installation also involves poetry, 2D and 3D art pieces and music.

Threshold Ritual Haunting invites you to immerse yourself in our new worlds, its new rituals and new god/desses for the duration of their visit. Using the tenets of prayer, repetition, rhythm, movement and feeling you will be transported to a place in the right now.

Ambitious and experimental in its realisation and its production, this will be The Courthouse's first in-house production, a fruitful harvesting of a residency in partnership with Katie, since 2018. The show is produced by Cultural Producer Maeve-Ann Austen and was funded by The Arts Council of Ireland, Wicklow County Council Arts Office and Creation Aerial.

Katie Joyce Holmes is an artist whose work was originally in poetry and text, but in the past 5 years has embraced aerial dance, dance and visual art. Her current interests lie in ritual, devotion, environment, ecology, theology and the cycles, repetitions, rhythms and tensions inherent in all of these worlds, tangible and intangible. The local environment and landscape of the South Wicklow hills and uplands are an essential element in all of her work.

She has previously created work in the Dublin Fringe Festival, and in various art projects, collaborations and residencies around Ireland. Katie is Associate Artist at Creation Aerial in Dublin.

For the performances audience members will be taken by staff and placed in their socially distanced places to remain there for the duration of the performance. Masks will be provided and sanitisation will take place before entry to the Courthouse.

The installation and exhibition will be open Tuesdays - Thursdays; 11pm - 4pm.

Booking online at the Courthouse website (courthousearts.ie). Ticketed performances Fridays - Sundays are €10 per ticket.

Performance times are as follows:; Friday 28th August 12pm, 2pm and 6pm; Saturday 29th; August 12pm, 2pm and 6pm; Sunday 30th August 12pm, 2pm and 6pm; Friday 4th September 12pm, 2pm and 6pm; Saturday 5th September 12pm, 2pm and 6pm; Sunday 6th September 12pm, 2pm and 6pm.

Performance Tickets are extremely limited so booking in advance is essential.

# Coming up at Signal Arts Centre...

## *Fragments: an exhibition by Elena Kotovenko*

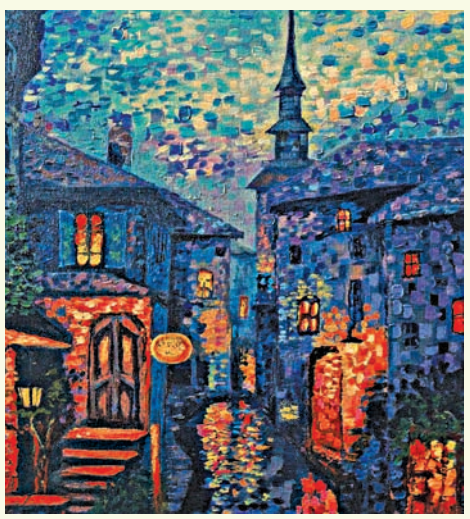
**Fragments, an exhibition by Elena Kotovenko, will run in the Signal Arts Centre in Bray from Tuesday, 27th October to Sunday, 8th November.**

This exhibition provides an insight into the work of an artist who has various styles and some very strong ideologies, that echo in her work.

A fascination with colour and impressionism results in pointillist-like night city scenes and landscapes. The love of nature makes her explore the use of raw materials and incorporate them into her landscapes. As a keen gardener and lover of flowers she experiments with clay to reproduce life-like 3-dimentional flower canvasses, in deep edged box frames.

As a lover of nature and wildlife she constantly works on reducing waste and re-uses discarded plastic and other small objects into her mixed media pieces. This process led her to the discovery of steampunk movement and experimenting with various media and materials.

All these different styles represent one artistic career, which is constantly evolving and changing, just like the world around us. Step into the experience at the Signal Arts Centre, Bray, October 27th through until November 8th. All are welcome to attend.



## *Into The Matrix by Liminal*

**A unique exhibition by Liminal, a Wicklow based group of artists; Fabienne Herbert, Nessa McCormack, Anne Walsh and Christine Theobald, will run from 31st August to 13th September.**

'Into the Matrix', which the artists each embraced and interpreted in their own individual styles and media speaks to them collectively of pattern, movement, texture, structure, connection, intrigue, and the intuitive.

The body of work in this exhibition ranges from felted art pieces by Anne "that bear witness to mysterious underworlds, where the slow but powerful action of water and minerals creates natural art works" to acrylic paintings by Nessa "as an interpretation of observed micro elements in nature expressed through vibrant colour, abstract marks and simplified compositions".

Fabienne explains her printmaking, natural dyeing and thread work as "an exploration of the relationship between repetition, pattern and space, both in natural and manmade worlds, and how it impacts our behaviour." Christine pushes the technique of wet felting into abstraction, in which she "seeks to make visible a perception of colour, contrast and geometric elements observed from nature."

Liminal's four artists met through their shared love of fibre arts. Committed to deepening their art practice, they came together to find strength in working collaboratively and innovatively. Sharing an understanding of what it means to seek a sense of place in what has become their adopted county Liminal represents their experiences of occupying 'spaces in between'.

# 'This is How We Dance': An American's memories of the East coast

**A newly published paperback memoir chronicles an American author's unusual early years living on the Wexford coast while his own father, also an author, wrote a novel there.**

This Is How We Dance' is by writer and journalist David Diebold, 53, who was brought to Ireland from California in the early 1970s by his father, an award winning LA Times journalist and jazz musician.

The author was recently interviewed on RTE's Ryan Tubridy Show and Today FM's The Last about his years being brought up here by his father, who had once played piano with Louis Armstrong's band.

The family moved in to an old house near Castletown, Gorey, and overlooking Clone Strand, where Diebold's father set about writing a historical novel about Irish high king Dermot MacMurrough.

In the book, Diebold recalls a magical time in 'a strange little house at the top of a cliff where the wind howled almost perpetually around the eaves, two dormer windows squinting at the horizon.'

It was a lonely existence, recalls Diebold: 'If the wind wasn't making that lonely moaning sound, it could be so quiet you could almost hear your own heartbeat over the distant hiss of the sea.

The book continues: 'We lived so far from anything that you could hear a car coming for miles. Mostly, if any came as far as our house, it would mean they had taken a wrong turn.'

This solitary existence was not without lighter moments. 'Once,' writes Diebold, 'Dad wedged a length of pipe into one of the cliff blowholes along the road so that it sounded like someone wailing.

'When he heard that some of the old farmers in the local pub were talking about the Banshee out our way, it pleased him no end.'

Winters were hard: 'Aside from a single fireplace, heat came from oil-burning heaters that stank and made your throat burn. The stench was so bad sometimes we'd just turn them off and bundle up.'

*David Diebold*

Finally, the time came to leave. 'I ran around the outside of the house touching things one last time,' writes Diebold, 'rough lichens on a dry-stone wall, smooth rust on the surface of the old sea mine.

'We never went back to that cliff top house as a family, but I've been back to look at it with my kids. It's still there, unchanged, caught in time, though I didn't quite have the nerve to peer inside.'

They returned to America briefly before eventually settling in Ireland. Diebold's father worked for the Irish Press while continuing to play jazz with such eminent Irish acts as Honor Heffernan.

His dad's novel never found a publisher. 'As a young teenager, I found it in a drawer, buried under rejection letters. I couldn't bring myself to read it: just ran my fingertips over the bumps on the back of each sheet, where some of the letters had almost punched through with the force of his typing, word after word, sheet after sheet, a neat stack of time.

'This Is How We Dance' is available in more than 70 bookshops nationwide, as well as Bridge Street Books in Wicklow, or from www.monumentmediapress.com priced €11.95.

# WE WANT YOUR OLD BIKE!

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

A Collection Day was held last Saturday and the Final collection is this Saturday 29th of August between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm. Last Saturday saw hundreds of bikes donated by generous adults and kids at Wicklow, Arklow, Greystones and Bray recycling centres.

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

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

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

"The project provides prisoners with an opportunity to give back to the community and learn new skills. It teaches them about bike technology and repair as they service, clean and recycle the bikes in the newly constructed Bikes4Africa workshop in Loughan House prison."

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

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

"Having to walk such long distances in hot sunshine to school and face the return journey in the afternoon when the sun is at its hottest is not conducive to students regularly attending school but having a bike to cycle to school makes a huge difference as they tend to be more attentive at school having not had to walk a long distance.

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

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

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

*Wicklow Bike Collection*
*Pictured last Saturday at the Murrough Recycling Centre were Mike Connolly, Assistant Governor, Rotary Ireland; Andy Bolger, President Wicklow Rotary Club and Pat Hastings President Bray Rotary Club. Hundreds of bikes were donated on the day.*

*Bray Bike Collection*
*Pictured is Una Whelan, Bray Rotary Club accepting two bike donated by these young lads.*

*Greystones Bike Collection*
*Pictured are Dan Courtney and Pat Hastings of Bray Rotary manning the bike collection point in Greystones.*

## FINAL COLLECTION DATE 29th AUGUST, 9am to 1pm

## For preference WE NEED

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

School Bikes Africa Rotary Ireland **DROP OFF**

**Bray Recycling Centre**
Beechwood Close, Boghall Road, Bray.

**Arklow Recycling Centre**
Croghan Industrial Estate

**Wicklow Recycling Centre**
The Murrough, Wicklow Town

**Greystones Municipal office's**
Mill Road carpark

*Collection Saturday 29th August*
*9 am to 1.00 pm*

School Bikes Africa Rotary Ireland

**Bray & Wicklow Rotary Club**

**Wicklow County Council**

*Coillte has renewed its sponsorship of Newtownmountkennedy and District Tidy Towns and is providing the local tidy towns group with new hi-viz vests and litter pickers so they can continue their terrific work in helping to keep the local community clean and free of litter. Pictured is Coillte Operations Manager Barry Coad presenting the new hi-viz vests and litter pickers to Newtownmountkennedy Tidy Towns.*

# Loveridge Digital Wins 2020 Vega Digital Awards

**Now in its fifth year running, International Awards Associate (IAA) has announced the winners of its 2020 Vega Digital Awards. Wicklow company Loveridge Digital has won the Canopus and Centauri Award, with award winning work being created by Loveridge Digital for Stratton Studios.**

While Josh Loveridge, the man behind Loveridge Digital, is very appreciative of the recognition, he feels the ultimate achievement is seeing the clients succeed.

"Without our customers and clients none of our award winning work would be on display! We thank all of our customers and dedicate this award to all of you for putting your trust in our vision!" he said.

The Vega Digital Awards leverages on itself as an international competition to feature exceptional professionals in the creative digital media.

"The awards never cease to amaze me with its participating talents," Kenjo Ong, the CEO of IAA remarked. "What's even better is that we are given the opportunity to shower these individuals and businesses with accolades, and rightfully so."

Submissions are put through strict review by IAA's panel of esteemed creative professionals, following comprehensive and rigorous standards. Josh and the Loveridge Digital team emerged victorious, and now find themselves among past winners from a diverse range of companies and brands such as Hypergiant Industries, Cinétévé Experience, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Hamilton Beach, Philip Morris International, BMW, Dittoe PR, Mirrored Media, and many more.

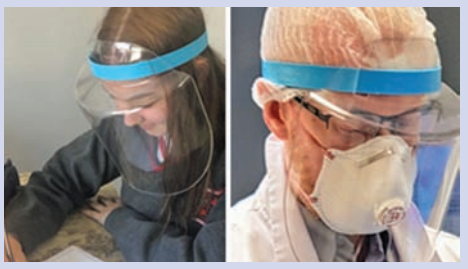
This year's Vega Digital Awards had over 100 categories listed in both professional and student levels, gathering 1000's of entries from over 29 countries.

"It is an honour for us here at Loveridge Digital to be able to now serve our customers in Wicklow and all over the world, with our talented individuals from all over the world."

Loveridge Designs was originally founded in 2017 by Josh Loveridge to fill a gap in the market for consumers who wanted access to a studio that could deliver high quality video productions, at a reasonable price.

Now in 2020 the company has rebranded into Loveridge Digital (LRD) to accompany their key focus in becoming a full-service agency delivering websites, video productions, digital marketing services and real results. The team have been working with brands in over thirty-eight countries, helping over 1700 brands, including the likes of Red Bull, Microsoft and Disney.

# Bray company release Re-usable face shield



**In response to the ongoing demand for a more sustainable supply of locally manufactured PPE, Key Plastics have developed a re-usable and fully certified full-face visor.**

The "Key Shield" is fully Certified to EN 166, CE Compliant and is strong, durable, offers complete facial protection, and crucially, can be de-contaminated by washing or sterilization and re-used time and time again.

The Key Shield design will greatly reduce the environmental impacts of the disposable face visors currently in use world-wide.

Another advantage is the attractive cost of ownership of the Key Shield, the cost benefits are quickly realized when compared against the ongoing cost of disposable face visors.

Ciaran Downes, Engineering Director at Key Plastics, said: "We are tremendously proud of the whole team here at Key Plastics who worked day and night over a number of months in development, manufacture, testing and certification of the Key-Shield"

Located in Bray, Key Plastics is a single destination solution provider offering custom manufactured solutions in metal and plastics to industries such as aerospace, medical, telecoms and engineering.

# Tulfarris appoints new GM

**Darren Byrne has been appointed General Manager of the PREM Group owned Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort in Blessington.**

Darren has worked with the PREM Group for many years and was the Food and Beverage Manager at Tulfarris from 2009-2011. Most recently, he worked at PREM's Viking Hotel in Waterford where he was the General Manager for the last four years.

During his time at The Viking, Darren collaborated with Douglas Wallace Architects on the €1 million renovation of the well-known, Waterford business hotel. He also held positions at the Westgrove Hotel in Clane, Co. Kildare and was the Food and Beverage Manager at another PREM property, the four-star Osprey Hotel in Naas.

Jim Murphy, CEO of PREM Group said, "We are delighted that Darren has accepted the position of General Manager at the four-star Tulfarris Hotel and Golf Resort and wish him well in his new role. He has been with the group for many years and has honed his experience in several of our properties. As a group, we are always keen to find and nurture talent and many of our employees work their way up to senior positions while working with us. The longevity of our employee service, professionalism and innovation is testament to our training and passion to deliver premier hospitality services."

*Darren Byrne*

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# Helping older people stay in touch with smart devices

**Bray Area Partnership is providing smart tablet devices to nursing homes in the Bray and North Wicklow areas to help residents stay in touch with their family and friends during COVID-19.**

So far nine nursing homes in Bray, Greystones, Kilcoole and Enniskerry have received the smart devices and are looking forward to the difference they will make to residents' lives. Earlsbrook Nursing Home in Bray plans to use them so residents can communicate with families abroad, but also to allow activities like their volunteer musicians playing virtually for residents via Zoom.

Roseville Nursing Home say the devices will give residents the opportunity to connect with friends and family they've not been in contact with in recent months. They say that "while Roseville has remained COVID-19 free, elderly people cocooning at home have not been able to visit, so residents being able to use the devices to keep in touch with them is truly a blessing in these uncertain times".

To find out more about the initiative see www.brayareapartnership.ie.

## Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men from one another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, " Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothed you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

'Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer. "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me."

'And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.' **C.J.**

## Legal Notice

**AN CHÚIRT DÚICHE (THE DISTRICT COURT)**
**DISTRICT COURT AREA OF BRAY, DISTRICT NO. 16**
**THE PUBLIC DANCE HALL ACT, 1935**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF PUBLIC DANCE LICENCE**
**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION OF SUGARLOAF VENTURES LIMITED**
**IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS THE POWERSCOURT HOTEL**
**APPLICANT**

TAKE NOTICE that Sugarloaf Ventures Limited having its registered office at Intercontinental Dublin, Simmonscourt Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 being the holder of a Seven Day Publican's On-Licence intends to apply to the Annual Licensing Court, sitting at Bray District Court, The Courthouse, Main Street, Bray in the County of Wicklow on the 28th day of September 2020 at 10.30am or so soon thereafter as this Application may be taken, for the renewal of a Licence to use the premises known as "Killing Hollow", Powerscourt Demesne, Enniskerry in the County of Wicklow and Court Area and District aforesaid, for Public Dancing. The Applicant intends to apply for Special Exemption Orders.
Dated this 19th day of August 2020

Signed: _____
Benville Robinson, Solicitors for the Applicant,
Riverview House, Seapoint Road, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: Garda Superintendent at Bray Garda Station, Convent Avenue, Bray, County Wicklow.
TO: Garda Superintendent at Donnybrook Garda Station, 43 Donnybrook Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.
TO: Chief Fire Officer, Bray Fire Station, Boghall Road, Bray, County Wicklow.
TO: District Court Clerk, Bray District Court, the Courthouse, Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow.
TO: County Manager, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, County Wicklow.

## Legal Notice

**AN CHÚIRT DÚICHE (THE DISTRICT COURT)**
**DISTRICT COURT AREA OF BRAY, DISTRICT NO. 16**
**THE PUBLIC DANCE HALL ACT, 1935**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PUBLIC DANCE LICENCE**
**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION OF JOHN DUGGAN AS NOMINEE OF MULTILANE LIMITED IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS THE MARTELLO HOTEL**
**APPLICANT**

TAKE NOTICE that John Duggan as nominee of Multilane Limited having its registered office at "Laxton", Novara Avenue, Bray in the County of Wicklow being the holder of a Seven Day Publican's On-Licence intends to apply to the Annual Licensing Court, sitting at Bray District Court, Courthouse, Main Street, Bray in the County of Wicklow on the 28th day of September 2020 at 10.30am or so soon thereafter as this Application may be taken, for the renewal of a Licence to use the premises known as The Martello Hotel, formerly known as The New International Hotel and situate at Strand Road, Bray in the County of Wicklow and Court area and District aforesaid, for Public Dancing. The Applicant intends to apply for Special Exemption Orders.
Dated this 19th day of August 2020.

Signed: _____
Benville Robinson, Solicitors for the Applicant,
Riverview House, Seapoint Road, Bray, CO. WICKLOW

TO: Garda Superintendent at Bray Garda Station, Convent Avenue, Bray, County Wicklow.
TO: Chief Fire Officer, Bray Fire Station, Boghall Road, Bray, County Wicklow.
TO: District Court Clerk, Bray District Court, the Courthouse, Main Street, Bray, County Wicklow.
TO: County Council, Wicklow county Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, County Wicklow.

## 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.

**M.C**

## 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. Amen

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail.

**E.C.**

## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

E M Doyle & Associates seek Planning Permission on behalf of our client Martha O'Neill for the construction of two number semi-detached two storey dwellings on side garden of 9 Richmond Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Permission is also sought for new vehicular access, diversion of drainage pipes, drainage and water connections, removal of existing hedge and construction of new boundary and ancillary works including the subdivision of site.

The planning application maybe 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 maybe 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.

# RECRUITMENT


JABIL

Jabil, Corke Abbey, Bray, Co. Dublin specialises in the design, development, and commercial scale up of complex and innovative healthcare products.
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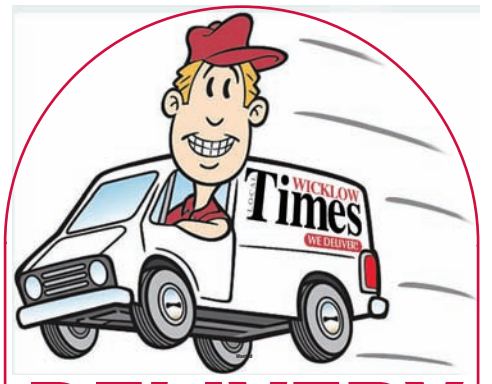
Apply online for the position of General Operative for the Bray site on the Jabil Careers page at ***www.Jabil.com*** or applications to ***HR Department, Jabil, Corke Abbey, Bray, Co. Dublin***.



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