



PROTECT THE SEALS
page 4



WOODBROOK
page 5



MARY'S MARATHON
page 14

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COUNCIL 'DOING A GOOD JOB'

The National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) last week published its findings for the Local Authority Satisfaction Survey 2020, and separately a summary report of three annual surveys across all local councils carried out since 2018. Wicklow County Council while not featured at the very top end of the statistics, fared very well and it is probably a reflection of the change of management at the top in recent years.

The NOAC independently oversees the local government sector by reviewing the performance of local councils, monitoring implementation of national local government policy and identifying opportunities for best practice.

The 2020 survey of over 1,000 citizens, was conducted in February/March by IPSOS MRBI. It is the final annual survey following the 2018 and 2019 surveys which measured satisfaction in the largest and medium sized local

authorities, respectively. Overall, over 3,200 citizens have participated in face to face interviews in the three-year process.

In relation to Wicklow County Council, the survey found that:

* Over half of those surveyed believe their Council is doing a good job, with the average score of 51 per cent, however in Wicklow 60 per cent stated that their council is doing a good job.

* 57 per cent are overall satisfied with Wicklow County Council.

* Wicklow were above

average as 49 per cent of citizens feel that they are well informed by the Council.

* Value for money averaged at 28 per cent nationally with Wicklow above average at 35 per cent.

* Satisfaction with road safety and road maintenance nationally averaged 59 per cent with Wicklow above average at 62 per cent.

* 39 per cent of those surveyed were satisfied with affordable housing services provided by their local authority. In



Chloe Murray, Coilean McNulty, and Mia McDonnell enjoying their first day at school at Newtownmountkenedy Educate Together. Pic: Michael Kelly

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Wicklow 45 per cent expressed satisfaction.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, stated: 'I am very pleased with the feedback as there are many positives in the survey results for the Council. We are committed to delivering excellent Customer Service to our citizens, an example of which is our latest project - the new Customer Service hub, which will provide customer focused service in an inclusive and professional manner. Going forward we will continue to focus on driving improvements across all services, in particular to promote and support communities and local business to improve economic stability in Wicklow during these challenging times.'

Council Chief Executive, Frank Curran, stated: 'Wicklow County Council welcomes the

findings of the survey as we are always striving to make County Wicklow a better place to live and work. This is an opportunity to encourage public consultation and embrace feedback on day to day services provided by the Council. Wicklow County Council is pleased to see we scored 57 per cent in 'Satisfied with Local Council', which was over the national average. Our focus in Wicklow is to continuously improve the quality and lifestyle of the citizens of the county.'

Michael McCarthy, Chairperson of NOAC stated that: 'the survey of smaller councils demonstrates that these councils tend to score higher satisfaction than larger authorities. This is probably due to greater recognition of the work of local councils and the impact they have on daily lives of citizens, especially in more rural areas.'

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Junior infants with Principal Dr Nicola Martin-Hodgins enjoying their first day at school at Newtownmountkennedy Educate Together.

Bray Cualann Historical Society

Since last March the Bray Cualann Historical Society has made numerous postings on facebook about the history of Bray/Enniskerry and these have appeared on such sites as the Bray Cualann Historical Society facebook page, Bray Open Forum, Bray Genealogy and History, Enniskerry Then and Now, and Enniskerry Past and Present. During the recent Heritage Week an aspect of Bray's heritage and history was posted on the Bray Cualann Historical facebook page each day.

If you would like to read them again and catch up on something you missed, these have now been posted on the Bray Cualann Historical Society website. Due to the increase in the number of C-19 cases in the North Wicklow area, the committee of the Bray Cualann Historical Society has decided to postpone its planned September talk. The planned October and November talks are under review and an announcement about their status will be made in due course.

Swim For Sight

This September, Orbis Ireland is setting a new challenge - Swim for Sight. You choose where you swim and how far you swim each day. Whether it's 20 swims in September, or for 20 minutes over the month or simply 20 strokes - whatever your level, set your target.

Take the plunge by sea swimming this September and Save Sight by supporting Orbis Ireland, an international non-profit bringing people together to fight avoidable blindness and help change the way the world sees. See irl.orbis.org or contact info@info@orbisireland.ie.

Wicklow Dementia Support Meet & Eat

Wicklow Dementia Support is a local charity, supporting people with dementia and their families. "We aim to support the person with dementia to stay at home in their own community for as long as possible. WDS runs a befriending program (AlzPals) social clubs (AlzClubs) for the person with dementia and their carer, Memory Lane Music Group, Carer Support Groups, Meet and Eat Program, cultural outings and other social get-togethers throughout the year."

Brockagh Centre

If you want avail of the Brockagh Centre's facilities for printing and internet use please call on 0404 45600 or email a staff member at brockaghooffice@gmail.com to safely use the office space with social distancing, opening hours Mondays to Fridays 9am to 5pm.

"We also have conference facilities and training rooms, main hall with a stage, we can provide catering, a large car park area, for a quote please call on 0404 45600 or email us at brockaghresourcecentre@gmail.com.

"The clothes bank at the centre is aid of the Brockagh Resource Centre and we do appreciate any donation of clothing provided. In our recycle area at the back of the building we have now another clear glass container for public use."

Free Covid helpline

Wicklow County Council's Community Response Forum has developed a free helpline for vulnerable members of the community, from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week. Call 1800 868399 or email CovidSupport@wicklowcoco.ie.

Roundwood Cancer Support

The Roundwood Cancer Support centre is currently closed to the public. If anyone needs to make any enquiries please call the confidential number on 087 6062072.

Bray Literary Festival

Bray Literary Festival will present an evening of readings and discussions on 17th September at 8pm in the Mermaid. Join award-winning authors Christine Dwyer Hickey and Billy O'Callaghan for a lively evening in conversation with Dermot Bolger, co-founder of New Island Press and author of fifteen novels.

For more information on the festival, visit brayliteraryfestival.com.

Tickets: €12/10 and available from Box Office on 01-2724030.

A Child's Prayer: choirs come together to bring message of hope to students



The members have Junior Musicals Children's Choir and the Upbeat Choir from Bray and Greystones have come together to bring a message of hope and reassurance to the students who returned to or started school last week and their families.

Members of the choirs recorded their parts for the 'A Child's Prayer' during lockdown and a video has now been made and uploaded to Youtube. The song's words and music were composed by Janice Kapp Perry, and it features a vocal solo by

Addie Cole.

Through the video, the choirs hope to raise funds for ongoing repairs at the venues where they rehearse - St. Patrick's National School, Greystones, and Sunbeam Services, Bray.

"Thank you to everyone who took part recording their videos during lockdown," said Hannah

Masterson from Junior Musicals. "Through our video we would love to raise funds for the two amazing venues where we rehearse. Each of the venues would be very grateful if you can make a donation, however small."

To donate to the campaign, see the links in the description under the video on YouTube.



Josh and Lily Curran visiting the sunflower field at Minmore Farm in Shillelagh

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WOULFE & WICKLOW

As the clamour for Supreme Court judge Seamus Woulfe to resign over his attendance at the infamous 'Golfgate' dinner in Clifden grows it is worth noting that the same Mr Woulfe has had a significant influence on County Wicklow in recent years.

Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy from Kildare posted a tweet last week on the subject and it has been read and retweeted by an incredible 300,000 plus people since then. Her Tweet reads "In 2011 two Wicklow County Councillors raised concerns with the Dept of the Environment about a Compulsory Purchase Order issued by Wicklow County Council which the Council had stated was for social housing.

"Councillors Tommy Cullen and Barry Nevin argued that the land was a flood plain and therefore could not have been purchased for social housing. At a previous Bord Pleanála hearing an objector claimed that the real purpose of the CPO was not to build social housing as claimed by the council but to facilitate a development on adjacent land by Zapi, a development company led by Sean Mulryan and Sean Dunne. "After receiving the



Seamus Woulfe

concerns from the two councillors, Phil Hogan, then Minister for the Environment, chose Fine Gael activist, then Senior Counsel Seamus Woulfe, to review the CPO.

"In his review Seamus Woulfe found 'almost all of the concerns raised by the Councillors' were 'not well founded or are misconceived'. Phil Hogan and the County Manager were quick to repeat the slur with the County Manager, adding that the councillors had wasted taxpayers' money in seeking the review.

"The Councillors at their own expense took a case for defamation against the County Manager, and Wicklow County Council. In the course of that trial it was discovered that documents available to both the Council and to Seamus Woulfe SC, were excluded from his review of the CPO. The documents, leaked by a whistleblower in the Council, to the councillors taking the case, revealed that the land



Cllr Fiona McLoughlin Healy

CPOed by the Council was in fact a floodplain, and undermined the Council's argument that the purchase of the land was for social housing. The court heard from one of the Councillors that the purpose of the CPO was instead to facilitate a roadway to open the adjacent land locked land owned by ZAPI.

"Woulfe gave direct evidence under oath in the court that he had not been given those documents by the Council and therefore could not have considered them as part of his review.

"Justice Marie Baker accepted in her judgement of July 2017 that these documents had indeed been made available to Mr Woulfe.

"Seamus Woulfe's review report is still on the Dept of the Environment website as an accurate report, notwithstanding the judgement of Justice Marie Baker which found against both Wicklow County Council and the

then County Manager, Eddie Sheehy.

"The case is important because it raises questions about the blurring of boundaries between the judiciary and politicians and between politicians and developers.

"Why did Seamus Woulfe omit documents from his review of the CPO documents High Court Judge Marie Baker accepted he did receive - the inclusion of which, could have supported claims that the council

compulsorily purchased a farmer's land, against his wishes, in order to facilitate a development application by ZAPI, a company owned by developers Sean Mulryan and Sean Dunne?"

These same lands are before the council this week for Section 8 planning permission to build social housing despite the fact that a council official at the trial agreed that they were in fact a flood plain.

Meanwhile the calls

for Mr Woulfe to resign grow; writing in the Sunday Independent, local Enniskerry resident and former Minister, Shane Ross called on him not to be 'last man standing' and to leave that honour to another Fine Gael ex minister and now banker, Brian Hayes who was also at the 'Golfgate' dinner.

However, it appears that Mr Woulfe intends to tough it out. He has hired the services of Senior Council Michael Collins.

Mr Woulfe has also sought advice from another former attorney general, John Rogers SC who coincidentally represented Councillor Tommy Cullen when he successfully sued Wicklow County Council in another case some years ago over Glen Ding Woods.

Former chief justice Susan Denham has been tasked with looking into Seamus Woulfe's attendance at the Oireachtas Golf Society dinner and is due to report in October.



Pictured at the Murrough for Bray Rotary's 'Recycle that Bicycle' event, to collect bikes for African students, were Donal Magnier, Peter Byrne, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Pat Kennedy, Andrew Bolger, and Pat Hastings

School accommodation issues in Greystones

The first week back at school has highlighted the accommodation issues in the Greystones area, with Greystones Community National School currently in temporary accommodation at Greystones Rugby Club and Greystones Community College secondary school currently occupying Greystones Lawn Tennis Club.

The new Community National School building in Charlesland was meant to be accommodating both schools for this school year, however the pupils have been denied occupation of the building despite a Certificate of Compliance being issued in July. The Department has now deemed the buildings to be not yet fit for handover.

The principal of Greystones Community College Ruairi Farrell informed parents last week that the school would have to drop Woodwork as a subject for the Junior Cert cycle due to a lack of facilities.

The secondary school is essentially homeless and is now housed in the local Tennis Club with very limited information of the rationale as to why they could not move into the new building, and the Department of Education has not responded to representations to date.

The new school, which has just opened its doors for the first time, has 70 1st year students who only found out at the end of July that they would not be able to occupy the new school building along with the National School.

Wicklow Times spoke with one parent who expressed disappointment that her son would be missing out. "Experiencing new subjects like woodwork is one of the reasons children look forward to going to secondary school," she said. "Some students prefer these practical subjects to more academic subjects and thrive in them. This demonstrates that the kids are being forgotten about by the Department."

Social Democrats Spokesperson for Children, Jennifer Whitmore says, "It is unacceptable that the school has been left in this situation. During my visit to the temporary site of the school, I could see that the foyer has to be used as an additional teaching space because of the lack of appropriate space and students have to walk between classrooms to get to the toilets. The Principal's own office is located in a changing room which is not ideal. Despite this, the Principal, staff, teachers and students have done an incredible job of creating a school environment while also navigating COVID 19 protocols. To date the Department has not responded to my urgent requests to

address this situation and has not formed us of efforts to resolve issues ongoing at the site of the new school."

Social Democrats Cllr for Greystones District Jodie Neary said "I really feel for the students who are making the best of their situation and I want to acknowledge the trojan work Principal Ruairi Farrell, the staff and teachers have carried out to bring some semblance of normality for the students. Radio silence from the Department is making all this more challenging for those involved.

"Myself and Deputy Whitmore will keep up the pressure on the Department to make sure that the needs of children in GCC are met in the short term, while their accommodation needs are addressed in the long term. It is an unsustainable situation for everyone involved and I echo Deputy Whitmore's calls for immediate intervention by the Minister for Education, end the radio silence and address the issues piling up in relation to the school building before the situation gets worse for the whole school community" concluded Cllr Neary.

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Wicklow Councillor Mary Kavanagh has become the first official Wicklow Ambassador for Tourism in the recently launched Wicklow Passport initiative. She said "I began my Wicklow Passport journey on 10th August and during holidays and weekends I travelled throughout the county visiting all the towns and villages and collecting their unique stamps. There are seventeen stamps available and fifteen are required to qualify for the Wicklow Ambassador certificate. I enjoyed visiting and spending time in each town and village. I believe that wherever tourism flourishes, the community benefits. Wicklow has so much to offer. There is hiking, cycling, walking, special attractions and historical places of interest. There are some wonderful beaches as well as spectacular scenery and plenty of good restaurants. 2020 has been a year like no other and is a perfect opportunity for people to start discovering their own county." Full details of the Wicklow Passport are available on Wicklow Tourism website at www.visitwicklow.ie

Appeal against development of 'Bray Cabs' site

The owners of the three-storey property at the rear of Bray Cabs have appealed to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) against a proposed development of the site into apartments.

A planning application was lodged by B & C Maloney with Wicklow County Council for the demolition of the existing Bray Cabs building on the currently hoarded site opposite Bray Dart Station, and the construction of a six-storey mixed use development consisting of two ground floor retail units, 14 apartments, 32 bicycle spaces, balconies, refuse storage and associated site works.

The application was lodged in December 2019, the Council then requested further information which it finally received in July of this year.

The cover letter for the planning application argues that the site is suitable for a high-density development as the site, which is 350sq.m, forms part of the Bray Gateway and Transportation Hub and relates to the site currently under construction.

The appellant, Margaret Carty of The Carty Partnership, submitted an objection to the planning application, arguing among other things that the development would leave very little private open space. Privacy concerns were also raised as the part of the development that extends out comes up to within 5 metres of the existing building (Chualann Court) and has windows facing it.

The Carty Partnership is also concerned that any future development they may wish to pursue, such as adding additional floors, would be compromised.

ABP is due to make a decision by 8th January, 2021.

Bray councillors call for review of Fire Service

All eight Bray councillors made the decision last week to put forward a joint motion to Wicklow County Council requesting an independent review of Bray Fire Service.

The issue was raised at the Bray Municipal District meeting last Tuesday by Sinn Féin councillors Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien and Grace McManus as part of the ongoing campaign for a full-time fire service in Bray.

Wicklow's Sinn Féin public representatives say that Independent review of Bray Fire Service will show the need for it to be full-time. They said that with the massive expansion planned for Bray, now is the time for a full-time fire service.

Speaking after the meeting Cllr O'Brien expressed his satisfaction at the outcome. "This is a very positive step in the right direction. There were two motions on the agenda which were calling for action on this issue and the sincerity of the contributions across the Chamber gives me some hope that finally we can resolve this issue which has hung over this town like a dark cloud for decades.

"We owe this to the current and future generations of Bray and to the firefighters who dedicate themselves to our community with a compassionate professionalism that deserves

the appropriate recognition in terms of the status of this crucial job within the fabric of our society."

Cllr McManus stated "Both the vibrant and positive discussion on this motion, and it's passing, feel like a good step in the right direction on this long-standing campaign. We are asking for a section on firefighter well-being to be included in the independent report, and we can't overstate the importance of that. The firefighters themselves are the bloodstream of the service. Their well-being is paramount to the success of the service, but even more than that, they deserve it to be considered and addressed, especially after all that they sacrifice to keep us safe. To know that that will be formally acknowledged and addressed in this report is very welcome."

John Brady TD said "The passing of the motion by Bray Municipal District councillors calling for a full and Independent review of Bray Fire Service with a view of making it a full time service is to be welcomed. Along with other members of the community I have

campaigning for many years for a full-time service in the town and it's hoped that this report when completed will help us achieve it.

"I don't think having someone that works for the local authority carry out the report would serve any purpose other than coming to the same conclusion as previous reports that the council can't afford a full-time service. The motion that was passed is really important as it calls for the report to be fully independent.

"It is also important that public representatives help set the terms of reference for the report. It should use up to date data, not figures from the 2016 census. It should also look at the planned future growth of North Wicklow."

Deputy Brady concluded "The local councillors in Bray have spoken when they unanimously supported the Sinn Féin motion. Its now expected that the motion will be brought to the full council in the coming weeks. We will continue to campaign on the issue and plan on elevating the issue both locally and nationally."

Council asks public to help protect the seals

Wicklow County Council is urging the public, and particularly dog owners, to be mindful of disturbing seals when they visit the coast this autumn.

September to December is a particularly important time for grey seals as it is the breeding season during which time the adults seek safe sites to "haul out" on land.

These are typically sheltered beach areas where the animals return year after year to breed, rest, moult and engage in social activity.

In the coming weeks seals will give birth to a single pup which is born with a white coat and does not swim. Mothers will stay close to their pup for a number of weeks until it is weaned, during which time the animals are very vulnerable to disturbance by humans and dogs.

People and dogs are asked to maintain a distance of 100m or more from seals that are "hauled out" as coming close to them will cause stress and could cause a stampede possibly leading to injury, drowning or death to small pups in particular.

Disturbance can also lead to the abandonment of pups as mothers who

are spooked by human contact will often not return for them. Orphaned pups have very little chance for survival and often Seal Rescue Ireland (SRI) must intervene by bringing a seal into rehabilitation whereas without human disturbance the pup would have been successfully cared for and weaned in the wild.

It is important to note that "disturbance" includes any deviation from normal behaviour and even seals who become alert due to humans at a great distance are exposed to dangers from stress, waste of energy, loss of rest, and potential loss of feeding/mating/nursing or evasion of predator opportunities.

"Most 'haul out' sites along the East coast of Ireland have public access", explained

Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council. "Therefore the behaviour of people visiting the coast is hugely important. The Municipal Districts of Wicklow and Greystones are working in tandem with Seal Rescue Ireland to raise public awareness of this issue by erecting information signs at known 'haul out' sites and restricting access to these areas as required."

She added: "Our natural world is under increasing pressure from human influence and the Council is pleading with beach users to act responsibly."

Seals are legally protected under the Wildlife Act and it is illegal and dangerous to approach them or to allow dogs to do so. For more information: www.sealrescueireland.org and Seal Rescue Hotline on 087 1955393



Planning permission sought for new DART station at Woodbrook

Iarnród Éireann last week applied for planning permission for a new DART station at Woodbrook, between Shankill and Bray.

The new station, which would be the 32nd on the DART network, is funded by the National Transport Authority, and will be at the heart of the Woodbrook Strategic Housing Development.

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown's Local Area Plan for Woodbrook - Shanganagh envisages a population of over 5,000 which will directly be served by the new station. This will ensure sustainable transport is at the heart of the new communities.

Subject to planning permission, and progress with the Woodbrook development, it is cur-

rently envisaged that construction on the new station would commence in late 2021 with the station opening in early 2023.

Woodbrook Station will have two 174 metre platforms, to accommodate full size 8-carriage DARTs, and have a connecting bridge between the platforms with ramps and stairs to ensure access for all, to the latest design requirements for persons of reduced mobility.

While not part of this planning permission, the developer of Woodbrook SHD will provide adjacent parking for cars and

bicycles of rail customers.

Jim Meade, Chief Executive of Iarnród Éireann said "Bringing the DART to a brand new community is an exciting prospect for us in Iarnród Éireann, and designing a community to have public transport central to how it functions is exemplary planning. We look forward to working with the NTA, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, and developers Castlethorn in delivering our newest DART station to Woodbrook."

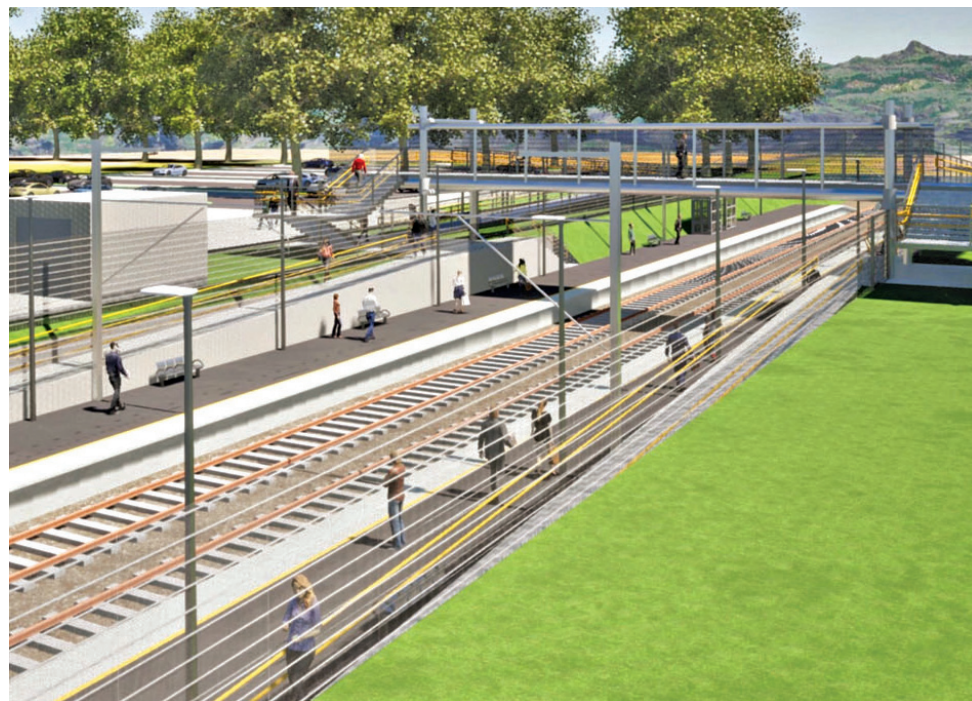
NTA CEO Anne Graham said: "NTA is

delighted to see progress being made on the development of a new DART station at Woodbrook.

"The GDA Transport Strategy makes specific reference to building a new station in this area, and it complements the DART+ programme, details of which were announced last week.

"This is a great example of how residential development and provision of public transport can be delivered in tandem, so that people moving to this area will have a frequent, reliable and sustainable alternative."

Under the DART+ Programme, DART+ Coastal South will enhance the capacity of the DART line on the southside through infrastructure works including signalling and level crossings, with new DART trains being ordered set to be higher capacity vehicles, ensuring additional customers at Woodbrook and along the route can be accommodated.



Digital impressions of the proposed Woodbrook Station, between Shankill and Bray, which will serve new communities of over 5,000 people upon completion.

'Dublin should not slow down Wicklow buses'

Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Cllr Derek Mitchell has asked Dublin City Council not to reduce by half the speed of Wicklow buses in Dublin City Centre as is proposed.

"The journey time of buses to the city centre is already too long and proposals to slow them to 30kph on the main roads would be worse," said Cllr Mitchell.

Cllr Mitchell, who is Chair of the Wicklow Transport Committee, has written to Dublin Council asking that the route of the 84X, 133, Wexford bus and Aircoach to the airport and City Centre should not be reduced to 30kph on roads including Pearse Street, Leeson street, North Wall and the route signposted from the Port Tunnel to the N11.

"Some of the journey times are already as long as the time from Belfast! A further increase will encourage people to use cars on the already overcrowded M50, the opposite of what should be encouraged," he continued.

"Wicklow's population has grown at twice the rate of Dublin's and should be a priority for transport improvements, not longer journey times."

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Irish Water, working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, is progressing with water main improvement works in Kindlestown, Greystones

Emergency works to be carried out at vandalised Oldcourt castle

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has welcomed confirmation that an archaeologist from the National Monuments Service has inspected the damaged Oldcourt Castle in Bray with a representative of the owner.

The owner is the process of arranging an emergency repair in the breach to prevent access to the castle. Speaking after receiving the confirmation from the National Monuments Service Deputy Brady said "Unfortunately, over the last few months serious damage has been caused to the castle which dates from the 1430's. I welcome the confirmation that an archaeologist from the National Monuments Service has inspected the damaged Oldcourt Castle in Bray. He met on site with a representative of the owner.

"There are a number of concerns, firstly for public safety, children have been seen on top of the castle having accessed entry through the damaged walls. Secondly is the vandalising of a protected structure.

"I have been in contact with the Monuments Service over the last number of months and they are very concerned about the acts of vandalism which have taken place to the protected structure. Thankfully a site visit has now taken place and immediately action is needed to secure the castle. The damage to the walls needs to be restored and a plan put in place to ensure the castle is protected into the future."

Noise disturbances from Farrenkelly building site

Residents in Priory Road, Delgany, have been subjected to intense vibrations from soil compacting on the Farrenkelly building site for 400 homes, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Derek Mitchell said.

Speaking about the matter, Cllr Mitchell said "Some people have had to move out to study, others working from home are badly disrupted. Some older people are 'cocooning' and have to endure this stress at random times in their homes. I reported this to the Council's enforcement section a month ago but the vibrations go on and I don't think the Council staff have taken enough action.

"Also they have developed all the houses at the Glenherron but have not started the creche and Community facilities. There is a shortage of crèche places and they should have been built at the same time. Also they were supposed to build commercial units in Charlesland before the next houses but have now got permission to delay the commercial units



Cllr Derek Mitchell

which I am opposed to.

"Cairn have developed hundreds of homes in Greystones and have land for nearly a thousand more, some with planning permission. They have made plenty out of the town and need to perform far better," concluded Cllr Mitchell.

Also speaking about the noise, Green Party councillor Lourda Scott said "With people working at home and in general

staying in more due to Covid 19, noise and vibration disturbance has been an understandable source of upset for many. I've been in constant contact with the enforcement section of Wicklow County Council (WCC) and I asked for the noise and vibration reports that were carried out by the Developer.

"I have strongly expressed my dissatisfac-



Cllr Lourda Scott

tion that the hours of operation were extended without taking into consideration the needs of the community. I have requested that in future the Developer gives prior warning and explanation to residents regarding vibration effects and an email to this effect has been sent by WCC on 19th August. I have asked that additional vibration monitoring be carried out as what was done did not seem to follow standard guidelines. Cairn confirmed on 27th August that this will be done and WCC will follow up. I have asked WCC to invest in their own vibration monitoring device to carry out truly independent assessments and they are looking into this. The monitoring reports show that the noise levels are within the parameters of the Planning application."

Irish Water progress with water main improvement works in Greystones

Irish Water, working in partnership with Wicklow County Council, is progressing with water main improvement works in Kindlestown, Greystones, to improve the security of supply, water quality and reduce high levels of leakage in the area.

The works will involve the decommissioning of over 1.5km of old and problematic back yard water mains. Almost 1km of new water mains will be constructed along the public road and new service connections will be installed from the new water main to each customer's property. These works will ensure a more secure water supply and improved water quality for residents in Upper Grattan Park, Lower Grattan Park, Kindlestown Park and Beechbrook Park.

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

Diversion routes will be clearly signposted and emergency and restricted local access will be maintained. Irish Water and Wicklow County Council regret

any inconvenience these necessary works may cause. These works will be carried out on behalf of Irish Water by Ward and Burke Ltd and are scheduled to begin on Monday 7 September.

Speaking about these works, Joe Carroll, Irish Water's Regional Lead, commented "We understand that this type of work can be inconvenient and we will ensure our work crews make every effort to minimise any disruption these works may cause. We would like to thank the local community for their patience and cooperation while we carry out these necessary works to improve the water quality and supply in Kindlestown".

This project is one example of how Irish Water is working in partnership with Wicklow County Council to reduce leaks every day. Fixing leaks can be complicated with over 63,000km of water pipe in Ireland.

These works are being carried out as part of Irish Water's national Leakage Reduction Programme which will see €500 million

invested up to the end of 2021 to reduce the level of leakage across the country by fixing and replacing ageing water mains.

This will ensure a safe, reliable water supply which is vital for our health, our environment and our growing population and economy. For more information, please visit www.water.ie/reducing-leaks.

Irish Water said "Our customer care helpline is open 24/7 on 1850 278 278 and customers can also contact us on Twitter @IWCare with any queries. For updates please visit the Water Supply Updates section of the Irish Water website.

Irish Water is working at this time with our Local Authority partners, contractors and others to safeguard the health and well-being of both staff and the public and to ensure the continuity of critical drinking water and wastewater services. Irish Water would like to remind people to follow the HSE COVID-19 advice and ensure frequent hand-washing."

'Do Not Consume' notice remains in place for Kirikee water supply

The Do Not Consume Notice, issued on 25th August for customers supplied by the Kirikee Public Water Supply, at the time of going to press remained in place, Irish Water and Wicklow County Council said.

In consultation with the Health Service Executive (HSE), a Do Not Consume Notice was issued on the Kirikee Public Water Supply due to flooding of the water treatment plant and a raw water borehole, following heavy rainfall and subsequent flood of the Avonbeg River, which contaminated the drinking water from the plant. The water treatment plant was shut down temporarily, therefore, this Do Not Consume notice applies to any water remaining in the network at this time. A water outage is in place while remedial works are carried out at the plant.

It is especially important that mains drinking water is not given to bottle fed infants. Please note, this is not a Boil Water Notice. Boiling the water is not a suitable measure to make the water safe to consume. This notice does not apply to any other areas or water schemes in County Wicklow.

An alternative water supply is in place to support impacted customers. Water Tankers with clean drinking water are currently available at Kirikee Community Hall and Ballinacor Community Park. Customers are reminded to use their own containers when taking water from the tankers and to boil the water before consumption as a precautionary measure. Vulnerable customers have been notified.

Irish Water's drinking water compliance and operational experts are working with colleagues in Wicklow County Council and the HSE to resolve

this situation and lift this drinking water restriction as quickly and as safely as possible.

This water should not be used for: drinking, drinks made with water, food preparation, washing or cooking of food, brushing teeth, or making ice. In particular, children under 12 months old should not drink this water. This water should not be used for making up infant formula for bottled fed infants. An alternative source of water should be used.

Bottled water can also be used to make up infant formula. All bottled water, with the exception of natural mineral water, is regulated to the same standard as drinking water. It is best not to use bottled water labelled as 'Natural Mineral Water' as it can have high levels of sodium (salt) and other minerals, although it rarely does. 'Natural Mineral Water' can be used if no other water is available, for as short a time as possible, as it is important to keep babies hydrated.

If bottled water is used to make up infant formula it should be boiled once (rolling boil for 1 minute), and cooled in the normal way. Ready-to-use formula that does not need added water can also be used. Domestic water filters will not render water safe to drink. Caution should be taken when bathing infants to ensure that they do not swallow the bathing water. Discard ice cubes in fridges and freezers and filtered water in fridges.

What can you use mains water for: The water can be used for personal hygiene, bathing, flushing toilets, laundry and washing of utensils. Updates will be available on the Water Supply Updates section of www.water.ie, on Twitter @IWCare and via our customer care helpline, open 24/7 on 1850 278 278

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Pauline Chambers, 1929 - 2020

RIP Pauline Chambers

The community of Greystones was saddened last week to learn to the passing of Pauline Chambers, well-known in the community for her musical work with local choirs and schools.

Pauline Chambers (nee Byrne) was born in Ranelagh in June 1929, one of five children. She won a scholarship to St. Louis High School Rathmines and was a great runner, swimmer and camogie player; winning an All-Ireland Camogie medal at her Croke Park debut!

She fell in love and married her beloved Brendan while they both worked for Lever Brothers. After starting their married life living in Cork, they made Greystones their home 61 years ago.

Though busy with eight children, Mary, Ann, Helen, Paul, Noel, Angela, Brenda and Michele and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Pauline became and remained very much part of her community throughout her life.

Pauline's two great loves were music and the liturgy and she shared her gift of music through the Greystones Operatic Society, St. David's school musicals and many choirs including St. Killian's Youth Choir.

When her children had grown she was awarded a Diploma in Catechetics in Mater Dei and taught Religion and Music at St. David's school, Greystones. Pauline had a great sense of fun and enjoyed crosswords, quizzes and jewellery making. She spent 50 happy years with her late husband, Brendan in the town she loved so well.

Pauline passed away on 2nd September and is greatly missed by all her family and wide circle of friends.

Funding announced for local climate change adaptation measures

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has welcomed €378,000 in funding from the Department of Climate Action, Communication Networks and Transport for climate change adaptation measures in County Wicklow.

The grants were allocated to Wicklow County Council after applications were sought under the Department's regional and local road maintenance and renewal grant programme.

The five successful applications were:

Griffinstown, Dunlavin - €65,000 towards protection measures for roads which would be vulnerable to severe weather events such as embankment stability measures to protect the road and prevent slip-page

Beechwood Park, Kilcoole - €50,000 towards preventative works - install attenuation into green open space and

flow control valve man-hole

Garrymore - Ballincarrig - €180,000 for remedial works where roads have been significantly damaged by recent severe weather events

Barnamelia - €65,000 to install drainage pipes along edge of road to eliminate scour from flood water

Bridge on Ashford Main Street over Vartry River - €18,000 to remove broken and redundant weir from river to prevent damage to bridge piers and wing walls

Deputy Matthews said that these projects should begin by November this year. "I'm delighted that



Steven Matthews TD

Wicklow received this funding from Minister Eamon Ryan's department. It is an unfortunate fact that more and more extreme weather events will occur and this is why we fought so hard to include carbon emissions

reductions in the Programme for Government. Climate Change has long since ceased to be that thing we need to worry about down the road. Years of inaction have left us with a lot of catching up to do. In the meantime we must deal with the immediate challenges presented to us by the consequences of climate change events on our roads.

Minister of State, Hildegard Naughton TD, said: "The recent severe weather has again highlighted the challenges presented by climate change on our road infrastructure. The Climate Change Adaptation grants now

being provided will help local authorities to deal with the essential repairs needed in the aftermath of the severe weather but also to take steps towards making their road networks more resilient in the longer term. Families and businesses in our villages, towns and cities right across the country will benefit from these important 'shovel ready' projects as soon as November this year. The funding being announced today will go a long way in facilitating a secure environment for our children in their daily commute to school as part of our work on the Safe Routes to School initiative."

Additional funding for rural roads

Fianna Fail Senator Pat Casey has welcomed the Government's announcement of an additional €378,000 for rural roads in the county as a means of repairing roads that have been damaged by severe weather events.

Senator Casey said: "Our weather has dramatically altered over the last number years as a result of climate change and this has resulted in many of our rural roads sustaining significant damage. This initial and additional funding is a clear example of this Government's commitment to repairing the damage that climate change is doing to so many roads in the County.

"These roads are spread throughout the County and are example of shovel ready projects that can proceed immediately. I am

confident that in the years ahead that further roads can benefit from this funding to repair severe weather damage and I will continue working for this delivery of supports for our extensive road network"

L8306 - Griffinstown, Dunlavin €65,000, Protection measures for roads which would be vulnerable to severe weather events such as embankment stability measures to protect the road and prevent slip-page; L-50452 - Beechwood Park, Kilcoole €50,000, Preventative Works: Install attenu-

ation into green open space and flow control valve manhole; L-6145 - Garrymore-Ballincarrig €180,000, Remedial works where roads have been significantly damaged by recent severe weather events; L3260 - Barnamelia €65,000, Install Drainage pipes along edge of road to eliminate scour from flood water; R-772 - Bridge on Ashford Main Street over Vartry River €18,000, Remove broken and redundant weir from river to prevent damage to bridge piers and wing walls.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

KILMACANOGUE TO SOUTHERN CROSS GREENWAY

Public Notice by Wicklow County Council investigating the title of property between Bray and Kilmacanogue

The Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Greenway scheme is an off-road pedestrian and cyclist route from Junction 8 of the N11 / M11 at Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Retail Park in Bray. In early 2020, Wicklow County Council appointed consultants RPS to deliver the proposed scheme which is currently at Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility).

Wicklow Co Co are currently in the process of identifying the title and ownership of landholdings between Southern Cross Retail Park and Kilmacanogue, to facilitate and identify potentially impacted landowners for upcoming surveys works as part of a greenway scheme. Specifically, the lands are bounded by the N11 / M11 to the west, the R768 Southern Cross Road to the north, Little Sugarloaf / Delta Force Paintball to the east and Bohilla Lane to the south.

Any persons having or claiming a right or interest in respect of the said property, land holdings or to any part thereof are hereby requested to contact Wicklow County Council at the address mentioned below accompanied by contact details, number and email address, to facilitate arrangements for survey work.

If you would like to make a submission, marked Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Greenway please do so by Wednesday 16th Sept 2020 as follows:

Email: roadstrans@wicklowcoco.ie

Phone: 0404-20100

Post: Submission re Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Greenway, Transportation, Water and Emergency Services Section, Wicklow County Council, Station Road, Wicklow, A67 FW96.

Heightened vigilance needed as Covid cases increase

Nursing Homes Ireland has urged people visiting nursing homes to maintain heightened vigilance with an increase being reported in Covid19 cases among older and vulnerable age groups.

NHI reminded wider society to be mindful of contacts with people who would be in nursing home settings. During the last surge, where the virus was significant in community settings, it became significant in nursing homes in those areas.

NHI CEO Tadhg Daly stated: "The increase in cases in the community must increase our vigilance surrounding visits to nursing homes. We urge anyone visiting nursing homes to ensure they follow public health guidelines and individual nursing home advice and measures. Failing to adhere to this can jeopardise the health and lives of people in our nursing homes.

"We take this opportunity to remind people to be vigilant regarding nursing home residents and urge people too to be very attentive in their contact with staff in our nursing homes and those that visit them. We take this opportunity to thank the public for their continued support for nursing homes."

The transmission of the virus into and within nursing homes is multifactorial and the very infectious nature of it makes it difficult to prevent and control.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

• POST OF PERMANENT PART-TIME AND TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL TRAFFIC WARDENS, BALTINGLASS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

REF: 35/2020

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the filling of the post of Permanent Part-Time and Temporary Substitute School Traffic Wardens. A panel may be formed from which further vacancies or relief cover may be filled.

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

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2020.

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

Wicklow County Council Is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Lorraine Gallagher, Acting Director Of Services
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Laila Sheehy Islam, Owen Chase, and Mia McGroarty enjoying their first day at school at Newtownmountkennedy Educate Together.

National Learning Network,- Free Training for Employment & Further Education

If you needed extra support in school and now want to get further qualifications or a job, then free training courses in National Learning Network Bray (Beechwood Close, Boghall Road) may be the next step for you. No CAO points needed.

They approach learning and training with wellness and supports. They help you achieve your personal goals, whether this is to get qualifications, get a job, go onto further education or simply work on your own personal development.

Flexibility is the key. NLN offer smaller classrooms, flexible start dates, longer course durations and the support of staff trained to help you in reaching your potential.

Covid-19 hasn't gone away, so they are changing the way they do things. Many of their courses will be delivered differently, mostly through a combination of centre based and remote learning in order to keep everyone safe. They have all Covid-19 precautions in place in their centres.

The courses, funded by the Kildare & Wicklow Education and Training Board, offered are:

- * Vocational Skills Foundation which leads to a QQI Level 3 Major Award in Employability Skills,
 - * Employer Based Training, which is a job seeking course, which leads to a QQI Level 4 or 5 in Employment Skills
 - * Skills for Education & Employment which supports people to further education or to (re)enter the workforce. This is done in an encouraging learning environment that promotes wellness and increases confidence. This leads to a QQI Level 4 Major Award in Employment or Retail Skills
 - * IT and Business Administration which leads to a QQI Level 5 Major Award in Information Processing
- For more information, please contact them on 282 9643 or email bray@nlm.ie to make an appointment to see the centre and meet our training and support staff.

Schools are urged to get involved in STEM Challenge

Members of Student Innovation Ireland and Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) advocates are encouraging second-level schools in Wicklow to register and take part in the 2020/21 F1 in Schools education programme this autumn.

The F1 in Schools STEM Challenge raises awareness among schoolchildren all across the globe of STEM through Formula 1; it encourages students to think creatively, improve their skills, and gain confidence.

It is the only global multi-disciplinary challenge in which teams of students aged 9 to 19 deploy CAD/CAM software to collaborate, design, analyse, manufacture, test, and then race miniature compressed air powered cars made from the F1 model block.

Four Irish teams will

compete in the F1 in Schools world finals in Melbourne next March.

Ruth Conway, who oversees sponsorship and logistics at F1 in Schools, says the competition has been beneficial to various aspects of her life: "It was great for personal development. I gained interpersonal and communication skills, greater confidence, and organisational skills from participating in the competition in Transition Year. F1 in Schools was also the deciding factor for me in choosing to study business and engineering for the Leaving Certificate.

The experience also made me realise that I want to pursue a career in Formula 1."

Aaron Hannon, Co-Founder of F1 in Schools, is calling on schools to enter this year's challenge: "F1 in Schools gives second-level students the opportunity to learn how to be a leader, an engineer or a businessperson in a fast-paced, exciting and competitive way. Through participating in the challenge, Irish students have earned a once-in-a-lifetime trip to represent Ireland at the F1 in Schools World Finals, where they will meet like-

minded students from all around the globe.

"We are delighted to work with new schools and new teachers to help bring these opportunities to even more students. We urge all schools to contact us at info@f1inschools.ie or visit f1inschools.ie to find out how to enter the 2020/21 F1 in Schools season."

Registration for F1 in Schools Ireland 2020/21 will close on the 15th of November 2020, with Regional Finals taking place in February 2021. The 2021 Irish National Final will be held in April/May 2021.

Exciting courses at Bray Institute

Over recent years many new avenues have opened up to students in pursuit of their dream career. According to Gabriel Allen, Deputy Principal at Bray Institute of Further Education (BIFE), "Further Education offers a learner, who may not have achieved the CAO points they wanted, the opportunity to gain advanced entry onto honours degree programmes, both in Ireland and abroad. It is also a very supportive route for the mature student".

He added, "The comprehensive range of courses available at BIFE provides an excellent opportunity to anyone who wants to advance their qualifications enhance their employment potential or progress their career."

An Acting or Dance Degree Programme for you?

The emphasis of these courses is on performance in live theatre. Learners explore their creative talents developing original concepts and ideas and performing to live audiences every term with performances taking place in local venues, Black Box Theatre and at Mermaid Arts Centre. The Higher National Diploma provides a clear pathway following to a top-up year at University leading to a B.A Hons in Dance or Acting.

Working with Animals

"Our Animal Care courses will allow learners to develop the knowledge and skills to competently handle a range of animals in a work environment and pursue a career in the animal care industry. Work Experience is an integral part of the courses providing practical, hands-on experience. All courses link to higher education progression."

Would you like to work in a Pharmacy?

Working in a busy atmosphere like the pharmacy retail sector is a rewarding and important job. There is a big demand from Pharmacies for the skilled counter staff. If learners are considering pharmacy retail as a career option, Bray Institute have a number of courses to help them achieve their goals.

Working as a Healthcare Assistant

If Learners are interested in working in the Care Industry, BIFE provides the recognised qualification necessary for working as a Health Care Assistant in a variety of settings, including hospitals; day and residential care palliative care and the home. The course equips the carer with the knowledge and skills necessary to work in this rewarding role as a member of the care team. It is suitable for those wishing to embark on a care in caring and those already working in the sector who wish to gain a recognised qualification.

A Career working in Health Spa might well suit you

Luxury hotels, cruise ships and many complementary health centres are seeking qualified staff to work in their Health Spas. With the renewed emphasis on



Wellness, therapies such as Swedish Massage, Indian Head Massage, Reflexology and Aromatherapy are in big demand. Bray Institute Learners can study these therapies at Bray Institute in the mornings and gain a valuable ITEC Diploma, which is the internationally recognised standard. BIFE graduates have had outstanding success in making careers in this field of complementary therapies.

Fancy yourself as an Artist?

The BTEC Art Practice/Fine Art course at BIFE offers an exciting and challenging programme of study providing students with both essential subject knowledge and skills.

The course consists of a broad range of subjects from drawing techniques to 3D studies in ceramics and mixed media, printmaking, photography and art history.

New Courses at BIFE

BIFE have new courses in Construction and Joinery, Sports Injury & Soft Tissue Massage Therapy and Jewellery Making.

"There are also many opportunities for mature students who want to break into the world of paid employment. All courses have valuable accreditation and certification and offer progression routes to higher education, yet you don't need CAO points to study at Bray Institute," said Allen. Places are still available on these courses but do hurry as they are filling fast. You can call the Institute during office hours on 01-2829668 or log on to www.bife.ie and apply on-line.

North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School moving to Ravenswell

Minister Simon Harris TD has welcomed the news that North Wicklow Educate Together will be moving to Ravenswell by the mid term break.

Minister Harris said, "The staff and all the team at North Wicklow Educate Together have worked incredibly hard in the most challenging circumstances in the past few months. The delay to the preparation of the Ravenswell campus caused enormous disruption to the school and I have been working with the school to prioritise the delivery of the school's new home as quickly as possible.

"Today I received confirmation from the Minister for Education that the refurbishment works at Ravenswell "will be completed within

the next few weeks".

The Minister for Education advises the following in respect of the Ravenswell campus accommodation: "The patron, Educate Together and the school have been preparing the Putland Road property for the school's use as interim accommodation pending completion of the refurbishment works at the Ravenswell site. The lease agreement on the Putland Road property has been extended to 31st October next.

"The school has also sourced additional temporary accommodation locally to supplement the Putland Road accommodation. The licence arrangement to facilitate the contractor commencing on site was finalised and the works are now in train. It is expected that the works will be completed within the next few weeks".

WHEN TO TALK TO YOUR SOLICITOR



The Covid-19 pandemic has seen more people seek the help of solicitors for advice and to find out the supports that are available. It's never been more important to get your affairs in order, whether it's making your will or sorting out power of attorney. Don't forget that your solicitor is also there to advise you about numerous issues, such as family law issues, boundary disputes, personal injury, unfair dismissal, and medical negligence.



Solicitors in Ireland have a very wide range of different functions. A solicitor may give legal advice about non-contentious matters, such as buying a house or flat or drafting a will. A solicitor may act as your agent or representative in commercial transactions. Your solicitor may also give you legal advice and represent you in relation to a dispute or disagreement that you have with another party, for example, a family dispute or a dispute with your employer or your neighbour.

A solicitor may give you legal advice about

taking or defending a case, if you have been involved in an accident, for example, a road traffic accident or an accident at work.

If you are involved in a court case, your solicitor will manage the case and represent you when dealing with the other party. For example, your solicitor will send letters to the other side on your behalf. Your solicitor will file all of the necessary court documents and contact the witnesses for the case.

If it is necessary to involve a barrister in the case, your solicitor will "brief" the barrister by

sending him/her all of the necessary documents and information. Your solicitor may also actually represent you in court, although in the High Court and the Supreme Court, a barrister will usually be engaged.

Unlike barristers, solicitors are allowed to join together to form partnerships or companies and they are allowed to advertise their services.

The Law Society sets down rules and regulations about how solicitors may conduct their business. There is a Disciplinary Tribunal, which can investigate any

allegations of misconduct made against a solicitor. In the past, it was not possible to make a complaint about a solicitor or barrister in Ireland involved in a family law case due to the 'in camera' rule. (The in camera rule prevented anyone other than those directly involved in the family law case being present in Court. In addition, the 'in camera' rule prevented the publication of any matters discussed there, including the outcome of the case). However, in July 2005 an amendment was made to Section 40 of the Court and Civil Liabilities Act 2004 and complaints about solicitors and barristers in family law cases are now admissible.

Advising private clients - covering various aspects of their personal and business lives and including such matters as marital problems, consumer complaints, disputes with neighbours, planning inquiries etc.

Business - the business world of trade and commerce, companies, contracts, and banking. Solicitors advise business clients on the numerous and detailed provisions of company, partnership, arbitration, insolvency, drafting, environmental, commercial, consumer, intellectual property and e-commerce law.

Litigation - initiating or defending proceedings in the courts or by reference to arbitration or settling such claims or disputes 'out of court'.

Conveyancing - the buying and selling of property and the arranging of loans, the preparation of title deeds, leases and countless other legal documents. Some solicitors are expert in the buying and leasing of commercial properties such as factories, shops and hotels.

Wills, Probate & Administration of Estates - advising on and preparing wills; planning for tax where appropriate, the administration and distribution of funds passing on death, whether by will or otherwise, or contained in a trust, and the settlement of tax liabilities.

Everyone should make a Will

and regularly review and update their Will. A solicitor's help may also be needed in the case where individuals have passed away without making a Will which often leads to disputes between beneficiaries and others.

Personal Injury Law - while the introduction of the Injuries Board has simplified this contentious area there are often many benefits in having a Solicitor advise and represent you in pursuing valid claims for injuries suffered.

Debt Collection - unfortunately an area of Law with a significant increase in the volume of work in the past number of years. Private and corporate clients will need the assistance of a solicitor in all courts from the District Court to the High Court in efforts to obtain judgements for money due and in applying to enforce those judgements once obtained. They will also require the service of a solicitor if they find themselves in financial difficulty.

Employment Law - This is an area of Law that requires extensive knowledge and skill to successfully represent clients, who are either employees or employers in Employment Tribunals and in the various courts to include the High Court and provide advice on all areas of Employment law.

Property Law - A solicitor's advice is essential in all property transactions from buying and selling property and land to leasing lands and commercial properties and transferring between family members.

Mediation - As an alternative to litigation, mediation is an extremely effective means of resolving disputes. It involves both parties to the dispute coming together with the aid of a trained mediator and with the aim of them reaching their own solutions to the issues they have. It can be a very speedy, cost effective, lasting and beneficial process. In that regard it is very versatile as it can be applied to all types of disputes and all kinds of different people and companies.



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'Sika stag', by Tim Downton.

New book tells story of wild Sika stag

Former Wicklow resident now living in Carlow, barrister Liam Nolan has published a book, 'Sika the Wild Deer', which tells the story of one wild sika stag told over his lifetime in the Wicklow Mountains.

His life and times, from birth to late middle age, are observed through the eyes of a Deerstalker, accompanied by his dog and with a Raven as witness to happenings on the hill. The story reflects the author's lifelong interest in wild deer. Liam Nolan is a former Chairman and President of the Irish Deer Society, a member of the Irish Deer Management Forum and Secretary since 2003 of the Deer Alliance, the body responsible for hunter training, assessment and certification in Ireland.

Sika's wanderings take him over mountains and valleys, through forests and farmland as he grapples with forces of nature while ensuring his own survival and that of his race. His story will grip the reader as Sika and the Stalker go through life together and will help the reader to better understand the balance that must prevail between man and nature.

The book is available for purchase online through the Deer Alliance website (www.deeralliance.ie) and through selected outlets. Online price: €30.00 including p. & p. Also available in a presentation case, numbered and signed by the author. (cost €40.00 including p. & p.)

Wicklow stars in TV drama the South Westerlies

Wicklow Town and its scenic surrounding areas are the main locations for a new six-part series, *The South Westerlies*, which aired on RTE on Sunday, 6th September.

Wicklow was chosen in the summer 2019 as the key location for the new series where Kate, in the lead role, works for a Norwegian energy giant and is on the verge of a lucrative promotion and transfer to HQ in Oslo.

However, there is a final assignment to bring a wind farm project to her home town of 'Carrigeen' (Wicklow town) which is not without complications.

In welcoming the launch of the series, Wicklow Municipal District Cathoirléach, Cllr John Snell, said: "I am delighted that this comedy drama series is being aired and I am sure it will provide great Sunday night entertainment. Wicklow is fast building up an impressive film portfolio as a film production destination and I am sure this series with its line up of acclaimed actors will be another welcome success".

Producer Ailish McElmree of Deadpan Pictures, said: "We were delighted to shoot *The South Westerlies* in beautiful Wicklow town and surrounds. Wicklow Town offers not only a picturesque town in which to create our fictional town of Carigeen, but beautiful beaches, headlands and harbour to fill out our fictional world. The Wicklow film commission, Wicklow Municipal District and local community really embraced the production team and helped us to make what we think is a warm entertaining drama for both Irish and international audiences."

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, and Chair of Wicklow Tourism Alliance added: "Wicklow has been the home to some of Ireland's most popular TV series such as 'Glenroe' and 'Ballykissangel' as well as international productions such as 'The Vikings' recently. The diversity of landscape and sceneries along with the tremendous skills and expertise available locally makes Wicklow ideal for the film industry. The tourism potential



behind any film production can be extremely rewarding, and we do hope 'The South Westerlies' reaches a great level of popularity."

The *South Westerlies* features an impressive cast of stars: Orla Brady ('American Horror Story', 'Mistresses'), as Kate, Eileen Walsh ('Catastrophe', 'Women on the Verge', 'Can't Cope (Won't Cope)' as Breege, Ger Ryan ('Little Dog', 'Rialto, Raw') as Noreen, Sam Barrett as Conor, Lily Nichol ('MJ', 'Handymen') as Poppy, Steve Wall ('Vikings', 'An Klondike', 'Rebellion') as Baz and Patrick Bergin ('Sleeping with the Enemy', 'Patriot Games', 'EastEnders, Red Rock') as Michael. The series was also shot in other locations such as Cork and Oslo.

Use of toxic lead ammunition to be banned at wetlands

Birdwatch Ireland have welcomed the vote last week by Ireland and other European Union Member States to ban the use of lead ammunition in gunshot over wetlands at a meeting of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

The Kilcoole-based organisation said that "This is an important day for wildlife in Ireland, in Europe and beyond. Lead has been completely banned for many years in paint, petrol and water pipes because there are no safe thresholds, but toxic lead ammunition has still been allowed in the wider environment."

"The decision today is about stopping the poisoning of wildlife, and especially waterbirds in wetlands, some of which are targeted by hunters. Of the 150,000 tonnes of lead ammunition produced in Europe each year, industry figures suggest 20,000 tonnes pollute the European

environment annually, affecting a staggering 1 million waterbirds.

"Waterbirds can inadvertently consume discarded lead shot due to its similarity to grit which birds utilise as part of their digestive process. Ingestion of these toxic lead fragments can lead to a slow, painful death by poisoning. Lead can also seep into the food chain, with secondary poisoning being a problem for birds of prey which may eat poisoned waterbirds. Lead ammunition can also poison people, in particular game-eating and hunting communities."

Nicholas Williams, CEO of BirdWatch

Ireland said, "Today's vote by EU Member States is an extremely positive step for people, the environment and biodiversity, particularly certain species of birds. We commend the Irish government for voting in favour because it sends an important signal to the shooting industry of the need to move away from lead ammunition."

"We call upon all gun owners to seize this opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to wildlife conservation by rapidly implementing this decision and, in addition, voluntarily switching to non-lead alternatives for all ammunition used every-

where, not just at our precious wetland sites.

"There will be a transition period for those who currently use lead ammunition but we would hope that gun owners will take the initiative to stop the release of this poisonous substance into the environment as soon as possible. Indeed, ECHA has begun its work on the proposal to restrict lead ammunition everywhere. The next step is for the European Parliament to vote in agreement with ECHA and then the Irish Government, along with other EU Member States, would be required to transpose this decision into law."

Oxfam Bray calls on locals to say yes to pre-loved with 'Second Hand September'

More than three in four Irish people (76 percent) donate unwanted items to charity shops because it reduces the amount of clothes being binned, according to research carried out by Oxfam Ireland. With 13 million tonnes of textile waste produced globally each year - 95 percent of which can be reused or recycled - this statistic indicates a positive Irish response to a situation that is increasingly harming our planet.

225,000 tonnes of textiles are dumped in Ireland each year - some of which can take up to 200 years to decompose. Landfills are being fuelled by a global culture of throwaway fashion that is recognised as one of the biggest polluters in the world today, while also using up vast amounts of water in production processes; a vital and lifesaving natural resource denied to so many people.

Oxfam Ireland says it is proud to be a solution to throwaway fashion through its network of 42 shops across the island of Ireland, which accept and sell pre-loved clothes, shoes, accessories, handbags and more, diverting them from landfill.

Today, Oxfam is asking people to join them through Second Hand September - a challenge to say yes to shopping second hand for the month of September. The aid

agency, which supports communities across the world impacted by the climate crisis, is encouraging people to take on the personal challenge for 30 days and discover the joys of pre-loved shopping.

Michael McIlwaine, Oxfam Ireland's Head of Retail, said: "Cheap production and plummeting prices means the clothes we buy often have a short lifespan, with more and more ending up in landfill sooner than they should. Our shops play a part by offering people a way to reduce the amount of items in Irish landfills as well as a way to reuse and extend the life-cycle of clothes and other items."

"By donating and shopping in-store, the Irish public are not just protecting our environment, but are also supporting some of the most vulnerable communities worldwide, including those adversely affected by the climate crisis. People may not realise how

much value and power their pre-loved donations and purchases hold. Every garment or item donated to, or bought in Oxfam raises vital funds to fight inequality and support our global mission to beat poverty."

"Throughout September, we're calling on people to say yes to second hand for 30 days. Our shop teams are ready to help people start, or indeed continue, their journey to a more sustainable lifestyle, starting with the clothes they buy."

"People can find out where their nearest Oxfam shop is, as well as lots of second hand shopping tips and inspiration throughout the month by visiting our website - www.oxfamireland.org/shs."

To learn more about Oxfam's Second Hand September challenge, visit: www.oxfamireland.org/shs

Second phase of new parental leave law comes into effect

The second phase of unpaid parental leave brought in by the Social Democrats Parental Leave (Amendment) Act 2019 came into effect on Tuesday, 1st September.

Four additional weeks of unpaid leave is available to parents, following on from the four weeks that became available last September, bringing the amount of unpaid parental leave available to working parents up to 26 weeks.

Jennifer Whitmore TD, Social Democrats spokesperson for Children, said: "Parental leave is vital in giving working parents more flexibility around their work schedules and any increase will be helpful to many parents juggling work and family commitments, in particular right now in such diffi-

cult and uncertain times.

"The opportunity to avail of the additional leave may help both parents and employers as they cope with the additional challenges faced in dealing with the pandemic, including the challenges of restricted childcare availability, working from home or businesses not back to full capacity yet.

"Ireland has a very poor record in supporting parents, especially in comparison to our European counterparts. It is crucial as we rebuild our economy and work/life balance after the pandemic that Ireland



Jennifer Whitmore TD

works towards the goal of ensuring every child can remain with their parents for the first year of their life. The Government must commit to this and provide meaningful support to working parents.

"Last year's budget did the bare minimum to

support working parents, who received a meagre allocation of two weeks' paid leave - which has yet to come into effect. I reiterate my call to extend paid parental leave in accordance with commitments given in the 2019 Government strategy 'First 5 Strategy for Babies, Young Children and their Families 2019-2028'.

"The Government should include additional paid leave in this year's budget, allowing parents to avail of seven weeks' paid parental leave by 2021, as we work towards better long-term family supports."

ALONE cautions members of the public to stay mindful of older people

ALONE, the organisation which supports older people is calling on members of the public to be vigilant of older people who may be feeling particularly vulnerable as children go back to school and there's more activity and movement from families.

The organisation welcomes continued updates on the current guidelines for older people from Government, while encouraging a more long-term plan to be identified and mapped out for future expectations.

ALONE have received a number of calls from older people who are anxious that the recent return of children to schools will lead to another spike in cases, as outbreaks have developed in other parts of the world following the reopening of schools. Many older people are also feeling unsure of where they stand in terms of the current Government safety guidelines, and feel that they have not been included in the gradual reopening of society. ALONE has stated that it is important for people to remember that while many aspects of our daily lives are returning to normal, older people still remain one of the most restricted and at risk groups of the pandemic.

Many callers to the National Support Line believe that the ask to cocoon was introduced with clear and explicit guidelines on how to stay safe. Now, they are looking for long-term plans based on the current and future guidelines as callers need to interpret the guidelines based on their personal circumstances. ALONE are encouraging a plan for the future to be devised by issuing clear and concise messages to older people which will deter from the increased anxiety being felt. The organisation are taking a vast number of calls

regularly where they assist older people by internalise the guidelines and therefore managing the risks in each of their individual and personal circumstances.

As schools reopen, the organisation wants the public to understand the increased risk to older people. ALONE seek for clear messages to continue while working in solidarity with public health messaging. Older people have already been through a lot, with ALONE reporting rising numbers of older people experiencing loneliness, fear and anxiety. They believe it is only by working together to provide supports in the community that we can deliver the support older people require.

Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE said, "In order to best advise and support older people and those who have been cocooning, we are asking for the consistent and clear guidelines for older people to continue as society gradually returns to normal. Many older people who have called our support line are afraid to leave their homes in case they come into contact with a carrier of the virus. We seek to support all older people with advice based on their individual circumstances. We are asking for continued clarity from Government on guidelines for older people so that we can all move to the next stage of reopening together."

He continued, "We are asking members of the public to respect older people during this difficult time, as they are one of the groups who have been

affected the most by the arrival of COVID-19 in Ireland back in March. While it's fantastic to be able to support our relatives and neighbours who older people, but we must be careful now that our children are going back to school that we teach them to respect older people's space when out and about. Even though most people are now going back to their normal lives, certain groups of individuals such as older people are still very worried about the virus and what will happen to them if they are exposed to a carrier of the virus."

ALONE have also reminded older people that their services continue to be available to any older person who needs advice or support during this time.

"I would like to remind any older person that is struggling at the moment that even though restrictions are being eased, supports are still available to them through ALONE and Local Authorities across the country. If you are struggling at all over the coming weeks and months, please do not hesitate to reach out and seek help," added Mr Moynihan.

ALONE is encouraging older people who need advice to call ALONE on 0818 222 024 from 8am-8pm, seven days a week. Contact ALONE if you have concerns about your own wellbeing, or the wellbeing of an older person you know. Further information can be found on www.alone.ie



For the first time in 35 years Bray Wanderers have a U17s girls team. The girls took the pitch for their first home game in the Women's National League (WNL), on Saturday 5th September in Pearse park Sallynoggin.

Wicklow charity launches Emergency Card Scheme

On Monday 31st August, The Taoiseach formally launched Family Carers Ireland's Emergency Card Scheme at Government Buildings. Family Carers Ireland (FCI), has developed a new Emergency Card Scheme which is available to Wicklow's 11016 family carers.

The scheme is in partnership with An Garda Síochána, the National Ambulance Service Community First Responder Schemes, The Irish Red Cross and The Order of Malta.

When a family carer has an unplanned hospital admission there is a risk that the person who needs their care and support could be left at home alone and uncared for. The Emergency Card Scheme is intended to give peace of mind to family carers as well as ensuring that the person they care for remains safe in such emergencies.

The new scheme can be broken down into 4 simple steps: Step 1. Family carer completes FCI Emergency Care Plan with or for their loved one outlining their care needs, likes, dislikes, medication requirements etc; Step 2. The Family Carer nominates two people who will step into their caring role in the event of an emergency and provide FCI with these details as part of their Emergency Care Plan; Step 3. Completed Emergency Care Plan is sent to FCI and family carer receives their Emergency Card which they carry at all times. The card includes a Freephone emergency helpline number; Step 4. In the event of an emergency, and where a person's named emergency contacts are unavailable, Family Carers Ireland will determine the person's needs and either mobilize.

A red response (for a person who needs a high level of support), where a member of An Garda Síochána will visit the person and decide if the person requires transportation to the emergency department as a place of safety; or

A green response which will include contacting a pair of volunteers from either the National Ambulance Service Community First Responder Schemes, The Irish Red Cross or The Order of Malta to sit with, and to support the person until a home care package can be organised. During this emergency period FCI may also provide up to 72 hours of in-home emergency support where appropriate.

In a 2019 survey 74 per cent of family carers feared for their loved-one's future and in particular worried about who will provide care for their loved one should they, the family carer, become ill or have an accident. FCI's 'Caring Through Covid' survey also revealed that 84 per cent of

family carers surveyed worry about getting the coronavirus and not being able to look after the person(s) they care for.

Speaking about the initiative Mary Fitzsimons, FCI Centre Manager for Wicklow said: "The pandemic has really highlighted the need for this scheme. Family carers often worry about what will happen to the person they care for, in the event that they, the family carer, are involved in an accident or emergency. This has never been more important than in our current times. We are extremely grateful to Irish Life and Dormant Accounts for funding this new initiative and offering this reassurance to Ireland's family carers."

There are over 355,000 family carers in Ireland. Family carers make extraordinary sacrifices and work extremely hard, sometimes 24 hours a day, to provide care for children and adults with intellectual or physical disability, frail older people, people with palliative care needs or those living with mental health, chronic illness or addiction issues. Their unpaid work saves the State a staggering €10bn each year.

The Emergency Card Scheme has been funded by Irish Life and with the support of Dormant Account fund administered by Pobal. A social story (accessible storyboard) to explain the scheme has also been developed with the support of Sensory Space. For more information on the scheme please visit Family Carer's newly launched website: www.familycarers.ie



Pictured launching the Emergency Card Scheme is family carer Moira Skelly, with Taoiseach Micheal Martin



Pictured is Mary Killilea handing over the cheque to Greystones Cancer Support's Mary O'Neill (left) and Anne Doody (right).

Mary's marathon walk raises €2600 for Greystones Cancer Support

Greystones resident Mary Killilea recently took on the challenge of walking a 'Marathon in a Month' as a resourceful way to raise funds for Greystones Cancer Support.

With outstanding support for both the national and international community, Mary raised the phenomenal figure of €2600 for GCS. Support came from far and wide - including London, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Beijing, Malaysia and Perth as well as all over Ireland! She is pictured above handing over the cheque to GCS's own Mary O'Neill and Anne Doody.

Sonia Walsh, Chairman of Greystones Cancer Support said: "A huge thank you and well done to Mary or all of her hard work in fundraising for us. And a big thank you to everyone who has supported Mary, both the national and international community. This is a fantastic result and we are so grateful to Mary."

'Technology taking us boldly into the future'

As part of World Alzheimer Month this month, *Wicklow Times*, in partnership with the HSE's Dementia: Understand Together campaign, is featuring a series of articles on aspects of life with dementia. In this third article, Eibhlís Cahalane, Project Lead, HSE Memory Technology Resource Rooms, talks about technology and how it can enhance the lives of people with dementia.

She says, "Over the past months, as COVID-19 has changed the world we live in, technology has helped us to stay connected with family, friends and colleagues. From family video calls to online shopping, we have all had to adapt in different ways. For those living with dementia, we have also seen the benefits of technology, with online dementia cafés bringing people together for a virtual cuppa, and dementia-inclusive choirs serenading us off into an online musical world.

"Assistive technology can play a significant role in enhancing the independence and well-being of people living with dementia and memory difficulties, while also providing reassurance to families about their safety and welfare.

"Memory Technology Resource Rooms have now

been developed by the HSE in 27 locations across the country for people with memory problems including those living with dementia. These rooms showcase a wide range of technologies and provide assessment and guidance on different products and how these may be helpful.

"Wide Range Among the items you can expect to see in a Memory Technology Resource Room are: Automatic pill dispensers and push-button reminders with voice recordings to prompt a person to do something; TV remote controls and one-button radios that are accessible and easy-to-use; Talking photo albums and picture phones with photos of family members on the handset so that a person can make a call by pressing a picture; Speaking clocks, calendars, wall planners and whiteboards to provide



Eibhlís Cahalane

a reminder of appointments; Item finders that can track down commonly mislaid items; Motion sensors and mobile phones with in-built trackers.

"Memory Technology Resource Rooms are currently offering a mix of face-to-face consultations by appointment and telephone and video appointments. To find out more, you can speak to your GP or Public Health Nurse, or

make an appointment directly with your local Memory Technology Resource Rooms located in Wicklow Primary Care Centre, Knockrobin, Wicklow town, tel. 076 6958374 / 086 7733880 and St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown, tel. 01 2115186 / 2115196.

"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 assistive technologies, as well as information on how to become a dementia champion in your community, visit www.understandtogether.ie. Alternatively, Freefone the helpline provided by The Alzheimer Society of Ireland on 1800 341 341 (Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm)."



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Community Finance Ireland invests in Wicklow communities

Tinahely Community Sports Hall, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney GAA Club and Hillside Evangelical Church are just some of the projects that have benefited from Community Finance Ireland's €30 million investment in communities between 2016 and 2019.

The extent of their investment in communities across Ireland was detailed in the first all-island impact report launched last month. At the launch, Dónal Traynor, Associate Director of Community Finance Ireland spoke about the importance of access to social finance as communities recover from Covid-19.

"With the fallout from the pandemic, we anticipate a reduction in grant funding to the community sector generally, so - in the coming years - social finance will play an increasingly vital role in supporting grassroots community organisations and social enterprises. At the same time, Covid-19 has starkly shown the importance of community solidarity, 'social capital' and sustainability within communities."

As Ireland's and the UK's fastest-growing social finance provider, the organisation works with groups that drive social impact, including sports clubs, social housing organisations, community projects, faith-based groups, and social enterprises.

Mr Traynor said: "We can provide loans ranging from €30,000 up to €500,000, and our finance products are specifically tailored for the community sector. We have waived arrangement fees to make loans as accessible and cost-effective as possible, we have a quick turnaround time for lending decisions, and - given the organisations we lend to are typically run by

volunteers - we do not ask for personal guarantees.

"There has been a default rate of just 0.75% on our loans since 2008, which is low by any standard and particularly when you consider that many of our loans are made available on an unsecured basis. This is in no small part due to the strong relationship which we have developed with communities over time."



Donal Traynor, Associate Director of Community Finance Ireland.

Free counselling service for carers of Wicklow's 1,800 stroke survivors

A free counselling service has been launched aimed at providing coping skills and vital information to people who are caring for the estimated 1,800 stroke survivors living in Wicklow.

The Irish Heart Foundation has urged people to apply immediately for the six-week service which gives them the ability to look after themselves and the strength to deal effectively with their loved one's care.

The free programme includes up to six, one-hour sessions giving participants an opportunity to share worries and frustrations in a confidential manner and learn practical tools to help them cope as a carer.

"Becoming a carer for someone who has survived a stroke, is a huge undertaking physically, mentally and emotionally," said Tracy Egan, Patient Support Manager, Irish Heart Foundation.

"When people are affected by stroke the new regime can be totally overwhelming for those caring for them.

"It is important that carers take care of their own mental and physical health so that they can have a reasonable quality of life, provide the care their loved

ones need and cope with the demands of life as a carer."

Counselling has taken the weight off the shoulders of mother of two Carol Beirne as she learns to cope with life alongside a stroke survivor.

When Eamonn suffered a stroke eleven months ago, the roles were suddenly reversed for 65-year-old Carol who, for a time, had been cared for by her husband when she had mobility issues.

"Sometimes there are things you just can't say to your children and my counsellor just listened. By the third week of the six week hourly sessions, I felt a weight was lifted off my shoulders," said Carol.

"The stroke left Eamonn with hidden disabilities. He has trouble processing his thoughts and some days, his speech is affected as he struggles to get the words out.

"Sometimes you want to finish his sentences but know not to as it's very frustrating for him, especially when he's talking to old colleagues who don't know that he had a stroke.

"I learned to handle Eamonn's emotions and frustrations and got an insight and understanding on how he must be feeling.

"Every time I walked out of a session, I was walking on air. A few years ago, Eamonn had cared for me when I had mobility issues and now I was all of a sudden helping him.

"The roles were completely reversed which was hard for both of us. I used to depend on him, but now we are working as a team.

"The counselling has also given me the confidence to write, which I give myself time to do in the mornings and in turn, it gives Eamonn his space to get emotionally ready for the day."

The free counselling supports are being made available to carers of people affected by stroke by the Irish Heart Foundation thanks to funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund. To avail of the free counselling please email carers@irishheart.ie or contact the Irish Heart Foundation on 01 668 5001.



Renewed Media Appeal on 21st Anniversary Murder of Raonaid Murray

Friday 4th September 2020 marked the 21st Anniversary of the brutal murder of 17-year-old Raonaid Murray.

The Gardaí and Raonaid's family continue to work together in an effort to solve this case and they appeal to anyone with information to contact the Garda Incident Room at Dun Laoghaire Garda Station on 01 666 5000 or 01 6665012, the Garda Confidential line 1800 666 111 or any Garda Station. A reward for critical information received is available from Crimestoppers, Freephone 1800 25 00 25.

Raonaid Murray was last seen alive at approximately 11.20pm on Friday, 3rd September 1999 when she made her way home from Dun Laoghaire town centre. Her body was then found at Silchester Crescent, Glenageary at 12.33am,

Saturday 4th September 1999, less than 500 yards from her home. Many who were then Raonaid's age are now parents themselves with children, some of whom would now be close to Raonaid's age, and the Gardaí are asking them to reflect now with the benefit of maturity and hindsight on any information which may be of assistance to the investigation.

Despite a large number of suspects having been identified during the course of this investigation, there is in reality no prime suspect. The lack of a prime suspect largely arises from the fact that there has been no motive identified in this case. In over 4500 witness statements

there is not one word of enmity towards Raonaid.

The Gardaí said, "If any person has any information which could assist in identifying a motive for the murder of Raonaid and/or if any person has any doubts about the truth of an alibi already provided, we would appeal for your immediate assistance. You may unknowingly be shielding a killer. The solving of this murder is of the utmost priority for An Garda Síochána and any information received will be treated with absolute confidentiality. The Garda investigation team wish to again thank the public for the invaluable assistance provided in this ongoing investigation to date."



Newly elected President of Bray Soroptimists, Tanja Haak, pictured with outgoing President Clare Comerford.

Rethink Ireland calls for applications to €3m Equality Fund

The deadline is approaching for applications from Co. Wicklow to Rethink Ireland's €3m Equality Fund.

The fund is supported by the Peter Kinney and Lisa Sandquist Foundation and the Government of Ireland via the Dormant Accounts Fund (through the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Justice and Equality).

This €3 million Equality Fund will support civil society groups working with marginalised women, ethnic minority and migrant people, Traveller and Roma communities, people with disabilities and LGBTI+ people. The fund closes for applications on Monday, 14th September.

Michael Barron, Manager of the Equality Fund, said: "Our vision is to support some of the most marginalised communities and to strengthen the Equality landscape in Ireland. The need for this fund has become all too apparent this year. Marginalised communities, already on the sharp edge of structural and systemic inequality have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19.

"We know through our work and research that we must address the systemic issues which affect

marginalised communities. We also know that communities are best placed to do this work in an empowered way themselves.

"This Equality Fund is divided into 3 open calls for applications. Each strand has a different focus but together they are aimed at strengthening the Equality landscape and tackling systemic inequalities."

Empowering Women: Projects aimed at strengthening equality through supporting greater participation of marginalised and minority women, who are distant from the workplace or who are informally employed, underemployed, in low paying jobs and who find it difficult to assert their rights.

Strengthening Communities: Projects aimed at strengthening equality by supporting some of the most marginalised communities in the country through community work approaches, empowerment and collaborations.

Building Equality Together: Projects aimed at enhancing the equality landscape in Ireland through innovative and collaborative approaches to sector-wide capacity building.

The deadline for applications to the Equality Fund is Monday 14th September 2020. To apply, please visit www.rethinkireland.ie

Over half living with sight loss impacted by mental health problems during lockdown

Over half (54%) of people living with sight loss experienced a decline in their mental health during lockdown, according to a recent survey by Irish charity Fighting Blindness.

Many of those living with a visual impairment are already dealing with anxiety, isolation and self-esteem issues. In the survey, 45% said that pre-existing mental health problems had gotten worse during the Covid-19 crisis.

The charity is tackling the situation with a free support service that includes individual telephone counselling but also a range of online groups that focus on a peer support approach. Demand

for the service has grown significantly since March and weekly mindfulness sessions and a virtual coffee morning are particularly popular.

76% of people surveyed told the charity that they found it difficult to follow social distancing rules because of their eye condition. Over a quarter experienced difficulties with their grocery shopping; many struggled to secure a delivery slot with others unable to see and follow

floor markings in stores.

Kevin Whelan, CEO of Fighting Blindness, said: "Covid-19 has hit everyone in the country but, without a doubt, it's harder when you're living with sight loss. It's taking a toll on people's mental health and we're seeing an increase in demand for our counselling and support service. We're looking forward to engaging with the new Minister for Health to highlight how vital specialised support is for people

living with sight loss in Ireland.

"The survey did reveal some unexpected positives. Some of our service users told us that their social life actually improved during lockdown. When we transitioned our support groups to an online setting we saw a big increase in numbers. We provided people across the country with a regular social outlet they didn't have before Covid-19."



Two Artists, Two Answers

This upcoming exhibition in the Signal Arts Centre in Bray is an unusual show by two Irish artists, Jade Butler and Laurence O'Toole. Laurence is a figurative and realist painter working primarily in oil, from Bray.

Jade is a contemporary still life painter, also working primarily in oil, originally from Kilkenny, now based in Dublin.

Jade and Laurence are a couple and because they

often work in close proximity to one another, their ideas sometimes intersect, where Laurence will paint Jade with some of the elements that she is using in her own compositions. Most interesting from the fact that although they are two different painters the pieces have relationship to one another. What makes this show exciting is the contrast of one artists interpretation against the others of the same subjects. The exhibition will run from Monday 14th September to Sunday 27th September.

Coming up at Whale Theatre

After being closed for almost six months as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, The Whale Theatre reopened on Friday 4th September with a programme of socially distanced live shows from performers including comedian Alison Spittle and the Svetlana Rudenko & Belenus Quartet. Things continue this week with renowned guitarist Redmond O'Toole and Greystones Film Club. For a full lineup of events, see whaletheatre.ie



Treasa O'Brien

Greystones Film Club: Town of Strangers

There are only two stories in the world. A person goes on a journey. A stranger comes to town. When filmmaker Treasa O'Brien arrived in the small Galway town of Gort, the plan was to make a film. All she needed was a script, and some actors.

With executive producer Joshua Oppenheimer (The Act Of Killing) on board, O'Brien was drawn to Gort because it was the town with most nationalities in Ireland, and it was also the town worst hit by austerity. The resulting film is at turns heartwarming and heart-breaking, leaving everyday people to explain how they got from there to here, with even the filmmaker herself accepting that none of us really know where we're going. Treasa O'Brien will be attending the screening for a short Q&A before Town Of Strangers.

Thursday 10th September at 8.00pm (Doors 7.30pm) Tickets €10 and includes popcorn.



Redmond O'Toole

Redmond O'Toole

Redmond O'Toole presents a varied program of Bach, Sor and Domeniconi (J.S. Bach - Cello Suite No. 1; Fernando Sor - Fantasie Elagique; Carlo Domeniconi - Suite Koyunbaba).

O'Toole's arrangement for the guitar imitates the lute music of Bach. Fernando Sor's Fantasie Elagique was written for the funeral of his student Charlotte Beslay and contains some of his most subtle and moving melodies. In 1996 when Carlo Domeniconi first presented Koyunbaba it was something of a revelation in the classical guitar world, he completely returned his guitar to an open chord and presented a whole new range of sonority for the instrument

Sunday 13th September at 4.00pm (Doors 3.30pm) Tickets €18/€15.

Young Greystones poet selected as winner in national competition

A young poet from Wicklow has been selected as a winner of the 'Let's fish' national poetry competition which took place earlier this summer and was organised by Inland Fisheries Ireland in conjunction with the Blackrock Education Centre.

Entries were received from across Ireland under the title "Let's fish" and the poems revealed how much fish and fishing means to our younger generation. Millie, from St. Patrick's National School, Greystones, was selected as the winner of the 1st prize in the 6th class category.

Inland Fisheries Ireland plans to share the winning entries across all social media platforms over the coming weeks. The competition ran from the end of April to the middle of June, with 5th

and 6th class students asked to write a five line poem on the topic 'Let's Fish'. The winners of the 1st prize will now receive a €100 voucher, the winners of the 2nd prize will receive a €50 voucher and the winners of the 3rd prize will receive a €25 voucher. The competition was delivered as a fun initiative to help 5th and 6th class primary students to research the Something Fishy online resource and expand their literacy skills during the Covid-19 restrictions.

Speaking about the competition, Suzanne Campion, Head of Business Development at Inland Fisheries Ireland said: "We are delighted to announce the winners of the 'Let's fish' poetry competition as part of our joint collaboration with the Blackrock Education Centre. We would like to congratulate all of the participants involved and we wish them well as they return to school in the coming weeks."

Something Fishy is an Educational Programme,

aimed at Primary school pupils aged between 10-13 years, which informs and educates students on fish, water, angling, and the environment and angling. The 'Something Fishy' is delivered by Inland Fisheries Ireland and Blackrock Education Centre (BEC). It includes lesson plans and activity sheets based on the theme of the 'Life cycle of salmon' - Bradán.

It has web based resources and new lesson plans also available, visit www.somethingfishy.ie/ for more information.

Live events return to The Mermaid

Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre has announced that they're back with live events.

"Over the past three months we have slowly re-entered the building. We have consulted with government departments and agencies and have run safety checks on all equipment and services. We've completed a deep clean and have sanitising stations throughout the building. We have intensive cleaning protocols, sneeze guards, capacity limits, directional signage and our staff training is complete. All of this in order to be sure we welcome our artists, audiences and team back in a safe way. Full details of our guidelines are below.

"We are also thrilled to announce the appointment of Julie Kelleher as our new Artistic Director. Julie will step down from her current position as Artistic Director of The Everyman, Cork to take up the role in mid-September 2020. Her appointment sees her take on the position previously held by Niamh O'Donnell. The team at Mermaid are looking forward to welcoming Julie to Wicklow." Bookings through Box Office on 01-2724030.



Family Workshop: Paul Timoney presents Portraits & Poetry (Saturday 19th September | 2pm | €5)

Join artist Paul Timoney for a fun workshop in which kids will draw and paint pictures of their grandparents or other people special to them. Paul will help the children to express their feelings as they create poems to describe the things they might have missed throughout the lockdown. One adult must accompany each child/pod of children. Up to 4 kids per table (Each table needs an accompanying guardian). Age Suitability: 4-12 years.

Mary Coughlan (11th and 12th September | 8pm | €35)

One of Ireland's greatest soulful jazz and blues singers Mary Coughlan joins us at Mermaid Arts Centre to perform her highly anticipated album 'Life Stories'.

Mary Coughlan is arguably the greatest female singer to have emerged from Ireland in recent times. Whether you're into folk, blues or jazz, you can't fail to be moved by the emotional depth, expression and power in her voice, forged from an extraordinary life.

Mary has carved out a timeless and highly regarded career, with a legion of devoted fans worldwide. To hear Mary sing is truly to be at the core of the human heart. The new album "Life Stories" was mostly written and recorded by Pete Glenister and Mary Coughlan at No Name Studio.



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AIR OR GAS EMBOLISM
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REFRACTORY OSTEOMYELITIS (INFECTED BONE)
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THERMAL BURNS
CRUSH INJURY, COMPARTMENT SYNDROME,
AND OTHER ACUTE TRAUMATIC ISCHEMIAS.
ENHANCEMENT OF HEALING IN SELECTED PROBLEM
WOUNDS (DIABETIC WOUNDS)
EXCEPTIONAL BLOOD LOSS (ANEMIA)
INTRACRANIAL ABSCESS, ACTINOMYCOSIS
NECROTIZING SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS
DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS
CLOSTRIDAL MYOSITIS AND MYONECROSIS, (GAS GANGRENE)
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While not new, HBOT has only lately begun to gain recognition for treatment of chronic degenerative health problems. Wherever blood flow and oxygen delivery to vital organs is reduced, function and healing can potentially be aided with HBOT. For further information contact us on the numbers below or check out www.hyperbaricireland.com



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Pictured at Bray and Wicklow Rotary Clubs' 'Recycle that Bicycle' event, to collect second-hand bikes to refurbish and send to schoolchildren in The Gambia, West Africa, were Wicklow County Council Environmental Awareness Officer Jim Callery, Peter Byrne, Green Party TD Steven Matthews, and Green Party Councillor Erika Doyle.

Maxi Zoo pass VAT reduction on to customers

From September 1st, Ireland's largest pet retailer, Maxi Zoo began passing on the savings from the newly introduced VAT rate to its customers, with reduced prices across all items in the group's 20 stores throughout Ireland.

As part of the €5 billion rescue package that was unveiled by the Government in July in an effort to reboot the economy in the wake of Covid-19; one of the key measures confirmed was that the standard rate of VAT will be cut from 23% to 21% across the board from September 1st until February 28th, 2021.

As part of the July stimulus package retailers could decide for themselves how they use the VAT reduction, deciding whether or not to pass on the VAT cut to customers and reduce their prices, and this is what Maxi Zoo intends to do.

Speaking on behalf of Maxi Zoo, Noelle Long, Purchasing and Marketing Director said "I'm delighted to announce that we are bringing even more savings to all our customers across the country, no matter what product they purchase from Maxi Zoo. Our loyal customers continued to support us over the past number of trying months during what was an incredibly difficult time for retail; and passing on the VAT reduction savings to our customers means we're now able to thank them by putting money back in their pockets in these tough times. After all, fair is fair!"

Maxi Zoo caters for many different types of pets including dogs, cats, reptiles, birds and fish; and is a specialty retailer for animal food and accessories, offering exclusive brands, extensive consultations, and a huge range of over 8,000 products, with a discount-oriented price policy.

For the next six months, Maxi Zoo will be giving the reduction on all products in their stores, regardless of VAT rate on the items. The discount will be applied at the till. Maxi Zoo is part of the Fressnapf Group, Europe's largest pet retailer with over 1,650 stores across Europe. Maxi Zoo currently operates 20

stores in the Republic of Ireland - located in Westmeath (Mullingar), Tipperary (Clonmel), Wexford (Gorey), Carlow, Waterford, Cork (Ballincollig, Midleton), Dublin (Blanchardstown, Finglas, Tallaght, Liffey Valley, Omni, Clarehall & Leopardstown), Kildare (Naas, Newbridge & Maynooth), Wicklow (Bray), Limerick, and Longford.

For further information about Maxi Zoo chat to the pet experts at any of the Maxi Zoo stores nationwide, visit @MaxiZooIreland on Facebook and Instagram, or www.maxizoo.ie.

Enterprise Centre urged to apply for funding

Mark Christal, Enterprise Ireland's Manager of Regions and Enterprise urged Wicklow Enterprise Centre to apply for funding to help them reset and cover from the impact of Covid-19.

According to Mark Christal, "Funding of between €10,000 and €150,000 per centre is available under a new €12m fund announced in recent weeks by Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar, TD.

"Enterprise Centres provide a critical regional infrastructure for entrepreneurs, start-up companies and small enterprise. The €12m Enterprise Centre Fund, available through Enterprise Ireland, provides financial support to help eligible Enterprise Centres to continue to provide important services to start-ups in towns and villages across Ireland. These Enterprise Centres have a key role in supporting

regional enterprise and contributing to economic recovery, post Covid-19. Grant funding of between €10,000 and €150,000 per enterprise centre is available. Both not-for-profit and for-profit enterprise centres are eligible. The grants will help them implement a recovery plan to reboot their centres over the next six to twelve months. There has already been strong interest in the scheme but as the closing date for applications approaches I would urge all enterprise centres in Wicklow to examine this funding stream immediately," concluded Mark Christal. The closing date for applications is noon on Wednesday September 30th.

Music Lessons in Delgany

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Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

September 14th-20th is International Heart Valve Disease Awareness Week. Heart valve disease is largely a condition of ageing with as many as one in eight Irish adults over the age of 75 likely to develop

it. Valve disease in younger people tends to have other causes such as congenital defects or infections. Worryingly, more than half of those with severe aortic stenosis - the most common form of heart valve disease - will die within two years if left untreated. This shouldn't happen because it's relatively straightforward to detect, starting with a stethoscope examination.

Unfortunately, because the symptoms of heart valve disease such as breathlessness and tiredness mimic the common symptoms of ageing, it very often has a late diagnosis.

That's why we are urging everyone 65 years and older to ask their doctor to listen to their heart with a stethoscope, at least once a year. For more information, visit www.croi.ie/valveweek. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,
Neil Johnson, CEO_Croí Heart & Stroke Centre
Moyola Lane
Newcastle
Galway

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Have you collected your Wicklow passport yet?

The Wicklow Passport is designed to be filled with a series of stamps collected by visiting various activities, attractions, and hospitality on offer across the county.

Collect your Wicklow Passport free at participating locations, the Wicklow Libraries at Bray, Greystones, Arklow and Blessington or order online at bit.ly/WicklowPassport (€2 for postage).

Download the Four Wicklow Passport Routes - choose from Wicklow East Coast, West Wicklow,



South Wicklow and Wicklow Mountains Routes. The full list of stamping locations and the four passport routes are available at visitwicklow.ie/passport

PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

S K Design (0402 94680) seeks full planning permission on behalf of Claire Byrne for dwelling, garage, well, effluent treatment system, new entrance and associated works at Kilpipe, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Nicole Caldwell, intend to apply for Permission at this site: Tornant Upper, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of the construction of a detached, part single / part two-storey dwelling; the provision of a new vehicular entrance and driveway; the provision of landscaping, including boundary treatments; and the provision of all other associated site excavation, infrastructural and site development works above and below ground, including waste water treatment system and percolation area. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application. (Signed: Vivian Cummins www.vca.ie / RIAI Registered Architect).

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Mr and Mrs C and A Murphy, seek permission for the removal of a portion of the garden wall and provision of a car parking space to front of house and associated site works at 98 Newcourt Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for amendments to previous permission ref. no. 18/50 as amended under planning ref. no. 19/364 to facilitate the provision of an additional dwelling unit. The total number of residential units will be 96 together with all associated site works including connection to services at 58 Waverley Drive, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow for Broomhall Estates Ltd. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

Basketry courses at the Brockagh

Upcoming course dates are available for the following Saturdays: September 12th; September 26th; October 17th; October 24th; November 7th; and also on Sunday November 22nd.

These are beginner/improver full-day courses. They run from 9am to 5-ish in the Brockagh Centre in Glendalough. The cost is €90 for the day and includes all materials, tuition, tea/coffee, lunch and cake! A deposit of €50 is required to book a course. Email info@wicklowwillow.ie to find out more.

"Please let us know what date you'd like and be sure to add your name to the bank transfer. Places will only be confirmed after deposit is received, and are on a first come first served basis."

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Shay and Pam McKiernan seek Permission for works to detached dormer dwelling consisting of demolition of attached garage and replacement with single storey, pitched roof, habitable extension; removal of chimney; dormer extensions to front and rear of previously converted attic; rooflights on north-east facing roof slope; skylight on existing flat roof at rear; widened vehicular gateway at front and associated site works at 54 Raheen Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 A2R1. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application. Agent: Stephen Newell Architects - www.sna.ie

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.

C.H.; B.O.T.

Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus said 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light'.

Jesus thirsts for souls
Saint Maria Faustina

C.J.

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Jesus said 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light'.

Jesus thirsts for souls
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