



HOSPICE FUNDRAISER page 2



TIDY TOWNS PAGES 10-12



GUIDED WALKS page 13

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# 'THIS IS A CON JOB'

**A number of councillors have voiced their anger and frustration with the Local Property Tax (LPT) process that they consider to be 'unfair' to County Wicklow.**

The councillors were last week briefed by Council officials in advance of the upcoming special meeting to set the LPT adjustment factor on 21st September.

The LPT formula means that the income the Council can retain for discretionary spending stays the same even if LPT income is increased. Meanwhile, properties built since 2013 are still exempt from the tax, and Wicklow has to pay 20% into the Equalisation Fund which benefits counties that have voted to reduce their own LPT.

The Council's Director of Finance, Brian Gleeson, said "I believe what we really need now is political

support and political pressure in relation to this particular situation to ensure Wicklow County Council's baseline (the minimum amount of funding provided to a local authority, from the local property tax) is adjusted to an appropriate and fair level, so we generate and we retain an appropriate level of the LPT."

Clr Edward Timmins described it as "accountancy trickery", saying: "The way the formula is set up is a joke. It means no matter how much property tax we get, we have to use a big chunk for self-funding for housing, but discretionary money stays the same. The way it's set up is flawed and needs to be changed."

Independent Councillor

Joe Behan warned that: "We're being set up to be asked to consider another increase in the property tax next year. And last year we were told this was a one-off, but I suspect members are going to be asked again to go along with this complete fraud on the taxpayers of County Wicklow. And I'm certainly not going to go along with it."

He added: "There's no doubt it's accountancy trickery, not perpetuated by the council staff, but by successive governments and Government officials. And to add insult to injury, even if you add in the houses that have not been paying property tax since 2013, we're still not going to benefit."



Lisa and Fia Ivory on a recent visit to the sunflower field at Minmore Farm in Shillelagh. The farm raised over €60,000 for two cancer charities. See page 2 for full story.

"So, it is an outrage that this happens, year after year, and what's even more outrageous is that we can't provide extra services over and above what we used to be able to provide when we got the support grant. Although people's pockets are emptied to pay for this tax, we're not getting the resources to actually make a real difference to people where they live."

Addressing Green Party TD Steven Matthews, who was also in attendance at last week's meeting, Clr Behan said "I would ask Deputy Matthews to take back the message to his colleagues in Government that we in Wicklow County Council are not going to accept this continual punishment for the people we represent because we live on the outskirts of County Dublin."

Clr Pat Fitzgerald said "This is a con job. As Clr Timmins says, the more we

get the more is taken off us. We have had seven years now of people not paying property tax who should have been paying property tax and we have the equalisation fund going to counties where property prices are probably 50-60% the price of houses in Wicklow. Yes, we need to use political pressure to get this changed, but in saying that I wouldn't be too hopeful."

"It was unfair tax when it was introduced all those years ago and it is still an unfair tax today," declared Clr John Snell. "3,500 people don't pay anything in this county, a lot of members here would have felt that was going to be changed and unfortunately we've been told today it is not. We have people sitting in houses that are valued up to a million euros, who have never paid one red cent in local property tax. This is a national scandal."

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- Tax & VAT for Start Up Businesses - Mon 12th Oct.

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Open Door would like to thank all at Bray Lions Club for their generous donation of 60 Lions Hero Shields for use by staff, volunteers and members at Open Door. These shields, together with our additional PPE and sanitisers, will help to protect everyone at Open Door as we continue to live with COVID-19. Find out more about Open Door at [www.opendoor.ie](http://www.opendoor.ie). Pictured are (Left to right); Rudy Montejo, Sandra Burch, Mark Meakin and Suzanne Cox.

# Events to support the community sector this Autumn

Co Wicklow PPN is organising a few training and information events that will take place over the coming months.

New Options for Funding Your Community Group will run on Tuesday 22nd and Tuesday 29th September from 10am to 11.30pm on the online Zoom platform. These sessions are aimed at community groups and organisations challenged with a loss of any type of funding and income during the current Covid 19 crisis.

Making the Sustainable Development Goals More Visible in the Life of Co

Wicklow will run on Wednesday 14th October from 10am to 11.30pm on the online Zoom platform. This event will introduce the Sustainable Development Goals and identify how the work of communities in Wicklow are contributing to these global goals for sustainable development. People will also be introduced to a new online mapping tool that will easily link the local work to the global goals.

Meet Your Elected Representatives are online events running on Thursday evenings in October from 7pm to 9.15pm. Elected Reps from each of the Municipal Districts will be asked to talk about the highlights of their first year in office and to tell us what their priorities are for their municipal district going forward. PPN members will also have an opportunity to ask their own questions. The spe-

cific dates for each Municipal District event will be released in the coming weeks.

All these events are free to attend however booking is essential and Co Wicklow PPN members will receive priority booking. For more information about any or all of the events Email: [county-wicklowppn@gmail.com](mailto:county-wicklowppn@gmail.com) or telephone Helen Howes on 087 189 5145 or Grainne Quinn on 086 048 7434.

## Water restriction on Kirikee water supply lifted

A Do Not Consume drinking water restriction that was in place for customers supplied by the Kirikee Public Water Supply since 25th August was lifted with immediate effect from last Thursday.

Irish Water and Wicklow County Council carried out a programme of flushing out the water mains and sampling and monitoring of water supplies. Network flushing has been completed and water quality sampling has confirmed that the water is now safe to drink.

It was necessary to issue the Do Not Consume notice on 25 August 2020, following consultation with the HSE due to flooding of the water treatment plant and a raw water borehole, following heavy rainfall.

Following consultation with the HSE, Irish Water and Wicklow County Council are advising all customers in Kirikee that the drinking water can now be consumed as normal.

If anyone has any queries they can call the Irish Water customer care helpline open 24/7 on 1850 278 278.

## Glendalough Heritage Forum

A short film by Glendalough Heritage Forum tells the story of how the creation of a heritage research group brought together the local authority, state agencies and the community to manage the upkeep of the graveyard. Shown as part of Heritage Week 2020 content and you can view this short film via Youtube at <https://youtu.be/jpnTjgE67c>.

## Lough Dan access

Public access to Lough Dan and the Inchavore Valley remains closed due to ongoing antisocial behaviour, littering and unauthorised camping activities. Access to Kanturk remains open.

## Wicklow Lions Club face masks

The very attractive and top quality face masks supplied by Wicklow and District Lions Club are proving a great success locally as well as internationally.

Besides being in huge demand from local Lion Joe Kirwin and Jimmy Balbontin in Wicklow, President of Wicklow Lions Sean Olohan has also shipped some to Greese, Northern Ireland, Drogheda, Bray and Cork.

Sean said "we are lucky to have something so special and made locally which is helping the community in a very important way."

Anyone interested in purchasing the masks can also contact Sean directly on 086-3428043 or from any member in Wicklow.

## Heritage Hero 2020

People across Wicklow are encouraged to nominate a 'heritage hero' from their region, as part of the search for Ireland's 'heritage hero' for 2020, launched this week by the Heritage Council. Every year, the Heritage Council seeks nominations for an individual or a group of people who have worked tirelessly to protect and promote heritage. The public are invited to nominate who they feel deserves the award by completing the Heritage Hero nomination form. Nominations close at 12 noon on Friday, 18th September.

According to Virginia Teehan, CEO of the Heritage Council: "Heritage Heroes come in different forms: last year, it was the Egan family from County Offaly who worked together to preserve and celebrate their old family homestead, and who have made it a place that people can visit from time to time. Previously, the award has gone to people who work tirelessly in their communities to promote and preserve aspect of local heritage.

The heritage hero award is part of the National Heritage Awards, run annually to celebrate the outstanding projects and events from National Heritage Week. National Heritage Week 2020 ran from 15 - 23 August, and comprised a mix of online, in person and community events and projects.

## Violin Lessons

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

## Walking With Friends

Do you want to walk with friends? Walking Group meets at Brockagh Centre on Mondays 10am. Take it at your own pace all welcome.

# Over €60,000 for two cancer charities

A Wicklow family have raised over €60,000 for two cancer charities. The Tyner family from Minmore in Shillelagh grew over 3.5 acres of sunflowers on their farm.

The field became one of Wicklow's biggest attractions during July and August.

Speaking last week Colin Tyner said "We cannot believe the generosity of the people, not only the donations but the help from locals and friends who helped out with parking and giving directions, everyone worked so hard.

"It was a lot bigger than we thought and on a number of days we were overwhelmed with the

amount of visitors, I think we bit off more than we could chew but we got there in the end, I'm delighted we have helped these two charities in these very testing times."

Sinead Tarmey of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation said "We cannot thank the Tyner family and the people who donated enough, people came from far and wide to see the amazing spectacle. The generosity was astounding, €60,941.60 was raised! The Wicklow Hospice and the Irish Cancer Society each receiving €30,470.80. We are so very grateful. Thank you all and we hoped you all enjoyed the wonderful feel good factor of a field of beautiful sunflowers."



The Tyner family; Colin, Sophie, Jan, Meghan, and Craig, who raised over €60,000 in aid of the Irish Cancer Society and the Wicklow Hospice Foundation by growing sunflowers at their farm in Minmore, Shillelagh

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# GOVERNMENT FACILITATING PEOPLE'S RIP-OFF BY 'BANKSTERS'

Speaking last week, Sinn Fein TD John Brady said "The continued rip-off of the Irish people by the banksters that we bailed out is a bitter pill to swallow. Unfortunately, the rip off is set to continue with new banking charges being imposed on customers and mass lay-offs of staff. Instead of tackling this head on, the government seems intent on facilitating it.

"Then again why should we be surprised as former Fine Gael MEP Brian Hayes is now the Chief Executive of the Banking and Payments Federation of Ireland (BPFI) the main lobbying body for Irish banks. The cosy relationship between the banks and government was very evident at 'Golfgate' in Clifden when Brian Hayes and some of his friends (he refuses to divulge their names) were in attendance at the hooley. The government needs to start acting in the interests of the people, not in the interests of Brian Hayes and his banking mates."

Brady also criticised the banks and the Government for loading mortgage-borrowers



Brian Hayes

with additional debt. In July the European Banking Authority confirmed that banks were not required to charge additional interest on COVID-19 mortgage breaks.

Since the 18th March, nearly 86,000 mortgage-holders impacted by COVID-19 have taken #payment breaks which

will see additional interest charged by as much as several thousand euro over the lifetime of the loans.

Deputy Brady said: "In July the European regulator confirmed that Irish banks were not required to charge borrowers additional interest on payment breaks taken due to COVID-19.

"In its report on the implementation of COVID-19 payment breaks, the European Banking Authority made clear that the deferral of payments with no interest charged for the period of deferral was allowed, and would not result in loans going into default.

"This has been clear for months, with the Spanish Government

introducing legislation as early as March, which banned the charging of interest during COVID-19 mortgage breaks.

"The Government and Irish banks have taken a different approach, with 86,000 mortgage borrowers being charged thousands of euros in additional interest for mortgage breaks they have taken because of



John Brady TD



Pictured celebrating their Leaving Cert results in Wicklow Town last week were Amy Dolye, Lauren Smyth, Helen O'Toole, Siobhan Gorman and Shelly Culbert from Colaiste Chill Mhantain.

the COVID-19 crisis.

"In a meeting held on May 11th between the five retail banks, the Banking and Payments Federation, the Minister for Finance and then Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, a number of banks claimed that the regulator required them to charge interest during these payment breaks.

"This was not true. The Governor of the Central Bank confirmed that this was not the case.

"My colleague Pearse Doherty received corre-

spondence from the Central Bank in June confirming that mortgage breaks without the charging of interest during the break period were allowed under the regulations.

"It is scandalous that the banking sector deliberately misinformed senior Government Ministers regarding a policy choice that will increase the outstanding debt of 80,000 households that have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

"What is more disturbing is that the Minister for Finance was so easily misled by the banks, despite other EU jurisdictions taking action months before to stop the charging of additional interest.

"We have raised this matter with the Government consistently since March, and shared legislation with the Minister for Finance which would prohibit the charging of interest during mortgage payment breaks.

"Despite this, the Government and the Minister have failed to act. The result will be additional mortgage debt for tens of thousands of families.

"Leo Varadkar said that he told the banks in May that, 'if it turns out you make an additional profit out of this, I would see that as serious as the scandal of the tracker mortgages and I would come down on them like a tonne of bricks' but that was before Golfgate!"

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Mary Condren pictured at Minmore farm in Shillelagh where over three acres of sunflowers were grown, helping to raise over €60,000 for the Wicklow Hospice Foundation and the Irish Cancer Society

## Council asks for changes to the film studio site

Wicklow County Council's Planning Section has requested further information from Greystones Media Campus Ltd, regarding the proposed media campus on the IDA site in Killincarrig.

The Media Campus has applied for permission to build a large, 73,000 sq film studio. The Council's planners have effectively requested a redesign of some non-fundamental aspects, such as the Delgany Greenway.

Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, Cllr Derek Mitchell, said "They have to redesign to allow this greenway along the Three Trout Stream as the original plans did not. I asked for this condition and am pleased it has been put in." More detailed information has also been requested on: How two of the large buildings impact on nearby homes and possible amendments; Additional planting to enhance and protect Biodiversity; Redesign of the Mill Road entrance for pedestrian and cycling safety, also the bus stop there; A redesign of flood alleviation measures including a pipe going under Burnaby Park.

Irish Water also want discussions about waste water treatment and water supply.

On this, Cllr Mitchell said "I am surprised this has not happened and hope it will not be a problem. The site has been earmarked for development for 30 years so Irish Water should have had time to prepare! This job creating plan is welcome and these changes will be an improvement."

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# Greystones dog park nears completion

The members of the Dog Park for Greystones campaign group are overjoyed that the town now has the Dog Park it has fought for for so long. The park is located near Greystones North Beach and is part of the Marina Village Development. While some work remains, Committee Chairperson Bernadette Stokes stated: "This is a wonderful moment for North Wicklow. It has been a long journey".

The campaign was inspired by the success of dog parks in Marlay Park and Shanganagh. The feeling was that a dog park would be good socially for dogs and owners alike.

Bernadette Stokes has personally been lobbying for this project since 2009. She brought together like-minded people to form the Campaign for Greystones Dog Park on December 5th, 2011 in the Old Hot Spot.

On March 27th, 2012 then Councillor Stephen Stokes (Bernadette's Son), had the first motion adopted by Greystones Town Council. The motion stated: 'Greystones Town Council calls on Wicklow County Council to provide a Dog Park in Greystones'.

Now, seeing the project come to fruition, Stephen says "Initially there was a lot of resistance behind the scenes. It was a new concept. We knew it would take a sustained effort to win people over. But thankfully many people persevered over the coming years especially Bernadette."

In 2013 Bernadette continued to correspond with Wicklow County Council officials.

"Wicklow County Council deferred action by saying there was no Parks Department in Wicklow County Council. Therefore, no funding was available," she says. "However, the Campaign for Greystones Dog Park

Committee replied that they would be happy to fundraise all start-up costs including fencing".

Then Mayor Stephen Stokes returned to Greystones Town Council with another motion on February 25th, 2014 seeking to clarify that no money was needed, just a plot of land. The campaign gained legs on March 17th, 2014 when over 50 dogs marched in the Greystones St. Patrick's Day Parade under the banner of 'Bark For Your Park'. This helped to gain great momentum in the public eye and brought more supporters on board. "It created a huge awareness," says Bernadette.

Over the following years Bernadette and the

committee identified multiple sites, but they could not be secured for the Dog Park. On April 28th, 2015 the Campaign took their case directly to the Greystones Municipal District. A deputation led by Maria Sweeney, Siobhan Hughes and Bernadette Stokes made a PowerPoint presentation to the Councillors and Council Staff. The meeting was very positive and found wide ranging support from the Councillors. Under the new Harbour development a new park was required under the plans, which meant a dog park site was now possible.

"The park began to bark", as Bernadette says. She then met the develop-



Bernadette Stokes in the new Greystones dog park

ers in the Greystones Municipal Offices and liaised with the architect over many months. The Campaign will continue to assist the continued development of the Park. Additionally, they look forward to advising other towns that would like to develop dog parks. The Campaign for Greystones Dog Park said they would like to especially thank Bernadette Stokes, Maria Sweeney, Karena Keogh, Fran Chatham (Social Media Manager), Rachel Chatham, Siobhan Hughes, the Morrison Family, the Cox Family, the Mooney Family, Trish Mitchell and Stephen Stokes for their many years of hard work.

"The park began to bark", as Bernadette says. She then met the develop-



## West Wicklow pool to form part of leisure centre

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has welcomed plans by Wicklow County Council to build a pool in West Wicklow as part of a multi-million euro leisure complex.

Minister Donnelly recently spoke to both Wicklow County Council chief executive Frank Curran and Deirdre McCormack from the Community Pool for West Wicklow campaign group.

At the meeting Mr Curran revealed the council have ambitious plans for the new development near the Avon hotel in Blessington which is set to include not just a pool but also a state-of-the-art running track.

It is also planned the new development will link up with the Blessington Greenway. Minister Donnelly said: "I have been a strong supporter of the campaign to have a pool in west Wicklow so I was delighted to see the scale of the plans being proposed by the Council.

"Not only are they looking at building a pool but they are also looking at making it part of a wider leisure complex with a running track.

"At the moment there is no pool for the

public to use in the west of the county which is simply not something that can be allowed to continue.

"I know the Council is fully behind making this project happen and I will be giving it my full backing to make sure we get it across the line."

In a statement released to Minister Donnelly by WCC they confirmed they are in the process of applying for a grant in order to survey the proposed site.

A spokesman for WCC said: "The Council is very supportive of the community in West Wicklow and their desire to have a Swimming pool located in their area.

"The Council collaborated with the community to make an application for sports capital funding to prepare a detailed feasibility study to support a future application for funding for the pool itself. This application was unsuccessful.

"We are now preparing an application

under the 2020 Town & Village Enhancement scheme for funding (Max is 200,000) to carry out such a study which will also include an overall plan for the Council-owned lands adjacent to the AVON hotel, Blessington to include a site for a pool and leisure complex and a carpark for the Blessington Greenway, which will serve both developments, along with other uses. The closing date for applications is the 30th September and each Council can submit up to 10 applications".

Speaking about the pool at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Chief Executive Frank Curran said "the obvious site is around the Avonree. We have a land zoned for community, residential, active open space. We are preparing an application for a grant scheme. It will cost around €200,000 do a full assessment of the area zoned. That will identify exactly where the running track and swimming pool will go."

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Cllr Tom Fortune and Ann Fortune are pictured after raising €1,100 for Wicklow Hospice in July through the Festival of Running, by running 37 miles.

## Wicklow online Lotto player scoops €98,793 – one number short of €3.6 million jackpot

A lucky online Lotto player from Co. Wicklow has won a cool €98,793 on last Wednesday's Lotto draw after matching five numbers and the bonus ball, falling just one number shy of winning the entire jackpot worth €3,691,592.

The Lotto numbers from the were: 22, 23, 27, 30, 42, 46 and the bonus number was: 43. A spokesperson for the National Lottery said: "We are asking all our online players in Wicklow to check their email inboxes or National Lottery accounts to see if they are this lucky prize winner. An automatic notification and email communication will have gone to them with this brilliant news. If you are the winner of this €98,793 prize please do contact our prize claims team on 1800 666 222 or email claims@lottery.ie and we will make arrangements for you to collect your prize."

# Joint effort to upgrade N81

Councillors from the Baltinglass Municipal District are reaching out to neighbouring local authorities in a bid to secure funding for the upgrading of the N81, one of the most dangerous roads in Ireland.

They are requesting that Wicklow County Council make contact with Carlow County Council, Kildare County Council, Wexford County Council, and South Dublin Council with a view toward making a joint effort to secure the funding.

The West Wicklow councillors recently put a motion on Wicklow County Council's agenda requesting that: "Wicklow County Council calls on the elected members of the neighbouring Local Authorities of Carlow County Council, Kildare County Council, Wexford County Council, and South Dublin Council to join with them in lobbying the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the respective Minister to provide funding for the immediate upgrading of the N81 along the preferred route Tallaght to Hollywood.

"It is important that the upgrading of the N81 which is vital for the economic growth of Carlow, South Kildare, South Dublin, Wexford and Wicklow is kept on top of the agenda and considered for urgent capital funding. At present the N81 is the only national route to Dublin, the nation's capital, that hasn't been upgraded.

"The upgrading of the N81 will assist this entire area to develop and reach its potential. However, this is not just an economic issue but the prenent condition of the N81 raises health and safety concerns, largely due to the high volume of traffic now using the route, coupled with the current condition of the road.

"The N81 was never designed or constructed to facilitate the current volumes of traffic now using this road. While some remedial action has taken place in recent times, it is now essential

that the entire N81 is upgraded, as previously planned for, to a satisfactory standard that meets the current daily need of its commuters."

Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District, Cllr Gerry O'Neill, spoke about the N81 at the District's July meeting, pressing the need to get the N81 back on the national agenda.

A new application has been submitted by Roadstone for a landfill site at an existing haul road at Doran's Pit, giving rise to concerns about even more traffic on the road. The proposed haul road extends over 2.9 hectares, from an existing junction with the N81 National Secondary Road at Santryhill townland and through the townlands of Newpaddocks and Dillonsdown to the county boundary with Co. Kildare.

Over €1 million was recently spent on resur-

facing the N81 north of Blessington, however councillors in the District thought these works unnecessary, with there being a far more pressing need of upgrade works and widening on other segments of the road.

A segment of the N81, south of Poulaphouca Bridge, 1.8km north of junction with R411, east of Kildare border, was last year named the most dangerous section of road in Co. Wicklow according to research by Gamma Location Intelligence, with 76 road accidents (injury collisions) per 100 million vehicle kilometres.

According to a briefing released by the Kildare National Roads Office, the N81 between Tallaght and Hollywood Cross has up to seven times the national average of head-on collisions and two times the national average of single-vehicle crashes.

## Over 300 phones stolen in wicklow

A recent report from An Garda Síochána has highlighted that just under 11,500 mobile phones were stolen between January 2019 and August 2020, 306 of which were stolen in County Wicklow.

It is estimated that the total net worth of these 11,488 stolen mobile phones is over €5 million. 7,375 thefts took place in Dublin while in Limerick, there were 426 phones stolen. A further 398 were stolen in Kildare and 461 in Cork, and 325 in Galway.

Ciaran Mulligan, Managing Director of Gadgetinsurance.com, says, "Given that on average 570 smartphones are stolen daily from around the country, and with the high cost of replacement, it's imperative that people insure themselves against theft. We have seen a dramatic increase in claims for smart phones in the last twelve months, which is reflected in An Garda Síochána's report. Home insurance policies generally have an excess of between 250- 500 which means that in a lot of cases claims for lower amounts won't be covered. It is important that homeowners know that their policy may not cover their mobile phones outside of the home."

Gardaí are appealing for smartphone owners to be 'Streetwise' by downloading a 'find my phone' app and adding an emergency contact number to their phone as of the €5m worth of mobile phones stolen, only 10% are recovered.

Speaking at last week's campaign launch Crime Prevention Officer for the Meath Division, Sergeant Dean Kerins said, "The price of mobile phones makes them a clear target for criminals, so let's try and deter them by increasing phone security. If you have a smartphone, we recommend downloading a trusted location finder app so if it is lost or stolen,

you have a better chance of getting it back. Some phones already have a feature like this already so have a look in the security settings on your phone.

"We also highly recommend that you add a family member or friend as an emergency contact in your phone. If we receive a lost or stolen phone, we will be able to contact that person. Our property stores throughout the country receive a lot of stolen and lost phones that we cannot trace the owners for. Adding the emergency contact will help solve this problem.

"Other preventative measures you can take include enabling the PIN Security feature, keeping your phone locked at all times, and property-mark it with unique personal letters or numbers.

"For those who do not own a smartphone, call \*#06# on your keypad and note the IMEI number that comes up. This is a 15 digit number that is unique to your phone. If your phone is lost or stolen, call your service provider immediately so they can block the phone.

"If you believe your phone has been stolen, you should call Gardaí immediately. Do not follow the person via your tracking app", warned Sergeant Kerins.

The most common place for phones to be stolen is out in public or in a licensed premises, so Gardaí are also advising the following: Be wary of your surroundings and mind your property; Plan your night out, how are you getting there and how are you getting back?; Avoid walking alone in dark places; Keep your phone out of public view; Don't leave your phone on display in a vehicle; Dial \*#06# and save a screenshot of your IMEI number. Email the image to yourself; Keep your phone locked and enable as much security features as you can; Download or activate a trusted find my phone app; Add a relative or friend as an emergency contact in your phone.



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# 'Majority of Wicklow will be ignored by National Development Plan'

There has been pushback from councillors regarding the housing and population targets being dictated to Wicklow by the National Planning Framework (NPF), which has given Wicklow a lower population target over a longer period than set out in Wicklow's County Development Plan (CDP).

Councillors have voted in favour of a Fianna Fail direction calling for a new housing policy that has more flexibility regarding the housing and population figures.

The NPF gave Wicklow a population target of 173,500 for 2031, while Wicklow's own County Development Plan allows for a population of 178,000 by 2028. Through lobbying and work by councillors on the Regional Assembly, an extra allocation has now been given to Bray, bringing the target to 173,500 for 2031. However the extra allocation must go to Bray and cannot be spread out over any other areas of the county.

The Council is currently reviewing Wicklow's CDP in preparation for creating the Draft CDP for 2021-2027. It is expected that the Draft Plan will be adopted next Spring and the finalised Plan will be adopted towards the end of 2021 or beginning of 2022.

The growth target for housing units up to 2031 has been set at 10,700.

Wicklow's towns and villages are being allocated to different tiers, a 'settlement hierarchy' which will determine their housing growth. A cap of 30% has been set by the NPF, which means that no town other than towns designated as 'key towns' can grow by more than 30%. In Co. Wicklow's case, the 'key towns' are Bray and Wicklow/Rathnew. Some towns and villages however have already exceeded 30% growth since 2016.

Senior Planner Sorcha Walsh explained "based on that 30% cap being a limiting factor we have done our best to allocate growth around the county. Some towns have overshot the 30% limit since 2016. Nevertheless we have still recommended some additional growth be allowed in those towns because we cannot have a zero growth rate anywhere."

Clr John Mullen, who put forward the Fianna Fail group direction, stated "certain towns in this county are going to get development out of this

plan and the vast majority in this county are going to be ignored and that's unacceptable."

The Fianna Fail direction says the population strategy must be based on real housing delivery targets and not theoretical ones.

Wicklow's current CDP has the objective of delivering 6,420 residential units by 2027. However, Fianna Fail argue that when current delivery trends and proposed caps are applied, only 2,899 units will be delivered, and possibly less if key locations can't overcome significant infrastructure problems and other local factors. In Arklow, for instance, the wastewater treatment plant won't be ready until 2025, holding back housing delivery for four years of the CDP's duration.

Clr Derek Mitchell, who voted against the Fianna Fail direction, stated "The Eastern Midland Regional Authority handed us down a population number which we're

required to allocate out in a very prescriptive form. I don't see how we can actually agree with this, when we're told by the superior legislators that we can't do it."

Voting in favour of the direction, Clr Joe Behan said "One of the major problems with the planning system in this country is that it has been handed down to public representatives by national civil servants. We are basically having our hands tied when it comes to deciding our development planning priorities for the people we represent in our county. While I come from Bray, and I welcome the fact that there will be further development in Bray, this should not be done at the expense of people living in rural parliaments of County Wicklow. We are being told by the top table that our hands are tied because there's a national plan that tells us what we can and can't do. We should resist this at every possible opportunity."



Zack Whelan, with Stepehn and Michelle Dunne at the recent Queen of Peace Confirmations ceremony for St. Cronin's. Pic: Joe McQuillan

# 'Enforcement is key to success of Wicklow Development Plan'

Social Democrats Councillor for Greystones Minicipal District, Jodie Neary, has raised the need for greater enforcement of the protection of our natural environment in the upcoming revised Wicklow County Development Plan.

Wicklow County Council has commenced a review of the existing County Development Plan and are in the process of preparing a new County Development Plan to cover the period 2021 to 2027. The Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Wicklow.

Clr Neary has written to the Council outlining her environmental concerns. She said "In recent months there have been three separate cases alone in Greystones and Delgany where mature trees, bramble and hedgerows have been cut down to facilitate new housing developments. While this is often allowed for in certain cases where trees prevent the safe development of a site, it is not clear how these particular incidences were justified. We need to make sure that the unnecessary felling of trees and the clearing of brambles and hedgerows does not happen in future and that there are consequences for this type of encroachment.

"As part of the review process, I have been looking into whether the existing Development Plan needs to

be strengthened or if resources are the issue preventing the necessary enforcement of conditions set out within planning permissions. The review of the upcoming County Development Plan for Wicklow is an opportunity to address any deficits in our ability to enforce or carry out monitoring of ongoing developments vital to the sustainable development of our towns and villages.

"These incidences have upset a lot of people in the Greystones area. It's a visible encroachment of urban development eating into our natural environment - sometimes needlessly. Once a tree is cut down that's it, there's no going back. There's no point in setting out restrictions in planning permissions if we can't enforce them and I believe this should be carried out throughout the entire development process, not just after homes have been built.

"I want to commend the Council for the hard work they have done to date in putting our climate action and biodiversity principles front and centre of the Development Plan but it's important that these principles are turned into practice and can

be realised.

"Trees aren't the only casualties during development. Brambles and hedgerows are often considered 'unsightly' and are removed to create a more manicured look ahead of the opening of showhouses or selling of new homes. We need to move away from the desire to manicure everything around us. We need to learn to fit into nature as best we can. It'll take time to change this mind set across the board which makes the upcoming review of the Development Plan an important step.

"I have indicated to the Council that I intend to work closely with them to see how the existing Plan can be better enforced and will work closely with my colleagues on the Climate and Biodiversity Action Committee to see how greater oversight and monitoring of green areas can take place throughout the development of new homes. If there are deficits, I hope to address these in the new County Development Plan which will cover a crucial time period in our overall fight against climate change and biodiversity loss."



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN  
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

## RESTART GRANT PLUS SCHEME – APPLICATION DEADLINE 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

The closing date for local businesses to apply for funding under the Restart Grant Plus Scheme is **30 September 2020**.

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

The scheme is being administered by Wicklow County Council and provides financial aid to local businesses towards the cost of re-opening or keeping a business operational and re-connecting with employees and customers. The grant can be used to defray ongoing fixed costs, e.g. utilities, insurance, refurbishment or for measures to ensure employee and customer safety.

Applications are invited from qualifying businesses in the county who have not previously been approved for funding under the initial Restart Grant Scheme. Businesses that have been approved for funding under the initial Restart Grant were emailed a declaration which must be returned to Wicklow County Council to secure the additional funding.

For first-time applicants under Restart Grant Plus Scheme, the minimum grant is **€4,000** and the maximum is **€25,000**.

Key aspects to the Restart Grant Plus Scheme include:

- **Grant amount has increased substantially:** Minimum grant is now €4,000 and maximum is €25,000. Previous grant amounts were €2,000 and €10,000 respectively;
- **Medium sized companies are now eligible:** Companies with up to 250 employees can now apply (previously the grant was for companies with less than 50 employees);
- **Increased eligibility:** Rate-paying sports clubs with commercial activities and charity shops with a trading income and operating from rateable premises can now apply for a grant. Rate-paying tourism/hospitality related businesses, including independent hotels and B&B's that meet the qualifying criteria can also apply (apart from non-rateable B&B's who can apply directly to Fáilte Ireland for a flat €4,000 grant).

To qualify for a grant, the important criteria are:

- A business must operate from a premises that is commercially rateable by the local authority;
- It must have suffered a 25%+ loss of expected turnover between 1 April and 30 June 2020;
- It must have 0 - 250 employees;
- It must have a turnover of less than 100k per employee to a maximum of €25m in total;
- It must commit to remain open or to reopen if closed; and
- It must declare its intention to retain employees that are on the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS).

For further details about the scheme and to make an online application to Wicklow County Council please visit [www.wicklow.ie/BusinessRestart](http://www.wicklow.ie/BusinessRestart).

Alternatively contact Wicklow County Council directly at 0404-20128.



First Year students at Greystones Community College secondary school

## Harris congratulates students on first round of CAO offers

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD has offered his congratulations to students who received their first round CAO offers.

Minister Harris said: "I want to congratulate students on receiving their first round CAO offers. This is a significant milestone for any student, but particularly this year, in light of the uniquely challenging year students have endured.

"I am delighted to have been able to secure 2,225 additional places in the Higher Education sector in the last number of weeks. I am very grateful to the HEA and the institutions for their work in providing these additional places, which I hope will provide a pathway for those students who wish to progress from school to college.

"This has been an immensely difficult year for students and it is my hope that these additional places will alleviate some of the pressure.

"These additional places mean significantly more applicants have received offers of places at this stage this year and more students will be admitted to college in the coming weeks than in any previous year.

"I do recognise the strong competition for places this year. I have worked with the sector to increase places to the greatest extent possible. I welcome the fact that the proportion of applicants receiving an offer of one of their top three preferences is stable between years, despite this strong competition.

"I also want to take this opportunity to remind students of the many and varied opportunities available to them as they prepare to take the next steps in their education. Developing new skills will be an ongoing process and

the education sector offers multiple options to develop knowledge and skills. PLC courses and apprenticeships are just some of the options available and I encourage students to take some time to consider the pathway best suited to them. The Leaving Certificate student helpline, at 1800 265 165, which is provided by the National Parents Council post-primary is also available for students to reach a guidance counsellor with any queries that they may have.

"Today is of course a difficult day for some who will be disappointed. I would encourage those students to take some time, take stock and consider the many options available to them. Education is a lifelong process and there are a variety of learning pathways available to students."

## 'Overcrowded classes underline challenges'

Sinn Féin TD John Brady speaking in the Dáil last week said that figures showing that there are 1300 classes across the country with 30 or more children underline the challenges faced by schools to remain open during the pandemic.

He said, "There are countless classes that are far too big, in buildings too small, and not fit for purpose. There are over 1300 schools across the country with classes of 30 or more kids - that is one in five kids in a class over 30.

"In Cork last year, there were 147 schools with classes of 30 kids or more. These large numbers have also been seen in Galway (69) and Meath (74). In Westmeath, there was a class of a 45 in one class last year.

"In our county of Wicklow there 42 schools with classes greater than

30 pupils. These figures are shocking. Sinn Féin wants to abolish all classes of over 30 kids and never allow them to return, and work towards attaining an EU average of 20 children per class.

"We want an immediate audit of school buildings to be undertaken, which identifies those schools that are struggling most to comply with social distancing and that require additional space. We commit to a fund of €300m, which will be used to create additional space for schools that need it the most.

"Keeping the virus out of schools, and keeping schools open, also means supporting parents to do the right thing and keep symptomatic children at home.

"School children and staff who are symptomatic must be given priority for rapid testing, so that staff can return to work, and children can return to school rapidly.

"Existing educational disadvantages have come to the fore during the pandemic. Children with special educational needs are the cohort who have missed out the

most. We are concerned that special educational teachers will be pulled from pillar to post to cover absences, breaks and remote learning. We want to recruit 500 additional SNAs, to ensure that no child loses out.

"Finally, the bus fleet must increase so that whilst social distancing and safer transport of the 120,000 children who take part in the School Transport Scheme can be ensured, this does not come at the cost of some losing their seat on a school bus."

# Historic start for Greystones Community College

The Principal of Greystones community College, Ruairi Farrell, has said that he's been heartened to see the support from the local community and neighbouring schools in Greystones in what has been a difficult few weeks for the town's new post primary school.

"It shows that the community is really at the heart of what a Community College is and these students will have long term connections with their local community as a result," he said.

The new multidimensional school under the patronage of Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training board school opened its doors for the first time this school term with 65 students.

The school has been established by the Department of Education and Skills to meet the huge demand from local parents for school places and its opening was brought forward by a year to facilitate these students.

The school has overcome many obstacles in recent weeks, given the announcement from the Department of Education and Skills that their planned interim school building at Greystones Community National School would not be ready for occupation as planned. The school sought out emergency accommodation locally and has now turned Greystones Lawn

Tennis Club's excellent facilities into a ready for purpose school building. The school worked around the clock to make sure the accommodation was fully kitted out for students in addition to making sure the schools Covid-19 response plan was implemented successfully to ensure that the health and safety of all students and staff was paramount.

The Chief Executive of KWETB, Dr Deirdre Keyes, has acknowledged all the parents, Greystones Community National School, the local representatives and entire community who have worked hard and supported the establishment of Greystones Community College.

The school was awarded the patronage of KWETB last December 2019 and has worked under extraordinarily tight times lines and unprecedented obstacles to open up this September 2020.

The ETB says it "wishes to sincerely thank Greystones Lawn Tennis club for the temporary use of their premises for the school. It has proven to be a great collaboration and solution with plenty of space for social distancing and lovely outdoor amenities for students. The ETB asks everyone to support the students, staff and school by keeping up to date on their activities through their vibrant social media and news reports.

The ETB has no doubt but that Greystones Community College will play a vital role in the future of Greystones."

Mr Farrell went on to say "Its amazing to see that from nothing, we have created a school that will serve generations of children in Greystones for post primary education. We have the makings of an absolutely amazing school here and I am excited about all the opportunities these young students will have over the next 6 years. Opening a brand new secondary school is challenging enough, but to do so in the middle of a global pandemic brings extra challenges."



Principal Ruairi Farrell with students

## Dept 'taking appropriate steps' before Greystones school building handover

The Department of Education says it is taking steps to ensure it is completely satisfied the new buildings for Greystones Community National School and Greystones Community College are fit for handover.

Greystones Community National School and Greystones Community College Secondary School were meant to move into the new building at the start of this new school year, but they have so far been unable to do so and are currently in emergency temporary accommodation.

A Department of Education and Skills spokesperson told *Wicklow Times*: "With regard to the matters which have impacted the handover of building in advance of the coming school year, the Department is taking appropriate steps to ensure that it is completely satisfied that the building is fit for handover prior to accepting it. There is currently an engagement underway between the Department and the Contractor in this regard under the contract. While this process is underway the Department will not be making any further comment.

"The immediate focus in recent weeks has been to put in place appropriate contingency arrangements for the start of the 2020 school year for both schools.

These arrangements are now in place."

Greystones Community National School is currently being accommodated in Greystones Rugby Club, while the 60-plus pupils of newly opened school, Greystones Community College, are being accommodated in Greystones Lawn Tennis Club. As a result, the secondary school has had to drop Woodwork from its syllabus because of a lack of facilities.

The Department said "Greystones Community College opened its doors to 64 first year students on Friday August 28th 2020. The school, KWETB and the Department are grateful to the Greystones Lawn Tennis Club for facilitating Greystones CC and acknowledge the efforts of the school community in preparing the accommodation for the school's opening.

"In the context of the current accommodation arrangements the school has had to make some modifications to its subject offering for this term. While an application for a temporary classroom on the permanent Community National School site (where it was intended to open the Community College) to facilitate Woodwork is still live, it was not feasible to make such provision at the school's current location. Department officials will continue to work closely with KWETB to ensure the needs of the school community continue to be met."

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# Tidy Towns Special 2020

## Tidy Towns activity continues across Wicklow

Although the 2020 Tidy Towns competition was cancelled due to Covid-19, Tidy towns groups around the county have remained active in their communities.

In May, it was announced that the funding allocated to support Tidy Towns groups throughout the country this year will remain available to them.

Minister Harris said "€1.4 million was allocated this year to assist Tidy Towns groups in their preparations for the competition and any unspent funds can still be used to assist with activities they might

undertake as restrictions are eased, or in preparing for the 2021 competition. The Tidy Towns Competition is an annual highlight for many Wicklow Communities and despite the cancellation of the 2020 contest we will still support the work of many communities in beautifying their towns."

In these times of restricted socializing and isolation, involvement in

community groups such as tidy towns is more important and beneficial than ever, maintaining the bonds between people and their communities. The local Tidy Towns groups work tirelessly to ensure our streets, shop fronts, beaches and schools immaculate. The hard work and dedication involved in volunteering with Tidy Towns is inspirational.

All over Wicklow, Tidy Towns groups are working hard to make their communities cleaner, greener and more attractive for locals and visitors alike. You are probably aware that Tidy Towns groups do regular litter clean-ups, but there is so much more than this involved- from drawing up three year plans, to making bird nestboxes and painting old buildings.



Members of Bray Tidy Towns at a recent cleanup of the Albert Walk in Bray

## Improving sustainable energy options in Greystones

The progress that Greystones Tidy Towns had been making on the Energy Master Plan has been slowed over recent months due to Covid-19, however things are now back up and running.

The group has been working with the team at Greystones & Delgany Sustainable Energy Community to improve sustainable energy access and options for people in the community.

Nine representative houses from the area have been chosen for energy audits. These should be completed in October.

The Greystones & Delgany Sustainable Energy Community group said "These houses represent most of the house types and ages that are prevalent in the area so they should give us a good idea of what works best to reduce energy use and emissions from our housing stock. We are now looking at compiling a similar list of representative commercial/ non domestic buildings in the community to assess what energy efficiency measures will work well in that type of building. The outcome of all this will be a document outlining how we use energy in the community and what opportunities offer the best impact to reduce energy use and CO2 emissions. Once we have that we can start looking at initiating energy projects on a community scale which is really exciting."

## Greystones establishes a Junior Tidy Towns group

The Greystones Junior Tidy Towns initiative is a subcommittee of Greystones Tidy Towns with an energetic team of local parents and teachers.

According to the group, their mission "is to support youth-focused biodiversity education and action, STEM education and discovery, and Heritage appreciation as well as bolstering the Green Flag and sustainability programmes at our local schools.

"We have found Junior Tidy Towns to be a very exciting way to integrate and strengthen the overall school/community relationship while giving children a fun way to learn and connect with their peers and their local and global environment.

"Our vision is to serve as a conduit for community-wide collaboration on issues such as climate action and biodiversity. We also hope to be an enjoyable platform that lets families contribute and see the impact that their stewardship has on their environment. Junior Tidy Towns, where relevant and possible, will help schools provide materials, kits, and educational support for students to create their own projects.

"Junior Tidy Towns is proud to currently have all of the area's primary schools formally involved in our project. We look forward to beach cleans, planting pollinator-friendly gardens, participating in ecology-related citizen science, and making a difference in climate change. Contact us to learn more."

Thanks and best wishes to all those involved in the Tidy Towns Committees

from

**RORY BENVILLE**

STATE SOLICITOR

**Cllr. Shay CULLEN**  
Well done to all involved in County Wicklow Tidy Towns -Wishing you continued success



**FINE GAEL**  
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**Cllr. Derek Mitchell**

Thank you to all involved in Tidy Towns



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**Cllr. Mags CREAM**  
INDEPENDENT

Thank you and well done to County Wicklow's Tidy Town Committees for all your amazing work



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**Steven Matthews TD**  
**Cllr. Erika Doyle**  
[WWW.GREENPARTY.IE](http://WWW.GREENPARTY.IE)

Well done and all the best to everybody involved with Co. Wicklow Tidy Towns

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**Cllr. Joe BEHAN**  
INDEPENDENT

Congratulations and Thank You to the many Tidy Towns Volunteers in Co. Wicklow.

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# Tidy Towns Special 2020



Swift nesting boxes and a calling system were recently installed at Arklow Municipal District Offices as part of the Wicklow Swift Project for Heritage Week, one of the many projects Arklow tidy Towns is involve din. Pictured were Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer; Cllr Sylvester Bourke; Claire Lawless, Arklow Municipal District Administrator, and Oran O Sullivan, Wicklow Swift Co-ordinator at Arklow MD offices.

## 'Leave No Trace' in Laragh and Glendalough

Laragh & Glendalough Tidy Towns have welcomed a new Government of Ireland campaign which has been launched to tackle a growing littering issue which we have seen all too often this Summer in our woodland areas.

It is a joint initiative of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Waterways Ireland, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Sport Ireland, The Department of Community and Rural Development, the Office of Public Works, Coillte and Leave No Trace Ireland.

The campaign aims to promote responsible outdoor recreation practices that will ensure a healthier and sustainable future for all. It calls on everyone to take care of the outdoors to ensure it is preserved for future generations. There has been a notable increase in littering throughout the country in the last number of weeks since the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, and areas affected include National Parks, Nature Reserves, Forest Parks, OPW National Heritage Sites, rivers, beaches, forests and special areas of conservation.

Maura Kiely, CEO of Leave No Trace Ireland, calls on the public to work together to address this issue, saying, "we need to take action now to halt the scourge of litter in our beautiful countryside. Everyone needs to take responsibility. Littering is a threat to our fragile ecosystems and a moment of laziness can have long-term effects. An aluminium can takes 400 to 500 years to break down, a plastic bag can take up to 20 years. A discarded plastic bottle, meanwhile, will last for a million years."

Disposable barbecues are identified as a major problem, not just as litter but also as a source of forest fires and wildfires, and are increasingly discarded carelessly in public spaces. Disposable barbecues are not permitted in any OPW National Heritage sites, Parks or Gardens or National Parks. Wesley Atkinson

Regional Manager of the National Parks and Wildlife Service says "that they not only pose a huge fire threat which divert emergency services, but they endanger our wildlife, their habitat, destroying large swathes of special areas of conservation and place fire fighting personnel at great risk to extinguish them.

"They also contain charcoal which is usually unsustainably sourced and cannot be recycled or composted."

Individuals, communities, organisations and the public can sign up to get guidelines on how to be responsible in the outdoors by visiting [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org).



## Bray Tidy Towns still hard at work

Since the beginning of the year, members of Bray Tidy Towns have been hard at work covering many areas of the town, from Ballywaltrim, Springfield Cemetary, and the Albert Walk, to the Biodiversity area of Bray beach at the seafront side of the Harbour Wall.

Bray's Tidy Towns dedicated volunteers have also done solo cleanups, working on the Dargle Road and various estates all over the town. In their work on these various projects they have been supported by the Bray Municipal District staf who they wish to thank.

Recent activity for the group saw them carrying out weeding at the beach, keeping the shingle plants viable. creating safe places for biodiversity.

Bray Tidy Towns is a group made up entirely of volunteers. They are always looking for more people to join, so head on over to their contact page on [braytidytowns.com](http://braytidytowns.com) to send them a message if you'd like to get involved.

"Our overall mission is to provide a better urban environment for Bray's residents. Check out our blog for updates on all of our latest projects."

Thank you to all involved



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# Tidy Towns Special 2020

## Funding available for local heritage projects

The Heritage Council is inviting applications from County Wicklow to its Community Heritage Grant scheme which is part of the rescue package for the sector announced by the Minister for Heritage & Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan.

The grant scheme aims to support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage

sites and that apply good practice to the management of places, collections, objects and buildings. The scheme also supports the purchase of specialised equipment.

Grant applications must be submitted using the Heritage Council's online application system at [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie) by 5 pm on Tuesday, September 15th, 2020.

"The heritage sector is facing serious challenges, including business closures and job losses, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent months of COVID related disruption and lockdown the contribution that natural, built and cultural heritage makes to our quality of life became very apparent," said Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council.

She added: "The announcement therefore that 550,000 will be made available nationally this year for the Community Grant Scheme is most welcome and goes some way to providing much needed investment for heritage initiatives in Wicklow".

This grant scheme supports community action to enhance local heritage assets. Some examples of eligible projects are; conservation led reports, plans, and audits, works to improve accessibility to sites, graveyard surveys, conservation works on habitats and natural areas, control of invasive species, urgent repair of medieval structures, purchase of archival boxes, museum cases, nesting boxes or other specialised equipment.

Grants of up to 15,000 can be awarded. Funding of up to 80 per cent of the project cost can be sought. Match funding by way of voluntary contributions or benefit in kind is acceptable.

Further information is available by contacting The Heritage Council in Kilkenny on (056) 777 0777 or at [www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding).

Advice on applications is also available from the County Wicklow Heritage Officer at [dburns@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowcoco.ie) or Tel: 0404 20100.



Some of the past work being done by Roundwood Tidy Towns volunteers.

## Delgany Tidy Towns launch virtual tour of Old Burial Ground

Delgany Tidy Towns announced recently hosted a number of events during National Heritage Week, which took place nationwide from 15th to 23rd of August.

Water Heritage Day was Sunday 23th August and was a collaboration between The Heritage Council and the Local Authority Waters Programme to celebrate water and our connections with it.

Delgany Tidy Towns (DTT) held two water specific events as part of their 'River Watch' programme. The first was an online talk titled 'Starting to Protect our Three Trouts Stream Biosphere'. Alan Lauder, Ecologist, presented a study of the Biodiversity. Keith Scanlon, DTT Volunteer and Citizen Scientist shared recent experience piloting Water Quality Monitoring. Donal O'Keefe, Community Water Officer, Local Authorities Water Program (LAWPro) presented ideas from other community groups working on Reconnecting Rivers and Communities. Delgany Tidy Towns welcome insights and ideas to continue the conversation and grow the Three Trouts Biosphere

team. The second 'River Watch' event saw LAWPro demonstrating the Citizen Science Water Quality Monitoring on the Three Trouts Stream. Delgany's heritage week events traditionally include guided tours of the Old Burial Ground. Located in the village centre and dating back to the 9th Century the burial ground is home to many interesting stories, including an early high granite monumental cross, moved burial stones, and a Cromwellian soldier. Due to Covid-19 related restrictions guided tours did not go ahead this year. Instead DTT invited people to view a video tour of the Old Burial Ground Tours given by the Old Burial Ground's custodian, Lailli De Buitlear.

The video is of Lailli De Buitlear recounting the history of the Old Burial Ground by local filmmaker Robin Kavanagh. Lailli has been curator of the Burial Ground for many years and she is largely

responsible for the lovely green space that exists there now. In the video she delivers a detailed history on all aspects of the Burial Ground while delivering some fascinating insights into local history. The video can be viewed at [www.heritage-week.ie](http://www.heritage-week.ie) and at [www.delganyheritagevillage.wicklowheritage.org](http://www.delganyheritagevillage.wicklowheritage.org). Speaking about the events, Zoe Woodward of Delgany Tidy Towns said: "We are very excited to increase people's awareness of Delgany's Three Trouts' Stream and to share ways of learning from, and protecting it's wildlife and biosphere. The annual Heritage Week programme is a great opportunity to learn more about your local heritage and make new connections with people and stories. We are delighted that we can share the fascinating history of the Old Burial Ground online and that it's history has now been recorded for generations to come".

Best Wishes to all involved with County Wicklow Tidy Towns

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Great work to all those involved in Tidy Towns

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Congratulations to all hard working  
**Tidy Towns Volunteers**  
Your work is much appreciated.

# A Journey to 1870s Lacken

The Wicklow Uplands Council recently organised guided walks in the Wicklow Mountains as part of the Heritage Week celebrations. The second guided walk was titled 'A Journey to 1870s Lacken'.

Responding to this year's theme of 'Heritage and Education: Learning from our Heritage', Wicklow Uplands Council in partnership with Lacken Community Development, created a programme that explored some of the rich and diverse heritage found in the locality of the west Wicklow village of Lacken.

This year's programme of events included the addition of digital and online formats, providing innovative ways to explore Ireland's diverse heritage with online talks, exhibitions, virtual tours, pod-

casts, videos and blogs.

As part of Wicklow Uplands Council's programme of events, a special video project has been produced to acknowledge and celebrate much of the built heritage around the locality of Lacken.

It offers a visual tour of the many points of interest and highlights some of the sites visited during the walk.

To view the 10 minute video, please visit: [www.wicklowuplands.ie/exploring-lackens-built-heritage/](http://www.wicklowuplands.ie/exploring-lackens-built-heritage/)

Organised in celebration of National Heritage

Week, the 'Journey To 1870s Lacken' event was hugely enjoyable, informative and really well presented by local guide and Lacken resident, Alfie Zeller.

Wicklow Uplands Council said "Thank you to everyone who participated, and most especially to Alfie and his family for leading the event and providing the welcome surprise of tea and homemade treats at the Lacken Community Centre afterwards."

The linear walk followed the mountainous route once taken by the

communities of Lugnagun and Blackrock to Lacken, where the nearest school, church, shops and other amenities were located until the motor vehicle arrived.

Linking with the recently restored Mass Paths, the afternoon event passed numerous examples of abandoned settlements, historical sites and natural features, which Alfie drew people's attention to and shared the stories (and folklore) of each of them.

Stops and discussion included, local communities and families, Wicklow Mountains National Park, the formation of the Poulaphouca Reservoir and a megalithic tomb constructed during the Neolithic Period around 3,300BC - one of several known megalithic sites in the area, with the passage tombs of Seefin, Seahan and Seafingan located on nearby slopes.

The group made up of all ages, had travelled from throughout Wicklow and the neighbouring Dublin, to join the event organised to coincide with this year's National Heritage Week programme.



Participants taking part in the Wicklow Uplands Council guided walk

## Blessington in running to be Ireland's most enterprising town

Blessington is among the finalists announced for Bank of Ireland's Begin Together Awards 2020. This year, the awards recognise business and community groups who have come together to support their local area as they start to rebuild and recover from the impact of COVID-19.

A total awards prize fund of over 200,000 is available to finalists to help reboot local economies across the island of Ireland. 21 awards are involved with the overall winner receiving €50,000 and the title of Ireland's 'Most Enterprising Town'. There is also a prize of €20,000 for the winner of the 'Rising Star' award.

Reflecting the new challenges that communities and businesses currently face as a result of the pandemic three special COVID-response awards have been introduced: Local Town Promotion Initiative - A marketing or promotional campaign designed to help kick-start the local economy; Local Community Enterprise Initiative - A local enterprise initiative established specifically to ease the impact of COVID-19, or one

that has repurposed itself during the pandemic; Local Business and Community Response Initiative - A joint initiative by local businesses and the community to manage the impact of COVID-19 through lockdown and beyond as towns start to reopen.

Blessington will be competing with towns from across the island of Ireland. The judging panel will review all finalists in September and the winners will be announced on Virgin Media TV's Ireland AM in early October. The awards initiative this year is being fast-tracked to provide funding to winning towns in October in order to directly assist their COVID-19 recovery.

Commenting on the finalist announcement, Maria Coleman, Head of Bank of Ireland for

Wicklow said "Congratulations to Blessington on becoming a finalist in this year's Bank of Ireland Begin Together Awards. Through these awards we are supporting businesses and communities across the island of Ireland impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as they start to rebuild and get back on their feet. We have seen that incredible and powerful things can be achieved when communities, business groups and local authorities come together to meet their own challenges and make their own opportunities. I would like to wish Blessington the very best luck in the competition."

The Begin Together Awards fund is part of wider €1 million Bank of Ireland support for local enterprise and community groups this year.

## Funding for Wicklow under Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Six projects submitted by Wicklow County Council under the 2020 Accelerated Town & Village Scheme have been approved by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The total approved for Wicklow comes to €139,950 and includes projects in Balinaclash, Enniskerry, Laragh, Tinahely and Baltinglass as well as a village pod project.

The Balinaclash project is to upgrade the community centre while in Enniskerry, public seating, signage and shop front improvements are among the project details.

The recently damaged Men's Shed facility in Tinahely will be able to complete repairs and alterations. Laragh will see improvements for pedestrians whilst Baltinglass were successful in their application to enhance the streetscape through a painting scheme.

Welcoming the approval, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, stated that all six projects, spread across different communities throughout the county, will significantly enhance a number of towns and villages at a very difficult time and give a much needed boost to the communities.

Joining the Cathaoirleach in welcoming nearly €140,000 in projects for the county, Frank Curran, Chief Executive, added his own congratulations to all groups involved in the individual applications and added that Council staff will now work in partnership with all the successful groups, to carry out the work as speedily as possible.

Director of Service for Community, Cultural and Social Development, Michael Nicholson, recognised the importance of the funding to the various groups involved and thanked members of Wicklow County Council staff who contributed to the projects.

Green Party TD Steven Matthews also welcomed the funding. Deputy Matthews said he was happy to see this second round of funding

go towards increasing pedestrian use and accessibility in towns and villages.

"Making these changes are important to aid the recovery from Covid. Making it more comfortable for people to make their way through their local towns and villages and stop for coffee and pop in and out of shops is vital, especially as it appears that we will have to learn to live with Covid for the foreseeable future. Local authorities applied for this second round of funding earlier this year, and the applications for the third round are currently being considered."



Deputy Stephen Matthews in Enniskerry, one of the places which will benefit from the funding



Wicklow all-weather lifeboat launched shortly after 1pm last Wednesday to assist a 14-metre yacht with engine failure off the Wicklow Coast. The Shannon class lifeboat under the command of Second Coxswain Ciaran Doyle located the yacht with two sailors twenty minutes later, six miles north of Wicklow harbour. A towline was quickly established, and the yacht was towed back towards Wicklow harbour, where the two sailors were landed safely ashore at 2.30pm. The crew on the call out were Coxswain Ciaran Doyle, Mechanic Brendan Copeland, David O'Leary, Carol Flahive, Ian Heffernan and Andrew Carlin. Pictured is the Wicklow lifeboat with the yacht in tow. (Photo Credit: Wicklow RNLI)

## Arklow RNLI come to aid of small inflatable boat

Arklow RNLI responded on 6th September at approximately 3.50pm to a Launch Request from the Irish Coast Guard following the report of two people in the water clinging to an inflatable boat.

The volunteer crew responded quickly and within minutes of the request were aboard RNLB Ger Tighearr and underway. The All-weather Trent Class lifeboat made its way to the reported position near Mizen Head.

Once on scene the casualty vessel, a very small inflatable boat, was located just a short distance off Mizen Head. The crew established there was one person

aboard and there had been no one else in the water in danger.

Initially the person aboard the small boat tried to make his way back to shore, the lifeboat stood by while the casualty tried this, but given the rocky nature of the coastline at this location and the tidal conditions at the time this was proving difficult, it was then agreed that the safest thing for the casualty to do was to come aboard the lifeboat.

Once aboard the lifeboat the casualty was checked and did not need any medical assistance. The lifeboat then returned to Arklow where all aboard came ashore safely.

Arklow RNLI's Volunteer Crew for this rescue were: Coxswain Ned Dillon, Mechanic Michael Fitzgerald, Leigh & Daniel Downey, David Molloy and Michael Mordaunt.

Following the incident,

Mark Corcoran, Volunteer Press Officer & Community Safety Officer at Arklow RNLI said "Thankfully this afternoon was relatively calm, had conditions been worse the situation might not have ended so well, in recent weeks there has been a lot of rescues all around our coastline of people from small inflatable boats and toys, we'd like to remind people of the real risk of drowning when you go to sea on vessels of this nature, even on the calmest days these types of boats and toys are not fit for the conditions you will experience along our coastline. Please always remember to wear a life-jacket and carry a means of calling for help. Please do this to ensure we have the best chance possible of getting you in time to affect a rescue. We would like to once again remind people to Respect the Water."



# New funding for conservation of monuments

Applications are being invited by Wicklow County Council for funds to help the conservation of local monuments.

This results from a new Community Monuments Fund announced recently by Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD.

The Fund forms part of the July Jobs Stimulus 2020 which aims to offset some of the effects of Covid-19 by revitalising the economy, providing protection for small businesses and getting people back to work.

The Community Monuments Fund will invest €900,000 nationally in our valuable archaeological heritage to help the owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of local communities and the visiting public.

Core aims of this new Fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local mon-

uments and archaeological sites. It will have a number of funding streams aimed at enabling conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support, encouraging access to monuments and improve their presentation and also to build resilience in monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

Various streams will focus on these objectives and will fund essential repairs and capital conservation and access works at archaeological monuments and also the development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports to identify necessary conservation measures of monuments and improve public access. A third stream will offer grants for enhancement of

access infrastructure (including COVID protection) and interpretation at archaeological monuments.

Applications in County Wicklow will be co-ordinated on behalf of the Department by the Heritage Office of Wicklow County Council.

Private applicants or community groups who are the owners or custodians of monuments should complete and return the application form by email to [wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowheritage@wicklowcoco.ie) by 5pm on 17th September.

Application forms and full details of the fund are available at [www.wicklow.ie](http://www.wicklow.ie) under news. For more information on eligible monuments visit [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie). All queries may be directed to Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council via [dburns@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowcoco.ie).

## Be active for European week of sport

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is calling on the people of Wicklow to get out and #BeActive for European Week of Sport 2020 which runs from the 23rd - 30th of September.

The event will see a mixture of online and offline events available to cater to the needs of every member of the community making it easy to #BeActive even from the comfort of your front room.

Sport Ireland, the National Co-ordinating Body for European Week of Sport, hope that this year's event will inspire even more people than ever to get involved and has funded multiple flagship as well as local events run by the Network of Local Sports Partnerships. In 2019 an estimated 110,196 people took part in over 800 events in Ireland.

A European Commission led initiative; European Week of Sport aims to increase the level of participation in sport and physical activity in the EU. The event aims to tackle the inactivity crisis and reduce obesity levels by encouraging Europeans to embrace a healthier and more active lifestyle.

The week is for everyone, regardless of age, background, or fitness level. By bringing awareness to the fact that an active lifestyle is for everyone, European Week of Sport aims to act as a springboard in to being more active.

Speaking about the event, the Cathaoireleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, said: "The European Week of Sport is a fantastic week within the year where people across the county get to try out something new. Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership have a wide range of activities for everyone and I am encouraging everyone to get involved."

Commenting on European Week of Sport, Chief Executive of Sport Ireland, John Treacy, said: "With a focus on grassroots initiatives, the aim is to inspire people to be active on a regular basis and create opportunities in peoples' everyday lives to exercise and move more. Research has shown that regular physical activity is good for both the mind and the body and in the current times, this is more important than ever. I look forward to seeing all of the events across the country this European Week of Sport and want to thank everyone who helps to make sport and physical activity available in their communities."

European Week of Sport ambassador and 2fm radio host, Eoghan McDermott, stated: "This is a great opportunity for people of all ages to try out a new sport for the first time or get back involved in a sport that they have always loved. It's not about going out and being the best, we just want people to get out and be active which will no doubt see a positive knock on effect on both their physical and mental health".

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership undertakes a wide range of actions with the aim of increasing sport and physical activity participation levels in the local community. Working with trusted professionals and valued volunteers, the Partnership engages communities across the county to deliver inclusive, impactful and sustainable opportunities tailored to local needs, getting County Wicklow more physically active, involved in sport and improving the mental and physical health of the nation.

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership is running numerous events throughout the European Week of Sport, from online nutrition talk with Daniel Davey to Virtual 5K Walk/Run and finishing the week off with an online sunset yoga.

European Week of Sport Ambassador and boxer, Kellie Harrington, sees the benefits of getting involved and trying out something new: "I see so many people in my community who think that maybe sport has passed them by, but this is not the case for anyone, no matter what your age or fitness level is. I believe sport is a way to bring the community together, help people make new friends, and boost their mental/physical health and I would love to see as many people as possible out trying something new during European Week of Sport, who knows where it could lead them!"

For more information on what events Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership are running and how to get involved visit - [wicklowisp.ie/event/european-week-of-sport/](http://wicklowisp.ie/event/european-week-of-sport/)

Brian Gregan, Irish 400m sprinter and European Week of Sport Ambassador, commented: "Sport has had such a huge impact on my life, and I feel passionate about the impact it can have on society as whole. European Week of Sport is a fantastic initiative that will encourage people from all walks of life to go out and be active, try out a new sport, and hopefully find something they will love to do for the rest of their lives. I encourage everyone to get involved and experience the benefits first-hand."

# 12 ways to reduce risk of dementia

As part of World Alzheimer Month this month, the *Wicklow Times*, in partnership with the HSE's Dementia: Understand Together campaign, has been featuring a series of articles on aspects of life with dementia. In this final article, Dr Suzanne Timmons, Consultant Geriatrician and Clinical Lead of the HSE's National Dementia Office, talks about the future and the steps we can all take to reduce our risk of developing the disease.

"There are over 400 different types of dementia, the most common of which are Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia. Symptoms of dementia include memory loss, confusion with time or place, difficulty communicating, changes in behaviour, and issues with problem-solving.

"Latest figures from the HSE have revealed that there is an estimated 1,838 people living with dementia in County Wicklow. The good news is that there are 12 risk factors associated with dementia that, if addressed, could prevent or delay up to 40 per cent of dementias.

"It's never too late. Behaviour change isn't easy, but we can reduce our chances of developing dementia. It is never too early or too late to take action:

1. Healthy adults above 40 years of age should have their blood pressure (BP) checked annually to see if it is within the healthy range.

2. Reduce hearing loss by protecting ears from excessive noise exposure. If experiencing hearing problems, get your hearing tested.

3. Reduce exposure to air pollution and second-hand smoke.

4. Prevent head injury, including concussion,



Dr Suzanne Timmons, Consultant Geriatrician and Clinical Lead of the HSE's National Dementia Office

8. Aim to include 150 minutes of physical activity, such as brisk walking, in your week.

9. Eat a balanced diet that is rich in vegetables, fruit, wholegrains, and fish.

10. Depression might be a risk for dementia, although dementia itself can also cause depression. Visit [www.yourmentalhealth.ie](http://www.yourmentalhealth.ie) for ways to look after your mental health.

11. Get enough sleep.  
12. Keep your brain active, e.g. do a crossword or puzzle.

"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 steps we can all take to reduce our risk of dementia, and how to become a dementia champion in your community, visit [www.understandtogether.ie](http://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)."

which can occur in certain sports, or due to falls. Wear correct protective headwear for sports, cycling, work, etc.

5. If you drink alcohol, stay within the low-risk weekly guidelines.

6. Quit smoking and reduce your dementia risk, as well as your risk of developing cancers and heart disease.

7. Achieve or maintain a healthy weight during your lifetime, but particularly in mid-life.



'Eat a balanced diet that is rich in vegetables, fruit, wholegrains, and fish'.

## GCS seeks support in Virtual Mini Marathon

This year's Women's Mini Marathon takes place virtually between 1st and 10th October. You can participate at any time and any where between these dates, and Greystones Cancer Support is hoping for lots of enthusiastic walkers and runners.

The Women's Mini Marathon is one of two major fundraisers for the group. It is especially important to Greystones Cancer Support given these uncertain and challenging times. Entry age is 14.

This is also a wonderful opportunity for secondary school students to help their community. You can register now at [www.vhiwomensminimarathon.ie](http://www.vhiwomensminimarathon.ie). Registration is 10 and includes a T-

shirt and a medal from VHI!

Sponsor cards and T-shirts are also available at Greystones Cancer Support.

Please contact us on 01 2871601 or via email at [info@greystonescancersupport.com](mailto:info@greystonescancersupport.com), Monday - Friday: 9am - 1pm for further information.

Chairman Sonia Walsh says "We are hoping that many women in the Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole, Newcastle and Newtownmountkennedy areas will put on their

running or walking shoes for Greystones Cancer Support. We need your help to continue our work, especially in the current challenging times. It will be a great endeavour, and all in aid of a good cause."



Tony Nobbs and Doreen Doyle at the Arklow Positive Ageing charity evening recently in the Midway, Arklow

## Mná na hEireann called on to support Anam Cara

Her year may have begun with the rumba but for tv personality, Mary Kennedy, her training is now focused on completing the VHI Women's Mini Marathon later in the year. For the first time in the history of the event, Mna na hEireann are being asked to take part in the "10km, Your Way".

This year is a little different. Next month, from the 1st to the 10th of October, the paths, pitches and parks of Ireland will be flooded with women completing their 10km - walking, jogging or running. We may not be gathering in Merrion Square at the starting line, getting drenched by the firemen in Donnybrook or enjoying a refreshment together afterwards but we will raise much needed funds for our chosen charities. Together but apart, we can make a difference.

Anam Cara, the national organisation that supports bereaved parents, is asking people to take part on its behalf and complete the 10km, whilst adhering to public health guidelines. Our team will take to the streets across the country and don their Anam Cara tee-shirt, from Donegal to Dingle, from Belfast to Bray and everywhere in between.

Since 2008 Anam Cara brings bereaved parents together to support each other - through monthly meetings, information evenings with guest speakers, family days and remembrance events. Since April, Anam Cara have adapted their service and delivered support online and by telephone. When the Mini Marathon comes around in October, they hope to be back to face-to-face support meetings, a time that cannot come quick enough. To join Mary and the Anam Cara virtual team, set up a Just Giving page ([www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com)) and raise much needed funds for Anam Cara. For your tee shirt, please contact Karen in Anam Cara on [k.oshea@anamcara.ie](mailto:k.oshea@anamcara.ie) or 01 404 5378. All funds raised through this event will be used to support bereaved parents across the country.

## People in Wicklow urged to get better informed about palliative care

The All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care (AIHPC) is calling on people in Wicklow to learn more about the benefits of palliative care as part of Palliative Care Week. Now in its seventh year, Palliative Care Week takes place from the 13th to 19th September.

Palliative Care Week 2020 aims to raise awareness throughout the island of Ireland about the positive difference palliative care can make to people with life-limiting conditions, their carers and their families.

This year's theme is 'Palliative Care: In This Together'. In these extraordinary times, this reflects the community response to Covid-19 but also the range of supports mobilized by health and social care professionals, and the wider community, to help people with palliative care needs and their loved ones to live as well as possible.

This personalised network of support can involve a broad range of professionals from primary care (such as GP's and public health nurses), support from family and friends and the wider community,

and support at home, in hospitals, nursing homes and hospices. The support is for all ages and life-limiting conditions and can be for days, weeks or years.

Karen Charnley, AIHPC Director, said "Palliative care improves the lives of those living with a life-limiting illness and those who matter to them. It puts the individual at the centre of care and supports their physical, social, psychological and spiritual health needs. We've all seen this year how something like Covid-19 has brought out the best in people, especially in our communities, and while we can't hold events to mark Palliative Care Week 2020 we hope we can reignite some of that community spirit to help those closest to us to get better informed about

palliative care and its benefits.

"Ultimately, we want as many people as possible in Wicklow to have a greater understanding of palliative care. So if people can help by sharing this knowledge or the Palliative Care Week leaflet, or even by sharing their story on social media, together we can help to remove any stigmas or misconceptions about palliative care. We might need to remain socially distant for some time to come but we can still feel close to our family and friends by having conversations about things like palliative care and understanding each other's future care wishes."

To obtain leaflets and/or posters contact AIHPC by calling +353 1 4912948 or by emailing [info@aiihpc.org](mailto:info@aiihpc.org)



Bray artist, Tony Gunning, presents 'Liffey Portraits: From Source to Sea', an exhibition of paintings that celebrate a river that has been in his blood since birth. You can see it in the Signal Arts Centre in Bray from 28th September to 11th October. Tony currently lives in County Wicklow but has also lived in Kildare and Dublin in close proximity to the river and worked in an office overlooking it for twenty-five years.

## Live shows are back in Mermaid

Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre have announce 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."

### Bray Literary Festival

Bray Literary Festival in association with One City, One Book presents: (Billy O'Callaghan & Christine Dwyer Hickey in conversation with Dermot Bolger - an evening of readings and discussions. 17th September, 8pm. €12/10.

### Enya Martin Comedy Show

Stand-up comedian Enya Martin, writer and creator of the comedy

video Facebook page 'Giz a Laugh', returns to Mermaid this September. Treat yourself to this brilliant stand-up comic.

25th & 26th September, 8pm, €25

### Federico Juli'n Gonzalez & Janet Moran

Presented as part of Dublin Theatre Festival, Looking for AmÈrica charts two journeys. The journey of that night in Havana looking for a Salvadoran ex-Guerilla fighter called AmÈrica, and the journey of escaping the catastrophe that had engulfed his country decades before. A catastrophe whose after effects still resonate today.

1st October, 8pm, €16/14

### The Man in the Woman's Shoes

Written & performed by Mikel Murfi, The

Man In The Woman's Shoes follows Pat Farnon as he walks to town and back again. It is a beautifully observed piece, utterly simple and widely praised. The show is funny, tender and at times downright daft.

3rd October, 8pm, €20

### Birdboy

Emma Martin & United Fall present Birdboy. Once there was a boy who wished he was a bird. He wished he could just fly away and be free of all his worries. Full of fun and sorrow, this visually stunning show, performed by dancer Kevin Coquelard, celebrates the power of imagination and offers a vision of hope and connection.

9th October, 7pm, €8. Age Suitability: 8+

### My Aunt & I

This is the story of an Aunt and niece, their shared artistic temperament and difficulties experienced. Carmen Cullen's poetry is from her very successful YouTube Pandemic Poetry playlist.

17th October, 8pm, €16/14

### Macalla

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

Opening on Friday 14th August at 11am, and running until 3rd October.

# Coming up at the Whale Theatre

## A Song Party with Chloe Burke

Bray native, Chloe is delighted to launch her new single 'Breathe' at this Song Party at Whale Theatre.

Chloe has been singing for as long as she can remember. At the age of 11 she sang in Arclight's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, both here and in Stratford upon Avon. She has performed in many of Arclight's shows since then and last year she played Juliet in Romeo & Juliet and was also recently seen as Ariel in The Little Mermaid at the Pavilion Theatre.

In 2018 she starred in her own revue show alongside David Dooley, and she also appeared on The Late Late Toy Show performing a song from The Greatest Showman. In 2019 she played the role of Rizzo in Grease. Also that year, Chloe was the featured vocalist on the song 'Stars', by Ronan Cullen, which has had over 25,000 streams on Spotify and reached Number 4 in the iTunes charts. Towards the end of 2019 she provided backing vocals for D. Cullen's massive hit single, 'Alright'.

And in 2020, alongside her two great friends, Aoife McCormack and Kate Byrne, she got to sing at Croke Park for Australia Day.

Sunday 20th September 2020 @ 6.00pm (Doors 5.30pm) Tickets €10.



## The Visual Story of Ireland (1640-1940)

The first of two courses with local freelance art historian Rosemarie Devereux.

The aim of this course is to explore and examine a selection of the paintings that are held in our national collection of art under various themes; to re-engage with the nation's political and cultural history through their visual representation; to understand how Irish art production was compromised by the same historical and political events and to become familiar with some of the nation's finest artists. The course runs for 6 weeks. Each week a different theme will be explored.

Week 1 - Politics and its role in Irish art production; Week 2 - Genre images of the 19th century; Week 3 - Land issues in Irish art; Week 4 - Home and Away - foreign influences on Irish artists; Week 5 - The Celtic Revival and the Yeats Family; Week 6 - Irish Women artists and the arrival of Modernism.

Wednesday 7th October 2020 @ 7.30pm (Doors 7pm) And each Wednesday evening until 11th November. 6 Classes for €100 or 20 per class (must be booked at least 24 hours before class)



## The Story of Europe - Painting history

This course, with freelance art historian Rosemarie Devereux, gives an overview of the main artistic movements that occurred throughout Europe between 1400 and 2000.

These movements also recall the changes in social mores that were necessary for societies to endure and provided the mechanism through which the technological advances of each age were manifested and proclaimed.

Week 1 - The Story of the Renaissance - Magnificence and Display in Italy; Week 2 - Painting the Ordinary and the Everyday of the Dutch Golden Age; Week 3 - Revealing Facades - A glimpse behind the Royal Heads of England, France and Spain; Week 4 -Revolutions! Art and Society in 19th century France; Week 5 -Modernism - how America finally overcame Europe; Week 6 - The Paintings that Rocked the World and Changed Art.

Thursday 29th October, 10.30am (Doors 10am) And each Thursday morning until 3rd December. 6 Classes for €100 or €20 per class (must be booked at least 24 hours before class)



Rosemarie Devereux



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Former Wicklow participants of a development programme aimed at female entrepreneurs in rural locations have urged others to apply for ACORNS. This is the 6th year of the government-backed programme, which has never been more needed than in the current climate. ACORNS is a highly-successful initiative for early-stage female business owners in rural areas and is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under its Rural Innovation and Development Fund.

A total of 50 new business owners will be selected for ACORNS 6 which will run from October 2020 to April 2021 with NO charge to participants. The deadline for applications is September 21, 2020 and the programme is open to those with new businesses or a well advanced idea for a new venture. (Eligibility criteria in notes below)

Wicklow's Sinead McKeever of Little Lingua, Deirdre Doyle of The Cool Food School and Anna Dobson of Love Mo Chuise are previous participants and remain members of the vibrant ACORNS community. All three businesswomen urge others to join. Pictured is Anna Dobson of Love Mo Chuise who says: "Participating in ACORNS has been a fantastic journey. Meeting amazing business women and having their support has pushed me to follow my goals and succeed." Any woman with a new business based in rural Ireland, or an idea for a new venture they want to get off the ground, can register their interest at [www.acorns.ie](http://www.acorns.ie).

# Wicklow business pivots to new level to adapt to Covid

Like many business owners around Wicklow, Siobhan Brennan of Crazy Glazing was forced to close up her premises as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions and has not been able to re-open her doors. Unlike other businesses, though, Siobhan has been able to find a way to adapt her business to these strange times, to keep it going in a new form.

Siobhan's 'Paint Your Own Pottery' studio, Crazy Glazing, on Fitzwilliam Square in Wicklow Town, was a popular venue for birthday parties and other group events, offering a fun and creative opportunity to all ages to come in and paint pottery. Siobhan would then glaze and fire the pottery and the customers would come back and collect their finished items.

Just under a year after opening, Siobhan was overjoyed to win the Best New Business Award from Wicklow Chamber of Commerce in October 2019 and the future looked promising. Then Covid-19 arrived, and like many other business owners Siobhan was facing a future that looked anything but certain.

Normally able to accommodate over 30 people in the studio, social distancing restrictions would have meant only six people could be allowed in, and suddenly the business looked unviable.

Not to be deterred, however, Siobhan came up with the idea of a 'Paint Your Own Pottery Kit' which has re-invented her business, bringing the pottery studio into people's homes.

The kits consist of a lidded plastic box containing all of the necessary paints and resources for four people to paint their pottery. People choose their pottery from the Crazy Glazing Facebook page and her YouTube channel. Siobhan delivers the kit and collects it later in the week. Siobhan will then



Siobhan Brennan

glaze and fire the pottery as she did before, and will then deliver it back to you. The service is available to anyone living between South County Dublin/Bray and Arklow - along the M11/N11 corridor. As well as people's homes, some Special Needs groups have also tried out the kits, with great success, and Siobhan has plans to bring them to nursing homes too.

For the first time, Siobhan has also begun uploading videos to YouTube on the 'Crazy Glazing Wicklow' Youtube Channel, show-

casing the pottery that's available and making instructional videos about how to use the kit.

Although the shop may be closed, Siobhan points out that anyone who had bought vouchers can still redeem them on the kit.

"As the quote says, 'you can't control the wind, but you can adjust your sail', so adjust my sail I did and I came up with a new offering," says Siobhan. "I'm still catering to birthday parties, except now I bring the pottery to them instead of them coming to the studio."



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# Ford's first plug-in electric powertrain fitted to new Kuga



Ford's Kuga SUV has been a phenomenal seller all around the world - almost 200,000 have been sold in Europe, alone - and so it is no surprise that the Detroit based, Irish American firm has expanded the range further and now for the first time for Ford, comes as a plug-in electric hybrid (PHEV).

Ford are the smartest of them all when it comes to how much and what technology to intro-

By *Martin McCarthy*

duce to the market, when - and at what price.

Consider all the IT and infosccreens on most cars, Ford generally have retained radio volume and tune buttons - because the average Joe or Josephine is not a 20-year-old IT expert and hence can get East Coast FM within seconds of getting into their Ford. Likewise, with electric. Ford are now moving towards more electric vehicles - more than a decade after Nissan / Renault started spending billions on EVs.

Instead, Ford adapted the 2017 Mondeo for Hybrid as their first toe into semi electric driving train world. Now with Kuga there are two offer-

ings - a mild hybrid (coming later this year) and PHEV and which one suits Wicklow drivers the best, depends a lot on lifestyle and environmental consciousness.

The more expensive PHEV means you can recharge the battery off the mains at night and get a 56km range of electric driving in the morning. Many Wicklow commuters are driving less than 10km to work so one could spend a week using almost no petrol. Some folks want to save the planet but do higher mileage and simply couldn't be bothered planning life around the car's power needs - so they will be better suited to the petrol - hybrid. For high mileage driver

(15,000km+ pa) the superb 1.5 diesel still makes the most sense.

Of course, more technology costs more money - and with some reduction in storage space to fit it in. Henry Ford, whose father came from Cork and settled in Michigan in 1845, built his vast global empire between 1910 - 1925 by perfecting mass production techniques which made The Model T affordable. This is still the cornerstone of the firm. So new Kuga has an immense amount of new technology on board, but still keeping the price relatively affordable.

Available in four series: Titanium, ST Line, ST Line X; and Vignale

The powertrain choice is the 1.5 litre EcoBlue 120PS diesel manual or the PHEV model with the 2.5 litre Duratec 225PS petrol hybrid engine.

The PHEV version qualifies for both the SEAI grant and the VRT

rebate

Lead in pricing on the Titanium 1.5 litre EcoBlue diesel starts at €33,357 and for the PHEV version, starting price is €35,432 - that gives a difference of €2,075, thanks to the

grant support.

grant support.

For the more dynamic and sporty ST Line series, the diesel version starting price is from

€35,985 and the price walk to the PHEV version is just another €1,440 at €37,425.



## WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**FULL PLANNING PERMISSION**  
Sought for:  
1. Proposed Ground & First Floor Extension (290 Msq) to Rear East Facing Elevation of Existing Shoreline Leisure Facility to provide for extra Studio Space.  
2. All ancillary site works at Shoreline Leisure, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. A63 HD25. Signed: Wicklow Recreational Services 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 Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

## THE 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. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. **B.C.**

## Gospel: Luke 11:5-13

Jesus said to his disciples: Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, 'My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him' and the man answers from inside the house, 'Do not bother me. The door is bolted now and my children and I are in bed. I cannot get up to give it you.' I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So, I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you, search and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him'.

C.J.

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# RECRUITMENT



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