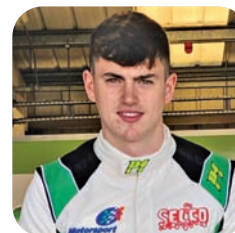




RNLI DONATION  
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MAX HART  
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CLERMONT  
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Tuesday 22nd September 2020 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

# MINISTERS TAKE FLIGHT

## ARE WE REALLY ALL IN THIS TOGETHER?

Last week we were shown, yet again, that the rules that apply to 'joe public' do not apply to the political elite. As Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, felt unwell a near hysteria was unleashed in the Dáil with all business abandoned and TDs sent home.

Some hours later Minister Donnelly was given a negative Covid result and shame-faced ministers and TDs were told to return to work.

Contrast this with a child who tests positive for Covid in school and neither the class nor the school closes. The same applies to teachers. Yet when a government minister gets the sniffles the whole of government closes down.

Is this right in the middle of a pandemic and recession to say nothing about Brexit?; with



Minister Stephen Donnelly, declined to comment

crises in health care, education, meat plants etc and the capital city in

near lockdown.

How is it possible for a minister to get the results of a Covid test in a matter of hours when health care workers who are literally putting their lives on the line and other 'Joe publics' must wait days?

Why was it necessary for Department of Health to hire PR consultants (Labour Leader Alan Kelly's brother's firm) to get the Covid message out when there are hundreds employed in the communications section of the HSE and Department of Health and nightly



Billy and Eoin Murtagh enjoying the September sunshine at the Miner's Cross in Avoca. Pic: Michael Kelly

## LIVE SHOWS ARE BACK!



### MUSIC NETWORK PRESENTS CELLO QUARTET:

William Butt, Rosalie Curlett,

Martin Johnson & Ailbhe McDonagh

Saturday 10 October | 8pm | Tickets: €16/14

Bookings Through Box Office: 01-272 4030

mermaid

COUNTY WICKLOW ARTS CENTRE

broadcasts on RTE?

Aontú Leader TD Peadar Kirby criticised the immediate suspension of the Dáil at a time where leadership and oversight are needed the most. "The sudden announcement via the media that the cabinet was self-isolating, that the Dáil was shut down and that essentially now oversight and that the func-



Minister Simon Harris, declined to comment

tioning of Irish institutions was closed - was absolutely wrong. Opposition TDs and it appears Cabinet ministers even found out via social media and Oireachtas TV. There was no consultation with the opposition, the announcement was made via the media, and the announcement was made by the Ceann Comhairle after being told by an Taoiseach.

"Adding in last weeks' suspension, followed a summer break which followed 150 days without a government. A State without oversight is guaranteed to run into serious difficulties. The Nursing Home Crisis which remains without proper investigation is an example of what can happen when there is no scrutiny. Democracy is an essential service. It must operate as such".

Continued on page 4

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NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL





Arthritis Ireland is asking for support in this year's Women's Mini Marathon, which is happening from 1st-10th October, or to support the charity by sponsoring one of the participants or making a donation. With Covid-19, this year's mini marathon is a "virtual event". According to the organisers, "While we can't all be together, we can still do our 10k collectively, but safely apart. With friends, in your garden, in one go, or maybe you'd prefer to spread the distance over a few days - you decide!" Nearly one million people are living with arthritis in Ireland, including 1,200 children. Many of those with arthritis have been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, for example, due to being immunosuppressed or aged over 70. To register for the virtual Vhi Women's Mini Marathon, visit [www.vhiwomensminimarathon.ie](http://www.vhiwomensminimarathon.ie) and to register for the Team Arthritis Ireland or to donate to the charity, visit [www.arthritisireland.ie](http://www.arthritisireland.ie).

### Courthouse Arts Centre symposium

The latest exhibition, Aos Dara Umha Aois Symposium, opens on Friday 18th September, from 5pm. For this year's symposium, the artist/sculptor has individually spent time at Tomnafinnoge Woods, documenting while creating their work to bring both traditional and non-traditional crafts and skills to as wide an audience as possible.

This exhibition gives the audience an opportunity to explore multi-disciplines of work inspired and crafted from Tomnafinnoge Woods by artists Maevae Hunter, Lorraine Whelan, Conleth Gent, David Kinane, James Hayes, and Holger Lonze. It is curated by Roisin Flood and Niall O'Neill.

To facilitate Covid regulations on the night, there are 3 separate time slots to view the exhibition, 5pm, 6pm, & 7pm. Please either book online, or by phone, to ensure your preferred time of viewing. Entry is free, your card details are not required, but if you have any trouble booking online ([courthouse.ie](http://courthouse.ie)), please phone 0402 38529. The exhibition runs until Friday 2nd October.

### Lions Masks

With the unfortunate continuation of the pandemic, demand for masks in general continues throughout the world. Since the beginning of the enforcement of wearing masks Wicklow and District Lions Club had the initiative to provide their own designed masks.

These masks which look very different to most and are good quality, are available to the community throughout the area at a low cost.

The masks have proven to be a huge success not only throughout Ireland but overseas as well.

The local club continues to support and serve the local community in any way possible especially during this very difficult time. Curtin and Blinds in Wicklow and Santiago Balbontin in Kilmacanogue and Wicklow have now a full stock available.

### Signal Arts Centre call for submissions

Signal Arts Centre is now accepting submissions for exhibitions in July, September, and November 2021. The closing date for submissions is 5pm, Friday, October 30th, 2020.

All submissions should include a proposal including a title, covering what you hope to exhibit if you are successful; a minimum of six images in digital format clearly marked with your name and title of picture. All images should be suitable for print reproduction and accompanied with their dimensions; C.V. (art related only), artist statement (for PR purposes). There is an exhibition fee of €250 to be paid by the artist if selected. Submit by post or email directly to: Exhibition Co-ordinator, Signal Arts Centre, 1A Albert Avenue, Bray. Tel: 01-2762039. Email: [exhibition@signalartscentre.ie](mailto:exhibition@signalartscentre.ie)

### Wicklow Branch Library resumes full-time opening hours

Wicklow Branch Library has resumed full time opening hours, with two late nights, Wednesday and Thursday. It's also open all day Saturday. From Monday 21st September it will have four study desks available for use by the public. Booking is essential to avail of the study desks.

Printing and photocopying facilities are once again accessible, with one public access computer available for a daily 20-minute session. The Library is free to join and offers a variety of services from borrowing books, to downloading e-books, and e-audio books from the Borrowbox App., and many more online resources. "We're Looking forward to welcoming back all our regular patrons and hopefully joining up some new library members. The Library can be contacted by email: [wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie), phone (0404) 67025 or follow us on Facebook."

### Win a coffee date with Hozier

Hospice Coffee Morning has announced an exclusive competition offering five lucky winners the opportunity to have a coffee with the globally acclaimed recording artist, Hozier on Wednesday 30th of September. They will have the chance to enjoy a Bewley's coffee with Hozier and ask the star questions about his music and career and what his lockdown experience was like.

To enter the competition: Text COFFEE to 50300 to donate 4 to the Hospice Coffee Morning, with every euro raised going to support local hospice and home care services. Text costs €4. Hospice Coffee Morning Together with Bewley's will receive a minimum of €3.60. Service Provider: LIKECHARITY. Helpline: 076 6805278. Share a screenshot of their donation and post it to their Instagram channel using the hashtag #TogetherForHospice and tagging @bewleysireland. Closing date for the competition will be midnight 24th September and winners will be contacted on the 25th of September.

# Will you speak up for nature?

Nature doesn't have a voice but you do. Will you speak up for nature? BirdWatch Ireland is campaigning for a better Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) for wild birds, their habitats and other biodiversity.

The organisation says, "We are calling on supporters to Speak Up for Nature by leaving a voicemail message which we will send to Irish Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). We are asking them to vote for measures which will address the biodiversity emergency on farmland in Ireland in an upcoming important vote on the CAP in the European Parliament."

"The core messages to say in your voice mail are: I want you (my MEP) to vote: 1) For at least 10% of all farms set aside for biodiversity as birds like Kestrel are

part of the basic payment conditionality; 2) For €15 billion per year from the CAP funds to biodiversity measures to come out of a 50% ringfencing for environmental objectives in Pillar 1 and Pillar 2; 3) To ensure that Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan explicitly meets the objectives of EU Biodiversity Strategy and Farm 2 Fork Strategies.

"And here are the reasons why we need you to do this: Farmland birds like Curlew and Lapwing have suffered catastrophic declines in Ireland and even previously common birds like Kestrel are

now in decline too; Agriculture has been and continues to be the most significant pressure and threat to biodiversity in Ireland according to a government report to the European Commission; One third of our wild bee species are threatened with extinction; Supporting farmers to support nature is critical. We need transformation in how the CAP subsidises farm activity to ensure that public money goes to supporting public goods protecting and restoring nature and at the very least does not cause further harm to our

wild bird populations and their habitats.

"Over €8 billion was given to Ireland in EU CAP funds between 2014-2020 and a significant amount in additional funding comes from the national exchequer but only €73 million has gone to supporting farmers to effectively protect and conserve habitats and species.

"We need more money to pay farmers to save habitats and species. As always speak from the heart. Be polite but passionate! We are running out of time for nature."

## Wicklow RNLI thank ladies of Blainroe Golf Club

Lady Captain of Blainroe Golf Club, Geraldine Cassidy, kindly selected RNLI Wicklow as her charity of choice to benefit from her Lady Captain's Charity Golf day this summer.

The wonderful lady golfers of Blainroe enjoyed an Invitational 2 Ball Rumble even though the sun did not shine on them that day.

RNLI Wicklow said they wish to sincerely thank Geraldine Cassidy and all the ladies for their great support to the Lifeboat Station.

"We would also like to thank the sponsors of the day - Catherine O'Reilly of Sherry Fitzgerald and the raffle sponsors Cyril and Joan Molloy of Rathfarnham Ford. Blainroe Golf Club Lady Captain Geraldine Cassidy and fellow members Mary O'Carroll and Joan Molloy were called to the Station to present a cheque for €3,333 to RNLI Wicklow.

"The generous donation was gratefully received by John Hayden and Bernadette Jarrett of the RNLI Fundraising Committee. We cannot thank our supporters enough for thinking of us during these difficult times."



Blainroe Golf Club Lady Captain Geraldine Cassidy with fellow members Mary O'Carroll and Joan Molloy presenting a cheque for €3,333 to John Hayden and Bernadette Jarrett of Wicklow RNLI Fundraising Branch. (Photo: RNLI Wicklow)

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# GREYSTONES SCHOOL STILL IN THE DARK

**Social Democrats TD for Wicklow Jennifer Whitmore raised the issue of the ongoing accommodation crisis in Greystones Community College with the Minister for Education in the Dáil last week.**

Speaking in the Dáil Deputy Whitmore explained "The secondary school was due to share a premise with Greystones Community National School in a brand new school building in Charlesland. Unfortunately, the Department decided not to open the new school as scheduled this month which has left the secondary school without any accommodation and essentially homeless."

"The school is now housed in the local Tennis Club which is not suitable for the medium to long term. The lease of the building is at this stage is only available until the end of October."

Whitmore continued, "I hoped that raising the issue in the Dáil this week would shine some light on the situation but unfortunately the Minister

gave the standard response I have been receiving the past number of months.

"I am extremely disappointed, she was unable to provide any further certainty to Greystones Community College regarding where they'll be beyond October and failed to provide an adequate explanation as to the reasons why the whole process of opening up the new school in Charlesland has been delayed.

"She has also refused to meet with the five Wicklow TDs who co-signed a letter I drafted requesting an urgent meeting with the Minister about this situation. This is neither a proactive or a proportionate response to the real challenges facing Greystones Community College.

"All this lack of cer-

tainity over the school's current accommodation situation, has resulted in students losing access to school subjects such as woodwork. The school has been let down again by the Department by this inadequate response. I urge the Minister to once again consider the situation at hand and do everything possible to bring certainty to the school community," concluded Whitmore.

Meanwhile a number of frustrated and angry board members at last week's Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) online meeting asked for a briefing regarding the safety issues preventing KWETB students moving into the KWETB school in Greystones.

Greystones resident and KWETB Chief Executive, Deirdre Keyes

stated that the Department was not in a position to make any information available to the board. That an article on Independent.ie had more information than that provided for the board members was described as 'incredible'.

"This is a completely unacceptable, it is typical of the lack of communication on the serious issues between the Dept of Education and the KWETB responsible for the management of the school."

According to the Chief Executive of Western Building Systems who built the school, they "remain completely in the dark as to why the handover has been delayed at the very last minute as all the necessary certifications of completion had been agreed by all parties."



*Cllr Gerry O'Neill, with Mick Nolan, Mick Richardson, and Andy Farrington showing their support for Vallemount ahead of the county final against Ashford, which took place on Saturday.*

## 'Make Cancer a priority'

**Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on the government to tackle the growing backlog of cancer screening and treatment services.**

Deputy Brady is calling on the government to make cancer care a priority by providing increased funding to enable cancer screening to operate at full capacity in a Covid environment as healthcare services head into the most challenging winter season in the history of the state. Deputy Brady said "With all of the missed screenings, the delay in procedures being carried out, coupled with being in a high risk category, Covid-19 has hit cancer patients hard.

"Sinn Féin is calling on the government to provide increased funding to enable screening to operate at full capacity in a Covid environment, and to address the under-investment in care that has resulted in crucial targets being missed under the National Cancer Strategy. Even before the onset of this pandemic and the challenges it presented to our healthcare services, this state possessed the third highest rate of cancer in the world with more than 43,000 cancers diagnosed on an annual basis. The importance of catching cancer early is indisputable, but we are now falling dangerously behind in our cancer screening programme. Failure to address this with immediate effect will inevitably cost lives, as well as overloading a healthcare service that is already facing the most challenging winter season in the history of the state.



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St Cronan's pupils Jack Dunne, Rory Plummer, Dean Magno and Ruairi Kiely launching Bike Week with the help of Steven Matthews TD, Cllr Erika Doyle and school Principal Maeve Tierney. Bike Week takes place from September 21st. The school has planned a range of events including a "Wheel to School" day for each year group and a competition to design a bike helmet. Prizes are sponsored by Wicklow Local Sports Partnership and sourced from local bike shops including Everest Cycles and Fat Bike adventures at Belmont Bike Farm.

## 140 students to participate in LIFT leadership programme

140 students in Bray schools North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School and Woodbrook College are set to begin developing their leadership skills this term through an innovative leadership learning process run by LIFT Ireland, a not-for-profit organisation that works to build positive leadership skills in communities and settings across Ireland.

Students taking part in the LIFT programme improve their listening skills, experience increased confidence and become more empathetic, understanding and positive, according to LIFT, which announced the roll-out of its programme in secondary schools in Wicklow and across the country.

Throughout Ireland, 64 schools have signed up to participate in LIFT's leadership development process with the aim of developing core leadership skills for young participants. More than 3,500 transition year students from those 64 schools will train as LIFT facilitators and, in turn, roll out the LIFT programme with other students in their schools, multiplying the reach of LIFT across secondary school students in Ireland.

Joanne Hession, Founder and CEO of LIFT Ireland, said: "2020 has

been a year like no other. Our young people in Wicklow and across Ireland are returning to school in the face of uncertainty in almost every aspect of their lives. But, throughout the Covid-19 crisis, we have seen great leadership demonstrated by young people in so many ways.

"To deal effectively and inclusively with the ongoing pandemic and ensure a positive future for our country more generally, we need the voices, perspectives and contributions of our young people. The LIFT Leadership programme supports all participants, be they students or corporate CEOs, to become better leaders in their homes, social groups, communities, school or work environments.

"Young people encounter struggles and challenges on a daily basis, ranging from anxiety to bullying. The

LIFT process helps participants to develop the skills, resilience, empathy and understanding to cope with such challenges, to successfully overcome challenging situations."

LIFT's leadership programme is delivered through a series of roundtable sessions, led by a volunteer facilitator. The programme runs over eight weeks, and focuses on eight key leadership values, such as listening, empathy, innovation and resilience. Participants in the programme are introduced to one value per week over the eight-week duration.

Ms. Hession, who is a leadership expert with a background in entrepreneurship training, founded LIFT, along with her brother, David Hession, an education accreditation expert, and Sonya Lennon, broadcaster, designer and social entrepreneur.



Pictured at the launch of LIFT Ireland in 2018 are co-founders (L-R) Sonya Lennon, David Hession and Joanne Hession, CEO of LIFT Ireland. Across Ireland, 64 schools have signed up to participate in LIFT's leadership development process in Autumn 2020, training more than 3,500 transition year students as LIFT facilitators, who will roll out the LIFT programme with other students in their schools, multiplying the reach of LIFT across secondary school students in Ireland.

# Are LED lights all right?

Is the LED lighting that's currently being rolled out across the county bringing with it problems such as light pollution, sleep disturbance, and a higher risk of cancer? Labour Party member and former local election candidate for the Greystones District Anne Waithira Burke says that although LED lights are far more energy efficient and work better than the current SOX lanterns, they can also bring many problems.

The problem of lighting has been a chronic one across Co. Wicklow in recent years, as the current lanterns, which are 45 years old, are breaking down and failing in large numbers. In March, representatives from SSE Airtricity attended a meeting of Wicklow County Council to address councillors' complaints about the number of lights that are out and the length of time it takes to fix them.

There are over 15,000 public lights in the county and over a third of them are SOX lamps, which are no longer manufactured. A countywide LED lantern refit is being carried out, which means every time one of an old lights breaks, it is replaced with a LED light.

The Labour Party has written to the Director of Services of Transport and Road Infrastructure asking that Wicklow County Council explore ways of alleviating problems stemming from LED lighting such as considering the option of baffling (to minimise the glare and

soften the light) where possible, or turning off or dimming residential street lighting during the night.

Anne Waithira said "Some time ago, a member of the Party alerted the Council that one of the street lights in the road behind his house was broken. Repairs were then carried out and the previous yellowish light was replaced with a bright blue/white LED light.

As a result, his family house is brightly lit up as is his garden and neighbouring gardens. Other members of the public are also suffering from these bright lights and it is difficult to sleep at night when such light penetrates even thick curtains. This is a gross intrusion into life here in County Wicklow.

"There is growing evidence that such daylight-mimicking street lighting causes considerable problems. Exposure to such light at night can cause problems with sleep, because the melatonin suppressed by the white light results in disturbed sleep patterns



Anne Waithira Burke

in humans. Wildlife may also be affected. When such lighting was introduced into the city of Birmingham, it was found that birds began singing in the middle of the night.

"Recent research linking blue/white LED street lighting to cancer has suggested that in brightly lit areas there is an increase in cancer rates, particularly breast and prostate cancer: these cancers seem to be those involved with hormones. Recent research in Spain has shown that the incidence of breast and prostate cancer increases in areas with bright lighting and furthermore that those resi-

dents who live in houses that have shutters do not show this increase.

"Previous work in Israel had shown that maps indicating high levels of night-time lighting coincided with increases in cancer levels but it was argued that other factors and heightened activity in the brightly lit areas might be the main cause. However, the newer Spanish study seems to confirm the link between cancer and blue-white LED lighting.

"The American Medical Association (AMA) has been concerned at the introduction of blue/white LED street-lighting. In 2016 AMA wrote that it wishes to 'encourage[s] the use of 3000K or lower lighting for outdoor installations such as roadways. All LED lighting should be properly shielded to minimize glare and detrimental human and environmental effects, and consideration should be given to utilize the ability of LED lighting to be dimmed for off-peak time periods."

## MINISTERS TAKE FLIGHT

Continued from Page 1

Sinn Féin TD, John Brady, has said the Government's new coronavirus plan is not worth the paper it is written on unless testing and tracing capacity is ramped up.

Deputy Brady said, "It's extremely worrying that people right across the state are having to wait up to 4 days to get a test and anything up to a further 3 days for results. I have spoken to many frontline workers, including nurses, doctors and teachers who say that from being offered a Covid test to getting a result of that test can take over a week.

"This week we saw the fast-tracking of testing for the Minister for Health. It is fantastic that it can be done. However, what we need is parity in testing.

"Unfortunately, this government under Taoiseach Micheal Martin is failing to deliver on the most important element of the national strategy to suppress the virus. They appear to be making it up as they go along. They have completely failed to meet a commitment to test 100,000 people a week and deliver results within 24 hours.

"Public confidence in the Fianna Fail leader's ability to manage the Covid-19 crisis has completely collapsed.

"It's shocking that on top of teams of people working across all departments this government requires 21 extra special advisers, costing about €2million a year as well as a PR firm to try to get their message out on the new coronavirus plan."

Deputy Brady concluded "The government can

publish whatever plans they want, but they're not worth the paper that they are written on so long as our testing and our tracing capacities are so woefully inadequate."

Jennifer Whitmore of the Social Democrats said "When the Dáil was shutdown last week, it left a lot of us scratching our heads as to why, all TDs and Government ministers have been given every opportunity to be able to work within the guidelines and adhere to social distancing, even to the point where the convention centre is being used (at a cost of €25,000 a day) to ensure there is 2 meters between each TD. It's difficult to understand how there is any risk of exposure. It also seems when you compare it with how our teachers and frontline staff are operating it just adds to the confusion.

"Even after a positive test in a school it's usually only the pod or the class that's sent home not the entire school. We need our Dáil operating at this very difficult time and all efforts need to go into ensuring that can continue.

"Last week felt like just another chaotic chapter in what's been a chaotic few months, and if we are to tackle this virus we need a government that can present us with a clear and cohesive plan and clear communication. Without this it would be impossible for us to expect community solidarity and bring to people along and government runs the risk of undermining our fight against Covid."

Government ministers Simon Harris and Stephen Donnelly were contacted to comment on the Dáil shutdown but declined to comment, as did Green Party TD Steven Mathews.



# National Framework for living with COVID-19

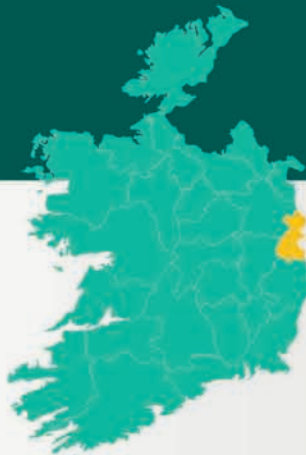
The National Framework for Living with Covid-19 sets out the measures that will be taken at each of five risk levels. The purpose of the Framework is to allow for national as well as localised management of the virus.

The infection rate in Dublin has now risen to a point that **Dublin City and County is now at Level 3.**

**The rest of Ireland remains at Level 2.**



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
National  
Programme



Very low rate of COVID-19 infections  
Low R-Number

Very high rate of COVID-19 infections  
High R-Number

|                                        | Level 1                                                                           | Level 2                                                                                  | Level 3                                                                   | Level 4                                                                       | Level 5                                                 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Social & Family Gatherings             | Max: 10 from 3 other households                                                   | Max: 6 from 3 other households                                                           | Max: 6 from 1 other household                                             | No visitors                                                                   | No visitors                                             |
| Weddings                               | Max: 100                                                                          | Max: 50                                                                                  | Max: 25                                                                   | Max: 6                                                                        | Max: 6                                                  |
| Indoor Events                          | Depending on venue size<br>100 200                                                | Depending on venue size<br>50 100                                                        | No organised events                                                       | No organised events                                                           | No organised events                                     |
| Outdoor Events                         | Depending on venue size<br>200 500                                                | Depending on venue size<br>100 200                                                       | Gatherings of up to 15                                                    | Gatherings of up to 15                                                        | No organised events                                     |
| Sports Training                        | Normal training with protective measures                                          | Indoors<br>Pods of 6<br>Outdoors<br>Pods of 15                                           | 1 Individual only<br>Pods of 15 Non-contact                               | 1 Individual only<br>Pods of 15 Non-contact                                   | Individual training only                                |
| Matches & Events                       | 100 indoor 200 outdoor 500 stadia                                                 | 50 indoor 100 outdoor 200 stadia                                                         | Except specific exemptions                                                | Except specific exemptions                                                    | No events                                               |
| Gyms, Pools & Leisure Centres          | Open with protective measures                                                     | Open with protective measures                                                            | Individual training only                                                  | Closed                                                                        | Closed                                                  |
| Religious Services                     | 50 (or sub-groups of 50)                                                          | 50 (or sub-groups of 50)                                                                 | Services move online<br>Funerals 25                                       | Services move online<br>Funerals 25                                           | Services move online<br>Funerals 10                     |
| Bars serving food, Cafés & Restaurants | Open with protective measures                                                     | Open<br>Groups of 6 from up to 3 households                                              | Range of restrictions up to and including no indoor dining                | Outdoor dining only<br>Max: 15<br>Takeaway/Delivery                           | Takeaway/Delivery only                                  |
| Wet Pubs                               | Open with protective measures                                                     | Open<br>Groups of 6 from up to 3 households                                              | Range of restrictions up to and including no indoor service*              | Outdoor only<br>Max: 15 persons<br>Takeaway/Delivery                          | Takeaway/Delivery only                                  |
| Hotels, Guesthouses B&Bs               | Open with protective measures                                                     | Open with protective measures                                                            | Services limited to Residents only                                        | Existing Guests & Essential Purposes only                                     | Essential Purposes only                                 |
| Retail & Services                      | Mandatory face coverings<br>Open with protective measures                         | Open with protective measures                                                            | Open with protective measures                                             | Primarily outdoor<br>Essential retail/services                                | Essential Retail only                                   |
| Indoor Cultural Venues                 | Open with protective measures                                                     | Open with protective measures                                                            | Venues closed<br>Libraries available for e-services/call & collect        | Venues closed<br>Online services available                                    | Venues closed<br>Online services available              |
| Workplace                              | Work from home if possible<br>Staggered attendance                                | Essential Meetings, Induction & Training only                                            | Attend only if absolutely necessary                                       | Essential & other designated workers only                                     | Essential workers only                                  |
| Domestic Travel                        | No restrictions                                                                   | No restrictions                                                                          | Stay in your county except for work, education & essential purposes       | Stay in your county except for essential work, education & essential purposes | Stay at home<br>Exercise within 5km                     |
| Public Transport                       | Cycle or walk if possible<br>Mandatory face coverings                             | 50% Capacity<br>Off-peak hours<br>Peak hours prioritised to essential workers & purposes | 50% Capacity<br>Only when necessary                                       | 25% Capacity<br>Avoid public transport                                        | 25% Capacity<br>Avoid public transport                  |
| Schools & Childcare                    | Open with protective measures                                                     | Open with protective measures                                                            | Open with protective measures                                             | Open with protective measures                                                 | Recommendations based on situation and evidence at time |
| Adult & Higher Education               | Open with protective measures                                                     | Open with protective measures                                                            | Open<br>Escalate all appropriate protective measures / limit congregation | Move online<br>On-site attendance only when essential                         | Recommendations based on situation and evidence at time |
| Care Homes                             | Open with protective measures                                                     | Open with enhanced protective measures                                                   | Visiting suspended, aside from critical and compassionate circumstances   |                                                                               |                                                         |
| Over 70s & Medically Vulnerable        | Exercise judgement regarding engaging with others and in activities outside home. |                                                                                          |                                                                           |                                                                               |                                                         |

\*Pubs currently remain closed in Dublin

|           | Rate per 100,000 | Trend | New cases | Level |
|-----------|------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Dublin    | 120.9            | ↗     | 1629      | 3     |
| Louth     | 93.9             | ↗     | 121       | 2     |
| Waterford | 84.4             | ↗     | 98        | 2     |
| Leitrim   | 78.0             | ↗     | 25        | 2     |
| Wicklow   | 69.5             | ↗     | 99        | 2     |
| Kildare   | 64.3             | ↘     | 143       | 2     |
| Donegal   | 64.1             | ↗     | 102       | 2     |
| Offaly    | 61.6             | ↗     | 48        | 2     |
| Limerick  | 58.5             | ↗     | 114       | 2     |
| Longford  | 48.9             | ↗     | 20        | 2     |
| Westmeath | 48.4             | ↗     | 43        | 2     |
| Laois     | 47.2             | ↗     | 40        | 2     |
| Wexford   | 36.1             | ↗     | 54        | 2     |
| Carlow    | 35.1             | ↘     | 20        | 2     |
| Roscommon | 31.0             | ↗     | 20        | 2     |
| Clare     | 30.3             | →     | 36        | 2     |
| Meath     | 28.7             | ↗     | 56        | 2     |
| Galway    | 28.3             | ↗     | 73        | 2     |
| Mayo      | 26.1             | ↗     | 35        | 2     |
| Monaghan  | 26.1             | ↘     | 16        | 2     |
| Kilkenny  | 22.2             | ↘     | 22        | 2     |
| Cavan     | 21.0             | ↗     | 16        | 2     |
| Kerry     | 19.0             | ↗     | 28        | 2     |
| Tipperary | 16.9             | ↘     | 27        | 2     |
| Cork      | 14.2             | ↗     | 77        | 2     |
| Sligo     | 12.2             | ↗     | 8         | 2     |

Numbers indicate the 14 Day Incidence Rate/100,000 population and the new cases over 14 days for each county. Data on 18 September 2020.

We must keep our people healthy, our businesses strong and our communities resilient. Immediate action is needed now to stop the progress of the virus.

More information on the Framework can be found at [gov.ie/COVID19](https://gov.ie/COVID19)



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland





Teresa Earls and Lisa Tyrell at the Arklow Rock Walk in aid of Fr. Michael's Indian charity and the Arklow RNLI

## Farmers 'losing faith' in Dept of Agriculture

Frustration and annoyance from the farming community is the message that Cllr Shay Cullen has been receiving from all over Co Wicklow in the last few days.

Farmers have become angered since being issued new and controversial TB Risk letters by the Department of Agriculture containing the herds risk category along with a list of high risk animals in each herd.

"I have been inundated by calls and emails since these letters from the Dept. have been delivered to farms across the county," said Cllr Cullen.

"Wicklow unfortunately suffers from a high percentage of TB and farmers are feeling let down by the Dept. of Agriculture for the lack of support or initiatives to deal with the problem throughout the county.

"Farmers individually can only do so much to eradicate the problem, unfortunately the problem of TB in cattle cannot be eradicated by individual farmers no matter what they do, it needs a major scheme backed by the Dept. of Agriculture and not just useless letters.

"Dept. of Agriculture research has shown high levels of TB in the deer and badger population in Wicklow and by ignoring this problem we are leaving a health issue in the wildlife and in our cattle population, and whilst we are testing and removing cattle from herds that have been identified as carriers of TB, with no scheme for the wildlife, the health of those animals suffer and the spread of TB continues with cross contamination being an ongoing problem. The Dept of Agriculture has to put in steps to have a two-pronged scheme in order to get control of this disease. Farmers at this stage are losing faith with the Dept of Agriculture as this problem is costing them and the tax payer up to €90 million a year and we are no clearer to solving this problem. Solutions need to be found, we need decisions, actions and results!"

# Local Property Tax revaluation deferred

Wicklow County Council meets this week to vote on whether or not to increase the Local Property Tax. However, the revaluation date for Local Property Tax (LPT) has been deferred to November 2021, which means that taxpayers will not be faced with increased LPT bills for 2021.

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has said the latest Government decision to delay the review of the Local Property Tax until next year will further disadvantage Wicklow.

"The failure to reform the outdated and unfair model of the Local Property Tax means Wicklow will continue to be starved of much-needed funding," she said.

The valuation date is the date on which property owners are required to establish the market value of their properties. These market values form the basis for calculation of property owners' LPT liabilities. Legislative changes in 2015 and 2019 retained the valuation date of 1 May 2013 for an additional four years up to and including the year 2019 and provided for the next valuation date to be 1st November 2020 instead of 1st November 2016. The deferral of the revaluation date to 1st November 2021 means that taxpayers will not see changes in their LPT liabilities for 2021.

Minister Simon Harris



Minister Simon Harris

said: "My Fine Gael colleague, Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe, has confirmed that with the new valuation date there will be no change in LPT liabilities until 2022 at the earliest. The Minister has confirmed to me that he will be bringing forward proposals for primary legislation to implement the Programme for Government commitments on LPT in early 2021.

"These proposals will be designed to ensure fairness and that most homeowners will face no increase in their LPT liabilities. They will also bring new homes, which are currently exempt

from the LPT or outside of the tax, into the taxation system. The Minister will also seek to promote the other policy objectives that should underpin the tax like protecting the overall LPT yield; maintaining the tax base with a small number of exemptions and upholding the progressivity of the tax," Minister Harris said.

The Minister will advance legislative proposals early in 2021 to implement the commitments in the Programme for Government in relation to LPT, which are: 1) To bring forward legislation for the LPT on the basis of fairness and that most homeowners will face no increase; 2) To bring new homes, which are currently exempt from the LPT, into the taxation system, and that; 3) All money collected locally will be retained within the county. This is to be done on the basis that those counties with a lower LPT base are adjusted via an annual national equalisation fund paid from the Exchequer.

Deputy Whitmore

explains that "The Local Property Tax (LPT) review report recommended a set of changes to the system such as different rate and tax band structures. We could've been looking at a much fairer system where house valuations and population increases were incorporated in the new model, yet the Minister for Finance decided to push the date for this reform to next year. Wicklow needs LPT reform this year, not next year.

"Spending power is varied across different councils in Ireland with Wicklow faring the third lowest in local spending per capita according to 2018 figures and with

some of the lowest numbers of employed staff. Wicklow is also fairly low in the pecking order of the amount of money received from Government Council Grants, the 6th lowest in the country in fact" says Whitmore.

"This is despite rapidly growing populations as is the experience in Wicklow. Residents in Wicklow are at a serious disadvantage as population increases means more pressure on services requiring increased funding to meet those needs.

"Considering the devastating impact COVID 19 has had on local economies the need for reform was even more urgent. Wicklow residents deserve better than cans being kicked down the road for political purposes. Ensuring that our communities are adequately funded to serve their needs should be a priority for the current Government but, instead they have kicked the can down the road once again during a pandemic which has reduced Councils' revenue.



Jennifer Whitmore TD

## Baltinglass teenager is taking the UK by storm in motorsports

Last weekend saw rounds 3 & 4 of the UK TCR saloon car championship at Silverstone

Max Hart (19) from Baltinglass had a difficult qualifying session and qualified in 6th position, after the session Max worked closely with his engineer and they found an issue with the car which was fixed for race 1.

In Race 1, Max made a good start and moved up to 5th, and then worked his way into 4th place. Max drove a steady race in an improved handling car to 3rd position and 2nd in class.

In Race 2 Max started 3rd and held the position throughout the race trading fastest laps with the 2 drivers in front, but despite his best efforts he just couldn't find a way past and finished a very creditable 3rd and again 2nd in class.

This was the end of a very emotional week for the 19 year old student from Baltinglass, who received his leaving cert results and then had the sad passing of his Grandmother leading up to this race meeting.

Max is now a true front runner in this class, and retains his 2nd place in the UK TCR Saloon Car Championship with the next 3 rounds of the championship taking place at Donington Park on the weekend of October 17/18th

"A big thanks to the team Maximum Motorsport and all the mechanics for a fabulous car all weekend especially my engineer Kevin the magician!" said Max.



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





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At the turning of the sod for Clermont Enterprise Hub were Cathaoirleach of Wicklow Municipal District John Snell, WCC Cathaoirleach Pat Kennedy, Head of Enterprise Vibeke Delahunt, and Nicholas Redmond of Stephen Byrne Plant Hire

## Sinn Féin launch housing paper for Bray

**Sinn Féin have launched a position paper for Bray, outlining their key policy priorities for the town in the short term.**

The paper proposes that Wicklow County Council keep child homelessness as an agenda item until there are no homeless children in the county. Currently, any person/ family from Bray must present in Wicklow County Council buildings as homeless. This incurs a travel and logistical cost for those involved, for instance, a return train ticket from Bray to Wicklow is over €9, which a one-way bus ticket is €11.55. The paper proposes that a homeless outreach officer work from the Bray Council buildings.

The paper also proposes that: The Department review the current rate for Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) rate payable for the Bray area; That a HAP place finder support to be provided by Wicklow County Council to the Bray area. It calls for the provision of good quality social and affordable housing to address this issue, and proposes that Bray Municipal District Members write to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to outline the severe need for affordable rental properties and purchase properties in the Bray area.

Speaking about the paper, Cllr Grace McManus said "I've been in this role for just over a year now, and I have quickly noticed that there is a revolving door of issues coming into our office every day. In particular with housing, it's the same issues over and

over. My heart breaks for every person I meet who is suffering with these issues. There comes a point where we need to zoom out and look at what is causing this suffering in the first place."

Cllr McManus continued "While the housing crisis will only be solved by national government action, I believe there are things we can change locally that could ease some of this suffering in the short term. This paper has five policy suggestions, based off of data collection over the summer, that we believe would have a positive impact for the people of Bray.

"We have put some of these suggestions down as motions at Bray MD, and we will do so over the coming months. The intention is to share these ideas to spark conversation but ultimately to change how we operate things in terms of housing at a local level. The people who come to us in their deepest moments of struggle need us to be doing this work.

"There is nothing more deserving of compassion and attention than a homeless child, and we have a moral responsibility to be consistently working to deal with the pain that this housing crisis is causing."

As the paper states, "In May 2020, there were 66 homeless, or at risk of homelessness, presentations in Wicklow. There were 58 children who presented as homeless or at risk of homelessness. There were 17 children in Bed & Breakfast accommodation. It is highly likely that some of these children are from the Bray area. It is our position that every elected member has a duty to address this issue."

# SOD TURNED ON €3M CONTENT CREATION HUB AT CLERMONT

The sod was turned on a new €3m Content Creation Enterprise Hub at the Wicklow County Campus in Clermont, Rathnew last Thursday.

The Content Creation Enterprise Hub will provide 10,000sq ft of private and co-working spaces and aims to boost job creation in the sector and spin out services feeding into these industries.

It is intended to support content creation and will complement the film industry, with a particular focus on businesses servicing productions happening in Ashford Studios and Ardmore Studios.

The Hub will also offer a collaborative social space, conference centre, podcast studio and screening facility along with access to a range of existing meeting rooms and training facilities on the larger Clermont campus.

The project will include the courtyard buildings, the second floor of the existing campus building and the chapel, which will be refurbished and renovated. It will also include a newly-built two-floor extension to the courtyard

buildings.

Funding of €1.43m was secured under the Government's Regional Enterprise Development Fund. The remainder will be matched by Wicklow County Council.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, said: "I'm pleased that the development of the courtyard buildings into an Enterprise Hub for the content creation sector at Wicklow County Campus is taking another step forward towards its development.

"This hub will support our unique audio-visual industry, which was hard hit by the lockdown, to internationalise and grow and will be a very welcome addition for the businesses working in and supporting this sector. This project is good news for the development of the campus as a centre of excellence in education, innovation and job cre-

ation, and shows the commitment of the council to develop the campus in partnership with other agencies".

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, said: "We welcome the announcement by the Minister of the approval of our application. This is a really positive development for Wicklow County Campus. It's also positive for the future growth of a strong local screen industry. Stakeholders and development agencies as well as training providers in this sector have been widely consulted and are extremely supportive of this innovative project."

He added: "Wicklow County Council has a close relationship with the film industry. We have Ardmore Studios and Ashford Studios based in the county and a lot of production takes place in the county. It's an important economic driver and glob-

ally the demand for content is growing. The Wicklow Local Enterprise Office (LEO) has been working with small providers so we know how important the industry is and how many are feeding into it."

The works will include the alteration and refurbishment of the courtyard cottages and their conversion to office use. It is further planned to upgrade the courtyard storage outbuildings, including re-siding and improvements to the roof structure and demolish redundant farm outbuildings to the north of the courtyard to facilitate construction of new two-storey office building with main entrance to the Enterprise Hub.

The site has the capacity for further development in the future to expand the Content Creation Hub in time.

Construction is expected to commence in Q1 2021 and it is intended to launch the hub in Q2 2022.

## Enniskerry housing development refused permission

**An Bord Pleanála has refused permission for a housing development at Kilgarron Hill in Enniskerry, because of the potential negative impact on Knocksink Wood.**

The proposed strategic housing development was to consist of 219 residential units (135 houses and 84 apartments). The planning permission was being sought by Capami Limited.

ABP stated its decision was based on "the deficiencies in the information provided in the submitted Natura Impact Statement, as relates to a Qualifying Interest of the Knocksink Wood special area of conservation (SAC), namely 'Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles', and in relation to the potential in-combination impacts of the proposed waste management facility in the vicinity of the site".

It stated that "the Board is not satisfied that the proposed development, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not adversely affect the integrity of the Knocksink Wood SAC, in view

of the site's conservation objectives. In such circumstances, the Board is precluded from granting permission."

ABP's Inspector's Report also noted that "the proposed development will be urban in character and diminish the amenity" of the Glencree Road.

Describing Knocksink Wood, it noted that "The south-western end of Knocksink Wood comprises oak woodland which is dominated by Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*). A notable feature of the wooded slopes are the frequent and extensive springs and seepage areas, and there is tufa formation in several places. Associated with the springs and the river are stands of wet alluvial forest. These areas are dominated by Ash and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). This site contains a substantial area of potentially ancient woodland. It has

one of the most diverse woodland invertebrate faunas in Ireland, including some wet woodland organisms which are threatened at an international level. Vertebrates noted in the vicinity include Red Squirrel, Badger, Rabbit and Deer. The woodland supports large populations of birds, including many common passerines (Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Wren, Chaffinch) and crows, such as Rook, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw and Raven. Buzzard have been recorded in the area and Dipper are occasionally seen on the river.

"The importance of this site lies in the diversity of woodland habitats which occur. Three habitats listed in Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, two of which have priority status (petrifying springs and alluvial woodland), occur at this site."

## €425,000 to improve housing conditions

**Wicklow is to receive state funding of €425,000 to improve housing stock for older people and people with a disability, Minister Simon Harris TD has said.**

Minister Harris said "This funding is part of an €18 million nationwide package announced by Government to improve housing conditions. The Disabled Persons Grant Scheme and the Improvement Works in Lieu of Local Authority Housing Scheme are administered directly by Wicklow County Council. Exchequer funding meets 90% of the cost of the works in each property, with the local authority providing the remaining 10%. In total over €472,000 is granted under the two schemes for the area covered by Wicklow County Council.

"The Disabled Persons Grant Scheme provides funding for extensions and adaptations to existing social housing stock for older people and people with a disability and is designed to help make life at home a little easier. For example the funding can be used for items such as grab rails, disabled access ramps, wet rooms, setting up a bedroom downstairs etc. The scheme also provides extensions in cases of overcrowding in a home.

"In addition, funding is provided under the Improvement Works in Lieu of social housing scheme (IWILs). This allows local authorities to improve or extend privately owned accommodation, where the applicant has been approved for social housing. It allows those who are otherwise eligible for social housing to remain in private housing and for enhancements to that housing."



# Put a trace on your money and see its impact on others and the planet

Members of two co-operatives, trade justice campaigners and educators met on Tuesday 28th August to launch a new guide, 'Stay Safe. Invest Ethically'. The event was co-hosted by community cooperatives Common Ground Bray, Dublin Food Co-op and human rights education NGO 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World.

Launched by councillor Darcy Lonergan, Green Party Dublin City Councillor for Cabra-Glasnevin and David McAuley, CEO of Donore Credit Union, the online event covered a range of issues, including how city councils spend the public's money, how procurement processes can work for better social and environmental outcomes and how to safeguarding the impact of your money on communities and the environment.

Questions raised during the open event included - how can councils be leaders in ethical procurement? Can councils access social finance from Credit Unions? What are the social dividends from investing finance that go beyond profits? How might institutions like councils or investment banks monitor their impact-footprint on people along their supply chains?

The guide Stay Safe. Invest Ethically was produced by a diverse group of 14 people from ages 23 to 73, including a secondary school teacher, corporate social responsibility advisor, a retired nurse, theatre staff, accountant and community volunteers as a response to participating in a series of workshops in 2019 and 2020 looking at debt issues, fair and unfair trade as well as the challenges of tax justice both locally and globally. The participating groups involved members of Common Ground Bray, the Comhlámh Trade Justice Group and 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World.

Stay Safe. Invest Ethically introduces the idea of investments as a space for everyone to think and act on in many day-to-day activities, such as buying goods or services either in person or

online, taking out insurance or making regular contributions towards your pension or savings. It also offers eight key principles we can observe when considering different practices and options for testing how ethical a company or institution's investments are. These include: Distance yourself from companies that do not report annually on goods, or services in their supply chain, or abuse tax rules at home or abroad - you can't outsource integrity; Ensure that environment, society and effective accountability play a central role in all policies, decision-making, monitoring and reporting"

A central question offered by the 12-page guide asks, 'do you know what happens with your money and its real-world impact on the planet and on others along the way?'. Project coordinator Tony Daly stated: "The appetite

for transparency and visibility in the footprints we leave on the planet and on each other is growing, through our connections and relationships with companies and institutions like schools or universities. Exploring what we know about where our money goes and who benefits from it (and who loses along the supply chain), is at the heart of a document and a community project like this.

Investing, divesting, changing and improving the potential impact of finance on the human rights of workers and families, on fair taxation and the responsible use of natural resources like metals, minerals and timber are agendas that belongs to all of us - not only investment bankers, portfolio managers and accountants."

The guide is available from local libraries and direct from Common Ground Bray.

## SEAI encourages homeowners in Wicklow to avail of grants for home energy upgrades

As we enter the colder Autumn months, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is encouraging homeowners to avail of Government funded grants for home energy upgrades.

To date, 8,601 Wicklow homes have already availed of these grants. These homeowners are living in more comfortable, healthier, energy efficient homes, while paying lower energy bills and reducing their climate impact.

SEAI has individual grants for insulation, renewable home heating, heating controls, and solar PV. The grants are fixed amounts ranging from €400 up to €6000 depending on the works to be undertaken and the size of house, and typically cover 30% of the upgrade cost. Some works, such as roof insulation or cavity wall insulation, can typically pay for themselves through lower energy bills in as little as one to two years.

Encouraging homeowners to invest in their homes, Tom Halpin, Head of Communications with SEAI said: "The last six months has shown us that our homes really are our havens and something that we need to invest in and maintain. Homeowners who invest in home energy upgrades and avail of SEAI's grants will feel the benefits of living in a warmer home almost instantly. The most common question SEAI is asked is - where do I start? We'd recommend starting with a BER assessment carried out by a SEAI registered BER assessor.

"The BER certificate and accompanying advisory report will set out what works you can undertake to improve the energy performance of your home

and in what order these works should be prioritised."

The Building Energy Rating (BER), indicates the energy performance of a home. Homes are placed on a scale from A to G, with A-rated homes being the best in terms of energy efficiency and climate impact and G being the lowest. The Government's Climate Action Plan sets an ambitious target for 500,000 Irish homes to achieve a B2 building energy rating by 2030. By investing in home energy upgrades homeowners can bring a lower rated home up to a B2 energy rating or higher.

Tom Halpin continued, "For older homes, built more than thirty years ago, preventing heat escaping through the roof and walls by upgrading their insulation should be the priority. Windows and doors may need to be replaced too. After that, smart heating controls will improve the efficiency of an existing heating system. However if budget permits, we'd encourage homeowners to consider a renewable heating system such as a heat pump, which uses energy from the air, water or ground. This will significantly improve the BER, reduce costs and reduce your reliance on fossil fuels."

Some energy suppliers and companies operating as energy partners with SEAI are now offering packages to manage the entire upgrade process, including grant application and works, on behalf of the homeowners. To help fund the cost of the upgrade investment, homeowners are advised to check what low interest green loans are available from their bank, local Credit Union and An Post.

For further information and to apply for SEAI's home energy grants visit [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie)



Pictured at last year's Tree Day in the Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin were Frankie O'Toole, Zac Fitzpatrick, Amaia Tamayo, and Lisa Sukkooba from Our Lady Consolation School in Donmycarney.

## Primary schools asked to 'Be a Force for Nature' for Tree Day

The Tree Council of Ireland is calling on primary schools across the country to get involved in Tetra Pak Tree Day and plant a tree on Thursday, 1st October. The theme for this year's campaign is 'Be a Force for Nature' to encourage primary school children around the country to become more active in sustainability and climate issues.

Tetra Pak Tree Day is an opportunity for children, teachers and parents to put down the school books, spend time outdoors and learn to become more environmentally aware. The campaign's mascot Sammy Squirrel can be found on the back of Avonmore school milk cartons from September with simple tips on how to become more environmentally conscious.

As part of this year's Tetra Pak Tree Day, 1,500 native tree saplings will be made available through the campaign website for primary schools to plant on their school grounds, or in a pot in the classroom. More details on the campaign including new class lessons, videos, information on recycling, food waste and nature walks can be found on [www.treeday.ie](http://www.treeday.ie)

To find out more about this year's Tetra Pak Tree Day and to claim a FREE Scots Pine sapling for your school, visit [www.treeday.ie](http://www.treeday.ie).

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Valerie O'Toole and Brid Murphy from the Brooklodge, Macreddin, who will host a Hospice Coffee Morning with Bewley's on Thursday 24th September.

## Wicklow hotels braced for survival battle as revenues continue to plummet

The latest industry survey from the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF) reveals the enormous challenges facing hotels and guesthouses in Wicklow and across the country as demand continues to plummet as a result of the Covid crisis.

The impact on employment and people's livelihoods is stark for an industry that supported 270,000 jobs nationally at the beginning of the year 1 in 10 of all Irish jobs. An estimated 100,000 jobs of these have been lost so far this year and a further 100,000 are now at imminent risk in the coming weeks, including 10,200 in Wicklow.

With the summer season finished, Ireland's hotels and guesthouses are now reporting a 70% drop in projected revenues for September compared to this time last year. Bookings for September/October have plunged with average room occupancy levels at 22% in the Mid-East. This follows a very challenging July and August with average national occupancy at 49%, representing an enormous drop compared the 90% occupancy achieved during these key summer months last year.

Commenting on the results, Gerard O'Brien, Chair of the Wicklow branch the Irish Hotels Federation, said that the figures highlight the requirement for further sector specific measures to support Irish tourism. "Our industry is operating in a quasi-lockdown. The existing supports are totally inadequate for our industry given the current restrictions. If appropriate measures are not put in place, more jobs will be lost. Prior to the COVID crisis, tourism supported 13,900 jobs in Wicklow, contributing €135m to the local economy. With a predicted revenue loss of €100m, 10,200 of these jobs are now under threat.

"A severely devastated tourism sector would be a major loss to the economy and society here in Wicklow for many years to come. This can and must be avoided. We are doing everything we can to protect public health whilst also helping to restore the economy and safeguard people's livelihoods, but we face extraordinary challenges. These have been greatly exacerbated by the additional restrictions introduced last month, includ-

ing limiting indoor gatherings to no more than six people.

"Businesses are, in effect, operating under close to lock-down conditions. This flies in the face of the detailed operational guidelines that are in place, endorsed by the HSE, HSA, HPSC and the FSAI as well as hotels' proven track record in managing gatherings safely. It is our belief that the controlled environment provided by hotels can safely accommodate gatherings of significantly more than 6 people, which are an essential part of the fabric of Irish life.

"A major frustration for us continues to be the lack of meaningful consultation with our industry in advance of new restrictions being announced by Government. All areas of society negatively impacted by Covid-19 should be consulted, including businesses, when developing the Roadmap for Resilience and Recovery, which is due to be published on 14th September. Public health goes hand in hand with ensuring a viable economy when this pandemic has passed."

Commenting on the additional Government supports required for the tourism industry, Mr O'Brien said: "The measures contained in the Government's stimulus package do not go far enough to address the unique and existential challenges facing our industry. In particular, they fail to deliver adequate supports around competitiveness and liquidity in particular."

The IHF is calling on the Government to implement the following measures as a matter of urgency: Review of 6-person limit; Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) so employers can retain staff during the difficult winter/spring months ahead; Liquidity Measures; Local Authority Rates Waiver; Reduction in tourism VAT to 9%; Testing Regime to restore international travel safely as soon as possible.

"Safeguarding public health is an absolute priority for the Irish Hotels Federation and our members, who are fully committed to supporting the Government in the task of suppressing Covid-19. We also wish to be part of the process of restoring the economy and the livelihoods of the almost 270,000 people who worked in our industry last year. But we need support now so we can play our part again in the recovery. The National Economic Plan in October will come too late for many," said Mr O'Brien.

# 'We in Wicklow can defeat Covid by working together'

Everyone living and working in County Wicklow can defeat Covid-19 by working together and following public health advice, Minister Simon Harris TD has said.

Minister Harris said "The Government's initiative - Resilience & Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with Covid-19 - will guide Ireland's response to saving lives and managing the pandemic over the next seven months. We can overcome this. We can beat Covid-19 but it will take hard work and a commitment from all. We have already shown this year how we can work together."

The Government's plan sets how all in County Wicklow can manage the disease in their communities over the coming months.

The plan sets out five levels of response, each with a number of measures designed to help lower Covid-19 transmission, and also sets out what is permitted at that moment in time. At the moment, County Wicklow is on level two.

"The plan, if followed by all, aims to allow

society and businesses to be able to operate as normally as possible, while continuing to suppress the virus. In particular, keeping schools, early learning and childcare services open are a top priority. We want to keep people in work and businesses operating, as we need a functioning economy to maintain our public services.

"Each level outlines what is permitted for social or family gatherings, work and public transport, bars, hotels and restaurants, exercise activities and religious services.

"Our country is soon entering the Winter months and we need to make every possible effort to make life easier for all. Please obey the advice of the public health professionals. We are all working for the same goal here - to defeat this pandemic and get our lives back to normal. It will take time



Minister Simon Harris

but, working together, we can achieve this," Minister Harris concluded.

Cabinet also agreed last week to allocate a record €600 million for the 2020 Winter Initiative, to ensure that our health service has the capacity and resources needed to deal with what is forecast to be a particularly challenging few months.

Fine Gael leader and Tánaiste Leo Varadkar said, "From the beginning, we knew we were in this together, now we need to know how we

can get through this together as well.

"Unfortunately, nothing is certain about Covid-19, it cares little for our plans, however we have reasons to be hopeful as a country. We're guided by all we've learned about the virus in the past few months and we have confidence that we can do this because of what we have learned about each other.

"We've changed the way we live, the way we work, and today's plan sets out the steps to keep the virus under control, how we can anticipate and understand how to live our lives for the next six to nine months, and where setbacks occur, the steps that will be taken to reduce the risk of Covid-19 spreading out of control. This is a plan to protect you, your family and friends, our community, our jobs and businesses," the Tánaiste said.

## ALONE welcomes the intricacies of six-month Resilience Recovery plan

ALONE, the organisation which supports older people, has welcomed the medium-term approach to COVID-19 as outlined by the Government last week. Currently the whole country is at a Level 2 status, with the exception of Dublin which has additional measures at Level 2, depending on the number of cases in the city and county over the next week.

Level 2 means that those aged 70 and older and the medically vulnerable should exercise judgment regarding the extent to which they engage with others in and outside the home. Specific guidance is yet to be provided.

The organisation welcomed the Winter Plan Budget, which is said to be designed alongside Sláintecare guideline plans; to ensure that the health service has the capacity and resources needed to deal with what is forecast to be a particularly challenging few months. ALONE said "we are looking forward to further detail on the €600m winter package in the coming weeks, which is set to cover health services up to next March".

The organisation was also pleased by the announcement of

the proposed implementation of a National Approach to increase mental health supports, as many older people are currently struggling with their mental health as a result of the sudden onset of COVID-19 and related health guidelines such as cocooning. ALONE said it is aware of the significant health impacts that loneliness can have on our mental health, and have been working hard to support older people who are struggling with their mental health since March.

Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE said, "We welcome the introduction of the Winter Plan Budget, as this is often a difficult time of year for older people all over Ireland. We are looking forward to further detail on the plan in the coming weeks and months,

as we begin to prepare for the colder weather. We are also pleased to see that the Government will be supporting local wellbeing initiatives, as our organisation works with older people across the country on a local level, providing advice, assistance and support, particularly during these uncertain times."

He continued, "It is vitally important for us now to try to minimise the risk of transmitting the virus, in order to safeguard vulnerable groups such as older people. This is particularly important in Dublin City and County, as this is where cases are at their highest. Please think of the older people in your life and make sensible decisions involving them in the coming weeks so that we can lower the number of cases."





# Wicklow thanks unsung Heroes during National Volunteering Week

21st to 26th September is National Volunteering Week, the annual week where we celebrate all things volunteering. This year the week will have a dual focus - thanking volunteers and organisations for everything they have done this year and encouraging them to focus on their own health and well-being.

A local and national communications campaign supported by a programme of events will take place from 21st - 27th September 2020. National Volunteering Week usually takes place during the

third week of May but was postponed this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Leah Kinsella, Wicklow Volunteer Centre Manager, "Volunteers do so much for our communities every

day, and in particular during the current pandemic volunteers have been astounding. Now is our chance to give something back to these extraordinary people who give so much for others. We want volunteers across county Wicklow to take a moment to do something for themselves during National Volunteering Week - there are free events running all week from yoga classes to mental health workshops to webinars. But most of all, we want to say thank you to each and every volunteer for everything that they do. We'd also like to encourage anyone that has been impacted by a volun-

teer to take a moment to say thank you."

You can check out the events on [www.volunteer.ie](http://www.volunteer.ie)

County Wicklow Volunteer Centre works with the people of Wicklow, regardless of race, religion, creed, sexual orientation, social status, age, educational ability and experience to help them find a volunteering position that that will allow them to actively contribute to the development of their community and give them a sense of well-being and individual value. County Wicklow Volunteer Centre also works with volunteer-



Now, more than ever, volunteers are needed to help the most vulnerable.

involving-organisations across the county to help them find volunteers and provides training in volunteer leadership, a Garda Vetting service and support and information on all things volunteering. For further information call Leah on 085 862 2051 or email [leah@volunteer-wicklow.ie](mailto:leah@volunteer-wicklow.ie).

"Like everyone else, we have had to adapt our way of working and how we support volunteers and organisations. While we had to postpone National Volunteering Week to September (21st - 27th), we are confident that it will be worth the wait," say Volunteer Ireland.

"The week will have a

dual focus - thanking volunteers and organisations for everything they have done this year and encouraging you all to focus on your own health and well-being. It's been a tough year for everyone so it's important to make sure we're all looking after ourselves too!

"To do this - and as a

way to say thank you - Volunteer Ireland will be running free virtual health and wellness events across the week. This is on top of the fantastic local events being run by Volunteer Centres, our webinar series and our annual social media campaign which will all run across the week too."

## Open Door says thank you

The members, staff and Board of Trustees would like to thank the dedicated group of volunteers who help out at Open Door Day Centre on a regular basis.

"Their time and effort is very much appreciated and helps considerably with the day to day running of the Centre, particularly in these difficult times. Volunteers have helped with day to day duties as well as assisting with the many activities available and also with regular fundraising events.

"This year Open Door Day Centre is proud to celebrate 36 years of caring in the community. The Centre provides activities for adults with physical disabilities in North Wicklow and South County Dublin. Open Door also offers a much needed break to families and carers. Members get great enjoyment and a sense of achievement from the activities including Art, Music, Physiotherapy, Computers, Ceramics and Woodwork."

For further details on Open Door Day Centre visit [www.opendoor.ie](http://www.opendoor.ie) or Tel: 01 286 7123.



There's no age limits on volunteering!



## volunteer centre

Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Cill Mhantáin  
WICKLOW



**from the County Wicklow Volunteer Centre to**

- The volunteers who drive the people to their hospital appointments
- The coaches in Gaelic football, hurling, soccer, rugby and all other sports
- The Meals on Wheels cooks, drivers and coordinators
- The volunteers who shop for the vulnerable and cocooning
- The befrienders and the neighbours who care
- The youth leaders and the tidy towners
- The letter writers and the mask makers
- The language tutors and community first responders
- The volunteers in the frontline who can always be relied on.

**Thanks to everyone in this wonderful county who put their hand up to volunteer, formally through a group or informally in their neighbourhood. You have made life better for so many people!**

If you would like to become a volunteer please contact [info@volunteerwicklow.ie](mailto:info@volunteerwicklow.ie), register online at [www.volunteerwicklow.ie](http://www.volunteerwicklow.ie) or call Yvonne on 085 862 1525 or Fiona on 086 325 8803



Open Door caters for adults with physical disabilities on a daily basis. Our modern, purpose built **Activity Centre** is situated on the Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

**Ph: 01 286 7123**

**E: [developmentofficer@opendoor.ie](mailto:developmentofficer@opendoor.ie)**

**[www.opendoor.ie](http://www.opendoor.ie)**







Cllr Grace McManus, John Brady TD, and Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien at the former Bray Courthouse

## Campaign seeks to bring the old Bray Courthouse into public ownership

**Wicklow's elected Sinn Féin members have launched a campaign to bring the old Courthouse on the Boghall Road in Bray into public ownership**

Speaking about the proposal John Brady TD said "The former courthouse which is situated on the Boghall Road closed in 2006, when court sittings and services were relocated to alternative accommodation leased by the Courts Service in Bray town centre. Since that time the former courthouse has remained vacant.

"Over the last number of years, I have consistently raised with the government and the Courts Service the future use of the building. Over that time I had been informed that the Courts Service were in the process of carrying out an assessment on the old courthouse. The existing courthouse in Bray town centre is operating at or near capacity, the Courts Service considered it prudent to assess whether the building on Boghall Road could have a role in the delivery of court services in the Bray area in the future.

"I have recently been informed by the Minister for Justice that the intention is to construct a new county town type courthouse facility in Bray. They have finished their assessment of the old courthouse and the current Boghall Road site is considered unsuitable for a county town type

courthouse in terms of size or location."

Deputy Brady went on to say "Now that it's clear, after 16 years, the old courthouse is surplus to the requirements of the Courts Service we need to ensure that it is put to use serving the community. I have worked with many community organisations and one of the biggest asks they have is for somewhere to operate from. The old courthouse is in excellent condition and would be ideal for so many community purposes. I have contacted the Minister for Justice and asked her to engage the Courts Service with a view of utilising the building for community use."

Cllr Grace McManus says: "When we look back over the last few months, I think most of us desperately missed our community spaces (clubs, hobbies and teams) when we couldn't have them, and we cherished them all the more when they resumed. There is a new found appreciation of how we connect with each other, and I believe Bray can harness that energy to transform this space for all of our benefit."

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien wants to open up a public conversation about the potential of the space to be transformed into an amenity that serves local groups in a dynamic and sustainable way. "The potential for this building is phenomenal and not only for what could be located in there but also for how it is run in a sustainable and energy efficient way."

## Funding approved for new ASD classroom in St Saviour's NS

**St. Saviour's National School in Rathdrum have received confirmation they now have the funding in place to create a new ASD classroom.**

The school has also been given the go ahead to build a new classroom for their fifth and sixth class students.

The school currently has three students who used their ASD facilities but when the new project is completed they will be able to accommodate six.

Work on the new classrooms is expected

to start later this year with the school hoping to have the project completed by the end of next year.

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has welcomed the announcement saying having the proper facilities in place for ASD students is absolutely vital.

He noted there are currently 55 ASD class-

es across Wicklow's schools.

"It's fantastic news to see St. Saviour's getting the funding they need to develop a state-of-the-art ASD facility for their school.

"It will allow them to effectively double the number of children they can comfortably cater for.

"This sort of invest-

ment will make an enormous difference to the lives of the children and their families who require these additional supports.

"I'm delighted to see the ASD facilities being developed at St. Saviour's but I will continue to work on getting more of them rolled out across the rest of the county."

# 66 units to be brought back into social housing stock

**The 2020 Voids Stimulus Programme will see up to 2,500 social housing units across the country refurbished and re-let to individuals and families, struggling with homelessness or on the social housing list, including 66 units in Co. Wicklow.**

A total of €810,000 has been allocated by the Department to Wicklow County Council for the refurbishment of 66 units. Applications are categorised into three funding streams; standard voids at an average cost of approximately €11,500, homeless voids at an average cost of €17,300 and long-term voids at an average cost of €47,000.

Commenting, The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD said, "I am very glad to see such an uptake in the scheme and at such a swift pace. The Department is now in a position to approve applications and Local Authorities such as Wicklow County

Council can get to work in bringing vacant social housing units back into use. I have made it very clear that I want to see works carried out and all units allocated by the end of this year and local authorities will be providing status updates to the Department.

"We know that COVID-19 has had an impact on housing delivery targets this year so the refurbishment and re-letting of voids is vitally important. I would urge Wicklow County Council to refurbish and re-let their units as soon as possible," he concluded.

Minister Simon Harris said, "There has been a fantastic response from local authorities to the 2020

Voids Stimulus Programme. Nationally 2,398 applications from Local Authorities across Ireland have been approved at a cost of 39.8 million, with further applications anticipated.

"I am delighted that Wicklow will be allocated funding of €810,000 to refurbish and re-let 66 social housing units, which will help individuals and families who are struggling with homelessness or who are on the social housing list.

"The Department is in a position to approve these applications and Wicklow County Council can now begin its work on making these vacant units available for individuals and families so they can start a new chapter in their

lives and make a home for themselves.

"The Government is helping local authorities and developers to plan and build better and more houses for people to live in, particularly during the current crisis.

"This includes providing social housing supports for people who cannot afford to provide a home for themselves and creating an environment that encourages builders to deliver houses for people who wish to buy their own home, Minister Harris said.

"I will continue to work with the Minister for Housing to ease housing constraints on families and individuals throughout our community," Minister Harris added.

## Jigsaw mental health service for Bray and West Wicklow

**Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has welcomed the expansion of the Jigsaw Mental Health Service to Bray and West Wicklow.**

The Jigsaw offices will offer a listening ear, and give expert advice and support to young people aged 12 - 25 years-old.

The service will also give families, teachers, and those who support young people's mental health ways to cope and skills to be there for them. Young people across the county will be able to access the service not only by making an appointment at the Bray office but also via video links and online.

The Bray office is expected to have seven full-time staff who will be fully trained mental health professionals with backgrounds

ranging from nursing, social work to occupational therapy.

Last year the service helped 30,000 young people across the country and is expected to deal with thousands of cases across Wicklow each year when it opens before Christmas.

Minister Donnelly said: "The work Jigsaw does is something I fully support and has never been more crucial.

"Our young people have had to endure a huge amount of stress not only with the rise of things like social media but in recent months as a result of the restrictions brought about by Covid.

"Jigsaw are able to offer young people a way of understanding how to look after their mental health.

"They will not just be in Bray but will be reaching out to the schools and sporting clubs across Wicklow to give talks and put on workshops.

"The work Jigsaw does can and will be life-changing for thousands of young people in the county.

"I would implore anyone who feels they might need counselling not to hesitate to reach out for help or at least to speak to a friend or a member of their family".



# Bray Area Partnership

## Autumn 2020 training programme

**Free online courses starting in October 2020**  
funded by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

**You need access to a smart phone, tablet or computer to take part in these online courses - if you don't have access to one, please do contact us and we can help.**

**Qualifying criteria apply – see [www.brayareapartnership.ie](http://www.brayareapartnership.ie) to find out more.**

### Introduction to Online Learning

Four-week online course (one hour a week).  
Learn the practical skills and technical know-how to take part in online learning, such as how to access online learning groups, take part in group chats, comment on learning threads and adjust your camera and audio settings.

### Kickstarting the Under-25 Workforce in the New COVID Normal

Six-week interactive online course (two sessions a week).  
For unemployed young people aged under 25.

- One-to-one consultation on your goals & training needs
- Personal Action Plan and goal-setting
- CV workshop
- Applying for jobs online
- Tips and techniques for online interviews
- Qualification in Microsoft Word

### Career Skills

Four-week online course (one session a week) if you're unemployed and looking to get back to work. Interactive group workshops with tutorials and practical exercises.

- CV preparation & application forms
- Interview techniques
- Skills match
- Career skills.

### Introduction to Parents Plus Parenting Adolescents

Short introductory taster session to help you decide if you want to do the full programme.

- Topics covered in the programme
- Understanding the teenage brain
- Tips to help you get started with positive parenting

### Conversational English classes

Ten-week online course.  
Conversational English classes for people from new communities: connect with people in your community and improve your spoken English.

### Yoga for Beginners

Six-week online course (one session a week).  
Breathing correctly, yoga poses and an introduction to meditation from the comfort of your own home. Suitable for all ages and bodies.

### Motivational Interviewing Introductory Course

Four-week accredited online course (one session a week) for staff in community groups.

Would you like to have the skills to help individuals you support in your service to move on and make positive change in their lives? Motivational Interviewing is a communication style that can help you to work with people to build motivation to change their behaviour and achieve their goals.

**To find out more call 01 286 8266 or see:**  
**[www.brayareapartnership.ie](http://www.brayareapartnership.ie)**

This training programme is funded by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is co-funded by the Government of Ireland, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.







Humanitarian Aid Agency, GOAL, has invited primary schools in Co. Wicklow to take part in its 2020 Changemakers Programme aimed at inspiring students to take action to create a more sustainable and fairer world. The programme is being launched ahead of Global Goals Week (September 18th - 26th). It is a call to action for world leaders, citizens, organizations and institutions to commit to using the next ten years to deliver all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Global Goals week coincides with the convening for the first time since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic of the United Nations General Assembly, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The Assembly will be doing a check-in on progress on achieving the SDG's. For more information on the Changemakers Programme visit [goalglobal.org/changemakers/](http://goalglobal.org/changemakers/). Details on Global Goals Week are at [globalgoalsweek.org](http://globalgoalsweek.org)

## Will you climb a hill for those who can't?

The Jack & Jill Children's Foundation is asking people to support local and donate local by going "Up the Hill for Jack & Jill" this October. Funds raised will go towards the home nursing care of Jack & Jill children around the country with highly complex medical and life-limiting conditions, including eight children in Wicklow.

The fundraiser is part of an SOS appeal underway to fill a €200,000 funding gap and to extend the age range of children supported by the charity from five to six years of age. Jack & Jill's frontline home nursing care and end-of-life care is more important than ever, given the lack of respite options in the community for the extra-special children it supports.

"Up the Hill for Jack & Jill" will be very different this October compared with previous years. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, there are no big hill events being organised. Instead, participants must keep their challenge small, safe and local. People can

walk, skip, jog, cycle or climb their chosen hill. Some are even opting to climb the stairs and count their steps at work throughout the month - the most important thing is to observe public health advice at all times.

People can register today at [www.jackandjill.ie](http://www.jackandjill.ie) for €16 which funds one hour of home nursing care and end-of-life care. No sponsorship card is required.

Community Reach Across the country, Jack & Jill mobilises a crew of 700 nurses and carers to support parents who are looking after their children at home right around the clock.

Jack & Jill support is not just for a week or a weekend, but a vital and ongoing connection throughout the child's early years, with the charity providing an average of 40 hours' support a month to 362 children nationwide, increasing to 80 hours for end-of-life support. This encompasses a range of tasks as per the child's unique needs, and may include peg feeding, monitoring of vital signs and medication management. The service operates seven days a week, with no waiting list.

For Fiona Callaghan, Jack & Jill Specialist Children's Liaison Nurse for Wicklow, every €16 raised will make a real difference to the family of a child being cared for: "Every day our families have their own hill to climb at home. With 'Up the Hill for Jack & Jill', we are asking people to physically climb a hill in solidarity with those who can't. It's about neighbour helping neighbour, friend helping friend and that community support really means so much to our families and our nurses. It's very simple to get involved this year, and the hill you climb can be whatever you want it to be - a gentle slope, a mountain peak, or a simple walk with a friend. We are determined that this is one fundraising event that COVID-19 won't flatten!"

"Every person taking part contributes the cost of one hour of home nursing care. That one hour, along with all the other hours fundraised, makes a huge difference to the lives of the local families who receive ongoing support from Jack & Jill nurses."

Carmel Doyle, CEO of the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation, adds: "As a charity, we need a big push up our fundraising hill in 2020 and beyond. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we are determined to extend the age range of children we support from birth to six years of age, up from five years of age currently. We have started to roll this out by way of a pilot scheme and are committed to continuing this into 2021. Our families rely on our support now more than ever. So, we are asking people to support local and donate local and to help us climb this hill together." For more information on the work of the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation, visit [www.jackandjill.ie](http://www.jackandjill.ie).



Pictured at the Great Sugar Loaf, Kilmacanogue, is Fiona Callaghan, Specialist Children's Liaison Nurse for Wicklow, Jack & Jill Children's Foundation

## Wicklow groups urged to apply for Comic Relief support

A call to action is being made to Wicklow community and charity groups to apply for support from the €6m funding raised during 'RTE Does Comic Relief' before a 30th September deadline.

Wicklow groups working with the most vulnerable people during the Covid-19 pandemic are being invited to apply for support with grants ranging from €3,000 to €100,000. The distribution of funding is being managed by The Community Foundation for Ireland and has drawn strong interest from across the country.

Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation, Denise Charlton, is welcoming the level of interest to date but says it is timely now to issue a reminder to groups in

Wicklow ahead of the deadline. Our message is it is not too late. "Covid-19 has pushed many charities and community organisations to their limit, with a huge demand for services and supports coming at a time when funding is being challenged. The impact has been felt across Wicklow, in rural and urban areas, across all age groups and by people who were already responding to challenges in their lives. RTE Does Comic Relief saw the country come together in solidarity to respond to the needs of

the vulnerable. The result is an extraordinary €6m which the team at The Community Foundation for Ireland working hard to get to groups in Wicklow and across the country.

"Since we opened invitations in early August we have seen very strong interest across the two strands of support available. Under 'Demand for Digital' groups can seek support for investment in software and hardware to improve their ability to continue to work while keeping their staff, volunteers and people they sup-

port safe. An 'Adapt and Respond' strand will allow groups to seek funding to ensure their work remains effective and continues to deliver for those who need support. Those Wicklow groups who have yet to commence applications are reminded that the deadline is 30th September. We are welcoming applications from Wicklow groups of all sizes which are supporting people during Covid-19. Full details of how to apply are available on our website [www.communityfoundation.ie](http://www.communityfoundation.ie)."

## International Daisy Award presented to Saint Joseph's Shankill

On Friday 11th September, Saint Joseph's Shankill was awarded the International Daisy Award for excellence in nursing care during Covid 19 by the Lang Family.

Having recently lost their Mother just before Covid 19, the Lang family (Deirdre, David, Colin and Fiona) found lockdown emotionally very difficult, this was exacerbated by the fact they were unable to visit their Father, Paul Lang, in his home at Saint Joseph's.

Paul has dementia and has been living at Saint Joseph's for the last couple of years. He lives in Carrigeen lodge at Saint Joseph's, one of 6 lodges where people at the same stage of dementia live together so they can enjoy the best quality of life their illness can afford.

The team in Carrigeen Lodge were exceptional not only in their care of Paul but also in their compassion in dealing with the family while they were grieving the loss of their mother.

The family wanted to express their gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful care Paul received, so they nominated the Carrigeen team at Saint Joseph's for the Daisy Award, an international award that recognises above and beyond compassionate care delivered by nurses and care staff.

The staff were awarded a bespoke Daisy award and each member of Carrigeen lodge received a certificate of appreciation, presented to them by Deirdre, Fiona and David Lang at a socially distanced gathering last Friday.

Colin Lang, a musician based in Germany could not attend the award ceremony, but he composed a song especially for the staff called "The beauty of what you do" which was

played to the team on the day.

Deirdre gave an emotional address on the day saying, 'no gift or words of thanks could express how much the care you gave to our dad meant to us as a family. The Daisy Foundation Award is presented to care givers who go beyond the call of duty, you have given us peace in our hearts in a tragic time of our lives, you are all just magnificent. Thank you for caring for our father and everyone who lives at Saint Joseph's.'

Norma Sheehan, Director of Nursing at Saint Joseph's Shankill, accepted the award on behalf of the team and thanked the family for this wonderful accolade which recognises the very special person centred dementia care given to all 62 residents at Saint Joseph's.



Director of Nursing, Norma Sheehan, with Deirdre and Fiona Lang, and Sarah Kuntz



# 'Glendalough: Power, Prayer and Pilgrimage' opens at the National Museum of Ireland

The history of one of Ireland's best-known medieval monastic sites is explored in a new exhibition which opened at the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology last week. 'Glendalough: Power, Prayer and Pilgrimage' features 24 objects, spanning a period of 1,200 years - all of which are being exhibited for the first time.

Since it was founded by St Kevin in the late 6th century, Glendalough has been a place where people have retreated to seek isolation and healing, making the timing of this as the first new exhibition to open at the National Museum of Ireland since Covid-19 arrived - causing widespread acts of self-

isolation on a global level - particularly pertinent.

The iconic relics, forests, mountains and valleys at Glendalough are home to a rich history, and considered to be a place of healing; pilgrimage was one of the few reasons that medieval Irish would have travelled any great distance from home and

Glendalough was comparable to visiting Rome for the forgiveness of sins. It was also a stronghold of Gaelic Irish families which made it the scene of a massive political struggle, akin to 'Game of Thrones'.

Many of the objects on display were discovered as part of UCD-led research

archaeological excavations undertaken at Glendalough since the 1950s, and others through discoveries by members of the public or by donation. Collectively, they come together to tell the story of the area down through the ages.

A bronze coated iron hand-bell, dated to the 8th/9th century AD, found at a site near Glendalough and recently donated to the National Museum of Ireland by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland Diarmuid Martin on behalf of the diocese, is just one object on display illustrative of the significance placed on particular objects by worshipping pilgrims and clerics. Ironworking evidence from Glendalough suggests that this bell may well have been made at the monastery. Ireland is home to the largest number of handbells in the world, and while hand bells were used to mark regular times for work and prayer, historical sources tell us they were used for banishing evil and cursing people.

Exotic objects from distant places reveal the



Pictured at the launch of 'Glendalough: Power, Prayer and Pilgrimage', the first new exhibition to open at the National Museum of Ireland since Covid-19, is Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport, and the Gaeltacht, Catherine Martin TD, and Catherine Heaney, Chair of the National Museum of Ireland, looking at a late 10th/early 11th century bell. The earliest in Ireland, which was suspended for rope-ringing in a belfry at St. Kevin's Church. It is thought to have been imported from England or north-western Europe.



Deirdre Geraghty at the 'Glendalough: Power, Prayer and Pilgrimage' exhibition

lure of Glendalough, including a tiny cross made of jet originating in north-eastern England discovered in 2017 and thought to have been worn by a pilgrim as a mark of private devotion, which is considered a rare find in an Irish medieval context; and a fragment of a porphyry tile, a stone quarried in the eastern Mediterranean, which was recovered during the excavation of one of the most remote sites in the Glendalough valley in 1958 and is thought to have been taken from a building in Rome or from a Roman building in Europe and carried back to Glendalough by a cleric and used as a mark of authority. A late 10th / early 11th century bell, the earliest in Ireland, which was suspended for rope-ringing in a belfry at St Kevin's Church, is thought to have been

imported from England or north-western Europe.

The exhibition also features items such as a shoe from the 10th century which belonged to a pilgrim and which was lost in a bog until it was found by a passer-by and reported to the National Museum of Ireland over a thousand years later; silver coins found as part of a hoard in the 1980s; decorated cloak pins and pottery; and also early railway travel posters and souvenir ceramics from when it became an important tourism destination.

Chair of the National Museum of Ireland Catherine Heaney said, "So many themes in this exhibition resonate with the times we are living through - isolation, reflection, faith, and the healing qualities of the countryside. Collectively we can take comfort from the endurance of these

objects, and of our resilience as a nation through difficult times, past and present."

Director of the National Museum of Ireland, Lynn Scarff said; "This exhibition demonstrates so clearly the connections between our material, natural and cultural heritage and how all these elements are intertwined. One of the few positives of the COVID 19 lockdown period was that people got to explore their immediate environment within 2k of their home and the heritage - be it built or natural on their doorstep. We hope this exhibition shines a light on a very special place in Ireland. We have put a range of measures in place in all our four sites to ensure that people can enjoy a safe and comfortable visit, and the feedback from visitors has been very positive."

The curator of

'Glendalough: Power, Prayer and Pilgrimage' is Matthew Seaver. He is also the Assistant Keeper at the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology and, in the past, worked on the UCD-led archaeological excavation of Glendalough. He said; "Local historical and archaeological groups, Wicklow County Council, the National Museum of Ireland, The National Monuments Service, The National Parks and Wildlife Service, The OPW, UCD and The Discovery Programme have collaborated successfully down through the years on the interpretation of the heritage resources at Glendalough. It is through their collective efforts that this exhibition has been made possible and we are grateful to them all for their commitment to conserving the history of this special place."

## Wicklow history lovers can tune in online to Dublin Festival of History

Wicklow history lovers are encouraged to tune in online to Dublin Festival of History, as the festival goes online for the first time in 2020. The festival, an initiative of Dublin City Council, continues until Sunday, 4th October, with all events free to attend.

Now in its eighth year, the festival is taking place largely online as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, but will still play host to an international and domestic line up of speakers and panels. The festival will shine a light and fresh perspective on topics such as the construction of the notion of race, Ireland's last great pandemic and the history of Ireland's partition.

Some of the highlights from the 2020 programme include: Croke Park on Bloody Sunday: An account of the events that took place on the afternoon of Sunday, 21 November 1920 in Croke Park when fourteen people lost their lives; Twilight of Democracy: The Failure of Politics and the Parting of Friends with Anne Applebaum.

Anne will pose and explore the question of why so many of those

who won the battles for democracy or have spent their lives proclaiming its values are now succumbing to liars, thugs and crooks on both sides of the Atlantic; Dead Famous: An Unexpected History of Celebrity from Bronze Age to Silver Screen with Greg Jenner in conversation with Anna Carey. The history of 'celebrity' spanning from the Bronze Age to Hollywood's Golden Age, this discussion assembles a vibrant cast of over 125 actors, singers, dancers, sportspeople, freaks, demigods, ruffians, and more, in search of celebrity's historical roots. Stacking the coffins: Influenza, war and revolution in Ireland, 1918-19 with Ida Milne in conversation with Sarah-Anne Buckley. The 1918-19 influenza epidemic killed more than 50 million people, and infected between

one fifth and half of the world's population. Like COVID-19 there was no preventative vaccine for the virus. In this work, Ida Milne tells how it impacted on Ireland, during a time of war and revolution.

Speaking at the launch of the festival was Dublin City Librarian Mairead Owens, who said: "Previously, people from around Ireland might have had to travel to Dublin for one day, or two. Now they can join the festival from the comfort of their own home, for as many events as they wish. Our own home-grown historians can also share their incredible historical research with people from anywhere in the world."

All events are free, but booking is required. For the full programme of events, and to book, please visit: [www.dublinfestival-ofhistory.ie](http://www.dublinfestival-ofhistory.ie).



Pictured at the launch of the Festival of History were Lord Mayor of Dublin, Hazel Chu, Elizabethanne Boran, Librarian at the Edward Worth Library, and Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian.





With much of Culture Night now off the streets and online only, some 1,000 children in Deis schools, direct provision centres and family hubs across the country got a surprise package from the Arts Council: A real book! Pictured (l-r) are Elaina Ryan, CEO Childrens Books Ireland; Melatu-Uche Okorie, Arts Council board member; and Arts Council Director Maureen Kennelly

## New books for dozens of Wicklow children

Children in Glenealy 1 National School have received a gift package of new books by leading Irish authors as part of an Arts Council initiative to ensure that as many people as possible could experience Culture Night on 18th September.

Encouraging all parents to participate with their children, the government agency for funding and developing the arts, has partnered with Children's Books Ireland to publish a special guide to 100 of the best Irish books for children. The Books Make Things Better reading guide was distributed free of charge through bookshops and libraries, or could be downloaded on the Internet.

"This is the first year that the Arts Council has taken on the stewardship of Culture Night, and it's a year of extraordinary challenges, not least for artists and the entire arts sector," said Arts Council Director Maureen Kennelly.

We believe passionately that the arts are for every single person in Ireland, and that is at the heart of the Equality, Human Rights and Diversity policy we launched last year. That's why we have invested in broadening and diversifying audiences and participation in Culture Night."

She said that because of the ongoing Covid-19 public health restrictions much of Culture Night would be virtual this year, but more than 1,000 real books would nonetheless be delivered to families around the country to promote the joy of opening and reading a book.

The accompanying reading guide, with a specially commissioned illustrated cover by Oliver Jeffers, featuring the best of new Irish publications for families and young people will also wing its ways to libraries and book shops.

The Culture Night 'trailblazers' this year represented the diversity of contemporary Irish artists, Fehdah, Mark Smith, Michael Gallen, Matthew Gardiner, Úna-Minh Kavanagh and international trailblazer Maev Higgins, now based in New York, highlighted the international interest in Culture Night this year through the online aspects of the programme.

## The 'peculiar theories' of James Fintan Lalor

In 1847 and 1848 a little-known farmer named James Fintan Lalor wrote a series of newspaper articles in which he outlined his vision for Ireland after the Great Famine. Although they have been reprinted and republished many times since, until now there has been no systematic study of the principles and proposals that Lalor expounded.

In this book, Shankill author James P. Bruce considers Lalor's brief career as a writer and offers new insights into his treatment of the national and land questions. By elucidating Lalor's ideas on these questions, exploring possible influences on his thinking, and assessing the impact of his writings on his contemporaries, the author seeks to address what he regards as two deficiencies in the historiography. The first of these is the tendency to assign only a minor, supporting role to Lalor during the brief heyday of Young Ireland. Academic studies typically portray him as little more than a catalyst in the radicalisation of figures like John Mitchell, rather than as a profoundly original thinker in his own right. The second issue is the commonly held perception of Lalor's proposals on land tenure as foreshadowing the creation of a "peasant proprietary" later in the century.

The author argues that Lalor advocated a much more radical plan



that would link his two primary objectives: the creation of a sovereign Irish republic, and transfer of control over landholding from a small number of landlords to the entire Irish people. By comparing and contrasting Lalor's theories with those of earlier figures such as Thomas Paine and James 'Bronterre' O'Brien, this ground-breaking book broadens the perspective on Lalor and his writings beyond the context of Irish nationalism.

As the author concludes, Lalor's unique contribution to Irish radical thought merits a more prominent place in nineteenth-century intellectual history than it has hitherto received.

James P. Bruce spent the greater part of his adult life in banking, before setting up his own marketing consultancy in 1997. Ten years later he published his first book, 'Faithful Servant: A Memoir of Brian Cleeve.' Researching the book involved many hours in libraries and archives. Stimulated by this experience he enrolled as a mature student at Trinity College Dublin in 2008. He graduated with a BA in History and later moved to University College Dublin, where he completed an MA in the History of Religion and Society. In 2019 he was awarded an MLitt by the University of Oxford. He continues to write for both general and academic audiences and currently hosts a podcast series entitled 'Talk About Ireland.'

# Lucia & Maria at Whale Theatre

Violin virtuose duo Lucia Mac Partlin and Maria Ryan will return to the Whale Theatre on September 25th, to present you with their amazing new duo 'Lucia and Maria'.

The pair met while studying in Cork, where they also formed contemporary Traditional Irish quartet Strung. In their compositions and arrangements they combine their traditional, classical and folk influences to stunning effect. The duo completed their Masters' at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden before returning home to Ireland to record their debut album 'Live at the Chapel'. Lucia and Maria will perform a concert of new music this time, their aim to forever push the boundaries of fiddle music and enthral audiences worldwide.

Lucia Mac Partlin from Ballina, Co Tipperary began playing the fiddle at the age of four. While she first started off playing classical music, she quickly began to develop an interest and a love for traditional Irish music and has since become an accomplished player in many different genres. She is the winner of many national titles, including the Fiddler of Donny, the International Pan Celtic title and has numerous All Ireland titles from Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann. Lucia completed her BMus degree at the

Cork School of Music where she studied under Gregory Ellis and Johnny McCarthy. She also Completed her MA in performance at both the Bork School of Music and the University of Gothenburg in Sweden where she undertook to learn some Swedish Folk music. Lucia has performed around the world with many different ensembles and orchestras including The Ulster Orchestra, The University of Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Backfall, Suptrio and Atlas. Lucia performs on an Ian Knepper violin, supported by Music Network's Musical Capital Scheme, funded by The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Music Network is funded by The Arts Council.

Maria Ryan is a violinist from Pallasgreen, County Limerick. In 2015 she graduated with a first class honors BMus Degree from CIT Cork School of Music and has recently completed the second year of CSM's Masters in Performance whilst an Erasmus in Gothenburg, studying with Oyver Volle. Maria won the Senior Concerto Competition in her final



Lucia Mac Partlin and Maria Ryan

year of studies in Cork School of Music and performed as soloist with the Cork School of Music Orchestra and the University of Limerick Orchestra. She studied with Elizabeth Charleson in CIT Cork School of Music and previously with Eileen Hudson and Simon Dalton in Limerick School of Music. A versatile musician, Maria has travelled extensively performing Irish Tradition Music, Jazz and Bluegrass. Maria has

also toured with Ireland's leading contemporary orchestra "The Crash Ensemble". She performs on a Claude Lebet violin, supported by Music Network's Music Capital Scheme, funded by The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Friday 25th September at 8.00pm (Doors 7.30pm) Tickets €20/€18. See [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550.

## An evening with the Degani Piano Trio

The Degani Piano Trio is an established Irish piano trio of distinguished musicians. They have recorded albums in recent years of repertoire including Haydn, Dvorák, Chopin, Brahms and Piazzolla.

They are renowned for their insightful and joyful interpretations of the classics. Most recently they completed a 'Words and Music' three concert series of Beethoven's Piano Trios in the National Concert Hall's Chamber Music Series 2020 collaborating with Barry McGovern in narration of excerpts of Beethoven's letters.

Alan is founder and director of the Degani Ensemble and Leader of the Cork Opera House Concert Orchestra for the 2020/21 season. For 20 years till 2013 he was Leader of the RTÉ NSO, and for 10 years prior to that Leader of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra. He is a guest leader of the Ulster Orchestra and is a frequent concerto soloist. He is a great exponent of Irish contemporary music and has recorded concertos by Raymond Deane, Frank Corcoran, James Wilson and Jerome de Bromhead. Alan plays on a superb Venetian violin made by Eugenio Degani in 1896

Annette is a prizewinner of international competitions in Europe and the U.S. and has performed as soloist with many orchestras in Ireland and Germany. She has undertaken five recital tours of Japan and played at major arts festivals in Ireland. Annette is guest principal with orchestras in Ireland and the U.K. and a noted baroque cello specialist. [www.annettecleary.com](http://www.annettecleary.com)

Rachel has performed numerous concertos by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Prokofiev, Cesar Frank, Liszt, Litoff, Turina, Cesar Franck and Finzi with orchestras such as the National Symphony Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Irish Chamber Orchestra and the West Bohemian Orchestra in the Czech Republic. She has appeared in solo recital programmes at arts centers, throughout Ireland, and abroad in Japan, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Austria and Great Britain. In addition, she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to the Peabody Conservatory in the USA and was a Foundation Scholar at the Royal College of Music London. Rachel is a noted teacher, chamber musician, and accompanist. [www.rachelquinnpiano.com](http://www.rachelquinnpiano.com)

Saturday 26th September at 8.00pm (Doors 7.30pm) Tickets €25/€20. See [www.whaletheatre.ie](http://www.whaletheatre.ie) or call the booking office on 01 2010550





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## Superb new Land Rover Defender a very distant cousin to the original

"Necessity is the mother of invention" goes the adage and this was certainly true of post World War 2 Britain, as it tried to overcome the enormous cost of the war and loss of an empire.

By Martin McCarthy

Britain was in desperate need of foreign earnings, so anything that could earn money abroad was heavily encouraged by the government and the companies who were interested in staying alive.

Late 1940s and 1950s England produced some of the best cars on the planet - the Jaguar E-type, Austin Healey 3000, and others - but led in 1948, by the Land Rover. It wasn't called Defender then - that came later - but this cheap, rough, tough, 4x4 - an almost direct copy of the US Army's Willys Jeep - was a hit in the colonies of the declining empire and on the farms of the commonwealth.

The millionth unit was built in 1971 and perhaps it was because it was the favourite transport of Queen Elizabeth II, Defender of the Faith, that it got its name.

There is still a cult following for the old-style Defender and collectors pay immense amounts for some versions. In 2015 Land Rover (and the market) had decided that the old workhorse had had its

day and earnestly began work on a totally new, vastly more refined, 4x4 - but the Defender name was just too good to abandon.

The new Defender arrived in Ireland in June this year, slap bang in the middle of Covid 19 - but despite the pandemic, sales have been strong. There are examples at Derek Burton Spirit Kilquade and Paddy Connolly, Glen of the Downs, but they don't stay on display long before they are gone.

This is one of the best new car designs to appear in the last decade - keeping some echoes of the out-back past but so quiet, refined and beautifully detailed inside and out and at a price well below the Range Rover, while being right sized for Wicklow roads and parking spaces, makes it a compelling option for modernists.

Every detail of the exterior design has been creatively developed, with input from Irish engineers at its Shannon design base, to re-enforce Defender's DNA: sophisticated, durable and extremely tough, a vehicle design like no other.

The new Defender is available in perfectly proportioned 90 and 110 body designs, with six models available; Defender, S, SE, HSE, Defender X and First Edition, with practical commercial models joining the line-up now.

Irish prices start from €68,160 for the five door Defender 110 2.0 SD4 AWD Auto model. The Defender 90 will start from €59,410.

# Employers urged to avail of new Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has encouraged Wicklow employers to register for the new Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) which replaced the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme on 1st September.

Minister Harris said: "The EWSS is the centrepiece of the Government's July Jobs Stimulus. I would like to encourage all employers and businesses across Wicklow who believe that they will continue to experience a significant decline in their level of turnover or customer orders as a result of the pandemic to avail of it.

"The EWSS has been designed with the needs of employers and businesses at its heart and is simple to qualify for, straightforward to operate and broad in its availability.

"It is also important to

note that employers will continue to pay PRSI at the very significantly reduced rate of 0.5% for jobs that are supported by the subsidy."

Minister Harris continued: "Since March over €2.7 billion of support has been given to over 69,500 employers via the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS), covering over 600,000 workers. The EWSS will replace the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme from the 1st of September. Both schemes have run in parallel from July 31st until

the TWSS concludes at the end of August to provide additional flexibility to employers with new hires and seasonal workers who were not previously eligible to be paid via TWSS and who may now qualify for EWSS.

"The primary qualifying criteria for the EWSS is that the employer must be able to demonstrate that in the majority of cases, they are operating at no more than 70% in either the turnover of the employer's business or the customer orders received by the employer by reference to the peri-

od from July to December 2020 compared with the same period in 2019."

The EWSS is intended to provide employers and businesses with a high degree of certainty that this Government will continue to support them through the uncertain period ahead for the economy and put them in a position to retain key staff and ensure viability so that they are in a strong position as the economy recovers.

The level of subsidy the employer will receive is per paid employee.

## Wicklow's Blas na hÉireann finalists announced

The team at Blas na hÉireann have been working tirelessly since March to ensure that Blas 2020 goes ahead, maintaining their commitment to celebrating the very best in Irish food and drink. Chairperson, Artie Clifford feels that now, more than ever it is essential to shine a spotlight and give that all important clap on the back to the talented producers dotted around the island.

The finalists shortlisted from Wicklow across a range of different categories are Ballyhubbock Farm, Dun Luain Foods Ltd, T/A Wilsons of West Wicklow, Jamshack, Miena's, Rhoda Cocoa, Ridgeway Farm Production Ltd., The Butler's Pantry, The Chocolate Garden of Ireland, The Happy Pear, Wicklow Farmhouse Cheese Ltd. and Wicklow Way Wines.

After the initial first round of judging, the top scoring products from a number of categories went through a second round of tasting, both in Dingle and at satellite venues across the country. In conjunction with UCC these results were studied and the findings showed that the results based on two entirely separate panels returned the exact same rankings.

Therefore, these results will be used to determine the winners of Blas na hÉireann 2020 as the difficult decision has been made to cancel the weekend of events in Dingle in October. Due to the success of the digital Backyard in April, there will be a series of Backyard panels online this year. The awards will be announced over the course of the day on October 3rd on the Blas website and across social media channels.

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# SHOULD I WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR TO GO TO COLLEGE?

As details of their schools' estimated grades come through as opposed to their final calculated grades, students are feeling that they have got a raw deal by the system designed to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic. Stories of some teacher estimated grades being downgraded by up to 50 points have left students feeling frustrated and bewildered.

Leaving Certificate results are almost 5% higher this year. However, overall points are up by about 75% for honours degree courses. Many courses recorded average point's increases of between 20 and 30 points across a broad range of courses with some seeing 80-point hikes.

So, what are the options now? Rather than taking their CAO second or third choices, students should consider taking the year out, doing a further education course in their area of interest and then applying next year through the CAO system. The result of this would be as follows according to Gabriel Allen, Deputy Principal of Bray Institute of Further Education:

1. The leaving certificate results will probably fall back to levels of previous years (5% less) giving this year's leaving certificate students an advantage.

2. CAO points required for courses should, in the same way, drop back to previous year norms.

3. Students have the opportunity to repeat their full leaving certificate or repeat a number of subjects in November and combining these results with the calculated results thus giving them the opportunity of increasing their CAO points.

4. By doing a PLC course in their area of interest, students will be more University ready for their course, and will be at fault with the assessment system in use in universities.

5. Doing a PLC level six course offers students the opportunity to apply for advanced entry to the second year of an honours degree course in a number of Institutes of Technologies.

6. Students will not lose out on the "University Experience". University life

is meant to be fun! The transitional phase from secondary school to starting a degree can be one of the most exciting times for many students who are eager to break away from their tight-knit group of secondary school friends and immerse themselves in the university culture.

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

more."

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

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

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

Bray Institute will offer a number of new courses in September '20:

- Construction & Joinery Level 5
- Jewellery Making Level 5

- Pharmacy Assistant Level 5
  - Sports Injury & Soft Tissue Massage Therapy Level 5
  - Canine Husbandry Level 5
  - Animal Care - Start your own business Level 6
  - Equine Studies Level 5
  - Applied Ecology & Biodiversity Studies Level 5
  - Tour Guiding Level 6
- All of the above courses will offer progression routes to higher education.

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

Applications for September 2020 Courses are now open. Apply online at [www.bife.ie](http://www.bife.ie) or call the Institute any day during office hours on 01-2829668 for further information.



BIFE staff and students enjoying the weather in one of BIFE's internal gardens

## RECRUITMENT



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## • PLANNING •

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Tom Murphy, intend to apply for permission for development at Friar House, Friar Hill, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of an agricultural shed and associated site works. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

S K Design (0402 94680) seeks full Planning Permission on behalf of M. Smith Haulage And Sons Ltd for land improvement works consisting of the importation and depositing of inert subsoil / topsoil for land profiling and contouring of agricultural land and also temporary access roadway and associated works at Kilpipe, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

## Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time; the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' they said; 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old'.

C.J.

## CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

CALL: 01 2869111 EMAIL: [jennie@localtimes.ie](mailto:jennie@localtimes.ie)  
PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS  
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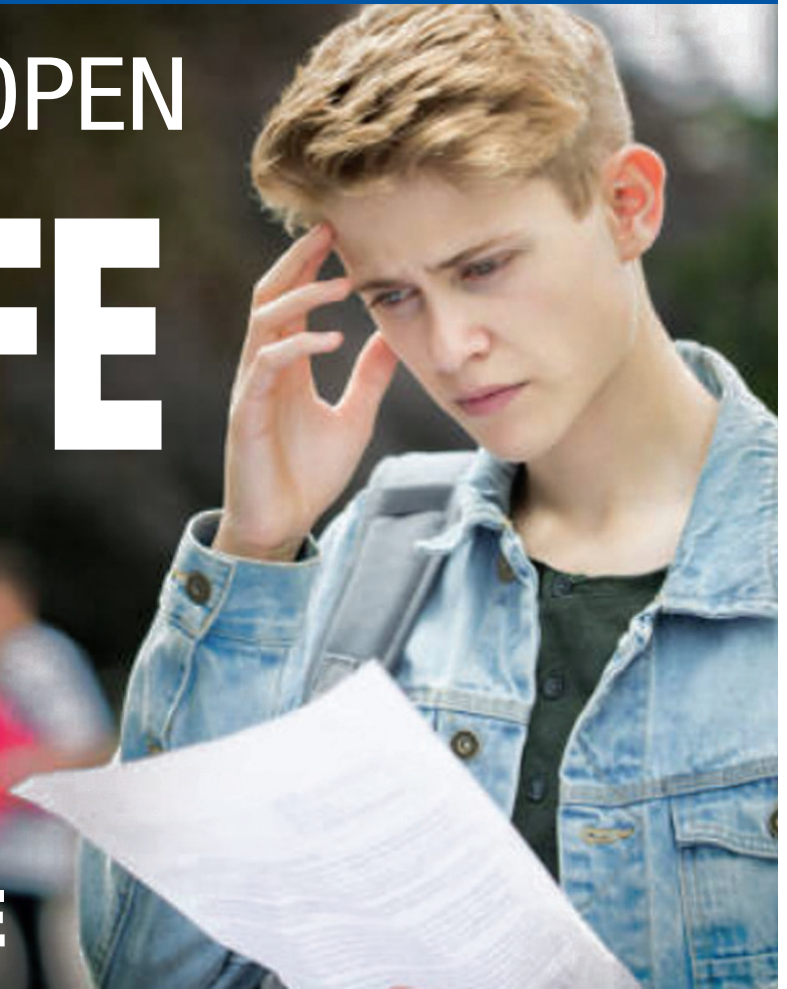


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 Companion Animal Science - Start Your Own Business  
 Equine Studies  
 Science - Pre University  
 Dietetics, Nutrition & Food Science  
 Forensics - Applied Science  
 Engineering Pre-University  
 Computer Science Level 5  
 Computer Networks & Cyber Security Level 6  
 Teacher Training & Education Pre-University

**NEW**

**NEW**

**NEW**

**NEW**

## BUSINESS

Business Management & Administration  
 Business Management - Advanced Cert  
 Accounting Technician  
 Business Tourism & Event Management  
 Legal Administration  
 IT & Office Administration  
 Medical Administration  
 Security Studies  
 Estate Agency Practice & Auctioneering

## ADULT LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Adult Leaving Certificate

## NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

Nursing / Midwifery Studies  
 Occupational Therapy Assistant  
 Pharmacy & Retail Selling  
 Pharmacy Assistant  
 Pharmacy Technician

**NEW**

**NEW**

## ACTING & DANCE

Acting for Theatre & Film  
 Acting-Advanced for Stage & Screen  
 Dance Technique, Performance & Chor. ND  
 Dance Technique, Performance & Chor. HND

## FILM

TV & Film Production  
 TV & Film (Moving Image) HND

## TOURISM & HOSPITALITY

Tourism, Reception & Event Management  
 Restaurant & Bar Management  
 Professional Cookery  
 Professional Cookery Advanced

**NEW**

**DEGREE,  
 DIPLOMA AND  
 CERTIFICATE  
 PROGRAMMES  
 FOR 2020 - 2021**

