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Tuesday 29th September 2020

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



DEER PERMITS
page 8



RNLI RESCUE
page 10



CALENDAR FUNDRAISER
page 11

'NO FLOGGING OF DEAD HORSE'

LPT GOING BACK TO THE BASE RATE

Councillors last week voted to cut the Local Property Tax back to the base rate, and not retain the 10% increase they implemented last year. The decision went against the wishes of council officials, and will reduce Wicklow's 2021 budget by €1.7 million, down to €12m.

The proposal to bring the LPT back to the base rate was put forward by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald (FF) and seconded by Cllr Shay Cullen (FG). It passed by a vote of 24 to 7, which meant that alternative proposals from councillors Tom Fortune (Ind) and Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien (SF), to reduce the LPT by 15% were not put to a vote.

Also seeking to reduce the LPT further were councillors Joe Behan (Ind), Mags Crean (Ind),

Grace McManus (SF), Gerry O'Neill (Ind), and John Snell (Ind). A full 15% reduction below the base rate would have reduced the Council's budget by 4.3m.

"The LPT is flawed and totally unfair, but we can't change it," said Cllr Shay Cullen (FG). "The people who have the power to change it choose not to. There is an onus on us to ensure that we have a budget that won't cut services".

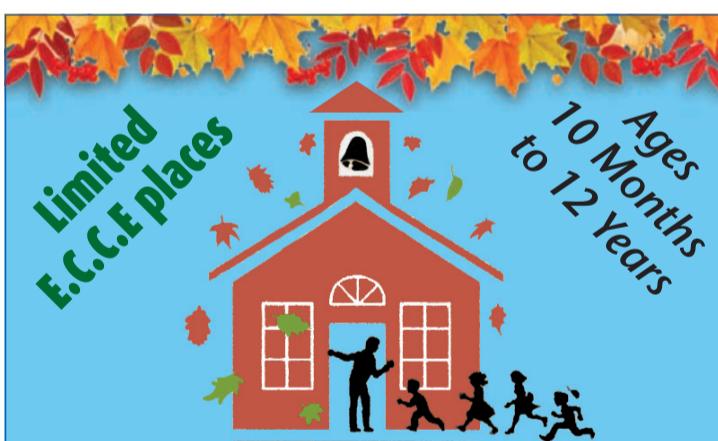
Last year, councillors voted to raise the LPT by 10% from the base level, on the understanding that it would be a once-off increase for just one year. Many councillors expressed the view last week that they could not renege on this, despite the unforeseen financial situation the council now finds itself in as a result of Covid-19.

The nineteen other Local Authorities which voted to increase the LPT last year, have voted to retain the increase for 2021.

In his remarks last



Caithlin Hughes and Maire Deegan from Carnew Junior Camogie team celebrate winning the Junior Camogie Championship after beating Ballinacor in Arklow. Pic: Michael Kelly



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week, the council's Head of Finance, Brian Gleeson described the LPT as "the one guaranteed source of funding not impacted by Covid". He warned that lowering the LPT would "undermine the Council's case when we go to the Department looking for more money, saying that we are underfunded".

"Local democracy is being undermined," responded Cllr John Mullen (FF), who was one of many councillors to complain about the 4,000-plus properties built in Wicklow since 2013 that remain exempt from the LPT.

Cllr Tom Fortune said "This is a grossly unfair tax. There are pensioners in my district who can't afford to heat their homes. This is being imposed on us by the Government and is not

the fault of council officials, but it's not justifiable to increase the LPT by any amount."

"It is ridiculous that houses built since 2013 don't pay any LPT," said Cllr Derek Mitchell (FG). He also said that he supports the LPT in principle because it helps to fund local services, however he would not support retaining the 10% increase because "the money is not allocated fairly".

Speaking after the meeting Cllr Mags Crean explained "I would have welcomed the opportunity to support an alternative motion to decrease the LPT at a time when households are facing growing economic insecurity. However, I am grateful that at least it was not increased."

Continued on page 3

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Michael Mordaunt, Mary Walsh, and Fiona Redmond with Fr. Michael Murtagh at the Arklow Rock Walk in aid of Fr. Michael's Indian charity and the Arklow RNLI

Brockagh Resource Centre

Check out the regular classes and activities on offer on www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie/events, Drop into the Brockagh Centre for a timetable or phone 0404 45600. If you want to make a booking for an indoor space or outdoor event in the spacious car park, with easy access to the Wicklow Way Trail or Glendalough, email brockaghresourcecentre@gmail.com for a quote. Brockagh Resource Centre is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all workers and customers.

Free five-week sustainable gardening course

This course, sponsored by Bray Municipal District, is purpose built for teachers and community groups to learn about planting for pollinators, sustainable living, wildflower areas, vegetable growing and much more. You need to be a teacher, member of a community group, residential association or Tidy Towns group to get a free place on the course.

The course will be held over five Sundays in the grounds of Presentation College Bray. It will be held in strict accordance with all current Covid guidelines and as such numbers will be very limited so early booking is advised.

The dates will be October 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and November 1st. There will be two time slots, 9:30am to 10:30am and 10:45 to 11:45. Participants must attend the same slot each week and be available for the full five weeks to qualify for a place.

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Volunteers wanted for ALZPALS

Wicklow Dementia Support is seeking volunteers for ALZPALS, the befriending service which supports people with dementia who are living at home. Full and free training is provided with Garda vetting, reference checks, support and ongoing mentoring. If you have a couple of hours a week to spare, please contact Wicklow Dementia Support on 089 4286928, or email info@wicklowdementiasupport.org.

Mobile Library

Wicklow County Council mobile library has returned. With the following dates, 24th Sept, 8th Oct and 22nd of Oct, located at the back of Lynhams Hotel car park. Free access to online databases including e-books, languages, magazines, downloadable audio books, newspapers from across the world etc. To renew or request items and to access databases from your home pc phone 087 9135229, log onto www.wicklow.ie (To access request a Pin number from staff).

Survey

North Wicklow residents and visitors are being asked to complete a survey about safe walking and cycling routes for kids and adults to get to school and work, off main roads and connecting with bus and rail lines from Greystones/Kilcoole to Glendalough via Newtownmountkennedy.

The survey, created by Newtown 2050, forms part of a feasibility study for a Greenway linking the Uplands to the sea. It also forms part of the Newtownmountkennedy Smart Village 21 initiative by the EU.

The survey can be found on surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MountainsToSeaGreenway.

Enniskerry History Society

Members, supporters and friends of the Enniskerry History Society are reminded that the programme for the Dublin Festival of History, which runs until October 4th, continues with online talks, guided walks and events, subject to public health guidelines. The programme can be viewed on the festival's website (dublinfestivalofhistory.ie) through which bookings to view talks can also be made.

Writing and drawing competition is open to Arklow schools for Social Inclusion Week

To celebrate Social Inclusion Week, the African Irish Society of Wicklow are having a drawing and writing competition for all primary school children in Arklow.

The theme of the competition is 'What is your favourite culture in the world that is not your own?'. Entries should be one page only.

The drawing competition is for children from Junior Infants to 3rd class, the writing competition is for children from 4th class to 6th class only. Special Needs primary school students can choose to enter either competition

(please make this known during submission).

The closing date is 20th October. Winners will be announced on 23rd October. Entries should be sent to aiswgroup@gmail.com.

The drawing competition is for children from Junior Infants to 3rd class, the writing competition is for children from 4th class to 6th class only. Special Needs primary school students can choose to enter either competition

County Council under the Community Grants Award 2020, supported by County Wicklow PPN.

The group has secured Community Grants Award funding from Wicklow County Council to conduct a project under "Social inclusion and anti-racism."

Since February, the group had planned to visit schools and hold mini multicultural events. But with Covid 19, it has had to change plans and turn to online eventing.

Go Fund Me page launched for Greystones Sensory Garden

Marie McCooey, Chairperson of Greystones Tidy Towns has confirmed the launch of a GoFundMe page for Greystones Sensory Garden.

Marie McCooey said "This project will transform an eyesore in Burnaby Park into a place of beauty, peace and the entire community and for people with additional sensory needs. We need a further 15,000 to make this sensory garden a reality."

The garden was designed by local garden designer Philip Brightling. Philip said 'this garden design will appeal to all the senses with flowers, shrubs, herbs and other landscape features. It's designed with the purpose of stimulating the senses. This stimulation occurs courtesy of plants and the use of materials that engage one's senses of sight, smell,

touch, taste, and sound.'

Greystones Sensory Garden, a Greystones Tidy Towns led project in collaboration with Greystones Municipal District and Wicklow Triple A Alliance. Together, and with the support of the community, Greystones Tidy Towns have successfully applied for a number of grants from Wicklow County Council. To date they have raised over €30,000 towards the building of this project. Unfortunately there is a shortfall of €15,000 and we are asking the community to donate whatever they can to turn this vision of a sensory garden into a reality. Their GoFundMe page is greystonestidytowns.ie.

Comedian Alison Spittle, Aisling Foran from Triple A Alliance and Marie McCarthy and Marie McCooey are pictured below attending the launch in Burnaby Park.



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Entire apartment complex to be leased for social housing

All of the 71 units in a new apartment complex currently under construction on Adelaide Road in Bray will be leased to Wicklow County Council for social housing, Wicklow Times understands.

The six storey luxury building, which will contain 71 apartments, is being constructed opposite Bray DART station, on the site of the old Bray Cash & Carry.

Thirty-one of the apartments will be one-bedroom units, 38 will be two-bedroom, and two will be three-bedroom. Glenveagh Homes Limited is behind the development.

It was originally planned that only seven of the apartments would be for social housing. However, the Council will now take charge of all of the units for a period of 25 years under the new Enhanced Leasing Scheme.

Tenants will be nominated by Wicklow County Council, and the Council will be responsible for management of the units. Planning permission was

granted in January 2019, and the current completion date is November 2021.

Speaking on the matter, Independent councillor Joe Behan said "While I welcome the news that a

further 71 housing units will be provided for people on the Housing List in Bray, I am deeply disappointed that a private developer will ultimately benefit from hard earned taxpayers' money to provide public housing.

"This scheme guarantees the developer 25 years rental income and at the end of the 25 years the people who were living there will be evicted with no obvious entitlement to alternative housing. They will have to rely on the Council to look for alternative housing for them which will in turn push other people further down the housing list at that

"I have deep concerns

time. While 25 years may seem a lifetime away, if this scheme had been adopted in 1995, those tenants would be packing their bags today.

"This is the reality of handing over responsibility and funding for essential public housing to the private sector. Public money is handed out for private gain. What we need in this country is a properly organised and funded public housing action plan and task force to provide social and affordable housing to the hundreds of thousands of people who desperately need it. We have the resources but sadly, even after the many promises made in the recent general election, the new Government hasn't got the vision or the will to get this job done.

"I will be raising these and other issues at the next Council meeting in Bray when I will expect to get full details to the many questions posed by this new venture to put public money into the hands of private property developers."

also about the lack of information and consultation afforded to the public and councillors about this project. Councillors were informed by phone message, followed by a brief email. We had no opportunity to discuss it, to ask questions about it or to find out exactly how much public money is being handed over in this deal. I would also like to know what facilities will be in this development for elderly and infirm tenants and what the arrangements will be for rents, repairs, insurance, etc.

down on the people that are already suffering. In the public submissions, 67% wanted a reduction, 31% wanted no change and just 2% wanted an increase. It would be the ultimate insult to people to say that we know better than they do."

Cllr Joe Behan said he admired that "a number of councillors from Government parties are not willing to go along with the recommendation of council officials, and are willing to question the top table. This could be a turning point in the lifetime of the Council. We need to reduce the burden on people. The officials always present us with doomsday scenarios, but I have no doubt we can find the money to make up the shortfall."



Jo Lynch, Sasha Maguire of Swim Ireland, Denise O'Shea of the Wicklow Sports Partnership, and Aine Kelly, at the one-mile swim event in Wicklow Harbour.

'NO FLOGGING OF DEAD HORSE'

Continued from page 1

Speaking at the meeting Cllr Crean said "We have to ensure that we send a message to the Government from a local level that the burden of funding this public health and economic crisis can't be carried by already financially stressed households. Local Authorities are seriously underfunded in Ireland and we can't be relying on an unfair tax to fill that funding gap."

Cllr Dermot O'Brien said he was "looking for a full 15% decrease to show that we as a council stand with the people". He described the LPT as "flogging a dead horse": "Any increase would just be doubling

down on the people that are already suffering. In the public submissions, 67% wanted a reduction, 31% wanted no change and just 2% wanted an increase. It would be the ultimate insult to people to say that we know better than they do."

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Greystones mourns passing of Mrs Mooney

The whole town of Greystones was saddened last week to learn of the passing of Bridie Mooney at the age of 91.

A firm fixture behind the counter in the famous 'Mooney & Sons' newsagents on Trafalgar Road for over 60 years, until retiring only five years ago, Mrs Mooney was truly an institution in the town, remembered fondly and beloved by generations of people from Greystones and surrounding areas.

The outpouring of gratitude, love and appreciation for Mrs Mooney at the time of her retirement in 2015, left no doubt as to what she meant to the town and the number of lives she touched over the years. A large queue formed as people lined up around the corner to say goodbye, and to leave presents and tokens of appreciation.

Bridie Mooney was born in Carlow and married Greystones butcher Robert Mooney and had seven children. She embedded herself into the community and became one of the town's most beloved people. For anyone that grew up in Greystones, Mrs Mooney is synonymous with happy memories.

The funeral took place on Friday in Holy Rosary Church, a stone's throw from the premises where she brought happiness to so many. The funeral was private due to Covid-19 restrictions, but could be viewed online.

Reacting to the news, Greystones resident, Minister Simon Harris, said "We are all heartbroken in Greystones today at the news of the passing of the much-loved Mrs Bridie Mooney. Mrs Mooney was an institution, a pillar of our community and one of our best known residents."

"We all have so many memories of her. I will always remember her kindness and how she got to know us all going in and out of the shop."

"She was one of a kind. I am so sad to hear this news today. Thinking of all her family and her wide, wide circle of friends. May she rest in peace. Mrs Mooney, thank you for everything."



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Irish Wheelchair Association appeals for support as it cancels street collection

The Irish Wheelchair Association in Co. Wicklow has decided to cancel its annual street collection due to the Covid-19 pandemic to protect the health and safety of the public, its volunteers and the people it supports.

The charity has launched an online appeal called 'Without You, We're Stuck' and is asking people to make a donation through its website, www.iwa.ie.

The Irish Wheelchair Association's annual collection, which normally takes place across the country, raises €300,000 towards the charity's work with people with physical disabilities. This is the first time in the collection's 30-year history that it has been cancelled.

Michelle O'Toole of the Irish Wheelchair Association in Co. Wicklow said: "The loss of this critical income is concerning at a time when our local fundraising events have already had to stop. We estimate that we will have lost almost 1 million in

fundraising income nationally by the end of the year. Without this support, our services and the people we support, will be stuck.

"We rely entirely on the generosity of the public to fund our wheelchair accessible buses, which are a lifeline for connecting people who cannot access public transport, to our services. Our children's sports clubs, driving school and many other services are also supported through local fundraising efforts.

"We are all in this together as we face this pandemic and we are committed to protecting public health and that of our members and volunteers. As we sadly cancel our street collection, we are asking people, if

they can afford it, to make a donation at iwa.ie."

Irish Wheelchair Association is Ireland's largest membership organisation for people with physical disabilities. It supports 4,000 people every week in every county of Ireland.

"This year is our 60th anniversary, and while we have had to postpone many plans, our frontline workers throughout Co. Wicklow have redoubled their efforts to ensure that nobody we support has been left alone and isolated throughout the crisis," said Michelle. "Our members in Co. Wicklow depend on our services, and as an organisation, we are working tirelessly to keep everyone we support connected to their communities.

"Our local community centres were turned into outreach services within hours of the lockdown being announced. Our assisted living team, which provides home support, has continued their essential work in people's homes, with an emergency team of courageous frontline staff ready to work in full PPE with people who have to isolate.

"Our services are needed now, more than ever. We would be incredibly grateful if people could remember Irish Wheelchair Association services in Co. Wicklow this week and make a donation through our website."

To support Irish Wheelchair Association's 'Without You, We're Stuck' appeal visit www.iwa.ie.



'The Road to Roundwood' charity set up to house a refugee family had another fundraiser last week. Two 4th year students, Carmen O'Connor Foote and Ava May Taylor from Loreto Bray set off at 6.15am to cycle the 20k from Roundwood to their school, raising over €1,300 with donations from school friends, neighbors and relatives. The Road to Roundwood's main focus now is to find a suitable house to rent for the family in the locality. Anyone who is interested in renting their property can contact Tomás at 087 9833896.

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Tinahely won their 6th Senior Ladies Football Championship, beating Blessington in Baltinglass. Pictured is captain Jackie Kinch with her parents Marcella and Clifford

Permission for 51 homes in Fairfield Park

An Bord Pleanala has granted planning permission to Fenelon Properties for a development of 51 houses at Fairfield Park, New Road, Greystones.

A Third Party appeal had been lodged against the development from a number of appellants, for reasons to do with site boundaries and traffic congestion, inadequate public open space, and a negative impact on adjoining properties.

ABP has granted permission subject to a number of revised conditions, including the condition that "The areas of public open space shown on the lodged plans shall be reserved for such use and shall be levelled, contoured, soiled, seeded, and landscaped in accordance with the detailed requirements of the planning authority. This work shall be completed before any of the dwellings are made available for occupation and shall be maintained as public open space by the developer until taken in charge by the local authority".

In its decision, ABP stated that "the Board considers that the proposed development, subject to compliance with the conditions set out, would provide an appropriate form and density of development within the development boundary of Greystones, would not seriously injure the residential amenity of property in the area through overshadowing or overlooking, would not give rise to flooding within the site or in adjoining areas, would not endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard or traffic congestion and would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area."



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GREYSTONES TO BE END OF THE LINE FOR DIESEL TRAINS?

The DART+ plans to bring the DART to Maynooth involve stopping the peak hour diesel trains coming from Arklow, Rathdrum, Wicklow and Kilcoole in Greystones, and making the passengers transfer there, where there's only two DARTS per hour, it's been revealed.

This is being done to allow 13 DARTs from Maynooth onto the North South line in the peak times.

Speaking out against this plan, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District and Chair of the Wicklow Transport Committee Derek Mitchell said "I am totally opposed to this as it will mean more people

will use their cars, clog up the N11 and be bad for Climate Change.

"Now there are two early morning diesel trains, one before the peak hour and one during. In 2018 I prepared a plan to provide two peak-hour ones and lengthen them to cope with the population increase. This seems to have been rejected.

"The Maynooth project will take 4 years and I urge interested Wicklow and Wexford people to make a submission to DARTMaynooth@Irishrail.ie before 7th October. This shuttle will also increase the journey time from Arklow to Dublin by 11 mins to virtually the same time as from Belfast to Dublin! South Eastern trains to Dublin



Minister Simon Harris

must not be cancelled."

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has also called on Irish Rail to retain diesel train services to Dublin City Centre.

Minister Harris said: "I fully support the submission by my colleague Cllr Derek Mitchell to retain an uninterrupted diesel train service between the South East

(Wicklow/Wexford) and Dublin City Centre.

"Irish Rail is at present reconfiguring train services to Dublin from the Maynooth line and I am concerned that some of these changes would force Wicklow Commuters to change to the DART at Greystones rather than continue by diesel train direct to Dublin City Centre.

"I have sought a meeting with the Minister for Transport to discuss these changes in addition ensuring additional public transport is put in place on the M11/N11 with park and ride facilities and shuttle buses for commuters. I encourage Wicklow commuters to make a submission to Irish Rail's consultation before the deadline of October 7th."

New ESRI study reflects negative experience of Wicklow commuters

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore says the new ESRI study on urban rents and commuting times released recently, reflects the negative effects longer commutes are having on Wicklow residents.

The study examined rental prices and commuting behaviour noting that increased journey times for commuters could also have negative monetary, health and environmental consequences.

Deputy Whitmore said "Anyone who lives in Wicklow who commutes to work knows how soul destroying it can be. And anyone will tell you that they are experiencing longer journey times in recent years due to more cars on the road as a result of more people moving to Wicklow."

"Dublin has become unaffordable for many and so people opt to move to commuter counties in search of cheaper rents as is the case in Wicklow."

"However, as reflected in the ESRI study, the trade-off means people's wellbeing is being negatively affected as they commute for longer and spend less time in their communities."

"This is a reality for people commuting to work from Wicklow."

"A report carried out by Wicklow County Council in January 2019 reflects this which revealed that 74% of Wicklow commuters were

unhappy or very unhappy with their daily commute."

"Work life balance is hugely important to people's wellbeing. As people spend less time commuting, they spend more time with their families and in their communities which in turn is good for social cohesion."

"Keeping people at home longer is also a win for the local economy as more money is spent in local businesses. It's also good for the environment with less cars on the road and less air pollution."

"Not only is time an issue but financially it can be expensive commuting in and out of Wicklow if you calculate daily transport and food costs negating the benefit of cheaper rents."

"We need to implement strategies that can keep people in their local community longer but to date there has been a lack of initiative to get this up and running."

"I have previously developed a funding proposal for a series of co working spaces to be included in every major town and village in the county. It is only through initiatives such as this will we ever be able to provide a true alternative to working in the city, as many people's homes are not suitable for remote working in the longer term."

"I will continue to push for initiatives such as these to be rolled out for Wicklow" concluded Deputy Whitmore.

'Serious concern' over extension of planning permission at the old Bray golf club

Bray Sinn Féin have responded to the decision by Wicklow County Council to grant a five-year extension to Shankill Property Investments Ltd for a mixed use development of residential (603 units), community and commercial at the old Bray golf lands.

Speaking about the decision Cllr Grace McManus said "I have serious concerns over this extension. There were several comprehensive submissions made to the council objecting to the extension, and I believe these submissions made valid points. For example, extension can only be granted if 'substantial' works have already been carried out. I have seen no evidence of a brick has been laid in the ten years since the original planning permission was granted. Furthermore, local activists raised concerns that the road infrastructure that was included as evidence of works by the developer are actually related to permission granted by Dun Laoghaire. These concerns have not been adequately addressed by the council to me, or indeed to the community groups

who made the submissions.

"Furthermore, I have concerns about the overall process of this decision. The eight Bray councillors have played no role and have had no say in this granting of extension that will have enormous impacts on our town. We will be held to account for the impact, and yet we have no power or influence over the decision. This in my mind is an unhealthy, undemocratic process and needs to be addressed."

Cllr Dermot O'Brien said "We must have regard for sustainable development with our planning decisions. The world has changed dramatically since this permission was first granted in 2010. Wicklow County Council have declared a climate and biodiversity emergency. Increased risk of flooding is on the cards across the world.

"The area which this planning permission refers to includes a floodplain, which has been contentious within the community from the beginning. To allow an extension without proper consideration of this climate emergency is unacceptable."

Deputy John Brady said "The controversy around this planning permission and building on the flood plain on the old Bray Golf Club has been ongoing now for 15 years. I have long stood with the community groups in opposition to building on what is a safety valve which proved critically important in many floods over the years, most recently during Hurricane Charlie. The decision to grant an extension without due consideration of concerns from the community and elected representatives alike is disgraceful."

Alzheimer Society calls for urgent investment for people affected by dementia in Wicklow

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) in its 2021 Pre-Budget Submission has today called on the Government for an urgent investment of €20 million in infrastructure, home care and community supports that will help support the 1,838 people living with dementia and their struggling families in Wicklow. This is needed to address the sharp deterioration in health of both people dementia and their family carers caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ASI's Pre-Budget Submission 2021, Dementia: The Forgotten Crisis outlines the detrimental impact of COVID-19 on people affected by dementia and the continued absence of vital services and the growing gap between need and delivery which is now more critical than ever. Budget 2021 must start to close this widening service gap.

Recent research from The ASI has shown that during the COVID-19 crisis, 86% of family carers were concerned about

a decline in their loved one with dementia, while 61% of family carers believe their own mental health has been negatively impacted. People with dementia and their family carers are worried, stressed and fearful due to the continued closure of key face-to-face community services such as day care centres.

The ASI is calling for the following in Budget 2021: 10 million – Urgent Infrastructure Support to refurbish and rebuild dementia specific day centres to enable them to re-open in the immediate term and to expand services into the future; 6 million – Dementia Home Care Supports to provide home care that is dementia appropriate and can meet growing demand; €589k – Additional Dementia Advisers to continue to develop a nationwide Dementia Adviser service; €2.31 million – Dementia Key Workers to provide a care pathway for each person with dementia; €768k – Dementia Inclusive Community Coordinators to support the further development of a dementia inclusive Ireland.

Full-time family carer Denise Monahan (56) from Tallaght in Dublin believes that it is crucial that the Government now

provide the critical investment needed to reopen dementia-specific services such as day care. Denise's father, Seamus Cunningham (82), was diagnosed with Alzheimer's eight years ago and has attended The ASI's Rose Cottage day care centre in Dublin since his diagnosis.

Denise said: "The lockdown has proved very challenging for my dad and for us as a family. He had no concept of the word virus and so could not understand why he could not go out. Dad is a sociable man and it caused him great confusion, not seeing friends, neighbours and family. I am worried about the impact it will have on him – he is so used to cocooning now, he just wants to stay in the house. The closure of the day centre was a huge loss and now he does not really remember Rose Cottage. The worry for me now, the longer this goes on, is that he might not want to go back at all. Rose Cottage was our security blanket – without it, we are in freefall. The Government must listen to us this year, as family carers we must be heard. Urgent investment is needed, day care must reopen the sooner the better."



Carer Denise Monahan with her dad Seamus Cunningham



Sinead Kinsella and Freya O'Brien celebrate Carnew's victory after beating Ballinacor in the Junior Camogie Championship final in Arklow

Public reps united against racist Bray graffiti

The continuous racist graffiti in Bray that is targeting and harassing a Bray woman is unacceptable, elected representatives have said.

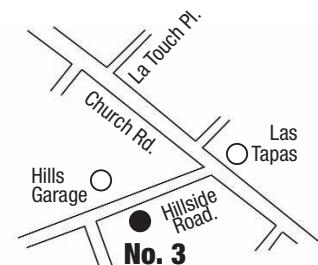
In a joint statement issued last week, the Bray Municipal District councillors, Wicklow's five TDs, and Senator Pat Casey said "As the public representatives serving Bray, we urge members of the public to contact Bray Garda station on 016665300 with any information they might have on who is carrying out this graffiti.

"We make this call as a united group - Cllr. Anne Ferris, Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cllr Dermot O'Brien, Cllr Erika Doyle, Cllr Grace McManus, Cllr Joe Behan, Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cllr Rory O'Connor, Jennifer Whitmore TD, John Brady TD, Simon Harris TD, Stephen Donnelly TD, Steven Matthews TD and Senator Pat Casey."

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Phone: 085 1738804



Valerie O'Toole, Brid Murphy, and Sinead Tarmey are pictured at the Hospice Coffee Morning in the Brooklodge, Macreddin

Wicklow 'at crossroads' in fight against Covid

Incidences of Covid-19 in parts of Bray are twice the national average, data shows. There has now been a total of 869 Covid cases in the county since the pandemic began, over a hundred of them coming in the last two weeks.

Last week Donegal moved up to 'Level 3' of Covid-19 restrictions. Although Co. Wicklow remains at level 2 (at the time of going to press), it was one of eight counties highlighted by Government officials as a cause for concern and was being considered for a move to Level 3 restrictions. In the Bray East Local Electoral Area, the rate per 100k population stands at 105.1, while in Bray West it's 86.9, and Greystones is 68.4 - all above the national figure which stands at 52.8. The overall incidence rate for Co. Wicklow is 70.9.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has said that Wicklow is at "a crossroads" in tackling Covid-19. He has urged people to continue to adhere to public health guidelines in an attempt to suppress the virus.

Speaking after the release of data outlining the COVID-19 Cases per Local Electoral Area in the previous 14 days, Deputy Brady said "Huge sacrifices have been made by so many people here in Wicklow and across the Country since the outbreak of Covid-19. We are now at a crossroads here in Wicklow, unfortunately the recent data released shows that incidence rates in parts of North Wicklow are growing."

"In the Bray East LEA the rate per 100k population stands at 105.1, while in Bray West its 86.9, Greystones is 68.4, the national figure stands at 52.8. These figures are concerning and I'm asking people to continue to adhere to the public health guidelines. This week Dublin was moved to level 3 of the government's restrictions, we must do everything we can to help reduce the numbers, so we don't go in the same direction."

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Deer hunters angry and frustrated over permit delay

There is considerable concern and growing frustration among licensed deer hunters and deer management groups due to a delay in the issuing of permits by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Wildlife Licensing Unit.

Approximately 5,500 permits are issued annually by NPWS to allow for the management of deer during the open deer season which runs from September 1st to February 28th.

In the absence of a natural predator it falls on man to maintain deer numbers at sustainable levels and to reduce any negative effect they may have on farming, forestry, and the wider ecosystem.

While unverified, data released by NPWS show that 41,148 deer were culled by 5,515 licensed deer hunters in the 12-month period up to February 28th, 2019, highlighting the important role carried out by licensed deer hunters.

In a statement, a spokesperson for the Irish Deer Commission said "while we sympathise with the challenges caused by Covid-19 for NPWS in the issuing of permits, we have engaged with NPWS in good faith since June while representing our members regarding the potential permit issues caused by Covid-19, however we have been left frustrated and dismayed by NPWS inability to engage and adapt."

The spokesperson also said "frustration among deer hunters has been compounded as applicants adhered to a post Covid-19 deadline of June 30th set by NPWS for the submission of permit renewal applications and a commitment that permits would be received in advance of the open season on September 1st however it now appears some applicants who met the NPWS deadline will not receive their permit for several months, or not at all, this is completely unacceptable in our view and a new approach to the delay is required urgently."

"The permit delays along with a worldwide crash in the demand for venison due to Covid-19, will mean far less deer will be culled resulting in increased damage for forestry, farming and the wider ecosystem."

In recent days TD's David Stanton and Jennifer Murnane O'Connor put a series of parliamentary questions to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD on behalf of the Irish Deer Commission regarding the ongoing delays in the issuing of permits under section 29 of the Wildlife Acts, Open Seasons Order for Deer 2020/21 which began on September 1st.

Minister O'Brien confirmed the delays were due to Covid-19 and "technical challenges" that arose from staff working from home.

The Irish Deer Commission had called for the introduction of an online application process as is used in most other government departments which would greatly speed up the issuing of permits, Minister O'Brien confirmed that some "early work" had taken place on such a development.

It was also confirmed over two thousand permits had been issued to date, from an estimated 5,500 applications. Minister O'Brien stopped short of confirming when the backlog would be cleared, what additional resources would be made available and when an online application process would be in place. Farming organisations and other stakeholder groups have also expressed concern over the delays.



A native red stag. Photo by Peter O'Toole

Matthews appointed Chair of Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government & Heritage

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has been appointed Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Discussing the role, Deputy Matthews said, "I was honoured to be selected to Chair the Housing, Local Government and Heritage Committee. Housing in particular is such an important issue in Ireland and the challenge is to increase supply at levels that are affordable, provision of social needs, and addressing homelessness. The urgency with which we need to tackle the housing crisis has only increased in light of the pandemic. I am contacted on a weekly basis by people across Wicklow who can't access social housing, are being crippled by debt due to high rents and can't save to buy their

own home. These are the practical realities we need to tackle."

"I have met with Minister Darragh O'Brien and his Department officials to discuss the key areas that the Housing Committee will seek to address. I have also contacted all the members of the housing committee to open a cross party dialogue on the key areas that the committee will focus on."

"The Programme for Government sets out some clear commitments in relation to housing, but the solutions don't need to be party political and I plan to facilitate open and frank discussions in the Housing Committee from

ing bodies who work so hard in this area and supporting their work. These are the experts on the ground and their insights will be invaluable in directing the committee's focus and informing our debates."

"Planning and Local Government is intrinsically linked to housing issues, and my experience as a town & district councillor, on Wicklow County Council, and on various Planning Policy Committees over 13 years gives me a good understanding of the issues and challenges facing local councils", Deputy Matthews concluded.



Steven Matthews TD

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Visiting Arklow Library were Roueida, Mahdiyah, Mahdi, Jomaa and Layan

New funding for St. Patrick's Church

Minister Malcolm Noonan announced that €15,000 has been allocated to St. Patrick's Church in Wicklow Town.

Green Party TD and newly appointed Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Steven Matthews, welcomed his Green Party colleague's announcement.

Deputy Matthews said, "This is extremely welcome news for Wicklow Town, not only for parishioners of the church but also everyone in the area, to see investment on such an impressive building. I would particularly like to commend all those involved in the community who worked on this application and were successful in getting this funding. I would like to thank the local authorities for administering this additional funding and for their ongoing assistance in administering the built heritage schemes."

"This funding has been released under the Government's July Jobs Stimulus Package and comprises of €1m for 52 built heritage projects across the country. This is just one of the many initiatives planned to help stimulate the Irish economy and will be welcome news for the skilled contractors involved."

"While applications for this funding stream are now closed, I would encourage community groups to keep an eye out for initiatives like this and if they need any assistance in their applications to get in touch and I will help in any way I can," concluded Deputy Matthews.

'Staycationers' encouraged to use digital Heritage Maps when holidaying at home

Archaeology and architecture, landscapes and coastlines, habitats and species, rivers and lakes, geology and recreation, are just some of the categories of maps available to browse and download via the Heritage Council's Heritage Maps web portal, which the organisation is encouraging all those holidaying at home to visit during their 'staycation' in Ireland. The portal can be accessed at HeritageMaps.ie.

The Heritage Maps web resource allows users to browse fourteen main categories and numerous sub-categories within the areas of built, cultural and natural heritage from across the island of Ireland, or search using specific keywords. and a vast range of things to do in Northern Ireland. Maps are uploaded from trusted sources, including State agencies, local authorities researchers and academics, and each entry is supported with links to external websites, allowing visitors to gain further information on an area of interest.

Commenting, the Heritage Council's Head of Policy and Research, Beatrice Kelly said: "As increasing numbers of people choose to holiday at home, the Heritage Council's Heritage Maps website is a fantastic online resource, supporting 'staycationers' in going beyond the tourist brochure, venturing off the beaten-track and discovering or rediscovering the local heritage of the region they are staying in."

The website is designed with both the heritage expert and enthusiast in mind, with new maps covering a wide range of heritage aspects frequently added to the web portal. Most recently, thirty new maps were uploaded, covering Ireland's Greenways and Blueways, Wexford's biking and hiking trails, Coillte Recreation sites

towns, wildflowers or Sile na Gigs, HeritageMaps.ie is extensive in its content, user-friendly and easily navigable. "It allows people to create tailored maps and explore the aspect of our rich and diverse heritage that they are most interested in, or delve in to an area they would like to know more about. "Whether planning a day-trip, a weekend away, or a longer holiday, or if one simply wishes to better understand the heritage of one's own local area or region, I would encourage everyone to log on to HeritageMaps.ie, explore the platform and the range of material on it, and see how it can help them become better acquainted with Ireland's wonderful heritage."

Visit www.heritagemaps.ie for further details.

"From stained glass, to walled

Wicklow Library Service welcomes Syrian families

Syrian families who have moved to County Wicklow were welcomed by Wicklow County Council Library Service recently.

Moving to a new country and settling into a new place can be difficult and this was the recent experience of 16 Syrian families who arrived in Wicklow.

The visiting families were accompanied by Respond Intercultural Worker, Djamal, who was happy to interpret for them, although it was apparent that they had already achieved a good grasp of English despite being here for only a relatively short time. Also accompanying them was Respond Resettlement Worker, Naomi Fitzpatrick.

Two of the families were presented with a welcome pack containing information on all the library locations and their opening times, craft packs and art materials. The packs also contained a ready to use library card for each person.

Speaking with the children, Kathy Scott, Librarian from Arklow

Library, was delighted to learn that the children were pleased to be back to school, saying: "Now they can enjoy using the library and be part of the library community, we look forward to welcoming all the families to the library in the near future".

Library staff showed the families around the library and the children got to make use of their first library cards using the self-service machines to borrow their first books.

Ruwaida was one of the adults and she said afterwards: "We went to the library for the first time and it was a very enjoyable visit. The children took books with them from the library and they were happy to visit. We thank them for their good treatment and kindness. My children and I thank them all for their hospitality".

Bashir, who is the father of two of the young children, went on



Enjoying what Arklow Library has to offer were Ruwaida and Jomaa

to say that the children had really enjoyed the experience and he welcomed the interest shown to the children by library staff.

Speaking at the event, Margaret Birchall of Wicklow County Council Library Service, said: "For newcomers to Ireland, the library is not just somewhere to read - in fact, it is probably the one place that they will

find almost everything they need. It can be a starting point to find out about services, a place to learn English as a foreign language and once we revert to our full services, a welcoming space to attend cultural events, children's story times and much more. Libraries are community hubs where we can all build friendships and forge connections".

Arklow RNLI launch to assist kayaker

The volunteer crew of Arklow RNLI responded within minutes of a request on 20th September to assist a lone female kayaker.

The All-weather Trent Class lifeboat made its way to the reported position South of the outer Roadstone Breakwater at approximately 4:30pm. The casualty was spotted by an RNLI Crew member who was walking his dog on the local popular Arklow Rock walk overlooking the scene.

Once the volunteers arrived on scene and established communications with the lone kayaker, the casualty informed them that she was happy to continue to try make her return to shore unaided by the lifeboat crew.

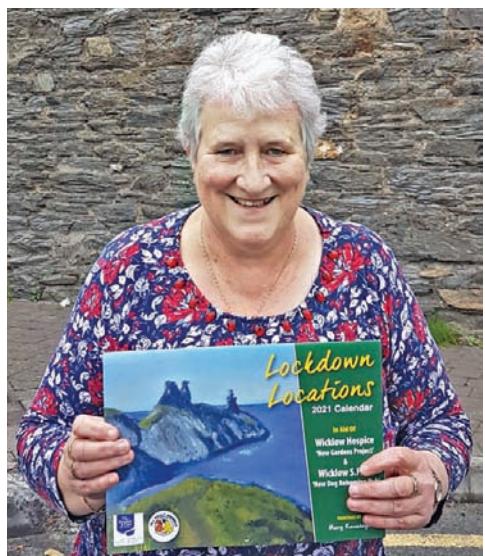
Given the weather and tidal conditions prevailing in the area at the time, the lifeboat then stood by the casualty to monitor as she made attempts to return to shore. With conditions worsening, returning to shore



Arklow RNLI crew members come to the aid of a kayaker. Photo courtesy of Arklow RNLI

Wicklow councillor creates calendar of 'lockdown locations' as fundraiser

Independent Councillor Mary Kavanagh from Wicklow Town has produced a calendar of her paintings as a fundraiser.



Cllr Mary Kavanagh with her fundraising calendar

Cllr Kavanagh created the calendar to raise funds for the Wicklow Hospice New Gardens Project and the Wicklow SPCA New Kennels Project at Sharpehill.

All of the paintings are scenes of Wicklow Town and County which Mary painted during the lockdown, and the calendar is titled 'Lockdown Locations'.

The garden project at Wicklow Hospice will include traditional gardens as well as a biodiversity section including wildflower copse. The new animal rehoming hub at Sharpehill was another project that she really wanted to support.

"I'm delighted to support both these worthwhile projects," Cllr Kavanagh said.

Calendars cost €10 and are available at various shops around Wicklow Town including Aura, Wicklow Holistic Centre, Kelly's Fruit & Veg, Butler's Pharmacy, Cannabidiol and the Saturday Indoor Market.

They are also available from Mary herself and she can be contacted through her Facebook page or by emailing Mary directly at 1marykavanagh@gmail.com.

"The calendars will make nice Christmas gifts for both local people and those living abroad. They include paintings of Wicklow Harbour, Lighthouses, Black Castle, Brittas Bay, Kilmacurragh and Glendalough."

Individual prints can also be purchased, with all of the profits going towards these two worthy causes.



Biodiversity sign erected at Bray Harbour Wall

The shingle beach at the Harbour wall in Bray supports a large number of biodiverse plants. Bray Tidy Towns started discussing this with Tom Curtis, a local and well known botanist as far back as April this year. Several people had commented on this over the years but this year a process was started.

Lengthy discussions took place and it was felt that it would be effective to highlight, on a sign, some of the more interesting plants and give a brief background to them to stimulate an interest in these plants.

As well as the sign giving a list of the plants in the area - 37 in total - six of these plants were selected by Tom and profiled for their particular interest

Last week this sign was erected on the beach side of the harbour wall. Bray Tidy Towns stated "a sincere thank you to all the volunteers and everyone who helped out in this process including the Seafront attendants from Bray Municipal District who look after our Seafrot so well."

Once upon a pandemic...

Schools in Wicklow encouraged to write about their experience of the pandemic

Irish publishing company Emu Ink has launched The Covid Book Project, an ambitious writing initiative, which will capture school children's experience of the Coronavirus pandemic in their own words and create a local historical record of a time that has changed the world.

Emu Ink has developed online resources to help school children formulate, edit, and proofread their Covid stories. At the end of the project, the school will have a book that documents the lives of the children and staff within the school community during the pandemic.

Founder and CEO, Emer Cleary said, "We are delighted to be offering this wonderful opportunity to children in Wicklow and throughout Ireland, who will write a short story or poem about their life during the current crisis. We will then publish the work of these pupils, who are quite literally writing Wicklow's history from their own viewpoints.

"The finished book will act as a public record of this time and it will be available in the school and wider community for posterity. Future generations of students will gain a unique insight into the pandemic from the accounts of the students who have lived through it at their school.

"This project is going to change how our children's children learn about what's happening right now - and that is something special. We want everyone to join our movement!"

As well as creating a unique first-hand account of children's experience, The Covid Book

Project will encourage them to express their full range of emotions and help the adults in their lives understand how they feel about the last six months.

Ms Cleary continued, "It's been a very tough few months for everyone. The children have been away from their daily routine and their friends - and teachers have been working exceptionally hard over the summer to welcome their classes back to school safely. Now that our school communities are getting back into routine, we want The Covid Book Project to be a positive activity for teachers, children and parents that will start the discussion about the impact on each other's lives and will work in a classroom setting or as part of a blended learning programme."

The Covid Book Project was inspired by the response from children to Emu Ink's call to get writing during lockdown.

Ms Cleary explained, "I believe that writing is one of the greatest forms of self-expression, so we wanted to get children writing about their feelings around lockdown or simply to offer them an avenue to escape all of that and write something completely unrelated. We had a huge response and were bowled over by the standard of work. Interestingly, a common

theme was how much they missed school! It was this response that inspired Emu Ink to develop The Covid Book Project."

In May - within four weeks of the call to get writing - Emu Ink published Home Stories, an anthology of stories and poems written by 132 school children throughout Ireland during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The Covid Book Project is open to primary and secondary schools in Ireland. Participating schools will gain access to Emu Ink's online resources or teachers can simply set the children the task of writing a story or poem about life during this time.

Schools have a choice of a traditional paperback anthology, which will fit the work of approximately 120 children as well as artwork on the front and back cover or an A4 book in full colour, the cost of which is generally covered by the parents or school community.

To recognise the contribution that the children make to The Covid Book Project, Emu Ink have partnered with Starbucks and Leisureplex.

Each child who participates will receive a €10 Leisureplex voucher and a Starbucks voucher for a hot chocolate and a coffee for their accompanying grown-up.

'Meet your local reps' event to move online

In the run up to last year's Local Elections, Co Wicklow PPN (Public Participation Network) ran 'Meet the Candidates' events around the county to support local communities to meet the people that hoped to represent them in local government.

Now, a year later, the PPN has asked the local elected representatives to join an online zoom meeting to tell people about the highlights of their first year of the Council's term, and what their priorities are going forward, as well as answer questions from the public and PPN member groups.

The meetings will take place every Thursday evening in October 7:30pm to 9:30pm Arklow Municipal District (1st October), Baltinglass Municipal District (8th October), Bray Municipal District (15th October), and Greystones Municipal District (22nd October).

Helen Howes, Co Wicklow PPN Resource Worker, said "our meet the candidates events in 2019 were very successful and we were asked if we would consider running them again for a catch-up with the councillors a year later. We had planned to do this in March, but Covid-19 meant we had to cancel the meetings. However, we are delighted that most of our Co. Wicklow elected reps have confirmed that they will engage with these online meetings and we are looking forward to them."

All are welcome to join the online zoom meetings, but booking is essential. People can register on [eventbrite.ie \(eventbrite.ie/e/meet-your-local-elected-representatives-tickets-121379251609\)](https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/meet-your-local-elected-representatives-tickets-121379251609).

For more information contact Helen on 087 1895145 or Grainne on 086 0487431.



Candidates meeting the citizens of Wicklow at one of last year's Meet the Candidates events in the run-up to the local election.



Pictured are Jan Vitek, Damien mc Keever, Cormac mc Kenna, and Ger Kennedy, the Greystones Open Water Triple Crown & Grand Slam Swimmers.

Two challenges for open water swimmers

Greystones open water swimmer Cormac mcKenna has created two open water swimming challenges on the east coast of Ireland, some starting and finishing in Greystones.

Cormac has swam long distance all over Ireland and completed the Manhattan island New York 47km swim, plus many other around the globe.

Cormac would love to see local and countrywide open water swimmers take up this challenge and show off our beautiful coastline and wear the coveted 'Greystones Open Water Triple Crown Finisher' t-shirt with pride & bragging rights.

With Advice from Local swimmer Ger Kennedy and Ironman Legend Damien mc Keever the chosen routes and titles were decided.

Greystones open water swimming triple crown: Men's bathing area south beach to Cove 500m; North Beach Greystones to Cable Rock and Back 5km; Bray Head Hotel to Men's bathing area south beach 6km.

Greystones open water swimming Grand Slam: Men's bathing area south beach to Cove 500m; North Beach Greystones to Cable Rock and Back 5km; Bray Head Hotel to Men's bathing area south beach 6km; Greystones Harbour to Wicklow Harbour 20km.

The swimmer can only wear traditional Togs only, 1 Cap & Goggles, No neoprene suits or hats, gloves, boots. At present there are only three swimmers who have completed the epic Greystones open water swimming Grand Slam; Ger Kennedy, Cormac mc Kenna, and Jan Vitek. Only four swimmers have completed the Greystones open water swimming Triple Crown; Ger Kennedy, Cormac mc Kenna, Jan Vitek, and Damien mc Keever. For details contact Cormac on cormacmacconnalath@gmail.com

Good Causes Fund supported over 175 community projects

Data revealed by the National Lottery has shown how it continues to make a big impact on towns and communities right across Ireland, including Co. Wicklow.

The study found that over 175 Good Causes projects were supported in Wicklow in 2018 and 2019.

Approximately 91% of revenue generated by the National Lottery goes back into the community through prize winnings, funding for Good Causes and retailer commissions.



Speaking on these figures, Nikki Gallagher, Head of Corporate Affairs at the National Lottery, said: "With an average of 34,000 people in Wicklow playing National Lottery games every week, a huge amount is raised for local community groups, projects and sports clubs each year. While it has been a challenging year for such organisations, National Lottery players are responsible for supporting thousands of organisations and groups in towns and villages across Ireland in the areas of Irish Language, Arts, Health and Wellbeing, Heritage, Rural and Community Development, Children and Youth Affairs and Sport. Nearly 30 cent in every €1 goes directly to the Good Causes Fund."

Over 175 Good Causes projects were supported in Wicklow in 2018 and 2019, and on average, 4,000 clubs, groups and voluntary organisations are supported every year across Ireland. One such organisation which has benefitted in the past from National Lottery funding in Co. Wicklow is the Dublin/Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team who work tirelessly to assist anyone who finds themselves lost or injured in the mountains. They are on standby 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. National Lottery Good Causes Funding has helped DWMRT buy vital medical equipment but most recently funded the first mountain rescue stretcher capable vehicle in Ireland.

Help Colin Farrell raise €500,000 for Special Olympics Ireland

With the help of Hollywood hero, Colin Farrell, Special Olympics Ireland is asking the public to lend their support and help raise half a million Euros in vital funding for its athletes across Ireland.

Due to the pandemic, Special Olympics Ireland had to cancel their face to face cash Collection Day which takes place in April each year. The new 'Can't Stop Now' Appeal focuses on digital and text donations and for the very first time, you can make a donation to Special Olympics through the Revolut App.

Helping to launch the campaign is Special Olympics Ireland ambassador, Colin Farrell. He commented "I am delighted to help launch this campaign for Special Olympics Ireland.

COVID-19 has resulted in Special Olympics Ireland missing out on a significant part of its vital fundraising efforts, like so many other charities across the globe.

"It's so important that we get the public on board to raise much needed funds for these inspirational children and adults, for whom, sports clubs are a social and health lifeline."

Special Olympics Ireland supports almost 8,000 children and adults with an intellectual disability across the island of Ireland. Throughout the pandemic, the charity has been working tirelessly to find creative ways to reach out to athletes to ensure they remain physically, mentally and emotionally fit during these challenging times. Their recent 'Together At Home' programme aims to keep athletes fit and healthy at home.

Special Olympics athletes have come so far, many have overcome the things they were told they can't do like make friends, swim, ride a bike, go to university, get a job, get a gold medal for Ireland and much, much more. The only thing they can't do is Stop!

With your help, almost 8,000 children and adults with an intellectual disability across the island of Ireland will get back to the pool, pitch and court. They

will meet their friends again. Through sport,

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Colin Farrell

Stop Now needs your help to keep Anna and other athletes like her on that journey.

The Can't Stop Now Appeal has been created by a unique pro bono collective called Good Brains for Good Brands, which was set up off the back of the pandemic, bringing the skillsets of industry professionals from various backgrounds together to support charities and organisations who were in much need of help due to lack of funding.

Matt English, CEO of Special Olympics Ireland spoke about the appeal, saying, "We know that COVID-19 has had a huge impact on everyone's life.

Special Olympics athletes encounter some of the greatest challenges in our society. We are hoping that you can make a donation or get together with your community group or your workplace to organise a virtual fundraiser and have some fun whilst raising vital funds."

Greystones to Galway run raises funds for mental health awareness

A group of friends from Greystones recently completed a run of 240km, from Greystones to Galway, to raise funds for mental health awareness.

Starting from The Cove in Greystones, they ran across Ireland to Galway Bay and so far have raised just under €40,000 for worthy charities and raised awareness for mental health issues in Ireland. The Beneficiaries are Crumlin Children's Hospital and A Lust for Life Charity.

"Whilst running from the Irish Sea to the Atlantic may sound like a superhuman effort, in fact the magnitude is in recognition of the challenges faced every day by those dealing with mental health issues and the effects of childhood illness in our community," the group stated.

The aim of the run was to raise funds to support the 'It's Not the End of the World' project being undertaken by A Lust for Life

and for a range of support therapies offered to children facing serious illness by Crumlin Childrens Hospital.

"We are just a bunch of regular dads with children from toddlers to teenagers."

"The Greystones to Galway run

is our effort to help these worthy charities, which have and will help us and our families. 100% of funds raised go to the charities to fund their amazing initiatives. Please give what you can."

You can find the fundraiser donation page on idonate.ie.



Wicklow writer makes RTÉ short story competition shortlist

RTÉ has announced the shortlist for its 2020 Short Story Competition in honour of Francis MacManus, having received a record number of entries (over 4000) for this year's competition, which coincided with the global pandemic and the national lockdown. The shortlisted stories includes *Kissing Booth*, by Alan Walsh from Wicklow Town.

As a measure of the particularly high standard of this year's entries, the judges also wished to give special mention to a further five stories, one of which is *Fata Morgana*, by Paul Duffy, also from Wicklow.

Writer, broadcaster and current judge, Vincent Woods says: "The standard of entry this year was very high. There was a palpable sense of unease running through many of the stories that came to us - a reflection of pandemic times, perhaps? The diversity of voices and themes is reflected in the shortlist of ten stories to be broadcast, a mix of the challenging, entertaining, reflective and surreal."

Danielle McLaughlin, who is also a previous prize-winner in this competition, says: "This country produces such a kaleidoscope of writing talent and this has been abundantly evident right across the record entries we have received this year. I'd really like to congratulate all the writers on the shortlist, whose stories are right up there with the best of my reading during this whole pandemic. Through this competition, they now all have a great opportunity to bring their stories to a wide audience."

Journalist and editor Madeleine Keane commented: "Judging the RTE Short Story Award was a complete joy in the midst of all the strangeness and upset of this year. It was so uplifting to read the richness and range, the diversity and imagination

of these short fictions."

All 10 stories on the shortlist are now available to read at www.rte.ie/culture, in advance of a special Arena programme on RTÉ Radio 1 at 7pm on Monday 28th September where the three competition judges will announce their top prizes (€3,000 to the winner, €2,000 and €1,000 the second and third place prizewinners respectively).

The broadcast of the full shortlist series begins with the winning story that same evening, Monday 28th September, on RTÉ Radio 1 at 11.20pm, and continues every weeknight at 11.20pm until Friday 9th October. The stories will also be podcast.

Producer of the competition series, Sarah Binchy, said: "This is a really strong, vibrant shortlist. These stories are diverse in style, setting and tone, but what they have in common is an assurance of voice. Also it sounds paradoxical - a great radio story will often have a strong visual quality and that's very much the case here. There are some powerful images in these stories that will linger a long time in the listener's mind. It's been a pleasure to inhabit the unique world of each story as I've recorded them for broadcast with some greatly talented, insightful actors, ably assisted by RTÉ's sound engineering team. I'm looking forward to sharing these recordings with a wide audience."

International award for Greystones actor

Actor Stuart Cullen from Greystones was awarded the title of 'Best International Male Actor' at this year's Jersey Shore International Film Festival. Stuart, 28, stars in the short thriller *Final Curtain*, which was named the Best International Thriller at the festival.

The film is the first from director Dan Gifford from Norfolk, aspiring and struggling actor Finn O'Connor, beaten down in life by commercial director. Stuart won the award for his portrayal of

O'Connor, beaten down in life by commercial director. Stuart won

failed auditions, romantic rejec-



Stuart Cullen as Finn O'Connor in Dan Gilford's 'Final Curtain'

tions, and mounting unpaid bills.

While waiting tables at his part-time job, Finn attempts to persuade an obnoxious filmmaker/director who's dining there, played by Paudge Behan (*Love/Hate*), to let him audition for his latest project. Finn is convinced that this could be his big break, however things don't go according to plan.

Final Curtain was produced by Jack Armstrong of H2 films in Dublin.

Stuart has previously appeared on *Fair City* and *Ripper Street*, and on the stage has done *The Taming of the Shrew* with the Irene Lewishom Theatre in New York, AMIMALS! With Smock Alley, and many more.

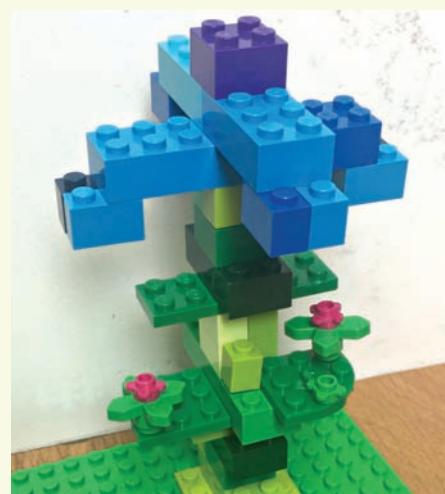
H2 Films hope to reschedule *Final Curtain*'s Irish preview screening for 2021 (it was unable to be held this year due to Covid-19 restrictions). Meanwhile the film will tour the international film festival circuit. A theatrical sequel is also in the works, with production planned for Winter of 2021, with Stuart set to play the lead role again.



The 2019/20 season of the *Winning Streak* game show was concluded on Wednesday 16th September. Among the big winners was Wicklow man, Ollie Hughes from Newtownmountkennedy who won a total of €30,000. When word came through to Ollie Hughes that he was going to be on the final *Winning Streak* show of the season he was a little bit dubious. He called his wife, Fiona, who was in agreement that this was a prank. After a bit of cajoling, he finally realised that this was no joke and that the *Winning Streak* scratch card he sent into the National Lottery many months ago, which was long forgotten about, had come up trumps for him. Ollie and Fiona, are almost 40 years married and the couple have two daughters, Nicola and Donna. Ollie is also a proud grandad to three grandsons: Billy, Charlie and Bear. Another 40 year anniversary on the horizon for Ollie is his work anniversary as he will soon be 40 years working as a network technician for the ESB. With his winnings from the show, Ollie will treat his family and hopes to upgrade his car.

Wicklow children among winners and runners-up of LEGO competition

Two County Wicklow children are among the winners of a competition organised by the Heritage Council, which tasked entrants with recreating their favourite example of local Irish heritage using LEGO.



Laura Williams took inspiration from the wildflower, borage, winning the 'natural heritage' category in the 4-to-7 years age group

Laura Williams from Greystones took inspiration from the wildflower, borage, winning the 'natural heritage' category in the 4-to-7 years age group, while Danny O'Shea from Enniskerry won the 'cultural heritage' category in the 8-to-12 years age group for his bust of James Joyce.

Among the runners-up from Wicklow, were: Luan Bruggeman for 'Glendalough'; Brian Og for 'Russborough House'; Danny O'Shea for 'Map of Irish Sites'; and Rory Dowling for 'Rock of Dunamase'. The competition received more than 200 entries from across the country, with entrants turning to all aspects of Ireland's rich and varied built, natural and cultural heritage for inspiration.

The competition was open to children aged between four and twelve years, with two age categories: 4-7 years, and 8-12 years. Children were asked to build their model, choose their category, write a short

description of what their model represents and why it's important to them, and then take a photo of the model and submit it via the Heritage Council website. Winners of each of the 4-7 year-old categories will take home prizes of LEGO DK books, with a LEGO(r) kit going to the winners of the older categories.

Commenting, Heritage Council chief executive, Virginia Teehan said: "The Heritage Council was delighted to see this competition attract such a strong calibre of entries from across the country. It received a fantastic response, with entries demonstrating young people's creativity, ingenuity and wit, while highlighting their own particular areas of interest and curiosity, as they drew on Ireland's diverse heritage."

"This competition shows the creative and accessible ways in which our heritage can be engaged with, as well as how eager young people are to connect with it. It is crucial that children are encouraged and supported in exploring and understanding their shared heritage, which can start on their own front doorstep in their own locality."

"I would like to thank all the children who entered this competition, and I encourage everyone with an interest in heritage to visit the Heritage Council website and Facebook page, to browse the wonderful range of entries received."



Danny O'Shea won the 'cultural heritage' category in the 8-to-12 years age group for his bust of James Joyce



Cousins Amy Noble, Sienna Brennan, Freya Miller, and Lily Sheehy with Clara Jenkinson of the Wicklow Sports Partnership at the Swim Ireland/Wicklow Sports Partnership one-mile swim event in Wicklow Harbour.

Irish charities appeal to Wicklow as they launch global coronavirus appeal

The people of Wicklow are being asked to support an appeal by a consortium of Irish charities who have come together to respond to the coronavirus pandemic amongst some of the world's poorest people. Six of Ireland's leading international aid agencies are teaming up to respond to the worsening global coronavirus pandemic and to save lives in some of the poorest and most fragile countries.

The agencies have combined forces to form the Irish Emergency Alliance, which will jointly raise money from the Irish public and respond in countries facing rising coronavirus cases and already struggling to cope with the impact of conflict and displacement as well as widespread poverty, increased rates of hunger and poor health care.

The coronavirus appeal will focus on vulnerable communities in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, all coping with the impact of widespread conflict, as well as Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon and the Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

These seven countries are home to more than 17 million refugees and displaced people. For people living in refugee camps or slums it is nearly impossible to practice physical distancing, while a lack of soap and water in many homes

makes it harder to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Money raised by the Irish Emergency Alliance's coronavirus appeal will go towards food, water and medical care as well as providing soap, masks and vital information to prevent the spread of the virus.

The Irish Emergency Alliance is made up of ActionAid, Christian Aid, Plan International, Self Help Africa, Tearfund and World Vision. Between them the aid agencies have programmes in 85 different countries, giving the Irish Emergency Alliance the global presence, expertise and experience required to respond quickly to this and future crises.

Helen Keogh, Chair of the Irish Emergency Alliance, said the unprecedented scale of the global coronavirus pandemic motivated the six charities to come together to help those most in need.

"We have all seen the devastating

impact of the coronavirus crisis in Ireland, so you can imagine how much harder it is for people living in countries without enough doctors or nurses let alone enough ICU beds or ventilators. In countries without the safety net of furlough schemes, many who lost their jobs during the pandemic are now struggling to feed their families. The situation is even more critical in countries already struggling with the impact of conflict and buckling under the strain of massive refugee and displacement crises," Keogh said.

"A lack of widespread testing in many developing countries suggests that we may only be seeing the tip of the iceberg of the true scale of the global coronavirus crisis. What is clear is that some of the world's poorest people are being pushed even further into poverty and disruptions to farming and supply chains risk severe food shortages. By working together, the Irish Emergency Alliance will reach some of the world's most vulnerable people, giving them the supplies and information they need to keep safe from the virus."

The Irish Emergency Alliance is modelled on similar joint appeal coalitions that operate successfully in the United Kingdom and across many European countries. By working together, the Irish Emergency Alliance can reduce fundraising costs to make donations stretch even further and has pledged to work together in this way in response to future humanitarian crises across the globe.

People in Wicklow can support the appeal by donating at www.irishemergencyalliance.org or by calling 1 800 939 979 or by text IEA to 50 300 to give €4.

Demand for Jigsaw services increases by almost 50%

Against the backdrop of a growing mental health crisis brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, youth mental health charity Jigsaw has seen demand for its services in August 2020 increase by almost 50% compared with the same period last year.

This follows an increase of traffic to its e-mental health platform of over 400% over the last 6 months, a surge in demand for its schools supports and a month-on-month increase to calls to 1800 JIGSAW support line. To meet this growing demand, Jigsaw is calling on people to support its Revolution campaign, by cycling 100km and raising 100 by World Mental Health Day on Saturday October 10th.

"While much remains unpredictable, what's clear to us here in Jigsaw is that young people and those around them need continued support to get them through the months ahead," said Mike Mansfield, Director of Communications and Fundraising at Jigsaw.

"What we are hearing from those who have been using our services and supports over the last 6 months is a real cause for concern. Isolation, uncertainty and fear are leaving many without the core elements we value and need for our mental wellbeing."

Jigsaw has also seen a slight shift in the issues that young people are presenting with since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. While anxiety remains the top issue among young people, they're seeing an increase in sleep-related issues, family conflict and a marked spike in contacts

seeking support.

"Lack of connection with those around them as a result of increasing restrictions is leading to high levels of anxiety, low mood and psychological distress. Continued uncertainty is contributing to a growing sense of hopelessness and fear for the future. Concern and worry for parents and family members are also emerging as central themes. It's evident that Covid-19, and the measures taken to contain it, will leave many - particularly those who were struggling pre-Covid - scarred," Mike Mansfield continued.

Revolution x Jigsaw is a new campaign aimed at responding to the growing crisis. In encouraging people across Ireland to cycle 100km and raise €100 before October 10th, Jigsaw sees this as a practical way to help and support our young people's mental health.

"The idea is simple. By coming together and playing a small part, collectively we can make a huge difference. We have hundreds of people across Ireland on board, all cycling for a reason - a family member, themselves, the future. It's been heartening, but we need more people to join today. We urgently need to raise €100,000 in the next three weeks," he added.

Register at www.revolutionxjigsaw.ie

Get real with how you feel this October

On Thursday 1st October, See Change, Ireland's organisation dedicated to ending mental health stigma, will virtually launch their Eight Annual Green Ribbon Campaign.

The Green Ribbon campaign aims to get as many people as possible talking about mental health to help end stigma and discrimination. By wearing the Green Ribbon - an international symbol for mental health awareness - you show you are committed to influencing positive change.

We all have mental health but during these difficult times (Covid-19) it's more important than ever to look after our mental health. This October will host the 2020 Green Ribbon Month (usually held in May) encouraging everyone to start a conversation and wear the Green Ribbon to show their support.

See Change is Ireland's National Mental Health Stigma Reduction Partnership. Funded by the HSE National Office of Suicide Prevention, the partnership is made up of over 100 Irish organisations and 60 ambassadors who work together to open minds about mental health problems, and end mental health stigma and discrimination.

Green Ribbon will run virtual events throughout the month of October which will have an array of different speakers focusing on the workplace, the voices of lived experience, and partners of See Change, on the topics of discrimination, behaviour and societal change. You can find out more about these events on the See Change website and social media throughout the month.

After last year's Green Ribbon campaign, 54% of survey participants strongly agreed that it is impor-

tant to have open conversations about mental health. This is a significant increase compared to just 20% in 2018.

Coinciding with the recent launch of See Change and Mental Health Ireland's Living with Covid-19 Return to Work Guide, this year's Green Ribbon campaign focuses on the importance of sharing how you really feel. There is still time to order Green Ribbons by emailing admin@seechange.ie with your full name, delivery address (including eircode), contact number, email address and ribbon quantity, or by placing an order directly on the website www.seechange.ie.



See Change ambassador Abigail McDonnell at the launch of the annual Green Ribbon campaign



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 SKIN GRAFTS AND FLAPS (COMPROMISED)
 THERMAL BURNS
 CRUSH INJURY, COMPARTMENT SYNDROME,
 AND OTHER ACUTE TRAUMATIC ISCHEMIAS.
 ENHANCEMENT OF HEALING IN SELECTED PROBLEM
 WOUNDS (DIABETIC WOUNDS)
 EXCEPTIONAL BLOOD LOSS (ANEMIA)
 INTRACRANIAL ABSCESS, ACTINOMYCOSIS
 NECROTIZING SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS
 DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS
 CLOSTRIDAL MYOSITIS AND MYONECROSIS, (GAS GANGRENE)
*IN ADDITION, THE UK MS SOCIETY RECOMMENDS ITS USE
 AS AN ADJUNCT TREATMENT FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS*

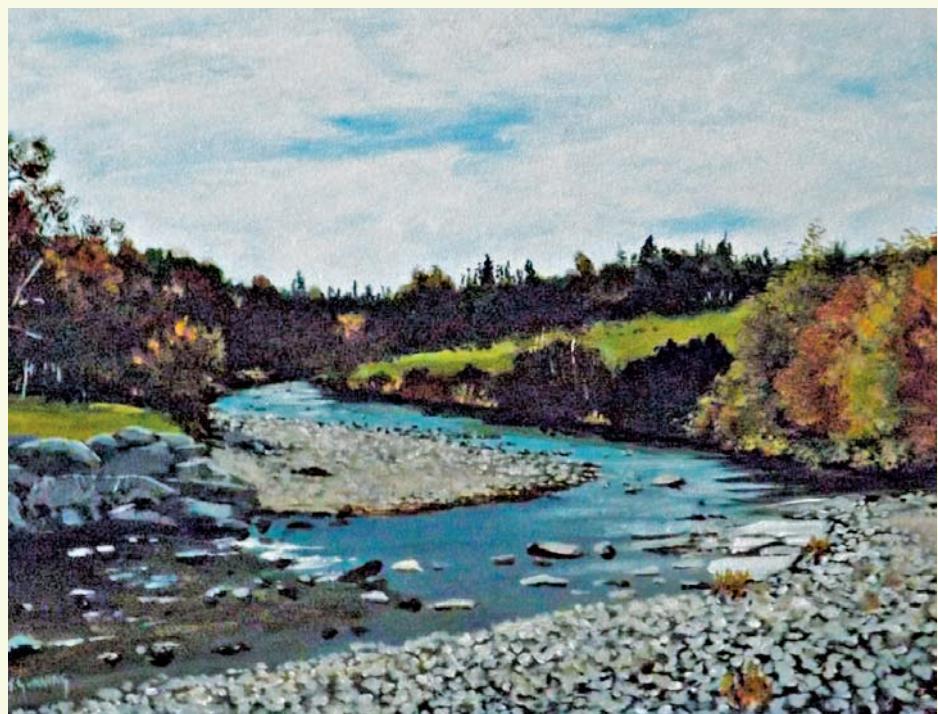
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 Emergency: 087 972 9366
 Email: hyperinfo@eircom.net www.hyperbaricireland.com



Liffey Portraits: From Source to Sea by Tony Gunning

Bray artist, Tony Gunning, presents 'Liffey Portraits: From Source to Sea', an exhibition of paintings that celebrate a river that has been in his blood since birth. It can be seen in the Signal Arts Centre from now until 11th October.

The Liffey travels through three counties, Wicklow, Kildare and Dublin on its eighty-mile journey to the sea. Tony currently lives in County Wicklow but has also lived in Kildare and Dublin in close proximity to the river and worked in an office overlooking it for twenty-five years.

The locations portrayed reflect the artist's personal connection with the river but will have resonances with anyone who has ever come in contact with it.

Tony has been a professional artist for twenty years with fourteen solo shows to his credit. He has also exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin and the Royal Ulster Academy in Belfast amongst others. He won the curators award at EV+A in 2007 and won the Bank of Ireland Emerging Artist Award in the same year. His work is in many public and private collections including the Waterford Municipal Collection and the Bank of Ireland Collection.

October cinema at Mermaid Arts Centre

Mermaid Arts Centre has announced their Cinema Programme for October.

"We're excited to start back with four time Oscar winner Parasite, from director Bong Joon-ho. Renée Zellweger stars in Judy, a portrayal of Judy Garland as she reflects on her life during a sold out residency in London. Next up is French film Portrait of a Lady on Fire, set in 1770 Brittany and winner of Best Screenplay at Cannes 2019. We finish off the month with The Lighthouse, starring Willem Dafoe and Robert Pattinson, who turn in extraordinary performances as The Lighthouse keepers who slowly descend into madness."

"Over the past few months we have been working hard to put comprehensive measures in place to ensure a safe and comfortable experience for all our patrons. Capacity is limited for each screening with full social distancing measures in place."



Willem Dafoe and Robert Pattinson in *The Lighthouse*

Parasite (Cert: 16)

Monday 5 October | 8pm | €9/7

Ki-tae is the head of a family of tricksters, who live in a run-down basement flat. By chance, son Ki-woo is recommended to provide private English lessons to the teenage daughter of the wealthy Park household. Ki-woo devises a plan to use this opportunity to his family's best advantage.

Judy (Cert: 12A)

Monday 12 October | 8pm | €9/7

1968: Having fallen on hard times, and desperate to re-establish herself, Judy Garland (an astounding Renée Zellweger) accepts a residency in London to perform a five-week, sold-out series of concerts. Separated from her children and heavily dependant on drugs and alcohol, she reflects on her life, specifically her childhood, irreparably damaged by studio chief Louis B Mayer.

Portrait of a Lady on Fire (Cert: 16)

Monday 19 October | 8pm | €9/7

1760: Artist Marianna has been employed by a French countess to paint the wedding portrait of her daughter Héloïse. Furiously opposed to the idea of marriage, Héloïse has refused to pose for any painting. Marianna passes herself off as Héloïse's walking companion, allowing her to observe her subject closely without arousing Héloïse's suspicions.

The Lighthouse (Cert: 16)

Monday 26 October | 8pm | €9/7

Late 19th century: veteran seafarer Tom Wake and apprentice Ephraim Winslow arrive on a remote New England island to manage a lighthouse for a four week period. Tom's hostile manner soon creates tensions between the two men, but when Ephraim also becomes curious about the lighthouse lamp that only Tom is allowed access to, the situation deteriorates further.

Bookings through Box Office on 01-2724030

Greystones Film Club presents: Taffin

Filmed mostly around Wicklow Town and Greystones, 1988 thriller Taffin, directed by Francis Megahy, sees Pierce Brosnan as a lone-gum debt collector named Mark Taffin going toe to toe with a shady business syndicate in the small town of Ballymorran to stop a dangerous chemicals plant being built on the local football pitch.

Meanwhile, local councillor Gibson, who wears a cravat and smokes a pipe, is conspiring with a shotgun-wielding landowner named Henderson to push up the price on an adjoining meadow to the football field, which Henderson owns.

Taffin is at first happy in his free-wheeling existence; he drives a red convertible, he drinks Guinness when he pleases, he gives advice to local rock bands from his office in the ruins of an old barn of some kind. At first he's reluctant to help the townspeople fight off the corrupt developers, despite pleas from his brother Mo (Patrick Bergin):

"They need you. On their own they've got no chance".

"I heard ya, Mo!".

One scene sees Mr O'Rourke (Ray McNamee) visit Taffin in his loft to try and convince him:

"I'm trying to organize a committee to fight the building of that industrial monstrosity next to the sports field."

"The town needs jobs," Taffin says simply.

"But not from a chemi-

cal factory! It's likely to poison the lot of us!"

"Chemical factory, is that what it is?"

Taffin gets embroiled, and with the help of his friend Ed (Gerard McSorley), they blow up Henderson's outhouse to shake things up. As retaliation, the developers bring in some hired thugs (including Fair City's Bella) to intimidate the locals and beat up Taffin and Mo, and things escalate from there.

Along the way Taffin helps and woos local barmaid Charlotte (Alison Doody), who's in the employment of a sleazy cockney publican called Les, who offered Charlotte a job after a pilot drives off with all of

her possessions, leaving her destitute. Doody would go on to star as Dr Elsa Schneider in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, released the following year.

Taffin is soundtracked by a collaborative score between Stanley Myers (The Deer Hunter, Wish You Were Here), and Hans Zimmer (Gladiator, Inception, The Dark Knight). Brosnan did not do ADR (automated dia-



logue replacement) for the film, so somebody did it for him, which means the character of Taffin sometimes says things in a voice not belonging to Pierce Brosnan.

For this, as well as the interesting choices Brosnan makes with the delivery of some of his lines, the film has picked up a small cult following over the years. Familiar landmarks and locations to look out for include Frank Kelly and Dermot Morgan.

See Taffin at the Whale Theatre on Thursday, 8th October at 8pm. The €10 admission includes a box of freshly-popped popcorn. Further info on www.whaletheatre.ie.

Three prints for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Bray artist Hannah Sayers has created three prints for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, with 50% of the profits going to the National Breast Cancer Research Institute, Galway.

"Unfortunately, my family has been hugely affected by Breast Cancer," said Hannah Sayers of Sayers Studio. "I lost my Mother, Nanny and Granny all by the time I was ten years old. This collection of three A4 prints was inspired by those three incredibly strong women who fought and lost their battle with Breast Cancer. I myself had a scare this year, I'm lucky to be checked regularly due to my family history but after a routine MRI something showed up on the scan. I got the call on the morning of 30th birthday that I needed to come back in for more tests the next day. Over the space of two weeks I had two MRI's, a mammogram, an ultrasound and a biopsy. I was lucky, and it turned out to be nothing. But so many others aren't as lucky. That's why Breast Cancer Awareness month is so important."

The three A4 floral prints will go on sale exclusively on Sayers Studios Etsy Shop from Thursday, October 1st. They will then be available to purchase for the month of October.

Each print is €30 (Free postage for Ireland & N.Ireland).



Marie Keane releases video to accompany latest single

Greystones musician, Marie Keane, has released the song New Day off her debut album 'Russian Doll' with an ethereal video to accompany it.



New Day is the third single from Marie's debut album. Accompanied by a mystical, ethereal and whimsical video, New Day confirms Marie as an artist with serious vocal and song writing credentials.

New Day is about waking up on the wrong side of sleep yet slipping gently through the daily cracks.

"Although written over fifteen years ago, the song is still one of my most favourite tracks," says Marie. "I wanted the video to capture that

dreamlike place".

The video for New Day, features the musician and her niece Maye, alongside Marie's own Jack Russell dog, Jeff, named after the late Jeff Buckley.

It also stars a 1980's Fisher-price toy-dog aptly named 'mini-Jeff'.

Directed by Matthew Rose-Nel in Ballinastoe woods and in Greystones. Crucial background support was provided by the artist's sister and nephews.

Listen to New Day now on Spotify or watch the music video on YouTube.

The Shaking Bog Podcast: where art & nature meet

The 2019 Shaking Bog Festival took place in the Glencree Valley last June, and was a huge success.

Now, in parallel to a biennial Festival, The Shaking Bog is launching a podcast that will keep the dialogue between art and nature alive throughout the year. This seasonal podcast will celebrate the abundance of nature and biodiversity through a carefully crafted tapestry of readings, reflections, and conversations - from a range of writers, artists and others engaged in the understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

The first edition of this podcast is available from today on www.shakingbog.ie. Gently linking to the

theme of autumn, this podcast includes a diverse range of items including; a conversation with writer and sheep farmer Selina Guinness that includes readings from acclaimed poet Vahni Capildeo, a beautiful reflection from writer, historian and lover of trees Thomas Pakenham, a conversation between Botanist and pollination expert Professor Jane Stout and artist Grainne Cuffe, a reading and reflection from poet Sean Hewitt. And all of this woven together within the natural soundscape of the Glencree Valley.

The Shaking Bog is delighted to present this podcast in collaboration with Coillte Nature and Mermaid Arts Centre. For further information, make contact through Twitter, Facebook or Instagram @theshakingbog



Join artists Melissa O'Flaherty, Emma Roche, Joanne Boyle, Chanelle Walshe and Sinéad Ni Mhaonaigh in Mermaid Arts Centre on Friday 2nd October at 6pm as they present and discuss their individual practice focussing on paint as a medium and material which carries endless possibilities. The talk will open up conversations around the individual artists practice bringing you deeper into the thinking and making of their work. Limited capacity and booking essential through our Box Office on 01-2724030.

Coming up at Whale Theatre...

An evening with Jean Farrell - writer of The Six Marys

An evening with Jean Farrell is a nostalgic look at life in Ireland, during the 1950s and 60s.

This show is a trip down memory lane remembering happy times when we were young and innocent, full of hopes and dreams.

Hear about mothers of ten and more. Recall the wonderful dance halls, filled with music and song, youth and vitality. Stories from the past are interwoven with lovely Irish ballads and songs we learnt in school long ago. The show is very evocative, funny and poignant.

Written and presented by Jean Farrell. Singer: Ursula Hanley.

Thursday 1st October, 8.00pm (Doors 7.30pm)
Tickets €20/€18.



with Ursula Hanley
Life in 1950s & 1960s Ireland

Thursday Oct 1st 8pm [Doors 7pm] Tickets: €20/€18
www.whaletheatre.ie

Poems In The Stones

Local poets, Frances Browner and Paul Dillon, read and recite their poems; Bray poet, Carmen Cullen presents her pandemic poetry on video, and singer/guitarist, Michael Heffernan, performs poems in song. Participants to Poets' Wall will appear on screen. Poems in your bones, poems in the stones, poems by the sea, in the air, poems everywhere. Come along and experience different forms of poetry - epic, elegy, poems that rhyme; lyric, limerick, odes to time; sonnet, haiku, villanelle; dip into the poets' well.

Friday 2nd October, 8.00pm (Doors 7.30pm)
Tickets €18.



KERN Album Tour

Louth folk favourites Kern are back in 2020 with the trio's eagerly awaited new album, their first since their critically acclaimed debut False Deceiver.

The Left and The Leaving is a similar showcase of the band's unusual mix of personalities: Barry Kieran is a former Leinster champion fiddler, steeped in the raw, pure music of Oriel; Brendan McCreanor is an uilleann piper of rare passion and versatility whose distinctive playing is at once both modern and rooted in tradition and SJ McArdle is a critically acclaimed songwriter and singer who has previously toured and recorded internationally.

The band presents thrilling interpretations of the music of the past and blistering, sometimes heart-wrenching new songs and compositions. The eclectic weave of their music is a result of their myriad influences and diverse formative experiences and backgrounds.

Saturday 3rd October, 8pm (Doors 7.30pm) Tickets €15





Hannah Murphy and Christopher Parle are pictured at IT Carlow checking out the IT Carlow student information app that was launched as thousands of IT Carlow students returned to campus for the new academic year.

Appy Days! IT Carlow launches student information app

Institute of Technology Carlow last week launched its own student information app to assist the thousands of learners returning to its Carlow and Wexford campuses for a new academic year.

IT Carlow Student Info 101 is available for both Apple and Android phones and features a huge variety of information on all aspects of college life at IT Carlow. Students can access information in areas such as: admissions; academic support; classroom locator; clubs and societies; examinations; maps; students supports; student finance; library information, fees and grants, transport and student union information, amongst others. Class timetables and downloadable student forms are also on the app, which was designed by Square Root Solutions, based in Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.

The student app also includes pertinent information on COVID and IT Carlow's return to campus protocols

and is one of several non-contact supports put in place by the institute for students. This year's IT Carlow student handbook can also be downloaded via a QR code.

"We have implemented a range of supports and resources for both students and staff for the new academic year - a year that will be different to anything that has gone before. We designed the IT Carlow app as part of our return to campus planning and the student app will be a great resource for students as they negotiate a new academic year in unprecedented times. We are continuing to work closely with the Students Union and our many clubs and societies to facilitate a substantial on-campus experience for students, particularly incoming first years, while observing public health guidelines", commented Rosemary Flynn, Head of Learner Support and Student Services, IT Carlow.

IT Carlow has prepared a hybrid-learning model for the new academic that integrates digital, recorded and traditional face-to-face classes in a structured manner.

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Maxi Zoo supports animal protection

Maxi Zoo will start their annual customer donation campaign on 4th October to mark World Animal Protection Day. Stylish friendship bracelets for adults and kids will be sold until the end of this year in all 20 Maxi Zoo stores in Ireland. Customers can actively support Maxi Zoo's chosen charity H.U.G - Homes for Unwanted Greyhounds.

H.U.G is a registered charity based in Ireland which aims to find loving homes for retired Irish racing greyhounds and promote a positive image of the breed as pets throughout Ireland.

Every year, thousands of greyhounds enter the racing industry in Ireland, yet many are retired quite young due to injury or sheer lack of speed. While still healthy, vibrant dogs, they find themselves unwanted if they are not earning prize money. With a lifespan of between 12-

14 years, every greyhound deserves a forever home to enjoy their retirement with comfort, dignity and companionship.

In Ireland, Maxi Zoo will have two friendship bracelets to choose from to support H.U.G, their classic adult size priced at €2.50 and new for 2020, a children's bracelet priced at €2 with 100% of the profits being donated to H.U.G.

In 2019 Maxi Zoo raised €38,000 for Dogs Trust and in the past year alone the Maxi

Zoo/Fressnapf group have raised roughly 1.4 million euro for animals in need in Europe.

"Each bracelet sold enabled us to create one of the largest animal welfare support campaigns in Europe, which makes me extremely grateful and proud", states Fressnapf/ Maxi Zoo founder Torsten Toeller.

The Coronavirus crisis and its consequences have negatively impacted the economic situation of many animal shelters and animal welfare institutions.

In particular, because donations were reduced, events were cancelled and many facilities had to remain closed. The volunteers and 'everyday heroes'

caring for animals in need are dependent on money and donations in kind as well as further support. This is where the Friendship Connects campaign helps with its bracelets. To find out more about the campaign, visit maxizoo.ie/friendship-connects-2020 or visit @maxizooireland on Facebook and Instagram.

Businesses encouraged to apply for Business Design Challenge

Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI) has launched the Irish Business Design Challenge and businesses from Wicklow are encouraged to apply. IBDC has been launched in partnership with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, the Local Enterprise Offices and Enterprise Ireland and offers an overall prize fund of €50,000.

As part of the competition, businesses from all sectors are invited to share the challenges they are experiencing as a result of COVID-19 and the solutions they have designed to resolve and adapt to the current environment.

The aim of the challenge is to recognise the resilience and innovation of MSMEs in a year which has proven to be challenging for businesses as a result of Covid-19.

The competition will profile a selection of businesses over a number of weeks, during which an expert panel of judges and members of the public will have

the chance to vote for their 'hero business'. Dearbhail McDonald, Author and Broadcaster will chair the expert judging panel.

The Irish Business Design Challenge is open to three categories of business including micro (1 - 10 employees), small (11 - 50 employees) and medium sized (51 - 250 employees). There is an overall prize fund in excess of €50,000, with a €15,000 first prize for the winner of each category and €2,000 for the runner-up in each category.

Oisín Geoghegan, Chair of the Network of Local Enterprise Offices said, "In the Local

Enterprise Offices we are in the privileged position to work with some of the most innovative small businesses from across the country, and due to Covid-19 many have had to redesign their existing products, or pivot to new ones linked to their supply chain.

The Irish Business Design Challenge is a fantastic way to recognise these businesses and highlight some of the innovative and brilliant design that is out there across the country." For further information on the Irish Business Design Challenge or to apply for the competition please visit ibdc.awardstage.com

LOCAL BUSINESS

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• PLANNING •

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning permission is sought for construction of new bungalow dwelling on site at Birch Grove, Kilfin, Laragh, Co Wicklow, Eircode A98C1P3, for Rob and Talita Dagg. The application includes the provision of a gateway, driveway, soakaways, domestic wastewater treatment unit with soil polishing filter, 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 Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow, during its public opening hours, and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Stephen Kennedy seeks Full Planning Permission for the construction of a single-storey, 4-bedroom dwelling including separate garage, well, and effluent treatment and disposal system. The proposal also includes the improvement of the existing vehicular entrance and all associated site works at Shraghmore, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Richard Butler seeks planning permission for conversion of existing attic with rooflight to front, change from existing hipped roof to gable style with new frosted window in gable wall, along with new dormer roof space to rear of 11 Church Avenue, Eden Gate, Delgany Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Leone Crinnion, seek planning permission for construction of a 2-bedded single storey dwelling on my site, having an existing road entrance onto the Quill Road, with a site area of 0.11 hectares, and for connection to public services adjacent to and on the site, and for all associated site works, on site in the townland of Kilmacanogue South, Quill Road, Kilmacanogue.

The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Raymond Poole, intend to apply for permission for development at this site, 15 Glenview Court, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of a side extension at first floor and roof level, replacing the existing hipped roof, to create a new room at first floor level and additional attic storage space, with 1 no. rooflight to the rear slope. 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

Paul and Margot Kinsella seek full planning permission for 1) Relocation of existing timber shed 2) Construction of new single story extension to side and rear of house with 1 No. rooflight 3) All associated site works at No. 7 Drummin Rise, Delgany Wood, Delgany, Co. Wicklow, A63KT61. 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

New classes at Baltinglass Further Education and Training Centre

New classes are starting now at Baltinglass Further Education and Training Centre. They are: Manage Your Money; Art For All; and English for Speakers of Other Languages.

At Baltinglass Further Education and Training Centre, all precautions are being taken to ensure the safety of all and HSE guidelines are being applied. Please contact Annette/Maeve on 0596482642 or 0868462772 if you need more information or mail: abebaltinglass@kwetb.ie

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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A Wicklow family's toughest summer

Mayo fan Tom Byrne, who now lives in Wicklow, features in the latest AIB documentary, *The Toughest Summer*, alongside his children Kevin and Tara Byrne.

The documentary is now available to view on AIB's YouTube channel. Told through the lens of award-winning documentary maker, Ross

Whitaker, the feature piece tracks Toms' story alongside a host of other GAA members nationwide and will celebrate the strength and resilience of the thousands of people in GAA communities.

The *Toughest Summer*, which aired on RTÉ One on Tuesday, August 25th, is now available on AIB's YouTube channel.

Gospel: Luke 17:26-37

Jesus said to the disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it also be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating and drinking, marrying wives and husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all. It will be the same as it in Lot's day: people were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but the day Lot left Sodom, God rained fire and brimstone from heaven and it destroyed them all. It will be the same when the day comes for the Son of Man to be revealed.'

'When that day comes anyone on the housetop with his possessions in the house, must not come down to collect them, nor must anyone in the fields turn back either. Remember Lot's wife. Anyone who tries to preserve his life will lose it and anyone who loses it will keep it safe. I tell you, on that night two will be in one bed, one will be taken, the other left, two women will be grinding corn together; one will be taken the other left.' The disciples interrupted 'Where Lord?' they asked. He said, 'Where the body is, there too will the vultures gather'.

C.J.

Family Carers Ireland



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