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Tuesday 6th October 2020 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: [wicklowed@localtimes.ie](mailto:wicklowed@localtimes.ie) [www.wicklowtimes.net](http://www.wicklowtimes.net)

## NO CHANGING PLACES IN WICKLOW

"There are no 'Changing Places' toilet facilities for those with severe disabilities in the entire county of Wicklow at present and building regulations need to change to ensure they are mandatory in future public buildings," said Green Party TD Steven Matthews.

Deputy Steven Matthews has now received a commitment from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government to form a departmental working group to review Part M of the building regulations to ensure that larger sized accessible toilets suitable for adults and those with severe disabilities will be mandatory for appropriate new public buildings.

Deputy Matthews raised the issue with Minister Malcolm Noonan under topical issues in the Dáil last Thursday after working

with the 'Changing Places' campaign.

Currently there are just 15 toilet/changing facilities in the Republic of Ireland that are suitable for use by older children and teens, and adults with more severe disabilities. None of these are in County Wicklow.

While current building regulations require standard disabled toilets in public buildings, these do not cater for those needing assistance by carers, for example to change incontinence pads or those who may require the use of a hoist.

Deputy Matthews said,

"While there are standard accessible toilets available in most public buildings, what's needed is the 'Changing Places' standard toilet facilities. The Changing Places campaign group has established a template of what is needed for full equity of access to bathroom facilities and this includes: Height adjustable adult sized changing bench; a larger floor space of 12m squared; a full room coverage ceiling track hoist system; a centrally located toilet bowl with space either side for transfersassistants; a ceil-



Pictured are Deputy Steven Matthews, Aaron Daly, Sophia McGuinness and Councillor Erika Doyle.

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ing height of 2.4m."

Deputy Matthews said, "I recently met with Sophia McGuinness and her family in Bray. Sophia is a wonderful young woman aged 13 with cerebral palsy and arthrogryposis, a condition affecting the joints. I was stunned to hear from her dad Aaron that there is not one 'Changing Places' facility in the entire county of Wicklow, in which to change Sophia, should she require it."

"This is a situation replicated across the country, with just 15 facilities in the Republic of Ireland. Aaron told me that the family must plan their days out around toilet facilities, and often have to abandon plans when they find out they will have nowhere to change Sophia. In the past they have changed Sophia in their car while trying to

maintain her privacy.

"In recent weeks the UK government announced a change in building rules which will make it compulsory for new buildings such as shopping centres and sports stadiums to include at least one Changing Place from 2021. This is what we should be aiming for in Ireland and I believe if there is the political will, we can make it happen. The provision of Changing Places toilet facilities will ensure that children like Sophia, and many others with similar needs, can go about their everyday lives with dignity."

On a local level, Green Party Councillor Erika Doyle recently submitted a proposal to the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council to include Changing Places in the County Development Plan.

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Pictured are Deirdre Keating, Derri Keating and Mathew Davis from Bray Lakers receiving a cheque from Harry Williams (Kilmacanogue Show President) and Liam Allen (Show Chairman). The Kilmac Horse Show went virtual this year and €5,000 was divided among local charities. See more page 12

## New vinyl record store in Blessington

The Screaming Donkeys Emporium, located above Dunnes in Blessington, is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 12 to 5pm. There's a large selection of LPs, CDs and 7-inch singles for sale.

## Wicklow Willow

More full day courses (9 am to 5 pm), for improvers and beginners coming soon in the Brockagh Centre. They include materials, tuition, tea/coffee and lunch (with cake)! You will make and bring home your own basket on the day. Places are limited, so please book early to get the dates you want. For more information, contact local basket maker and artist, Aoife Patterson, on 087-9773622, email info@wicklowwillow.ie or visit www.wicklowwillow.ie.

## Speak up for nature

Nature doesn't have a voice but you do. Will you speak up for nature? As part of their work on agriculture BirdWatch Ireland is campaigning for a better Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) for wild birds, their habitats and other biodiversity. "We are calling on supporters to Speak Up for Nature by leaving a voicemail message which we will send to Irish Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). We are asking them to vote for measures which will address the biodiversity emergency on farmland in Ireland in an upcoming important vote on the CAP in the European Parliament."

The voicemail campaign is an 'online only' campaign. To leave a voicemail and learn more, go to mitmachen.nabu.de/en-IE/Ireland and follow the instructions. It's free!

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## Sharing excess garden produce

Anyone with an extra supply of garden food produce can drop it outside the main entrance of the Brockagh Resource Centre in the crate provided for the community to share.

## Concern over gatherings at south beach playground

*Wicklow Times* has been contacted by Greystones residents expressing concerns over gatherings of teenagers at South Beach playground in the evenings.

One person who goes to the beach every evening said he regularly observes the teenagers hanging out on the swings and slides and potentially leaving traces of the Covid on the equipment.

He said "I don't mean to be a killjoy. It's highly plausible that if any of them have covid, they could leave traces of virus on the swings and next day the little kids come in with their parents and could easily contract virus and spread it throughout the community and the elderly. I never once saw the police patrol the area over the summer. Last night (September 27th) was the same. They were there as usual. It comes as no surprise that covid is now on the rise in Wicklow."

## Sports Club funding

Sports clubs of all kind within the county and beyond are the focus of a new club funding initiative just launched under the title Texaco Support for Sport for which a fund of €130,000 has been set aside for distribution on a twenty-six, county-by-county basis, with successful clubs receiving an equal amount of €5,000 in each case.

Aimed at all clubs irrespective of sporting discipline, size, membership, age, cultural appeal or gender, it is expected to attract all whose activities, goals and ambitions can, in the view of adjudicators, be materially advanced through the receipt and proper use of funding in each case. Open for entries until end-December, winners will be announced early next year. Full details can be viewed online at [www.TexacoSupportforSport.com](http://www.TexacoSupportforSport.com)

## Children's book Festival

Do call into Wicklow Branch library any time during the month of October as they celebrate National Children's Book Festival. There will be quizzes and puzzles for children to test their knowledge and complete. Each week will have a different theme. Week 1 5th - 10 October, Space Week; Week 2 12th- 17th October Science week; Week 3 19th - 24th October Math Week; Week 4 26th - 31 October, all about the environment week. "We have recently purchased a number of new non-fiction books, so do call in and take the quiz. The answers are in the books. You might win a prize."

# Not to Bee!

While many events and festivals have gone virtual in very innovative ways this year, you simply cannot taste local honey on Zoom! The Ashford Beekeepers Association (ABKA) annual Honey Festival is cancelled this September due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Carole Vermeulen, Festival Organiser, says the cancellation is very disappointing but entirely necessary.

"Our Association has a clear vision for our Honey Festival as being a truly unique community event, and we certainly achieved this last year when the sun shone down on the 2000+ happy visitors of all ages who gathered together to soak up the atmosphere. There was a little jazz, a lot of colour and the Heritage Centre was buzzing with side events - the demonstration hives give an insight into the fascinating world of our native bees and their invaluable role as pollinators.

Honey Sales are always a huge draw with the best of local honey from our beekeepers available."

erably - the average hive would produce up to 12 kg in a good year and this year it is down to an average of 3 kg.

As if the bees knew there would be no Honey Festival this year, a cold and wet summer across Ireland has caused a dramatic fall in the amount of honey produced by native Irish honey bees this season.

According to Alan Pierce, a member of ABKA and beekeeper for more than 30 years, after the beautiful early Summer in April, May into June the rain and cold weather that followed in July and August was the main reason the harvest is so poor.

"Yields are down consid-

erably - the average hive would produce up to 12 kg in a good year and this year it is down to an average of 3 kg.

"The bees came out in the early sunshine and gathered nectar from early flowering crops but the main honey production crop in Ireland is the blackberry and white clover in July. When that was not available because of the inclement weather the honey crop for the year was in trouble. As a result the bees had to feed on their early stores. Usually by July a colony of bees would have increased from 15,000 to close to 50,000 so there were a lot of bees to feed," said Alan.

ABKA are already planning a great Festival programme for 2021 when hopefully the bees, the weather and the world will be in harmony once again and ready for a great Festival.

If you want to get the best of Wicklow Honey, check out the website at [wicklowbees.com/Honey-Sales.php](http://wicklowbees.com/Honey-Sales.php) or look out for local producers' stock in your village store.

## Bray Soroptimists lunch raises almost €3,000 for charities

The Bray branch of Soroptimists Ireland has, since their inception 60 years ago, fundraised annually to support local, national and international charities.

A major event in the annual calendar of events is the Charity Lunch.

However, with the arrival of COVID-19, the 2020 Annual Lunch, in its traditional form, could not be held.

Not to be deterred the Club members organised a socially distanced outdoor event. Held on the grounds of Kilcroney Furniture, with thanks to long time Club member Anny Verwijs, the lunch

was a major success, raising almost €3,000.

President Tanja Haak O'Riordan, acknowledged the support in ensuring the fundraising event could be held. "We are so grateful to everyone who has supported our fundraising lunch in very challenging times for everyone this year.

The generosity of our members, friends and those who sponsored raffle prizes, mean we can support the Bray Women's Refuge; Purple House Cancer Support; Soroptimist International Benevolent Fund and the Malawi Girls Education Fund. We look forward to continuing our fundraising efforts into the future and to enjoying continued support."



Nono McQuillan, Rosemary Zarqa and Clare Comerford enjoying the Bray Soroptimists fundraising lunch

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# 'ST JOSEPH'S IN SHANKILL WILL NOT BE CLOSED'

Residents and families of St Joseph's in Shankill were alarmed last week when St John of God's announced that it was withdrawing its services. However, Health Minister Stephen Donnelly was quickly out to reassure clients and their families that the services would continue no matter what.

St Joseph's provide dementia specific person-centred care, focussing on the social, emotional, psychological and physical needs of people at all stages of dementia, in a real home environment, both residential and day care. Saint Joseph's Shankill is home to 60 people and offers 2 people a respite bed every week with 120 Day Centre places.

Saint John of God Community Services last week announced that it had served a notice of termination of its Service Arrangement with the Health Services Executive and its intention to transfer responsibility for the operation of



**Minister Stephen Donnelly**

those impacted are in receipt of day, residential and respite services for people with a disability. The Order of St John of God has been providing these services for almost a century.

Minister Donnelly

told *Wicklow Times* "St Joseph's is an incredible institution that leads the way in dementia care in this country. It is critical for the patients, their families and the staff that those services continue to be provided. There are ongoing discussions between the HSE and St John of God's Community Services to resolve the current issues.

"My hope is those various issues can be resolved but if it transpires the services are taken over by the HSE an interim plan will be put in place. Whatever happens services at St Joseph's will be continuing."



Pictured are Hilary Sharpe and Jimmy Balbontin at the Wicklow Town Saturday Market

## Wicklow homes sell four weeks faster in last quarter

The time taken to sell the average house in Wicklow has fallen by four weeks in the past quarter, a national property survey has found.

The REA Average House Price Survey found that the average time taken to sell across the county fell over the past three months from 14 weeks to 10.

As people move away from urban hubs and incorporate new working-from-home lifestyles, the price of the average three-bed semi-detached house in the county was unchanged this quarter, and has fallen 0.4% over the past 12 months to €283,000.

"The market is very strong. There are a lot of purchasers who would have wanted to buy in Dublin but now are interested in living in the country," said Matt Forkin of REA Forkin North East Wicklow, and Wicklow Town.

"There is an increase in demand for rural properties with purchasers who do not have an attachment to Dublin. They are really interested in moving out to rural Wicklow.

"The demand for detached country properties is very strong, and prices are reaching higher levels."

Reduced selling periods reflects a more focused approach from loan approved buyers, according to Simon Murphy of REA Murphy, Baltinglass and Blessington.

"We expect that the current activity may be a bubble

which could be burst once the Covid-19 supports are withdrawn," said Mr Murphy.

"We are seeing an increased demand for one-off dwellings that are not too remote - access to community services and quality broadband has an increased importance."

North East Wicklow and Bray prices fell over the past 12 months by 1.9% to €300,000 and 1.5% to €335,000 respectively.

Prices in Baltinglass were unchanged this quarter but rose over the past 12 months by 2.9% to €175,000.

Prices were unchanged over the past 12 months in Blessington and Wicklow Town at €295,000 and €310,000 respectively.

Time to sell fell across the county this quarter. In Bray, time to sell fell by eight weeks and now stands at seven weeks.

Baltinglass time to sell fell by a fortnight this quarter to 14 weeks. In Blessington, time to sell fell from ten weeks to eight.

Time to sell in North East Wicklow fell by six weeks and Wicklow Town fell by five weeks, time to sell in both locations now stands at 10 weeks.

The REA Average House Price Survey concentrates on the actual sale price of Ireland's typical stock home, the three-bed semi, giving an accurate picture of the second-hand property market in towns and cities nationwide. The average three bed semi nationally is now reaching sale agreed after seven weeks across the country - a significant fall from the ten-week average in June.

Despite fears of a downturn in the market during the Covid-19 crisis, the price of a three-bedroomed semi-detached house across the country rose by 0.6% over the past three months to €236,046, an annual increase of 0.4%.

Reflecting the beginnings of a flight to rural locations, prices in the rest of the country's towns rose by almost 1% in 12 weeks to €163,345.



## Rise in drug crimes during lockdown

There was a dramatic jump in drug related crimes during the lockdown period in the Wicklow Garda Division, according to the CSO crime statistics for Q2 of 2020, published last week.

While significant decreases were recorded in many types of crimes, controlled drug offences jumped to 242, compared to 160 for the same period last year. Incidents of drug possession for personal use also increased to 189, compared to 121 for the same period last year.

Some of the major decreases in crime in Wicklow were seen in categories such as thefts (down by half, from 452 to 223). There were also just 44 burglaries during this period, compared to 166 for the same period last year. Non-aggravated burglaries were down to just 40, compared to 163 for Q2 of 2019. Other incidents of theft, including handling of stolen property, were down to 126, compared to 248 last year. Theft of vehicles fell from 17 to 8.

Sexual offences fell from 35 to 20, and incidents of rape and sexual assault fell from 27 to 16. Attempts/threats to murder, assaults and harassments dropped to 78, from 121.

Offences against the Government and organisation of crime were also halved, from 120 to 58, as were offences while in custody and breaches of court orders (from 120 to 57).

Wicklow was one of only four Garda Divisions where there were less than five breaches of the Health Act 1947 which, in the period up to June 2020, resulted from the enforcement of movement restrictions relating to COVID-19. The other counties were Kildare, Wexford, and Laois/Offaly.



Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board



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Road traffic accident involving a Sika Deer on the M9. Photo by Joe Murphy

## Motorists urged to be vigilant during deer breeding season

**It's autumn and in our forests and across our mountains, tensions are rising as the rutting or the deer breeding season gets under way, the time of the year when male deer are driven by an urge to reproduce.**

From late September until early November the clash of antlers will be heard as males show off their virility to potential mates and, like gladiators entering an arena, they parade around showing off their armoury of antlers. While the rut is an amazing experience to witness it is also a time when there is an increase in road traffic accidents involving deer as male deer go in search of females and younger males are ousted by dominant males forcing deer to cross roads and motorways.

In a statement issued last week, the Irish Deer Commission is calling on motorists to be vigilant at dawn and dusk, when deer are most active, particularly in high risk areas such as woodlands and mountains.

What should drivers do in high risk areas? Reduce speed where they see a warning sign and stay alert. Prepare to stop, never swerve as you could hit another obstacle or oncoming vehicle. When you see a deer "dip your headlights" as the full beam may cause the deer to freeze. If a deer has crossed in front of your vehicle, be aware that others may follow. Do not approach an injured deer. If you are involved in a Deer road traffic accident or come across a deer that has been involved in a road traffic accident, immediately contact the local Gardaí.

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# 'Wicklow Greenways to be given added priority'

**Minister Simon Harris TD is to meet the Minister for Transport to discuss how Wicklow Greenways can benefit from the ring-fenced budget for Cycling and Walking facilities in the new programme for government**

Minister Harris said "The new programme for government commits to a substantial increase in the budget for cycling and pedestrian facilities. I have been working with many community groups across county Wicklow seeking to deliver Greenways that will not only boost tourism but also provide a safe means to travel between our towns and villages.

"The National Transport Authority (NTA) is rightly pre-

occupied with the design for the upgrade of the M11/N11 to facilitate the thousands of Wicklow residents that commute to work in Dublin. However, it is important that in doing its work the NTA does not lose sight of the many short journeys Wicklow residents make every day by car for the want of a safe alternative that allows short journeys by foot or bicycle.

"The NTA is now undertaking

a route selection study and consultation for the upgrade of the M11/N11. A number of the proposed Greenway routes are required to cross this major national route. What has been a source of frustration for many of the Wicklow community groups developing Greenways is how NTA will not meaningfully integrate potential Greenway projects into the route selection and plans for the M11/N11 upgrade.

"The future development of Greenways in Wicklow should also impact on the site selection for park and ride facilities and public transport hubs along the upgraded M11/N11.

"I will be meeting with the new Minister for Transport regarding the development of a more holistic approach to the upgrade of major infrastructure with extensive new safe cycling and pedestrian facilities," concluded Minister Harris.

## Public consultation for Kilmac to Southern Cross Greenway

**Wicklow County Council (WCC) is proposing to develop a greenway as part of the proposed Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross Greenway scheme. This first public consultation on the Study Area, Route Options & Project Constraints is now underway. See [wicklow.ie](http://wicklow.ie) to complete the questionnaire and submit your views.**

The council is particularly interested in hearing from local residents and interested parties regarding issues or information that may not be in the public domain but that should be considered by engineers and environmental consultants when they are planning and designing the route.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions on public gatherings, Wicklow County Council and the consultants RPS will deliver a project brochure and questionnaire to households, premises and businesses in the immediate vicinity of the proposed greenway over the coming weeks.

The brochure will provide details of the

project route options and the questionnaire will provide people with an opportunity to have their say and to provide feedback to the project team.

If you do not receive the brochure and questionnaire but you wish to contribute during the consultation period, please refer to the project link at [www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Kilmacanogue-to-Southern-Cross-Greenway](http://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Kilmacanogue-to-Southern-Cross-Greenway) to have your say. Closing date for receipt of submissions is 30th October.

The Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 identifies the need to support the development of new and existing walking, cycling, and driving routes/trails.

Additionally, the need to promote and support the development of new greenways and cycling routes throughout Bray and environs was identified in the Bray Municipal District Local Area Plan 2018-2024. A greenway along the route of the Kilmacanogue River was recognised as a priority route.

It is hoped that the scheme will: Improve the safety for pedestrians and cyclists by providing alternative routes; encourage a modal shift to non-motorised travel modes to reduce traffic congestion; improve connectivity with other greenways and pedestrian/cycle trails; benefit local businesses and village centres by attracting tourists to use the amenity.

Currently cycle and pedestrian routes along the N11 require users to travel along the hard shoulder of the N11 from junction 8 to 7, a distance of 1.8km approx, compromising safety and reducing the appeal of walking and cycling.

## Respiratory rapid response service for West Wicklow

**On Wednesday 30th September, HSE Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare (CHO7) and Naas General Hospital officially launched the Sláintecare funded Integrated Respiratory Rapid Response Service for Kildare & West Wicklow.**

Catherine Dempsey GM for Primary Care explained that "This new way of working to develop an end to end model of care for individuals who are diagnosed with respiratory disease is an innovative integrated approach between the acute sector and community services, to support General Practice and enhance capacity at primary care level. This integrated collaborative approach will ensure a quality patient centred service leading to better outcomes for this cohort of people who have been diagnosed with Respiratory disease."

The team includes a Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialist and two senior Respiratory Physiotherapists. This exciting initiative will bring expert care closer to home for patients diagnosed with respiratory disease in KWW. In addition, self-management and patient education

will be provided for GP clients that are referred to the team.

Brian Kearney, Operations Manager Naas General Hospital said, "Naas General Hospital is delighted to be involved in this new integrated model of service delivery. This service has the potential to relieve demand on our acute respiratory service, reduce length of stay and promote admission avoidance whilst also supporting a new approach to deliver integrated care in the community for members of the population in Kildare & West Wicklow who have been diagnosed with Respiratory disease".

Mary O'Kelly Head of Primary Care welcomed the launch of this service "With the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and the flu season fast approaching, this service

development could not have come at a better time for the people of Kildare & West Wicklow who are living with a respiratory illnesses. A number of health conditions can become worse over the winter months, understanding your illness and how to look after your health is very important. A number of ways the people of can stay well this winter is by getting the flu vaccination from their local GP or pharmacy, attending healthcare appointments, listening to the advice from healthcare professionals, complying with COVID-19 guidelines such as social distancing and wearing a face covering.

"If a person develops symptoms of COVID-19 they should seek medical advice immediately and restrict their movements."

# **OVER 10,000 TOURISM JOBS AT RISK IN WICKLOW**

## ***Wicklow hoteliers call for urgent Government measures to support tourism***

The latest industry survey from the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF) reveals a collapse in hotel bookings on foot additional Government restrictions due to Covid-19. Hotel room occupancy rates across the Mid East are at 39% for September, 23% for October and 12% for November based on business currently booked.

Since the announcement on 15th September of revised Government plans for restrictions, the weekly rate of new bookings for hotels has plummeted by 67% across the country - representing an enormous blow to Irish tourism at a time when the sector is struggling under immense financial difficulties. Meanwhile the results today from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) show number of overseas visitors to Ireland for the month of August dropped by 84% year on year, demonstrating the severe challenges facing Irish tourism which would normally rely on overseas visitors for 70 percent of revenues.

out the sector. This must form a central plank of the Budget due to be announced next month."

Prior to Covid-19, Wicklow's tourism and hospitality industry supported 13,900 jobs and generated €135 million in revenues annually for the local economy. We are now facing a deepening crisis with 10,200 tourism jobs across Wicklow at risk this year and local tourism revenues forecast to drop by €100m as businesses fight for survival.

"The outlook is exceptionally difficult and highlights the requirement for urgent immediate sectoral specific measures for tourism. This situation is nothing short of disastrous

for our sector with serious implications for the tourism industry and wider economy. We are calling on the Government to implement sector specific measures as a matter of urgency. These should include enhanced employ-

ment subsidies, a reduction in tourism VAT, extended waiver of local authority rates and greater access to banking finance."

Meanwhile, 80 Wicklow tourism businesses have signed up to Fáilte Ireland's COVID-19 Safety Charter. The COVID-19 Safety Charter was devel-

Safety Charter was developed by the National Tourism Development Authority to instil public confidence in 'safe breaks' in Ireland. Fáilte Ireland research shows the public expect and regard it as 'important' that appropriate safety measures are in place if they are to consider taking a domestic break in Ireland this year.

Fáilte Ireland is encouraging more businesses in Wicklow from the accommodation sector, restaurants, Charter attractions and activities to sign up to complete the training and receive the Safety. The COVID-19 Safety Charter helps consumers identify that a tourism and hospital-

ity business has: confirmed it has undergone the relevant infection control training; undertaken to maintain compliance with the Government's public health guidelines for businesses; agreed to be subject to assessment, both announced and unannounced, at all times.

Paul Kelly, CEO, Fáilte Ireland said "Fáilte Ireland's COVID19 Safety Charter gives tourism and hospitality businesses the opportunity to demonstrate their actions and commitment to providing consumers with a safe environment. The safety symbol displayed on the premises will act as a clear visual indicator to customers that it is safe to visit a restaurant, attraction, activity or accommodation provider. We encourage - and look forward to - more businesses in Wicklow to sign up, complete the training and receive the Fáilte Ireland safety charter symbol."



*Sandra, Sinead, Sarah, Kiera, Nathan, and Paddy Byrne celebrate Knockananna winning the Senior Canoeing Championship by beating Donard the Glen in Arklow.*

# Wicklow pharmacies to start offering vaccinations outside premises

**Pharmacies across Wicklow will soon be able to offer vaccinations outside of the pharmacy. For the past ten years pharmacies have been offering the service in their premises but now they will be able to travel to homes and even administer a shot to someone sitting in their car.**

Rathdrum pharmacist Michael Tierney says he expects to administer shots to as many as 100 people when the new law comes into force later this month. He said he would be looking to go into factories and schools as well as visit elderly people in their homes to give them the flu jab.

The change comes after Minister Donnelly expanded this year's vaccination programme to all of those in at-risk groups, including healthcare workers. All children aged from 2 to 12 years inclusive will also have access to vaccination without charges. The vaccine will be administered to children through nasal drops rather than an injection.

Minister Donnelly said the new law would help boost the number of people receiving vaccines in Co. Wicklow. He said: "Providing an influenza vaccination service at non-pharmacy locations has the potential to greatly increase uptake of the influenza vaccine in all the groups, who can avail of the vaccine free of charge, in particular those in the at-risk categories.

"It will also help to ease the pressure on our health services this winter."Increasing access to the influenza vaccine is a high priority to protect members of our society, especially the most at-risk groups. There is

also an expectation that with the wider availability of the vaccine it will almost certainly increase its uptake which is crucial as we continue to deal with Covid. I would implore everyone and especially those in an at-risk category to get the flu vaccine.”



**Knockananna Senior Camogie team players Eimer Mutton, Shannagh Goetelen, Niamh Byrne, and Erin Byrne celebrate winning the Senior Camogie Championship by beating Donard the Glen in Arklow.**

## €100,000 for libraries

**Minister Simon Harris TD has announced funding of over €100,000 for upgrades in Wicklow libraries.**

Minister Harris said "The government has granted €100,000 to support a Small Scale Capital Works Programme in Wicklow libraries."

"The public libraries in Wicklow Town and Bray will have bike lockers installed, while other Wicklow libraries will see works ranging from the installation of study pods, to perspex screens, to building extensions. This will make a real difference to the library buildings as they adapt to the new public health guidelines."

These works will strengthen the library's position as a community hub and ensure that it is a modern, well-equipped and comfortable facility that will leave a positive legacy for years to come".

This funding announcement, along with the library projects funded under the Libraries Capital Programme and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, sees a major investment in public library buildings across the country.

Minister Harris added "When my colleague Minister Heather Humphreys announced the initiative earlier in the summer the total national fund was €2.5million. However given the breadth and quality of the proposals the government decided to increase the overall allocation 3million. This ensured Wicklow libraries will now be in receipt of over €100,000 for their proposed works."

In concluding, the Minister thanked local authorities and library staff for their ongoing work during Covid-19. Additional funds will be provided by local authorities to bring the total investment in libraries to over €111,000.

# 173k for sport and physical activity measures

**Sport and physical activity in County Wicklow have received a welcome boost with €173,000 being allocated to Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership through the Dormant Accounts Fund.**

The allocation is part of a total investment package of €7.3m in Dormant Accounts Funding announced by Sport Ireland for a wide range of sport and physical activity measures countrywide.

Sport Ireland's investment aims to engage with communities across the country, focusing on people with disabilities, people who are educationally disadvantaged and from disadvantaged communities.

Included in the allocation to Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership is Hub Funding for Coral Leisure Arklow €40,000, Sport Ireland Innovation for Sports Inclusion: €100,000, Sports Inclusion Disability Programme Capital Supports: €10,000, Volunteer Training & Education Programme: €15,000 and Youth Leadership: €8,000.

Denise O'Shea, Coordinator of Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership, said: "As we know dormant Account Funding is vital to the growth of community and social inclusion through sport in disadvantaged areas around the county. This is going to have a huge impact on people's wellbeing especially at times like this."

Speaking about the new round of Dormant Accounts Funding, Minister Simon Harris said ""The investment aims to engage with communities in Wicklow, focusing on people with disabilities,

people who are educationally disadvantaged and from disadvantaged areas. The importance of sport and physical activity for our physical and mental health cannot be overstated and we have all seen how beneficial it has been for people of all ages dur-

abilities. The range of measures funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund is helping to make sport and physical activity more inclusive and accessible for many people right across Ireland."

Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht,

Chairman of Sport Ireland, Kieran Mulvey, commented: "Sport Ireland is delighted with the significant investment of €990,000 in Innovation for Sports Inclusion. These creative Innovation projects have the potential to create solutions to the problems that exist in sports participation. The announcement of thirteen innovation projects is very welcomed, stimulating collaboration within and beyond the sports sector."

Chief Executive of Sport Ireland, John Treacy, commented: "The increase in Dormant Accounts Funding will enable Sport Ireland, supported by National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships to have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of communities throughout Ireland. Key to the work of Sport Ireland is the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to partake in sport and physical activity, no matter what their circumstances."

As with previous funding announced, the investment is closely aligned with the National Sports Policy and the National Physical Activity Plan. A particular emphasis is placed on implementing programmes to promote physical activity, making sport and physical activity accessible to people with a disability and the development of programmes to address transitions and drop out from physical activity.



ing the current pandemic.

"I will continue to work with Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht, Catherine Martin T.D, in order to secure essential funding for community organisations and thank her for her commitment."

Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht, Catherine Martin TD, said: "A key priority for Government is the targeting of resources at programmes that seek to address inequalities in sports participation, in particular socio-economic disadvantage. Similarly, we are keen to ensure that interventions are in place to boost participation levels among people with dis-

abilities. The positive impact of sport and physical activity on our physical and mental wellbeing cannot be overstated. The current pandemic has confirmed the critical importance of sport to Irish society and the uplift it provides to people's spirits. While keeping us fit, regular physical activity is an excellent social outlet for many. The investment package announced today will have a positive impact on the health of the nation, and support the growth of community and social cohesion through sport."

Among the successful Dormant Accounts Fund projects announced are thirteen new Innovation projects.

## Funding for nine Wicklow schools under the Creative Schools Programme

**Nine Wicklow schools will receive funding under the Creative Schools Programme, one of the flagship initiatives of the Creative Ireland Programme.**

The schools in Wicklow that were awarded this funding were: Colaiste Chraobh Abhann, Kilcoole; Gaelscoil An Inbhir Mhoir; Nun's Cross N.S., Ashford; Ss Michael And Peters Junior School, Arklow; St Catherines Special School, Newcastle; St Kevin's Community College, Dunlavin; St Laurence PS, Greystones; St Peter's Primary School, Bray; Woodbrook College, Bray.

Discussing the news Green Party TD Matthews said "The announcement by Minister Foley and my Green Party colleague, Minister

Catherine Martin this week was extremely welcome. I was particularly delighted to see that nine schools from across Wicklow were awarded the grant of €2,000 to implement their individual plans with an additional grant of €1,100 being provided on a once-off basis for 2020.

"The funding is there to support initiatives and ideas that encourage children and young adults to embrace arts, culture and creativity and to discover and develop new skills and talents that enhance their development and growth and add to

the richness of their overall learning experience. Supporting an interest and passion for creativity in all areas of childhood development is important and I hope that this funding will assist in that aim."

"This funding is particularly welcome at the moment as students are still readjusting to being back in school after such a significant interruption in their schooling. I know this has been an extremely challenging period for students and families alike and any measure that can reduce this stress is extremely positive," concluded Deputy Matthews.



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# Wind park project director raises concerns about capacity

The new Project Director of the Codling Wind Park Project has expressed concerns about the capacity constraints on the national transmission network.

Arno Verbeek's appointment was recently announced by the owners of the Codling Wind Park project, EDF Renewables and Fred Olsen Renewables.

Mr Verbeek will lead the development, construction and operational phases of Codling Wind Park, which is set to be the biggest offshore wind farm in Ireland.

Mr Verbeek said "While Ireland is rightly seen as a world leader in the integration of renewable energy, we have seen recent reports from Energy Storage Ireland and the Irish Wind Energy Association highlighting real concerns around the grid capacity currently available for renewable energy projects.

"The transmission system is struggling to cope with the rising levels of renewable energy projects under development and it is clear the grid requires urgent reinforcement as more renewable energy

projects like ours need a grid connection."

Codling Wind Park, which is located thirteen kilometres off the east coast of Ireland, between Greystones and Wicklow, will make a significant contribution to achieving Ireland's renewable energy targets.

EDF Renewables Director for Ireland and Offshore Michele Schiavone said, "We are very pleased Arno is joining the project and are looking forward to making progress on Codling Wind Park with our partner Fred Olsen Renewables. I would echo Arno's concerns around grid capacity and add that we would also like to see progress on implementing the new offshore planning framework which is another essential element for the achievement of Ireland's offshore wind ambitions."

On his appointment, Arno said "I am pleased to

be back in Ireland and to be working on such an exciting project. Ireland's goal is to be carbon neutral by 2050 and to double the amount of electricity it produces from renewable energy from 35 percent to 70 percent by 2030 -which is hugely ambitious. In order to achieve Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2030 target, offshore wind will be expected to make a substantial contribution. Clearly this is where a significant infrastructure project like Codling Wind Park has a huge role to play."

"The strong wind speeds and favourable site conditions which we have at the Codling Wind Park site are ideally suited for generating low cost and carbon emission free electricity. We are currently carrying out technical, environmental, socio-economic and commercial studies to determine the size of the wind farm, but we expect it

will be up to 1.5GW."

Fred Olsen Renewables AS CEO Ivar Brandvold said, "This is an important moment for the Codling Wind Park and we are happy to have Arno here to take the project forward. Like our partners, EDF Renewables, we are keen to work with the Irish Government and Eirgrid to ensure the path to building Codling is as smooth as possible over the coming years."

Mt Verbeek was previously a Technical Director with Diamond Generating Europe in The Netherlands, a 100% owned subsidiary of the Mitsubishi Corporation, which owns offshore wind farms in The Netherlands, Belgium and the UK. Before that he ran his own consultancy business and previously worked for SSE in the UK.

He was also based in Ireland for nine years while working for Airtricity and SSE Renewables Ireland.



Pictured are Phyl Farrelly; Sally Dunleavy; Mary Doyle and Ann Acton at the Bray Soroptimists fundraising lunch. Club members organised a socially distanced outdoor event. Held on the grounds of Kilcroney Furniture, with thanks to long time Club member Anny Verwijs, the lunch was a major success, raising almost €3,000.

## 'Urgent clarification needed to schools crisis in North Wicklow'

Green Party Councillor from Greystones, Lourda Scott, has called for urgent clarification from the Department of Education in response to the schools crisis in North Wicklow.

Cllr Scott said "The critical issue with secondary school places and lack of suitable buildings has been ongoing in the area for some time. We have North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School (NWETSS), open since 2016, now moving between two lots of temporary accommodations and no sign of a permanent solution. CCA in Kilcoole was built to cater for 500 students and is currently accommodating approximately 780 in temporary accommodation. The newly opened Greystones Community College (GCS) was informed two weeks before it was due to open in a new primary school, that the building couldn't be certified and they are currently in the top floor of a tennis club.

"There has been no clarification from the Department as to the issue with the building or when it will be resolved. There is still no update on the acquisition of a permanent site for GCS, even though a full year has

passed since the school was given sanction to go ahead. Not to mention the severe lack of special classes in the area, which is compounded by the lack of adequate accommodation.

"I am contacted on a regular basis by parents who are stressed and frustrated as they try to figure out where they may get a place for their child to start secondary education. The Department's lack of communication and action on these matters has made a bad situation a lot worse. This is no way to treat parents or children as they navigate this period of change."

Cllr Scott continues: "Department officials have been invited to meet with Council officials on this matter. I have pushed for this to happen many times but there has been no response. I have asked numerous parliamentary questions of the Minister for Education, written to the Minister directly and contacted her office through Green Party Education spokesperson Senator

O'Reilly, but all to no avail. The recent statement from DES following a meeting with KWETB officials has again provided zero clarity.

"The Department of Education is failing our community. We are in a crisis situation as numbers applying for secondary school are expected to increase over the next few years. This has been highlighted on many occasions. The lack of engagement on this problem is concerning to say the least.

"We urgently need a strategic overview regarding secondary school provision in North Wicklow with specific timeframes on the proposed extension for CCA, a quick build for the new Greystones Community College and resolution of when and where NWETSS will be permanently located. Special needs classes should be provided as a matter of course in all schools. I urge anyone affected by these issues to please contact me directly and I will collate to send to the Minister's office."

## Church takes back control of Bray car park

Holy Redeemer Church in Bray has taken the decision not to renew the lease with Bray Municipal District Council that had been in place to operate a large section of the Herbert Road car park.

The church has taken back control of the car park and now a private operator is enforcing the parking on its behalf and clamping will be in operation.

Expressing disappointment, John Brady TD said "I have been contacted by a number of people over the last week expressing concerns about the introduction of clamping in a section of the Herbert Road Carpark in Bray. Unfortunately, it has been confirmed to me by the council that the Holy Redeemer church that owns a section of the carpark have decided not to renew the lease they had with the council. This agreement allowed the council to manage the entire church car park.

"The church has instead brought in a private operator Best Car Parks to manage their section and they have also introduced clamping. This is a really disappointing decision that is causing a lot of anger and confusion in the community."

"Having two separate parking operators in one carpark makes no sense whatsoever. I have spoken to many people who have paid for their parking in the closest machine to where they have parked, only to discover afterwards that they had used the wrong machine for where they had parked. Having clammers loitering around ready to pounce on people who might be a couple of minutes late returning to their vehicle or that have paid in the wrong machine is completely wrong and sends out the wrong message."

"I am urging the church to reconsider their decision not to renew the lease and enter dialog with the council with a view of putting in place a long-term plan for the Herbert Road car park. A plan that sees one system in the carpark and one that doesn't involve clamping."

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Eabha Cullen, Farrin Wolahan, and Erin Byrne celebrate winning the U12 Division A final after beating Blessington in Arklow

## New windows for St John's Senior National School

**St. John's Senior National School in Arklow have received a grant to replace windows that were in place for over 100 years.**

The school was awarded the grant under the Emergency Works Scheme for this year. The new windows will be put in place in two class rooms, in two support rooms and the school library. It is expected the new windows will be in place over the Christmas break in time for the start of the school term in January. The current windows had become a health hazard as it was not possible to open them making it impossible to ventilate the rooms in line with Covid guidelines.

Minister Stephen Donnelly said: "I know the school had been fighting for years to get these windows replaced as they were in dire need of an upgrade. The teachers had told me how it was freezing in the winters and boiling in the summers and of incidents where a sheet of Perspex was blown out by strong winds. The granting of the funds means the school will now be able to offer a far more comfortable and safe environment for the children."

"I'm delighted to see monies allocated by the Emergency Works Scheme being put to such good use. I know the school is also looking to have further renovations such as a new PE hall for their students. I will continue to work with them to keep on improving the facilities at the school."

## Report warns of collapse of post office network

**An annual Public Service Obligation (PSO) for the Post Office Network of €17m has been recommended in an independent review by business advisors Grant Thornton.**

The report Review of the economic contribution and financial sustainability of the Irish Post Office Network, commissioned by the Irish Postmasters Union (IPU), recommends that the Government invest with urgency in the Post Office Network, as it provides a multi-fold economic and social return to communities, far in excess of the PSO requirement.

The report warns starkly of the need for this action to be taken within months as the Network faces significant levels of unrestrained closures by the end of 2021.

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Postmaster Tony Wall and Irish Postmasters' Union General Secretary Ned O'Hara

According to the report, The Irish Post Office Network is at a critical juncture. The financial viability and sustainability of the Network is challenged like never before in its history. Many local Post Offices, large and small, urban and rural, will likely be forced to close if the financial conditions under which they operate do not change in the short-term.'

The report projects the annual cost of running the Post Office Network in 2021 at €70m generating a retail revenue of €53m, leaving a €17m shortfall. Average losses of €19,181 are forecast per Post Office per annum from 2021 impacting all Offices small, large, urban and rural.

The report says that PSO models for Post Office Networks are not unusual and have already been introduced in the UK, France, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Finland and Poland with the approval of the European Commission. The study recommends that Ireland now follow this model.

The report says the shortfall is largely driven by the ongoing transfer of services traditionally delivered by the Network to an 'online first' approach and a reduction in traditional mails business.

However, the report says that the Post Office Network remains a highly valuable national asset.

Responding to the report, An Post said "Both of An Post's networks, the delivery network and the Post Office network are performing very well through the crisis. An Post does recognise that postmaster incomes and footfall into post offices have come under increased pressure due to the double social welfare payment schedules during COVID and is working with Government to restore these."

"Any subsidies for independent postmasters is an issue between Government and the postmasters. An Post earlier this year announced its third year of profit and revenue growth. The pandemic will cost An Post a significant amount but this is funded from An Post's strong balance sheet and we have supported postmasters during the crisis as double social welfare payments persisted."

# Impact of Covid on youth services in Wicklow highlighted in NYCI report

**Jennifer Whitmore TD has said funding inequalities exist for youth services in County Wicklow and that urgent reform is needed to address funding deficits for the sector.**

Her call comes following a report launched last week by the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI).

The report, 'A Review of the Youth Work Sector Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic', was produced by researchers Deborah Erwin and Lorraine Thompson, using a combination of quantitative and qualitative research tools, including a survey of youth services, focus groups with young people, 'check-in' sessions with youth workers, and interviews with youth-sector stakeholders.

Connect Bray Neighbourhood Youth Project was one of the Wicklow groups that participated in the stakeholder interviews and 'check-in' sessions that informed the report.

As Party Spokesperson for Children, Deputy Whitmore also said the situation was unique to Wicklow due to the fact the county is geographically disperse.

"After meeting with Crosscare Bray Youth Service, it became apparent that the Department of Children, Disability and Integration is using a mechanism for allocating funding to youth services in a manner that disadvantages youth services in Wicklow," said Deputy Whitmore.

"The Department for Children relaunched two key schemes for youth services in July, requiring youth services to expand to new towns and villages in Wicklow and with a specific target of working with minority groups such as Travellers, asylum seekers and young people at risk.

"However, no additional funding was allocated to facilitate this requirement meaning youth services will have to reduce the numbers of young people to avail of services, in order to facilitate the expansion of the schemes to new areas.

"This is an appalling predicament for youth services who are working tirelessly with young people referred to their projects by Gardaí, schools and community

groups and who have established key relationships with the communities they work in. Anything which further jeopardises youth service capacity should be seriously reconsidered which I hope the Minister will do in his new role.

"Wicklow is particularly disadvantaged by the lack of funding and extra requirements loaded onto youth services. Due to the geographically dispersed nature of our county, it means the cost and time taken for travel to newly expanded areas will place an additional financial and resource burden on youth services like Crosscare in Bray. Dublin, on the other hand is geographically denser meaning youth services they do not have the extra financial burdens as a result of the already underfunded Departmental schemes.

"Wicklow is also experiencing a growth in population with new housing developments so we will need to see youth services matching that growth. Also, 34% of people in Wicklow are aged under 25 years slightly above the nationwide average of 33%. This automatically translates into a higher than average demand for youth services in our county.

"In addition to this the current process does not reflect the increased use of private tenancy (e.g. HAP) as opposed to the use of social housing. This is resulting in funding allocation not meeting the needs of the community. I believe this is a key aspect that needs urgent reform.

"I have written to the Minister outlining the reasons why reform of funding allocation is needed and reiterated the fact that Budget 2021 is an opportunity to address these anomalies. I hope the Minister takes this opportunity to reflect the important work carried out by youth services in Wicklow and across the Country particularly in the context of COVID 19," concluded Whitmore.

While Wicklow youth groups and young people were active in the

research that informed the report, consultation took place with youth-sector representatives nationwide. Overall, the report highlights how the Covid-19 pandemic made it more difficult for youth services to engage with 'at risk' or marginalised young people. 67% of youth workers surveyed cited this as a key limitation of the move to online models of working.

Mary Cunningham, CEO of NYCI, said: "The research shows clearly that young people who were already most at risk became the most disconnected during the pandemic. Young people already experiencing poverty, for example, became even more isolated. Covid-19 had a compounding effect, whereby online engagement was significantly hampered for young people already experiencing marginalisation in various ways.

"The pandemic exposed a whole range of inequalities and exacerbated vulnerabilities in the youth sector. While, undoubtedly, youth workers in Wicklow - and throughout the country - showed their creativity and flexibility in numerous ways, it does not make the marginalisation experienced by young people any less challenging. The drop in engagement levels paints a stark picture and demonstrates just how important face-to-face youth work is, particularly for those in marginalised and vulnerable situations.

"What is important now is for the youth sector to get into a stronger position to meet the current and emerging needs of young people in the face of challenges arising from the pandemic. Youth organisations need to be ready to change at a moment's notice and prepare to offer a 'blended' approach to youth services combining digital and face-to-face methods. In the coming months, funding and investment for the youth sector will be vital, as will technological innovation and ICT infrastructure, training for digital skills and on various digital platforms, and Covid-19 compliance.

## New funding to tackle litter

**€744,739 has been allocated to support local authorities in organising anti-litter and graffiti initiatives as part of the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System Report launched by Minister Eamon Ryan.**

The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System Report 2019, published last week, has shown an increase in litter pollution from 2018 to 2019 across the country.

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "Unfortunately, the findings of this countrywide survey indicate that overall, we are going in the wrong direction in terms of litter and graffiti. The findings in the Report emphasise the need for projects such as the Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Scheme. The funding is very welcome and will be provided to Local Authorities to conduct public awareness and education initiatives at a local level about both litter and graffiti. Wicklow County Council is best placed to help raise the aware-

ness of the issue of litter locally and coming up with local solutions to local problems.

"I know anecdotal from speaking with Tidy Towns groups across Wicklow that they have noticed an increase in litter since the lockdown ended. One of the issues raised with me on several occasions recently is single use face masks being discarded. I would ask that everyone observes the public health advice and disposes of them safely or even better, start using a washable and reusable one. This is obviously just one small aspect of the overall problem. There's a huge number of factors at play here but we all have our part to play in this."

"On the issue of graffiti, Bray in particular has seen a recent increase in targeted graffiti which is not only hugely distressing for those targeted but also brings down the whole area. This is something that I have consistently spoken out against and I hope that Wicklow County Council can in part use their funding allocation to raise greater awareness of its damaging impact on our towns and villages," concluded Deputy Matthews.

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Kiltegan camogie team captain Tania Wynne celebrates winning the Intermediate Camogie Championship by beating Annacurra in Arklow.

## Free computer classes for adults

Covid-19 is a problem in a lot of different ways, not health alone. For anyone now, not having computer skills is a big problem.

Even getting a simple message to someone seems to require a computer of some sort. And with half the country working from home at least some of the time, being connected is more vital than ever. But how do you get these skills? Bray Adult Education Centre is offering free computer classes to eligible people, mainly people on DEASP payments. There are part-time and full-time options in the new building right in the heart of town in the Civic Centre. Many of the centre's students are actual beginners. Others have a little knowledge but want to expand it in a supportive environment. A simple phone call to 0871666074 is all it takes to get the ball rolling. The centre is a genuine adult-friendly zone. The teachers are highly skilled at helping people overcome their fears and start to enjoy learning.

# Wicklow still lacking adult speech and language therapy services

Wicklow remains one of the counties which has no speech & language therapist for adult victims of acquired brain injuries from causes such as strokes, road traffic accidents, falls, assaults and brain tumours.

Speaking to *Wicklow Times*, Bray woman Bernadette Nolan said that Wicklow remains a 'blackspot' for such services and that a vulnerable group is still being ignored.

When Bernadette's husband Peter suffered a brain injury they were suddenly faced with the situation of needing speech & language therapy, occupational and cognitive therapy, physiotherapy and psychological therapy, but there was a lack of local services to meet these needs.

Peter was put on an eight-month waiting list at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Dun Laoghaire to see an occupational therapist after he was discharged from hospital in January 2018 (after a six-month stay).

There was no adult speech & language therapy service in the North Wicklow area and a nine-month waiting list for to be

assessed for occupational therapy.

Bernadette and Peter eventually found help with ABI (Acquired Brain injury) Ireland. Based in Dun Laoghaire and providing rehabilitation therapy, it has no centre in Co. Wicklow.

An ABI therapist came to Peter's home, but their services remain stretched, with a long waiting list. After finding a lack of professional help for her husband locally, Bernadette began calling for additional funding for cognitive occupational therapy and speech therapy services for adults with acquired brain injuries at the new Primary Care Centre in Bray, and her fight continues to this day.

Bernadette says that her frustration has been compounded by the fact that the current and previous Ministers for Health have both been from Wicklow and yet the situation remains unchanged.

In correspondence with Bernadette, The HSE said 'Bray Primary Care Centre will provide a range of services in the community ensuring an inclusive and integrated approach to service delivery.'

While services provided include Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) for children, we continue to seek the resources to provide adult SLT. Cognitive assessment is provided as part of a primary care Occupational Therapy assessment if indicated for any adult attending this service. Cognitive therapy is not currently provided through Primary Care Services.'

The HSE told *Wicklow Times* last October that "A multi-agency project group continues to work to establish a neuro-rehabilitation pathway across the community, acute and tertiary hospital settings and obtain long-term funding for this service."

# POSITIVE AGEING

After the outbreak of COVID-19 affected the health of so many older people across the globe, the United Nations decided that the theme of the International Day of Older People (1st October) this year, would be on the impact of pandemics on how we address age and ageing.

Positive Ageing Week took place this year from 28th September to 2nd October. Organisers of the UN Day for Older Persons said '2020 has seen the emergence of COVID-19, which has caused upheaval across the world. Considering the higher risks con-

fronted by older persons during the outbreak of pandemics such as COVID-19, policy and programmatic interventions must be targeted towards raising awareness of their special needs' - UN Nations Day for Older Persons.'

Positive Ageing Week

2019 saw just over 300 events take place across the country. This year families and our communities.

By affording older people, and organisations working at a community level, the opportunity to tell their stories, PAW can help in enabling these voices to influence new strategies on ageing.



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# POSITIVE AGEING



## Home Care Packages

**A Home Care Package is a set of services provided by the HSE to support older people to remain in their own home rather than remain in hospital or be admitted to a nursing home.**

Home Care Packages are provided by organisations that have been approved by the HSE following a detailed tender process. There is no means test and you do not need to have a medical card.

If you are approved for a HCP, you will be given a list of providers to choose from, however most of these are based in Dublin or further afield

and do not provide services locally. One company on the list is Bluebird Care of Broomhall Business Park, Rathnew who currently provide services to many HSE and private customers throughout the County.

Bluebird Care employ local Care Assistants who are QQI trained in Care Of The Elderly and Care Skills, they all need to have Patient Moving & Handling, are Garda Vetted and reference checked. "Our Care Assistants are regularly supervised as they work in the community and both our staff and customers have access to a 24 hour emergency phone. Regular reviews of our service are carried out with our customers and families and the HSE carry out regular Audits of the service being provided. If you receive approval for a HCP in County Wicklow, why not call BBC at 0404 31177 for more information."

## Home exercise plan for older adults

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership has rolled out a four-week physical activity plan for older adults as part of Positive Aging Week.

The resource has been developed by Sport Ireland and a working group of LSP Community Sport Development Officers in conjunction with Age & Opportunity.

It will support people to try and reach the minimum of 30 minutes of daily physical activity, as recommended in Ireland's National Physical Activity Plan. It will help an individual's strength and confidence in their body which will support them to be more physically active as well as developing transferable skills for everyday life.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership has been working hard to ensure the people of County Wicklow remain physically active.

As part of a national network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships (LSP) Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership has adapted by using online resources, printed booklets and other innovative means, to ensure that everyone in their community has the opportunity to share in the enjoyment as well as the mental and physical health benefits of sport and physical activity.

Denise O'Shea, Co-ordinator of Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership, said: "We are here to support older people to try and reach a minimum of 30 minutes of daily physical activity, as recommended in the Ireland's National Physical Activity Plan. Physical Activity not only changes your body, it changes your mind, attitude and your mood. The Older Adult Home Exercise Plan will have a huge impact on older people's wellbeing especially at times like this."

John Treacy, Chief Executive, Sport Ireland, stated: "This International Day of Older Persons, Sport Ireland are delighted to be launching the Older Adult Home Exercise Plan with the support of the Network of Local Sports Partnerships and Age & Opportunity. By building these exercises into your daily routine and tracking your progress over the few weeks, you will notice a huge improvement in your physical and mental well-being, and we need that more than ever right now".

This resource is fully adaptive for people of all abilities and ages. There is an activity planner included to help you track your progress throughout the four-weeks. Simply print out the resource or display it on your phone and be active!

For more information on the resource visit [wicklowsp@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowsp@wicklowcoco.ie) or contact Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership on 0404-20100.



The future of the healthcare system rests in the enhancement of pharmacists' roles and the expansion of services made available to the public.

\* Behaviour & Attitudes market research, April 2017

# Nancy celebrates 100th Birthday



Pictured is Nancy O'Brien celebrating her 100th birthday. Pic: Joe McQuillan

**Happy birthday to Bray resident Nancy O'Brien who celebrated her 100th birthday last week.**

Nancy has come regularly to the Shankill Day Care Centre over the past twenty-three years, and a big celebration was planned for reaching the milestone of 'the big 100' on Monday, September 28th. Unfortunately, these plans had to be cancelled due to the restrictions that are currently in place due to the Pandemic. Instead there was a small gathering in Nancy's back garden to toast this exceptional lady on the day!

"It is a privilege to know Nancy and to see her so fit and well; always with a twinkle in her eye and beautifully attired at all times," the staff said.

Nancy was born at home in a cottage opposite Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital on Rochestown Avenue on September 28th 1920. She had one sister and three brothers, all now deceased. As Nancy says

"They have left me on my own." She started her education at an all Irish speaking school in Sallynoggin and moved to "The Harold" in Glasthule at the age of nine. She left school at fourteen with her intermediate certificate under her belt. Nancy started her work career in Monument Creameries and shortly afterwards moved to Glen Abbey.

Though she was in a relationship with Michael for a number of years Nancy never married. She has some regrets about this and had plenty of opportunity, "but no-one matched Michael".

For many years Nancy cared for her mother at home in Rochestown Avenue. After her death Nancy moved to Bray where she still resides. She has a wonderful neighbour by the name of Lily who runs all of Nancy's errands and is a great support. Nancy has nieces and nephews who are also very attentive and take good care of her.

Happy Birthday Nancy!

## Wear, care, & share for GOAL!

**Humanitarian aid agency GOAL is appealing to people all over Co. Wicklow to show their true colours by getting on their kit for GOAL Jersey Day which takes place on Friday, October 9th.**

Students in schools, employees in businesses and members of organisations across the County are being encouraged to don their favourite jersey - county, country province or team - to raise vital funds for communities around the world facing extreme poverty and crisis.

With COVID-19 resulting in thousands of people working from home, Jersey Day is the perfect excuse for Wicklow folk to get connected with colleagues by putting on their favourite jersey and their Zoom cam-

era at the same time! Those without jerseys can change their zoom backgrounds to their favourite team's colours.

With children around the county finally back at school after a longer than usual break, Jersey Day is the perfect opportunity to raise spirits in the classroom.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions around fundraising events support for Jersey Day is more important than ever. The slogan for this year's popular event, which is in partner-

ship with sportswear company MCF, is Wear, Share and Care.

Funds raised will go towards GOAL's life-saving work in emergency response, health, nutrition, and sustainable livelihoods in 13 countries. So far in 2020, GOAL has reached over 17 million people with Covid-19 supports and messaging in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. The Covid-19 crisis has had a devastating impact on the world's poorest countries, with millions losing their income and few receiving government supports.

Schools participating in Jersey Day will be entered into a competition to design and win a set of jerseys for a sports team in their school. All schools who participate in Jersey day 2020 will be automatically included in the draw to win this unique prize. The winning schools will be announced on 23rd October.

Your team and company can be a part of this important work, by signing up today! To sign up to GOAL Jersey Day, please visit [www.goalglobal.org/jersey-day/](http://www.goalglobal.org/jersey-day/). More information on GOAL's work can be found at [www.goalglobal.org](http://www.goalglobal.org)



# Child poverty motion defeated

The Social Democrats' motion calling for the eradication of child poverty in the lifetime of the Dail was proposed last week by the Party's spokesperson for Children, Jennifer Whitmore TD. The motion was in contrast to previous Government targets which sought to merely reduce numbers. However it was amended by the Government to say that a target would be established to reduce child poverty.

Deputy Whitmore expressed disappointment, saying that the Government had to be more ambitious.

Speaking about the Dail's counter-motion, Deputy Whitmore said "I am hugely disappointed with the Government's rejection of our call to eliminate consistent child poverty. It is a missed opportunity for the children who continue to live in poverty in this State. Children in Wicklow and across Ireland deserve a better response than this.

"The Minister's contribution was also disappointing. If we are going to address the problem of child poverty in this country, we must first acknowledge that the problem exists. Today, the

Government has failed to do just that. Child poverty is all pervasive, it's everywhere. It exists in Wicklow, in all neighbourhoods, in small and large homes and in public and private housing. What the Government has set out today will affect children here in Wicklow."

The Social Democrats' motion called on the Government to set an ambitious target to eliminate consistent child poverty; to put into law this new target; and to implement and resource it.

"Since the early 1990s, past efforts by Governments have failed time and time again to meet child poverty reduction targets. It is clear that what is needed is a sys-

temic change and a change in the direction the Government takes. Do not set a target to reduce poverty - eliminate it altogether.

"The Government is intent on setting a reduction target in the forthcoming National Children and Young People's Strategy but we know this will fail. It will fail because setting a target to reduce is just setting a target for the number of children the Government will keep in poverty.

"As Spokesperson for Children, I don't believe it is okay for any child to live in consistent poverty. Any number of children that do live in deprivation is a reflection of the failure on this and past Governments to

In a year like no other, where the traditional day out to the Kilmacanogue horse show was not possible due to public health requirements, the innovative and determined committee of volunteers were not going to let COVID-19 stop them in their mission to keep the show on the road.



John Woods from Purple House pictured receiving the cheque from Harry Williams (Show President) and Liam Allen (Show Chairman)

It was with great delight this week that they were able to divide the €5,000 proceeds from their 2020 virtual show amongst their ten charity partners.

Due to COVID-19 this year's presentation of cheques could not be conducted in the usual fashion, however on Saturday 26th September a limited number of committee members and charity representative met for an outdoor, socially distanced presentation.

Since the show started in 1972, this is only the second time the committee haven't been able to run a show due to public health priorities. The show was cancelled in 2001 due to the foot and mouth epidemic.

Liam Allen (Show Chairman) and Harry Williams (Show President) presented cheques to the three charity partner representatives who attended, these included John Woods representing Purple House, Deirdre Keating, Derri Keating and Mathew Davis representing Bray Lakers and John Whelan representing the Irish Kidney Association. All remaining charity partners have been contacted and will receive their cheques by post - these include Newcourt School, Kilmacanogue Senior Citizens, Charabanc Enniskerry Senior Citizens, Wicklow Dementia Support, Riding for the Disabled Wicklow, Kilmacanogue GAA and Wicklow Hospice.

The heartfelt gratitude expressed by all the charities was more evident this year than ever before as COVID-19 has had a significant impact on their fundraising activities. They were all extremely grateful for the continued support from the Kilmacanogue Horse Show committee and applauded them for their creativity in running a virtual show.

The success of the fundraising is due to everyone who supported the virtual show, those who embraced technology and entered the range of virtual classes - from the equestrian classes to the lockdown living and guessing the weight of the show lamb Speckles. Harry Williams, Show President wanted to also thank all the local businesses and individual who year after year continue to support the committee enabling them to keep the show on the road and provide the much needed support for local charities. He added 'Without this community goodwill and support the show would not be the success that it continues to be'.

One thing is for sure, it will take more than a pandemic to put a halt to a show like this, a show that has run for the last 49 years, and is an integral part of the summer months and a much needed partner to local charities.



Pictured (Front) John Whelan receiving the cheque from (Back L to R) Harry Williams (Show President) and Liam Allen (Show Chairman)



# BRAY EMMETS

## Wicklow Senior County Champions 2020



The Bray Emmets team lines up for the national anthem before the match. Photo by Dave Barrett

It was a triumphant day for Bray Emmets last weekend as the club claimed its sixth County Senior Hurling championship with a victory over Carnew in Aughrim on Sunday 27th September.

Bray Emmets previously won the championship in 1952, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2019, and this latest win to make it back-to-back Championships has sent out a strong message as Bray powered and stomped their way to a decisive victory, 1-21 to 1-4.

Indeed, Bray Emmets have set the standard that the rest of the county will now have to

meet. Bray's hard-working midfield dominated, while their defence proved too sturdy for Carnew to trouble much.

A bright and determined start from Carnew proved to be a

false hope as the game settled into its rhythm. Bray always looked the more dangerous outfit, and the half-time score was a good reflection of the overall pattern, with Carnew going into the break having scored just a goal and two points, and those points coming from frees. A late flurry of points near the end of the half for Bray had left the score at 1-2 to 0-7.

Then, in the second half, Bray seemed to shift up a gear, with John Henderson running the game, and Bray's attack causing havoc, especially Christy Moorehouse who caused Carnew's defence no end of trouble and would go on to pick up the Man of the Match Award.

Though there was a time in the second half when Carnew were trailing by just three points, their hopes were short-lived as Bray streaked ahead. Points from Captain Marc Lennon, Diarmuid Masterson and Mikey Boland meant that the scoreboard soon started to reflect Bray's dominance on the pitch.

The points kept mounting for Bray,



Brothers John and Daire Henderson of Bray Emmets celebrate. Photo by Dave Barrett

coming from all areas of the pitch, but the hammer blow to Carnew came with Mikey Boland's goal, and what little hope that had remained for Carnew flickered out. It was the first goal Carnew had conceded throughout the Championship.

At the twenty-minute mark in the second half, Paul Carley's men led

by 11 points and simply had to see the game out.

The strength of Bray's bench was also evident by the likes of Peter Walsh, Liam Benville, and Cathal O'Dualachain all being introduced and slotting in seamlessly to keep the Bray machine whirring, as well as Eoin McCormack and Shane Lohan who came

off the bench to combine for a fine point.

By the final few minutes, Bray were in cruise control and were still heaping points onto an

already dominant scoreline. The O'Donoghue Cup was theirs for the second year in a row, and the gauntlet had been thrown down.



Man of the Match Christy Moorehouse. Photo by Dave Barrett

**BRAY TEAM:** Jim Doyle, Ciaran McKay, Peter Kiely, Sean Maloney, Daire Lohan, John Henderson, Daire Henderson, Luke Maloney, Padraig Doyle, Diarmuid Masterson, Marc Lennon, Davy Maloney, Michael Boland, Christy Moorehouse, Ben McCormack  
**SUBS:** Eoin McCormack, Shane Lohan, Peter Walsh, Liam Benville, Cathal O'Dualachain.



**Steven Matthews TD**  
**WWW.GREENPARTY.IE**

**CONGRATULATION**  
**TO BRAY EMMETS**  
**ON A GREAT**  
**WIN**

Email: Steven.matthews@oireachtas.ie

Constituent queries to:

**f** Steven Matthews  
Green Party  
**@stevensgreen1**



Congratulations  
to Bray Emmets  
Senior Team on a  
fantastic win  
from

**RORY**  
**BENVILLE**  
STATE SOLICITOR



Eimear Byrne, Amy Roche and Roisin Byrne celebrate Knockananna winning the Senior Camogie Championship by beating Donard the Glen in Arklow.

## ASPIRE Well-being Project

In these COVID-19 times, it can be difficult to stay connected to your local community and maintain your well-being and positive mental health.

Bray Area Partnership's Social Prescribing Well-being project ASPIRE is a free service that can support you with your health and well-being by connecting you up with services and activities in the community.

The team will initially chat to you over the phone or via Zoom about your needs and interests and then refer you on to services and supports that can help or link you into activities that will be right for you. Through regular check-ins the coordinator will support you over 6-10 weeks as you engage with these activities and improve your well-being.

As part of the Social Prescribing programme you can also access the free ASPIRE online Well-being Programme that brings people together in small supportive online groups to connect and learn practical skills such as coping with stress, relaxation techniques and self-care during these challenging times.

ASPIRE is a Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare-funded project #RightCareRightPlaceRightTime. To find out more see [www.brayareapartnership.ie](http://www.brayareapartnership.ie) or call 01 286 8266.

## Plans are well underway for Social Inclusion Week

Social Inclusion Week in Co Wicklow will run from Saturday 17th October to Friday 23rd October.

Social Inclusion is making sure that everyone in society has an equal chance at a good quality of life. It's about: Treating people equally regardless of their background, Making sure people have equal access to goods and services, Removing barriers and helping those that may need it more, for example older persons, disabled persons, Travellers, the unemployed and so on, Targeting resources where they are most needed, Challenging discrimination, and Changing attitudes and ways of working.

A number of organisations working in the area of Social

Inclusion are collaborating to organise and run events across the county that will showcase our county's rich diversity, highlight the supports that are available to ensure that all our citizens feel equally valued. Helen Howes, Co Wicklow PPN Resource Worker said "Co Wicklow PPN is delighted to be working with a number of support agencies and community groups for social inclusion week."

Some of the activities will be held online, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that the current health crisis doesn't have any last-minute impacts on some of

the wonderful physical activities being planned for the week."

People can get information and follow the events through the Include Us In Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/IncludeUsIn> and on various social media sites run by the organisations involved. A list of events will be advertised soon.

If any groups are running activities with a social inclusion focus during the week or in October and would like them advertised widely across the county please contact Co Wicklow PPN by Emailing: [cowntwicklowppn@gmail.com](mailto:cowntwicklowppn@gmail.com)

# 'Hate on our walls, hate in our hearts'

Cllr Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien is calling for everyone to play a role in countering hate. This follows the multiple incidents of racist graffiti around Bray in recent weeks.

Cllr O'Brien said "The hate graffiti on the walls of our town in recent weeks is a stark reminder of our responsibility towards those who are targeted and those who are vulnerable to hateful speech and hateful behaviour. Bray is not immune to prejudice, discrimination, racism and hate. If we were to ask Bray Travellers Community Development Group they would tell us many stories but they would also reference the annual 'Integrated football tournament' that has been running for nearly twenty years and has been a direct, positive and proactive response which aims to prevent the rise of prejudice. We could share the work of schools, youth projects, NGO's and community

groups who have tackled these issues consistently over the years in many dynamic ways.

"However all of the great work does not mean that the issue is resolved and recent weeks reminds us that we must revisit this work and redouble our efforts because the uncomfortable truth is that for some people in our community there is a hatred of "others" and a prejudice against those who are not 'us'. We must face the fact that hate is here and while some of it is on walls, much of it is in bars, cafes, kitchen tables, whatsapp groups. What hateful conversations are happening about asylum seekers, travellers, people from certain housing estates, migrants, people with different skin colour,

certain political parties, people with disabilities, people with addiction, people of different religious beliefs, people who are homeless?

"The pyramid of hate reminds us that there is a journey to hate that includes, bias, prejudice, discrimination, violence and even genocide. What might begin as jokes and memes can evolve into negative bias, acts of prejudice, discrimination and so on towards actual violence.

"Hate is learned and therefore can be unlearned. If we as a community want to transform hate we must understand it and where it comes from, we must check in with ourselves and explore where hate might live in our own hearts and

we must consciously and purposefully pursue the changes that are required within ourselves, within systems and within the prevailing narratives that sustain hateful ideas.

"As we stand with those who are the targets of hate we must also support the structures that are committed to responding. If there is one thing that we can all do, it is to take responsibility for understanding the pyramid of hate, look it up, study it and then commit ourselves to having conversations with family, friends, colleagues. Knowing where you stand and why you stand there is a critical part of equipping yourself to play your part in countering and transforming hate. We all have a role to play."

## Rathnew GAA club wins €10,000

Rathnew GAA has been boosted with fantastic news that it has won €10,000 as part of the 2020 Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps on-pack promotion.

The winning clubs were chosen by draw to culminate the summer-long promotion in conjunction with the Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps. During a year where fundraising has been restricted and funds limited, the overall prize fund of €40,000 will provide the winning clubs with very welcome support when looking to invest in the club.

After an uncertain start to the summer, 71,699 children attended GAA Cúl Camps at 667 camps throughout the country. With participation levels understandably lower this year due to limited availability, the camps proved a real success giving children across the country a chance to socialise and exercise outside. A Cúl Camps first was also started, TG4 aired the GAA Cúl Camp television programme with over 300,000 viewers tuning in. The television show provided a new innovative way for children across the country to get involved in this year's GAA Cúl

Camps through a mix of drills, skills, games, nutrition and wellness.

Commenting on winning the prize, Peadar Duigeanain, Secretary, Rathnew GAA said "On behalf of Rathnew GAA club I want to express our delight at winning €10,000 and want to thank Kellogg for this and its successful competition. The Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps were a particular success this year and a well-timed diversion from everything going on. The Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps idea is a fabulous example of how the GAA operates with older GAA players training up younger kids from different clubs and thus making the GAA a community stronger. The work that Kellogg does in making this possible cannot be quantified.

"This money is well needed and will go a really long way for our club, in particular our juvenile section. As a club on the commuter belt, our little village has expanded and so has our juvenile membership.

"We run teams in all grades from Nursery to Adult for both Ladies and Gentlemen and this injection of money will provide them all with up to date equipment and for this, we can't thank Kellogg enough."



Rathnew Juvenile members Olly Quinn and Ronan Merrigan, Conor Dignam and Niall Dignam with David Byrne, Field Sales Manager for Kellogg's Ireland. Rathnew GAA Club has been boosted with the news that it has won €10,000 in the 2020 Kellogg's GAA Cul Camps on-pack promotion.

# DRUG FREE HEALING FOR

(F.D.A. APPROVED)



AIR OR GAS EMBOLISM  
 DELAYED RADIATION INJURY (SOFT TISSUE AND BONY NECROSIS)  
 REFRACTORY OSTEOMYELITIS (INFECTED BONE)  
 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*

## WITH HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY (HBOT) IS A TREATMENT OF THE ENTIRE BODY WITH 100-PERCENT OXYGEN AT GREATER THAN NORMAL ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURES.

While not new, HBOT has only lately begun to gain recognition for treatment of chronic degenerative health problems. Wherever blood flow and oxygen delivery to vital organs is reduced, function and healing can potentially be aided with HBOT. For further information contact us on the numbers below or check out [www.hyperbaricireland.com](http://www.hyperbaricireland.com)



**National Hyperbaric Centre, 53-54 Great Strand Street, D1.  
 P: (01) 873 3044, Fax: (01) 873 3969  
 Emergency: 087 972 9366  
 Email: [hyperinfo@eircom.net](mailto:hyperinfo@eircom.net) [www.hyperbaricireland.com](http://www.hyperbaricireland.com)**



## Signal Arts Society 2020 Member's Exhibition

Signal Arts Centre will present the 20th Annual Exhibition of works by members of the Signal Arts Society. It will be held from Monday, 12th October to Sunday 25th October.

This exhibition is a showcase for members of the Signal Arts Society and, being a group show, includes a diverse range of content, a varied selection of mediums and always something to delight even the most discerning of palettes.

The Signal Arts Society was launched in 2001 and is affiliated with Signal Arts Centre. The Society consists of artists working in many different arts practices, however membership is not exclusive to artists - anybody with an interest in the arts can join.

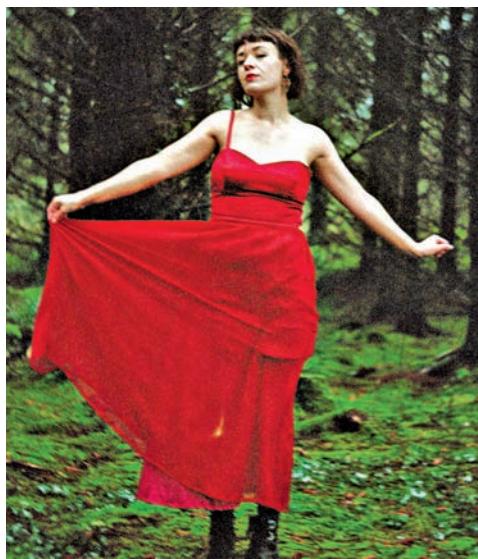
The Society offers a range of facilities and discounts to members. For more information on Signal Arts Society go to [www.signalartscentre.ie](http://www.signalartscentre.ie) and click on the Society's tab. Alternatively the Society may be contacted through Signal Arts Centre.

## Coming up at Whale Theatre...

### *The Emma Langford Trio: Sowing Acorns live album launch tour*

Emma Langford is joined by Arkansas' Alec Brown on cello and Virginia's Ray Yrure on percussion for an intimate sharing of her highly acclaimed new album *Sowing Acorns*. In light of pandemic restrictions, the trio were forced to postpone the album's month-long premier tour in Germany and the UK this Spring but, undeterred, they are bouncing back and thrilled to hit the road in Ireland, bringing a brand new collection of original songs to Greystones for the first time ever. In 2017 Limerick's Langford released *Quiet Giant*, the debut album which paved her way to multiple award nominations, accolades and critical acclaim from County Mayo to the state of Milwaukee; in 2018 she earned the inaugural RTÉ Radio 1 Folk Award for "Best Emerging Artist". In September she releases her highly anticipated sophomore album *Sowing Acorns*, a collection of 13 warm and reflective songs.

Friday 9th October, 8pm (Doors 7.30pm) Tickets €25



**Neil Delamere - Pick 'n Mix**

Hailed as one of Ireland's foremost comedians, Neil Delamere comes to The Whale Theatre for the first time in his long-standing (get it!) career, with a combination of new material, old material and plenty of messing. Neil Delamere is one of the top acts working in the Irish comedy scene today, having presented Neil Delamere's Just For Laughs, Eureka! The Big Bang Query and Republic of Telly as well as featuring on Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, Stand Up For The Week and Comedy Central at the Comedy Store. He is also known to audiences for his regular appearances on RTE's The Panel and BBC's The Blame Game.

Neil has performed all over Ireland as well as internationally at the prestigious Vicar Street in Dublin, Kilkenny Cat Laughs Festival, Montreal Just For Laughs Festival, Melbourne International Comedy Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Saturday 10th October, 8pm (Doors 7.30pm) Tickets €25



# Short film: Bray - A Reminder

A new short film by RML films was shot in Bray last month. Written by David Doyle, and directed by Rita-Marie Lawlor, 'Bray - A Reminder' stars Justine O'Rourke and Fair City's Tommy O'Neill.

Rita-Marie is a Dublin-based scriptwriter, director, producer, actor and photographer.

Speaking to *Wicklow Times* about the film, Rita-Marie said "Bray - A Reminder is focused on grief and reminiscing. It's about a woman who has lost her husband and is still in the grieving process."

The film is the latest from indie film company RML Films, and was in preparation for six months before shooting finally went ahead last month. RML Films was founded in 2005 and has been behind such feature films as *The Last Show* (2014) and *Apollo Music Club* (2007).

On setting the film in Bray, Rita-Marie says "As Dubliners we have always felt a sense of 'going on holiday' when we went to visit Bray, it brought a huge sense of excitement to us. David Doyle has covered all of this in his

writing, and this is why I really wanted to direct it, along with the poignancy."

Rita-Marie has been a filmmaker for over 20 years and this is the first film she's directed that she hasn't also written. "It was an interesting journey for me, and very new. David is from theatre so film is also new to him."

The writer David Doyle was previously behind a trilogy of plays under the umbrella name of 'Beside the Seaside' in 2017 - 'A Reminder', 'Braywatch', and 'Stolen Time', which were all performed by Tallaght Theatre Group.

The film was a professional shoot on a tiny budget. "The crew has big faith in it as do I. Justine delivered a remarkable performance."

Guest starring Fair City's Tommy O'Neill, the shoot took place over one day in September mainly on Bray Seafront, with one other day taking photo-

tographs for flashback scenes and one other full day in a house in Tallaght.

"Luckily we had wrapped just before Dublin went into lockdown!" says Rita-Marie. "As it is a collaboration, we were six months in prep for the shoot. We worked tirelessly to deliver and to make Bray look

amazing, which it did."

"The people of Bray were amazing and supportive, very keen and interested to know what we were doing."

The film is now in the editing process, and a Bray screening is anticipated at the end of November or early December.



**Justine O'Rourke during filming of 'Bray - A Reminder'.**

## Music Network presents: Cello Quartet

**With its sonorous tone, swan-like elegance and an expressive range that gives the human voice a run for its money, no other instrument manages to play on our heart strings quite like the cello.**

William Butt, Rosalie Curlett, Martin Johnson and Ailbhe McDonagh are four masterful cellists who'll be setting off to perform together for the first time on this six-date Music Network tour. They will play the **Mermaid Arts Centre on Saturday 10th October at 8pm**.

They'll be taking full advantage of the opportunity to show us what this beautiful instrument is capable of. The audience can look forward to splen-

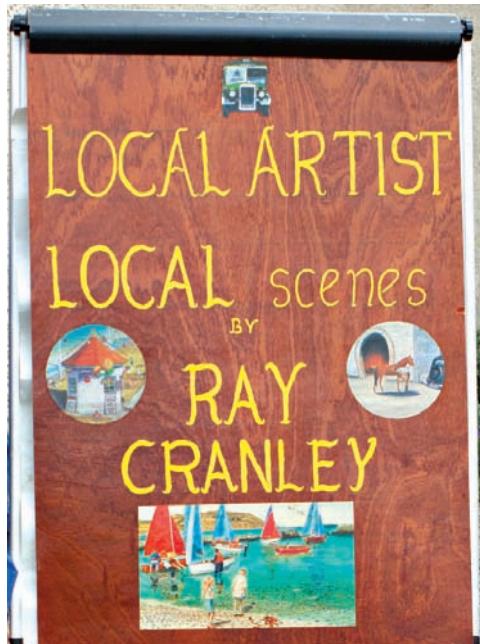
did arrangements of works by Bach, Beethoven and Bartók, sultry moods in Piazzolla's *Libertango*, the soaring beauty of Mozart's *Ave verum corpus*, a fiery exchange between two cellos in Barrière's popular *Sonata*, as well as Debussy's über-romantic *Clair de lune* and Gershwin's jazz-infused favourites from *Porgy and Bess*.

Contemporary music for this unusual combo is well catered for in Ailbhe McDonagh's own *Cellango* and a new Music Network commission by Conor Linehan. For an instrument that's so at home powering the orchestra's engine room, the cello sure knows how to shine under the spotlight. Tickets: €16/14 and are available from Box Office on 01-2724030



# Ray the Renaissance man

Some people go through life without discovering or pursuing their creative side. Ray Cranley has discovered several creative sides, and is now enjoying a new creative outlet in painting.



It wasn't until he was in his 60s that Ray discovered the joys of painting. Feeling daunted about picking up the brush, with no painting experience under his belt, he finally took the plunge 13 years ago, and under the guidance of art teacher Niamh Harding in Bray, he honed his skills.

"I could never draw, and I thought that if I couldn't draw then I couldn't paint," Ray told *Wicklow Times*. "But

Niamh showed me that you didn't need great

drawing skills to be a good painter, so I became more encouraged then. Once I started, I got the bug."

Now, Ray is painting with proficiency and exhibiting and selling his paintings every Sunday in Enniskerry Parochial Hall. People are drawn to Ray's paintings which have a nostalgic quality, depicting familiar Wicklow places and landmarks as they looked in the past.

A resident of Windgates, Greystones, Ray's paintings have

been inspired by his surroundings and different places, buildings, landscapes, and landmarks mostly around North Wicklow, and how he remembers them. His paintings depict such places and times as Bray Main Street in the 1950s, Ballywaltrim Lane in 1968, Belmont Wood in 1990, and of course Windgates Hill in the 1950s.

Ray paints mostly from old photographs he took when he was younger, sometimes adding in details of people or vehicles of the era.

If Ray's name sounds familiar, it might be because you know him from his musical or literary output.

Music has always been one of Ray's main passions, especially playing live, and he remains a popular local performer to this day. In the 1960s he could be heard singing in McFadden's Roadshow during the summers on Bray Seafront, and in the 70s he was a regular performer at the International Hotel in Bray.

Ray plays a mixture of original and cover material, and is still writing songs. His new one will be a Christmas song entitled 'A Christmas as

Lovely as Yourself'. Ray was very much influenced by early Rock n Roll stars such as Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, and The Everly Brothers, and as he played gigs all over Wicklow, Rock n Roll was a large part of his setlists as well as folk, country, and trad. In the mid 80s he recorded an album of his own material to critical acclaim.

As well as music and painting, Ray has also written and published two books. 'Chip Chop Cherry' is a hilarious account of growing up in 1950s Ireland, while 'Wicklow Gold' is a work of 'faction' about cursed treasure in the Wicklow Mountains.

Ray says that he couldn't choose a favourite between music, writing, and painting, but he's been particularly grateful this year for having painting, as playing live music hasn't been possible due to Covid. "The painting has kept me sane!" he says.

Ray is looking forward to being able to play live music again, but until then he has many more paintings to do. "I have a list as long as my arm of places to paint! I'm just trying to get through them all."



## 18 artists exhibit at Arklow Visual Arts Gallery

An exhibition of paintings and photography by members of the Arklow Visual Arts Gallery is currently on display. This show has an array of style, colour and form to suit all tastes so do pop in for a look and follow our social channels for daily updates throughout the exhibition. Admission is free and all are very welcome.

The following members showcasing their art are: Alan Browne, Mary Mitchell, Tony Byrne, Sarah Eva Manson, Jadwiga Pawlak, Michaela Bertsch, Attracta Manson, Iwona Blaji, Andrew Manson, Helen Woods, Pauline Merry, Dorothy Hutson, Sofia Bury, Nicola Keane, Charles Dudley, Elaine Tobin, Aidan Fitzgibbon. Arklow Visual Arts Gallery will be adhering to Government Guidelines.

Pictured above is 'Find Your Joy' by Elaine Tobin. The artist used pencil, pen, acrylic ink, acrylic paint and oil pastel on canvas. Elaine has three beautifully unique abstract pieces in the gallery at the moment.

## Kevin Barry - remembering the lad of eighteen summers

**Wicklow author Síofra O'Donovan has written a new memoir of Kevin Barry, and who better to write an intimate biography of one of Ireland's most famous martyrs than one of his own family?**



Yours 'Til Hell Freezes tells the story of Kevin Barry's untimely death written by one of his closest descendants Síofra O'Donovan with rare access to family papers and archives.

Kevin Barry was only 18 years old when he died a martyr, on the morning of 1st November, 1920, making him one of the first to be executed by the British after the 1916 Easter rising. When news reached his family and friends in Tombeagh, Co. Carlow, and spread across the island, the pain resonated in the heart of every Irish man and woman and echoes of it reverberate within the extended Barry family even today.

"All I knew was that Kevin Barry was not that much older than I was, that he was hanged, and that a lot of people sang about him in pubs," say Síofra.

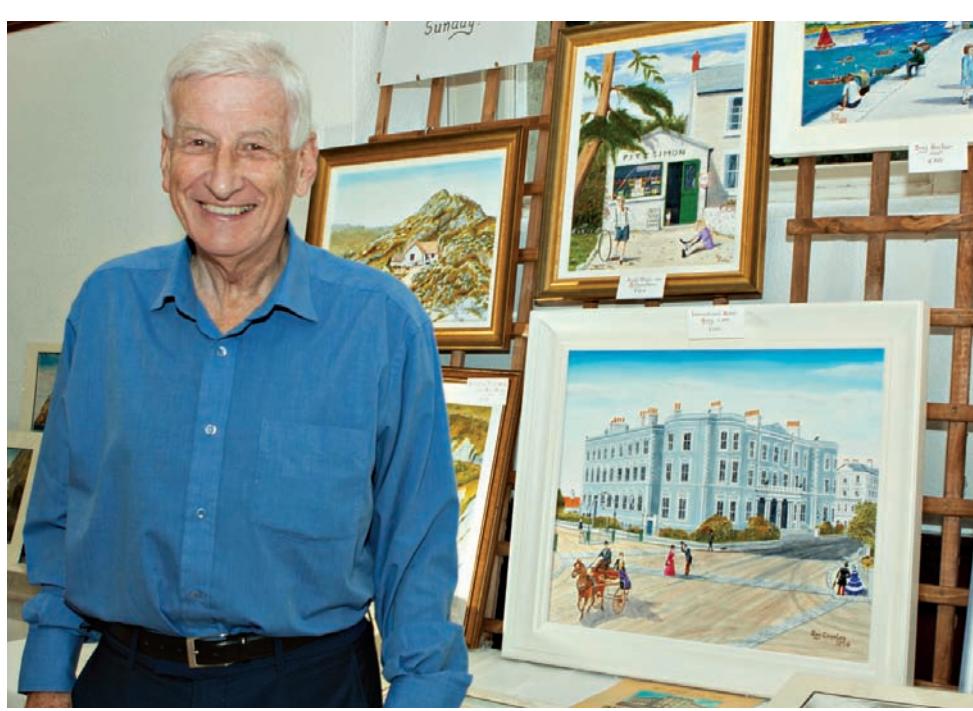
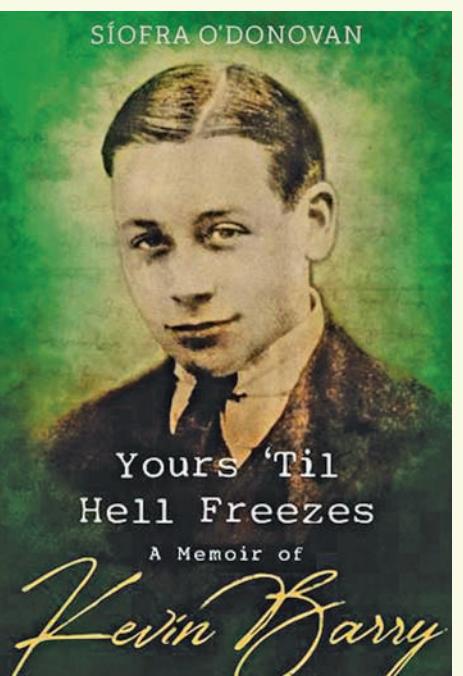
Síofra's maternal grandmother Monty Barry was his second sister, and her father Donal O'Donovan released his own biography of the republican hero back in 1989. She grew up listening to gripping tales of espionage and family militarism that succeeded Kevin Barry's heroics, playing with the black shillelagh he made by hand, gazing on his oval portrait in the study.

With the help of the family, she has unveiled a dearth of information on this historical figure who it may seem died young but lived a full life.

The Irish struggle for independence produced many heroes. Kevin Barry was possibly one of the greatest and this heartfelt memoir from his descendant commemorates his sacrifice fittingly.

Síofra has published historical novels, travelogues, and has written a series of novels set in 12th century France. She has penned cultural and travel features for the Irish Examiner, The Irish Times and the Warsaw Voice. She teaches writing workshops in schools, mental health and prison facilities using the dynamic and archetypal Hero's Journey.

Kevin Barry's centenary is November 1st 2020, and the book was launched last week by Eamon Ó Cúiv, grandson of Eamon de Valera and Niamh Barry, grand-niece of Kevin Barry, on 1st October in the Signal Arts Centre, Bray.



Artist Ray Cranley pictured alongside some of his artwork in Enniskerry Parochial Hall.  
Pic: Joe McQuillan



At the launch of October Feast were Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Pat Kennedy, Pamela Walsh, Chairperson of the Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy, and CEO of Wicklow County Council Frank Curran.

## Feast your eyes on Wicklow

All eyes will be on County Wicklow during the month of October as the county's food and drink network is hosting a programme of activities to showcase the abundance of producers in The Garden of Ireland.

Wicklow Naturally's "October Feast" is a full calendar of activities highlighting food and drink producers and all they have to offer.

For the month of October, Wicklow Naturally producers will be highlighting what they do through online videos direct from their farms, winery, distilleries, cafes, gardens and kitchens. There will be foraging tours, recipes, cookery demonstrations, afternoon teas, meet the makers days and so much more.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, said: "Wicklow County Council is delighted to support the development of Wicklow Naturally which showcases all that is excellent about the food and drink on offer from the Garden of Ireland. Never before has it been more important to support local producers, retailers, restaurateurs, pubs and all those involved in the food and hospitality sector. We very much appreciate the support from our partners in this initiative."

Speaking about Wicklow Naturally's "October Feast", Pamela Walsh of Wicklow Way Wines (Winery) said: "Here in the Garden of Ireland, we have some of the country's finest producers. They

are truly amazing and our food and drink network is all about championing the work we all do."

She said that "October Feast" was about telling the story of its members, promoting messages of sustainability, letting people know what we do and showcasing the beautiful food and drink produce which comes from County Wicklow.

"Wicklow has everything - a winery, distilleries, breweries, jam makers, chocolate makers, nougat makers, lamb producers, fruit and vegetable growers, wagyu beef farmers, vegan cafes, amazing chefs, Wicklow Signature Dishes, fabulous hotels, B&Bs and forest adventures," said Ms Walsh.

Working within public health guidelines, people will be able to book some wonderful foraging tours, mushroom hunts, walled garden tours as well as indulging in some superb online videos.

"We are inviting everyone to join us on Wicklow Naturally's social media channels - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - to enjoy everything which is on offer," she said adding: "Times have been very challenging for all businesses and everyone here in Wicklow is doing the very best they can in such a difficult climate.

She said the "October Feast" celebration would not be possible without the support from Wicklow County Council, County Wicklow Partnership, LEADER Programme, Wicklow Local Enterprise Office and Failte Ireland."

To see the full list of events visit [www.wicklownaturally.ie/events](http://www.wicklownaturally.ie/events)

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# Local Enterprise Office announces National Women's Enterprise Day

"We're stronger together" is the message from Local Enterprise Office Wicklow at the announcement of events to mark National Women's Enterprise Day on Wednesday, October 14th.

The Local Enterprise Office initiative, now in its fourteenth year, was launched by An Tánaiste and Minister Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar T.D., and is being funded by the Government of Ireland in partnership with Enterprise Ireland and Local Authorities.

Figures released by Local Enterprise Offices to coincide with the launch reveal that 20,551 female participants took part in training programmes with the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in the first six months of 2020, an increase of 58% over the same period last year. There is also greater demand for mentoring support this year, with 3,567 female entrepreneurs taking up the support between January and June 2020, an increase of 19%.

The interactive events on October 14th for National Women's Enterprise Day are moving online to LocalEnterprise.ie/NWED and the big themes this year are resilience, self-care, innovation and opportunity. All events in the programme are free of charge and include workshops with experts, panel discussions, a virtual mar-

ketplace and facilitated networking to connect more entrepreneurs with each other.

Entrepreneurs that will be sharing their insights and journeys include Olympian-turned-company founder Derval O'Rourke, Sonia Deasy of the Irish global skincare brand, Pestle & Mortar, Pamela Laird of Moxi Loves who was a finalist on BBC's The Apprentice and Aine Kerr, the co-founder of Kinzen and RTÉ broadcaster, who is also the M.C. for the day.

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise with Local Enterprise Office Wicklow said: "On National Women's Enterprise Day on October 14th, we want to show businesses that we're 'Stronger Together.' We also want to show how small changes can make big impacts, how we can learn from each other, how small businesses can cultivate innovation and how international markets can offer new opportunities. Registration is now open and events are free to join so I would encourage local businesswomen and aspiring female entrepreneurs to join us online for a day of education, inspiration and moti-



Pamela Walsh of Wicklow Way Wines with Vibeke Delahunt, LEO Wicklow

vation!"

Other contributors on the day include Siobhan Kinsella of Chambers Ireland, Alison Richie of Polar Ice, Joanne Hession of LIFT Ireland, Tracy Keogh of Grow Remote, Larissa Feeney of Accountant Online, Deirdre Parkinson of Microfinance Ireland as

well as Sheelagh Daly, Anne Lanigan and Marina Donohoe of Enterprise Ireland.

For more information on National Women's Enterprise Day and to pre-register for the free events, go to [www.LocalEnterprise.ie/nwed](http://www.LocalEnterprise.ie/nwed) or search #NWED on social media.

# LOCAL BUSINESS

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# 'Covid hit charities need budget break'

Budget 2021 should be used to support Wicklow charities, community and voluntary organisations facing a surge in demand for services and a fall in donations as a result of Covid-19, according to The Community Foundation for Ireland.

In a pre-budget submission, the Foundation which will provide 16m in grants to community groups nationally this year, says straight forward measures in both the budget and the Finance Bill could provide an important lifeline of support to groups working with vulnerable people throughout Wicklow.

The Community Foundation for Ireland, which has supported communities for over 20-years, says more than half of the groups it works with are facing difficulties. It says services such as meals and wheels, mental health supports as well as services for those with disabilities and older people in Wicklow all need help so that they can continue to offer a lifeline.

The Foundation is mak-

ing two recommendations to Government: Ensure all donations intended for communities go to communities by removing the administrative burden of tax relief for donations over €5,000 from charities to donors. This is the only outstanding recommendation of the 2012 Forum on Philanthropy Report on Major Gift Incentive;

Reduce the Capital Acquisitions Tax on donations from inheritances on a euro for euro basis.

Announcing the publication of the submission, Denise Charlton, CEO said "The Covid-19 pandemic has created a perfect storm for the charity, community and voluntary sectors with hugely increased demands for services and supports coinciding with a drop in donations, gifts and funding.

We see this in Wicklow, in rural and urban areas and among people of all ages. The impact is indiscriminate. Budget 2021 and the Finance Bill are opportunities for Government to address the shortfalls in financial support by taking imaginative measures which would address long-term sustainability and planning by encouraging larger donations.

"At present in Ireland less than 1% of charity donations are greater than €5,000. Efforts to boost this have been hampered by a tax relief regime which is not delivering for either charities or their larger donors, with money intended to benefit communities instead going on taxes. The estimated loss is 50m since the current measures introduced in 2013.

Chair of the Foundation, Mike Gaffney added "Older people, people with disabilities, those who struggle to make ends meet, those trapped in violent relationships and many others have borne the brunt of the isolation and loneliness caused by the restrictions needed to keep us all safe.

"Yet the upsurge in demand for such supports is happening at a time when fundraising has been largely shut down or very severely reduced. Charity shops have had their doors closed, there are no street collections while fears over household incomes have also hit online donations.

"It is time now for Government to take overdue steps to address these concerns. By doing so it will not only help in the immediate emergency but will ensure that our essential community services can plan and prepare for whatever the future may have in store."



Denise Charlton, CEO of The Community Foundation for Ireland

## Gospel: Mark 12.28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him. Which is the first of all the commandments? Jesus replied. This is the first. Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. The scribe said to him 'Well spoken, Master, what you have said is true, that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said 'You are not far from the kingdom of God' and after that no one dare to question him anymore.

C.J.

## • PLANNING •

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling, waste water treatment system, garage, entrance, and associated works at Askanagap, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow for M. Kenny. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for retention of two revised velux windows to rear of dwelling and associated works at Gairdin An Duschas, Rocky Road, Ballynerrin, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow for D. O'Meara. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Nicola Jackson seek planning permission for a new dwelling house and entrance, a connection to services along with all associated site development works at Togher More, Roundwood, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Full Planning Permission Sought for:

- Provision of outdoor seating area (50M<sup>2</sup>) to existing forecourt to include: Newly Paved Surface (50M<sup>2</sup>) complete with Ground Level Lighting. Retractable Awnings fitted over existing signage to extend maximum 4 metres from façade of property. All the above in-use solely during assigned opening hours.
- All ancillary site works at No 7 & 8, Albert Tce, Meath Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. A98 XW13 & A98W188. Signed: Meabhdh Kilroy

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

### THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (Mention request) Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. St Anthony and St Jude, helper of the hopeless, aid me in my distress. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail

R.D.

### WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I David Fitzgerald seek a retention planning permission for an as constructed side and rear extension to No. 4 Saint Dominic's Road, Wicklow Town 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.

## CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

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