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RIP COLIN MURPHY
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LOCKDOWN DISASTER LOOMS

Level 5 Lockdown for at least six weeks spells disaster for many people in this county and country, according to Independent Councillor Joe Behan.

Speaking last week after the Government announced the move to Level 5, Cllr Behan said "The severe restrictions now being imposed on us, until December, will result in untold damage to mental health, further delays in accessing many non-Covid health services, severe impacts on many businesses and economic damage for individual people, their families and the country too."

"Many people are asking if the Government has any strategy for how we will emerge from the lockdown after six weeks. It seems there is no guarantee that further

restrictions won't be imposed for Christmas and into 2021. This is an appalling prospect.

People ask why so much time was wasted during the first lockdown when the health care system could have been prepared for Covid spreading again. Why was contact tracing not brought up to the levels needed to deal with mounting cases of the disease? Why weren't more health care professionals employed to prepare for the winter challenges? And why will we have no testing this weekend and next?

"At the very least this Government and the

outgoing Government are guilty of complacency if not outright recklessness. In recent days, the World Health Organisation spokesperson, Dr. David Nabarro, has stressed that lockdowns are not the solution. They are only justified when the time of lockdown is used intelligently to bolster the health services to ensure if Covid begins to transmit again, the country is ready for it and the systems are able to cope. The WHO has stressed that lockdowns do enormous damage to the health and social and economic fabric of a nation and are to be avoided if at all possible.



Andrew Moorehouse and Amilia Martin dress up for Halloween at Newtownmountkenedy Primary School



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"It is clear from comments by the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste that more lockdowns are on the cards throughout 2021. This is the clearest indication yet, that the Government has thrown in the towel.

"We, the people, should be demanding that the sacrifices we are being asked to endure again will be rewarded with a guarantee that our health system will be able to cope with any further spread of Covid. Anything less will be a failure of leadership on an epic scale and will justify a complete sea change in how this country is governed in the future."

Meanwhile, the Irish Small and Medium Enterprises Association (ISME) issued a 'call to action' for its members,

asking them for assistance in explaining the problem to local TDs and Ministers. ISME say that 'things have changed' with this latest lockdown - that inter-company debts are mounting and that many businesses are going to need 'examinership lite' sooner rather than later. ISME says that many businesses are keeping their heads above water only by 'wage subsidies and bank forbearance'.

And on another bizarre note, it emerged during Dáil questions last week to Minister Stephen Donnelly on his motion for the extension of emergency powers to enforce lockdown that they included the power to arrest priests should they say a mass with any public in attendance.

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Chief Executive Officer of Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services, Audrey Houlihan, pictured at the newly completed Wicklow Hospice facility in Magheramore. The Hospice will officially be opened on 30th October and the first patients will arrive from the start of November.

Bray locations feature in new 'U2's Dublin' app

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of U2's debut album 'Boy' last week, Dan O'Connor has released an app called 'U2's Dublin' that pinpoints all the important locations in and around Dublin associated with the band, including quite a few Bray locations such as Ardmore Studios, where most of the 'With or Without You' video was filmed, and Martello Tower, Ravenswell, where Bono lived in the early-mid 80s.

The app features over 145 locations in and around Dublin connected with the band. It is the only app dedicated to exploring the connection between U2 and their native city. Fans of the band can see where Bono, The Edge, Larry and Adam grew up, where they first played together, where they made their first recordings and the places that inspired some of their greatest songs. Combining U2's history and local Dublin history, this app will take you through the places that shaped U2 and their music. It is available now free on Android and iOS.

Heritage Walks Across Wicklow

Due to a change to the current Covid-19 measures, Wicklow Uplands Council and Wicklow Local Sports Partnership made the decision to postpone the planned guided heritage walk titled 'A Journey to 1870's Lacken', that was to be held on October the 24th until a future date. All interested parties will be contacted once a new date is confirmed.

Index to Dublin Historical Record

The Old Dublin Society has published a 'General Index to the Dublin Historical Record' covering Volume 57 (Spring 2004) to Volume 72 (Autumn 2019) under the following headings: Foreword from Ms. Bernardine Ruddy, Hon. President, The Old Dublin Society; Introduction to the Index by Ms. Julitta Clancy, FSocInd, Compiler; General Index to Volumes 57 to 72, 2004 - 2019; Index of Authors and Contributors; Index of Book Reviews; Index of Obituaries; List of the Hon. Editors of the Dublin Historical Record, 1938 - 2019. Running to 276 pages, copies of this Index can be ordered at the post-paid price of €25 from the Old Dublin Society, 1 Grange Court, Dublin 16 AE00.

Wicklow Mobile Library Service

If you have not used the Wicklow Mobile Library Service before maybe you would like to avail of this great rural service now. You can contact them at 087 9135229 or email at kdowens@wicklowcoco.ie to find out more.

Enjoy nature with your pet

You don't have to try to discover a different route every day to make walks close to home enjoyable for both you and your dog. Obviously it's fun for your dog to explore new paths and it's incredible how much there is out there to sniff out and discover, plus getting out for a walk will help you and your pet feel good. However, nobody can offer their dog an alternative route each and every day, which is why it makes sense to jazz up your tried and tested trails a bit.

Bring a ball thrower, frisbee, or even just their favourite toy - whatever keeps your pet entertained while you enjoy the fresh air. Or just enjoy a safe, socially distanced walk around your neighbourhood, make sure to adhere to public health advice and stay healthy. There's nothing nicer than knowing there's someone by your side. As Maxi Zoo provide an essential service, their stores will continue to be open daily. "We want you to know that we are here for you and your furry friends! Check out maxizoo.ie for locations and opening hours."

Greystones bike thefts

There has been a spate of bicycle thefts in the Greystones area in recent weeks. Please ensure that you have a good lock for your bike. If you witness a bike being stolen, please ring 6665800 or 112/999. Take a photo of your bike, security mark it in two separate places. Fill out a bike card from the Gardai and include a photo. Consider insuring your bike and installing an electronic tracking device. Take basic precautions, have security at home and in public places.

Build-a-box for the first ever online-only Shoebox Appeal

The annual Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal has moved for the first time to an online-only appeal for 2020 and people across Wicklow are being asked to 'Team Up For Team Hope' by donating gift-filled shoeboxes for children affected by poverty for €20 at teamhope.ie.

Schools, families, friends, communities and businesses across the county are encouraged to work together, in whatever way they can safely, to donate as many shoeboxes as possible up until 23rd December and celebrate their efforts during the first ever Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal Week, which will take place from 9th to 15th November.

Team Hope CEO, Peter Heaney explains: "Due to the effects of Covid-19 restrictions, it is not possible to send gift-filled shoeboxes from Ireland this year. But we know that the need for shoeboxes is greater than ever. "So we have for the first time moved the campaign completely online, developed a brand new website to facilitate building a box and enlisted the help of our local partners in Africa and Eastern Europe to create and deliver shoeboxes on the ground."

Jenny Uí Sé, County Wicklow Christmas Shoebox Appeal Joint Coordinator added: "The people of Wicklow have always been great supporters of the Shoebox Appeal and this year, more than ever, every shoebox counts. "The Covid-19 crisis has presented huge challenges for people throughout the country, so you can only imagine the immeasurable impact that Covid-19 has had in countries where basic sanitation and access to education is far from universal. This is a pivotal moment for us all to reflect, not about how we fill a shoebox, but why we do shoeboxes and the importance of basic education, self-care, warmth and joy for a child affected by poverty."

Irish Women's Hockey International Elena Tice reprises her role as a Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal ambassador in 2020. With her Olympic journey postponed, Elena has been working hard with her team to keep their training on track and have been rallying around to support each other.

Elena says: "Building a team around you is so important and I would be lost without the support

of mine. The ethos of #TeamUpForTeamHope is key because we all need to lean on each other at some point, but some people are less fortunate and need a little more help. Everyone has the ability to work together to make a difference, no effort is too small."

The new website at www.teamhope.ie allows people to build-a-box online, personalise it by uploading a picture or image, and select gift items they would like to include, for example:

Wear - Gloves, Hat, Scarf, Socks, Top, Underwear

Wash - Comb, Soap, Sponge, Toothbrush & Toothpaste, Washcloth

Write - Colouring Pencils, Notepad, Writing accessories

Wow - Fun Trinkets, Musical Toys, Puzzles, Soft Toy, ball, fun sunglasses

The online shoebox donations will allow Team Hope's network of local partners in Africa and Eastern Europe to purchase items for shoeboxes, which will then be delivered directly into the

hands of children. Often these shoeboxes are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas.

During the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal Week, everyone is encouraged to celebrate the Christmas Shoebox Appeal by building/packing shoeboxes online, sharing pictures on social media, coordinating fundraisers to purchase shoeboxes, and learning about the Appeal and the importance of giving.

Team Hope's aim in 2020 is to deliver as many shoeboxes as possible to children in Romania, Transnistria (Moldova), Ukraine, Kosovo, Albania, Belarus, Burundi, Democratic Republic Congo, Lesotho, Eswatini (Swaziland), Malawi, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Rwanda.

For more information about the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal, please visit www.teamhope.ie. Team Hope also provides a range of free lesson plans and online resources for schools and businesses to help you get started.



Women's Hockey International Elena Tice, with her cousins Arthur and Ellie Sheane from Wicklow, at the launch of the 2020 Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal, which moves to an online-only appeal for the first time.

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Greystones sailors beat record for two-handed sail around Ireland

Greystones sailors Pamela Lee and her co-skipper Catherine Hunt have set the first record for an all female, double-handed circumnavigation of Ireland.



Pamela Lee and Catherine Hunt's boat, a Beneteau Figaro III

They are hoping to inspire girls in Ireland and the UK to take up offshore sailing on equal terms.

Finishing at the Kish lighthouse at 4am on Saturday 17th October after 92 hours 30mins, they beat the record for men as well - which was 102 hours (set by Aodhan Fitzgerald and Yannick Lemonnier in a Figaro II in the 2004 bi-annual Round Ireland Yacht Race).

They sailed a total of 761 nautical miles. Welcoming the sailors on their return to Greystones Harbour, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, Cllr Derek Mitchell, said "This was a tough challenge, working two hours on and two off all that time, with lots of complex navigation and tiring sail changes. It's a great achievement and example to all female sailors.

"Normally sailing around Ireland involves six or eight crew. I am delighted they have beaten the record and returned to Greystones Harbour as Pamela Lee actively campaigned, over a decade ago, to get the new harbour built."



Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, Cllr Derek Mitchell, with record-breaking sailors Pamela Lee and Catherine Hunt

The boat, a Beneteau Figaro III, was lent by Kenny Rumball from Delgany, director of the Irish National Sailing School.

Pamela had previously assisted Kenny in his first La Solitaire du Figaro, an off-shore single-handed event which took place in France in September. This is where the Pamela got the idea, and she enlisted the help of British Sailor Catherine Hunt.

They had a fast start to their journey, passing by Cork Harbour after just over 12 hours and travelling 240 miles on the first day. On Wednesday, 14th October they rounded

Fastnet Rock, southwest of Cape Clear. By Thursday morning they were crossing Donegal Bay.

Entering one of the more treacherous parts of Ireland's coastline, with narrow channels, they emerged at approximately midday on Friday 16th October at Belfast Harbour.

Though they had navigated the most dangerous parts of their route, their record-breaking attempt was put in jeopardy by the wind dying off with about 100 miles to go.

It came back however late Friday afternoon, speeding them towards their finish line.



Pamela and Catherine after arriving back in Greystones

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Lions around the world celebrated the birth of Lions Clubs International on 8th October. On the same day, Wicklow and District Lions Club President Sean Olohan presented two new members Deirdre O'Donovan and Denis Laverty with their official pins. This was a special ceremony outdoors along the coast in Wicklow where Lions gathered to be part of the very first 'Induction by the Sea'. This all took place on World Lions Service Day when Lions are proud to show the world what lionism stands for. Sean welcomed the new Lions into the Wicklow Club and said he is looking forward to working with Deirdre and Denis on many projects in the coming months and years.

Grant for Medieval Arklow Project

Green Party TD Steven Matthews TD has welcomed the news that Wicklow County Council has received a grant of €7,700 for a project relating to Medieval Arklow following an announcement from his party Colleague, Minister Malcolm Noonan.

This funding comes as part of the July Jobs Stimulus Plan for National Monuments. Discussing the news, Deputy Matthews said: "This is very positive for all those involved in the project in Arklow and it's great to see funding go to what is sometimes an underfunded part of the county. The Community Monuments Fund has been established as part of additional capital earmarked for national monuments under the Stimulus Plan. The core objective of the Community Monuments Fund is to support the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and historic sites.

"Grants like this will also allow steps to be taken under the Climate Change Action Plan in relation to our archaeological heritage and will create employment for skilled conservation specialists and tradespeople involved in heritage-related construction activity.

"Although this particular grant stream has concluded, there will be further funding and grant opportunities coming down the line for community projects in the coming months so I would encourage all community groups to keep an eye out and to liaise with Wicklow County Council to make sure they get their applications in", concluded Deputy Matthews.

Luggala Estate returns historic Galway Gate to its rightful home

Luggala Estate was delighted to help facilitate the return of the historic 17th Century Galway Gate to the west of Ireland this Summer.

The Gate is believed to have come to Luggala from the previous owner Garech de Bruin's childhood home in Co. Mayo. The assumption is that it was intended to be restored as a folly near Lough Tay, but it was never put up on Luggala Estate.

The Gate lay in pieces, an unidentified heap of limestone, for many years until rediscovered by estate worker Seamus Hayes, more than a year after Garech's death in 2018.

The massive bow gate, believed to date from the 1620s, consists of 25 tonnes of limestone sections. The staff at Luggala assisted greatly with the safe packing and transport of the 110 stone pieces to Claregalway Castle in Co Galway in August, where they were cleaned and assembled by an expert team led by Michael Herwood on behalf of Galway City Council.

Tony Boylan, Director, Luggala Estate Limited said "It was an honour to help fulfil one of Garech's dying wishes and return the Galway Gate to its rightful home. If Seamus had not realised the importance of the limestone slabs which were covered in moss and debris after lying unprotected for so many years, Garech's very generous gift might never have come about. We want to thank everyone involved including Alan Maxwell of DNG Galway who put us in contact with Galway's Heritage officer, Galway City Council and Galway City Museum for working closely with us, it has been an incredible journey.

"The new custodians of Luggala have a very strong interest in history, heritage and conservation and they were very supportive of this project from the beginning. They worked to ensure this important part of Galway's heritage was returned quickly and they are delighted that it has been a success. They are looking forward to visiting Galway to see the re-assembled Gate and to learn more about its history". Eithne Verling,

Director of Galway City Museum said; "On behalf of Galway City Council and the City Museum, I want to thank the Estate of Garech de Bruin and the new owners of Luggala for their generosity and support in helping to ensure the Galway Gate was returned. We are thrilled to have the Gate reassembled and conservation work will now commence on restoring it to its former glory. Archaeologist Paul Walsh, who undertook extensive research on the Gate

and Mike Herwood and Eamon O'Donaghue who led the team reassembling the Gate also deserve our thanks and credit."

Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer with Galway City Council said, "There are two very similar porticos in the inner courtyard at Portumna Castle (1627) and the surviving frieze, Tuscan columns and pedestals are an excellent example of 17th century Jacobean architecture. It is fantastic that the people of Galway and everyone with an interest in Irish history and Irish architecture will now be able to view the Galway Gate".



The historic 17th century Galway Gate which was rediscovered in 2018 by Seamus Hayes, a worker on the Luggala Estate. The massive bow gate, believed to date from the 1620s, consists of 25 tonnes of limestone sections.

Communities encouraged to take part in Arklow Bank Wind Park consultation process

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore is encouraging communities and stakeholders to take part in the consultation process on the Arklow Bank Wind Park as SSE Renewables progress with Phase 2 of the wind energy development.

Deputy Whitmore says "it is vitally important that communities engage at this stage so that we can overcome the shortfalls presented by COVID 19 which has restricted communications and engagement on many projects that are important to communities".

Party Spokesperson for Climate Action and Communications, Deputy Whitmore went on to say: "The Arklow Wind Bank has the potential to develop Arklow and surrounding areas but success will depend on the level of engagement with the local area and with communities that could benefit from funding opportunities.

"I previously arranged an onsite visit to SSE Renewables' proposed new Operations and

Management centre which I was delighted to see will be located in Arklow Harbour. At the time, I welcomed this move which was an indication of the potential of Arklow as a key player in marine activity.

"There are lots of opportunities for Arklow and local communities associated with this development which ongoing consultation will help maximise. Much needed job creation and business development could result from this development and the new facility could attract local firms to contribute to SSE's supply chain including specialists in ship repairs, site surveying, fuel supply, hospitality, logistics and stevedoring.

"Crucially, the potential for energy initiatives for Arklow and surrounding towns and

villages is something that should be prioritised. I encourage towns and villages and community groups to submit their proposals in terms of how they can benefit from energy initiatives or any community benefits associated with the project, as SSE Renewables will be obliged to coordinate a 'community fund' for this purpose.

"I welcome the various initiatives SSE Renewables are providing during the consultation process including an interactive webpage; a self-guided public information exhibition at various locations in libraries and town halls; social media, radio and newspaper, a live internet Q&A session and an information pack. Communication will be key

"Community feedback will be

very important. I also welcome SSE Renewables' intention to engage with the fishing community on a number of levels including the establishment of a voluntary fund of an initial sum of €50,000 for programmes and projects which would benefit these funds. I also welcome their intentions to develop guidelines specific to Ireland in conjunction with wind farm developers, the fishing community and government bodies as has been done in the UK.

"This is a good start to what will be a long journey towards developing our potential of offshore wind but it can be a positive one and I look forward to engaging with the project at each level including the upcoming consultation process" concludes Whitmore.

HALLOWE'EN AT MERMAID

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Saturday 31 October | 4pm

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(This is a virtual event, it will take place on Zoom)

Hallowe'en Tales - Daniel Morden

Saturday 31 October | 7pm

Tickets: €5 Per Household | Age Suitability: 8 years - Adults
(This is a virtual event, it will take place on Zoom)

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'Dark day for mother and baby home survivors'

Social Democrats TD and Party Spokesperson for Children, Jennifer Whitmore has spoken in the Dáil on the Mother and Baby Homes legislation which was passed last week. Deputy Whitmore tried to introduce amendments to the Bill, which the Government did not accept. Sinn Féin TD John Brady was also critical of the Government's decision, calling it "shameful".

Speaking after the Dáil vote on the contentious Mother and Baby Homes Bill, Deputy Whitmore said "it was a dark day for survivors of Mother and Baby Homes who have been let down by the State yet again".

Speaking on the Bill Deputy Whitmore, said "it is now the case that survivors will have to go to the courts to access their personal information relating to the Commission of Investigation."

"The Government had many opportunities to amend the legislation including engaging with my amendments to make sure that the documents would not be sealed and that survivors would have their rights to access their personal information protected. The Minister had indicated he was not accepting any of mine, or other opposition amendments before we had an opportunity to debate, and which would have protected the rights of these women."

"I think it was a disgrace that Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and the Greens used their majori-

ty power in Government to silence these women and go against their wishes. Access to your own personal information is a right that each of us enjoy and for the Government to curb those rights of these women who were treated so poorly by the State, is an indictment on each of those parties."

"I want to acknowledge the many survivors resident in Wicklow who have contacted me about this contentious Bill and who have expressed their concerns and anxieties. They have embarked on such a long journey to seek justice for what the State did to them in the past and are being triggered yet again by the way the Government has presented this piece of legislation. This has eroded trust between survivors and the State when it was already at an all time low."

"There was a genuine effort by all members of the opposition to work to provide solutions, as we fully understood the devastating ramifications of sealing survivors personal data for 30 years. It is hard to believe that in this day and age we continue

to make the same mistakes, continue to try to silence those that the State has treated so badly and continue to brush our past under the carpet" concluded Whitmore.

Deputy Brady said "Ireland's mother and baby home scandal 'casts a long and dark shadow' over the state's history. The decision by the Green Party, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael TD's to lock away the records of the Mother and Baby Homes investigation for 30 years was shameful."

"It was a shameful decision in a long line of shameful decisions. It further compounds the trauma, hurt and injustice these mothers and children have endured by the State for too long."

"For decades these homes were shrouded in secrecy, and the awful abuse of single mothers and forced separation of families and the horrors of what happened in places like Tuam is still hard to comprehend."

"Those who survived these institutions, those who didn't survive, and their families are entitled to justice and entitled to

truth. Over the last few weeks I received thousands of emails and letters from survivors regarding the fast-tracking through the Oireachtas of the Bill relating to their records. They asked us not to proceed, unfortunately again their voices have not been listened to."

In response to the Dáil vote last Thursday night, Deputy Brady said "This is a shameful decision, in a long line of shameful decisions, by the Irish Government. The Green Party along with Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have failed survivors again. They didn't need to do this. They could have amended the 2004 legislation if needed. They could retrospectively prescribe. They did that for other elements of the Commission. They had an opportunity to show survivors that Ireland has changed."

"A survivor I spoke to said 'I did nothing wrong. My baby did nothing wrong'. And they didn't. They did nothing wrong, but they were failed in the past. Now they have been failed again. It's devastating."



Kate McDermott, Acicja Rozibicka, and Isla Porter dressed up for Halloween celebrations at Newtownmountkennedy Primary School last Friday

'Buy Irish and support Irish businesses this Christmas'

Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris has urged people to buy Irish and support Irish businesses this Christmas

Mr Harris said "Businesses across the country and this county have suffered as a result of Covid-19 and Brexit. It is really important we support our local businesses and our friends, neighbours and colleagues this Christmas."

"I have met with many excellent community groups promoting shop local campaigns in towns and villages across County Wicklow in addition to the excellent Village Pod App based in Bray."

"So, instead of rushing to Amazon or other international websites, think of supporting businesses here first. It will make the world of difference to people from Wicklow if we can support businesses from Wicklow. But if we don't have what you need there are plenty of places around Ireland that can help."

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- Arklow Library
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A Bray Endeavour Award was presented to Jane Kennedy of Brennanstown Riding School. Five decades ago, Jane set up her riding school and then moved from south Dublin to Bray. The facility includes an indoor arena and livery. See more on page 17.

Sheep farmers disappointed at lost opportunity to increase payments

IFA National Sheep Committee Chairman Sean Dennehy acknowledged the roll-over of funding for existing schemes, but said sheep farmers are disappointed the Budget did not provide an increase to the Sheep Welfare Scheme.

He said sheep farming is a low-income sector carried out in some of the most difficult areas of the country and is in vital need of meaningful supports.

Sean Dennehy said commitments given by Leo Varadkar and Micheál Martin at the IFA AGM earlier this year of a 5 increase in payments has not been provided in the Budget.

"The Minister for Agriculture Charlie McConalogue must support the sector directly and through amendments to existing schemes to ensure generational renewal within the sector," he said.

To achieve the long-term sustainability of the sector, which plays a critical role in the rural economy in particular but also in the broader agri sector, Sean Dennehy said the sector must be economically viable.

Meaningful levels of direct supports are necessary to provide this and the IFA campaign for 30 ewe continues.

'Mapping of badger setts a positive step in eradicating TB'

IFA Animal Health Chairman Pat Farrell said the Department of Agriculture's request for information on the location of badger setts is a positive move in addressing the main driver of TB in this country.

IFA had sought a detailed survey of the entire country to ensure all setts are mapped to allow for an effective Wildlife Control Programme.

Co. Wicklow is a Bovine TB hot-spot and badgers are recognized as being a source of infection for cattle. Similar strains of M.Bovis have been found in both cattle and deer, and a report published earlier this year titled

'Mycobacterium bovis genomics reveals transmission of infection between cattle and deer in

Ireland', by Crispell et al. suggested that a common source such as badgers could be the reason.

The IFA Chairman urged farmers to ensure all setts on their lands are notified to the local Department Office through the numbers provided for each county in the text messages that will issue.

"Farmers will not be found wanting in supporting the Department in ensuring all setts are mapped, but this alone will not eradicate TB. The Department must have the resources in place to carry

out efficient captures of all of these setts," he said.

Pat Farrell said effectively addressing the TB issue in wildlife is vital to reduce the levels in cattle and the programme must also include proactively reducing densities of susceptible wildlife in advance of major infrastructural works to stop the spread of the disease. In addition, the ever-increasing deer population must be brought under control to remove this route of disease spread to cattle.

The IFA Chairman said an enhanced and effective

wildlife control programme is a key component of the TB programme, but additional work is needed in on-farm investigations and in the financial supports for farmers whose farms are under TB controls.

IFA is awaiting the draft TB strategy which is to be issued to the TB Forum stakeholders in order to commence direct discussions with the Department of Agriculture on a TB programme that will achieve eradication and reduce the cost burden on farms.

IFA elections to take place via postal vote

The National Council of the IFA has voted to allow postal ballots for the election of officers at national and county level.

Under Rule 73, the National Treasurer and Returning Officer Martin Stapleton has responsibility for execution of all elections and election procedures in IFA.

The deadline for branch AGMs has been extended by four months to July 2021, to allow branches the maximum flexibility to hold their meetings into the Spring and Summer months.

He said, "Given the circumstances presented by COVID-19, and the restrictions imposed by public health guidelines, the Council has decided to proceed with all elections that fall due this year. Meetings in person are not possible under current public health restrictions, so we have to put alternative arrangements in place.

"Our ambition is to hold all elections for County representatives on National Committees that fall due

between now and Christmas. Already this year, both the Chairman of the Liquid Milk Committee Keith O'Boyle and the Vice-Chairman of the Livestock Committee Declan Hanrahan were elected by a postal ballot."

Martin Stapleton said the approval from National Council is in line with other adjustments that have been made to facilitate the normal functioning of IFA business under exceptional arrangements in view of COVID-19, without making any permanent changes to the IFA rules and constitution. "COVID-19 has certainly presented a challenge in terms of how we carry out our business, but we are committed to overseeing the holding of Branch AGMs and votes by County Executives, as we would any other year," he said.

"Operating the IFA structures

during COVID-19 has required flexibility. Our National Council and National Committees have been functioning effectively through remote meetings. Our County Executive meetings have also gone online since the Summer, with attendances growing as members become more comfortable with the technology, although access to broadband remains a challenge. Our officers were able to conduct a very effective pre-Budget lobbying campaign through a mixture of socially-distanced meetings, both indoor and outdoor, and online. To ensure the maximum levels of integrity and to facilitate as many members as possible to vote, the National Council decided that our elections at national and county executive level will go ahead by postal ballot.

"Elections are a critical part of IFA's democratic structures and we will continue to hold them as they fall due. The restrictions could be with us for some time."

Guidance from ICOS Marts on New Level 5 Covid Restrictions

Following the Government's announcement of Level 5 Covid Restrictions, Irish Cooperative Organisation Society (ICOS) has provided the following guidance and directions to mart managers and customers.

- The mart is no longer a public auction but rather an auction by appointment whereby all sellers and buyers must give advance notice of their intention to attend the centre.
- Face coverings are mandatory and must be worn. Hand washing is essential and sanitising gels must be used.
- As is currently the case, all people attending the mart must have their time and mobile number recorded.
- All sellers dropping animals must then immediately leave the mart premises.
- All potential buyers must contact the mart manager to arrange and get approval to view livestock before the sale.

- The actual viewing time allotted for viewing is up to the mart manager to decide. When the viewing time is up, all potential buyers must leave the mart premises and bid remotely on line.

- Any mart not online can use a tendering system as was in place last March. Sales cannot start if buyers are on the premises.

- Buyers must co-operate and adhere to all necessary measures instructed during viewing times.

- Social distancing of 2 metres is obligatory at all times and there is to be no waiting or hanging around by customers on the premises.

- All sellers must be available to receive phone calls to accept /decline final bids for livestock, by arrangement with their local mart.

"We greatly appreciate the co-operation and assistance of our customers with these measures. While onerous, the measures are designed to support health and wellbeing for everyone in our communities," said Ray Doyle, National Livestock & Environmental Services Executive of ICOS

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County Wicklow - a very dangerous place for raptors

More birds of prey are being deliberately killed in County Wicklow than anywhere else in the country, according to a review published by the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) last week.

The NPWS' review was of incidents that have been recorded to impact native Irish birds of prey between 2007 and 2019. The review is titled 'Recording and Addressing Persecution and Threats to Our Raptors (RAPTOR): A Review of Incidents'.

County Wicklow had the highest number of incidents (57) for any one county, followed by Co. Tipperary (33), Co. Kerry (30), Co. Dublin (28) and Co. Cork (22).

The report notes that the Red Kite has been particularly affected by incidents of poisoning in Co. Wicklow. 25 of the 34 cases of Red Kite injury/mortality in Co. Wicklow involved poisons such as Alphachloralose, Carbofuran and Nitroxylin.

Nationwide, a total of 338 incidents were confirmed and recorded on the RAPTOR

database during the period 2007 and 2019. A wide range of causes are listed, including poisoning, persecution, fence, road and turbine collisions.

Some of the incidents would have had multiple issues (e.g. some birds of prey were both shot and poisoned), while a number of incidents would have been comprised of multiple birds (e.g. more than one individual killed by a poisoned bait incident).

Jennifer Whitmore TD, Social Democrats spokesperson on Climate Action, said that the report detailing the deliberate killing of hundreds of birds of prey highlights the urgency for the establishment of a Wildlife Crime Unit.

Deputy Whitmore said: "The report revealed that the vast majority of Ireland's birds of prey killed by human attacks or other

activity were poisoned. It found that over 300 were found to have been poisoned or suffered some form of unnatural death between 2007 and 2019.

"This illustrates how important it is to have a dedicated crime unit in this area. Incidents where animals have been targeted have been recorded in all parts of Ireland but prosecution levels have been extremely low.

"There were 338 incidents confirmed and recorded on the RAPTOR database during the period concerned, which is unacceptably high. I welcome the Minister indicating his intention to establish a much-needed Wildlife Crime Unit, which will be located within the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

"This was a key call of mine in Budget 2021 and in my role as spokesper-

son for Climate Action and member of the Climate Action Committee. I urge the Minister to ensure that this happens quickly and the unit is adequately resourced so it can carry out its remit in an effective manner. It will hopefully lead to an increase in the prosecution of cases and act as a deterrent to repeat offenders who are involved in crimes against animals."

The review has been made possible by experts from the NPWS, the Veterinary Laboratory Service and State Laboratory co-operating on an investigative process known as the RAPTOR protocol. The RAPTOR protocol entails a significant amount of effort between the three Government Departments - from collecting and handling carcasses, injured birds and evidence; to x-rays, Post-Mortem examina-



Jan Hluchan and Anna Derek dress up for Halloween at Newtownmountkennedy Primary School

tions, DNA sampling, toxicological testing and follow-up investigations; data analysis, interpretation and reporting.

The report's author and coordinator of RAPTOR between 2013 and 2019, Dr. Barry O'Donoghue stated: "Birds of Prey are magnificent creatures in their own right and speak to something deep

within us about a wild Ireland. They are indicators of the health of our ecosystems and countryside, whether a Barn Owl hunting a hay meadow at night or a Hen Harrier gliding across a moorland. The help of the public has been central in bringing these incidents to light and for highlighting the support that our native

birds of prey need". As well as assisting directly with individual wildlife crime investigations, the RAPTOR protocol underpins the NPWS RAPTOR database, providing important information on the species affected, the modus operandi, timing and location of such incidents. The report provides important back-

ground information to assist targeting illegal activity through enforcement and education and in turn combat human-related raptor injury and mortality. The information garnered from recording and analysing incidents of disturbance, road, turbine or fence collisions can help inform forward planning on such matters.

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- ✓ Seizures
- ✓ Ingestions
- ✓ Emergency mental health concerns

What We Don't Treat

- ✗ Testicular pain
- ✗ Major Trauma



Pictured is Chris Hanney, from Bray, who ran in the KBC Dublin Marathon on behalf of Wicklow Dementia Support over the weekend. Chris's Dad, Paul, was diagnosed with early onset dementia at just 50 years of age and unfortunately passed away at age 57. After his Dad's death Chris decided to take up running and as a result lost over 86 kg over the last few years. This was Chris's third Dublin Marathon on behalf of WDS. Organisers of the marathon encouraged runners to take part in a safe and responsible way by doing a lapped route within the 5km radius of their homes. If you would like to support Chris, then please donate via wicklowdementiasupport.org

Blessington's Covid-19 Community Response Group has helped over 600 people

Blessington Town Team's outreach programme has helped more than 600 local people since it was established in March. Recently the town made their presentation in the final of the 2020 Begin Together Awards.

Blessington face Kinsale in the 4001-7000 population category in the All-Island Awards scheme. For 2020 the awards are recognising particularly communities who came together and demonstrated exceptional leadership during these challenging

Covid-19 pandemic times. The Blessington Covid-19 Community Response Group was established on 13 March under the auspices of Blessington Town Team.

Members of the group consist of representatives from Wicklow County Council, Garda Síochána, First Responders, Fire Service, HSE and activists from organisations such as the Community Forum and the Business Network.

Chairperson of the Town Team, John Horan said: "The key people who should be recog-

nised in this regard are the more than 30 volunteers who came forward and have continued to keep up the good work of supporting the more vulnerable in their neighbourhoods over so many months. They are continuing this work ever since."

Each of these Garda vetted Covid volunteers were allocated to selected areas throughout the district. The group focused on getting accurate and timely information out to the community across Blessington using leaflets, a Facebook page and WhatsApp Groups.

The 'Hello Neighbour' campaign also used posters and flyers with contact details for key people to raise awareness.

"We wanted everyone to know that they have a community around them

that is willing to help and that no person or family is alone at this uncertain time", explained Mr Horan.

The Group also helped to pass on any Covid updates while also acting as the local Blessington district contact point for the Wicklow Community Call Centre and for the Wicklow Branch of Volunteering Ireland.

The details of potentially vulnerable persons were included in the list maintained by the Garda Síochána Community Unit.

Volunteers working on the 'Hello Neighbour' campaign offered to do shopping, medicine collection or just stop by for a chat.

Initially, the Group's activities were supported by a totally local voluntary effort.

A local business provided design, printing

and laminating of information posters which were then erected by volunteers at key locations throughout the district.

Flyers for distribution to houses were printed free of charge by the Local Authority.

Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, praised the work done by the Volunteers which he said had played a vital role in helping people cope with a difficult situation.

He said: "The extraordinary work done by the Blessington Town Team Volunteers to reach out and support the most vulnerable members of the community really has been nothing short of inspirational. It just shows that incredible things can be done when an entire community comes together. Really well done to the entire Blessington team!"

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'We pay your parking - shop local thank you!'

Prior to the Government's announcement last Monday of another lockdown, many local retailers in Wicklow Town combined to launch a "Shop Local Thank You" to the local residents in Wicklow Town and to all the shoppers in the locality who have supported 'Shop Local' over the past 7 very difficult months for the retail sector.

In spite of the most recent announcement, which locks down all but essential retail shops, many of those who will be able to trade are proceeding with the "we pay your parking" incentive.

This means that when you spend €30 or more, in a local shop, in one single transaction, you will receive a €1 discount or cash-back at point of purchase, which effectively finances the cost of your parking fee.

All participating retail outlets who remain open during the lock-down will display a poster in their window promoting this initiative.

Ms. Rosie Cooney, President of Wicklow Town & District Chamber, has commended the local retail sector for launching this new initiative at a very difficult time for the sector. She said that this gesture is consistent with the intention of all local retailers to promote the "Shop Local" campaign, which she hopes will continue to breathe new life into Wicklow Town Centre as a result of the majority of local residents making the conscious decision to shop local. She said that she is aware that the local retail sector is now planning a

number of other very attractive initiatives which they will promote when the current lock-down is over.

Welcoming this gesture, Mr. Dave Shannon, Chair of Wicklow Town Team, said that over the past 7 months, he has detected a strong determination by the local retail sector to promote shopping in Wicklow Town as a very attractive alternative for shoppers who may have previously spent their money outside the local economy. He said that this "we pay your parking" gesture is a very tangible way of thanking the local community for their support.



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Elected members of Bray Municipal District and the town's management team are pictured on a recent visit to the Bray Town Centre (Florentine) site where they saw the progress that's been made.

Permission granted for Church Lane housing development

An Bord Pleaala has granted planning permission for a development of nine houses on a derelict site at the Rear of Knockrath, on Church Lane, Greystones.

The development consists of nine dwellings including one replacement dwelling comprising

ing of six number 2.5 storey detached four bedroom dwellings, two 2.5 storey semi-detached four bedroom dwellings and one 1.5 storey detached four bedroom replacement dwelling and ancillary site development works including estate road, footpaths, landscaped open space, boundary treatment, associated site services at Sillan Lodge/rear of Knockrath, Church Lane.

Wicklow County Council had approved the planning application from Church Lane Developments Ltd in September 2019. A third party appeal was then lodged against the development.

The grounds of the appeal included matters such as privacy concerns, the character of the development being out of sync with its surroundings, the overbearing quality of the development and its impact on adjoining properties, and concerns about increased traffic.

In making its decision, ABP stated "Having regard to the location of the site on

residentially zoned lands as set out in the Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole Local Area Plan 2013-2019, to the pattern of development in the vicinity of the site, and to the scale and design of the proposed development, it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity and would be acceptable in terms of pedestrian and traffic safety. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area."

Conditions include the provision of a pedestrian footpath across the full extent of the roadside frontage onto Church Lane; the agreement with the planning authority of details of materials, colours and textures of all the external finishes to the proposed dwellings prior to commencement of development.



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A message from our principal

Update in relation to the COVID-19 situation and BIFE

With the Government's decision for the whole country to move to Level 5 in the Government's Plan for Living with COVID-19 from midnight on Wednesday 21 October 2020, we want to update you on the new situation for Bray Institute of further and higher Education.

The current arrangements for teaching at BIFE will remain as they are. We will maintain a balance of on-campus and remote learning for the remainder of the Academic term. We know this has been a tough year and we want to let you know that BIFE is here to support our students, colleagues and their families.



Minister for Higher & Further Education, Simon Harris, Deirdre Keys, CEO KWETB and Principal Ray Tedders

House prices rise 3% in Wicklow

In Wicklow, prices in the third quarter of 2020 were 3% higher than a year previously, compared to a fall of 3% seen a year ago. The average house price is now €342,000, 68% above its lowest point.

This is according to the latest house price report from Daft.ie. Nationally the average listed price of housing rose by 4.8% between June and September, according to the latest Daft.ie House Price Report released today by Ireland's largest property website, daft.ie. The jump offsets falls earlier in the year and means that the average sale price nationwide in the third quarter of 2020 was €263,750, up 2.7% on the same period in 2019 and 60% higher than its lowest point in early 2013.

Listed prices rose in all 54 markets contained in the Daft.ie Report between June and September, although there were significant differences around the country. The largest increases in urban areas, with prices in Waterford city rising 11%, Galway city 10% and Cork and Limerick 9% in just three months. By comparison, prices in Dublin rose by an average of 2.2%. Outside the cities, the average increase between June and September was 5.8% - with larger increases in Leinster (7.3%) and smaller increases in Connacht-Ulster (3.5%).

Commenting on the report, its author Ronan Lyons, economist at Trinity College Dublin, said: "The jump in listed sale prices seen in the third quarter of 2020 is not entirely unexpected. Indeed, it brings the Irish housing market into line with many other housing markets in high-income countries, where Covid-19 has not disrupted the long-term upward trend in housing prices."



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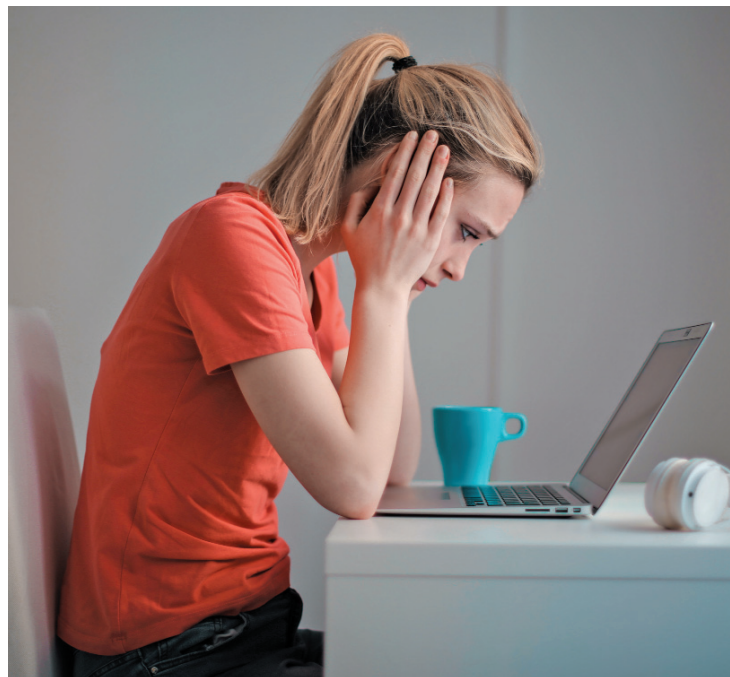


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HERE IF YOU NEED US

We're only human and at times it is all too easy to get bogged down with life, especially in these strange times when trying to deal with life during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is often difficult to avoid feeling overwhelmed, in need of a helping hand or some sound advice or guidance or even just a friendly ear to talk into or a shoulder to lean on. Fortunately, Co. Wicklow is full of amazing services with dedicated staff and volunteers who are there when you need them. The Garden County has everything you need for your day-to-day practical, physical, financial and emotional needs.



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

There are times when legal advice is crucial and it is knowing the important times to call on your

solicitor that will make a difficult or stressful situation, a much easier one to manage.

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

pute with your employer or your neighbour.

A solicitor may give you legal advice about taking or defending a case, if you have been involved in an accident, for example, a road traffic accident or an accident at work.

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

If it is necessary to involve a barrister in the case, your solicitor will "brief" the barrister by sending him/her all of the necessary documents and information. Your solicitor may also actually represent you in court, although in the High Court and the Supreme Court, a barrister will usually be engaged.

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

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

the community they serve. However, the work of a solicitor may fall broadly into one or more of the following categories:

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

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



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

Solicitors are professionally trained to provide clients with skilled legal advice and representation on all legal matters. The work of solicitors varies as widely as

e-commerce law.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Property Law - A solicitor's advice is essential in all property transac-

tions from buying and selling property and land to leasing lands and commercial properties and transferring between family members.

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

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



Brave Maeve Children's Myth & Art Trail by artist Chris Judge. Bray Municipal District with Bray Credit Union, Megazyme and Platform Pizza with Chris Judge and Donna Carroll are previous winners of the Best Use of Creativity in the Community Award at the Business to Arts Awards.

Business to Arts Awards calls for Wicklow entries

'Business to Arts' has launched the call for Wicklow nominations for the annual Business to Arts Awards. Previous local winners of the Best Use of Creativity in the Community Award, include Bray Municipal District, Bray Credit Union, Megazyme, Platform Pizza, Chris Judge and Donna Carroll.

The Awards champion businesses, artists and arts organisations across the country that work together in areas such as sponsorship, commissioning and CSR programmes, which involve creativity in the community and in the workplace.

At the awards launch, Business to Arts encouraged businesses across Ireland to support the arts, strengthen their existing relationships with the cultural community and create meaningful partnerships at a time of critical need for the arts sector. Research conducted by Business to Arts in 2019 among corporate sponsors and arts organisations in Ireland revealed that:

Over €8.5 million was spent on arts, festival and music sponsorships between May 2018/2019; Of the arts sponsors surveyed in 2019, 41% reported that they would increase their spend in 2020.

Winners of the Business to Arts Awards provide leading examples that help inform others about the ways to support the arts sector in local communities during the pandemic.

2021 will mark the 29th edition of the Business to Arts Awards and will include a COVID-19-adapted Ceremony, which will take place in

April 2021 and will be broadcast online from the GPO. Supporters of the Awards include Accenture, Arthur Cox, daa, Irish Life, The Arts Council / An Comhairle Ealaíon, The Irish Times, TileStyle and An Post.

There are nine categories in total that focus on sponsorship, commissioning and CSR initiatives including creativity in the community and in the workplace.

A new award recognising philanthropic giving has been announced in partnership with the Arts Council. The full list of categories are: Best Large Sponsorship (€25,000); Best Small Sponsorship (€25,000); Best Long Term Partnership (3 years or more); Best Use of Creativity in the Community; Best Use of Creativity in the Workplace; Jim McNaughton Perpetual Award for Best Commissioning Practice; Best Philanthropic Support to the Arts supported by the Arts Council; Jim McNaughton / TileStyle €10,000 Bursary for Artists; Judges' Special Recognition Award supported by Accenture.

Previous award winners include BNP Paribas & IMMA, Butler Gallery & Cartoon Saloon, Grant Thornton & National Concert Hall,

McGarrell Reilly Group, Fishamble; The New Play Company and Waterford Walls.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 16th December at 5pm. Go to www.businessstoarts.ie/awards for information on the application process and to complete the online application form.

At the launch Andrew Hetherington, Chief Executive of

Business to Arts said: "As we re-open society, it is critical that we increase our advocacy with the private sector to support the arts community in towns and cities throughout Ireland. Our Awards are our flagship programme to achieve this.

The winners will demonstrate how businesses are supporting the arts during the pandemic and the many ways other businesses can do this. We welcome the supporters of the Business

to Arts Awards this year. Their commitment reflects the belief in our mission to champion collaboration with Ireland's arts community and encourage other business leaders to support the arts. We look forward to recognising the shortlisted and winning relationships in April in a COVID-19 appropriate Awards Ceremony."

Irish Cancer Society calls for online donations after Pink Ribbon street sales cancelled

The Irish Cancer Society is appealing for online donations after their Pink Ribbon sales in Wicklow, which raise funds for services for people affected by breast cancer, were cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The Irish Cancer Society is asking for online donations to help address the shortfall as a result of the cancellation. Each year, the dedicated fundraisers look forward to doing their bit in the local community, bringing some colour to the streets in support of services & research for breast cancer services and it's disappointing for everyone that this won't be happening this year, but you can still help.

Money raised from the sale of Pink Ribbons helps to fund lifesaving cancer research and free support services locally for people affected by breast cancer.

Magda Joyce from Wicklow is a Pink Ribbon volunteer for the Irish Cancer Society and said, "Every year, we come together to sell Pink Ribbons to support breast cancer patients. The support in is always amazing, everyone is so generous. We are so disappointed to not be out on the streets this year, but we want to encourage everyone to please show their support breast cancer patients by donating online at cancer.ie to get their digital pink ribbon this year."

Rosemary Simmons, National Fundraising Lead at the Irish Cancer Society said, "Unfortunately due to Covid-19 restrictions, we have had to cancel our street sales across Wicklow this year. We are asking members of the public to show their support by donating to the Irish Cancer Society online at www.cancer.ie/donate or call 1850 606060 to ensure we can continue to meet increased demand for support from people affected by breast cancer. With your help we can be there to ensure no one has to face breast cancer alone. Your donation will directly help provide free care and support for breast cancer patients and their loved ones across Ireland."

New interagency partnership to support expectant and new mothers in West Wicklow

Minding Me: Supporting Expectant and New Mothers in Kildare and West Wicklow is an interagency partnership with the goal of enhancing perinatal mental health across the region. The perinatal period covers from pregnancy to when the infant is one years of age.

A number of organisations articulated the need for a more integrated approach to supporting women within their communities, and the group was convened by the HSE in early 2019. The partnership includes representatives from statutory and community services who have a role in supporting women in the perinatal period. The objectives are to: Develop strategies to promote awareness of mental health difficulties in the perinatal period and reduce associated stigma; Enhance information provision and signposting; Provide clarity in relation to care pathways; Enhance community based supports if needed; Promote

integrated service provision by linking the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service in the Coombe, local HSE services, other statutory services, and community/voluntary services; Provide resources to help women look after their mental health before, during and after pregnancy; Facilitate women in looking for more specialist intervention and support if needed; Empower women to share their experiences and have their voices heard.

While the partnership is relatively new, it has already sparked a vibrant interagency dialogue about perinatal mental health and led to new working relationships between

services in this area.

This partnership also lays a foundation for the development of new interdisciplinary projects to support women. The first of these is a wellness week to raise awareness of perinatal mental health, engage mothers with local services and outline pathways to care. A number of sessions will be hosted virtually in the coming weeks.

Other components of the initiative will include: Buggy Buddies and Buggy Fit, exercise classes for women taking place in parks across the region, which will be run by Kildare Sports Partnership and Wicklow Sports Partnership.



Rachel Ní Bhraonáin - Fidget Feet at the Business to Arts Awards Call for Nominations

Blessington among winners in Begin Together Awards

Blessington was announced as runner up in its size category at this year's Bank of Ireland Begin Together Awards 2020, receiving a cash prize of €5,000.

The Bank of Ireland Begin Together Awards - previously known as the National Enterprise Town Awards - bring business and community groups together to support local recovery and rebuilding. The initiative was fast-tracked to provide funding to winning towns in early October and directly assist their Covid-19 recovery.

The Cork town of Kinsale is the overall winner and Ireland's Most Enterprising Town for 2020, taking

home the trophy and a cash prize of €50,000. Tallaght in County Dublin won the Rising Star award and a €20,000 prize.

Maria Coleman, Head of Bank of Ireland for Wicklow said, "The enterprising spirit and 'can-do' attitude of our communities has always been strong but this is no ordinary year. COVID-19 poses a huge challenge to our physical, mental and financial well-being. Communities across the island of Ireland have impressed us with their sense of partnership, passion and ambition. The Bank of Ireland Begin Together Awards are positive proof that communities and businesses can and will overcome this challenge and I'm proud that we at Bank of Ireland can support them."

John Headley to celebrate 100th birthday

The most senior Legionnaire of the Royal British Legion Republic of Ireland, WW2 Royal Navy veteran, and Co. Wicklow resident John Headley, turns 100 this week on 30th October.



Now living in Ashford, John was born in Bedfordshire and grew up in London. John enlisted in the Royal Navy in August 1939, just before the outbreak of the War. He was assigned to the HMS Glen Usk, based out of North Shields on the River Tyne, where his duties included mine sweeping. He was re-assigned in early 1942 to HMS Bedouin, a Trival Class destroyer, which escorted Flotilla MW4 in June 1942 as part of the effort to relieve the siege of Malta, also known as 'Operation Harpoon'. This was one of two simultaneous allied convoys sent to supply Malta in the Axis-dominated central

Mediterranean Sea. Just two of the six ships in the Harpoon convoy completed the journey.

The convoy suffered heavy attack from Italian air and naval forces and the ship was sunk on 15th June, south of Sicily, in the Battle of Pantelleria. John was picked up and imprisoned by the enemy - first in Italy, and then he was later transferred to prisons in Poland and Germany.

After being liberated in April, 1945, John returned to England, where he married and got a job as an accountant. In 1960 he was working for the Walpole family business and he then moved to Ireland with his family. First settling in Blackrock, they then moved to Ashford.

John became very active in the local community, especially in Wicklow Sailing Club where he served as both Commodore and Trustee. He also helped to start the Junior Sail Training Programme.

For many years, John was the Poppy Appeal Officer for the Wicklow branch of the British Legion, raising thousands of Euro for veterans and remembrance. For this work he was awarded an

Honorary membership of Wicklow Sailing Club, the RNLI Gold Badge, and the British Legion Gold Badge.

John's late wife Kay was also heavily involved in the local community, volunteering with the RSPCA and Wicklow Girl Guides.

For his upcoming 100th birthday, John plans to celebrate it with cake and a Zoom call to his sister Jean, who's 96, and his extended family in Ireland, America, and the UK. John has four grandsons and a great granddaughter and is looking forward to welcoming his second great-grandchild in January 2021.



Lexey Moorehouse and Alex Gammell dressed up for Halloween celebrations at Newtownmountkennedy Primary School last Friday

Harris meets Dunlavin District Forum

Minister Simon Harris TD and local Councillor Avril Cronin recently met with members of the Dunlavin and District Forum.

Minister Harris said: "Dunlavin District Forum has many new exciting initiatives. I am delighted to see they are to commence a Shop Local Scheme, these have been very successful in other towns and villages in Wicklow. The Forum are also developing a local heritage trail and their plans will enhance the town for residents and visitors alike."

"The Covid-19 lockdown has seen people's commuting patterns change and there is a renewed interest from families looking to live in towns such as Dunlavin. I discussed with the forum the recently opened Hive@W91 co working space and their plans to bring more enterprise to the Dunlavin area."

"Given the rapid changes during 2020 that have seen the dramatic growth of remote working I will be raising with the Minister for Enterprise the example of Dunlavin and what policies can assist towns such as Dunlavin develop co-working space and indigenous enterprise. I would like to pay tribute to Aisling Grace, Antoinette Whelan and all the team in the Dunlavin District Forum for their fantastic work and they can be assured of my full support."

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Winners of the Student Enterprise Programme Cian O'Tuama and Maurice Tobin are pictured with Julie Lambert, Annette Rowsome (Local Enterprise Office Business Advisor), Margaret Byrne and Hannah Flew (Student Enterprise Co-Ordinator) at the recent Colaiste Bhride Carnew Transition Year Awards

Institutes set 1st January 2022 as TUSEI start date

The chairpersons of the governing bodies and the presidents of Waterford Institute of Technology and Institute of Technology Carlow, in a briefing note to business and other community leaders, announced their objective that the Technological University of the South East of Ireland will be established on 1 January 2022.

Stating that the institutes are now in the final stages of establishing the TU, the briefing note states that both institutes will apply to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research and Innovation in late spring/early summer 2021 for an order to establish the university. That application will set off a series of steps, including a review by a panel of international experts, and a formal decision by the Minister next summer. A period of time will then be required to prepare fully for establishment day and to appoint a president for the new university.

To support success, the institutes announced a range of structural changes to the project, including the setting up of a Project Executive Director, and the organisation of the project into seven workstreams, each of which will be jointly led by a senior executive from each of the institutes. An eighth workstream will be led by the presidents of the students unions. Wide-ranging staff engagement will be supported and encouraged through a series of working groups in each workstream. A Joint Governing Body Steering Group

will oversee the project, as at present.

The briefing note ends by committing the institutes to continued interaction with the stakeholders and by stating, "Our objective is that, on 1 January 2022, the Minister will establish the university. We have a high level of confidence that we will achieve TU status within this time. Our confidence is based upon the commitment of our staff and students, who have already contributed so much to its achievement, and to the support directly and indirectly of our most valued stakeholders".

Youth Council disappointed with measures to address youth unemployment

Over 1700 young people unemployed in Wicklow

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) which represents groups working with over 380,000 young people nationwide - has expressed disappointment at the measures contained in the Budget to deal with the high levels of youth unemployment.

In Co. Wicklow there are 1,203 people under the age of 25 in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP), and a further 583 young people aged 25-29 on the PUP.

Reacting to the budget James Doorley, NYCI Deputy Director said: "Ministers Donohue and McGrath both noted and accepted the impact of the pandemic on the job prospects of young people and the high levels of youth unemployment in their budget speeches. But the actual measures contained in the Budget to deal with the challenge was disappointing, given the scale and scope of the problem.

"We have 36.5% youth unemployment,

the number of young people under 25 on the PUP stands at 55,000 and there is a further cohort of almost 29,000 on the live register (up 6,000 since March 2020).

"We welcome the extra 10,000 places in education and training and an expansion of the apprenticeship incentivisation scheme on top of existing measures. We also note the announcement of a further 10m in activation measures by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

"However, with 83,000 young people out of work, these measures in our view are insufficient. It must be remembered that the additional 10,000 places are for

jobseekers of all ages and with demand high, we are very concerned that there will not be enough supports and places for all young people who need them.

"We know from past recessions that the best policy is to keep young people "close to the labour market" by supporting them to reorient their career and furthering their education, upskilling and retraining in sectors where there is demands for worker. We are concerned that without such measures, thousands of young people are facing many grim months unemployed and on the reduced PUP payments with limited options and opportunities," concluded Mr Doorley.

Once-off COVID-19 contingency fund for Access Services for vulnerable students from target groups

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has announced a once-off COVID-19 contingency fund of €1.9m to support the delivery of access and support services to vulnerable students from target groups.

The funding will assist access offices in HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) to implement supports to meet the needs of particularly vulnerable students, with priority given to National Access Plan Target groups, who have been most impacted by Covid-19.

This includes: entrants from socio-economic groups that have low participation in higher education; Irish Travellers; first time-mature student entrants; students with disabilities; part-time/flexible learners and further education award holders entrants;

lone parents and ethnic minorities.

Minister Harris said: "All students have suffered as a result of Covid-19 but it is clear some students face greater challenges than others. This fund will benefit first time-mature student entrants; students with disabilities; part-time/flexible learners; further education award holders; and Irish Travellers and Roma. It will support learner/student access; engagement or re-engagement activities; retention; progression; positive learning experiences; student success measures; the

recruitment of temporary staffing to support access services; student advisory support; enhanced orientation programmes; outreach and pre-entry work.

"We must ensure we do everything we can to help students stay in college during this difficult period."

The funding is part of the €10m access support package provided for under overall €168m Covid-19 funding package which is supporting a return to education.

The overall goal of this targeted measure is to support the implementation of the National Plan for Equity of Access (2015-2021) and the Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH) Fund objectives of attracting and retaining students

from target groups."

Minister Harris added: "We need to safeguard progress towards targets by ensuring successful transition to and retention in higher education during the Covid-19 period.

"Our students are our future and we are asking a lot of them at this formative stage in their lives, as we face the extraordinary challenges arising from the pandemic. I am absolutely confident that each of them will rise to the current challenges and as we work through the days and months ahead - we must all do our bit to ensure that their student experience is one which will help them blossom, by giving them confidence that the support is there for them when they need it."

YFG calls for urgent reform of SUSI grant process

Young Fine Gael has called on the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Innovation & Science, Simon Harris to launch a review of the SUSI Grant Process as soon as possible.

The organisation believes that the review should mainly focus on the current eligibility criteria - as well as the current maintenance payments. YFG also acknowledges the work of the Union of Students in Ireland to highlight this issue.

Minister Harris recently took steps to make the scheme more accommodating for students in Direct Provision. The organisation believes that focus now needs to turn to making the scheme more accessible to all students.

Young Fine Gael President, Daire Lawler said: "A fundamental overhaul of the SUSI Grant Process is necessary to ensure greater access to college for undergraduate and postgraduate students. Currently, many students are finding it increasingly difficult to find the means to attend college, particularly with the high cost of renting student accommodation.

"YFG believes that the eligibility criteria to avail of a SUSI grant is far too strict. We believe that the current system creates barriers to accessing education rather than removing them."

The organisation says that serious consideration needs to be given to the eligibility criteria, including: The length of time a prospective applicant has been resident in the State; Definitions of 'dependent' and 'independent' applicants; Proof of residence as an independent applicant; Recognition

of third-level institutions; Part-time students and courses; and Income and holiday-earning thresholds; among many other things.

The SUSI website also states that the SUSI Maintenance Grant "is a contribution towards day-to-day living costs and is paid directly to eligible students through nine monthly payments over the course of the academic year."

YFG believes that it is wrong to exclude this particular payment to students who avail of the Back to Education Allowance payment - and it believes this should also be examined during the Minister's review to ensure that it is more fair and equitable for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

"Furthermore, the adjacency rates, upon which the SUSI Maintenance Grant is paid, need to be revised in light of the recent decision of Bus Éireann to shut down 18 of its national routes. The education of students should never be impacted due to living in a rural residence.

"The Programme for Government commits to reviewing the SUSI grant process in 2020. As we enter the final few weeks of 2020, YFG is concerned that this commitment will be unnecessarily delayed until next year. Ideally, any sort of review should be finished well in advance of next year's application period."

What Level 5 means for Further and Higher Education

Speaking last Tuesday following the Government's announcement that Ireland will be placed on Level 5 of the Plan for Living with COVID, Minister for Further and Higher Education Simon Harris said: "Our further and higher education institutions have already moved classes primarily online, with student and staff welfare being of paramount importance. I want to pay tribute to the collective efforts of staff and students in continuing educational programmes in this way."

"We are now in a scenario where Ireland as a whole must move to Level 5 of the Government's plan for living with COVID, and that means that all further and higher education institutions should continue to deliver the vast majority of classes online."

"The Level 5 measures announced last night designate higher and further education as essential insofar as onsite presence is required and such educational activities cannot be held remotely. Institutions and providers are best placed to determine where onsite presence is required but essential activities at Level 5 in further and higher education may include: Teaching and research in laboratories, practical and skills-based tuition, workshops (including training of apprentices); Engagement, including small group

learning, with learners whose particular needs require additional support over and above that which can be provided online; Scheduled access to libraries and other onsite study space for those students who do not otherwise have suitable facilities or home environment to access learning remotely; Small group activity to mitigate disadvantage in literacy, numeracy and basic skills provision including the National Youthreach Programme and community and adult education and literacy programmes; Skills and experiential learning for disciplines related to essential services such as clinical placements and regulated safety training in the construction sector; On-campus research activities which cannot be undertaken remotely; Provision of necessary onsite support to



Minister Simon Harris

meet the mental health and welfare needs of students.

"Campus accommodation will remain open to students and staff but with no visitors permitted. In line with Level 5, from Wednesday midnight students are asked to exercise within 5 kilometres of their accommodation and not visit other households."

All appropriate protective measures will be maintained to support these onsite activities and to avoid congregation. For transport to and from campuses for the above essential purposes walking and cycling is encouraged but public transport can be used where necessary.

"This has been a very difficult time for students and for those working in further and higher education, and I want to acknowledge that. It is clear that programmes will continue to operate primarily online for the remainder of this semester."

"We will review the position with relevant institutions and stakeholders in the light of experience and the progress of the disease and communicate the position for next semester before the end of the year."



Pictured are Caoimhe Murphy and Padric Donoghue who received the 'Spirit of Transition Year' award at the Colaiste Bhríde Carnew TY Class of 2019/20 Awards.

Woodbrook welcomes new Principal

Transition Year students Anna Krupinska, Lidia Cojocar, and Aoife Mohan at Woodbrook College met with their new Principal, Mr. Henry Hurley to welcome him to the school and local community. As they welcomed him to the school, they discussed his vision for Woodbrook College, not forgetting the challenges he faces as he leads them through the 'COVID 19' pandemic.

Welcome to Woodbrook College, Mr. Hurley. Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

Well, My name is Henry Hurley, I am the new principal of Woodbrook College, Bray. I am from Avoca. I am the father of 6 children and am a proud grandfather to 3 young boys. Before teaching my life was mostly spent in business and playing sports. The three sports I enjoy the most are; gaelic, hurling and rugby.

Why did you decide to become a Principal?

I decided to become a Principal because I felt that I could be a positive influence in students' lives. I am passionate about education and the experience that students have. I love sport and believe it plays a big part in a school's life. I am so happy when students get involved in sports and extracurricular activities and I will attend as many events as I can because I know extracurricular activities are part of the school's culture.

It sounds like you are quite passionate about the job! What kind of changes have you made to Woodbrook College so far?

I have made a few changes to the school such as introducing tutors to every class. The school also now operates on a computer system that allows staff to publish work to students online. We have also decided not to differentiate uniforms, allowing girls and boys to wear trousers and earrings.

Being a new principal throughout this 'new normal' must be very difficult. What was your initial reaction when lockdown was first announced?

To make it my priority to give every student as close to the same experience as possible in education and for our staff and student body to do the best they possibly could do.

Explain to us the difficulties being a principal at home during lockdown brought.

It was quite difficult, yes most definitely. I felt disconnected from our physical school. Even though the experience was hard for everyone I must congratulate the students and staff for being so cooperative and hard working.

Are you satisfied with how COVID 19 is being handled in the school?

Yes I am very happy with the efforts of the students and staff, such as making sure to wear a mask and sanitize hands where necessary.

Moving away from the COVID 19 situation and focusing on our great school. Can you tell us what your favourite things about Woodbrook College are?

I love the friendliness and banter and how the students always want to get involved in helping each other. I am very thankful for the teachers and staff in the school as they put so much effort in to what they do.

Do you believe Woodbrook College is cooperating well with the local community?

I think that Woodbrook does a very good job at helping and cooperating in the local community, but there is always room to improve. I believe that the little things make the biggest differences such as recycling and litter picking. Our green community has done an excellent job at thinking of new ideas to help our local area be more environmentally friendly.

I think we are all confident in saying that we have a great Principal at Woodbrook College. We know you have great things in mind for us, can you fill us in on any future plans for Woodbrook College?

Yes, I certainly do have future plans for Woodbrook. I want the students to be proud of attending this school and proud of always trying to be their best selves. We will be looking to grow the school both physically with better facilities and mentally through establishing a more "can do" attitude. Exciting times ahead.



From left to right - Aoife Mohan, Lidia Cojocar, new principal of Woodbrook, Henry Hurley, and Anna Krupinska

Baltinglass school takes part in FÉILTE 2020

FÉILTE (the Festival of Education in Learning and Teaching Excellence) gives teachers the opportunity to collaborate and share their work with each other and with the wider public. This year's event took place online for the first time earlier this month.

Almost 100 different schools and education centres from across the country contributed to the event, either via a showcase, hosting a workshop, or coordinating a TeachMeet. Amongst them was Wicklow school Scoil Chonglais of Baltinglass - teacher Thomas Ahern hosted a TeachMeet with the topic "The Learning Adventure Map".

In this collaborative gathering, Thomas shared an adventure map that students can plot their emotional reaction to a lesson: satisfaction, exhilaration, entertainment, fear, boredom, anger. Included in this interactive map is a space for students to explain those emotions to themselves, and for teachers to check in with students.

Minister Foley commented: "I am very proud of our teachers and our school communities for continuing to carry out their work in difficult circumstances during the current pandemic crisis. The teaching profession is highly collaborative, caring and interpersonal, so the closure of schools earlier this year affected them greatly. However,

with resilience and forbearance they developed novel ways to maintain connections and deliver effective teaching and learning for their learners. As we commence a new school year, teachers have again risen to the challenge in the successful reopening of our schools bringing a sense of normality back to the lives of children and young people in our school communities."

Now in its eighth year, FÉILTE provides a unique platform for teachers to share innovative teaching and learning practices, and to network with each other and the public. In response to government guidelines, FÉILTE will be online, opening the full event to a global audience.

Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and keynote speaker, said: "As a lifelong advocate for learning, social justice and sustainability, I am honoured to have been asked to deliver the keynote interview at FÉILTE 2020. Innovation has always been an essential pathway for education. With Covid-19, as school buildings closed, teachers responded to the crisis with creativity and compassion. Now as schools reopen, the challenges of equity, social justice and innovation are more acute than ever. I am delighted to see how teachers are once again responding to these challenges. FÉILTE recognises the value and vocation of teachers within society. I warmly congratulate The Teaching Council on FÉILTE 2020."



Members of Bray Harp Ensemble perform over a video link on National Harp Day

Bray Harpers participate in Lá na Cruite

Harp Ireland (Cruit Éireann) celebrated Ireland's 1,000-year-old tradition on National Harp Day Saturday, 17th October. 2020 is the fourth year that Harp Ireland, Cruit Éireann has co-ordinated this event at home and farther afield in honour of our national instrument.

It featured harps sounding loudly from dawn to dusk in iconic locations throughout Ireland, north and south and from as far away as Sydney, across the US, New Zealand and Japan. Harpers in France, Italy, Switzerland and the UK celebrated our vibrant harping tradition. Closer to home, harpers from Bray CCÉ performed both individually and in an ensemble performance of the Breton tune Aube Mauve.

More than 80 harp events were held throughout the country and internationally. This year due to Covid 19 restrictions, the day centred around an online Harpers' Call; harpers all over the world were invited to contribute to Lá na Cruite by sending a short recording. These videos ran throughout the day alongside pre-recorded concerts, sessions, talks and insights from harp makers, all hosted virtually at www.harpireland.ie.

Speaking at the launch of Lá na Cruite, Harp Day, the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin welcomed the initiative saying: "I

congratulate Harp Ireland and all the harpers throughout the island of Ireland and around the world for participating in these events. I know the circumstances have been challenging. Your commitment is testament to the love for this tradition and I thank you for sharing it with us. While there can never be a substitute for the experience of live performance, the presentation of work online creates an opportunity for the events to be accessed on a global scale and indeed revisited and enjoyed again".

National Harp Day is Cruit Éireann, Harp Ireland's initiative to promote Ireland's national instrument, encourage more people to learn the harp, attract new audiences and recognise the harp's unique place in Irish musical and cultural life.

"Lá na Cruite, Harp Day 2020 is particularly momentous for us as we mark Irish Harping's inscription on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List of Humanities and we have had a wonderful response from our call to harpers to participate" says Aibhlín McCrann, Chair of

Cruit Éireann, Harp Ireland. "We also shine a spotlight on our renowned harper-composer Turlough Carolan, whose 350th anniversary happens this year, and harpers all over the world will celebrate his legacy."

More highlights of Lá na Cruite, Harp Day included: A special harp concert in Sydney's Botanic Gardens in collaboration with the Irish Consulate and the Department of Foreign Affairs. This event celebrated Irish harping and our UNESCO recognition through harp performances, talks and workshops.

"Our partners at the US Somerset Harp Festival, led by Kathy Di Angelo joined with us in a Carolan play-along anchored by harpers Cormac De Barra, Gráinne Hambly and Billy Jackson in Ireland and well-known American harpers."

A Call to all Harpers to submit 3 - 4-minute videos gained the attention of harpers in Russia, Switzerland, Scotland, England, America and Australia.

A full list of events can be found at www.harpireland.ie.

Greystones Studios launches new website

Perched on the first floor overlooking the bustling, boutique Theatre Lane area, Greystones Studios has been home to a diverse range of groups including Greystones Players, Making Waves Youth Theatre, The Goode School of Dance, The Bradley Theatre School, Burning House Productions and many more since its celebrated re-birth at the attentive hands of Ross McParland.

Nestled alongside local favourites such as the Whale Theatre, Bear Paw Deli, Sweeney Todd's Barber Shop and Up To My Eyes, Greystones Studios boasts spacious, fully accessible, and well-equipped studio spaces which are flexible and versatile, able to accommodate large and small groups, regular classes, summer camps and theatre/music groups.

Until now, it was one of Greystones' best kept secret but with the launch of this new website, Greystones Studios is proudly throwing open the doors and showcasing its beautifully designed, fully equipped facilities. Designed by In Good Company, who are also based in Wicklow, this new website features a fully integrated booking system and impressive photo gallery and also offers regular groups their very own page to promote their classes.

Greystones Studios has implemented comprehensive Covid-19 safety measures, with bespoke hand sanitising stations, hands-free sensor bins and regular cleaning and disinfection with a high-tech Electrostatic Disinfection Sprayer. All occupants and guests must adhere to strict social distancing and Covid-19 Safety Measures which are also outlined on the new website.

So whether you're looking for a one-off rehearsal space, a regular space for your organisation to meet or even if you're organising a corporate event, check out www.greystonesstudios.ie and get in touch!

Film review: 2040

During 'Climate Action Week' students at Woodbrook College, Bray, watched "2040", a movie directed by Damon Gameau that talks about how we can tackle climate change, social injustice and agricultural problems.

by Anna Krupinska



Damon Gameau is an Australian actor, film maker and activist who created this movie to show the young generation how climate change and other relevant problems affect us and how every little action can benefit us all.

The movie is set in 2019 and flips from present time into what our future might look like in 2040. This was a very interesting method to use because it is very optimistic and appealing to young viewers. The movie stars Damon himself, Zoe Tuckwell-Smith as his wife, and their 4-year-old daughter, Velvet. It shows her as a little girl but also her when she is older and what her future might look like if we try to fix the problems we have created in recent times.

The movie's focus is on climate change and social injustices and how it affects our world, it touches on many problems we face today with climate change such as the over use of fossil fuels and the burning of CO2 and how it is over-warming our planet. It then shows how we can fix this problem; for example, start using electrical cars or just something as simple as using public transport.

The movie informs us on many other problems such as poverty and lack of education in many countries, too much acid in the sea which is killing off marine life and the over use of soil.

The reason why you should watch this movie is because it not only talks about our problems on earth but it shows us a resolution to them and how one small action such as eating less red meat can really benefit the people living on earth now but also the future generations of the world.

I would award this film four stars, it is a MUST watch!

Trauma: An exhibition by Carol Jordan

'Trauma' is the title of a new exhibition by Carol Jodan, which will run in the Signal Arts Centre from Monday 18th January to Sunday, 31st January 2021.

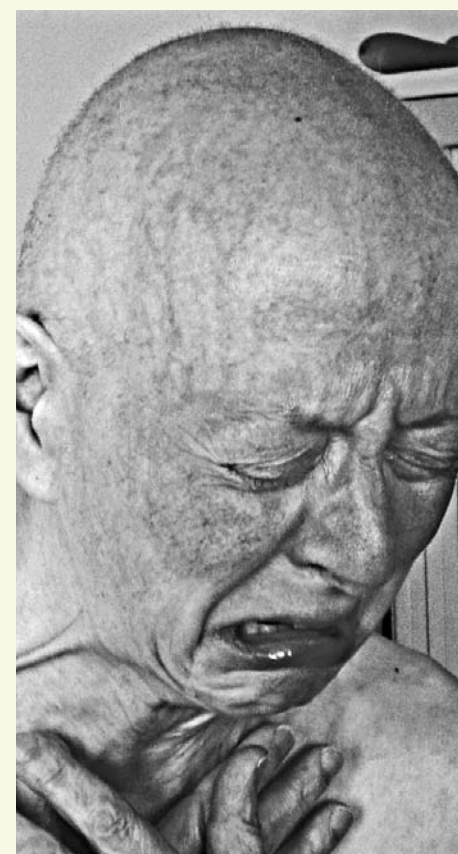
An expressive artist, Carol Jordan works across numerous disciplines including ceramics, weaving, sculpture, painting, printmaking with photography often being a prominent part of her installations. A searing poet and a storyteller, Jordan is no stranger to performing in Bray and includes projections of her artworks as companion pieces to her poems.

Equipped with a background in psychology, Jordan is drawn to exploring and expressing difficult emotional states and does not shy away from themes such as anxiety, dementia and death. Arising from her political activism, Jordan's art has a socio-political dimension - as in her Tuam babies installation, a savage yet poignant indictment of the Mother and Baby Home.

This exhibition addresses the experience of cancer and its devastating impact on the emotions. Arising from the breast-cancer journey of Carol Jordan's close friend and artist, Trish Cavanagh, the stark black and white photographs are co-creations and testify to her courage and artistry in embodying her emotions for the camera.

Jordan likes to work ritually, choosing hairs, shorn at the onset of chemotherapy to over-see her image of Trish's mastectomy scar. The more recent large-scale sculptural works address states of associated anxiety, terror and dark-night - of - the-soul in an immersive way.

This is a highly charged exhibition and aims to evoke a strong emotional response.



Bray Endeavour Awards 2020

The Bray Endeavour awards have been presented in the town since 1981, to honour and recognise the wonderful achievements and successes in business and the community in the town of Bray.



Recognising 100 Years of trading Bray Chamber presented an award to Ciaran Flanagan in Tansey & Co

The Chamber stated "This year it is especially important to recognise these achievements and to celebrate the wonderful people and businesses we have in our town. Unfortunately, unable to do the usual gala dinner event, the committee had to change the way things were done and decided to bring the awards to the winners, arriving at their premises to surprise them. And surprise them they did, bringing a lift to everyone in the town and delivering the wishes of the over 5,000 that voted this year."

The public spoke and their winners were:

Popular winner of the **Customer Service person of the year 2020** was Edward Gray, from Supervalu Bray. His colleagues and customers all stopped to give him a standing ovation as he received his award in store.

Retailer of the year 2020 was Fleurlique Flowers on the Florence Road, who recently moved to new premises and were delighted to top the poll again this year.

Hospitality - Restaurant of the year 2020 went to Indian restaurant Pink Salt, on the Main Street Bray. Already scooping national awards, they can now add a Bray Endeavour award to their collection.

Hospitality/Coffee Shop of the year 2020 went to Catalyst Coffee on the Florence road. A small independent coffee shop which also sell eco-conscious and environmentally friendly retail products.

Emerging Business of the year went to Glovers Café on the Meath Road. A challenge to open in these times, the café opened earlier this year, serving gorgeous food, coffee and treats from their premises on the meath road.

Online Business of the year 2020 is linzyo.ie. LinzyO is an Irish company that designs childrenswear for girls aged newborn to 10 years. Every piece is handmade and designed by Linzy O'Sullivan. Linzy is an Irish Fashion designer from Bray.



Retailer of the year was Fleurlique Flowers

The Endeavour Awards 2020 Committee and Bray Chamber also presented some special recognition awards this year.

Recognising **100 Years of trading** Bray Chamber presented an award to Ciaran Flanagan in Tansey & Co. Founded in 1920, Tanseys of Bray reigns as one of Brays longest established gents, ladies and children's outfitters. Priding itself on delivering a friendly, personalised service.

Recognising **50 Years of business** they presented Jane Kennedy, Brennanstown Riding School a special recognition award. In business since the 1970s Brennanstown is both a training and facilities centre and is one of only a handful of Irish Centres approved to train and hold exams up to Stage 1V. The riding centre comprises of a busy riding school together with a livery and competition yard.

Large Business of the year was presented to Ventilux, IDA Business Park in Bray. Ventilux is a family owned local international business. They design manufacture and offer an extensive range of safety system products and services. Their 35,000 sq ft state of the art production facilities in the IDA business park on Southern Cross road includes research and development labs an inhouse training centre and a global distribution warehouse

Small Business of the year was AB Print on the Florence Road in Bray who are a one-stop shop for



Hospitality/Coffee Shop of the year 2020 went to Catalyst Coffee

printing, signage, and promotional needs in their own state-of-the-art facilities. Printed materials such as flyers & leaflets, postcards, folders, brochures, posters, letterheads, business cards, catalogues, advertising systems, and much more, are available in high-quality offset and brilliant digital printing quality.

There was also a **Social Media award** given to Dee Dooley (BraysBarbie) for her social media presence over the last few months, promoting businesses and what Bray has to offer.

A **Young Achievers Endeavour award 2020** was presented to Abhi Santhoshkumar, Ruby Roche and Michelle Dolores from Woodbrook college in Bray who won the overall junior section (1st - 3rd year) with their project titled: 'Mixed v Single Sex PE lessons. Does participation change?' at the PE Xpo 2020 in Dublin City University on March 3rd.

Another **Young Achievers Endeavour award 2020** was given to North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School, SCAN Students Molly Redmond, Grainne O'Sullivan, Lucy Sky Dunne and Georgia Doherty in recognition of their establishment of the Students Climate Action Network and the work they have done on Climate Change.

And there is more to come! Bray Chamber looks forward to presenting the Community section of the awards as soon as Government Health Guidelines allow.



Winner of the Customer Service person of the year at the 2020 Bray Endeavour Awards was Edward Gray, from Supervalu Bray.

Wicklow mourns sad and sudden passing of Colin Murphy

People and organisations throughout Wicklow have been mourning the recent passing of Colin William Murphy who died on October 15th. Colin died at home surrounded by his loving family. A private funeral service was held on Friday 23rd October in Newcastle Parish Church.

Born in Belfast in 1936, Colin moved to Dublin in the early 1970s before eventually settling in Newcastle here in Wicklow. Colin was former Chair and CEO of the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation and was also deeply involved in Wicklow Uplands Council.

He was outspoken against Church authorities in Ireland for much of his life, and was awarded an MBE by Queen Elizabeth in 2006.

In a statement, Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation said "Today at Glencree, it saddens us deeply to tell you that our friend and colleague Colin Murphy has passed away. A former Chair, Acting CEO, Board member and long-time loyal and wonderful supporter of Glencree and a true Gentleman, Colin, we will miss you. Remembering Colin for his contributions, friendship and faithfulness to Glencree and our work. When these hard times pass, we will be able to celebrate his life in a way that acknowledges his great contribution to peace in the world. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Margaret, daughters Lynne, Sheelagh and all his grandchildren whom he adored, at this very sad time."

The Wicklow Uplands Council stated "It was with great sadness that we learnt of the sudden passing of our friend and former CEO, Colin Murphy. Colin joined the Council as its very first employee in 1999, taking on the role of CEO at a crucial



Colin William Murphy

time for the fledgling organisation. Colin's implementation of the rather ambitious vision that Council had set in these early years, proved to be invaluable to establishing early success and the conscientious approach that we still operate by.

"His unwavering determination, patience and insightful recognition of the diverse communities of the uplands, garnered him great respect with all that met him. He was instrumental in creating multi-stakeholder and community focussed projects such as the PURE Project and the Heritage Interpretative Panel Project.

"Building on the consensus and partnership model that the Council

was formed with, was never going to be easy, however, it was Colin's rare gift of finding the collective solution beyond the challenge, that frequently paved the way to success.

"Officially retiring in 2011, Colin remained a dear friend of the Council, always available to offer guidance and kind words of encouragement to those that arrived after him with his signature good humour.

"In 2006, Colin was awarded an MBE by Britain's Queen Elizabeth in recognition of over 30 years of dedication to reconciliation on the island of Ireland. As a former chair of the Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation, Colin's great support and contribution towards achieving peaceful resolution on the world stage, is evident in the warm messages of tribute that have arrived since the sad news of his passing.

"Always a gentleman, Colin will forever be remembered for his extraordinary achievements, his wide influence, his friendships and as a wonderful man proud of his loving family.

"Margaret, his beloved wife of 55 years, is very much part of the Council's family too, playing a central role until her retirement last year and on behalf of all of the members, past and present, we offer our heartfelt condolences to all of the family at this difficult time."

To leave a message of condolence for the family, please go to rip.ie.



Pictured on National Women's Enterprise Day is broadcaster and entrepreneur Aine Kerr, co-founder of Kinzen.

Wicklow's female entrepreneurs celebrated on National Women's Enterprise Day

'Stronger Together' was the theme for National Women's Enterprise Day 2020, which took place online on October 14th.

'Businesses should apply for extended Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme'

Businesses in Wicklow should apply for the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme which is now being extended until mid-2021 due to its success, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Innovation, Research and Science Simon Harris TD has said.

Minister Harris said: "I have extended the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme. So far 13 businesses in Wicklow have applied for the scheme, which is designed to support employers to continue to recruit apprentices during the immediate Covid-19 period.

It ensures that businesses who take on an apprentice are hired at €2,000 per apprentice and another €1,000 if the apprentice is still on the books for a year.

This is a good model. It allows a person to earn and learn and allows businesses to train recruits and get some payment for it.

I am also developing a new Action Plan for Apprenticeship, but this scheme has offered a lifeline

to many businesses seeking to take on apprentices and security for the apprentice.

SOLAS has also moved to simplify employer access to apprenticeship through a relaunched website at www.apprenticeship.ie where employers can find information on participating in apprenticeship or, indeed, discover how to kick-off the development of new apprenticeship programmes."

Minister Harris added: "Covid-19 has upended all our lives. While the challenges the crisis presented are unprecedented, they also open up unique opportunities for us. In the 2021 Budget, we secured a package of €118 million to help thousands of you reskill and retrain in areas where we need more workers or where there is potential for future employment.

"One area we will focus on is the area of apprenticeship. We have also secured funding to expand training courses in retrofit skills to 1,500 people per annum. We will extend programmes to include 500 places for people in search of employment in this developing area as well as providing more places for people in the construction sector.

"2020 has been an incredibly difficult year for businesses and people with us all having to adapt to new ways of working. We will also roll out a new climate action upskilling scheme through Skillnet Ireland. Skillnet programmes are industry led. Courses will be designed by industry, for industry and will give businesses the skills to adapt to a sustainable, low carbon economy. So log on to www.gov.ie and find out more.

An initiative driven by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, along with 30 other Local Enterprise Offices around the country, National Women's Enterprise Day showcased stories, experiences and insights from Ireland's women-led companies and drew attention to the enterprise supports that are available locally. Over 1,600 women nationally 'attended' this hugely successful virtual Conference.

Guest contributors included Pamela Walsh of Wicklow Way Wines, Pestle & Mortar's Sonia Deasy, Olympian and entrepreneur Derval O'Rourke, Kinzen Co-founder, Aine Kerr and Sarah Colgan of the 20X20 movement. Events included interviews, panel discussions, specialist sessions, virtual networking, an online marketplace for promoting goods and services and access to experts from state support agencies.

An Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar T.D.,

delivered the opening address at National Women's Enterprise Day, which was supported by Enterprise Ireland and local authorities. An Tánaiste said: "The 'Stronger Together' message for National Women's Enterprise Day has never been more important. The Government is determined to help more women pursue entrepreneurship as a career and I'm encouraged to see such a significant increase - 58%, taking up the training programmes that are available. Training and mentorship can make a huge difference to any entrepreneur starting out, on what can often be a lonely journey, and I encourage all women considering setting up their own business to contact their Local Enterprise Office to see how they can help you."

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise with Local Enterprise Office Wicklow (part of Wicklow County Council) said: "Every year, National Women's Enterprise Day is about

harnessing ideas, innovation, creativity and about learning from each other and this year, we successfully moved events online for female entrepreneurs and businesswomen all over the country."

She added: "National Women's Enterprise Day is also about flying the flag for all the enterprise supports that are available to businesses locally. For example, the Local Enterprise Office team here in Co. Wicklow have been helping hundreds of local businesses respond to the pandemic and to prepare for the changes that Brexit will bring too."

Organisers behind National Women's Enterprise Day also highlighted more than twenty 'Leading Lights' from around the country this week. Those are dynamic business owners that have been nominated by their Local Enterprise Office. Pamela Walsh of Wicklow Way Wines, Newtownmountkennedy was nominated as the 'Leading Light' for Co. Wicklow because she has

shown outstanding innovation and resilience in responding to the challenges of the pandemic in 2020, in the view of her Local Enterprise Office. Pamela joined other Leading Lights from around the country, such as Dr. Anita Finnegan of Nova Leah in Louth, Mary Walsh of Ire Wel Pallets in Wexford, Carla Mooney of Cardel Entertainment in Offaly, Susan O'Flaherty of Retrokit in County Cork, Odilon Hunt of AVA Audio Visual in Sligo, Clare Hughes of CF Pharma in Kilkenny and Jennifer Stack of Coco Boutique in Kerry.

At this year's events, there were teams on hand from Enterprise Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Design and Crafts Council of Ireland, Credit Review Office, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, InterTradeIreland, Enterprise Europe Network, the Health and Safety Authority and Skillnet Ireland to offer information and advice alongside the Local Enterprise Offices.

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Family Resource Centres playing vital role in battle against Covid-19 in lead up to Halloween

As the country enters level five restrictions, Family Resource Centres will continue to play a vital role in promoting important Covid-19 public safety recommendations and advice amongst harder-to-reach communities in the build up to Halloween.

That's according to the Family Resource Centre National Forum (FRCNF), who last week launched a new report outlining the historical, current, and potential future development of the National Family Resource Centre Programme.

Clare Cashman, Chairperson of FRCNF said: "Since the outbreak of Covid-19, the Family Resource Centre

in Wicklow has played a key role working on the ground supporting communities. As we have seen in recent weeks, the Covid-19 crisis has not gone away, and the work of Family Resource Centres is critical as the country moves to tighter restrictions. Coming up to Halloween, people in Wicklow will be tempted to socialise, to let their children have a "normal" Halloween celebration or let their guard fall which may inadvertently result in the spread of Covid-19. A key focus for FRCs over the next few weeks will be to help make

sure that the public health guidelines and up-to-date restrictions are communicated effectively with all members of society.

"During the initial lockdown period earlier this year, FRCs experienced an increase in the number of people seeking mental health support and food and essential home supplies.

"They received more calls from migrant communities, including those in direct provision. The increase in demand came from many new people who had never used FRC services before, such as older people cocooning

and people asking for food.

"FRCs will continue to play a key role in supporting communities by broadening our range of services and responding to the direct needs of some of our most vulnerable in society, we can effectively communicate the changing public health advice and provide vital supports."

The FRCNF last week launched the 'Our Story' report. The Report locates the work of Family Resource Centres within current Government policy and demonstrates how the centres work with individuals, families and communities responding to locally identified needs.

As part of today's report publication, the FRCNF launched a new digital toolkit aimed at equipping Family

Resource Centres with online resources to support our communities to stay safe this Halloween by following Covid-19 guidelines.

Commenting on the toolkit, Clare Cashman said: "The past number of months has cemented the FRCs role as important messengers for public health advice and guidelines in light of Covid-19. The digital toolkit we are providing is a helpful resource for all 121 FRCs around the country to enable them to communicate this important information using social media locally to try and keep our communities safe during these difficult times."

The Family Resource Centre programme has been in operation for over 25 years. Further information is available on the website www.familyresource.ie.



Pictured is Vinnie Byrne on his last day as Sergeant at Arklow Garda Station. Vinnie has been promoted to Inspector at Dun Laoghaire and will take up his new position in the coming weeks.

RECRUITMENT



Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board invites applications for the following temporary fixed term Youthreach Resource Person Posts:

LITERACY SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS

Bray and North Wicklow Youthreach

PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND SPHE

Blessington Youthreach

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS AND WORD PROCESSING

Wicklow Youthreach

Full details are available www.kwetb.ie and click on 'vacancies'. Closing date for receipt of completed applications: **12 noon on Monday 9th November 2020.**

Dr. Deirdre Keyes,
Chief Executive



etb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin
Kildare and Wicklow
Education and Training Board

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Balleese Lower, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, I. Emma Cullen intend to apply To Wicklow County Council For Planning Permission to:

- (A) Construction of a new four-bedroom dwelling,
- (B) Installation of a new treatment unit and percolation area,
- (C) New vehicle entrance onto public road (L1152),
- (D) All associated site works, all at above address.

This 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, Co. Wicklow during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to this application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of five weeks, beginning on the date of receipt of the application by the Authority and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the Application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Niall Barry of Unit 5, Kilcoole Ind Estate, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow am applying for a certificate of registration (suitability of premises) of manufacturing facility. Waste Management Act 1996 Waste Management Packaging Regulations 2007. We are required to accept on these premises, free of charge, for the purpose of recovery, packaging waste arising from products, packaging or type of brand sold or otherwise supplied on these premises. The products or packaging in question need not necessarily have been purchased from Dycon Ltd

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.

G.K.

Gospel: Matthew 16:24-28

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it, but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour. I tell you solemnly, there are some of these standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming with his kingdom.'

C.J.

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