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SOUTH EDITION



IN BED WITH BLUESHIRTS
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HOME & GARDEN
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page 17

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Tuesday 13th October 2020 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

COPS TOLD TO 'COP ON'

There has been a huge back-lash over the recent checkpoints set up by the Gardai in an effort to stop unnecessary journeys. Commuters have been experiencing delays of up to 3 hours getting to and from work. It has been pointed out that the government have asked workers not to use public transport if at all possible and parents fearful of school bus transport have been driving children to school.

One exasperated reader told *Wicklow Times* "Don't they realise that the only drivers on the road between 7am and 8:30am are those going to work or dropping kids to school?"

Sinn Féin TD John Brady has called on the Garda Commissioner to review the manner in which checkpoints as part of Operation Fanacht are being operated. Speaking in the Dáil on the issue Deputy Brady said "There will be fixed Garda checkpoints at 132 roads across the country for at least the

next three weeks, with the whole country under Level 3 of Covid-19 restrictions.

"Whilst I fully support the Gardaí in their work, these checkpoints in their current format have caused complete chaos in Wicklow. The M11 southbound has been reduced to one lane at Fassaroe for a checkpoint. This has resulted in tailbacks onto the M50 stretching for many kilometres. The lane reduction has been permanently in place, even when the Gardaí aren't present."

"I have been contacted by many people who have been caught up in the chaos, some for over four hours. One lady who contacted me was stuck in traffic for over four hours with a young child who had been emitted from Crumlin Hospital. Another, a nurse after finishing a shift in work was stuck for over three and a half hours.

"Some people have been given the option to work from home and can do so, however the majority of people who are lucky



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enough to still have a job have to travel. We know that prior to Covid over 45,000 people left Wicklow daily for work, due to poor public transport the majority are forced to use their car. Now due to Covid restrictions capacity on public transport has been reduced by 50%, this unfortunately has forced more people into their cars.

"Ordinary people, not breaking any guidelines are getting caught up in this chaos, they have no alternative and are doing nothing wrong but going to work, travelling to hospital or bringing the kids to school."

Brady continued "Unfortunately under its current format Operation Fanacht has resulted in people missing hospital appointments, being late for work and school and has had a negative impact on the economy that is

struggling to get up off its knees.

"It also serves to frustrate the public and makes achieving public buy-in to the necessary measures more challenging."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has also called for a more measured approach to traffic regulation on the N11 during Level 3.

"The problem isn't more checkpoints on the road, the problem is that they're taking place at peak traffic when commuters are making their way into and out of work. Under Level 3, people are allowed to travel across county borders for work and educational purposes and if the Government's focus is on placing least impact on the economy, then we need to remove any unnecessary barriers for people trying to get into work.

Continued on page 3



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Trick or Treat for Temple Street

Families, friends and communities in County Wicklow are being called on to eat, drink and be scary, by hosting their very own magical Halloween activity or virtual event at home, schools and creches, in the workplace, and also virtually to raise much-needed funds and help buy vital, life-saving equipment for sick children in CHI at Temple Street.

The hugely successful fundraising campaign is celebrating its 20th year this year and all funds raised go to Children's Health Foundation Temple Street to fund essential equipment for the treatment of sick children, such as patient monitors, incubators, and ventilators which will change little lives for the better.

While Halloween may be somewhat different this year, Children's Health Foundation Temple Street and MiWadi are urging everyone across Ireland to get behind the fundraiser and have some socially-distanced and safe fun while making a contribution to support the magic that happens every day in Temple Street children's hospital.

From hosting virtual scary movie nights or

spooky fun in school and creches to trying out some fun magic tricks for friends and family - there are so many ways to get into the Halloween spirit and raise vital funds for sick children.

Children's Health Foundation Temple Street is the new name for the Temple Street Foundation. The Foundation name has changed to reflect the coming together of CMRF Crumlin and Temple Street Foundation in January 2019 to become Children's Health Foundation, one foundation supporting sick children in CHI.

Denise Fitzgerald, Chief Executive, Children's Health Foundation said "While Halloween celebrations might be a bit different this year, we are still

committed to funding vital, life-saving equipment for CHI at Temple Street's wards, theatres and Intensive Care Unit. For the last 20 years, families and communities across Ireland have been a vital part of our Circle of Care, supporting this fantastic fundraising campaign. We hope that during this very challenging year they will continue to help us ensure that sick children in CHI at Temple Street still get the great care they urgently need."

Speaking at the launch of the 2020 campaign, Anna Daly, said: "I'm delighted to once again help launch this year's Trick or Treat for Temple Street campaign from the safety and comfort of my own back garden along with my very own magical wizards, James, Euan and Rhys!

Throughout the challenges of the last few months, Temple Street have continued to provide amazing care and support to sick children and their families every day. I'm so happy that myself and my boys can help raise awareness of their important work and encourage everyone to raise money this Halloween by hosting a Trick or Treat for Temple Street party. MiWadi is a staple in my household all year round and we are all looking forward to hosting a ghoulish get-together at home and support Temple Street."

To register for a free personalised 'Trick or Treat for Temple Street' Party Pack, call 01 878 4344 or register at www.templestreet.ie/trickortreat, which includes posters, balloons, stickers and much more.



Isabella Ni Chonaill received the transition year 'Student of the Year' award at the Colaiste Bhríde Carnew TY Class of 2019/20 Awards. She is pictured with principal Linda Dunne and teacher Denis Finn

Delgany Thursday Club

Due to Covid restrictions it will not be possible to hold the annual Delgany Thursday Club Coffee Morning event which was due to be held on Thursday 5th November. This Coffee Morning was to be in aid of St. Joseph's Care Home, Shankill, which is dedicated to dementia care. Anyone who had intended to support the Coffee Morning may like to donate directly to St. Joseph's Care Home, Crinken Lane, Shankill, D18 TY00, Ph.No. 01 2823000.

The venue for the Club's Christmas Lunch which is due to take place on Thursday 3rd December 2020 in the Parkview Hotel, Newtown, has been booked provisionally with the Hotel. However, the club shall have to wait until nearer that date to see if this event can be held.

Bray Cualann Historical Society

Bray Cualann Historical Society regrets to announce that there will be no October and November monthly meetings of the Society due to the current pandemic.

Wear a Hat Day

Irish charity Brain Tumour Ireland (BTI) is calling on people in Wicklow to don their favourite hat in support of its annual awareness and fundraising campaign 'Wear A Hat Day' on Friday, 23rd October.

The annual campaign raises funds for the charity's vital support and information services for people diagnosed with brain tumours and their families in Wicklow and all over Ireland, as well as raising awareness of the need for such services. A €4 donation can be made by simply texting BTI to 50300.

Higher Education Grants Scheme

The costs of attending college can be a real challenge for students and families on a low income. To help towards these costs, Bray Area Partnership's Education Grants Scheme is offering small grants towards the cost of college registration, course or exam fees to low income students.

The scheme is now open for applications. Call the Partnership on 01 286 8266 or see www.brayareapartnership.ie to find out more and apply.

The Higher Education Grants Scheme is funded under the Partnership's Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022, which is co-funded by the Government of Ireland, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

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Wheelchair Association appeals for support

The Irish Wheelchair Association in Co. Wicklow recently decided to cancel its annual street collection due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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



Broadcaster, TV personality and mum Anna Daly and her three magical wizards James (9), Euan (7) and Rhys (3) helped launch the Children's Health Foundation Temple Street's annual 'Trick or Treat for Temple Street' 2020 fundraising campaign from the comfort and safety of their back garden

WICKLOW Times

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BRAY IS COUNTY WICKLOW'S COVID HOT SPOT

As the incidences of Covid continue to rise nationwide and there are growing fears of a Level 5 complete lockdown and the possibility of the schools' mid-term break being extended to two weeks, the situation in County Wicklow is quite mixed.

The national 14-day average per 100,000 of population between 22nd of September and the 5th October is 116.4 but most of Wicklow is much lower than this with the exception on Bray.

In the Greystones electoral district the number per 100,000 is 60.8 with 16 confirmed cases. In the Wicklow town area the figure is 56.7 with again 16

cases. In the Baltinglass area the figure is 65 with 17 cases, whilst in the Arklow3 area the figure drops to 34.4 with just 9 cases.

However, in the Bray area it is a different story. In the Bray East area the 14 day average per 100,000 is 210.2 with 36 cases and in the Bray west area the figure is 108.7 with 20 cases. This is an improvement for this area as the last 14 day figure was closer to 200.

The Bray east area is where many nursing homes are located and it is feared that the surge is in these establishments. In one nursing home alone situated on the seafront, the Shannagh Bay, there are unconfirmed reports of 31 cases, 21 residents and 10 staff.

'Council procurement spending could build local economy'

Independent councillor Mags Crean is proposing that Wicklow County Council adopt a new policy approach to purchasing goods and services, which could lead to the creation of local jobs and generate wealth within the county.

Cllr Crean stated that "Wicklow County Council currently spends only 18% of procurement on local goods and services. I am proposing that we work towards increasing that percentage, with the outcome being an increase in spend in the local economy. The ripple effect of increased procurement locally would see an increase in local employment and purchases from local suppliers".

Across the water, Manchester City Council, in collaboration with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies

(CLES) has developed a progressive procurement policy where the value of buying goods or services is not only based on price.

Cllr. Crean has consulted on this proposal with Professor Donna Marshall, President of International Purchasing and Supply Education and Research Association (IPSERA) and Professor of Supply Chain Management at UCD Centre for Business and Society (CeBaS).

Prof. Marshall stated that "We've known for a long time that basing



Cllr Mags Crean

impact on our environment or our local communities. With this initiative, Wicklow County Council could take an extremely brave and bold step and use these decisions to make a positive impact on the environment and boost our local industry, leading to more jobs and thriving communities".

Cllr Crean maintains that this progressive approach offers real potential to generate wealth locally at a time when we most need it as we face economic insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

procurement decisions solely on price is short-sighted, inefficient and can have a detrimental

election campaign. "I understand the frustrations of Wicklow commuters being held up on the N11 which is already notorious for long delays and snarls up. Traffic congestion on the main arteries out of Wicklow is an issue I have been working on and continue to work on with the transport authorities.

"Gardai are keeping the operation under constant review. We know that Level 3 restrictions have previously worked in Laois, Offaly and Kildare.

"They are there to ensure that only those undertaking essential travel are leaving the county. I would implore the public to please only travel out of the county if it is absolutely necessary. It's vital that we come together in doing everything we can to reduce

the spread of Covid-19."

Minister Simon Harris said "Firstly I need to put on record that I think the Gardai have done a fantastic job during this pandemic. However, there are self-evident problems with these checkpoints especially in County Wicklow. They are not designed as a form of punishment. I will be contacting the Minister for Justice to see whether we can change the timing of when the start in the mornings and finish in the evenings. Also, I will see if we can get the bollards that restrict traffic to a single line removed when the Gardai leave. This is a sortable problem which I will address."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews whose leader is Transport Minister was 'unavailable for comment'.

COPS TOLD TO 'COP ON'

Continued from page 1

"How we approach COVID 19 regulations must make sense to people if we are to bring them along with us. Focusing on people who are doing what they are allowed to do and travelling in peak hour traffic will not help with this approach.

"And I am particularly concerned for frontline workers stuck in traffic twice a day. I've had a number of frontline workers telling me they have spent 2 hours in traffic after a long shift in the hospital and can't bear the thought of this continuing on for another few weeks."

There was little comfort from Health Minister, Stephen Donnelly, who had made the traffic on the N11 a main plank of his



Pictured are Grace Stemond and Izabella Lowe who received the Transition Year Academic Class award at the Colaiste Bhríde Carnew TY Class of 2019/20 Awards.

'FALSE POSITIVE' COVID TESTS HALT VIKINGS FILMING

Almost a dozen cast and crew members of Vikings spin-off series, Vikings: Valhalla, tested positive for Covid-19, leading to a temporary suspension of filming last week.

The 24-episode historical drama series is currently being filmed for Netflix at Ashford Studios. As part of the Covid-19 safety protocols, cast and crew members are tested for the virus several times a week.

Positive results were returned from a private clinic, leading to a halt in filming on Monday and Tuesday. However, it's understood that the test results were later discovered to be 'false positives', and that negative test results were returned when the cast and crew members were re-tested. The show went back into production last Wednesday.

Production on Series 1 of the show began this summer, after a delay of several months due to Covid. It's intended that the show will be released on Netflix in 2021.

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Maebh O'Siochru pictured during the judging of the 2020 PURE Mile at Roscath, Kilbride.

Bus Éireann's advice for 133 users

Bus Éireann is advising customers of updated guidelines under Level 3 of Ireland's Plan for Living with Covid-19 which are now in effect.

Under Level 3 restrictions Bus Éireann and Expressway public services will operate at a capacity of 50%, as in Level 2. However, all travel should be limited within Wicklow, unless the travel is essential - that is, for work, education and other essential purposes. Passengers are advised to only travel if it is absolutely necessary, to observe capacity signage on board vehicles and continue the mandatory wearing of face coverings on all services.

Allen Parker, Chief Customer Officer with Bus Éireann said "We are aware that increased restrictions can be frustrating for our passengers and we would like to take this opportunity to ask for their continued understanding and respect for all our frontline employees, including our drivers and supervisors. These are frontline workers who have continued to work throughout this crisis - Keeping Ireland Connected. We will continue to work tirelessly to deliver essential public transport services to those who need to travel and look forward to the continued support of all our customers."

Bus Éireann fully adheres to all public health guidelines and is committed to ensuring the continued safety and well-being of its employees and customers observing many precautionary measures including; the mandatory wearing of face coverings, vehicle deep cleaning, touchpoint cleaning throughout the day and protective screens and personal protective equipment for drivers.

Bus Éireann encourages customers to use Leap Cards, Automatic Ticket Machines and online ticket purchase to minimise the use of cash.



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Voluntary groups and charities to benefit from Covid-19 stability fund

Voluntary groups, charities and social enterprises in Wicklow will receive financial support through the Covid-19 Stability Fund. The two successful Wicklow applicants in the current round of funding are Carnew Community Care and Purple House Cancer Support.

Minister Simon Harris said, "I am delighted that the fourth tranche of COVID-19 Stability Funding worth €4.29 million will be provided to organisations nationwide. The Covid-19 stability fund is designed to support community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises that are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic. The past few months have been extremely challenging for these organisations in Wicklow and they need support.

"Once-off cash injections of between €2,000 and €200,000 are being awarded to qualifying organisations that provide critical services to those most vulnerable in society. This will help with short term cash flow issues caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Carnew Community Care and Purple House are set to receive over €90,000 in funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund.

"These organisations provide services in a diverse range of areas including homeless

services, cancer supports, counselling and family supports and assistance for older and vulnerable persons.

"I wish to thank Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD for announcing this latest round of funding, which I hope will help these organisations in continuing to provide these essential services which are much needed."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has hit all of us extremely hard in different ways and often in ways you may not consider. The impact that it has had on community groups and services is immeasurable and any support that the Government can offer at this challenging time is extremely welcome.

"The funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund, which is where these latest grants have come from, is designed to support community and voluntary organi-

sations, charities and social enterprises that are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The two Wicklow groups that received funding on this occasion do incredible work in the community and are extremely deserving of this Government support. This funding will, in the constraints of Covid, help them to continue to make these contributions.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in not only these groups but all groups that have worked tirelessly to continue their vital services through the Covid-19 period. I have been fortunate as both a County Councillor and now as a TD to engage with some of these organisations and I have seen first-hand the work that work they do, and it is incredible. I look forward to having the opportunity to continue meeting with volunteers and organisers, albeit virtually, in the coming weeks and months to discuss their plans", concluded Deputy Matthews.

Planters and bollards installed in Greystones to allow for social distancing

Greystones Municipal District has installed planters and bollards on Church Road which re-allocate public road space to facilitate social distancing and to support local businesses for loss of internal space.



The works, which incorporate some of the proposals included in the Public Realm Plan produced by Greystones 2020, were carried out with the assistance of Greystones Tidy Towns and include: Planter boxes and seats designed and manufactured in Ireland with maritime features of thick timbers which will weather well, influenced by the coastal nature of Greystones. Native trees and plants

from the All Ireland Pollinator Plan were acquired from a local garden nursery supplier; Two new disabled parking bays and enlargement of two of the existing four loading bays to provide for larger vehicles; A total of 24 on-street parking spaces have been removed while 178 spaces remain on public roads within a few minutes' walk of main commercial areas. Church Road is very well served

with off-street parking for 353 cars.

We are all well aware that social distancing is here to stay for the foreseeable future. The Wicklow County Council stated that it wants to ensure that Greystones remains safe and welcoming for all users, while complying with current public health guidance.

The recent changes on Church Road acknowledge the changing needs

of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic and may also require flexibility and changes to how businesses operate.

Clr Derek Mitchell, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, welcomed the implementation of these COVID-19 Interim Mobility measures which encourage more

pedestrians while also facilitating social distancing.

"The provision of more space for businesses to operate within will allow them to meet their social distancing responsibilities and have positive impacts on consumer confidence and footfall and enhance the town centre," he said.





County Wicklow Public Participation Network



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

Social Inclusion Week in Co Wicklow

Social Inclusion Week in Co Wicklow will run from **Saturday 17th October to Friday 23rd October**. While a significant number of events that were originally organised to mark the week have been cancelled due to public safety concerns, there is still a few events and activities taking place online that facilitates inclusion and values diversity in Co Wicklow communities. Information and updates for the week can be found on the Co Wicklow PPN Include Us In Facebook Page

Launching Social Inclusion Week with Pride

It was hoped to launch Social Inclusion week in celebratory party style in conjunction with a Young People's Pride Project. The project led by LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning) young people, was to centre around a pride bus that would have travelled around the county, briefly stopping at the libraries in each of our Municipal Districts. Due to the public health crisis this has been postponed.

However, the pride theme will continue through the County Wicklow Partnership Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP). SICAP provides developmental supports to Networks and Local Community Groups in the Municipal Areas of Baltinglass, Arklow and Wicklow. Allies of LGBTI' is one such community network.

The network is comprised of people and agencies who support LGBTI Young People, including: Wicklow Children & Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC); County Wicklow Library Services; East Wicklow Youth Service; Comhairle Na Oig Wicklow; Wicklow County Childcare Committee; The Blessington Forum; Co Wicklow PPN, and The Women of Wicklow Social Inclusion Network with coordination provided by Mary Millett for the Co Wicklow Partnership.

As part of Social Inclusion Week, the LGBTI Allies Network Wicklow will deliver a visibility campaign across the county. This will include recordings featuring LGBTI people telling their stories, personal experiences of coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or gender non-binary will feature. Interviews will include parents of LGBTI Young Persons and LGBTI Adults talking about their experiences and journeys. These recordings will be shared as podcasts on various social media platforms. Links can be found through the Co Wicklow PPN Facebook page 'Include Us In' throughout social inclusion week. This will be run in conjunction with Wicklow County Council

Library Service and is part of the launch of their LGBTI Letters Programme. If you wish to be 'Included In' for a podcast please contact Mary on -87-6440693 or mary_crn@wicklowpartnership.ie

What is Social Inclusion?

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

What's Happening for Social Inclusion Week?

Arklow Africa Society is running a drawing and writing competition for all primary school children in the Arklow Area on the theme "What is your favourite culture in the world that is not your own?" Closing date for the competition is 20th October and €25 gift vouchers will be awarded to an overall winner for each class category. For more information Email: aaiswgroup@gmail.com

Bray Titans Swim Club hosts dedicated swimming squads for children with special needs and or physical disabilities with a dedicated Para Coach in Shoreline Leisure, Bray. For more information Email: info@titansswimclub.ie



Including people with disabilities.



Including Young People on International Women's Day.



Including new communities on International Women's Day.

Bray Men's & Women's Shed continues to hold socially distanced meetings on the Bray Seafront. They are in the process of making a memorial bench for Sunbeam House.

Bray Area Partnership will be holding online Fáilte Isteach conversational English classes for people from new communities, free workshops for people who are unemployed or otherwise distanced from employment, and for those who need to learn the technical skills for online learning so they are not excluded from this growing area. The Partnership's Disability Network will be highlighting issues for people with disabilities in the Bray and North Wicklow areas over the week as well.

Cairdeas Clubhouse is running their Steps to Health Challenge, supporting their members physical and mental health. For more information Email: cairdeas@eve.ie

Wicklow County Council will hold the inaugural meeting of their new Disability Inclusion Steering Committee. The new committee will be responsible for ensuring disability issues are incorporated into the development of all the council's plans and policies. It will also ensure the implementation of existing relevant policies at local authority level, namely the: Disability Act 2005, National Disability Inclusion Strategy, NDIS, United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, UNCRPD, and Public Sector Duty.

Wicklow County Council, together with Co Wicklow PPN and the Local Community Development Committee will run an online consultation to support the development of a new Migrant Integration Strategy for the county. Anyone with an interest in this should contact Hannah Grene by Emailing: hanna@barncat.ie

Wicklow Local Sports and Recreation Partnership is running an Inclusive Mountain Bike for teenager's taster session on the 14th October as part of Fit For All Week. They are also running Buggyfit taster session for new or expectant mums on the 20th and 22nd October at HD Fitness in Blessington. All are welcome. For more information Email: wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie

Wicklow Travellers Group will be reaching out and connecting with all the Traveller families living in the Wicklow town and environs area by delivering "Bags of Hope" The bags will include poems and other items to lift people's spirits in these challenging times.



Government grant for libraries and socially inclusive projects

A number of socially inclusive and library projects in Wicklow are to benefit from an award of €31,000 which Wicklow County Council has received from the Government under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan.

The Government recently announced a funding package of €713,500 benefiting older people, families with low literacy skills and disadvantaged and marginalised groups that will be channelled through the country's libraries.

The grants will be from the 2020 Dormant Accounts Action Plan and from Libraries funding which is administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The scheme will see 90 per cent of the project costs being provided centrally while the local authorities will fund the remaining 10 per cent.

Wicklow County Council submitted a number of projects for funding under the scheme and has been awarded over €31,000.

Director of Services, Michael Nicholson, welcomed the announcement, saying: "Wicklow submitted a range of projects and has been rewarded for its initiative, securing one of the highest allocations per head of population. There will be a number of socially inclusive projects with disadvantaged groups, including families in Direct Provision, people with literacy and numeracy challenges, plus a number of projects focussing on LGBTI issues."

He said he was also pleased to see joint funding for Wicklow/Kildare to promote the recently launched "My First Library Card", a collaboration between Wicklow and Kildare County Council Library Services.

Three new broadband connection points

The three new broadband connection points in Wicklow are a key element of the Government's National Broadband Plan, Minister Simon Harris TD has said.

The connection points are located in Wicklow County Campus, Clermont; Ballycooge Community Hall, and Wicklow GAA Centre of Excellence.

Minister Simon Harris said: "Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) are among the first premises to be connected under the National Broadband Plan and are located in some of the most isolated and rural communities in the country.

"They will provide communities in Wicklow with free high-speed internet access at publicly-accessible sites under the Government's new Connected Communities initiative.

"The COVID-19 crisis has shown the value of digital technology in enabling workers, businesses and families in Wicklow to stay connected and in touch with each other. The BCPs are intended to bring people together through digital connectivity, and it's that togetherness that I want to emphasise.

"When people can work from their own

communities here in Wicklow, they can maintain the close connections that matter most: family, friends, community, and their homes.

"More than that, they can support local businesses, sports and community groups, all of which contributes to sustainable communities."

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, said: "The launch of the first of the Broadband Connection Points under the Connected Communities initiative represents an investment in rural futures and recognises the contribution that rural Ireland makes to the culture, innovation and economy of our country. More than 50 locations have already been connected by Vodafone Ireland and NBI, with more sites to be installed each week from now until the end of the year and beyond."

The BCP initiative is a collaborative effort involving the Department of Rural

and Community Development, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Local Authorities and the owners and managers of the BCP sites.

It is expected that about 200 public access BCP sites and 75 school BCPs will be connected in 2020, with further sites to be connected in early 2021. BCPs will each have their own character and focus. Some will support remote working, others will facilitate study and digital skills training, and many will act as community access hubs with indoors and outdoors WiFi BCPs will be provided with a temporary wireless high-speed broadband connection of up to 150Mbps which they will keep for three years, or until they are provided with a permanent high-speed broadband connection under the NBP.

National Broadband Ireland (NBI) will act as the Wholesale Service Provider (WSP), while Vodafone Ireland will act as the Retail Service Provider (RSP).

Greystones Public Realm Plan wins award

The Greystones Public Realm Plan was the winner of the Highly Commended Award at the Irish Landscape Institute awards last week.

Welcoming the news, Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, Cllr Derek Mitchell, said "I'm delighted that Greystones Public Realm Plan won the Highly Commended Award at today's Irish Landscape Institute awards ceremony. We were beaten by Ait Urbanism 'North East Inner City Greening Strategy' (Dublin). The Galway Public Realm Plan came in third.

"I'd like to thank the Greystones 2020 Group for all the work and public consultation which went into it, working with Paul Hogarth & Co. This will serve as a plan which the Council will strive to implement in future years as funds become available."

The Greystones Public Realm Plan was commissioned in August 2019 by Greystones 2020 and Wicklow County Council. It reflects recognition that the town is economically successful and vibrant, albeit with many constraints due to Covid-19. However, it faces

ongoing challenges associated with continued growth and development pressures.

This subsequent Plan has been led by the Paul Hogarth Company, a multidisciplinary team of landscape architects, Urban Designers and planners. It was jointly shaped by Greystones 2020, Wicklow County Council, members of the public and local stakeholders.

Grainne McLoughlin, Chair of Greystones 2020, says "The Public Realm is an important part of Greystones' identity, of how we want our town to be for ourselves as a community and how we want to present ourselves to others. It contributes to Greystones' competitiveness both by influencing the image of the town nationally and by being attractive for people who live in, work in, or visit, or those in the future that wish to do so.

"As Greystones gets bigger, the public realm is vitally important to our daily lives and this importance requires us to understand it and influence its future through developing vision, appropriate policy and a collaborative approach between the people and the council."

Whitmore appointed to Oireachtas Committees for Children and for Climate Change

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore, has been appointed to two Committees in the Oireachtas: one on Children, Disability, Equality and Integration and the other on Climate Action.

Deputy Whitmore started work on the two Committees last week and whereas, a TD you can influence the most on the issues presented to the Committee so its an important part of our work in the Dáil.

"This week has been a busy one especially for the Climate Action Committee which saw the publication of the long-awaited Climate Action Bill. As Party Spokesperson for Climate Action and Biodiversity I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee as we engage

and biodiversity in increasing the focus on nature-based solutions as part of climate adaption and mitigation.

"As Spokesperson for Children for the Social Democrats my work on the Children's Committee will focus on what have always been my priority and that is the elimination of child poverty in Ireland and building on the work of my recent Dáil Motion to that end; looking into a new model of childcare that is high quality and affordable with decent pay for childcare workers; the



Jennifer Whitmore TD

with this important piece of legislation as well as advocating for a just transition, closing the gap between climate action

and biodiversity in increasing the focus on nature-based solutions as part of climate adaption and mitigation.

"As Spokesperson for Children for the Social Democrats my work on the Children's Committee will focus on what have always been my priority and that is the elimination of child poverty in Ireland and building on the work of my recent Dáil Motion to that end; looking into a new model of childcare that is high quality and affordable with decent pay for childcare workers; the

impact of COVID 19 on children, young people and services that benefit them; the impact of Brexit on children's rights and a maternity strategy that includes increased breastfeeding supports.

"It will be a busy few years but it will be worthwhile. In the context of the current pandemic, it will be even more crucial to have the Committee system as a means of oversight and monitoring the Government's response to current and future issues as they arise," concluded Deputy Whitmore.

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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

Greystones schools crisis raised in The Dail

Rugby club paid nearly €11,000 a month to accommodate school

Green Party TD Steven Matthews and Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore recently submitted parliamentary questions on the matter of the ongoingschools crisis in Greystones.

Greystones Community National School is currently being accommodated by Greystones Rugby Club, the monthly rent for which is €10,833. In response to a parliamentary question from Deputy Whitmore, the Minister said that to date the Department of Education has provided €386,234 to rent lands for the school's use.

Greystones Community College, meanwhile, is currently being hosted by Greystones Tennis Club, and is facing difficulties such as having to drop the subject of metalwork due to a lack of facilities.

Deputy Matthews questioned the Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD, on the status of the school's new building. Currently the new building, which is to accommodate both schools, is completed but is lying empty as clearance has not been given for it to open.

Minister Foley said "Senior Department officials met with Kildare Wicklow ETB (KWETB) and Greystones Community College on Wednesday, 23rd September to discuss the school's current arrangements and the immediate and future accommodation requirements for the school.

"My Department has agreed to look at all potential options in the area in the short and medium term ahead of the schools move to its designated permanent site in Charlesland, Greystones. This will include the provision of appropriate temporary accommodation, including specialist rooms, as quickly as possible as the current school year progresses.

"My Department officials will continue to work closely with KWETB to ensure the needs of the school community continue to be met."

Deputy Whitmore also questioned the Minister, asking the amount being spent leasing the tennis club for the school.

Minister Foley replied: "A licence agreement is in place for this interim accommodation with a commencement date of 17th August 2020, for a period of eleven weeks. My Department does not generally disclose the value of particular leasing agreements as these matters are considered commercially sensitive.

"Senior Department officials met with Kildare Wicklow ETB (KWETB) and Greystones Community College on Wednesday, 23rd

September to discuss the schools current arrangements and the immediate and future accommodation requirements for the school.

"My Department has agreed to look at all potential options in the area in the short and medium term ahead of the school's move to its designated permanent site in Charlesland. "This will include the provision of appropriate alternative interim accommodation, including specialist rooms, as quickly as possible as the current school year progresses," she concluded.

FLOOD THREAT FOR NEWCASTLE AND KILCOOLE

There was worrying news for Newcastle and Kilcoole residents last week as Irish Rail announced they would no longer keep the Breeches clear from blocking up.

Cllr Tom Fortune, speaking to *Wicklow Times*, said, "This is a vital service as it prevents this area and some Newcastle resident properties from flooding. It has flooding implications for residents as far as the sea front in Kilcoole."

Cllr Fortune is calling for urgent action on the matter. "Mr John Nugent of Newcastle airfield was doing this work for years and there was no problem. In recent times he was informed by Irish Rail that he could no longer do this work, that they would do it. However there was damage done recently to the equipment that

Irish Rail use and at a meeting in the last couple of days they informed Mr Nugent that they are ceasing this activity. We are all shocked at this decision."

Cllr Fortune says he understands that Irish Rail spoke with Wicklow County Council suggesting that perhaps Mr Nugent could resume the job of clearing any blockage. "This I understand is not agreed," said Cllr Fortune.

Cllr Fortune says "the obvious solution is to have Mr Nugent do this work which he is willing to do".

Cllr Fortune is calling for Wicklow County Council to put this solution in place immediately or else confirm that they are going to do it and that the structure and manpower is in place.

"There are very concerned residents in Kilcoole and Newcastle who are very worried about this decision."



Bray Meals-On-Wheels

Bray Meals-on-Wheels wish to say thank you to the people of Bray for their loyal and very generous support stretching back over many years. Your support is a vital input without which we would find it very difficult to provide the service we do to the community.

Since mid March, when the country went into lockdown because of Covid-19, demand for Meals-on-Wheels shot up from 250 meals/week to 480 meals/week and from 2 days/week delivered to 3 days/week delivery. We were creaking initially under the strain of this extra demand but again the people of Bray came to our aid in the form of extra volunteers both in the kitchen and on the road delivering. Our dedicated team of volunteers are the backbone of our organisation, we are so grateful to them for all the great work that they do.

Because of Covid-19 the Trustees have decided, in everybody's interest, not to do our door to door annual collection until it is safe to do so, perhaps in the new year. To all who have generously contributed to our annual appeal in the past, thank you and we hope to tap into your generosity and support again when we return to more normal times.

In the meantime our costs are soaring as demand keeps growing so if you would like to help financially you can do so by donating directly to the Bray meals-on-Wheels account (IBAN:- IE53 BOFI 9010 3622 9093 89) or by volunteering a couple of hours one or two mornings a week.



**Bill Hannon, Trustee
BOFA/Meals-on-Wheels**

Bray Old Folks Association
Bray Primary Care Centre, Killarney Road
Bray, County Wicklow, A98 KW13. Tel: 01 286 7835

Sustainable energy online meeting

Green Party Councillor Lourda Scott is hosting a free online meeting on Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) on Thursday October 15th at 8pm.

Cllr Scott says: "As we approach the winter months people start turning on the heating and thinking on how they can make their homes better insulated and more energy efficient. For a lot of us we don't know where to start. SECs are where groups of people come together to improve how energy is used for the benefit of their community. They examine how we can use energy in a sustainable, holistic way.

"This meeting will provide the opportunity to learn more about local SEC in Greystones/Delgany with speakers Simon Whelan SEAI SEC Mentor, and Adam Calihman, Greystones Tidy Towns and SEC member. This online meeting will take the form of two short presentations followed by Q and A.

"This event will be of great interest to anyone keen to learn more about community led energy projects and energy saving. his online meeting will take the form of two short presentations followed by Q and A. It aims to provide our community with an overview of the SEC journey so far and the next steps we hope to take in the area."

Please register on Eventbrite www.eventbrite.com/e/sustainable-energy-communities-tickets-124598530559



Cllr Avril Cronin and Minister Simon Harris, with Principal Brian Doran of St Kevin's Community School Dunlavin, and prefects Sarah Keating and Gavin Doyle

Plans announced to appoint design team for St. Kevin's School

Wicklow Fine Gael Minister Simon Harris TD has welcomed the announcement by the Department of Education to appoint a design team for the extension to the St Kevin's Community School in Dunlavin.

Minister Harris said: "I welcome the news that the National Development Finance Agency has started preparations to appoint a design team for the extension. I would like to pay tribute to Principal Brian Doran and all the team at the school for their work on this project to date.

The Department for Education has issued approval in principle for the provision of additional pre-fabs for St Kevin's to be ready for the 2021-22 school year. St Kevin's Community School caters for pupils across a wide area of West Wicklow and South Kildare and I am committed to supporting the school getting the additional new facilities it needs."

Bray woman to be recognised at prestigious new leadership awards

Bray woman Eunice Chapman, has been shortlisted for a prestigious new leadership awards initiative, LIFT Ireland has announced.

LIFT Ireland is a not-for-profit organisation that works to build positive leadership skills in communities in Wicklow and across Ireland. It created the awards initiative to recognise strong leadership at all levels of Irish society from grassroots organisations to corporate boardrooms.

Across the country, those shortlisted for awards have participated in LIFT Ireland's programme over the past 12 months. They range from banking and insurance executives to Transition Year students and community volunteers, and include employees from the likes of AIB, Bank of Ireland, RSA, PREM Group and the charity GOAL.

Eunice is a Project Officer at SOLAS, the higher education and training authority has been shortlisted in the Honesty and Integrity category.

The winner of each category will be announced at an online awards event on Thursday, 15th October.

LIFT's work focuses on developing 10 core leadership skills, including resilience, respect, innovation and empathy.

There are 10 award categories in the new scheme: one for each of the 10 core leadership skills included in the LIFT programme. From hundreds of nominations received, just four people have been shortlisted in each 10 of the categories.

Commenting, Joanne Hession, Founder of LIFT Ireland, said: "In the face of the global pandemic we are now living through, leadership and resilience skills are more important than ever before.

"The behaviour of leaders impacts on those around them. We tend to think of leaders as being people in positions of power. But we are all leaders - in our own families; in our workplaces; in our communities. At LIFT, we consider leadership a trait that can be developed, lived and emulated - from the kitchen table to the boardroom.

"It is also a trait to be recognised and celebrated, and these awards are about acknowledging the skills and values of those who display positive leadership every day in Wicklow and across the country. We are all individual parts of a jigsaw of thousands of pieces that makes up Ireland.

We form the culture, character and values of our country. It is important to celebrate good leadership and we want to celebrate those leading in a positive and powerful way."

At the awards, organisations that have rolled out the LIFT leadership development programme in their workplace will also be recognised with a 'Living LIFT 2020' quality mark. This mark has been created to recognise organisations working to raise the standards of leadership in Ireland.

Joanne Hession, who is a successful entrepreneur and leadership expert with a background in entrepreneurship training, founded LIFT Ireland, along with her brother, David Hession, an education accreditation expert, and Sonya Lennon, broadcaster, designer and social entrepreneur. LIFT - which stands for 'Leading Ireland's Future Together' - provides leadership and facilitation training to individuals and organisations across the country, ranging from multinational corporations to SMEs, NGOs, schools, sports organisations, and individuals from all walks of life.

Fit For All initiative being rolled out in Wicklow

'Fit for All', a national initiative aimed at increasing awareness among people with disabilities, families/carers and disability services on the benefits of regular exercise, healthy lifestyles and opportunities to participate within the local community, is being rolled out in County Wicklow.

The initiative is being organised by Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership one of 29 Local Sports Partnerships (LSP) in the country who have come together to arrange a four-week physical activity plan for people with a disability ahead of "Fit for All".

The resource has been developed by Sport Ireland and a working group of LSP Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs) in conjunction with CARA, the national organisation providing a collaborative and partnership platform to increase sport and physical activity opportunities for people with disabilities across Ireland.

Ireland's National Physical Activity plan recommends children are active for at least 60 min-

utes a day and adults for 30 minutes a day, and the "Activities for All" resource is a fun and inclusive way of getting in this daily activity.

This resource aims to improve people's fitness, skills and balance as well as helping build confidence to regularly participate in sport and physical activity.

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

Denise O'Shea, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership Coordinator said: "The 'Activity 4 All' resource is a fantastic way to get people active and add physical activity into their daily routine. It will not only improve people's

fitness, skills and balance, it will also have a huge impact on their wellbeing especially at times like this."

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

Speaking at the release of the resource, John Treacy, Chief Executive, Sport Ireland said: "Sport and physical activity is a key part of a healthy lifestyle and has so many benefits for both your

physical and mental well-being. The 'Activities for All' resource will help people of all abilities to build physical activity in to their daily routine. We are delighted to launch it as part of the Cara Fit for All initiative and with support and input from the Sports Inclusion Disability Officers of the Local Sports Partnership Network".

This resource is fully adaptive for people of all abilities and ages. There is an activity planner included to help track a person's progress throughout the four weeks. People can simply print out the resource or display it on their phone and be active!

For more information on the resource visit wicklowlsp@wicklowcoco.ie or telephone 0404-20100.

Maxi Zoo helps Make-A-Wish grant young boy's puppy wish

Maxi Zoo Ireland were delighted to team up with Make-A-Wish Ireland to surprise an 8-year-old boy living with acute lymphoblastic leukemia recently.

Patrick had always wanted a dog, but it wasn't possible while he was undergoing treatment.

Patrick's Mum said "With Patrick's original wish of being a mascot at an Irish International Rugby game no longer possible due to Covid-19, we went back to the drawing board and discovered that what he would really like was a dog. Patrick loves animals and we had often talked about getting a dog when he finished treatment."

The children's charity approached Maxi Zoo to collaborate on the wish to mark Patrick's 8th birthday. Patrick was invited in store to meet his new pet, a Labrador called Luke and Maxi Zoo helped to top off the surprise with a private shopping experience to pick up the dogs essentials to begin his life with his forever family.

"Make-A-Wish went above and beyond to make his dream a reality and pulled out all the stops on Patrick's birthday to give him the biggest surprise of his life! Our Wishgranter Louise thought of everything and made the whole experience so special for him. It was a magical evening which we'll never forget. We are so grateful to Make-A-Wish for the wonderful work they do and to the staff at Maxi Zoo for their kindness and generosity. Patrick's puppy has brought such joy to him and us already after such a difficult few years and we look forward to many years of happiness and fun ahead with the newest member of our family, Luke," Patrick's mum continued.

Ireland's largest pet retailer organised a private shopping experience at their store located in the Omni Retail Park, Santry Road, Dublin. The shop ensured the visit took place out of hours with a deep clean taking place before the family visited, ensuring all public health guidelines were adhered to.

Speaking on behalf of Maxi Zoo, Noelle Long, Purchasing and Marketing Director said "Maxi Zoo prides itself on being a family friendly retailer. We were honoured to be approached by Make-A-Wish to help make Patrick's wish come true. We are used to customers visiting stores to pick up their puppy

essentials - but we have never had the pleasure of being involved in granting such a special wish to a very deserving little boy."

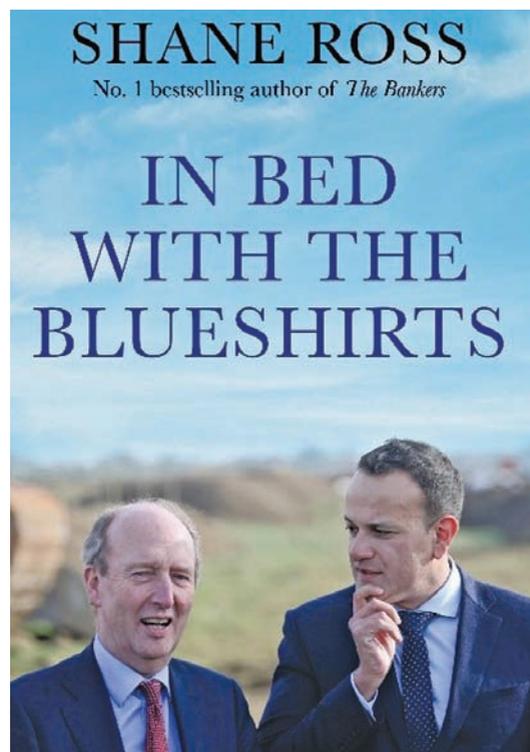
Maxi Zoo is part of the Fressnapf Group, Europe's largest pet retailer with over 1,650 stores across Europe. Maxi Zoo currently operates 20 stores in the Republic of Ireland - located in Westmeath (Mullingar), Tipperary (Clonmel), Wexford (Gorey), Carlow, Waterford, Cork (Ballincollig, Middleton), Dublin (Blanchardstown, Finglas, Tallaght, Liffey Valley, Omni, Clarehall & Leopardstown), Kildare (Naas, Newbridge & Maynooth), Wicklow (Bray), Limerick, and Longford.

Make-A-Wish Ireland grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions such as cancer, cystic fibrosis and heart conditions. No two wishes are alike, just as no two sick children are alike. From the humble to the seemingly impossible. Since 1992, Make-A-Wish has granted wishes for more than 2,600 brave children across Ireland. A wish granted is true magic for the child, providing respite from their normal routines of hospitals, doctors and treatment. Make-A-Wish does not receive any government funding and relies generosity of the Irish public to continue granting wishes.

For further information about Maxi Zoo chat to the pet experts at any of the Maxi Zoo stores nationwide, visit @MaxiZooIreland on Facebook and Instagram, or www.maxizoo.ie.



In Bed With The Blueshirts



Enniskerry resident Shane Ross, one-time Fine Gael Wicklow county councillor and general election candidate for Fine Gael was an imposed candidate by party headquarters which caused the likes of George Jones in Greystones to leave the party and set up a new party.

Ross subsequently left Fine Gael and successfully ran as an independent in neighbouring south Dublin.

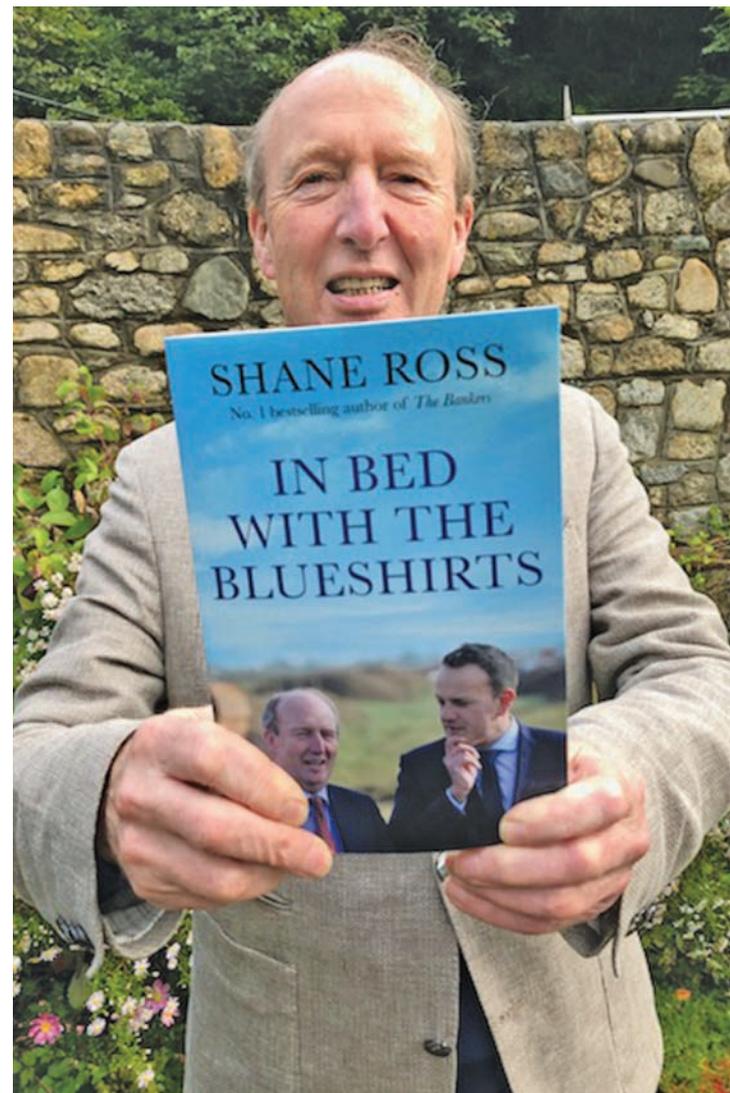
He supported the previous administration and was rewarded by promotion to Minister for Transport.

His new book 'In Bed With The Blueshirts' claims to be 'The definitive inside account of the 2016-20 coalition government'.

Shane Ross reveals the bitter internal battles fought with the old Blueshirts, the crises when the coalition came close to collapse and the sometimes-fraught personal relationships between the fifteen figures who made up the last government.

He recounts how a group of Independents risked everything to form a government that was expected to last for only months but which ran for more than four years, under two Taoisigh with utterly different styles. With great humour and charm, Ross unveils the skulduggery, the secret deals, the drama of how Irish football was rescued and Olympic chief Pat Hickey toppled, showing us what really happens behind the closed doors of Ireland's government.

Shane Ross was born in Dublin, educated at St Stephen's School Dundrum, Rugby School in England and Trinity College Dublin. He has been a stockbroker, a journalist, a politician and an author. He wrote the number-one bestseller *The Bankers* and co-authored, with journalist Nick Webb, *Wasters and The Untouchables*. Shane was Business Editor of the *Sunday Independent* for over sixteen years, winning the Journalist of the Year award in 2009. He was a member of the Seanad for 29 years before taking a Dáil seat in 2011. In 2016, he became Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, serving in government for over four years. He lost his Dáil seat in the 2020 election.



Shane Ross with his new book, 'In Bed With The Blueshirts'.

Members 'condemn' Charlesland Golf Club closure

Members of Charlesland Golf Club have expressed their shock over the announcement that the club will close its doors permanently on 31st December.

In a statement issued on 29th September, the club announced the closure "with deep sadness". The course, clubhouse and facilities at Charlesland Golf Club will remain open for the remainder of 2020, enabling members to play golf and participate in club competitions, and guests and visitors to enjoy the course - subject to COVID-19 safety protocols and HSE guidance.

The course and clubhouse at Charlesland was formed in the early 1990s and is still owned by the Co. Wicklow-based Evans family. Over the years the family has continued to invest heavily in course, clubhouse and facility improvements. Carr Golf was instructed by the Evans' in 2014 to maintain the golf course and manage club operations.

Nikki Evans, on behalf of the senior generation, explained the family's decision to close the course. "Despite significant levels of investment, a business restructure and the success of Carr Golf in recent years to build membership, increase revenue and provide a golf course of the highest standards, the

facility still requires regular cash injections from the family. Coupled with an uncertain medium-term outlook for golf, after long and careful consideration we made the difficult decision to close."

A Carr Golf spokesperson said, "We appreciate the news to close Charlesland may come as a shock to members and the wider golf community. The management team has met with Golf Club staff and the Captains to explain the owner's decision and communicated with members to inform them of the news. We will provide Club staff with support and assistance over the coming weeks and months. Plans will also be developed alongside the Committees to ensure events are in place to help members safely celebrate the lifetime memories Charlesland has brought to so many."

Evans paid tribute to the Charlesland members and staff behind the scenes. "On behalf of the Evans family, we would like to thank the members for their loyal support, particularly those who have been with the Golf

Club from the start. As a local family entrenched in the Greystones community, we sincerely hope all will find a suitable place to continue to enjoy their golf, camaraderie and friendship. Thank you also to the Greens team for presenting a wonderfully conditioned golf course and the management team for their positivity, professionalism and support over the years."

Stunned by the news, the members of the club, numbering more than 600 in total, issued a joint statement last week, stating that they have been "shocked and devastated by the unexpected announcement".

They said: "This announcement was issued by the Evans family without prior consultation with the club officers. Members expected a minimum notice period of 18 months would be given in advance of any closure plans, in line with the access agreement agreed with the Evans family, thereby allowing for an orderly wind down. "Charlesland golf membership is currently reaching an all-time high, with over 150

new members joining over the last two years (some as recent as September 2020) and members are at a loss to understand why this decision to close so quickly was made.

"This announcement is particularly upsetting to the long-term members of Charlesland Golf Club, who have continued to support the Evans family, even in turbulent times, for almost 30 years since the club opened in 1992.

"Charlesland members have actively supported the club during this traumatic year. Members have also voluntarily assisted with course maintenance and general upkeep in their own time, tasks which are the responsibility of the Evans family.

"Charlesland members condemn the impact of this decision, not only in how it affects them and the staff who are now facing job losses, but also on the many charities, both local and national, who have benefited significantly over the years from the club's active support and fundraising activities on their behalf."

Progress on Delgany to Blacklion Road

Significant Government funding of €280,000 has been allocated to producing a safer road at Delgany Wood Avenue and Blacklion Manor as there have been many complaints about speeding downhill.

Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District, Cllr Derek Mitchell, has welcomed the funding.

Cllr Mitchell said: This will reduce the width to 6m from 8m in places which will slow drivers and raise the cycle tracks off the road. At the Delgany end there will be a signalised pedestrian crossing and better junctions as people have complained about them for a long time. This is to be completed by the end of the year.

"A builder is completing the central section of the road and the Council will publish the CPO for parts it does not own by end November. I welcome this progress which will enable the whole cycleway and road to join the 5 schools with a modern safe design."



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

REMINDER - OIL FIRED HEATING SYSTEMS

Wicklow County Council advises homeowners, businesses and fuel suppliers to ensure that Oil Fired Heating Systems are checked for leaks before and after each refill and serviced annually before the onset of winter. Property owners are requested to ensure that the fuel supply pipe between the oil tank and boiler is inspected as part of annual servicing of the oil boiler and pressure tested every 5 years. The costs of servicing will be borne by the property owner.

There is a legal obligation to report accidental spillages or leakage of polluting matter to the Council.

Oil leaks from heating systems can cause significant damage to property, risk to health and environmental pollution whereby substantial financial costs may be incurred by the property owners in cleaning and remediating the contaminated properties.

Thank you for your co-operation and protecting our environment.



Now is the ideal time

As we are spending a lot more time at home these days, now is the ideal time to tackle those home improvement projects in the house and garden. You may have some re-designing or decorating plans in mind that you have been putting off or have not had the time to organise. Being stuck indoors for the last few months will have given us plenty of time to ponder the improvements we'd like to make, whether it be to extend, renovate, paint, fix, or otherwise improve your house. The pandemic is not leaving us anytime soon so as we will be mostly staying at home this winter, make sure it's a home you are happy with.



The decision to improve your home is an important financial commitment and thought and careful planning are needed. Contractors are eager for work, so get planning for your ideal home improvements.

There are many options when it comes to paint, flooring and wallpaper and it is important to choose the right one for you and your home.

Whether it be wooden flooring, tiles or carpet, different people have their own preferences of what the most suitable type of

floor for each room may be. You may want to give each room its own aesthetic or keep a common theme going throughout all the room of the house.

Tiles in the kitchen and bathrooms are a popular choice, while elsewhere in the home the switch from carpet to wood or vice versa is a common change and improvement that many people make.

If you are planning on renovating your kitchen, bedroom, living room or any room of your house, don't rush in without knowing exactly what

you're looking for. Hire a professional or if you're planning a DIY job, make sure you know what you're doing, make a check-list, don't scrimp on materials and choose the best time to carry out the renovation.

Whatever room you're tackling, or whatever work you are having done to the interior of your home, you should do some homework first and have a fixed idea in mind of what you want. Buy the magazines, decide on what you like and what you hate. Get an overall

concept in mind. Be realistic with your budget. It's also worthwhile to spend a little extra to ensure your comfort and happiness.

The right choice of sofa, table, bookcase, bed or cabinet can make the room, but equally the wrong choice can ruin the room and haunt you. When choosing furniture, don't just pick something that looks nice in the shop; you must always visualise how it will look in your own home and how it will compliment the other furniture and décor of the room.

Autumn gardens

First impressions count! So if your lawn is unkempt and your driveway is looking worse for wear, then it is time to call in those who know how to ensure that the front and back of your house has the neighbours talking about you for all the right reasons.

Garden

You can enjoy a beautiful garden in the Autumn - the days may be getting shorter and the light poorer, but colourful shrubs, trees, bulbs and other plants can liven the Autumn landscape. In addition, the smell of scented plants can be especially tantalizing at this time of year.

Spring-blooming bulbs, cool-season vegetables, perennials, trees and shrubs can all be effectively planted in Autumn.

Autumn's cooler air temperatures are easier on both plants and gardeners. The soil is still warm, allowing roots to grow until the ground freezes. Also pests and disease problems fade away in Autumn.

Spring bulbs, Pansies, vegetables (such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, carrots, cabbage, kale, lettuce, radishes and spinach), trees and shrubs, and perennials will provide colour and interest to the garden in Autumn.

It is advisable to get a professional gardener or landscaper in to design a beautiful garden or to keep your present garden presentable.

Driveway

Your driveway is usually the first thing people see when looking at your house. If it is overrun by weeds, this may have a negative impact on the impression you are trying to create of your living space. If you are not a green-fingered person and the front garden proves too much to maintain, then there are many other choices for improving your driveway using tarmac or paving stones. Consult with the experts to have your driveway looking in great shape.

Gardening tools

If you decide to do-it-yourself, then you will need the right gardening equipment and tools, so take a trip to your nearest gardening or hardware shop or you may decide to hire tools.

If you already have the right equipment, then a good way to start the work of Autumn preparation is to clean your garden equipment such as hand-held tools like spades and rakes, as well as bigger machines like lawn mowers.

For manual cutting tools, don't leave them outdoors - clean them, treat them with oil and store them away in a garden shed.

All tools and machines should be cleaned and maintained according to operation instructions. By doing all necessary repairs, your machines and tools will be in shape to start a new gardening season in Winter.



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Finding the right furniture

The right choice of sofa, table, bookcase, bed or cabinet can make the room, but equally the wrong choice can ruin the room and haunt you.

'A bedroom should be cosy and relaxing'

We spend about a third of our lives in the bedroom so it's important to get things right with regards to décor, furniture and colours.

Since much of our time in the bedroom is spent relaxing or sleeping, many people prefer to choose calm and serene colours when it comes to the walls. This can mean choosing a more toned down version of what your preferred colour might be.

In the bedroom, the ceiling takes on more importance than it does in other rooms, since many of us spend time looking up at it while lying in bed. You can make the ceiling more interesting simply with some added texture, colouring or design. Think of the ceiling as extra wall in the room rather than ignore it.

A bedroom should be cosy and relaxing, and the positioning of the furniture can matter a great deal with regards to this. The bed shouldn't be an obstacle you have to constantly walk around, and other items of furniture such as desks and dressers should be tailored according to the size of the room; if the dresser is too large for example it will be too domineering in a smaller room. On the other hand, if your bedroom is large, small items of furniture will look lost.

Less is more when it comes to the amount of furniture in the bedroom. A bed, a bedside locker, a

wardrobe and a dresser are generally thought of as essentials. A dresser can sometimes fit inside a wardrobe to maximise space. If you have a TV in your bedroom, perhaps it can be mounted on the wall to save space also, and if you must have some shelving for books or dvds, this can be mounted on the wall as well. Many people also like to have a chair and desk in their bedroom, but be careful; clutter can accumulate very easily in the bedroom and the more surfaces there are, the more likely that is to happen. The option of adding drawers or boxes which fit under the bed is a great way to reduce clutter and store things out of sight. This is of particular importance when it comes to children's bedrooms and the conundrum of where to put all those toys.

A reading chair can be a great addition to a bedroom, but if space won't allow, then adding a window seat could be an option. Finishing touches can be provided with rugs, pictures on the walls, potted house plants and some ornaments.

Lighting in the bedroom is key to setting a certain mood or serving a function; many people like to have a dimmer switch for this reason, but additional lighting will most likely be required in the form of a bedside lamp for reading. Fairy lights are another way of adding additional lighting that can change the atmosphere of the room. Whatever your preference, it's important to have options.

When choosing furniture, don't just pick something that looks nice in the shop; you must always visualise how it will look in your own home and how it will compliment the other furniture and décor of the room.

Do you want a wooden or glass table, for example, and if you choose wood, do you want pine or oak or something else?

In the bathroom, a dash of paint, a few tasteful additions in terms of ornamentation, lighting - even plants - will go a long way towards improving it. But these are mere small changes. We can affect real drama in the bathroom with a change of suite, window dressings, tiles and even floor coverings.

The compact dimension of a bathroom should not inhibit the choice of furniture. The basic components of a toilet, basin, bath, plus all brassware and basic accessories can be fitted into the smallest of areas without sacrificing convenience or mobility for users.

As with all other rooms, careful preparation, planning and organisation are all essential ingredients for creating the perfect bathroom, but there are several things you can do to help maximize the feeling of light and space in a bathroom, for example; choose plain colours and simple patterns.

These will help to maintain an uncluttered look and the lighter colours will create the illusion that the room is bigger than it actually is.

Here in Wicklow, you will find many outlets for choosing the perfect kitchen, flooring, wallpaper, furniture and furnishings.



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Prepare for the cold months that lie ahead

Inspirational gardens

The biggest item of maintenance outside is the garden. As this is an area of hugely personal interpretation, it is not possible to go into it in any depth here.

Suffice to say, that whatever plan you have for the garden, bear in mind the time you will be able to devote to its upkeep.

When it comes to your garden, you may want it looking its best for those Summer BBQs and be able to enjoy the sunshine in the comfort of your own home.

Hiring a qualified landscaper to make your dream garden come to life is always a good idea.

You may also find that outdoor furniture and fittings are covered in mould or mildew from the wet conditions, these can be easily cleaned with a soap and water mixture. Garden paths or driveways may also have come under attack from moss or algae, which is simple to remove too.

Also as you grow older you will have to consider if you want a garden that requires a lot of maintenance. A sound policy in garden design is 'keep it simple' and ensure that any 'features' you develop are easily converted back to simple lawn.

Gardens are quite often the most under-utilised parts of our home which is a pity as they have so much to offer. Gardening gives you a chance to develop what could become one of your favourite past times as well as a source of pride in literally your own backyard.



A well kept garden is also an asset when it comes to selling your property and can help add to the value of the price you get when moving. If your back or front lawn are in good shape then your children are more likely to want to play in them and spend time there. You can also extend the boundaries of your garden and blend the difference between the house and green area by introducing hanging baskets and window ledge pots. A trellis is an excellent way of covering unsightly walls or other obstructions and can also provide a shelter to small animals.

To enjoy your well maintained garden you might well consider a conservatory or what is growing in popularity, a deck. Contact the professionals to build them. For garden improvements, check that your fencing - if you have any - shed or greenhouse hasn't been damaged during the winter or Spring and clear the garden of debris.

Now is the time to start preparing for cold months that lie ahead, and to think about how best to keep your home warm.

There is nothing more comfortable than relaxing in a nice warm house while the cold and rainy weather rages outside.

Many of us are dependent on oil, gas or solid fuel to heat our homes during the winter months and while prices will inevitably rise and fall, there is still good value for money to be had by shopping around.

Your home is your refuge against the weeks of harsh winter weather ahead still before the spring. However, unless your heating in your home is efficiently stored, you will not only be wasting money but will miss out on being relaxing in a nice warm house while the cold and rainy weather rages outside.

Firstly, get your boiler serviced. An efficient burning boiler will save

you considerable money over the winter months. Make sure you enlist the services of an accredited boiler maintenance professional/expert.

As with all heating appliances, your boiler should be serviced on a regular basis to ensure that it is operating efficiently and safely. The service should be carried out by a qualified and experienced service technician / service engineer.

When carried out by a competent technician, a boiler service should entail little disruption to your routine. A typical service should take around an hour and leave you with a safe and efficiently operating appliance.

A service engineer will perform a number of tests on the boiler during a

service. This will depend in part on the fuel and boiler. While there is no set standard or regulation specifying what constitutes a boiler service at this time, we have prepared checklists of the type of work that the Service Technician should carry out during the course of a typical service.

An annual boiler safety check and boiler service, carried out by a professional service engineer ensures that your boiler is functioning properly.

Regular servicing of your boiler is important as it ensures that the boiler is working to the specifications designed by the boiler manufacturer. This will help prolong the life of the boiler as well as reduce the risk of faults and

expensive repairs down the line.

Next make sure that draughts are eliminated. Often we waste more heat than we enjoy. Set your thermostat to a pleasant background level, the radiators need not be hopping off the wall. Also set your timer so that you enjoy the benefits of a warm house.

You should be able to rise in the morning to a chill-free bathroom and kitchen. From clunky cast iron to sleek white, make sure your radiator stays in toasty tip-top condition.

There are a few ways you can keep your radiators running efficiently throughout the winter. Things like dusting the convection fins and rearranging furniture to help air flow is useful. Make sure your radiators are bled frequently to get the full use of them.



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Kim Kelly and Sally Sutton at the recent Coffee Morning for Wicklow Hospice, held in the Brooklodge, Macreddin

Wicklow social enterprise wins place on Genesis Programme

Wicklow social enterprise Herstory, a cultural movement that tells the stories of women - past, present and future, has won a place on Rethink Ireland's Genesis Programme. The Genesis Programme is an intensive two-day residential workshop that will focus on building the skills and knowledge needed to develop a sustainable social enterprise and be successful in future funding opportunities.

Last week Rethink Ireland announced the 40 Awardees of their Social Enterprise Development Fund; 16 enterprises will receive cash grants and business support. A further 24 enterprises including Herstory, will receive strategic support to help expand their impact through a 'Genesis Programme'.

The Social Enterprise Development Fund is a €3.2 million Fund being delivered from 2018 - 2022. The fund was created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with Local Authorities Ireland and funded by IPB Insurance and the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Joe O'Brien TD, said: "Herstory and all the recipients of funding and support from Rethink Ireland are doing vital work in their communities to promote social and economic wellbeing, and I wish to congratulate them on their achievements. Now, more than ever, we need innovative leaders to re-think the way we live and work at an individual, local and national level to create a fairer, more inclusive and sustainable society for everyone. These Awardees are excellent examples of the importance of social enterprises to Irish society and the economy."

Also commenting, CEO of Rethink Ireland Deirdre Mortell, said: "Social enterprises like Herstory are at the forefront of achieving positive social change for communities across Ireland, using business skills and clever thinking to drive their social mission. Rethink Ireland was founded to support these organisations, and our Social Enterprise Development Fund will enable the Awardees to go from strength to strength in enhancing the economic and social wellbeing of their communities."

"Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic we have all been reminded about the value of strong

community and supporting one another. Therefore, the role Rethink Ireland plays in promoting community and social enterprise is now even more important. I would like to congratulate Wicklow Counselling Services on their success today."

Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, said: "We would like to extend our congratulations to Herstory on their success in receiving a Social Enterprise Development Fund Award from Rethink Ireland."

"The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted many challenges and opportunities for our local communities in recent months - at both a social and economic level. Social Enterprises can contribute an enormous amount to creating strong communities and to agile responses as our context continually changes. Thanks to Rethink Ireland and the Social Enterprise Development Fund, innovative organisations like Herstory will continue to bring about positive social change, while also boosting the local

economy by creating jobs."

Speaking on the ongoing partnership, George Jones, Chairman of IPB Insurance, commented "Supporting communities to achieve resilient and sustainable solutions to the problems they face has been part of our company's DNA since our founding. That's why we believe so strongly in the investment we are making through this fund, when you invest in a social enterprise you know that it's a sustainable investment that will be used wisely to reach all those in society who need their help."

Deirdre Mortell added: "I look forward to seeing the Awardees continue to make a positive social impact. The calibre of the Awardees is reflective of the strong social enterprise spirit that exists in Ireland. I would like to thank all our partners in creating this fund who enable Rethink Ireland to provide our financial and strategic support to enterprises delivering positive social change. I would encourage more enterprises to apply for the fund next year."

IT Carlow marks 50 years since its founding

1970 was the year the Beatles broke up and the year anti-Vietnam war students protested on college campuses across the States. Closer to home, 1970 was the year Dana won the Eurovision, President Nixon visited Ireland and Institute of Technology Carlow - then known as Carlow Regional Technical College (RTC) - first opened its doors to students.

This autumn, Institute of Technology Carlow marks a 50-year milestone since it first offered higher education programmes to learners across the southeast. There have been many changes in that half-century and a great many achievements by the Institute in its journey to becoming one of Ireland's largest institutes of technology.

Since its founding, Institute of Technology Carlow has grown from a regional technical college to an institute of technology with over 9,000 learners pursuing more than 200 programmes of study, from certificates to doctorates. The college has grown in size and in reputation to become one of Ireland's most respected higher education institutions and an engine of growth for the southeast region with global alumni of more than 60,000.

The president of Institute of Technology Carlow, Dr. Patricia Mulcahy, commented, "Earlier this year when we planned a programme to celebrate our 50 years, we never imagined that 2020 would be such an unforgettable year. The pandemic means that we will not mark our significant birthday in a way we had planned. We will, however, reflect on this institute's journey over 50 years, its many achievements and its legacy. We are now

at a transformational time in its history as we move towards becoming a technological university in 2022."

Opened on 22nd September 1970 at a cost of £500,000, the first courses offered by the then Carlow RTC covered technology, science and business with special emphasis given to food technology, industrial processing and instrumentation. A two-year hotel management course designed for existing hotel employees cost £160 per annum, which included fees and accommodation. Job opportunities heralded for graduates at the time included computer programming, work-study specialist, quality controller and company secretary

John Gallagher, educated at Summerhill College in Sligo and University College, Cork was appointed the principal of the new regional college in January 1970. He is a chartered engineer and, prior to his appointment, was a senior lecturer at Liverpool Polytechnic. He steered the Institute through its early years when the regional technical colleges were under the vocational educational committees until they were placed on an independent basis by the Regional Technical Colleges Acts in 1993 and subsequently received institute of technology status in the late 1990s.

Mr Gallagher retired in 2003.

A 1970 newspaper article in The Nationalist entitled "A Yellow World in Carlow", penned by broadcaster and Carlovian Olivia O'Leary, quoted a young electrical apprentice who spoke of the advantages of studying at Carlow RTC. He commented, "Country students don't have to go to the cities, running the risk of losing their identity in an anonymous mass. We want to make people aware of the fact that the college exists for everyone and that there are classes and courses here which can be taken by people of any age".

In the same article, student Clare Carbery said, "This is going to be better than a university. It will be less impersonal because we have a better staff-student ratio". 50 years later, Institute of Technology Carlow is at an advanced stage in its trajectory to becoming a technological university, surpassing the original vision of its founders.

Dr. Mulcahy commented, "In reaching 50 years, we thank the people before us who made this possible and we look to the future as Institute of Technology Carlow continues to evolve and lead. We look forward to another 50 years of knowledge and innovation, of openness and engagement, of ambition and success".



Photo of the first intake of students at the then RTC Carlow in 1970. Pic: Karl McDonough.

Anam Cara supports for bereaved parents go online

Following last Monday's announcement by Government that all counties will now sit in Level 3 restrictions, Anam Cara made the decision to bring all their services online.

Supporting bereaved parents nationwide, Anam Cara have made the decision to deliver all their group support meetings online while the country is at level 3 or higher restrictions.

Anam Cara CEO Sharon Vard said "There is so much uncertainty while we are living with the Covid 19 pandemic, unfortunately we have no control over these changing restrictions, however we do have control over how we deliver our services, ensuring bereaved parents, who are our priority at this difficult time, have access to information and support". She

continued "We are pleased to be able to offer all bereaved parents support online either in a group or one to one setting. We know bereaved parents are devastated, feeling isolated and lonely after the death of their son or daughter, Covid 19 has compounded these feelings. We want to support and offer hope to bereaved parents".

Speaking following one of the previous online meetings, a bereaved parent commented "I am so delighted to have gone on. I had not realised how much I had missed the support from this group. I felt something had been lifted off my shoulders and came away feeling so much better than before I had gone on".

For further information and to register for these online support meetings, please contact Anam Cara on 01 4045378 or visit their website www.anamcara.ie.

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On Thursday, 1st October, Éamon Ó Cuív, grandson of Eamon De Valera, launched 'Yours 'Til Hell Freezes: A Memoir of Kevin Barry' by Siofra O'Donovan, the grandniece of Kevin Barry. He was joined by Niamh Barry who is also a grandniece of the Irish martyr, and Rory Hogan of the UCD Kevin Barry Cummann. The event was held at the Signal Arts Centre. Éamon Ó Cuív TD spoke at the launch about the heroics of young Kevin Barry, lamenting at the lack of commemoration events in 2020 for historic events from the Irish war of independence: "Kevin Barry was not just a plastic icon... this book outlines in meticulous detail the extraordinary people who fought for the cause of Irish Freedom.. The [men executed in 1920-21 in Mountjoy jail and exhumed in 2001 by the state] would not have been able to imagine that their funerals would take place in a sovereign country with a president, and an army. History is untidy... when we look over the war of independence, we see that they laid the foundations for democracy in our country." He also mentioned that Kevin Barry was held in the highest regard by the De Valera family.

Exploring Wicklow past and present

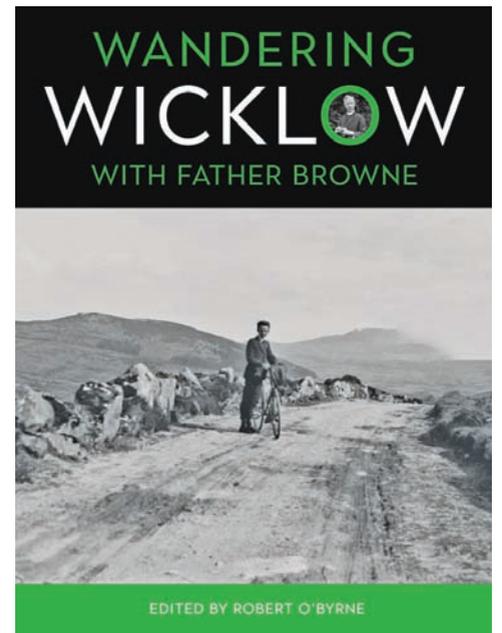
A new book brings us fresh perspectives on Co. Wicklow. *Wandering Wicklow with Father Browne* juxtaposes historic black-and-white photographs by Ireland's famous photographer, Francis Browne SJ, with modern colour photographs of the same locations, by Paula T Nolan.

An illuminating text by well-known writer and arts commentator, Robert O'Byrne, greatly enhances our understanding of Father Browne and his vision.

The book is designed as both a guidebook and a photobook. It is divided into some lovely day trips, and there is a guide map to help you on your way. Ideal for Covid restrictions, you can leaf through it to whet your appetite, and then tuck it under your arm as you head off when restrictions ease.

The images in the book illustrate both the beauty of the landscape and the history of the region. Accompanying the stunning photos of Dargle

Glen, Powerscourt Waterfall and Glendalough, Robert gives us an insight into the painterly nature of Browne's work. Images of Wicklow history cover such projects as the Poulaphouca Dam and the Solus Teoranta bulb factory in Bray. Everyday life is represented by people in Arklow waiting for a train during the 'Emergency', sheep-dipping in Glen of the Downs, the display in a hat shop in Wicklow and children on Bray promenade (look out for the extraordinarily similar photo of children in the same location in 2020). Robert O'Byrne is well known for his writing on great Irish houses and



Powerscourt, Kilrudeary, Shelton Abbey and others are beautifully represented.

A beautiful gift book, a guide book, a photography book and so much

more! *Wandering Wicklow with Father Browne* is published by Messenger Publications and priced at €19.95. It is being published on 12th October.

Grant for Beit Museum

Green Party TD Steven Matthews TD has welcomed the news that the Beit Museum in Russborough House and Parklands, Blessington, has been awarded €20,000 through the Audience Engagement Fund launched during the summer by Minister Catherine Martin.

The fund was available for application for not-for-profit small, regional and specialised museums that are not funded by the Arts Council or Fáilte Ireland.

Discussing the news, Deputy Matthews said: "The ongoing covid-19 pandemic has hit everyone extremely hard in different ways and often in ways you may not consider. Covid-19 has forced us to think differently about how we approach many things including local tourism. Footfall has dropped massively in museums and exhibition centres across Wicklow and not only does this impact on revenue, but it also means that people are missing out on the incredible tours and facilities that places like the Beit Museum offer.

"I know that this grant will be put to excellent use and it is my understanding that it will largely be used to digitise the current exhibition and make it available online. This will be an extraordinary resource that will have lasting benefits for the museum and its patrons long after this pandemic has been resolved", Deputy Matthews concluded.

Arts venues forced to shut their doors...again

A little over a month after re-opening, arts venues across Co. Wicklow have had to shut their doors once again until late October, in line with the latest Covid restrictions and the move up to 'Level 3'.

The Level 3 restrictions mean that Whale Theatre, the Mermaid Arts Centre, Signal Arts Centre, and The Courthouse Arts Centre will not be able to remain open while the Level 3 restrictions are in place.

Whale Theatre said "After 5 weeks of wonderful, uplifting performances at the theatre, we're very disappointed to announce that due to the Level 3 Covid-19 restrictions, all events up to and including 28th October are postponed until further notice.

"Ticket bookers have been contacted and we will confirm rescheduled dates as soon as possible. Tickets will be valid for new performance dates, and if you cannot attend on the new date you will be entitled to a full refund. If you have any questions, please contact ask@whaletheatre.ie. We hope to see you back at the theatre again soon!"

The Mermaid Arts Centre said "In line with

recent government announcements that all counties will move to Level 3 in the Living With Covid Plan, public events scheduled at Mermaid Arts Centre from 07/10 up to and including 27/10 will not go ahead as indoor gatherings are prohibited for the duration. We will endeavour to reschedule as many of these as possible - please bear with us as we work through it.

"Though we are sorry not to be able to welcome the public to gather together for the time being, the Mermaid team are still at work. Box office remains open and our team will be in touch with ticketholders of affected shows. Work continues behind the scenes with rescheduling events and facilitating artists to continue developing new work. Betelnut Café remains open for takeaway and limited outdoor dining. We're also continuing to plan events for the future, and we look forward to welcoming audiences back to the building as soon as public health guidelines allow it."

The Courthouse Arts Centre stated "We are continuing to plan for the future and are pleased to facilitate artists to continue with their new work. We thank you for your support and patience in these challenging times and hope to welcome you back once it is deemed safe to do so."

Mind Yourself: a mental health and wellbeing reading guide for children

The Covid-19 pandemic is a considerable source of worry for children and families, and young people are having to cope with big changes at home and at school. In response, Children's Books Ireland, in partnership with Jigsaw and ISPCC Childline, launched 'Mind Yourself - the Mental Health and Wellbeing Reading Guide' on Monday October 5th.

October 10th was World Mental Health Day - an international event that promotes mental health education and awareness. A recent UNICEF report found that children and young people in Ireland are struggling with their mental health, with Ireland placing 26th in the survey of 38 OECD countries when it comes to the mental wellbeing of children.

Books can provide comfort to readers during a difficult time and there is robust evidence to support this: reading for pleasure can have a positive effect on mental wellbeing, can build empathy in children and young people and is positively linked to better outcomes in later life.

The Mind Yourself reading guide is a resource that can be used by adults - parents, guardians, caregivers, teachers - to support and educate young people in relation to mental health and wellbeing. The guide contains reviews and recommendations of over 400 books for children and young people from birth to age eighteen and is designed as a 'first-aid kit' for worries, sadness, loneliness, anxiety and any

number of feelings that a young person may want to explore. Mind Yourself also contains mental health and wellbeing information from Jigsaw and ISPCC Childline, including tips and coping strategies for young people and advice for adults on supporting children to build resilience.

Dr Joseph Duffy, CEO of Jigsaw, said: "In Jigsaw we offer a listening ear, give expert mental health advice and support to young people, parents and guardians, and schoolteachers - and do our best to be there when young people need us most. But we know that there is always so much more that can be done. More young people we can reach. And to do so we need to work together as communities, as partners, and as friends. Working together with Children's Books Ireland on Mind Yourself - The Mental Health and Wellbeing Reading Guide is another creative way of doing this, of reaching and being there to support the mental health needs of even more young people across Ireland. We know from our Read Your

Mind project the power of reading as therapy in supporting mental health and wellbeing. The power of stories and words in helping guide and support both adults and young people. So, we are really excited to be part of this fantastic project."

The books recommended in Mind Yourself - The Mental Health and Wellbeing Reading Guide cover the following issues: Understanding feelings and emotions; Worry, stress and anxiety; Fears and phobias; Grief and loss; Sadness, low mood and depression; Relationship with self (self-esteem, loneliness, resilience, etc.); Relationships with others; Life-long conditions (living with chronic illness and disabilities); Body image and body positivity; Wellbeing (mindfulness, coping strategies, etc.)

Mind Yourself - The Mental Health and Wellbeing Reading Guide is available free of charge through every library authority in the Republic of Ireland. A digital version can be viewed or downloaded on www.childrensbooksireland.ie

GAA community to contribute to pictorial record of toughest ever season

AIB and the GAA's Official Photographers, Sportsfile have teamed up to create a picture book, *The Toughest Season*, and are looking for Gaelic Games communities nationwide to contribute with pictures of their own club and community from the past few months.

AIB's documentary and webisode series *The Toughest Summer* celebrated the strength and resilience of the Gaelic Games community in the face of the challenges generated by the unprecedented halt to sport as well as the joy felt by so many as we returned to play.

The *Toughest Season* will provide an opportunity for the GAA community across the island of Ireland to have the experiences of their individual communities recorded for posterity. There are no strict criteria other than

images should reflect the special place occupied by Gaelic Games in Irish society and the role they play in helping to make our communities stronger.

The book will consist of a combination of the images received from the public alongside those taken by Sportsfile from January up until Friday October 23rd. Fans can submit their photos by uploading them to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using #TheToughest. The book will be published in November with the pro-

ceeds going to AIB Together's partner charities, Pieta House, Food Cloud, Soar, Alone and Age NI & Age UK.

Ray McManus, Photographer & Founder of Sportsfile, commented "We in Sportsfile have been taking pictures of Gaelic Games for almost 40 years. We have worked with AIB for more than 30 years stretching back to the beginning of their sponsorship of the AIB GAA All-Ireland Club Championships and more recently, of the GAA All-

Ireland Senior Football Championship. We are delighted to partner with them on *The Toughest Season*. This year, unlike any other, has reminded us of the significant contribution Gaelic Games makes to Irish life on and off the pitch and that this is to be both cherished and celebrated. The *Toughest Season* will do just that and we in Sportsfile are delighted to play a part. "Be inspired by watching 'The Toughest Summer' documentary now on AIB's YouTube channel.



Knockananna Senior Camogie team players Jessie Byrne and Shannagh Goetelen celebrate winning the Senior Camogie Championship after beating Donard the Glen in Arklow.

Brittas Bay national school wins 'green' jerseys

Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara in Brittas Bay have won 24 sports jerseys for their school from sustainable sportswear brand, Wolfhound and Elk. The jerseys which are made from 100% recycled materials were won in an online competition by a parent of children in the school, Elaine Parsons.

She said "When I saw the Wolfhound and Elk competition advertised online, I knew that it would be a perfect fit for our school in Brittas Bay. The school is always driving home the importance of the environment to the children - whether that be through their Pure Mile initiatives, the school garden - where nothing is wasted - or even the school's green waste recycling art exhibits that are run every year. So, I entered the competition immediately and was delighted to hear that I won."

Wolfhound and Elk is an Irish, family-owned company that produces environmentally friendly sportswear. Founder and CEO of

the brand, Stephen Daly said "We were thrilled to announce Brittas Bay National School as one of our winners. It is a great fit for our brand. At Wolfhound and Elk, we are very proud of our finished products, but even more so where they came from, who made them and what they are made from. We make everything from recycled materials like plastic bottles or fishing nets, our fabric is sourced in Europe and all manufacturing takes place in the EU - to ensure a low carbon footprint. We look forward to hearing of many wins for Brittas Bay in their brand-new kit!"

Commenting on the win, Eileen Byrne, Principal of the

school said, "We are thrilled to have won these jerseys for the school. They are beautifully designed and are super quality and we're even happier to wear them in the knowledge that they are made from 100% recycled materials - which is in line with our ethos here in Brittas Bay National School. As a coastal school, we are part of the Green Schools Programme and are very aware of the impact of waste on the environment and we instill pride of the environment into all of our children here at Scoil Réalt na Mara. We will be very proud to have our students don the "green" jersey on the pitch at our next match!"



Pictured left to right are Eileen Byrne, Principal of Scoil Réalt na Mara, Brittas Bay, pupils Susan Howe and Thomas Howe, and their mother, Elaine Parsons, Brittas Bay.

A Man for All Seasons

John Scally's new book *The People's Games: A GAA Compendium* is a celebration of the magic of the GAA through the stories of some of the people who populate it. Among their number is former Wicklow manager Mick O'Dwyer. Scally writes:

He is of a generation that trusts their eyes. They can tell what's coming by lifting their faces towards the sky and seeing the formation of the clouds.

Mick O'Dwyer is universally acknowledged as the greatest Gaelic football manager of all time because of his achievements of winning eight All-Irelands with Kerry, two Leinster finals with Kildare and a Leinster final with Laois.

In 2007 he marked the occasion of his seventieth birthday by becoming manager of Wicklow, where yet again he sprinkled his magic dust. Despite a rare health setback, O'Dwyer continued to coach the squad during the summer of 2007 and transformed them from being ranked the second-worst team in the country to the dizzy heights of a place in the top twelve in 2009. He did so using a simple philosophy believing what is complicated is rarely useful and what is useful is rarely complicated.

Pat Spillane was impressed.

"Wicklow had been waiting for a taste of success for a long time. So the odds were against Micko from the start. I was not at all surprised though that he did something with them. He even brought them to a Tommy Murphy Cup. Okay so there were some smart alecs who dismissed it as the Tommy Cooper Cup. Fair enough I admit that I was that smart ass!"

"I have heard it said that what Micko did with Wicklow ranks as his greatest achievement in management. That is a huge claim but it is one that has some merit. To turn them into a team that were in the top 12 in the country must rank as the GAA's equivalent of the ugly duckling who was turned into a swan. I take my hat off to him."

Few people are better equipped than Spillane to explain why Micko brought such success to Wicklow.

"Micko is old school. I love that about him. Forgive me if I'm cynical but I come from a county where success is delivering a trophy at the end of the day and anything less than winning the trophy is failure. It sums up the psyche of Kerry footballers is that second best is not tolerated. When you do tolerate second best you accept failure that much easier. Mick O'Dwyer is someone who is never happy to be second best and he brought some of the mentality to Wicklow."

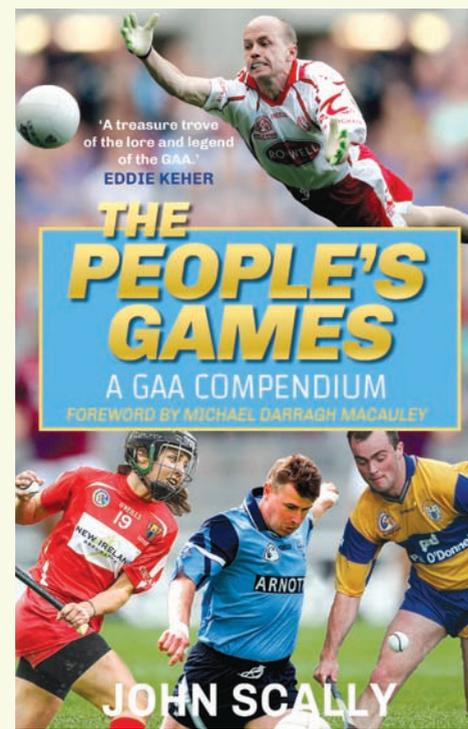
There were rumours that O'Dwyer was making a 'tidy sum' for providing his services to Wicklow. Pat Spillane was having none of it.

"Nonsense. We all know that payment to managers goes strictly against the GAA's amateur ethos! Of course nothing is more sacred than that! I must point out to you that managers in the GAA only get expenses!"

"In recent years the GAA's relationship with amateurism has been riddled with hypocrisy. Despite the spate of rumours that have bedevilled the GAA in recent years about payments to managers, the Association has been powerless to act because of absence of proof. Former president Peter Quinn famously observed that while there were many claims that managers were being paid under the table, the GAA couldn't even find the tables!"

"I am reminded of the story of the time a large amount of money goes missing. There are four named suspects: the local bishop; the poor GAA manager; the tooth fairy and the Easter Bunny. The gardai arrest the bishop. Why? The other three are figments of the imagination."

John Scally's book *The People's Games: A GAA Compendium* is available in all good bookshops now.





Pat Dennigan, CEO of Focus Ireland and Dave Kirwan, Managing Director of Bord Gáis Energy are calling on business leaders and companies across the country to support Shine a Light Night 2020 on October 16th.

Business community called on to join virtual sleep-outs

Focus Ireland and Bord Gáis Energy are calling on business leaders and companies across Wicklow to participate in Shine a Light Night 2020 on October 16th - giving one night to help raise much needed funds for vital homelessness services.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, Wicklow's business community has the option to host virtual sleep-outs in their own homes, gardens and safe private spaces in line with government restrictions surrounding Covid-19.

Corporate support for Shine a Light Night is more important this year than ever due to an increase in demand for Focus Ireland's services in recent months since the Covid-19 outbreak. This demand is expected to continue growing as the economic impact of the virus hits the country and impacts on the 8,728 people currently homeless in Ireland, including 2,651 children and 1,142 families in emergency accommodation. As a result,

Focus Ireland supported by Bord Gáis Energy hope that the virtual sleep-out option will make Shine a Light Night safe and accessible to as many businesses and employees as possible.

In 2020, Focus Ireland's Shine a Light campaign, which is proudly supported by Bord Gáis Energy, is aiming to raise €1.3 million on Shine a Light Night, with Ireland's business community helping to raise the vast majority of this.

This year however, Wicklow residents can also get involved in the initiative within their homes and host their own sleep-outs to shine a light on homelessness in Ireland. Since the event began in 2012, Shine A Light Night has raised over €5.3m for people experiencing homelessness in Ireland. In 2019, the support of Bord Gáis Energy as sponsors enabled Focus Ireland to help over 14,200 people.

For further information on Shine A Light Night 2020 and to register for a virtual sleep-out visit www.focusireland.ie/shinealight.

Don't ignore Brexit - Change is coming January 2021

Although the Covid 19 pandemic may have pushed Brexit off the front pages, the reality is that the UK officially left the EU on 31st January 2020 and October represents the 9th month of the 11-month transition period. The net effect of this is that in trading terms, the UK will then be considered a "third country".

A "third country" refers to any country outside the EU, and in this case outside its economic structures - the single market and the customs union. Businesses in a third country have to fill in customs declarations, for example, when they import from and export to the EU - whether there is a trade agreement or not.

To help Wicklow based businesses deal with the looming Brexit threat, Local Enterprise Office Wicklow have increased their Brexit supports with a number of customs training programmes and mentoring services to help clients navigate through the challenge Brexit poses to their business.

A 'Prepare Your Business for Customs' course will take place over 3 days commencing on the 17th November 2020. Some of the issues that businesses will face from a Customs and Trade perspective will be covered. They include: Customs Duty; Import VAT; Border Delays; Additional Costs e.g. Clearance Agents, etc.; Additional Documentation e.g. Import and Export Documentation, etc.; New Procedures e.g. How and when to lodge import and export SADs, etc.; New Licenses.

Different issues will impact on each sector in a slightly different way. This course will enable companies to understand both Revenue rules in Ireland and HMRC rules in the UK. It will also cover the post Brexit simplifications being introduced by both Authorities and how to apply for these. This course can be booked here: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Prepare-Your-Business-for-Customs-Workshop-17-18-19-11-2020.html>

LEO Wicklow are running Brexit Mentoring Clinics on the following dates, Thursday 22nd October 2020 and Wednesday 3rd December 2020. These Brexit clinics provide you with the opportunity to meet with customs consultant, Michael McGill, to discuss the particular circumstances for your business with regard to the documentary and procedural requirements that need to be put in place to ensure that your business can continue to trade with the UK post Brexit. These clinics can be booked here: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

Michael is a retired Customs Officer, based in Dublin who has worked in the Irish Customs Service for over 42 years. While employed in the

Irish Customs he has developed a deep knowledge of all Customs procedures and worked in all areas of customs including trade facilitation, investigations, and law enforcement. He has provided expert advice to Irish business on a variety of Customs issues. He now has a particular focus on providing advice to importers and exporters on Brexit related matters and on AEO programmes.

Two designated Brexit advisors are available to meet with businesses to explore how businesses can best prepare their business and to point them to the practical steps they need to take now. To avail of this support please email: enterprise@leo.wicklowco.ie requesting to meet with a Brexit advisor.

Thirdly, a virtual "Are You Brexit Ready?" event is taking place on the 21st of October 2020. There will be a series of online talks on issues critical to your business; key topics will include an update on the Brexit negotiations, the effect on trade with Great Britain and Northern Ireland, an overview of customs procedures and requirements, logistics, importing goods etc. A number of companies will also give a perspective on their preparations to date. Highlighting challenges faced and actions taken. This event can be booked here: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Donegal/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/Are-You-BREXIT-ready-Free-Online-Event.html>

Head of Enterprise at LEO Wicklow Vibeke Delahunt added, "there are many practical steps that businesses should take without delay. If you are a trader who imports or exports goods within the European Union you will need an Economic Operators Registration and Identification (EORI) Number and you should ensure that you are clear about the binding tariff that applies to your goods, you should familiarise yourself with Customs procedures and take a holistic view of how Brexit may impact your business across all areas including supply chain, finance, client management and market growth and development. The Local Enterprise office are here to help guide Businesses through this turbulent period, so please look at the supports on our website or email our office directly to see how we can help your business. Our phone is 0404 30800 and email: enterprise@leo.wicklowco.ie"

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Volkswagen's Pure Electric ID.3

Volkswagen has a special place in the heart of Irish motorists. In the late 1940's, a brave Waterfordman of Aran Islands heritage, Stephen O'Flaherty, having packed in his job at Ford of Cork, decided that post war Ireland would suit the cars that were starting to be made in the rebuilt factories emerging from rubble in Wolfsburg, Northern Germany.

By Martin McCarthy

Volkswagen has a special place in the heart of Irish motorists. In the late 1940's, a brave Waterfordman of Aran Islands heritage, Stephen O'Flaherty, having packed in his job at Ford of Cork, decided that post war Ireland would suit the cars that were starting to be made in the rebuilt factories emerging from rubble in Wolfsburg, Northern Germany.

get quicker than one might expect. In 1950 O'Flaherty set up an assembly line in Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge. VW could



barely keep up with demand for the Beetle, all through the fifties, as the clever, easy to maintain, air cooled machine with bulletproof Bosch electrics, was ideally suited to counties like Wicklow, where the roads were not great and the car was a life line for hard working rural families.

Meanwhile, O'Flaherty had proved that German products could sell in the UK and he sold on the UK franchise to make the first of a number of fortunes.

In 1974 the first VW Golf's arrive, again the Irish public instantly took to this game changer on which the future of Wolfsburg depended. Today in 2020, the future of VW is being bet on a purpose designed and manufactured electric car - that aspires to tackle the big stumbling block on electric car take up - the showroom price. The ID3.

A brand new factory has been built in Zwickau and the first pre production demo version came here briefly in February where we saw them at Weston Aerodrome, near Celbridge. There was significant pre-selling to "early adopters" so when the first major consign-

ments arrived in last month, the entire lot was snapped up and amazingly the ID 3 became the best-selling car in the Ireland, in September!

The Volkswagen ID.3 was the top-selling model in Ireland, with 4.19 per cent of the market in September, with 238 ID.3 models registered during the month. Volkswagen was also the top-selling brand in Ireland in September with 12.88 per cent market share, according to figures from SIMI.

VW's hopes for the future are pinned to the ID3, so if it ends up performing like the original Beetle and the Golf, there will be little to worry about as transportation moves over to a more electric future.

The ID.3 1st is available now in three trim levels - the 1st, 1st Plus and 1st Max. Private buyer are eligible for a VRT Rebate of 5,000, plus an SEAI grant of 5,000 meaning a starting price of 32,915 for a private buyer. The 'entry-level' ID.3 1st is itself anything but entry-level, with 18" alloy wheels, Discover Pro Navigation system, 2-Zone Air Conditioning and Adaptive Cruise Control amongst the standard equipment.



Network Ireland president Louise Ahean with her husband Mark Kellet at the Network Ireland National Conference and Businesswoman of the Year Awards virtual event which was held in Powerscourt Hotel, Enniskerry

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplansdesign.com) Seeks planning permission for demolition of existing extension to rear and proposed single storey extension to dwelling, new entrance in lieu of existing entrance, and associated works at Carrig Cottage, Milltown Lane, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow for R. and M. Monahan. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Justin Foley, seek Planning Permission for construction of (1) a 33sqm garage extension to side of existing house with extended roof overhang to front of house and (2) a 10sqm first floor bedroom extension over existing living room to rear of house, at 15 Druids Avenue, Druids Glen Golf Resort, Woodstock, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

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.B.

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry 'The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.' At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' But they replied, 'There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves.' They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. 'Lord, Lord,' they said 'open the door for us.' But he replied, 'I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.' So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour' C.J.

RECRUITMENT



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Health Service Executive

Community Healthcare East, Social Care for Older Persons
Have the following vacancies

Temporary Full & Part Time Multi Task Attendant
Required to work with the HSE Residential Services for Older Persons, rotating between services in Wicklow Town and Rathdrum. The role of the Multi-Task Attendant is to support a multidisciplinary team to provide assistance as required, including the Delivery of Care, Escorting and Supporting Residents and Cleaning/ Kitchen Duties.

Temporary Part Time Bus Drivers (D licence)
To support HSE Day Care Services for Older People in Wicklow Town and Rathdrum.

Chef
Required to work with the HSE Residential Services for Older Persons, rotating between services in Wicklow Town and Rathdrum.

Please contact May Kavanagh Director of Nursing,
St. Colman's Residential Care Centre,
may.kavanagh@hse.ie / telephone 0404 46109 ext 204/220
to talk to May about these positions.

Closing Date for Applications: Friday 30th October 2020

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