



SEA RESCUE
page 6



WORLD TOILET DAY
page 9



SCHOLARSHIP
page 18

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SCHOOL PLACES CRISIS LOOMS

A crisis of secondary school places is looming for Greystones Municipal District as many students learned last week that they have not secured a school place in Greystones Community College, which has been able to accept only about half of students that applied for 2021. John Brady TD said that the crisis of school places is not unique to Greystones but is a county-wide issue. "There are thousands of pupils crammed into overcrowded schools throughout the county," he said.

Speaking last week, Social Democrats Spokesperson for Children, Deputy Whitmore has said "yet again, students in Greystones will have the stress and worry of not having a school place readily available to them. This is symptomatic of a Department that has not addressed the current capacity of secondary schools in order to meet the demand for places in the area and is just not good enough."

"Greystones Community College (GCC) have this week sent out letters to parents detailing whether their children will have a place in the next 2021-2022 school year. While many will be delighted to be accepted, there will be many more who will be equally disappointed. Despite receiving over 180 applications, GCC will only be able to offer 96 places. And this is contingent on them moving into the new school in Charlesland which will cater to more than is currently on offer."

"Coláiste Chraobh Abhann in Kilcoole could also have difficulties meeting demand for places with temporary accommodation measures in place and an extension planned, but not yet delivered."

"This was a major issue for Kilcoole, Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy and Roundwood students this last year, and it is likely to be an issue again in September 2021. While these figures may change over the course of the next few months, the question



The Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services 'Light Up A Life' event will not take place at Harold's Cross this year for the first time in its 28-year history. The event will take the form of a virtual ceremony this year due to Covid-19. Pictured launching Light Up A Life, the annual Christmas appeal at Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services in Harold's Cross is four-year-old Doireann Brophy with Staff Nurse Gilda Jalop and Healthcare Assistant Mary Ruane. See page 8 for details

remains where those school children who were not offered a place, are going to go?

"It is imperative that the Minister for Education acts now. The Department must proceed with the purchase of the land on the new site in Charlesland earmarked for the new secondary school building. Failing that, the Department must CPO the land if they cannot come to an agreement with the Developer. Discussions have been ongoing with regard to the purchase of this land for a considerable period - it is now time for the Department to finalise those discussions one way or another. Then, once the land is secured by the Department, portacabins can be put in place on a temporary basis, which would resolve the issue in the short term. And this would enable the Department to quickly

move to a design and build stage for the new building. Until the land is secured, the school will be in a limbo situation - which is not acceptable."

"This has gone on for far too long and I do not want to see a situation where a whole cohort of young people are not facilitated to learn in their local area. I will be pushing very hard on the Minister to respond to this urgent issue and address the situation before a crisis ensues. I have asked that this issue be discussed in the Dáil as soon as possible" concluded Deputy Whitmore.

Also speaking on the issue was local SocDems Councillor Jodie Neary who said "parents and children will need certainty if they were not successful in getting a secondary school place."

Continued on page 7

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Siblings Jess and Finn Walker helped to launch Trócaire's Christmas 'Gifts of Love' for 2020 in Rathangan. This year the Irish charity has added a new gift aimed at helping them respond to the Covid-19 crisis. The 'quarantine care kit' will help families in 17 countries during the global pandemic. There are 17 Trócaire gifts to choose from, such as chicks, beehives and solar lamps, ranging in price from €5 to €1000. The gifts can be purchased online at trocaire.org/gifts or by calling 1850 408 408.

Nature writing competition

Wicklow County Council Library Service is running a nature writing competition for children. Children aged 3-5 are asked to submit a drawing; 5-6 year olds can submit a drawing or poem; 7-9 year olds can submit a 150-200-word essay, story, sketch, monologue, duologue, a poem, a video reading your piece or acting it out, or a 5-page manga or graphic novel type story. 10-13 year olds can submit a 200-350 word essay, story, sketch, monologue, duologue, a poem, a video reading your piece or acting it out, or a 5-7-page Manga or graphic novel type story. Submission is by email to: Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie with 'Nature Writing' in the subject head. Alternatively, mail to: Attn: Nature Writing Wicklow Public Library, Kilmantain Hill Wicklow Town. If you have any questions please email Wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie or call: 0404-67025.

Prizes will be given out for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The deadline for submissions is Monday 7th December.

Christmas lights in Greystones

The Greystones Christmas lights will be switched on in a special online event on 21st November. There will be a wide range of online activities for young and old alike: How to Make

White Chocolate Snowmen; Christmas Biscuit Making and Decorating for Children; Christmas Entertaining at Home Workshop; Live Streaming of the Switch on of the Greystones Lights; Santa's Post Box; Twelve Days of Christmas; Think Local Shop Local; Light Up Christmas Programme.

Lands disposed at Shanganagh for housing development

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the Land Development Agency have welcomed the decision of the Elected Members to approve the disposal of part of the lands at Shanganagh to the Land Development Agency, for the development of 306 cost-rental homes.

A total of 597 new homes will be developed on the site, including 200 social and 91 affordable sale. The development is currently the largest social and affordable scheme with planning permission in Ireland.

The site occupies approximately 9 hectares adjacent to Shanganagh Castle, Shanganagh Park and Castle Farm and will be within 10 minutes' walk of the proposed DART station at Woodbrook and BusConnects route on the nearby Dublin Road (N11).

The procurement process to appoint a contractor will commence in the New Year.

Wind Farm consultation

Cllr Derek Mitchell is urging people to have their say on the proposed Dublin Array Wind Farm. "The huge Dublin Array turbines, at 300m 50% higher than Poolbeg chimneys, are to be close to shore, 9km from the coast. The photomontages of this are on their site <https://dublinarray.com/> until 20th November and they are seeking feedback. I urge people to view this and give their views," said Cllr Mitchell.

"The Dublin Array photomontages should be changed to include all windfarms off the coast. The combined visual effect is described as 'adverse' and 'significant' from Greystones. The whole seascape horizon will be windmills. There is also no economic benefit for Greystones. The Dublin Array should be shortened by 10km so the southern end is at the north side of Bray Head thus breaking this long line of turbines off Greystones & Bray Head."

Roundwood Historical Society launch their Historic Journal No.29

Roundwood Historical Society has announced the launch of their annual Historical Journal, the 29th in the series since the Society was launched in 1987.

The Award winning poet, Jane Clarke, officially launched the Journal on Saturday, 14th November.

Owing to COVID19 restrictions the Journal was launched this year via video on the Society's website www.roundwoodhistoricalsociety.ie also on their facebook page - facebook.com/roundwoodhistoricalsociety/

The Journal contains many interesting articles on local history, heritage, folklore and archaeology. Local poets are also featured, including a poem - The Pit Ponies of Glendasan - by Jane Clarke recalling the mining heritage of the Glendasan, Glendalough and Glenmalur Valleys.

Featured this year are seventeen articles, all by local people, ranging from Bee Keeping in County Wicklow to The Golden Jubilee of Moneystown Church, Life at Darcy's Forge and a fascinating insight to the life of the All Ireland ploughing champion, Peter Byrne. The Journal, priced €10, will be on sale at the following outlets from Saturday, 14th November

Roundwood - Keeley's Hardware, Centra, Keith Grant Butchers, Sugar Mountain Cafe.; Laragh - Mc Coy's Store and Filling Station; Newtown - The Post Office and Eugene's Stores; Wicklow - Bridge Street Bookshop.

The Journal can also be purchased at www.roundwoodhistoricalsociety.ie

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Greystones Studios launch Christmas card competition

Help Greystones Studios to design a Christmas Card and you could win a socially distanced magical elf visit plus printed cards with your design to send to your family and friends!

To celebrate the recent launch of their brand-new website, Greystones Studios have teamed up with Genie Mackers to offer a truly amazing prize - a magical elf visit, appearing right outside your house!

All you need to do is design and send us your Christmas Card based on the theme of "A Magical Greystones Christmas". You can draw it on paper, design it on a computer or even get creative with seashells, glitter, leaves or whatever else you can think of!

You can send your finished card design

by email to nikki@whaletheatre.ie or by post to Christmas Card Competition, Greystones Studios, Theatre Lane, Greystones Co. Wicklow. Don't forget to include your name, age and a contact phone number on the back of your design so we can get in touch with the winner!

If your design is chosen as the winning Christmas Card, you can expect a very special visit from the Genie Mackers Magical Elves (Greystones Studios will call you to arrange this!) plus 50 printed copies of your very own Christmas Card to send Christmas wishes to your loved ones!

The closing date for entries is Monday 30th November and the winner will be announced on Thursday 3rd December!

Please visit www.greystonesstudios.ie for more information and check out www.geniemackers.com to see their incredible Elf Visits!



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Contacts:
Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - shay@localtimes.ie
Ian Colgan, News Editor - ian@localtimes.ie
General enquiries - info@localtimes.ie

Planning application for 7-storey telecommunications tower at Brittas Bay

There's concern among residents of Brittas Bay following the lodging of a planning application to erect a 24-metres high telecommunications tower at Rock Farm, just over a kilometre from Brittas Bay beach. The application has been lodged with Wicklow County Council by Vantage Towers Ltd, a company formed by Vodafone to manage its tower assets.

The proposed development would include the 24m high lattice telecommunications support structure, together with antennas, dishes, and associated telecommunications equipment all enclosed in security fencing. The development would also facilitate site sharing with more operators in the future.

Public submissions can be made up to December 3rd, and the Council is due to make a decision by January 2nd, 2021.

"Vantage holds responsibility for developing new sites on behalf of Vodafone Ireland to meet its coverage requirements such as is the case in this subject planning application," the cover letter of the planning application states.

The cover letter adds that Vodafone has a requirement to significantly improve its service provision in Brittas Bay after its key transmitting site there

(McDaniel's pub and holiday home complex) was decommissioned in 2019.

Since then, a temporary mobile mast has been in place. Vantage Towers wishes to keep the temporary mobile mast in place until planning permission for the new permanent structure is granted.

The cover letter states that the loss of this telecommunications site has resulted in an upsurge in complaints to Vodafone from residents and businesses and managers of community facilities in the Brittas Bay area, as it's been a struggle to meet basic coverage requirements.

Sites such as The Beach Hut and Brittas Bay Car park were considered before selecting Rock Farm for the new proposed tower.

"No other identified potential mast location can offer the same technical solution as the applica-

tion site at Rock Farm," the cover letter states.

With regards to Brittas Bay, Wicklow County Council's Development Plan states that "no development will be permitted that has an adverse impact on the environmental and ecological quality of the Proposed Natural Heritage Area (PNHA), or candidates for Special Areas of Conservation (CSAC) in the area. Applicants will be required to demonstrate beyond all reasonable doubt that a proposed development does not, beyond all reasonable doubt, adversely impact on the integrity of a designated area."

The cover letter maintains that "the proposed development is not situated within a PNHA or a CSAC and neither its operations nor its construction will have any impact on the environmental and ecological land categories."

The letter argues that the visual impact of the proposed structure will not be significant: "it is a lattice structure that allows light filtration, that can blend into the blues, greys, and clouds of the skyline. It is located on agricultural land some 850m off the R750 and distant from residential areas and recreational amenities."

"The applicant sees no other solution and certainly no more balanced solution to the coverage and landscape considerations than to permit the application structure at this location. Given the context of poor existing 3G and 4G availability in the Brittas Bay environs as demonstrated both by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and Comreg websites it is clear that the status quo shall persist without investment in infrastructure."

Harris hosts meeting for Delgany residents on Convent site proposal

Minister Simon Harris hosted an online meeting last Wednesday evening for Delgany residents over the new plans lodged with An Bord Pleanála for the Convent site in Delgany Village. Over 150 Delgany residents were in attendance at the meeting.

Minister Harris said "I was delighted to see so many residents actively engage on such an important issue for the future of our community. A major planning application like this requires a lot of detailed study and I would like to thank Delgany residents Alice O'Donnell and Aileen Lennon along with my colleague Cllr Derek Mitchell for the detailed presentation they gave residents at the meeting".

The presentation to the meeting outlined

the various aspects of the planning application including density, roads, amenities and the new community/cultural centre proposed and how all of this would impact on Delgany Village.

Minister Harris added "This planning application is direct to An Bord Pleanála and people wishing to make a submission to the board have until November 24th to do so. I wanted to ensure Delgany residents have the maximum amount of information regarding

the plans lodged with An Bord Pleanála.

"A wide variety of issues were raised by residents at the meeting, from traffic management to the protection of the character and heritage of Delgany Village. It is important the residents take a look at this planning application and make their views known. If you would like a copy of the presentation at the meeting please contact my office at 012813727 or simon.harris@oireachtas.ie," concluded Minister Harris.

Action needed as 1,271 people are waiting for driving test

Sinn Féin TD John Brady last week called for Minister Eamon Ryan to take decisive action to tackle the massive driving test backlog.

Deputy John Brady's comments come as the Road Safety Authority (RSA) confirmed to Sinn Féin that there are now 1271 learner drivers waiting for a test in Wicklow, and over 90,000 people waiting across the state.

Deputy Brady said "The RSA has confirmed to me that there are now 93,791 people waiting

for a driving test, with some constituents telling me they will be forced to wait well into 2021 for a test date.

"This issue has been deteriorating all year. Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan has failed to take decisive action to tackle the growing backlog. In fact, the number of people waiting for a test has increased by

70% since June of this year.

"With public transport down to 25% capacity and sharing of lifts now not feasible due to Covid, this is causing massive problems for people who need a licence to get to work. It's a huge issue for people in rural Ireland, where public transport simply isn't an option.

"The problem is particularly bad in our own county, with 1271 learner drivers waiting for a test in Wicklow's testing



John Brady TD

centre. In addition, the driver theory test has been suspended until

early December, causing further delays for those needing to learn to drive.

"There is a clear need for additional driving instructors and testers. Likewise, longer opening hours and weekend tests would go some way to address the lengthening backlog. The Minister needs to urgently consult with instructors, testers and their unions to find a way forward to accelerate the number of tests that can be carried out safely over the coming months."



Pictured are Leo and Mary Hennigan from Wicklow Town who celebrated their 85th and 81st birthdays during the recent lockdown

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Chris O'Shea, CEO of Clara Carbon

New Clara Carbon app teams up with the Wicklow Wolf

Clara Carbon the brand new app, based out of Greystones has launched with a bang. The app enables people, everywhere, to fight climate change every day, by offsetting the carbon footprint of their purchases at an affordable cost.

Clara Carbon contains a list of over 200 every day products and actions. The app informs customers what the carbon impact of their purchase is and how much it costs to offset that against sustainable, certified carbon reduction projects here in Ireland and across the globe.

The exciting news is that Clara Carbon have teamed up with The Wicklow Wolf Brewing company. They've put a QR code on the packaging of their latest Locavore 2020 beer. Now, Wicklow Wolf customers can scan the QR code to offset the carbon impact of their beer... for FREE!

"We are so excited to work with a progressive, well established company such as Wicklow Wolf. Clara Carbon wants to enable everyone, everywhere, to fight climate change, so working with local, sustainable companies like the Wicklow Wolf is of huge importance to us," said Chris O'Shea, CEO of Clara Carbon.

For more information, please contact Léonie Khan on 087 6063288, email leonie.khan@claracarbon.com or visit www.claracarbon.com

€6.4 million for Blessington Greenway

Funding of €6.4 million is to be allocated to the Blessington Loop Greenway, it was announced last week. It's expected when the project is completed in 2022 the full 42km route will attract almost 500,000 people to the area per annum.

The latest round of funding will see the 6.5km route to Russborough House upgraded.

In total the entire scheme is expected to cost €15million when it's finished and will take in the towns of Vallemount, Ballyknockan and Lacken.

The announcement was made by Minister Eamon Ryan, T.D. Minister of Transport, and Hildegard Naughton, T.D. Minister of State, and the funding is part of over E60m which is to be allocated to greenway projects across the country.

Announcing the allocations Minister Ryan T.D. said "I am delighted to be able to confirm that the allocation of €63.5m to Greenways for 2021 is the highest single year amount ever allocated to Greenways. Indeed, it nearly equals the total amount originally allocated for the 4 years 2018-2021 (€53m) and shows the commitment of this Government to providing a step-change in the way in which we fund walking and cycling."

Minister of State Hildegard Naughton said "The allocations of €63.5 million being made

today will go a long way in delivering a safe and sustainable environment for active travel in our villages, towns and cities. We are funding the construction of a Greenway bridge across the River Shannon in Athlone as part of the Galway to Dublin Greenway. This investment will support even greater numbers enjoying our outdoors by cycling and walking for school, work and leisure.

We are also supporting the roll-out of a new Safe Routes to School Initiative. This programme will seek to accelerate the delivery of improved walking and cycling infrastructure to schools; enhance sustainable access onto school grounds; and expand the amount of cycle parking available at schools. Underpinning this new initiative, we will see almost €1 million per day spent on our walking and cycling infrastructure in the year 2021. 2021 is only the start, we will continue to build on this level of investment over the coming years."

Minister Simon Harris TD has welcomed the news that

€6,400,000 been allocated by the government towards the Blessington Greenway.

Minister Harris said "The allocation of €63.5m to Greenways in Ireland for 2021 is the highest single yearly amount ever allocated nationally to Greenways. This is the first step in the new government's commitment to the massive expansion of funding towards walking and cycling. I would like to pay tribute to everyone in the Blessington Town Team who have brought the project to this stage."

"I am committed to the roll out of a county wide network of Greenways across Wicklow that will not only improve Wicklow's tourism offering in the years ahead but link our towns and villages providing an alternative safe route for cyclist and pedestrian local traffic."

"I am to meet the Minister for Transport to discuss how the government's expanded budget for cycling and walking can support Greenway initiatives being developed as rapidly as possible across county Wicklow".

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has said the €6.4million funding for the Blessington Loop will transform the region.

"I have been a huge supporter of this scheme so am absolutely thrilled to see the funding come through this year," said Minister Donnelly. I would also like to congratulate the Blessington Town Team for the immense work they have done over the past decade to get this project across the line.

"It's also worth mentioning the support the ESB who are the landowners have given to this project. When it is completed it will be a massive tourist attraction which will give the local economy a massive boost. It's estimated it could attract as many as half a million people to the area each year. And the fantastic thing about the Loop is that it will be completely accessible."

"It's through schemes like these this Government is helping to transform the lives of people living not just in Wicklow but across the country".

Arklow singer receives Veronica Dunne Bursary award

Karla Tracey from Arklow was one of six young Irish opera singers awarded an inaugural Veronica Dunne Bursary at a competition held over the weekend in MoLi - Museum of Literature Ireland.

The Veronica Dunne Bursary awarded its inaugural opera bursaries to six young singers to help mentor and support them in developing their future singing careers. Singers who were also awarded bursaries are: Ava Dodd, Carolyn Holt, Aebh Kelly, Anna Helena MacLachlan and Jade Phoenix.

Veronica Dunne, doyenne of Irish opera and acclaimed teacher, whose cherished dream has been to establish this bursary, said: "We're excited about this initiative which we've created to develop the potential of our young singers. We look forward to mentoring them in vocal and technical training, and to help guide them towards achieving their particular career goals."

Ms. Dunne added: "I want this bursary to be my legacy to future young Irish stars of opera."

The Veronica Dunne Bursary was established in 2020 with funding from the Department of Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht. A bursary fund totalling €15,000 has now been awarded to these six successful competitors. The competition was open to singers born on or after February 1st 1989, who live in Ireland or abroad, and to singers of any nationality who are resident or studying in Ireland.

Diarmuid Hegarty, President of Griffith College and Chairman of the Veronica Dunne Bursary committee, said: "On behalf of the Veronica Dunne Bursary committee, I welcome all the young competitors. We had a record number of applications to the bursary. The distinguished international jury was certainly impressed with the calibre of contestants. It is appropriate that Tara Erraught should sit on the jury panel as she has been such an exemplar to these young singers. I thank Tara, Mark Shanahan and Tobias Truniger for their advice and encouragement to our competitors."

Mr. Hegarty thanked Minister Catherine Martin for her commitment to the Arts. He added: "I know her Department will join with these singers in encouraging them to take full advantage of this bespoke programme to improve their skills and confidence in pursuing fulfilling and successful careers."

Singers applying for a bursary were asked, in the first instance, to submit an online application, comprising a recent video recording of two arias and a CV showing relevant training or experience. An artistic panel assessed the applications based on the standard of each recording and relevant experience.

The members of the international jury were Tara Erraught, Irish mezzo soprano, Mark Shanahan, conductor and Head of Music at London's National Opera Studio, and Tobias Truniger, Director of the Opera Studio, Bavarian State Opera.

The auditions were held in MoLI (Museum of Literature Ireland) in Dublin and were subject to current Government COVID-19 Level 5 restrictions.

Twenty six short-listed competitors were invited to compete in live rounds in front of the international jury on Saturday, November 7th.

For this 1st Round, competitors were required to sing two contrasting operatic arias. 10 competitors were selected to go through to the 2nd round on Sunday, November 8th. This final selection of the six successful competitors was based on an interview with the international jury and a performance of an aria.

The Veronica Dunne Bursary Committee gratefully acknowledges funding from the Department of Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht.



Karla Tracey from Arklow

Benville Robinson
SOLICITORS

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Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly meeting the Wicklow Frailty First Response Team at St Columcille's Hospital.

Frailty First Response Team reduce hospital visits by 90%

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has hailed the remarkable success of the Wicklow Frailty First Response Team in keeping patients out of hospital.

Since the scheme was introduced earlier this year with the aim of treating people in their homes it has far exceeded expectations.

The Wicklow Frailty First Response Team Project was initially established as a weekend Frailty First Response Team for low and moderate risk calls in Wicklow/South Dublin involving older people.

The project aims to shift care of older people with healthcare issues such as UTIs, falls and fractures from hospital environments to their own homes.

Initially, it was hoped that there would be a 50% reduction in the number of older people who had to

attend hospital following a 999 call.

However, the project has been a remarkable success, with over 90% of patients avoiding hospital visits and staying in the comfort of their own homes.

The project began as a weekend service in February 2020 but it expanded to a weekday service in April 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date they have carried out almost 1,200 patient visits.

It is funded through the Sláintecare Integration Fund, and is a joint initiative of St Vincent's Hospital (SVUH), St Columcille's Hospital, National Ambulance Service and General Practice.

Minister Donnelly said: "The success of the Team in reducing the numbers needing to be admitted to hospital has been absolutely phenomenal."

"One of the central focuses of our health strategy is to be able to treat more people in the community and to keep them out of the hospital system if at all possible."

"It was hoped the Team might be able to reduce admissions by as much as 50% but they have far exceeded that target."

"I would like to commend the whole team involved for showing just how well a system like this can work and proving without doubt it is going to play a key role in the future of our healthcare system."

Sewage spilling into Arklow and Avoca a 'national disgrace'

Raw sewage is being released into the environment from Arklow, according to the EPA report on Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2019, released last week. The report highlights that delays in upgrading treatment systems around the country are prolonging risks to the environment and public health.

There is currently no treatment plant serving Arklow and it is one of the 19 towns and cities in Ireland that did not meet the European Union's legally binding standards for wastewater treatment in 2019. Arklow is one of 35 locations around Ireland identified in the report where raw sewage is being released into the environment.

Avoca is also without a water treatment plant and both Arklow and Avoca are both areas which continue to release untreated waste water raw sewage into the environment as of the end of 2019.

Irish Water has repeatedly revised its plans and extended the timeframe to provide treatment for towns and villages including those that are discharging raw sewage.

However, Irish Water has now confirmed that land has been acquired and planning permission has been granted for the new treatment plant in Arklow. Works for the new Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant will begin next year subject to Ministerial Consent.

It is expected that works will take at least three years to complete. Plans to construct the Avoca Wastewater Treatment Plant are also progressing. When these works are complete this will bring to an end the historic discharge of raw

sewage into the Avoca River.

Together, these modern wastewater treatment plants will be able to treat wastewater for 37,100 people allowing for economic and social growth in the area, as well as safeguarding our water for the future.

Green Party TD Steven Matthews has said that he is 'disappointed but not surprised' by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) report.

Deputy Matthews said, "It is a national disgrace that raw sewage is being pumped into nearby watercourses across the country but hardly surprising given the chronic underinvestment in water infrastructure for decades."

"We are consistently failing to meet a commitment under the Water Framework Directive to achieve good status for our water bodies," he said.

"The main impacts on our water system are from diffuse agricultural runoff and point source wastewater treatment plants. It is well documented, it's well-researched and there are many reports to support that. There are also issues with combined sewer overflows in the urban network, illegal tapplings into urban surface water drainage networks."

"Forestry practice in



Steven Matthews TD

many locations is contributing to acidification of water and the presence of excessive organic matter is creating tri halo methane THMs in our drinking water supplies, there is also excessive nitrates in our water both of these chemical imbalances have serious impacts on human health the latter of which is of particular danger to infants. There are issues with septic tanks, their management and their impact on groundwater. Many towns which have poorly performing wastewater plants have been subject to development growth but where water services upgrades did not keep pace with that development. This is a fallout from poor planning and urban sprawl into greenfield areas.

"All of this points to decades of under investment in the water network

some of which dates back to Victorian installation. I have researched this area and have followed the Water Services Investment Programs from the 90s and 2000s and in my opinion, there has never been the attention and commitment from any government to provide adequate investment to maintain and improve the water network to the levels required.

"This Government needs to be the one that halts the decline and addresses the infrastructural deficit to provide clean, reliable and sufficient drinking water supplies."

"The EPA report also covers areas where there has been improvement and that is to be welcomed. In Wicklow we have recently carried out a major upgrade to the Victorian Varty water supply at Roundwood which is vital to Dublin and North Wicklow and I believe that the construction of the Arklow Waste Water treatment plant is soon to commence following the granting of the foreshore licence. When completed, untreated sewage will no longer be pumped into the water in Arklow. This will be less a cause for celebration and more the long overdue meeting of a very basic standard," Deputy Matthews concluded.

Swimmer rescued off Greystones coast

A woman was rescued by helicopter last Wednesday afternoon after she went swimming in stormy conditions at Greystones South Beach.

Seventeen-year-old Colaiste Chraobh Abhann student Conor Power, a trained lifeguard, happened to be passing by and heroically dived into the water when he spotted the woman in distress in the sea, over 50 feet from shore.

Greystones Coast Guard Unit stated "A female swimmer was caught in strong currents, rough water and was unable to return ashore. A passing lifeguard tried to assist her but conditions at the time were dangerous. He managed to get a life ring to her, before having to return to shore."

"Our boat was crewed and ready

to launch but conditions were at our maximum allowed and therefore it was decided that Rescue 116 would attempt to rescue her first, while our boat crew were on standby."

"Rescue 116 successfully rescued the female and landed on Greystones South Beach where she was handed over to NAS Paramedics. Both the lifeguard and the casualty were brought to St. Vincent's Hospital for assessment."

"This swimmer owes their life to the quick reactions of the passing lifeguard and speedy response of Rescue 116. Remember, if you see anyone you think may be in trouble on the sea, our beaches, rivers, lakes, cliffs, headlands or inland waterways, dial 112 and ask for the Coast Guard."

Conor is from Roundwood and is a member of Poseidon Lifesaving Club.



Local hero Conor Power

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Department bow to demands for action on Greystones school

Wicklow TDs met last Friday with senior officials in the Department of Education to convey to them the concerns of the students, staff and parents of Greystones Community National School in relation to the delay in the school moving into its new purpose built facility in Charlesland.



Minister Simon Harris

Speaking after the meeting, Minister Simon Harris said, "I took the opportunity to convey to the Department my deep frustration and that of the community at the lack of communication surrounding the delays in moving the school into its new building and the need for urgent progress on the situation.

"I am pleased to report four things arising from the meeting: 1) The Department has now agreed to appoint a conciliator with immediate effect to seek to resolve outstanding issues and concerns between the Department and the company constructing the school. This is a welcome step forward. 2) The Department has now agreed to provide proper and monthly updates to the school patron, the principal and the parents and students and staff. This is key because the information vacuum has been really adding to anxiety and worry for all. 3) The Department has clearly said they will get the school moved into the new building this school year. I will be continuing to monitor this closely and am not in any way complacent in this regard. 4) The Department will meet again with the Wicklow TDs in advance of the Christmas school break."

At the meeting, Minister Harris also highlighted major concern regarding secondary school places in Greystones, Kilcoole and across County Wicklow. The Department officials undertook to revert back on this in the next few weeks.

Minister Harris said, "We need to see delivery from the Department on major secondary school projects including a number of promised extensions and new school building projects. I will keep constituents updated on this over the next few weeks. I have also stressed the importance of providing technical rooms for our new secondary school in Greystones."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said she was disappointed with the overall lack of progress outlined during the meeting but welcomed the Department's commitment to open new lines of communication with stakeholders and TDs saying she hopes this will enable swift movement on addressing school issues facing Greystones District.



Jennifer Whitmore TD

"I also welcome the Department's aim to open the new school building in Charlesland in September for pupils from Greystones Community National School, however I emphasised that there needs to be a contingency plan in place in the event this is not achieved. This means quickly progressing with additional accommodation at the Rugby Club.

"With regard to issues with Greystones Community College I stated that sustainable temporary accommodation is needed. I believe it is now key that the Department deals with the primary and secondary schools as separate issues, and ensure that separate and independent contingency plans are in place for both schools.

"Speaking on the issue regarding demand for school places, I outlined to the Department concerns from parents who did not secure a secondary school



Steven Matthews TD

place for their child during a meeting I held last night. Parents are rightly frustrated with the waiting list system which is not fit for purpose and causes unnecessary anxiety for the parents and child involved. I welcome the fact the Department stated it will immediately work with Principals in the area to look at duplication in waiting lists which will give a clearer picture of demand in the area and identify students who may be holding onto two or more places freeing up places for those currently on waiting lists.

"When I spoke to parents during a meeting I organised last night, it was clear that demand for school places is not just an issue for Greystones but also for Kilcoole, Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy and Roundwood so I urged the Department to progress with acquiring the land zoned for educational purposes adjacent to the Colaiste Chraobh Abhann school so that temporary accommodation can be put in place to address to meet demand in this area as well.

"The Department also needs to be cognisant of children with additional needs. Many of them are being left behind and need to have security of where they are going to go. They need adequate time to prepare and settle into a school community before the new school year begins however, the current level of uncertainty is proving very difficult for these children and families and they need to be assured there is a school that can meet their needs. I welcome the fact that increased communication

will be carried out and will continue to correspondent with the Department and the Minister on school issues in the area" concluded Whitmore.

Green Party TD Steven Matthews said "I've been in constant contact with the Department of Education since I was made aware of the school building problem. It's positive that they have entered a dispute resolution process and have stated their determination to have the building open within the school year. The lack of information has been hugely frustrating and unfair on parents, students and schools staff. The departments commitment to monthly meetings and engagement to provide progress reports is helpful but what we really want is a timely resolution to the construction issue and the school finished and opened for GCC and GCNS students."

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly said



Stephen Donnelly TD

"It's absolutely vital that better lines of communication are put in place so the teachers, parents and pupils have some clarity about when this issue is going to be resolved.

"It's extremely welcome to hear the Department say they are hoping to get this issue resolved within this school year. Obviously, the sooner this issue is dealt with the better because it is incredibly unfair on everyone involved.

"I will be maintaining close contacts with the officials in the Department to make sure the issue continues to be progressed as quickly as possible."



.IE, the guardians of Ireland's unique online .ie address, has today announced Tinahely based navigation training course operator Paul Nolan the winner of a €5,000 prize to celebrate .IE's 20th anniversary and recent rebrand.

As part of the competition, a total prize fund of €20,000 was awarded to three individual .ie domain holders. "Paul is testament to the ingenuity and resilience of Irish people and we are delighted to support him in investing and developing his business, 1 Step More," said .IE. Navigation training course operator Paul Nolan intends to use the cash prize to purchase a new computer, IT equipment and train to become an Arctic guide

SCHOOL PLACES CRISIS LOOMS

Continued from page 1

"It's important that the Minister for Education and the Department act now to provide certainty for families who want their children to learn near where they live. But it's also important that the Department acts now so that Greystones Community College School can plan ahead and build up capacity to meet local demand for secondary school places. I will be working closely with Deputy Whitmore to ensure that every upcoming secondary school student is accounted for in the area."

Speaking about the school crisis in Greystones and Kilcoole, Independent Councillor Tom Fortune said "It was meant to be sorted last February. Nothing has happened. We are now nearly a year on and the situation is far worse. Our TDs promised it would be sorted. The issue rests with the Department of Education and they are feeding us Gobbledegook. Press releases are great but are not solving the problem. We immediately need our TDs to collectively work on this.

"The situation in Greystones is crazy. The situation in Kilcoole is crazy. The school (Colaiste Chraobh Abhann) is built to cater for 550 students. It now has 800, it is bursting at the seams. The extension needs to be done now. What exactly is the delay?"

"Our TDs need to resolve this

urgently; I am prepared to work with them and help in any way that I can. COVID is making all of this more difficult and more urgent. There must be some senior person in the department of education that can be invited to come to the Kilcoole/Greystones area and agree a solution to these urgent situations. I would welcome contact from our TDs to endeavour to get a resolution."

Deputy Brady said "Schools in all corners of the county are awaiting extensions or approval to move to construction stage, with kids being taught in prefabs, or simply not able to get a school place. One school I'm currently working with is teaching students in prefabs that are over 30 years old while they continue to get approval for a school extension.

"There are currently planning applications for hundreds of houses in the area, yes, we need houses, but we also need critical school places and other basic infrastructure. The cart can't come before the horse, we need sustainable planning. The Department needs to fast-track the development of local schools and extensions to schools such as Colaiste Chraobh Abhann, Blessington Community College and Colaiste Bhride in Carnew. They must also CPO the necessary land in Charlesland for the construction of the Greystones Community College and address

the long-term needs for North Wicklow Educate Together.

"The government has completely failed to cater for the educational needs of the people of Wicklow. We have two senior government Ministers from Greystones and yet they can't resolve the issue facing Greystones Community National School who have been unable to access their completed new school in Charlesland.

"I'm working with many parents, pupils and schools across Wicklow and trying to ensure that education can be provided in appropriate and fit for purpose schools and that every year there isn't a scramble for limited school places. They are at their wits end and are genuinely concerned about where their children will get their education."

Deputy Brady concluded "We need a comprehensive plan to address the crisis in our education system that exists across Wicklow. I will continue to engage with the Minister, her Department and all stakeholders to ensure that our kids get the education they deserve in schools that are fit for purpose. If you or your family are having difficulties or have concerns when it comes to schools or education in Wicklow, I want to hear from you, please send me a message on FB, send me an email, john.brady@oireachtas.ie or contact either of my constituency offices in Bray or Arklow."



four-year-old Doireann Brophy, who is lighting a candle in memory of her Grandad, John O'Neill, with her mother Carina O'Neill

Light Up A Life Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services

With fundraised income likely to be down more than 30% this year, Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services is asking people and businesses to support its annual Light Up A Life Christmas appeal.

Light Up A Life is the most important fundraiser for the Hospice, and this is the first time in its 28-year history that the physical event won't take place at its Harold's Cross site. However the event will go ahead virtually, with the generous support from Aviva which is the sponsor for the fourth year in a row. Last year, more than 26,000 lights were lit to celebrate loved ones.

Ms. Audrey Houlihan, Chief Executive Officer explained that, "This year, the message of shining a light in dark times feels even more powerful. At a time when we are being asked to stay apart, you can Light Up A Life to feel closer to a loved one.

"We depend heavily on fundraising and need to raise €5.5 million annually, however, we expect this to be down by a third this year. We know it has been a difficult year for everyone and we are so proud of how our team has come together to find new ways of working. As well as facing year's challenges, we have also welcomed Wicklow Hospice on-board and we plan to renovate Blackrock Hospice next year.

"This is the first time in 28 years that our event has been cancelled. Although we are cannot welcome people to our site, we will host a special Light Up A Life event online from 5pm on December 6th at lightupalife.ie with our wonderful MC Ian Dempsey introducing entertainment and songs to enjoy.

To sponsor a light visit www.lightupalife.ie where there is also a selection of Christmas cards, decorations and gifts as well as details of opportunities for companies to show their support.

Council's Joint Policing Committee receives presentation from Garda Commissioner Harris

The Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee welcomed Garda Commissioner Drew Harris to a special online meeting of the committee on Wednesday last. Committee Members were updated by the Commissioner in relation to the new Garda Operating Model and how it impacts on policing in County Wicklow.

The Operating Model is part of the transformation programme 'A Policing Service For Our Future' and was developed based on internal and external input to An Garda Síochána. It's goal is to Keep People Safe by: Enhancing community policing with an emphasis on protecting the vulnerable; Adapting more readily to changing demand; Building a more effective and efficient service.

Cllr Gerry Walsh, Chair of the JPC, in welcoming Commissioner Drew Harris to the online meeting highlighted the work of the JPC and the Municipal District Policing Plan Committees. He referred to the

community benefits that will be experienced as a result of the introduction of the new Operating Model and stressed the importance of the new model representing a fully resourced service for County Wicklow.

Committee members took the opportunity to raise issues with regard to policing in County Wicklow around the importance of community policing, referencing the valuable work of the Community Gardai, as well as issues around communication, benefits of CCTV and text alert systems and issues around the use of unauthorised substances. The Cathaoirleach of

Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, welcomed Commissioner Harris and highlighted the challenges experienced by the rural community and the effects of crime in rural areas.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Frank Curran, acknowledged the cooperation between An Garda Síochána, the Council and the community, particularly in dealing with the challenges COVID-19 has presented, and thanked the Gardai for their assistance, particularly their contribution to the work of the Community Forum and Community Call initiative.

Chief Superintendent Denis Ferry thanked the JPC for the views shared and expressed appreciation for the community support shown to An Garda Síochána which he described as invaluable in terms of local service delivery.

Concluding, Commissioner Harris said that as with all change initiatives, moving to the Operating Model will require time and patience and added that he would continue to keep the community updated as implementation progressed. He pledged that An Garda Síochána is committed to working in partnership with local JPCs to Keep People Safe.

€260,000 Frozen in Irish Bank Accounts Following CAB Operation

Irish bank accounts containing over €260,000 were frozen on Wednesday, 11th November, as a result of two ongoing investigations by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB).

This is a follow-on from the CAB operation on the 29th October where searches were conducted in Dublin and Wicklow and cash to the value of €248,149 frozen in various bank accounts and Rolex watches and designer clothes were seized.

The first investigation follows contact made with the Bureau on the 10th November 2020 by a US Federal Agency investigating a company involved in the illegal manufacture of drugs contrary to US law. The US Federal Agency as part of its investigation had identified an Irish bank account which was being used to receive funds as part of this crime and for onward transmission to a bank account in another country. An investigation was commenced by

CAB in cooperation with the US agency and approximately €150,000 was subsequently frozen in an Irish bank account.

The investigation remains ongoing and is an example of CAB working with its international Law Enforcement partners to deny and deprive criminals of assets, wherever situated and derived, directly or indirectly, from criminal activity.

The second investigation is part of the Criminal Assets Bureau contribution to Operation Thor, targeting organised crime groups (OCG) involved in burglaries and thefts across the country.

CAB's investigations identified an additional bank account belonging to this particular OCG and as a result of their actions last Wednesday a further €110,000 has been frozen bringing the total frozen as part of this particular CAB investigation to €358,000.

Last week's operation is seen as another significant development in the investigation into the assets of this OCG.

Air Dis-Infection devices delivered to BUMBLEance in Blessington

Novaerus At McGreals last week announced the provision of two Novaerus NV 200 air dis-infection devices to BUMBLEance, the official Children's National Ambulance Service of Ireland.

Irish manufactured Novaerus is a medical-grade clean air technology that kills airborne viruses at the DNA level, including a surrogate for the virus that causes COVID-19, providing added protection for patients and medics on board the ambulance all year round. BUMBLEance will be the first ambulance service in Ireland to have the devices installed.

Set up in 2013 by the Saoirse Foundation, the national BUMBLEance service has provided over 13,000 free trips to children and their families. Supporting children, from newborns up to 18-years of age, the vehicles and crew provide essential professional care in secure, comfortable, and entertaining transportation environments for patients travelling to hospital, hospices, treatment centres or respite centers.

Kilian McGreal, Managing Director of Novaerus At McGreals and McGreal's Pharmacy Group said: "BUMBLEance plays a crucial role in bringing children to their medical appointments, it is a fantastic service that we are proud to support. Providing a clean air solution that compliments existing hygiene protocols will protect and reassure both staff and patients on board the vehicles. The Novaerus device helps to close the hygiene loop by eliminating all airborne viruses, bacteria and fungi including measles, MRSA and Tuberculosis, which is so important in settings

where vulnerable children are travelling. The devices are used across a range of business and healthcare sectors in Ireland as well as in private homes, improving the air quality indoors - especially beneficial at this time of year when more time is spent indoors".

The Novaerus air dis-infection devices are powered by technology that has been independently proven to kill 99.99% of MS2 Bacteriophage, a surrogate for SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19, as well as airborne bacteria and fungi. The technology has been recognized globally and in South Korea, the Irish-manufactured devices are installed in 4 out of 5 ambulances in Seoul.



Pictured at the handover is (l to r): Doug Kavanagh, Operations Manager, BUMBLEance, Kilian McGreal, Managing Director of Novaerus At McGreals and McGreal's Pharmacy Group and Aine Phelan, Driver and Paramedic, BUMBLEance with the Novaerus NV 200 devices.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

INVITATION TO TENDER TO FACILITATE CO WICKLOW COMHAIRLE NA NÓG 2021

Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg is the official over-arching structure for the participation of young people in local decision making.

Tenders are invited from qualified individuals / organisations with a proven track record in working with young people, to continue to develop Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg.

Tender details are available from the undersigned and on www.wicklow.ie

Closing date for receipt of proposals is 4pm on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Shortlisting may occur and interviews will be held with a panel of partners and elected Comhairle members.

Tender proposals should be submitted to:

Deirdre Whitfield,
Administrative Officer,
Community, Cultural & Social Development,
Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings, Wicklow Town,
Co. Wicklow.

Tel: 0404 20208

Join the 'We All Gotta Go' Campaign on World Toilet Day

A group representing people with disabilities and their families are calling on the public to get behind their #WeAllGottaGo campaign for access to adequate toilet facilities for all on World Toilet Day on Thursday 19th November.



Aaron Daly and his daughter Sophia on Bray seafront supporting the Campaign for World Toilet Day 19 November

Green Party TD Steven Matthews is currently working to ensure that all members of our communities have access to adequate toilet facilities by changing the building regulations. Currently there are no fully accessible Changing Places standard toilet facilities in the entire county of Wicklow. Deputy Matthews is working with Minister Malcolm Noonan to include a requirement in the building regulations to include Changing Places in all new public buildings. These facilities include a hoist, a centralised toilet, an adult

sized changing bench and increased floor space.

"Toilets are something most of us take for granted when we are out and about but for thousands of children and adults with disabilities there are no adequate toilet facilities and as a result they are excluded from everyday life. Changing Places Ireland is a campaign to change that. Without Changing Places Toilet Facilities available throughout the country people with disabilities are denied a basic human right and continue to be excluded from everyday life.

"With just 15 Changing Places in the country, Ireland has a way to go. I am determined to see this change of legislation through and ensure equal access to toilet facilities for all."

Changing Places Ireland are raising awareness of the thousands of children and adults with disabilities who are restricted in where they can go and what they can do because they will not find a toilet with the equipment or space they need. They are asking members of the public to sign their online petition calling on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to make Changing Places Toilet Facilities mandatory in public buildings. Over 3,500 people have already signed their petition and you can add your signature at my.uplift.ie/petitions/make-changing-places-toilet-facilities-mandatory-in-public-buildings-1

"Imagine being in permanent lockdown. This is the reality for thousands of children and adults with disabilities in Ireland, like my daughter Sophia, who do not have access to toilet facilities with suitable equipment like hoists and changing benches. They often have to go through the indignity of being changed on the floor of a public toilet or stay isolated from their communities at home. We are calling on the Government to make Changing Places Toilet Facilities mandatory in

public buildings," commented Aaron Daly, parent of a child who needs a Changing Place and member of the Changing Places Ireland steering group.

Standard disabled accessible toilets do not meet the needs of all people with complex disabilities.

Changing Places Toilet Facilities are different and provide extra equipment like a hoist and an adult sized changing bench. In Ireland, there are only 15 Changing Places Toilet Facilities. There are over 1500 in England and new legislation will make Changing Places Toilets mandatory in new public buildings from 2021. In Northern Ireland, there are approximately 40 and the NI Assembly is now following England and has committed to amending their building regulations.

Changing Places Ireland are calling on the Irish Government to follow the example of England and change Irish building regulations to make such toilets mandatory in public buildings. Without Changing Places Toilet Facilities available throughout the country people with disabilities are denied a basic human right and continue to be excluded from everyday life.

"The aim of the Changing Places Ireland campaign is to promote the inclusion of Changing Places Toilet facilities in public places nationwide. Thousands of people need Changing Places Toilet facilities to enable them to get out and about and enjoy the day-to-day activities that many of us take for granted. We are calling on the Government to change the building regulations and support the opening of more Changing Places in communities all across Ireland," commented Gillian Murphy, Enable Ireland Communications Manager and Changing Places Ireland representative.



Changing Places toilet facility at the National Gallery of Ireland



Pictured at the launch of the Bray Lions Club World Diabetes Day Apples Project in St. Peter's National School, Bray is Danny Bohan, president, Bray Lions Club, with Lions Anne Blount and John O'Toole.

Bray Lions Club marks World Diabetes Day

Bray Lions joined with 44,000 Lions Clubs throughout the world to mark World Diabetes Day on Saturday 14th November.

The club has been distributing apples, as a symbol of healthy eating, to 400 primary school children in the Bray area, together with a Diabetes information letter for parents and a Diabetes Guide bookmark.

Lions Clubs in Ireland organised a variety of projects and events aimed at raising awareness of Type 2 Diabetes and promoting healthy lifestyles.

In response to the growing incidence of Diabetes worldwide, the 1.4 million members of Lions Clubs International have adopted Diabetes as a signature project.

While several types of Diabetes exist, the Lions Signature Project aims to specifically address the risk of Type 2 Diabetes. Eating healthily, increasing the level of physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight, all play a role in preventing or delay-

ing the onset of Type 2 Diabetes.

Bray Lions Club President Danny Bohan, highlighted the importance of this initiative. "Diabetes is the 8th leading cause of death in the world and it is estimated that worldwide more than 460 million people have Diabetes, and this number is growing," he said.

Diabetes Ireland and Diabetes UK (NI) estimates that there are 340,000 individuals with Diabetes in Ireland of which approximately 80% have Type 2 Diabetes.

District Diabetes Team chairperson Ann Ellis stated that it is impossible to predict the level of COVID-19 restrictions that will apply in early 2021 and "therefore our plans to roll out the project will need to be flexible".

Bray Lions club are confident that the project can create awareness of Type 2 Diabetes and greatly reduce the impact of the condition on individual health and that of our children and grandchildren.

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ARKLOW C.B.S.



Arklow C.B.S. was opened by the Christian Brothers in 1961 to provide a second level education to boys in Arklow in the Edmund Rice Tradition. Since then, many things have changed, but the school's teachers remain dedicated to catering for the educational, pastoral, spiritual and emotional needs of each student. Arklow C.B.S. has excellent teaching staff committed to high standards and demanding the same from their students. The school strongly supports and places huge emphasis on the teaching of STEM subjects (Science, Technology and Engineering & Mathematics) to all students.



Arklow C.B.S. Principal Peter Somers

Enrolling in Arklow C.B.S.

The decision with regard to which school your son should attend is a vital one and one which parents do not take lightly. It is important that parents make a fully informed

choice after looking at all the options available to them and their children.

High Standards

Arklow C.B.S. has a long and proud tradition of academic excellence here in Arklow. Students

excel in their Leaving Certificate examinations each year with many scoring significantly above the national average across the board. Many students have progressed to and excelled in all the universities and colleges in Ireland.

Learning Support

"We are particularly proud of the support which we give to students with special educational needs at both ends of the spectrum - gifted students and students with learning difficulties.

"This support operates on a number of levels. Each class teacher takes into account the needs of each individual student and provides differentiated learning opportunities to both challenge and support students.

"We also have dedicated learning support teachers and SNAs who provide designated students with one-to-one or small group support to help enhance their learning."

ASD Class

Arklow C.B.S. offers additional support to students with Autism to allow them access the curriculum in a mainstream post primary setting. The ASD class is integrated into the mainstream timetable, students follow the mainstream timetable for most of their time and attend the ASD class as an alternative to the subject on offer in the mainstream timetable.

After School Study

The after-school study facility is provided by the school for the exam year students in particular and provides a quiet, supervised environment for students to study in.

Pastoral Care

The teaching staff of Arklow C.B.S. are equally committed to the pastoral care of all students through a system of Class Tutors and Year Heads in co-operation with the Guidance Counsellor and School Management.



The Brendan Kincaid Library

Tutors are appointed to each class group. This tutor teacher has regular class contact with the students.

Wellbeing

"Here in Arklow C.B.S. we recognise the huge importance of wellbeing among our students. We promote and encourage our students to look after their mental health and wellbeing. One way we do this is through our hugely successful Mental Health week and Positivity week. These are fun-filled weeks with guest speakers and various activities organised for the students."

Positive Behaviour/and Restorative Practice

The school promotes a Code of Positive Behaviour, developed with the intention of encouraging students to become self-disciplined and responsible individuals. Built into this is a system of Restorative Practice. Restorative Practice is an alternative to the traditional discipline system. Its aim is to encourage the students to

develop mutual respect, empathy, consideration, emotional intelligence, intrinsic motivation and to encourage them to take responsibility. Each student works individually with a trained Restorative Practitioner.

Positive Affirmation Committee

The aim of the PAC is to change the focus from discipline and to focus on

positive targets. This might be academic or extracurricular achievements or random acts of kindness. This is an attempt to celebrate the excellent behaviour of many students who sometimes go unnoticed. All Junior students have individual merit cards in their homework journals where a teacher can give merits. There is a ladder of rewards then for students

when they reach a certain number of merits. This is proving to be a big hit with the students, parents and teachers.

Incoming 1st Years

Each year a programme is devised to enable first year students to make a smooth transition from primary to secondary school. A Taster programme of certain subjects is offered to 1st



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Best Wishes to
Arklow C.B.S.

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ARKLOW C.B.S.



years. At the end of this trial period students choose 3 subjects which they will pursue through to Junior Cycle exams.

IT and Microsoft Teams

"The use of Microsoft Teams and One Note is now at the core of our curriculum and is the online platform used by us here in Arklow C.B.S. Students can use this forum to upload assignments and homework, communicate with their teacher and organise their own personal workspace. All our TY students are provided with a laptop."

The Curriculum

Arklow C.B.S. provides a broad and diverse range of curriculum subjects ensuring that students can choose and pursue those subjects for which they may have an aptitude and passion for.

An Ghaelbhratach

Arklow C.B.S. is only one of two schools in County Wicklow to be awarded this prestigious award. It is a reward-based scheme which officially recognises schools which are active in the promotion of Irish throughout the school. An Ghaelbhratach has been well and truly earned and flies proudly outside our school. "We look forward to continuing our work for the Gaelbhratach in the coming year and all the fun and enjoyment that goes with it."

Rewarding Achievement

Student achievements are fêted in Arklow C.B.S. throughout the school year by means of various award ceremonies. Student successes in the Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate, Sports and Attendance, are all celebrated as well as awards

given for Contribution to School Life, Achievement, Sport, Literacy, Numeracy and Entrepreneurship. The Brendan James Kincaid Memorial Trophy is presented annually by the Kincaid family to the pupil that achieves outstanding Science results in the Leaving Certificate. Additionally, Transition Year students have a Graduation Evening attended by parents and guardians where subject and course awards are presented.

Facilities

Arklow C.B.S. has excellent facilities both sporting wise and academically. The school has an indoor basketball court, two outdoor courts and a football pitch in addition to two well equipped Science Laboratories, two Computer Rooms, two sets of laptops for classroom use, a Woodwork Room, Technical Drawing

Room, Art Room, Music Room and a School Library - 'The Kincaid Library'. Arklow C.B.S. also has a dedicated resource room where students on the Autistic Spectrum or those with a Special Educational Need can avail of extra supports. Because of the current Covid 19 regulations, there are designated zones for the different year groups with outdoor seating available. The school is fully Covid compliant and has hand sanitiser dispensers outside each classroom for the students and teachers to use as they enter and leave a classroom.

Extra-Curricular Activities

There is a wide range of extracurricular activities on offer at lunch time or after school. Activities include Athletics & Cross Country running, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Rugby,

Hurling, Basketball, Golf, Díospóireachtaí Gael Linn, Ciorcal Cainte, Homework club, Film club, Library Club and Computer Club.

School tours, outings and exchanges

Subject-specific educational tours take place regularly throughout the academic year. Outings, tours and visits of various groups to the school bring the outside world to the students and help them to see that there are many and varied opportunities to learn beyond the classroom. Arklow C.B.S. is twinned with Lycée Jean Paulsen, Châteaudun. Every year a group of TY students head off on a week-long exchange there.

Music

Arklow C.B.S. has a very strong and proud tradition of music and of producing fine musicians.



The student recreation area

Every year an annual school concert is organised. Students go to Emmanuel and the big sing amongst many other things.

IClassesms

This is an app which parents can download onto their phone from iTunes or google play. It contains all the up to the minute school news and school calendar. Parents can also communicate

with the school via the app.

New School Campus

"The Board of Management and the staff of Arklow C.B.S. are delighted to announce that our new school campus will be completed and ready for students in 2023! The new school campus will be a state of the art facility and will have a total floor area of 6913 M2. It will include 19 General

Classrooms, and a Special Education Needs Suite."

Facebook

"Find us on Facebook - search for Arklow C.B.S. Keep up to date on everything going on in school! To enrol please complete the Enrolment Expression of Interest Form which can be found on www.arklowcbs.ie or contact the school office on 0402 32564 with any queries you may have."



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LEGACY MONTH

Will them well

November is 'My Legacy Month'. Now is a good time to make your will and consider leaving a legacy gift to a cause you care about.

Having a will is very important for so many good reasons and particularly during our annual November awareness campaign, My Legacy Month, we encourage you to take that first step in writing your will by making an appointment with a solicitor. Your solicitor will give you expert guidance and advice about making or amending a will at any time of the year.

It is usually a much more straightforward and cost effective process

than you might think; it will only take about an hour or so of your time. Your solicitor will discuss what is necessary for drawing up this very important personal document when you make an appointment.

Once family and friends have been looked after and all other important personal decisions have been made, deciding to leave a legacy gift to a charity is a wonderful way to support a favourite

cause in the future. Large or small, every legacy is a generous gift of hope and trust for the future.

My Legacy was established by a small group of Irish charities who knew the great impact a legacy gift can have on the future work of a charity. They also realised that, unlike other countries, many Irish people do not make a will despite how vital a life document it is.

My Legacy has

grown to an umbrella group of 70 Irish charities working together to promote the importance of making a will and to ask people to consider leaving a legacy gift to a favourite charity, once family and friends have been taken care of and all other important personal decisions have been made.

My Legacy provides unbiased, useful information to individuals, charities and solicitors about leaving legacies to charities. My Legacy does not solicit specific gifts or legacies for individual organisations.

1. Make An Appointment:

A solicitor will give you expert advice and support. Take the first step to discuss your wishes and decisions for the future.

2. Look After Loved Ones First:

Why a will is important? A will provides for loved ones, assigns guardians, protects assets and helps reduce inheritance tax.

3. Consider A Legacy To Charity:

Your gift may be big or small and is tax free. If you have a cause close to your heart, please consider leaving a gift to that charity in your will.



ISPCA launch Free Online Will Writing Service during My Legacy Awareness Month

The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) has launched a Free Online Will Writing and Will Amendment Service to coincide with My Legacy Awareness month during November.

As legacies are an important source of income for all charitable organisations, anyone who uses this service can include any cause they care about.

Lylah O'Beirne, ISPCA Head of Fundraising said: "This November, the ISPCA is encouraging everyone to make a Will, to have the peace of mind of knowing that those they care about will be looked after and their wishes respected. Once family and friends have been taken care of and all other important personal decisions have been made, many people like to leave a gift to a charity or cause that they care about. You don't have to include a gift to the ISPCA in your Will to use this free service, but we would love it if you do. Remembering a charity such as the ISPCA, means that your legacy will live on, helping to create a better life for so many vulnerable animals that we rescue from the most appalling situations".

The ISPCA is a member of My Legacy; an umbrella group of 70 Irish charities working together to promote the importance of making a Will and asking people

to also consider leaving a legacy gift to their favourite charity.

Lylah added: "Leaving a gift to the ISPCA is a life-changing, often life-saving gift to those animals who need us the most. Legacies enable us continue our vital work knowing that funds will be available now, and into the future to help save and protect animals who are voiceless. If like us, you are an animal lover and care deeply about animal welfare, then leaving a legacy gift to the ISPCA is a great way to support our work".

Last year, the ISPCA received 12,305 calls for help made to the ISPCA National Animal Cruelty Helpline. 3,417 investigations were carried out by our Animal Welfare Inspectors and 923 animals were seized or surrendered and brought into ISPCA care.

ISPCA Inspectors are the front line preventing animal cruelty in Ireland. As Authorised Officers under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 (AHWA), they respond to allegations of cruelty, neglect and abuse and also aid sick and injured animals.

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LEGACY MONTH

Will them well

Wicklow people can show vision this Legacy Month

Wicklow people can mark November as 'My Legacy Month' by taking time to make a gesture which will help ensure that their children and grandchildren enjoy a safe and secure future in thriving local communities, according to The Community Foundation for Ireland.

The Foundation says putting aside as little as an hour during the month to get affairs in order would give people peace of mind and could also be used as an opportunity to make a future contribution towards the greater good for communities in Wicklow. Each year between €5.5 to €6 billion is passed from one generation to another.

The Community Foundation says even a tiny percentage of this figure could have a huge impact for equality, health and well-being and addressing the local impact of climate change.

Welcoming the start

of My Legacy Month, Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of The Community Foundation for Ireland added: "Trying to ensure our children, grandchildren and their friends who are the future of Wicklow will be safe, secure and comfortable is something which is inbuilt in all of us. It is part of the Irish DNA.

Making a will is a step which helps ensure that loved ones can continue to benefit from a life of hard work, careful spending and saving by a parent, grandparent or other loved one.

However, ensuring that Wicklow's next generation will live in a

better world can be more than the passing on of wealth within the family context.

Including a gift in their will to The Community Foundation for Ireland allows people to make a contribution to causes, communities or charities who they have championed, supported or admired through-out their life.

Frances Haworth, Senior Philanthropy and Development Advisor with The Community Foundation for Ireland said: "Making a will can seem daunting. It is one of those things that many put on the long finger. Yet with the right professional advice it can take as lit-

tle as an hour. Making a will ensures those we leave behind are protected and, if finances allow, to make a contribution to the greater good.

"A gift to charity in your will is tax free so there is no burden on your family. Remember every donation no matter what size counts. All money received is spent according to donor wishes, from protecting bees, to supporting front-line services or campaigning for change.

"As a community foundation, we are here for the long term and invest all donations wisely to help local communities thrive."



Enduring Power of Attorney

Many people are alarmed to be told that just because you are the 'Next of Kin' that you do not have the authority to make decisions for your loved one if they become mentally incapacitated due to injury or accident.

The medical profession will require that an Enduring Power of Attorney be in existence, as indeed will other professions such as accountants and banks.

Safeguarding Ireland says more people 'Thinking Ahead' would help to reduce and prevent abuse of vulnerable adults.

An Enduring Power of Attorney is a legal document which allows an individual to choose to appoint a specific individual (usually a close family member) to look after both your person and financial affairs in the event that for any reason you lose your mental capacity in the future.

An enduring power of attorney can be an extremely powerful document that significantly bypasses the hurdles and problems your family could face when trying to deal with your affairs should you become incapable. The main purpose of an enduring power of attorney is to enable somebody of your choosing to have the entitlement to manage your financial and personal affairs for you if you lose your mental capacity at some future date.

The execution of an enduring power of attorney is an excellent way of planning for the future and provides a mechanism for the management of the donor's affairs in the event that the donor becomes incapable of doing so themselves in the future.

Unlike a general power of attorney which has immediate effect once executed, an enduring power of attorney will only come into effect at a

later date should the donor become incapable of managing their affairs. The enduring power of attorney will not come into force should you remain in control of your affairs.

As a donor of an enduring power of attorney, there are a number of safeguards designed to protect you.

When executing an enduring power of attorney, you can decide as to the scope of your affairs that you wish to have delegated to your attorneys. As donor, you can decide whether to grant authority for the control of your financial affairs, personal care, housing, medical affairs, etc.



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Contact eilish@benvillrobinson.ie and kaley@benvillrobinson.ie for all your Wills & Probate related queries.



Parents across Ireland were surveyed to take the temperature on the uptake of the free children's nasal flu vaccine, offered for the first time this year. The results showed that almost 8 in 10 parents reporting that their children have either already been vaccinated, or have an appointment to do so within the next two weeks. The nasal flu vaccine is not a new vaccine and has been offered to children in the UK since 2013. The children's nasal flu vaccine is free for all children aged between 2-12 years and is available from GPs and pharmacies nationwide. The vaccine is easily administered with a single spray in each nostril of a child's nose. Many parents of children already vaccinated say their child compared it to a tickle up their nose. Interestingly, over half, or 53% of parents surveyed were not aware of the increased chance of serious complications when it comes to children suffering from the flu virus. This additional knowledge served to give parents even greater peace of mind that their child was protected this winter. The HSE reports that over the last 10-years, over 5,000 children in Ireland were admitted to hospital as very unwell. The HSE and medical experts are keen to point out to parents that you can't get the flu from the flu vaccine. A small number of people might experience some mild side effects, including a runny nose, headache or temperature which can be treated with over the counter paracetamol medicine. The flu vaccine is the best protection against this virus in children and also reduces its spread to others in the community.

ISPCCC highlights need for updated Relationships and Sexuality Education

The ISPCCC has highlighted the significance of the current review of the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) programme, in welcoming the findings of new research published last week by the ESRI and HSE.

The organisation has inputted to the review of the RSE syllabus, which it views as vital to meeting the needs of children and young people in Ireland today and reflecting the changes which have taken place in Ireland since the current programme was published in 1999.

The research findings, including that almost half of all those surveyed age 17 have not discussed sex and relationships with their parents and that the delivery of relationships and sexuality education varies widely, reflect the experience of the ISPCCC's Childline Listening Service.

ISPCCC Chief Executive John Church said: "The ISPCCC warmly welcomes this timely report published today, which emphasises how important it is that an updated RSE programme be delivered to children and young people in an age and developmentally-friendly manner through our schools from primary level.

"The findings of this research reflect what many children and young people who turn to the Childline Listening Service for support tell us. Of the approx. 800 online contacts, calls and texts the service receives every day, many

come from children and young people seeking support or information in relation to sex, sexuality and relationships.

"It is essential that children and young people receive education which is relatable for them and grounded in their lived experiences. A whole-school approach is needed to ensure this is effective. Relationships and Sexuality Education and Social, Personal and Health Education must incorporate the needs of all children and young people in Ireland today – including those who live with a disability, those who identify as LGBTIQ+ and those whose gender is different to that which they were assigned at birth.

"Through our work, we know that many children and young people can search online for answers to questions which have not been covered through RSE in school. The results to these searches can be pornographic in nature and can lead to confusion and perceived unrealistic expectations of what constitutes a positive, healthy, sexual relationship. The ISPCCC, therefore, supports the recommendation of the 2019 Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education and

Skills' report that the negative impact of pornography should be central to discussions on reforming SPHE and RSE.

"Irish society in recent decades has heard of too many instances where children who were sexually abused did not have the language to explain what was happening to them, or the understanding that what was happening to them was wrong. A truly innovative and dynamic new RSE programme will empower all children and young people, by making them familiar with the concept of sexuality and the distinction between healthy and unhealthy, or inappropriate, relationships. This could assist in the prevention of, or early intervention in, potential child sexual abuse cases happening in future." "The ISPCCC looks forward to continuing to contribute our insight and experience from our work with children and young people to the development of the vital updated RSE programme."

ISPCCC Childline is available 24 / 7 to any child or young person who would like support. Childline can be reached in the following ways: Online: Childline.ie, Phone: 1800 66 66 66, Text: 50101

Bray student receives €20k Naughton Foundation scholarship award

Last week, Dr Martin Naughton and his wife Carmel announced the winners of the 2020 Naughton Foundation Scholarship Awards. County Wicklow student, Elena Ó Céidigh was awarded a scholarship worth €20,000.

Supporting academic and innovative excellence in Irish students, this Scholarship Award is an investment in the future of Ireland's reputation as a country with outstanding graduates. Former student of Coláiste Raithín in Bray, Elena Ó Céidigh has accepted a place at University College Dublin studying Engineering. Elena joins 35 exceptional Irish students who were awarded third level scholarships towards their studies in the areas of engineering, science, technology and maths.

Since its establishment in 2008 scholarships worth over €4million have been awarded to over 300 students. The scheme started in three counties and has continued to expand annually to become a nationwide scheme in 2016. There is one guaranteed Scholarship (€20,000) for each participating county, with some counties awarded more than one Scholarship. Each Scholarship is worth €5,000 per annum for each year of a student's three or four year undergraduate degree.

Traditionally the awards are presented by founding patrons of The Naughton Foundation, Dr Martin Naughton and his wife Carmel at a ceremony with the students' schools and families in attendance but as a result of current restrictions this event was deferred for this year.

More than 200 schools have also benefited from this prize to date with some schools receiving it on more than one occasion. Elena's former secondary school Coláiste Raithín received a prize of €1,000 towards their school's science facilities, for their support of these students. Last year's recipient of the Naughton Foundation Scholarship Award in Wicklow was Ciara Fagan from Dominican College and Jack Lawlor from Presentation College, Bray.



Former student of Coláiste Raithín in Bray, Elena Ó Céidigh was awarded a €20,000 Naughton Foundation Scholarship joins 35 exceptional Irish students who were awarded third level scholarships towards their studies in the areas of engineering, science, technology and maths.

Speaking about the growth of the programme over the past twelve years, Dr. Martin Naughton commented: "We have been awarding scholarships to encourage and reward students for their undergraduate studies in the STEM area since 2008. After the difficult academic year that 2020 was, we are particularly delighted to announce this year's scholarship winners and their schools. We are both really looking forward to celebrating with them in person next year and welcoming them to our community of over 300 Scholars and Alumni."

The Naughton Foundation is also continuing to invest further in 'Science in a Box'. The program runs for sixth class pupils for a number

of weeks during the primary school year with PhD students spending one hour each week co-teaching with the class teacher, a specific aspect of the science curriculum. For 2020, The Naughton Foundation is delighted to continue its support of this program for 30 sixth classes in the Dublin, Meath and Louth region.

The Foundation is also continuing its support of ESB Science Blast, a program run by the RDS which brings primary school classes from all over Ireland together in Dublin, Limerick and Belfast to display and discuss their science projects.

Midland Science is an organisation which promotes STEM [science, technology, engineering and maths] education and

skills in the midlands region. It provides activities and workshops all year round through an outreach programme to primary and secondary schools, a regional Science Festival during national Science Week, activities during Engineers Week, Maths Week, Tech Week, STEAM activities, summer science activities in local youth clubs and special projects. The Foundation is delighted to continue its support of Midland Science in 2021.

Full details on The Naughton Foundation Scholarships are available on thenaughtonfoundation.ie. 2021 application form available for completion on the Foundation's website from February 2021.

Harris joins former presidents and rock stars on prestigious awards list

Minister for Higher Education Simon Harris has joined an illustrious list of names alongside Mary McAleese, Jeremy Paxman and Sir Bob Geldof as recipients of the prestigious Praeses Elit award from Trinity College Law Society.

The award was founded by former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson and former recipients include Cherie Blair, FW De Klerk, Mary McAleese and Sir Bob Geldof.

Receiving the award at a virtual Trinity Law Society event last night, Minister Harris said: "I am deeply honoured to be receiving this award.

"I understand there are two reasons I have been nominated - one for my role in the pandemic response and one as a result of my new job.

"I am genuinely humbled to have played a role in our response to the first wave of the pandemic. I was a very small cog in a

huge wheel and the real heroes of this pandemic are not those of us who hold office but the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, GPs, porters, healthcare assistants and staff who quite literally are putting their health and their well-being on the line to protect us.

"It was my greatest honour to be their Minister for Health. Unfortunately, this pandemic is still with us and is still bringing extreme and difficult days.

"It has offered us many incredible opportunities too. And that is where I believe my new Department can play a role.



Minister Simon Harris

"The Department's title is long but its purpose is quite simple. It is a Department that offers

opportunity, inclusivity and, critically, hope.

"This Department is the gateway between education and the workforce. Between individual progress and economic progress. I will do everything in my power to address the youth unemployment crisis this pandemic has brought and equip this generation with the skills we need for the future."

The Trinity Praeses Elit is awarded by Trinity College Law Society to those who have advanced discourse in their line of work, and who have been a source of inspiration for young people everywhere.

Woodbrook students awarded for survey on mixed vs single-sex PE lessons

The Endeavor Awards are awards given out to people who make a positive contribution to their community over the previous 12 months. The awards recognize what people have achieved, or an area that they have excelled in. Bray & District Chamber of Commerce has been presenting these awards every year for almost 40 years, since 1981.

by Woodbrook College students
Lidia Cojocaru and Anna Krupinska

Our school, Woodbrook College, had been nominated to receive a Young Achievers Award; the PE Expo Award. This award is presented to someone under 21 years of age who has achieved something remarkable (in sports, academics, or arts).

The committee looked at the details of the project and decided that our school should be a winner out of all the Young Achievers that were nominated.

The Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce, Sarah Finnegan, came to our school to

present the award to the winners of this year's PE Expo and said they were extremely impressed by the sheer amount of work and effort put into this project.

The PE Expo itself is a competitive, sports specific research project, which can cover psychology, training methods, and wellbeing too. The aim of this project is to get more people interested in sport and physical activity.

The students that took part in the PE Expo this year are Ruby, Abby, and Michelle, from 3rd year. They spent 2 hours every Wednesday afternoon working on this project, and they enjoyed it too.

They made a project entitled 'Mixed vs Single Sex PE Lessons', and what they basically did was survey a large number of students on whether they'd prefer Mixed Sex PE Lessons, or Single Sex PE Lessons. It turned out that boys would prefer mixed sex PE lessons, when girls would prefer single sex PE lessons. This project took 2-3 months due to the sheer number of surveys that they had to give out and count afterwards.

Woodbrook is incredibly proud of Ruby, Abby, and Michelle for winning this competition. It took a lot of hard work and dedication to get it done, and now they've won an amazing award which recognizes the amount of effort that they've put into this. We wish them the best of luck in the future!



Pictured are Davey Cullen, students Michelle Dolores, Abhirami Santhoshkumar, and Ruby Roche, and Siobhan Synnott.



Pictured are (front row); Tina Doyle, Brenda O'Brien, Lisa Jackson, and Claire Kealy, and (back row); Jack Timmins, Amy Barrett, Alison Riordan, Naomi Curran, Grainne Fleming, Linda Lynch and Anita Russell, staff at Scoil Naomh Bríd. Pic: Dan Sheridan

Kiltegan school wins €50,000

Scoil Naomh Bríd, Kiltegan, won €50,000 as part of a rugby sticker competition to help upgrade the school's sports facilities. Tara Hill National School, Gorey, also won €50,000 in the competition. Over a thousand entries were received from primary schools around the country.

Aldi and the IRFU announced the two winning primary schools of the hugely successful Aldi Play Rugby sticker competition, which ran earlier this year. Despite schools being closed, and the promotion put on hold for a few months, a fantastic number of schools entered this year.

The competition, now in its third year gave every primary school in the country the opportunity of winning one of two €50,000 sports facility makeovers by collecting Aldi Play Rugby stickers. Shoppers could collect 1 sticker for every €30 spent in any of the 144 Aldi stores nationwide.

After what has been a turbulent year across the country, this kind of prize for the winning schools couldn't have come at a better time, with schools keen to keep sporting and wellbeing of children foremost in minds.

Principal of Scoil Naomh Bríd, Lisa Jackson said "We returned to a difficult school year in August, with not much prospect of excitement ahead for our pupils. A phone call from Aldi changed this. Aldi have given us a once in a lifetime opportunity. We have been given a transformative sum of money to make our dreams for our fabulous school become a reality. €50,000 will change our school and positively impact on the lives of our pupils and pupils for years to come. A sincere thank you to Aldi from all in Scoil Naomh Bríd."

Each primary school that submitted a valid poster will receive an kit bag which includes rugby balls, water bottles and water bottle holders per completed poster.

Wicklow schools to receive over €1.65 million in minor works grants

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has welcomed the news that Wicklow's primary and post-primary schools are set to receive €1.65million.

However, the final figure could be closer to €2 million when payments to schools with pupils with special needs are made.

The money is being made available as part of a €55million programme of grants- €25 million in funding for post-primary schools and the standard €30m minor works grants for primary schools.

It will see every school in the county receive grants this December.

It means Wicklow's 85 national schools and 23 secondary schools in the public system are in line to receive over €1.65million.

But schools with students with

special needs are being granted additional payments for each of those students which will almost certainly massively increase the amount being paid out to schools in Wicklow.

The minor works grant funding is aimed at giving schools the funds they need to put more sustainable longer term Covid prevention measures in place as well.

For example, schools may use this funding to enhance ventilation, purchase furniture or adapt toilet areas.

These grants will be paid automatically to schools in the free scheme while granted on applica-

tion to fee-paying schools.

Minister Donnelly said: "Schools across Wicklow have done immense work in making themselves compliant with the new Covid restrictions.

"Getting our schools back open and remaining open has been a key priority for this Government.

"It has only been made possible thanks to the tireless work put in by staff to make their classrooms safe.

"The payment of the Minor Works Grants is another way our schools are being supported during what is an unprecedented year.

"It's vital for the welfare of our children that they are able to continue their education in the safest environment possible," concluded Minister Donnelly.



Luan Parle's concert at the Courthouse Arts Centre in Tinahely has been rescheduled for Friday, April 23rd, 2021, at 8pm. Tickets are €15/13. See courthousearts.ie to book tickets. Luan has had numerous hits and accolades including the Meteor Award for Best Irish Female. Her Top 10 hit single 'Ghost' spent three months in the Irish charts. Never Say Goodbye is Luan's latest album, which she released in February this year. The album features 10 original tracks including two co-writes with Dire Straits guitarist Hal Lindes. 'My Something Beautiful', the first single from the album, was released on 17th January 2020, kicking off Luan's 2020 nationwide tour.

Free online lockdown workshops

Bray Area Partnership is running a series of free online Lockdown Workshops this month to help you switch off, get creative and learn some new skills.

The workshops are part of the Partnership's Social Inclusion and Community Activation (SICAP) programme and are being delivered by the Rediscovery Centre, a project that aims to connect people, ideas and resources to support greener low-carbon living.

There are four Lockdown Creative Workshops: Make Your Own Mask; Christmas Wreath Making; Furniture Upcycling; and Decoupage.

Keeping active and being outdoors is important for our physical and mental health and well-being. If you fancy dusting off that bike in the shed, the practical Introduction to Bike Maintenance workshop on

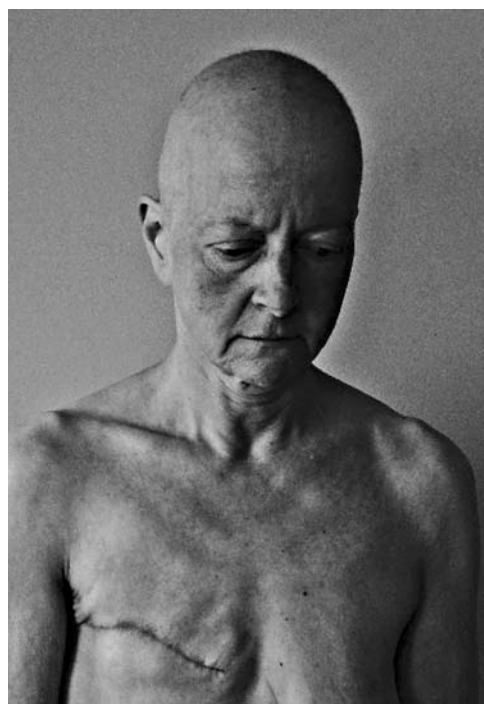
3rd December will teach you how to maintain your own bike and keep it running smoothly and safely. You need to have access to a smart phone, tablet or laptop/computer and internet access to take part but if you do not, contact the Partnership as they may be able to help you with this.

The workshops are open to people living in the Greystones or Bray Municipal District areas, and certain other qualifying criteria apply - find out more at brayareapartnership.ie or call the Partnership on 01 286 8266.

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

Trauma: An exhibition by Carol Jordan

An expressive artist, Carol Jordan works across numerous disciplines including ceramics, weaving, sculpture, painting, printmaking with photography often being a prominent part of her installations.



Her exhibition 'Trauma' can be seen in the Signla Arts Centre in Bray from Monday 18th to Sunday 31st January.

A searing poet and a storyteller, Jordan is no stranger to performing in Bray and includes projections of her artworks as companion pieces to her poems.

Equipped with a background in psychology, Jordan is drawn to exploring and expressing difficult emotional states and does not shy away from themes such as anxiety, dementia and death.

Arising from her political activism, Jordan's art has a socio-political dimension - as in her Tuam babies installation, a savage yet poignant indictment of the Mother and Baby Home.

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

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

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

'I like to put my own horror twist on things to try disturb the reader even more'

Arklow's resident horror author, Chris Rush, this year released his fifth and latest book, 'Folklore: The Second Tale'. A story based on a family who are terrorised by nightmarish creatures which dwell near their home in the countryside, this is Chris's second story based on Irish lore.

"It is something I really enjoy writing about, as we all grew up hearing stories about the Banshee and fairies," Chris told *Wicklow Times*.

"That being said, I do like to put my own horror twist on things to try disturb the reader even more."

Chris describes himself as a lifelong fan of horror. His first book, 'Folklore', quickly became an international bestseller. He followed this with the hugely successful 'All Shall Suffer'.

'Folklore: The Second Tale', sees Stephen and Louise McKenna moving into an old, rural, Irish cottage in search of a fresh start after the loss of their baby. A builder by trade, Stephen sees it as an opportunity to create a beautiful new life for his now pregnant wife and two young children.

Shortly after settling into their new home, an unusual structure in the distance dominates the family's intrigue.

Ignoring warnings to stay away by the landowner due to it being a dangerous and unforgiving place, Stephen ventures inside, unleashing an ancient evil upon his family. As horrific events unfold around him, Stephen learns there is truth behind every story.

Over the last number of years, Chris, Chair of the Horror Writers Association - Ireland Chapter, has covered numerous topics in his books, and one particular highlight for him was being commissioned to write The Legend of Loftus Hall, a book based on the legend behind the infamous house in Co. Wexford.

"The first book I wrote - Folklore, is based on the Banshee, and starting out I didn't know what to really



Arklow horror author, Chris Rush

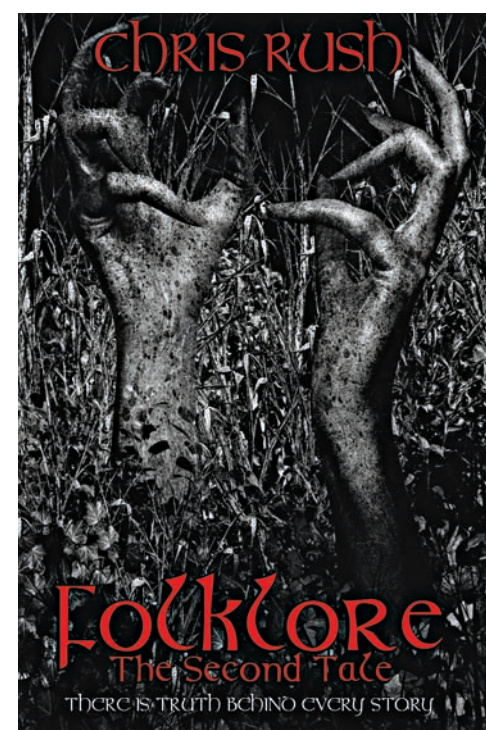
expect, however I was blown away by the feedback and love for it. Even to this day I still sell copies of it online and it manages to appear in the top 100 of a selected category from time to time. The support from everyone has been amazing."

Chris is also part of Paranormal Researchers Ireland (PRI), and during his time with the team he has had the opportunity to visit some amazing locations, both at home and abroad.

"PRI consists of sceptics, believers and non-believers, and we like to investigate every aspect of the paranormal, with respect and professionalism being the key feature of every investigation," Chris explains.

Other books by Chris include All Shall Suffer and 13 Dead. They are available through his website

chrisrushauthor.com, Facebook - Chris Rush along with merchandise. Horror Writer and on You can also find me on Twitter- @ChrisRush101.



Lockdown and restrictions increases environmental awareness

The Pure Mile, an environmental initiative which aims to create a greater awareness of the countryside of the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands, has seen an increase in recent months of people getting outside and improving and enhancing their local areas.



Members of the Cunard Glasamole PURE Mile

The Pure Mile is an environmental, community, heritage initiative, established by the Pure Project, which encourages communities and groups living in rural areas of Wicklow, South Dublin and Dun-Laoghaire, to adopt a mile of road, or miles of road, in their local area, or in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and organise litter picks, clean-ups, anti-dumping campaigns, research information about their local wildflowers, plants, trees, animals, and the built, cultural, and social heritage of an area.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the annual Pure Mile Gala Evening, which would usually attract hundreds of Pure Mile Volunteers, was cancelled this year. However, Pure consider it important to celebrate the hard work and achievements of the Pure Mile Volunteers in Cleaning Up The Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

2020 was the eleventh year of the Pure Mile, with the largest number of groups and volunteers

involved in the project since it was established in 2009. In the first year the Pure Mile had 6 miles of road, and over the years the project has grown extensively to over 100 communities, groups, scouts, beavers, primary schools, secondary schools, walking groups, cycling groups, running groups, businesses and organisations, who collectively improved and enhanced over 650 miles of road, mountains, woodlands, valleys, forestries, upland amenities, car parks, and beaches, with the removal of tonnes of illegal dumping and litter from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Over 300 litter picks and clean-ups were organised in 2020 and additional projects included, natural heritage, built heritage, community, biodiversity, and education.

The groups ranged from all over Wicklow, South Dublin and Dun-Laoghaire and each one will receive a Pure Mile Certificate, and all will be included in the popular

Pure Mile Calendar, which will also be launched this month.

Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan T.D., commented on the success of Pure Mile 2020, 'Now more than ever we need to protect our environment, illegal dumping has no place in our society, I welcome the success that Pure has had in reducing illegal dumping in the South Dublin and Wicklow uplands.'

The Pure Mile is an environmental initiative which aims to foster an appreciation and awareness of the country landscapes and scenic road networks in the uplands. More than that, it is a chance for communities to come together to make a measurable difference by improving the environment we share and live in. Preserving areas of interest for everyone to enjoy and appreciate, including the many visitors that are attracted to this region. I am proud to say that since its inception back in 2006 the Government has been

providing funding to Pure'.

Mr. Frank Curran, CEO Wicklow County Council commented, "For over fourteen years, the Pure Project has proven extremely successful in tackling the issue of illegal dumping, engaging with communities, and creating environmental awareness. I would like to congratulate all of the Pure Mile Volunteers in keeping the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands Clean, the way it should be, and I wish the project continued success into the future."

Cathaoirleach for Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Pat Kennedy also stated,

"The Wicklow/Dublin Uplands is an amazing landscape, and The Pure Mile demonstrates that the people both value and care about this natural resource, and I would like to congratulate and commend all of the Pure Mile Volunteers."

The Pure Mile is the perfect opportunity for communities and groups who want to make a positive contribution to their locality and environment, and assists people in improving and enhancing the place they live in, or recreate in. Special interest groups such as, walking groups, cycling groups, scout groups, businesses, and organisations, adopt a mile, or miles of road, in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and help Pure to Clean Up The Uplands. Pure provide all groups with Pure Mile signage, Pure Mile bags, gloves, litter pickers and Pure Mile high-vis vests, and they also remove all of the rubbish collected by the groups.

Ian Davis, Pure Project Manager commented, "The Pure Mile has grown every year with over 2,500 volunteers involved in the project. We had some major clean-ups this year which resulted in the removal of over 3,000 bags of rubbish and illegal dumping from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Due to Covid-19 we saw an increase in people getting involved in the Pure Mile and more people were walking their local roads, rediscovering their local areas, becoming more aware of their natural environment and landscape, the flora and fauna, and appreciating their built heritage. People decided to organ-



Members of the 'Reservoir Cogs' PURE Mile group cleaning up the Uplands roads.

ise litter picks of their local roads, removing litter and rubbish from the verges, hedges, and drains, and they have made a huge difference to the areas they live in or recreate in. It's amazing the amount of time, effort, and enthusiasm that groups invest in the Pure Mile, and it's an absolute pleasure meeting them, and getting to know them."

Twenty of the Pure Mile groups will receive Certificates of Recognition for their efforts and a cash prizes of €250, with a total of €5,000 distributed to groups which will further assist them in their local projects to improve and enhance the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

Pure was launched in 2006 and since that date it has proven extremely successful, in both reducing illegal dumping, and engaging with all demographics in society. It's the first project of its kind in Ireland involving a multi stakeholder approach collaborating with, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council.

If any groups, communities, individuals, schools, walking groups, cycling groups, scouts, businesses, anyone, want to get involved in next years Pure Mile, they can contact Pure at info@pureproject.ie or download and application from pureproject.ie/what-we-do/the-pure-mile/. You can also write to; Pure Project, Wicklow Mountains, National Park, Kilafin, Laragh, Bray, Co. Wicklow and they will post out all the information or request an application form and information pack by phoning Pure on 0404 45547.

Pure would like to congratulate and thank all of the 2020 Pure Mile Groups - Annalecky, Fauna, Kilbaylet Pure Miles, Avoca, Kilmagig, Castlemacadam, Red Kite Walk Pure Miles, Avoca Scouts & Beavers Pure Miles, Arklow Rock Pure Miles, Atha Cliath Uplands Cleanup Team Pure Miles, Athdown Pure Miles, Aghowle Pure Mile, Ballinacash Pure Miles, Barndarrig Pure Miles, Ballyduff Pure Miles, Ballycoog Pure Miles, Ballylugh Pure Miles, Ballyknockan Pure Miles, Ballysheehan Pure Miles, Ballydowling Pure Miles, Ballyvaltron Pure Mile, Baltynanima Green Road Pure Miles, Ballyteige, Ballinabarny Pure Miles, Beech Road, Millennium Road, Love Lane Pure Miles, Blainroe Pure Mile, Blessington Rowing Club Pure Mile, Butter Hill, Woodend, Lughnagun Pure Miles, Barnbawn Pure Miles, Ballymoyle Lane Pure Mile, Ballybetagh Pure Miles, Castletimon Brittas Pure Miles, Castleruddery Pure Miles, Clara Vale to Cronybyrne Pure Miles, Conary Pure Miles, Crossbridge Pure Miles, Cruagh Pure Miles, Coolafancy/The Fancy Pure Miles, Cool Killer Cows Whisperers, Dunlavin Pure Miles,

Donard Village Pure Mile, Stranakelly Donard Pure Mile, Newtown Road Donard Pure Miles, Enniskerry Pure Miles, Ballybrew, Curtlestown, Kilmolin, Kilgarron Pure Miles, Eco Trail Pure Miles, Glenmalure Pure Miles, Glenmacnass Pure Miles, Glen Heste Pure Miles, Glencree Walking Group Pure Miles, Glencormack/Aurora Pure Miles, The Many Many Pure Miles of Grange Con - Grange Con Baronstown Pure Miles, Griffithstown Glen Pure Miles, Knocknamuck Pure Miles, Whitehills Pure Miles, Ballycore Pure Miles, Five Crossroads Pure Miles, Rathsallagh Pure Miles, Ballyhurtim Pure Miles, Grangecon Lower Pure Miles, Ballyhook Pure Miles, Bessina Pure Miles, Baronstown Pure Miles, Baronstown Upper Pure Miles, Rathtoole Pure Miles, Ballynure Pure Miles, Knockdoo Pure Miles, Castle Hill Pure Miles, Grangecon Hill Pure Miles, Knockarigg Hill Pure Miles, Lowtown Pure Miles, Moneymore Pure Miles, Knochtershill Pure Miles, Colbinstown Pure Miles, Oldcourt Pure Miles, Greenan Pure Miles, Hill Picket Pure Miles, Hollywood Pure Miles, Irish Mountaineering Running Association Pure Miles,

Jim O'Brien Aughrim Pure Miles, Johnstown Hill Pure Miles, Johnstown Beach Pure Mile, Johnstown North Pure Miles, Kilquiggin Pure Miles, Kilmacurragh Pure Miles, Lacken Pure Miles, Laragh/Ballard Pure Miles, Lough Dan Scouts Pure Miles, Lugglass Pure Miles, Munny Pure Miles, Newtown Road Pure Miles, Newtown Scouts Pure Mile, Raheen Rampere Pure Miles, Rathmoon Carrigeen Pure Miles, Redcross Ballykean Loop Pure Miles, Rednagh Annacurra Pure Miles, Red Lane Sugar Loaf Pure Miles, Reservoir Cogs Pure Miles, Roscath Roads Pure Miles, Shielstown Pure Miles, Snugborough Pure Miles, Stratford On Slaney Pure Miles, Sugar Loaf Car Park Pure Miles, Three Castles Manor Kilbride Pure Miles, Tinoran Pure Miles, Tomriland Pure Miles, Vagabond Tours Pure Mile, Wicklow Uplands Council Pure Miles, Woodfield Loop Pure Miles.

Further information on Pure can be found on www.pureproject.ie

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Cathaoirleach Pat Kennedy (far left) and PURE Project Manager Ian Davis (far right) with members of the Coolafancy PURE Mile.



Members of the EcoTrail PURE Mile group



BACK SOON! The fairways of Coollattin Golf Club are quiet right now, but it won't be long before golfers around Wicklow are getting back into the swing of things. Vouchers are available to buy for Coollattin Golf Club, so you can give the gift of golf this Christmas. See ad on page 10 for details.

A daily fitness plan for lockdown

Joe McDonald from PureFitness Arklow has mapped out a daily fitness routine for those staying at home during lockdown. Joe presents these workouts live on video, from the Pure Fitness Arklow Facebook page, Monday to Friday, at 10am. Each workout lasts 20-30 mins.

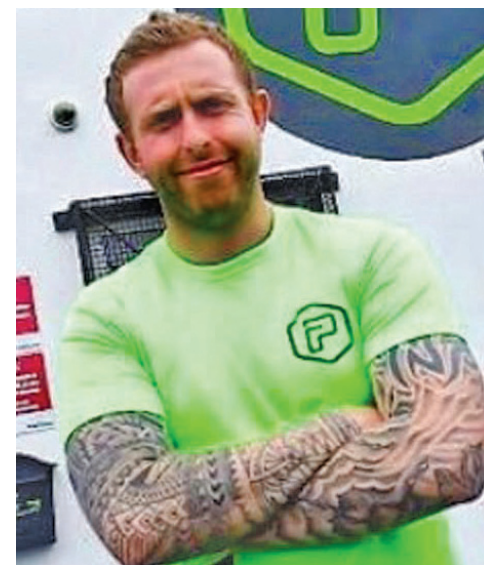
Day 1: Burpees: 20 seconds on 10 seconds off 8 rounds; Mount climbers 20 seconds on 10 seconds off 8 rounds; Squat jumps 20 seconds on 10 seconds off 8 rounds; Jumping jacks 20 seconds on 10 seconds off 8 rounds.

Day 2: Push ups 20 reps; Plank hold for 40 seconds; Reverse crunch 20 reps; Wall squat 40 seconds hold. Repeat 6 times

Day 3: The Ladders - 1 Squat jump 1 Burpee; 2 Squat jumps 2 Burpees; 3 Squat jumps 3 Burpees; 4 Squat jumps 4 Burpees; 5 Squat jumps 5 Burpees; 6 Squat jumps 6 Burpees; 7 Squat jumps 7 Burpees.

Day 4: Core - Side plank on the left side hold for 30 seconds; Side plank on the right side hold for 30 seconds; Sit ups 30 reps; Back extensions 30 reps. Repeat 6 times.

Day 5: Solid Legs - Squat 1 and a half 20 reps; Split Squats 10 reps each leg; Lunges 10 reps each leg; Pulse squats 50 reps. Repeat 7 times



Joe McDonald

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Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for retention of domestic garage with loft storage space, tool shed, fuel store, and associated works at Bonagrew Little, Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow for J. Delaney. 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

FULL PLANNING PERMISSION Sought for:
1. Proposed New Dormer Attic Extension and Conversion to Habitable Rooms (21 Msq) to Existing Roof of Dwelling.
2. All ancillary site works at 32, Wheatfield, Bray, Co. Wicklow. A98 P303.
Signed: Robin & Gillian Kelly. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for retention of converted horse box trailer on a multi-unit retail site and the use of same as a coffee station for the sale of food together with the placement of ancillary customer seating accommodation in the foreground of the converted trailer, and associated works at Main Street, Ashford, Co. Wicklow for L. McGarry. 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.

Bray's Christmas Lights Switch-on goes virtual for 2020!

Bray Chamber, Bray.ie and the Bray Municipal District Council have announced the transformation of the traditional Christmas Light Switch-On into a free live-streamed event for 2020, as part of the Christmas In Bray festivities.

Bray's Virtual Christmas Lights Switch-On 2020 will take place online via www.bray.ie/christmasinbray/ on Saturday, November 21st from 5:00 pm. This event will be hosted by local Bray comedian Adam Burke, will be streamed live from Bray Town Hall and feature live music performances, a very special guest dialling in directly from the North Pole and lots more fun and surprises.

"This year, we're giving one lucky family the chance to push the button to switch on Bray's Christmas Lights directly from their own home. Simply log onto www.bray.ie/christmasinbray/ to enter. Closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 18th, 2020."

Ruth Donnelly, Bray & District Chamber of Commerce President said "We are conscious that this year has had a financial impact on many of us and we hope that town centre businesses can benefit from us bringing forward the official switch on. We're encouraging the community to continue to

shop local first, to spread their spending over a longer period by taking advantage of the local online stores, utilising the many click n' collect and delivery options available, but more importantly they can avoid crowds and stay safe by allowing shops to maintain social distancing."

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form panels from which permanent/temporary vacancies may be filled;

• GENERAL OPERATIVE

REF 17/2020 - (Bray, Greystones, Arklow, Wicklow and Baltinglass Municipal Districts) Salary €552.68 - €627.54 per week gross.

Application Forms and further details can be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at (0404-20159), on website: www.wicklow.ie or by email to recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

CLOSING DATE FOR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS
12.00 NOON ON THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2020

Wicklow County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates in the manner it deems most appropriate.

Wicklow County Council is an equal opportunities employer.

Lorraine Gallagher
Director of Services,
Enterprise & Corporate Services
County Buildings, Wicklow.
Phone No: 0404 - 20159 Fax No: 0404 - 20112
Email: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

Gospel: John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

C.J.

Prayer for a special request

Oh! Dear Mother of God. Our Lady of Conception Aparecida! Oh! Saint Rita of Cassia and Saint Jude worker of miracles and helper of impossible causes pray for me. Saint Expedite, Saint of urgent causes. Saint Edwige the Saint of the needy, you know how desperate I feel, please ask Jesus to help me (mention request) May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored and glorified for ever. Pray 1 Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be..... Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Pray for 3 days. Publish on the 3rd day. See what will happen on the 4th day.

A.C.

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.

A.C.



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Health Service Executive

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Registered General Nurses and Public Health Nurses/Health Visitors required in the following areas in the HSE Public Health Nursing Departments-

HSE Dublin South - Dun Laoghaire area	(covers from Booterstown to Bray)
HSE Dublin South East - based in Clonskeagh	(covers from Baggot Street to Leopardstown)
HSE Wicklow	(covers from Bray to Carnew)

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Nursing Office at phone number 0404 63043	if interested in Wicklow
Nursing Office at phone number 01 2365228/229	if interested in Dun Laoghaire Area
Nursing Office at phone number 01 2680317	if interested in Clonskeagh and surrounding area

Interviews will take place in early December 2020

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PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY



THE PURE MILE



Pure invite groups, communities, individuals, schools, walking groups, cycling groups, scouts, special interest groups, businesses, organisations, **EVERYONE**, to take part in the Pure Mile Project and **ADOPT A MILE OF ROAD, OR MILES OF ROAD, IN YOUR LOCAL AREA OR IN THE UPLANDS**, and help Pure to 'CleanUp The Uplands'. There is over €5,000 worth of prize money to be won and all entries will feature in the Pure Mile Calendar.

For Details and an Application Form for the Pure Mile Competition,

web: | www.pureproject.ie/the-pure-mile

email: | info@pureproject.ie

tel: | 0404 45547

Your Environment – Your Community – Your Heritage

Pure is a partnership project and the first of its kind in Ireland which incorporates statutory and non-statutory organisations, including: Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. Funded by The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Pure was established to combat illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council



dlr
Comhairle Contae County Council

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WicklowUplands
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