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Wednesday 2nd Decemberr 2020 First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01 - 2869111 E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie www.wicklowtimes.net

'HOUSING SITE WILL FLOOD'

Greystones Municipal District Councillors met last Tuesday to decide on whether to approve a Council development of 41 dwelling units at Charlesland, Greystones, on the 'Three Trouts' site that formed part of a High Court case in 2016. Cllr Tom Fortune has described the lands as being "not suitable for housing" due to the risk of flooding.

Residents from Millbrook, Burnaby Lawns and Burnaby Court stood outside with placards in the pouring rain before the meeting.

They believe that the development would increase the flood risk in their own estates, adjacent to the site. The planning application was lodged in July of this year and it was swiftly followed by submissions from local councillors and residents expressing concerns.

Cllr Fortune pointed out that "In 2005 a Catchment Flood Risk Management

(CFRM) report was carried out in the Greystones area to investigate flooding and flood plains.

"The authors of the report were a senior environmental engineer, Mr Frank McGovern, in conjunction with the OPW. It identified the Three Trout site, the subject of this proposed development, as a most important flood plain in the Greystones area. In 2006 Wicklow County Council hired consultancy firm Cassidy's to carry out a flooding

assessment of the Three Trout valley area. Their report confirmed it was a flood plain that should not be developed. (Neither the McGovern/ OPW or Cassidy reports were given to councillors.)

"In 2018 WCC engaged an outside consultancy firm to do a new report which downgraded the 2005 CFRAM which is controversial due to: The flood history of the site, the Frank McGovern & OPW report; the excepted evidence of the flooding of this site."

Cllr Fortune says that



Niamh Smith from 4th Class in St.Patrick's School in Bray has been singing her way through lockdown these last couple of months. Not only was she chosen for this year's Two Talented recordings at RTE, but she was also selected out of more than 1000 girls to sing in the girls choir for Irish Women in Harmony's new Christmas Single 'Together at Christmas' (in aid of ISPCC Childline) and was then invited to sing in this year's very special edition of the Late Late Toy Show, which means she appeared on the Late Late Show two Fridays in a row. Pictured is Niamh and her brothers Jesse and Néo.



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nothing in the landscape of the area has changed since 2005 and that with the advent of climate change, being mindful of the flood history of the site is now more crucial than ever.

"Immediately adjacent to this site the council has 22 acres available, so there is no justification for building on this site," said Cllr Fortune. "Government regulations forbid the building of houses on a flood plain. This planning application is premature, there is a clear and safe alternative available."

Cllr Fortune reiterated these concerns at last week's meeting, where he stated that all of the Councillors should be given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the High Court Case and the history of the site before making a decision.

Cllr Mags Crean also made a submission expressing concerns about

environmental protection and flooding.

She said she supports social housing but the issue is one of suitability: "People in the surrounding estates have been subjected to severe flooding. This threat hasn't gone away, it's only gotten worse. I don't think this site is suitable."

Cllr Crean said that the Council's report doesn't take into account the surrounding estates and she would like a revised report.

Director of Housing Joe Lane defended the Council report and the application, stating that the Council was adhering to the new guidelines for flood reports that were introduced in 2009. "We've done all that we've been required to do. In our view this site is suitable for social housing," he said. "The chance of flooding is 0.1%."

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Tommy Nolan, Michael Fitzgerald, and Tony Fennell of the Arklow RNLI are pictured with the RNLI's 2021 calendar which is now on sale for €5.

Project Postcard

Wicklow County Council Library Service, as part of the Wicklow County Council Community Response Programme, have launched "Project Postcard" aimed at primary school children.

The idea is to encourage primary school children to write to nursing home residents or to loved ones.

Library staff have designed a fun and engaging postcard on which the school children can write their own messages to nursing home residents in Wicklow or to loved ones here or abroad.

The postcards, which are being distributed to schools, will be delivered free-of-charge to nursing homes by An Post.

Commenting on the project, Wicklow County Council Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Kennedy, said: "I welcome this initiative. Each nursing home in Wicklow has been linked with one or more primary school in the county. The postcard was designed to be diverse and give scope for creativity, so the children can bring their own imagination to their postcards, and children of all ages can participate. Spreading some happiness in our community, during such a restrictive time, is what Project Postcard is all about."

Adult Learning STAR Award

AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation is seeking nominations from adult learning initiatives in Wicklow for the annual STAR Awards 2021.

The STAR Awards will take on extra significance in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic as we celebrate and acknowledge the incredible

work that adult learning providers have done in adapting their provision to ensure that the learners' needs continue to be met.

To highlight the diverse range of quality adult learning initiatives taking place across the country, AONTAS welcomes STAR Award nominations in five categories for 2021: Health and Wellbeing, Learner Voice, Social Inclusion, Sustainable Development through Education, Third Level Access and Engagement.

To nominate an adult learning initiative, please visit: www.aontas.com/community/adult-learners-festival/aontas-star-awards. The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, 18th December.

Asthma Society Christmas appeal

The Asthma Society of Ireland has launched the Asthma Society Christmas Appeal calling for urgent public support of their virtual Christmas giving initiative.

Each week in Ireland, a family is devastated by the death of a loved one from asthma. These losses are made even harder as the vast majority of these deaths are preventable. The Asthma Society of Ireland is working tirelessly to help stop asthma deaths by providing crucial support and services to people with asthma and their families but they need your help.

During Covid-19, the need for asthma support services has soared. To allow the Asthma Society keep up with this unprecedented demand for their services the charity is urging the people of Ireland to support their work by purchasing a bauble or star from their virtual Christmas tree via <https://asire-membrancetree.com/>.

The Asthma Society of Ireland is asking for your support to help raise funds for their vital services and to commemorate the life of Ross Edwards, aged 11. Ross's family are left devastated by his loss and are keen to share his story and support the Asthma Society of Ireland with this appeal in his memory.

Brockagh Resource Centre Recycling

Please give your unwanted clothes to the Brockagh Resource Centre clothes bank, located at the back of the building. All proceeds are in aid of the centre's maintenance. You can also empty your glass and drink cans in the other recycle banks too. If you wish to make a booking call (0404) 45600 or email brockaghresourcecentre@gmail.com. Check out up to date information on our website at www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie.

The Christmas Giving Tree needs support

The Giving Tree has been a feature of Christmas in Bray for the last 16 years and helps up to 300 people in need each year.

Pat Hastings, Bray Rotary President explains how the Giving Tree traditionally works: "Gift Tags are placed on the tree with first names and ages of local children in need and, also vulnerable teenagers and adults. Members of the public take a tag and buy a gift for that person; bring it back to the tree and Rotary distribute them to the Charities. Each year we get huge support from the people of Bray, with many regulars coming year after year to support the Giving Tree. This year unfortunately our Christmas Giving Tree Appeal has to go virtual, we are asking for an online donation in order to allow us to continue the support of those who are in need. All funds collected will be distributed to our charity partners who include the four St. Vincent de Paul Conferences in Bray; Purple House Cancer Support; Five Loaves Soup Kitchen; Ark Housing; Bray Community Helpers; Open Door Day Centre. We hope that you can help by donating whatever you can at www.idonate.ie/BrayRotaryAppeal

Bray Christmas GIVING TREE

Providing Christmas presents for Local Charities

- Five Loaves Soup Kitchen
- St. Vincent de Paul (4 Bray Conferences)
- Bray Community Carers
- CASA
- Ark Housing
- Purple House
- Open Door
- Dignity Packs

www.idonate.ie/BrayRotaryAppeal

Free online bike maintenance workshop

Keeping active and being outdoors, even during the winter, and looking after your physical health can help your mental health and wellbeing.

If you're thinking about dusting off that bike in the shed, then Bray Area Partnership's free online Introduction to Bike Maintenance workshop on 3rd December might be just the ticket.

The workshop is part of the partnership's Social Inclusion and Community Action Programme (SICAP) and is being delivered by Mark Dunn of ReDiscover Cycling. Mark will show you how to keep your bike running smoothly and safely. Keeping your bike well maintained will extend its life and keep you on the road.

You'll need access to a laptop, computer or smart device such as a tablet or mobile phone, and the internet, to take part, but if this is an issue for you do give the partnership a call as they may be able to help.

To qualify for this free workshop, you must be living in Greystones, Bray, Delgany, Kilcoole, Kilmacanogue, Newcastle Lower or Newtownmountkennedy and meet certain other criteria. See www.brayareapartnership.ie to find out more or call 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.



Marie Kealy of Wicklow and Niamh McIntosh of Antrim bump fists following the All-Ireland Junior Ladies Football Championship semi-final match between Antrim and Wicklow in Ashbourne, Meath. Wicklow won 7-11 to 3-10, to claim their place in the final against Fermanagh in Parnell Park, Dublin, on Saturday 5th December. See more on page 6.

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WICKLOW
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is published by Wicklow Times,
First Floor, The Boulevard, Quinsborough Road, Bray. A98 R6D7. Tel: 01-2869111

Contacts:

Shay Fitzmaurice, Managing Editor - shay@localtimes.ie

Ian Colgan, News Editor - ian@localtimes.ie

General enquiries - info@localtimes.ie

Minister commits to inquiry into anti-epilepsy drug Sodium Valproate

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has committed to holding an inquiry into the historical licensing and use of the anti-epileptic drug sodium valproate (Epilim) in Ireland, following a meeting with representatives from Epilepsy Ireland and the Organisation for Anti-Convulsant Syndrome (OACS) Ireland.

The Minister said he had been contacted by Wicklow families who have been impacted by the drug.

Minister Donnelly said: "Parents and children impacted by sodium valproate have been fighting for many years for an inquiry into the licensing and use of this drug. I have asked officials in my Department to begin work on this as a priority, and have emphasised the need for a fair and fast inquiry.

Inquiries on this drug have already taken place in other countries, including in France and in the UK, and so we can draw on those learnings, but I also want to ensure that the voices of Irish families and their experiences are listened to and reflected on throughout this inquiry."

Valproate-containing medicines can cause birth defects and developmental disorders in children whose mothers take such medicines dur-

ing pregnancy, and sodium valproate has been the subject of two recent reviews by the European Medicines Agency, in 2014 and 2017.

The Minister has asked officials to examine a number of different options for the structure of this inquiry, but emphasised that he favours a streamlined process that builds on existing knowledge and findings from other jurisdictions, will produce a speedy report and be low



Minister Donnelly

cost. He also stressed that testimonies from

families affected by disabilities associated with the drug will need to be central to the process.

In July 2020, the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Review in the UK published 'First Do No Harm', a comprehensive report into how the UK healthcare system has responded to concerns raised by patients and families about three medical interventions, including sodium valproate.

Roundwood woman tells 'her story' with Epilim

Roundwood woman Teresa Byrne tells her personal story with Epilim: "I was first prescribed Epilim (Sodium Valproate) in 1986 for generalised epilepsy. At that point, I did not know about the impact it would have on my life.

"Throughout both my pregnancies, I would continue to take Epilim – unaware of what I now know today. I wanted to be a good mother, feed them myself and provide them with the best possible start in life.

"When both of my children were born, they were full-term but so tiny, underweight and such bad feeders that they were kept in the neonatal ward. They simply were not what I imagined a healthy baby should look like. Quite frankly they looked like 'lab-rats'.

"My first born was difficult to rear and feed. He attended mainstream school but in hindsight, he struggled enormously. He was never afforded any assistance during his formative years.

"My second was also underweight and a poor feeder. She had more obvious difficulties. She was nearly 2 and a half years old before she walked; she had a high pitched scream-like cry which was very disturbing; she had learning disabilities; dyspraxia; urinary incontinence; sensory issues; and had no filter on what she would say. Many referrals and consultations yielded no answers as to why my daughter had these difficulties.

"Because of her disability, my daughter has very few friends and little independence; other children distanced themselves from her when she was growing

up. This made forming friendships so much more difficult for her. Many referrals & consultations yielded no answers as to why my daughter had these difficulties.

"To this day, my daughter needs full-time care and attention. She currently attends a day service – the National Learning Network in Bray which provides a level of routine and teaches life skills such as how to use computers, using public transport – amongst other day to day skills that she needs.

"I could not class her as an equal with her peers. She has a poor degree of public awareness and this worries me greatly – she relies totally on me. Unfortunately, when you have no concept of what you are specifically dealing with, you have no choice but to battle down and get on with it. You are a mother and that is your job. You do not know any different. However, I always trusted my gut instinct which told me that it was nothing that I specifically did to cause these catastrophic damages and robbed my children of the chance of having a normal life. Deep down, I knew there was an outside element.

"That outside element turned out to be the epilepsy medication I had been prescribed – Epilim. I now know Epilim increases the risk of harmful

effects in pregnancy and can lead to Fetal Anti-Convulsant Syndrome (FACS) – this can cause physical and developmental disabilities in the children who are born. Today I know both my children have been impacted by Sodium Valproate (Epilim).

"From a mother's point of view, I see girls of my daughter's age in groups having a giggle; out shopping together; using trains and buses; and not a mother in sight. Many young girls of my daughter's age are driving and can go to Dundrum for the day. My daughter does not have the capabilities to do this.

"I had to give up full-time employment to care for my daughter as she needed special care and attention which a mainstream childcare facility could not provide.

"Everything that my daughter has achieved has been a huge struggle for her and that makes me so angry. Especially now that I know why this happened.

"I now know that evidence was emerging from the 1960s of the impacts Epilim could have in pregnancy – yet, it continued to be widely prescribed to women with epilepsy in pregnancy for decades to come; without appropriate warnings or discussions on what may happen.

"As part of OACS Ireland –

the dedicated organisation set up to support families impacted by FACS – we have campaigned for an inquiry for in order to provide answers to the many questions my and other families have.

"My family and the families of all others impacted by this drug, need support and answers as to why this situation was allowed to happen for so long. Minister Donnelly's confirmation on the establishment of an inquiry will hopefully finally provide us with the answers that we have sought for so long and provide families with an opportunity to share their stories. We need our voices to be heard and listened to so we can learn from our experiences.

"We look forward to working collectively and in collaboration with Minister Donnelly and his team on establishing an inquiry and to seeing the various options that is proposed. The announcement of inquiry marks the end of one road for campaigners involved with OACS and the beginning of a new one – one that will hopefully yield the answers that families like mine richly deserve."

If you're affected by any of the issues raised in this article please contact www.oacsireland.com and info.oacsireland@gmail.com



Tony Foran and Tom Clune of Bray Lions Club at the announcement of the cancellation of the Bray Lions Club New Year's Day Charity Sea Swim. See story on page 14

Greystones school crisis 'could be solved in 24 hours'

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly has called for a meeting with the Department of Education to try and resolve the issue over the delayed opening of Greystones Community National School.

The Minister confirmed he had had contact with the developers of the school Western Building Systems.

WBS communicated they are seeking for their fire consultant, engineer and architect to meet with their equivalents in the Department to try and resolve the dispute. They claimed that whatever differences existed between them and the Department of Education could be solved in 24 hours.

A Conciliation process has been put in place but it is hoped that a speedier resolution to the impasse could be found.

Minister Donnelly said: "I have written to the Department outlining my request for a meeting to take place between the engineering teams on both sides. Anything that might speed up the resolution of this issue needs to be tried.

"The delay to the opening has caused untold stress on the pupils, their parents as well as the staff. In addition we have the completely unacceptable situation of the Greystones Community College having to use the tennis club.

"They in turn do not have a clear idea about what the future holds which is incredibly stressful for them.

"I am in constant contact with the Department of Education to try and push this issue along.

"I welcome the steps they have taken such as agreeing to appoint a Conciliator as well as the helpful decision to hold regular meetings with local representatives but we need to keep making progress until this issue has been resolved," concluded Minister Donnelly.

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Wicklow Lions members were delighted to welcome Pharmacist Fergal O'Dwyer MPSI, owner of O'Dwyer's Pharmacy in Wicklow town to their recent Zoom meeting. Fergal kindly gave his valuable time to explain Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes which was extremely informative to his attentive audience online.

Healthy eating, increasing the level of physical activity and maintaining a healthy diet all play an important role in preventing or delaying the onset of Type 2 Diabetes, Fergal explained. He strongly suggested everyone should take the 2 minute Diabetes Awareness test set up by Lions Ireland and strongly supported by Wicklow and District Lions Club.

Keeping well in Wicklow

Wicklow County Council has launched the national "Keep Well" campaign in the county. Under this, the Council is promoting a range of services, initiatives and activities to enable people to look after their wellbeing.

The "Keep Well" campaign is to encourage people to make a weekly plan to do something every day to make life a bit easier.

Things such as: Keeping Active & Being Outdoors - even during winter it is important to help physical and mental health and wellbeing; Keeping in Contact - staying connected with people and addressing isolation as person-to-person connection is important to our wellbeing; Switching Off and Being Creative - Switching Off and Being Creative or learning something new, getting back to nature and finding ways to relax; Eating Well - by nourishing your mind and body we can positively impact our physical and mental wellbeing; Minding Your Mood - relaxation, mindfulness and asking for help if needed.

"This is a call to action to everyone in the county. It is an invitation to individuals, communities, voluntary groups, sporting organisations, those involved in creativity, the arts, local heritage and history, businesses, as well as local and national government to find ways to support everyone to discover new activities and routines that will do us good," the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, said. Information and resources for this can be found at www.wicklow.ie/wellbeing or by ringing the Community Call Helpline at 1800 868 399.

Feasability study begins for Delgany Greenway

Delgany Community Council (DCC) has announced the start of the Feasibility Study for the Delgany Greenway. This has been made possible by €12k funding obtained last year from The Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, with 10% matchfunding from both Wicklow County Council and DCC.

The proposal is for a Greenway of approximately 4km running from Barry's Bridge on the N11/R762 junction down to the coast at Greystones, where it might link up at some future time with an East Coast Greenway. The route generally follows along the route of the Three Trouts Stream river valley.

Objectives of the Greenway include: Providing a safe alternative to the R762 which is currently unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians due to the narrow carriageways; Developing the local tourist economy by providing a safe and attractive green route; Providing a new strategic link between the village of Delgany and town of Greystones; Establishing new links with a range of existing tourism routes and trails including the Delgany Heritage Trail, the Delgany-Kilcoole Mass Path, Bellevue Wood Nature Reserve (Glen of the Downs), The Greystones Way, Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk, and the proposed East Coast Greenway; Creating a first-class walking and cycling facility for local communities; Encouraging use of a sustainable mode of transport that interlinks with local amenities, services and existing public transport; Encouraging public engagement with and appreciation of local biodiversity; Giving people accessibility

to nature can be one of the best ways to protect it in a newly suburbanised environment (Currently there are only a few access points to the Three Trouts Stream, and some of these have been used for dumping garden waste and other rubbish); Promoting healthy physical activity and fitness among users, young and old.

The scope of this feasibility study will be to examine the technical and practical aspects of developing the proposed Greenway along the Three Trouts' Stream. The study will need to provide an independent assessment of the physical and environmental impacts of the project taking account of the local, regional, national, and European Union (EU) designations, planning and regulatory requirements.

The feasibility study should examine the technical, environmental and cost implications in the creation of this Greenway.

Delgany Community Council (DCC) is strongly supportive of having a positive impact on the community in terms of place making, promoting active living, preserving our natural and built heritage and rejuvenating Delgany Village, as well as encouraging tourism in North County Wicklow. DCC welcomes the opportunity to develop and enhance the area

with this Greenway project. It will make a significant contribution to promoting increased economic activity in the region and will positively support the social fabric of the area.

"The proposed Greenway will offer an opportunity to experience the beautiful landscape and scenery of the area. People will also enjoy the cultural and heritage attractions available in Delgany Village and Greystones Town. This will promote the area's future potential as a place to live, do business and as a destination for tourists to visit.

"The Delgany to Greystones Greenway will be multifunctional serving tourists, locals, schools and cycle commuter needs. It will also complement and link a comprehensive range of existing and planned recreational trails throughout the area.

"We envisage that it would be similar to the very successful existing Greenways at Waterford to-Dungarvan and at Westport-Achill. The route would follow the Three Trouts stream, which is already zoned for open space and recreational use. This ensures a fairly straight and direct route, with a gentle gradient. The surface would be smooth and high grade, preferably asphalt, but with some raised sections above environmentally sensitive wetland areas.

"This makes it suitable for

cycling, wheelchair users, and electric scooters, as well as pedestrians. It provides a safe space for local recreational users, for cycle commuters, and for tourists.

"Local roads are narrow, carry high volumes of traffic including HGVs, and often lack adequate footpaths. A Greenway can also improve business for shops, cafés and pubs along the route. The main access points or trailheads would be at Barry's Bridge, Delgany Village, Eden Gate/the new Cairns development, Charlesland, and at Greystones South Beach near the golf driving range.

"DCC is pleased to have secured the services of Fehiley Timoney Engineers for this feasibility study. FT have a wealth of experience, having previously worked on the Waterford-Dungarvan Greenway (46km), The Great Southern Greenway Limerick (40km), and the South Kerry Greenway (32km). Currently they are also working on a Wexford to Rosslare Strand Greenway, and the Grand Canal Greenway in Co. Kildare.

"FT are examining the constraints of this planned Greenway, mainly from an engineering and environmental standpoint. One of the main challenges will be how best to run this piece of essential transport infrastructure through an environmentally sensitive area."



Cllr Erika Doyle (Green Party), Stephen Matthews TD (Green Party), Clive Dalby (Chairman DCC) and FT engineer and project Manager Mr. Gene Flynn in a floodplain meadow adjacent to the Killincarrig-Kilcoole road. This field has never been sprayed, and was used for summer grazing of livestock. As such it would contain a wealth of insects and wildflowers that may have died out elsewhere.

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Grainne McLoughlin of Aughrim comes up against Sarah Miley of Wicklow during the All-Ireland Junior Ladies Football Championship semi-final match between Antrim and Wicklow in Ashbourne, Meath. Wicklow won 7-11 to 3-10, to claim their place in the final against Fermanagh in Parnell Park, Dublin, on Saturday 5th December. Pic: Sportsfile

Wicklow Ladies book place in All-Ireland final

The Wicklow Ladies Football team has made it through to the All-Ireland Junior Football Championship final after beating Antrim in the semi-final in Ashbourne, Co. Meath on November 22nd. Wicklow secured a comprehensive victory, 7-11 to 3-10, and will now face Fermanagh on Saturday 5th December in Parnell Park, Dublin.

In the end, the three goals that Antrim scored meant that the final scoreline did not truly reflect Wicklow's total dominance on the day, and were merely consolation goals. Wicklow could have easily got more than seven goals.

It was a tough afternoon for the Antrim defence, and by the halfway mark it was clear that it was only going one way as Wicklow went into the break leading convincingly by 4-4 to 0-5.

Rather than taking their foot off the gas in the second half, Wicklow came out strong again and continued to rack up the points while making five substitutions - the fresh legs helping to keep up their relentless attacking pace.

Wicklow were firing on all cylinders in every area of the field, and were too much for Antrim, whose defence was overrun, whose attackers struggled against the sturdy Wicklow defence, and whose midfield was outfought.

Antrim never gave up and caused Wicklow some problems, but when Laura Hogan's goal made it 4-4 to 0-5, there was no coming back for Antrim.

Wicklow can go into the final with confidence having beaten Fermanagh already in recent weeks (in the group stages, 0-9 to 1-2), but it promises to be a much tighter affair.

Wicklow team: Linda Dempsey, Emily Mulhall,



Wicklow players Marie Kealy and Jackie Byrne celebrate the victory. Pic: Sportsfile

Sarah Jane Winders, Lucy Dunne, Alanna Conroy, Sarah Hogan, Jessie Nolan Byrne, Aoife Gorman, Jackie Kinch, Laurie Ahern, Laura Hogan (1-1), Sarah Miley (0-2), Clodagh Fox (3-0), Meadhbh Deeney (2-3, 1f), Marie Kealy (1-5, 1f).

Subs: Niamh McGettigan for Sarah Hogan (38), Helena Dowling for Laurie Ahern (41), Jackie Byrne for Lucy Dunne (50), Shannagh Goetelen for Jessie Nolan Byrne (50), Sinead McGettigan for Clodagh Fox (56).

Do you own this medal?

A man who found a small jeweler's box on the street is searching for the owner.

One of the items in it is a golf award medal with the inscription "Bray Rabbit's Captain's Prize, Last Captain's Day Old Course, September 2002".

The man reached out to Bray Golf Club to see if they had any info on who it might belong to.

The club's Competitions Committee looked into it to see if they could match the medal with a name, however 2002 was the last year of the 'old' Club and every member of the 'Rabbits' was given a commemorative medal, so it has not been possible to identify the owner.

Please email wicklowed@localtimes.ie if you have any information.



Temple Carrig students win UCD Young Philosopher Awards

On Thursday 19th November, World Philosophy Day, Senator Alice-Mary Higgins was delighted to launch the 2021 Young Philosopher Awards and to congratulate Lily McCann of Temple Carrig, Greystones, who was the overall winner of the Young Philosopher Award 2020 for her project 'What Do We Owe To Each Other?'.

The Young Philosopher Awards were founded by UCD School of Ethics and President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins four years ago to encourage primary and secondary school students across Ireland to engage with philosophy and explore a philosophical question they consider important to think about in the current time.

Speaking on World Philosophy Day Senator Alice-Mary Higgins said "The vision of these awards is to create an opportunity and space to bring together philosophers, be they academics, primary or secondary school students, teachers, communities or friends to discuss and engage with questions of what it means to live together and to live

well in this world at this time. The big questions around existence, around our responsibilities to each other and our relationships with each other.

"Thinking and reflecting about these questions is more important than ever this year when do many are facing personally and collectively challenging circumstances."

"I would like to commend all the students who participated in the 2020 Awards and congratulate students Siobhán Ryan, Ava McGowan, Ben Wade, Michael Clarke, Emily Gaines and Lily McCann from Temple Carrig, Greystones who were winners in their respective categories. Their entries on the theme 'Covid-19 Ethics' were outstanding and I encourage people to take a look at them on UCD's website UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life | IYPA Covid-19 Award."

Entries are now open for the Young Philosopher Awards 2021. This year, a new International Award is also being launched on the theme of 'Solidarity'.



Entries are now open for the Young Philosophy Awards 2021. This year, a new International Award is also being launched on the theme of 'Solidarity'



Wicklow players celebrate following the TG4 All-Ireland Junior Ladies Football Championship semi-final match between Antrim and Wicklow in Ashbourne, Meath. Pic: Sportsfile

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Mary Aldridge, new Lifeboat Operations Manager at Wicklow RNLI

New Lifeboat Operations Manager at Wicklow RNLI

Wicklow RNLI lifeboat Station has announced that Mary Aldridge has taken on the volunteer role of Lifeboat Operations Manager (LOM) following the recent retirement of Des Davitt.

As Lifeboat Operations Manager Mary will now be responsible for managing all operational activities at the RNLI station, as well as authorising the launch of the lifeboats.

Mary Aldridge joined Wicklow lifeboat Station as a volunteer Deputy Launching Authority four years ago. With a keen interest in aquatic sports and surf lifesaving, Mary was always interested in volunteering with the Lifeboat over the years.

As a member of An Garda Síochána for over 30 years Mary was transferred to Wicklow from Dublin in 2007, and was the Inspector in Wicklow District until she retired in 2014.

During that time, as part of her garda role and responsibilities she worked as Liaison Inspector for County Wicklow for Major Emergency Management. It was in this capacity that she got to know many of the crew at Wicklow Lifeboat Station and the other Emergency 'Blue Light' Services.

Mary also has International experience as she served with the United Nations Civilian Police with the United Nations in Former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) for 12 months during the Balkan conflict in 1993/1994.

Mary is living in Wicklow for the past 20 years and is an avid sea swimmer. She regularly competes in Open Water competitions in the Leinster Open Sea Series and with Wicklow SC. She is a former Secretary and Vice Chairperson of Wicklow Swimming Club.

Speaking about her new volunteer appointment, Mary said: "I am really looking forward to my new role as Lifeboat Operations Manager at Wicklow Lifeboat Station. I have big shoes to fill in replacing Des Davitt. I wish Des and Angela all the best and an enjoyable retirement."

'Difficult year' strips 2021 Budget of discretionary funding for Municipal Districts

Districts advised to increase parking charges to make up shortfall

Councillors last week voted unanimously to pass the Council's 2021 Budget, however following the Council's decision in September to reduce the Local Property Tax it was one that contained no discretionary funding for Wicklow's five Municipal Districts.

The decision to reduce the LPT back to the base rate for 2021 has meant a reduction of over €1.7 million in the 2021 Budget. Furthermore, Wicklow remains a contributor under the National Equalisation Fund which takes 20 percent of the LPT income out of Wicklow and distributes it to other local authorities.

The Council's Head of Finance, Brian Gleeson, explained "Unfortunately due to the reduction in LPT we've had to remove the discretionary funding for the Municipal Districts for 2021. Municipal Districts do have the option however, like Bray Municipal District did, to increase parking charges for their area and retain the net increase for their discretionary expenditure, so all Municipal Districts have the option of doing that, if they should wish."

Mr Gleeson also said that "the discretionary funding balances at the end of 2020 will be carried over into 2021 - there's a large balance to carry over." The carryover is just under €1.7 million. He also said that funding the Council is drawing down for NTA mobility schemes and works will also be available to Municipal Districts and "will act as a substitute for the discretionary funding in the Municipal Districts".

Already a total of €4.8m has been allocated to Wicklow for projects under this. The Community Grants Scheme was also in danger of being cut for 2021, however Cllr Pat

Fitzgerald (FF) put forward a proposal to create €100,000 to save the scheme, by increasing the NPPR charge (Non Principal Private Residence) by fifty percent and removing the Rates Incentive Scheme for new businesses.

Cllr Fitzgerald's proposal had the full support of the other councillors.

"With a limit of €500 on the grants it will help over 200 clubs and organisations," said Cllr Fitzgerald.

Councillors were told how Covid-19 has also severely impacted on the Council's finances, necessitating additional expenditure for PPE equipment, accommodation works and IT requirements, etc. as well as a loss of income in relation to commercial rates, housing rents and other goods and

services such as parking and planning fees.

To date, the Council has received about €13m in Government funding for the commercial rates waiver scheme this year, which has resulted in over 90 percent of Wicklow ratepayers receiving a waiver in respect of the nine month period from the end of March to December. The Council is expecting additional Government funding to compensate for loss of income this year.

Cllr Tom Fortune (Ind) expressed frustration with the baseline of the LPT being "too low" and the impact this has on Council's budget every year: "Wicklow is being treated unfairly, it's the same thing every year so I would ask from now on that we work and get that baseline sorted. This

should be an agenda item every month so that it is getting attention from the full membership on a monthly basis."

Mr Gleeson said that the Council would work on this in 2021: "I one-hundred percent agree, it is a frustration for me as well. I have contacted the Department, I've been told they will be looking at this area again and the legislation that needs to be brought in for the issue of the equalization fund and increased baseline. All those elements, mixed up together, has an impact on our funding, the Minister for Finance has stated he hopes to commence the introduction of that legislation next year. So, without doubt, we will be pushing that topic continuously throughout 2021."

Calls for more funding and routes for Local Link service

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called for a significant increase in investment in Local Link services across Wicklow. Deputy Whitmore was responding to information she received from the NTA stating that funding for Local Link services in Wicklow had not increased from 2019 figures.

The popularity of the Local Link service in Wicklow was recently reflected by statistics from the NTA.

"Figures sent to me by the NTA indicate that funding in 2020 for local link services in Wicklow was €615,028, the same figure as in 2019. This indicates that no increase in investment has taken place for Local Link services in the county despite demand for more bus services increasing," said Deputy Whitmore. "I hope that Budget 2021 funding will rectify this and put the Local Link service on a path of expansion across the county."

"Local Link routes are so important for a variety of reasons including local

economic development and tackling rural isolation. They perform an invaluable service for our elderly, those that don't drive and students in helping them get around. And now with our local shops struggling, it's going to be more important that people can easily shop in their locality, using Local Link to get around."

"Crucially, Local Link routes will also help us achieve our climate action goals and reduce car dependency in the county. The demand for alternatives to cars is there."

"The NTA's recent report on local link usage in Wicklow reveals how successful the new routes have been here and shows that when you put in place alternatives they will be



Jennifer Whitmore TD

used so long as the alternative adequately services an area.

"We need more local link services across the county including in West Wicklow but this will mean ratcheting up investment by

Government to enable NTA services like Local Link to be rolled out further. It is disappointing that figures show no increase was made in last year's Budget but I hope funding from Budget 2021 will go towards further roll out of Local Link services."

"We are in a climate and biodiversity emergency but Government funding for major infrastructure projects is not currently reflecting this. I have requested a meeting with the NTA and hope to meet with them to push for greater investment in local link services for the County as well as other transport projects that will reduce car dependency in Wicklow."

"In my time as a

County Councillor, I worked closely on the development of the Wicklow - to - Glendalough route with Local Link and Wicklow Tourism and it was clear then that it was a much needed service. Due to the demand for more public transport routes I knew this would be a popular route and I'm delighted to see that confirmed in recent statistics."

"The success of this Local Link route also supports the case that Wicklow could do with more of these bus routes across the county to connect all different areas. I am in no doubt that the demand is there and I will continue to campaign for them."

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COUNTY WICKLOW ARTS CENTRE

The National Framework for Living with COVID-19

December & Christmas Arrangements



Coronavirus
COVID-19
National
Programme

1st December: Ireland will move to Level 3, with some variations

4th December: Restaurants and pubs operating as restaurants will reopen

18th December—6th January: We may have visitors in our homes from up to two other households and we may travel beyond our county.

COVID-19 has disrupted our lives for more than 8 months. The pandemic has taken a serious toll—on us personally, on our economy, and on our society. Public compliance with restrictive measures has pushed down infection rates. However, we must continue to protect those at risk.

From Tuesday 1st December

Level 3 (with some variations) applies from Tuesday 1st December into January.
There will be additional special measures for Christmas.



All shops
will reopen.



Personal services,
including hairdressers,
will reopen.



Museums, Galleries &
Libraries will reopen.



Attendance at
religious services will
be permitted with
protective measures in
place.



Travel within county
boundaries will
be permitted.



On 4 December
Cafes, Restaurants
and Pubs operating as
restaurants will reopen
with tables of max. 6
persons.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Let's stay safe this Christmas.
This is what we are asked to do:

Plan ahead



Every contact counts –
limit the numbers you
meet



Remember, meeting
outdoors is safer than
indoors



Keep gatherings small
if meeting indoors and
make sure the space is
well ventilated



Wear a face-covering
as advised.



Special Arrangements for Christmas



18 December—
6 January

We may have
visitors in
our homes from
up to two other
households.



We can travel
outside
our own county.



For full details of Level 3
and special arrangements
for Christmas, go to
gov.ie/SafeChristmas

Public health requires that social and family gatherings (indoor or outdoor)
should not resume, except over the Christmas period.





'Significant progress' on new Educate Together National School

Chairperson of Newtown/Kilcoole Educate Together National School Anne Gregory has welcomed the significant progress in the development of their new buildings and school for the growing Wicklow community.

"I have been working on this project with a group of dedicated parents and community to secure a National School for our rapidly growing town. There have been many ups and downs in this journey but I am delighted that we have made significant progress over the last few months," said Anne.

Newtownmountkenedy/Kilcoole Educate Together National School (ETNS) opened in August 2019 and was a response to increased demographic pressures and population growth in the area.

"The school was one of 12 new primary schools to be established throughout Ireland in 2019 with the patronage being decided following an on-line engagement with parents in the areas. As the majority of parents in the Newtownmountkenedy/Kilcoole area expressed a preference for Educate Together, this was the patron chosen.

"Initial accommodation for the school was provided by the Department of Education in the form of modular buildings in the town on a central site. In phase one, two classrooms and an administration block were provided.

"We are delighted to confirm that in early 2020 phase two will be installed that will include another two classrooms to cater for incoming infant classes in September



Newtown ETNS Principal Dr Nicola Martin Hodgins

2021 and September 2022.

"We are actively engaged with the Department of Education on the permanent site for our new 8 classroom School. I am informed the site acquisition is at an advanced stage. For the parents, teachers, students and community of Newtownmountkenedy/Kilcoole, these are exciting days for which we have worked so hard.

"I am proud to have played my part in reaching this stage and will not rest until this new School is built and opened for our growing town."

'Broadband blackspots' to be addressed

Green Party TD Deputy Steven Matthews met with representatives from National Broadband Ireland recently and asked that certain mapping anomalies in Wicklow's broadband coverage be addressed. These anomalies mean that certain areas on the map appear to be broadband blackspots.

Explaining, Deputy Matthews said "People saw the maps showing where broadband was going to be connected and their homes were outside those zones on the map. This was a mapping anomaly and in actual fact their homes were in the zones. Naturally residents were very upset and disappointed. They had difficulty getting a response from the NBI team and so they contacted me.

"I was able to get confirmation from NBI that those locations were included and passed on the good news to those residents. I asked the NBI team to address the mapping errors and to look at improving the responses to residents' queries.

"I also highlighted the issue previously experienced in urban areas where some homeowners declined permission for fibre optic cables to run across their house or property. This had the effect of preventing houses further along the circuit being supplied. The NBI team told me that they are aware of this issue and that their cable routing design will not

encounter this problem."

Deputy Matthews gave an update on the most recent progress in County Wicklow.

"The most up to date roll out proposal for Wicklow is as follows: Kilcoole - survey and design are now complete and going to construction. This should be ready for customers to connect by September 2021.

Blessington - the survey is now complete; it is currently going through design stage and then to construction. It should be ready for customers to connect by October 2021.

"The intervention areas covered in this roll out are a 30km radius of both towns. There are 14, 875 homes in the intervention area in Wicklow in total.

"Once these two areas are complete this will address approximately 6,785 of those. For South Wicklow, the roll out in North Co. Wexford will cover some parts of the south of Wicklow and is currently one of the first areas being done.

"Once the network is connected in an area a customer can then look to a number of broadband



Steven Matthews TD

providers for their service."

In Wicklow, there are 14,871 premises the Intervention Area (IA), which includes homes,

farms, commercial businesses and schools. This equates to 23% of all premises in the county. Under the National Broadband Plan, Wicklow will see an investment of €59M in the new high speed fibre network. This will enable e-learning, remote monitoring of livestock or equipment, e-health initiatives, better energy efficiency in the home, and more remote working - all of which support the National Development Plan (NDP). The first homes in

Wicklow will be connected early next year, while over 115,000 premises nationwide will be passed and available for connection with future-proofed high-speed FTTH (Fibre-to-the-Home) within the next 18 months.

Last month it was announced that three new broadband connection points in Wicklow are to be a key element of the Government's National Broadband Plan. These are in Wicklow County Campus, Clermont; Ballycooge Community Hall; and Wicklow GAA Centre of Excellence.

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

The position of broadband development officer has been in place in Wicklow County Council since 2017. Wicklow County Council is currently in the process of appointing additional resources to support this role following recent interviews.

Additional funding of €2.25m announced for LauraLynn

The Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, has announced the provision of €2.25m of LauraLynn Children's Hospice over 2020 and 2021.

Since opening in 2011 the hospice has supported 18 families in Wicklow and currently has seven children from the county accessing their services.

In addition, approximately 10 families from the county are accessing their bereavement care, support and activities.

The €2.25 million in funding is split into two parts. The first is €1.5 million in core funding. This will support the delivery of services by LauraLynn hospice next year including inpatient symptom control, respite and end-of-life care, homecare, family support, and bereavement care. This funding will recur on an annual basis. The service delivery arrangements will be determined by the HSE in the context of the 2021 National Service Plan.

The second part is the provision of €750,000 in once-off funding, part of a wider once-off allocation of €10 million to organisations in the voluntary palliative care sector to be used for developments undertaken or commenced in 2020. This funding is in recognition of the challenging circumstances brought about by Covid-19. It can be used for improvements to premises, facilities and ICT systems, telehealth and telemedicine platforms, education and training programmes and to offset lost fundraised income as a direct result of restrictions to counter the spread of COVID-19.

Minister Donnelly said: "The LauraLynn Hospice provides invaluable support and services at what can be at such a difficult and devastating time for families.

"It has been a life-changing

resource for families in Wicklow to be able to access their services.

"It ensures that children and their families can access high quality person-centred palliative care services in their preferred location of care. They provide a friendly, compassionate and supportive network for children with life limiting conditions and their families so that they can enjoy the best possible quality of life. I am really glad to confirm this additional funding. In particular, the €1.5 million in core funding will help to put the delivery of palliative care services by LauraLynn Hospice on a more sustainable footing in 2021 and into the future.

"This has been a very challenging year for everyone working in healthcare and I want to commend all of the staff at LauraLynn who have worked tirelessly to ensure that they could continue to provide services to children during this pandemic, in some cases innovating and adapting to online services."

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Christmas in THE UPLANDS

Christmas shopping isn't all about high streets and shopping centres; a large number of people are looking for a pleasant shopping experience that is less hurried and more personal, the way it used to be!

We are fortunate in County Wicklow to be able to provide both these experiences, bustling shopping streets and family run specialist shops that still provide that personal touch.

Many day trippers will be familiar with the uplands area of Wicklow as a wonderfully scenic location to enjoy walks and picnics in the sum-

mer. However the uplands also provides an excellent Christmas shopping experience.

The highest village in Ireland may give off the impression of being a little sleepy, but Roundwood has a thriving commercial heart, which is growing at a pace. If you are worrying about buying the same present for the

same person two years in a row, then perhaps it's time you left behind the bright lights of the big cities and towns and headed into the country for that something special for someone special.

Roundwood has always been a popular stop on the tourist trail, along with the natural draws of the area, many built amenities have also attracted their fair share of visitors with plenty of high quality golf courses located in the vicinity of the village, coupled with some award winning restaurants, pubs and cafes.

Roundwood's retail and commercial offering has grown substantially over the last decade, giving the local economy a boost. Where before people were predominantly involved in agriculture, it seems there are now a multitude of trade and craftsmen in Roundwood, gaining the town a reputation for competitive pricing and quality work.

Christmas Trees

Glendalough Christmas Tree Farm opened on the 28th of November, selling wreaths and any tree with a variety of sizes. Bring along your letter to Santa!! Santa mailbox is here. Family photos available while you're enjoying the family experience of picking your Christmas tree straight from the farm while supporting your local Christmas tree grower.

Santa is coming!

Given the state of affairs and the possibility that all Santa events and outings may not go ahead with the restrictions this year, Danny Devitt has decided to put a Santa suit (gloves and mask under beard so covid friendly) and deliver a small gift to each child in the Glendalough, Laragh and Annamoe village. Should you like to have a socially distant door visit from him we ask that you wrap a small gift for your child, clearly label the name of your child and put your house number or eircode on it. Collection of gifts will be organised closer to the time. The Santa visit will take place roughly between 5pm and 7pm on several days in December (the dates to be confirmed depending on numbers.) If you're interested could you please contact Danny Devitt via facebook, or email dannydevittmunster78@gmail.com or jenn.ck@gmail.com. As this is free of charge there will be a bucket collection for Ronald McDonald house and Crumlin children's hospital.

Laragh Lights

"The main outdoor Christmas Lighting event can not go ahead due to public health advice and the safety of our community. This year we have been unable to hold any fundraising events so we are asking for any support to help us keep

improving our lights. There is a go fund page if anybody is in a position to donate for lighting improvements. Follow the gofundme.com link on our Facebook page. We are very lucky to have had amazing support from all our local businesses since we started putting up our lights however this year we will not be asking for support from them in what has been a very challenging time for all businesses. Instead we ask you all to shop local in these coming months."




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Christmas*

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a Happy Holiday
Season.*



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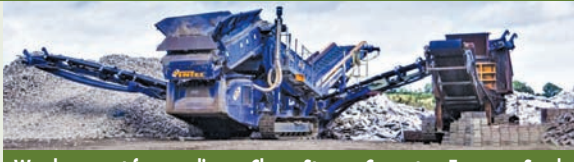
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Thousands tune in to watch Bray's virtual Christmas lights switch-on

Bray's Virtual Christmas Lights Switch-On 2020 took place online on Saturday, 21st November.

The 45 minute show was hosted by local Bray comedian Adam Burke, which was streamed live from the Town Hall, featured music performances from Voice of Bray competition winner Ollie Morrissey and an exclusive performance of their new single Christmas in Heaven by local band Connect BNYP.

Viewers even caught a glimpse the big man himself as he dialled from the North Pole with some great advice for all boys and girls tuning in. During the show, special Christmas videos message came in nationally and internationally including Laura Whitmore and Darren Randolph.

As the switch-on moment arrived competition winners The Denver family had the prestigious role of pushing the button to officially turn on the town's Christmas lights directly from their own home. After the countdown, Bray sparkled, and viewers were treated to exclusive drone footage of the Town Centre lights and projections.

Ruth Donnelly, Bray & District Chamber of Commerce President said "The virtual Christmas Light Switch On launched the festive campaign to support our town centre businesses and to bring much-needed festive cheer to the community. We are thrilled with the support and reaction from the local community so far; the show has had over 6,500 views.

"It was a great community team effort, and we would like to extend a huge thank you to the many volunteers, service providers, local businesses, families, artists, community groups and clubs who contributed and helped to make this virtual event on such a spectacular show," concluded Ruth.

The Christmas In Bray campaign aims to drive footfall safely into the town in support of all businesses once Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE KILMACANOGUE TO SOUTHERN CROSS GREENWAY

Further to Public Consultation No. 1, Wicklow County Council are now proceeding to Public Consultation No. 2, progressing work on the development of a pedestrian and cyclist scheme to link Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross at Bray Retail Park, and invites the residents of Kilmacanogue and the surrounding areas, members of the public and interested parties to participate in a second public consultation phase.

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

The brochure will provide details of the project route options and the questionnaire will provide you with an opportunity to have your say and to provide feedback to the project team.

If you do not receive the brochure and questionnaire but you wish to contribute during the consultation period, please refer to the project link at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Kilmacanogue-to-Southern-Cross-Greenway> to have your say.

Arklow Courthouse is back in business

Wicklow County Council, in conjunction with key partners The Courts Service and Arklow Business Enterprise Centre (ABEC), have announced that the redevelopment of the Arklow Courthouse has been completed.

The building will see the provision of modern court facilities along with a new enterprise hub.

A total of 1.2 million for the refurbishment of the Courthouse was secured by Wicklow County Council and Arklow Municipal District under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund as part of the overall Historic Town Core Project.

The ground floor of the building will be used as a Courthouse with new and improved facilities for all of its users.

The upper floors will provide a blend of co-working space and traditional office space in a town centre location. This results from a collaboration between Arklow Business Enterprise Centre (ABEC) and Wicklow County Council.

ABEC @ the Courthouse plans to support the growing demand for employees who want to cut down on long commute times and work in an Enterprise Hub which meets the needs of a modern, professional and flexible work environment with high speed eFibre access.

The Enterprise Hub will provide quality office space for up to six businesses and accommodation for up to 12 individuals in the co-working area which features a hot-desking space where you will be able to drop in and rent a desk for a day.

The energy efficiency of the building has significantly improved due to triple glazing, heat recovery ventilation and energy efficient electric heating in all areas.

The next phase of the project, which is due to start in 2021, will see the creation of a new public realm in the adjacent Parade Ground area.

Welcoming the completion of the Courthouse, Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County

Council, said: "Arklow Courthouse was in need of significant investment and it is wonderful to see how Wicklow County Council working with key stakeholders has been able to transform this building into a modern and sustainable facility which will be used by so many people".

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Frank Curran, explained that "the strategic objective of this project was to reinvigorate the heart of Arklow

town. The successful completion of the Arklow Court House is most welcome and an important step in breathing new life into Arklow's Historic Core".

Cllr Sylvester Bourke, Cathaoirleach of Arklow Municipal District, along with Arklow Town Team and Donal Murray, ABEC Manager, were delighted to be associated with this project and see the Courthouse as an important addition to the town centre.



The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy; Manager of ABEC, Donal Murray; Arklow Municipal District Engineer, Rob Mulhall; Chairman of ABEC, James Dunne and Cathaoirleach, Arklow Municipal District, Cllr Sylvester Bourke, pictured in the new Enterprise Centre in the refurbished Arklow Courthouse.

Students take on local and international issues at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

Twelve projects from eight schools across Wicklow have qualified for the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2021. BT Ireland has today revealed the 550 finalists who will represent their schools and communities from across the island of Ireland at the first-ever virtual BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) from Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th January 2021.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been a driving force behind a large number of entries this year with a quarter of all qualified projects delving into topics on health and the impact of Covid-19.

Projects vary from topics which explore the effects lockdown may have had on different socio-economic groups, to investigations into the effectiveness of different types of facemasks and the impact of hand sanitizer on our skin. The impact of Covid-19 is explored across all four project categories - Social & Behavioural Science; Technology; Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences; and Biological & Ecological Sciences.

Selected from over 1,300 entries, the finalists represent 213 schools across 29 counties and will showcase their projects on the BTYSTE virtual platform

to a national - and increasingly international - audience.

The Wicklow entries are: **St. Mary's College:** Is Ireland in the 'Dark Ages' in regards to forensics and is there anything we can do about it?; **St Mary's College:** Investigating the Indoor 'Silent Killers' during the Pandemic!; **St Mary's College:** Nutrient recycling efficiency using bio-based organic fertilisers; **St. Mary's College:** Nutrient recycling efficiency using biobased organic fertilisers; **SEK International School:** Safe Haven - a technology solution for social distancing measures in public places; **SEK International School:** Comparing the inhibition potency of various plant based anti-microbial agents; **St Kevin's Community College:** Nettles - the sustainable solution to fast fashion;

Presentation College: "S.O.S- Save Our Sheep" Tracking system; **St Gerard's:** Using NFC technology on medical/ID bracelets; **Colaiste Chraobh Abhann:** Girls Participation In Sports; **Woodbrook College:** Mixed VS single Sex PE Lessons; **Dominican College:** Ready Steady Learn!

Year after year, the students that enter the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition explore and analyse both national and global social issues which are important to them. Many projects this year touch on direct provision, gender studies, race, domestic abuse, sexual assault, and socioeconomic challenges. The ongoing prevalence of social media and technology in our everyday lives also features strongly in this year's project trends alongside a

growing trend of safety, our own personal safety and the safety of others. Qualified projects also demonstrate a continued interest in the science behind sports with projects investigating protective sportswear as well as the effects of nutrition on performance.

Over the coming weeks, students will focus on preparing to exhibit their projects and meet the judges at the 57th annual Exhibition. Mari Cahalane, Head of BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition said "For the first time in its history, the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition will be turned into a virtual exhibition. We are excited to unveil the new interactive BTYSTE platform in January which will also bring the exhibition to new audiences, far and wide. We are looking forward to showcasing the amazing projects from

some of the brightest young minds in the country in a new and innovative way. We have a full schedule of events suitable for all ages to look forward to in January, including special acts, the Primary Science Fair, and business events, all taking place alongside the showcase of student projects."

For the first time in its prestigious history, the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition will be delivered across a virtual platform from January 6th - 8th 2021. This national celebration of science and technology is one of the country's best attended events every year. For participants, the Exhibition offers a chance to win one of the most coveted awards with a substantial prize fund and the BTYSTE perpetual trophy, as well as over 200 prizes for individuals, groups, and teachers.



ARKLOW CELTIC

40 YEARS OF HISTORY



It's been 40 years since Arklow Celtic Football Club was formed, a time that's flown by for David Tyrell who's been involved with the club from its beginnings, along with his lifelong friend and co-founder of the club, Seamus Cullen. As detailed below, it's a club that truly owes its existence to the kindness and generosity of the people of Arklow.

It was in The Corner House on a Saturday afternoon in July of 1979, when David, Seamus, Seamus's brother Padraig, and Willie Walker first started discussing the possibility of forming a new soccer club in the town.

would probably have remained just talk, but for the interruption by two other local drinkers, Kevin Keogh and his friend Joe Byrne, who alas are now both deceased," recalls David.

"They thought our idea was crazy and placed a



President Seamus Cullen, first manager Brian Rees, and former club treasurer Willie Walker of Arklow Celtic

wager of £5 each that we couldn't possibly have a new club in place by the start of the season - just two months away. However we accepted that challenge!"

With no players, pitch, jerseys, nets, football, or money, it seemed an impossible task. To get players, they contacted the Wicklow League for the proper forms and by the end of the first week had almost twenty players signed up.

For the pitch, they requested a meeting with the committee of Arklow Town F.C., who agreed to let them use their second

pitch at Cemetry Road (now Ferndale Park, home of Arklow United) free of charge.

By the middle of August '79, Arklow Celtic were still without a proper kit, despite having already played a number of friendlies. For these games they were lent an old set of black jerseys by the late Maureen Woolohan of The Corner House.

Local publican Felix O'Rafferty, agreed to sponsor a set of jerseys, while Sean 'Bonn' Woolohan bought and donated a brand-new set of nets.

The club was still without any footballs, but it

was the kindness of another local man, M.J. Doyle, who solved this problem for them by gifting them two footballs.

The club was called Avonmore United when they registered it. "It was the first that came to mind."

The club's committee structure in that first season was a fairly loose affair, with meetings taking place upstairs in The Corner House. The committee consisted of Seamus Cullen as Chairman, Thomas Halpin and John Kenna and Padraig Cullen, secretaries, Willie Walker as Treasurer, Brian Rees as team manager, and Padraig Cullen as trainer.

"We were very lucky to have a man of calibre, Willie Walker, as Treasurer. Willie let nothing slip."

The Club's first league match in the 1979/80 season was a home fixture at Cemetry Road against Wolfe Tone Rangers from Bray, which Avonmore won 5-1.

The team line-up that day consisted of Bill (Tar) Kavanagh in goal, defenders Charley Monaghan,



The first team to win anything - the Division 4 League in 1984.

Thomas Halpin, John Kenna and Padraig Cullen, midfielders Andy Walker, Danny McDonald, and Seanie Walker, with Kieran Cullen, John Byrne and Chris Monaghan making up the front three. Chris Monaghan wrote himself into the history books of the club by scoring the club's first ever goal.

The club has had some memorable moments over the years, the biggest arguably being winning the Wicklow Cup for the first time in 2004 on the Club's 25th anniversary.

"All the cups are special to win but the one that

stands out is the Wicklow Cup in 2004," says David.

"The final was against shillelagh it was always going to be a tough and physical game. The deadlock was broken in the second half by Gavin Doyle who scored the only goal to bring the cup to Arklow Celtic.

Throughout the years Arklow Celtic's senior players have been selected to play for the Oscar trainer team and also our very successful youths have been evolved with the Wicklow County and Kennedy cups teams.

"In 2019 we had our 40th anniversary dinner

dance in the Arklow a bay hotel. The committee worked extremely hard to make it a great success. The was a fantastic turn out from old an existing members and representatives from the Wicklow league and Wicklow County Council with speeches from founding members. A big thanks to all our previous committee, players and managers and all our sponsors who helped us for the last 40 years and to the next."

As the club says, "When people succeed, it is because of hard work. Luck has nothing to do with success."

Club Honours

Division 4 winners 1984
Jubilee Cup winners 1994
Thomas Scott Cup winners 2000
Division 2 winners 2001
Charlie Bishop Cup winners 2003
Wicklow Cup winners 2004
Charlie Bishop Cup winners 2005
Scot Cup winners 2017

Current committee

President: Seamus Cullen.
Chairman: Stephen Cullen.
Secretary: Peter Walker
Treasurer: David Tyrrell
Mark Doyle
John Cush
James Cullen
David Kenny

Fundraising committee

Annmarie Cullen
Sharon Byrne
Cira Wolohan
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Pictured at the announcement of the Bray Lions Club New Year's Day Charity Sea Swim cancellation are (from left) Lion Tom Clune, Katie Dempsey (Lifeguard), Lion Tony Foran, Danny Bohan, president, Bray Lions Club, Colm Dempsey (Lifeguard) and Shu Rong (Lion).

'Sea Swim will return'

'We will be back', said Danny Bohan, president of Bray Lions Club, when he announced on Friday that the Bray Lions Club Charity Sea Swim, scheduled for New Year's Day 2021, has been cancelled in accordance with Government health advice.

'We have consulted very carefully with our partners and have reluctantly concluded that the swim cannot be held this year. However, we are already planning a bigger and better Bray Charity Sea Swim which will take place on New Year's Day 2022. We realise that our hundreds of swimmers, sponsors, supporters and the people of Bray will be disappointed, but we are certain that they will also agree that their health safety must be our top priority.'

The cancellation will also be disappointing for the charities which would benefit from the proceeds of the swim. Since its inception 37 years ago, the

annual swim has raised in excess of €370,000, all of which has been donated to a wide spectrum of local causes.

"Covid 19 has dealt our fund raising activities a devastating blow," said Danny. "In addition to the Charity Sea Swim, we have had to cancel our annual Charity Auction, golf tournament and Food Appeal."

He thanked the people of Bray for their generous support of Bray Lions Club over the years.

"We hope that this generosity will continue through support for our Christmas Appeal. We have widely distributed envelopes seeking funds to homes throughout Bray. Those who wish to support Bray Lions Club can place a donation in the envelope and drop it to any one of six local pharmacies: Pure on Mai Street, Downeys at the Tesco Centre, Roches on Vevay Road, Cunninghams on Killarney Road, Lloyds in Castle Street and Quin's on Quinsboro Road. Every cent we collect will be devoted to our charities and projects," he said.

Progress on Changing places campaign

Green Party TD and Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Steven Matthews, has welcomed the progress being made regarding the Changing Places campaign which he initially raised in the Dail in October.

The Working Group was established to examine amending the building regulations with a view to including mandatory Changing Places toilet facilities in public buildings will convene in December, said Green Party TD Deputy Steven Matthews.

Deputy Matthews raised the subject in the Dail recently and received a commitment from Minister Malcolm Noonan that the Department of Housing would set up a working group to prepare a document for public consultation. Stakeholders have been contacted and the first meeting is

expected to go ahead in early December.

Deputy Matthews said, "I am delighted the Minister has followed up so quickly and understands the importance of examining this issue. Currently there are just 14 'Changing Places' toilet facilities in the Republic of Ireland.

"These facilities differ from standard disabled toilets in that they have a larger footprint, a centralised toilet to allow assistance from carers, a hoist, and crucially, an adult sized changing bench. Those with a severe disability or older children,

teenagers or adults who need incontinence pads changed cannot do so with the dignity they deserve. This means very often families must choose their activities outside the home based on access to one of just 14 toilet facilities nationwide. The building regulations as they stand make no provision for this type of toilet facility. It is entirely at the discretion of the individual developer.

"The Changing Places campaign group have created a template design that meets the needs of severely disabled people and can be included at design stage. I hope we can

follow in the footsteps of the UK, who recently changed their building regulations to make it mandatory for Changing Places to be installed in all new public buildings."

The Terms of Reference for the Working Group include, assisting in the preparation of a draft documentation for public consultation (this will include an examination of costs and preparation of a regulatory impact analysis). The Working Group will then review submissions received, post public consultation and will support the finalisation of a revised draft Part M/TGD M.

Customer appreciation weekend for Wicklow Town shoppers

Though many retailers have remained closed during the lockdown, many Wicklow Town retailers have been busy planning a Customer Appreciation Weekend on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December.

The Customer Appreciation Weekend is an initiative by the participating retailers to say Thank You to their loyal customers who have supported them throughout these strange and difficult times and to provide a warm welcome back to shoppers who have been unable to visit shops during the current lockdown. The Customer Appreciation Weekend will take the format of each participating retailer creating special offers for that weekend only, or will be discounting on some of their most popular products for these dates only.

Many of the main retail outlets in Wicklow will have extended opening hours for the month of December and will be open for trading on the

Sundays of 6th, 13th and 20th of December.

The President of the Wicklow Town & District Chamber Rosie Cooney says "The retailers in Wicklow Town are pulling out all the stops to encourage people to Shop Locally this year, where social distancing can be more easily practiced than in larger urban centres".

Rosie says that the Customer Appreciation Weekend planned by the retailers is a really tangible way of expressing their appreciation to the customers who have supported the Shop Local Support Wicklow initiative since the first lockdown in March. She looks forward to the retailers receiving the continued sup-

port of the community throughout the year.

Also adding to the Christmas experience in Wicklow Town, Wicklow Christmas Markets are bringing a reimagined, socially managed Christmas Market experience to Wicklow Town for the third year in a row. It will be located in the magical and historical Abbey Grounds in Wicklow Town and will take place on the weekend of December 4th-6th, the weekend of December 11th-13th and the weekend of December 18th-20th.

With local shops and hospitality providers open for these weekends, the advice of Wicklow & District Chamber is to take this opportunity to join in the fun of the Christmas Market, and at the same time to use the option to Shop Local - Support Wicklow in Wicklow Town this Christmas.



An Coimisiún um Thodhchaí na Meán The Future of Media Commission

Have Your Say: Share your views on the Future of Media in Ireland

Are you worried about fake news? Is independent journalism important to you and to society? Do the media reflect your experience of the world? What could they do better?

The independent Future of Media Commission has been set up by the Irish Government to assess the public service media and the challenges they face. It is asked to make recommendations to set the media on strong foundations for the future.

The media are important for our democracy and society. They inform public debate through independent, journalism. They reflect and promote the lives, language, art, sport, music, culture, traditions, and identities of Irish people at home and around the world.

The Commission invites you to tell us what you think the future of the media should be. We want to hear your views on public service media in Ireland, wherever you live in Ireland or around the world.

Contact Us

To learn more about the work of the Commission, and to have your say, please visit www.futureofmediacommission.ie.

Deadline

The closing date for submissions is the 8th of January.

Wicklow man in final of 'Face of BRLY'

BRLY (pronounced 'burly'), Ireland's new fashion and lifestyle brand for burly males, have announced their ten finalists to become the face of the Irish company for Spring/Summer 2021.

The search for Ireland's first 'burly' male model began in Autumn 2020 and saw hundreds of entries from across the country. Hopefuls were whittled down to a final list of ten, with each entrant excited to be the 'Face of BRLY' in 2021.

One of the finalists is Mark Whelan - a 29-year-old tree surgeon from Wicklow Town who runs his own business. Mark and the nine other finalists are now looking for your vote to be the face of Ireland's new fashion and lifestyle brand for burly males. You can vote now at feeltheburly.com.

In his video entry, Mark says "I'm a big guy and I feel I'm not represented enough when it comes to buying clothes, everything's for a smaller guy now. I love being a big guy, it's very advantageous in my work and I'd love the opportunity to create a body positive image for lads who maybe feel a bit self conscious."



Mark Whelan from Wicklow Town

Gift Voucher Guide

The Christmas season is getting into full flow in Wicklow with the switching on of Christmas Lights taking place across the county recently. Many people are looking to get the bulk of their shopping out of the way early in the month before the true madness begins.

The gift of a voucher, if carefully chosen, always goes down well. A voucher can be as personal and thoughtful as any other gift, if it's for a store where the recipient often shops or a place

where they love to eat or stay. In this way a voucher can be an experience to look forward to - a round of golf or a fine dining experience, for example, as well as a material gift.

Co. Wicklow is blessed with an array of high-end boutiques, golf courses, hotels, cafes, restaurants, and salons. See the ads below for some ideas - a gift voucher for any of these places is sure to make a wonderful gift.

It's also worth noting that purchasing a voucher is a stress-free shopping experience for the buyer, freeing the buyer of the need to rummage through shelves in search of the perfect gift - instead you can simply go straight to the counter or even make the purchase online.

The Irish SME Association (ISME) has launched its 'Shop Local - Not Just for Christmas' campaign, highlighting the importance of supporting Irish businesses throughout the year.

ISME hopes that their members in Wicklow offering business to business services, consumer

products and services across the retail, hospitality and personal grooming sectors will join this initiative and avail of the opportunity to promote their business free of charge.

Every €10 spent on Irish products generates more than €40 of benefit for related businesses, which highlights the importance of shopping local to maintain employment in our communities. As businesses face into the Christmas shopping period, ISME is encouraging consumers to not only shop locally this festive season, but to make a conscious effort to continue to support Irish businesses in 2021. Irish SMEs are currently facing significant pressure with business closures and other restrictions associated with Covid-19. This is further amplified by rising insurance costs and Brexit.

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Information and tickets from *The Big Drive In* & Wicklow Town Working Together on facebook or www.thebigdrivein.com/tickets search Wicklow

Victorian Tea Time

in Arklow, County Wicklow



is now offering beautifully packaged gift boxes containing vouchers for their infamous traditional Afternoon Tea Experiences.

They are also offering a Click and Collect service for their homemade Mini Christmas Cakes. Visit their website

www.victorianteatimes.com

or call 089 4285848 for more information.



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Arklow bridge, by Kenneth Redmond

Full funding awarded to Mermaid

Bray Municipal District Councillors Anne Ferris and Erika Doyle have spoken of their relief that full funding will be awarded to the Mermaid Arts Centre following a joint appeal by the two Bray councillors to Wicklow County Council.

The arts centre funding was at risk due to a deficit in Wicklow County Council's budget caused by Covid related reduced income and the lowering of the local property tax back to base rate. The budget had to be balanced, with a year on year deficit of

€1.7 million and the arts centre funding was on the table as a 'discretionary' spend. Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District Cllr Anne Ferris and Mermaid Board Member Cllr Erika Doyle reminded the council executive of the value of the Mermaid, not only for Bray but as the arts centre for all of County Wicklow.

Councillor Anne Ferris said, "The Mermaid is one of the leading arts centres in the country and is a hugely valuable cultural hub in our town. The centre is known not only for its performances but for the valuable outreach work that takes



Cllr Erika Doyle

Cllr Erika Doyle said "The arts industry has been absolutely decimated by the pandemic. Artists and associated staff are struggling to stay afloat at a time when the arts are needed more than ever. During Covid, we have all turned to music, to film, to craft, to keep ourselves busy and in good mental health. The arts mean so much more than just social activities, they are the lifeblood of our tourism and entertainment industries. The Mermaid has been an integral part of Bray since it opened and both Councillor Ferris and I said we would fight in its corner to retain full funding."

place. Aside from the wonderful cinema and theatre offerings, the gallery offers a valuable space for visual artists. We are incredibly lucky to have this centre on our doorstep and I know the people of Bray will support it once again when its doors reopen."



Cllr Anne Ferris

Free webinars for artists

Wicklow County Arts Office has partnered with VAI (Visual Artists Ireland) to offer a range of webinars, clinics and workshops aimed at visual artists throughout Wicklow.

Beginning in early December, these events will all take place online and bookings are essential through www.visualartists.ie. The first workshop will take place on Tuesday, 1st December, from 11am-12pm and will focus on the topic of "Digital Marketing without Social Media". Led by communications specialist Emma Dwyer, this webinar will focus on ways in which visual artists can communicate with their audiences and customers without using social media.

Following on from the webinar, Emma Dwyer will be offering a limited number of 20-minute One-to-One clinics for Wicklow-based artists. This is a unique opportunity to get practical advice specific to your situation and also to learn how best to communicate about your work and market your practice.

The following week, on Wednesday 9th December, there will be an online Panel Discussion taking place from 3pm until 4.30pm. This will explore the topic "Adapting to a Changing Landscape" and will feature panellists Seán Kissane (Curator of Exhibitions at the

Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin); Sarah Perks (Professor of MIMA School of Art & Design, Middlesbrough, UK) and Chris Clarke (Senior Curator at The Glucksman, University of Cork, Ireland).

The panel will discuss how their individual working practices have been affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and how their working relationships with artists have changed while they will also consider some of the things that artists can do to adapt to this shifting landscape.

Rob Hilken (VAI's Northern Ireland Manager) comments: "Visual Artists Ireland are delighted to be partnering with Wicklow County Arts Office on a new programme of events beginning in 2020 and continuing into early 2021.

"Digital Marketing without Social Media" and "Adapting to a Changing Landscape" are both priced at 10 for non VAI Members, but with the support of the Wicklow County Arts Office they are free for Wicklow-based artists. The One-to-One clinics are also free to attend but as numbers are strictly limited early booking is recommended. Bookings for all events are through www.visualartists.ie

The project is supported by the Creative Ireland Programme.

Heritage Council launches new publication on Ireland's prehistoric rock art

Examples of this enigmatic ancient art can be found in Wicklow

When it comes to knowledge of Ireland's prehistoric art, the megalithic art of Ireland's world-renowned passage grave cemeteries, Newgrange and Knowth in the Boyne Valley, have dominated. However, you do not have to travel to Meath to experience Ireland's rich rock art - it can be found on rock surfaces and outcrops throughout the island.

Irish prehistoric rock art is the subject of a new, richly illustrated booklet published by the Heritage Council. Written by archaeologist, Clare Busher O'Sullivan, 'Rock Art' explores the art form; where it can be found; what it means; and how it can be protected.

Rock art is carved, drawn, painted, engraved, or incised imagery on natural rock surfaces. This art is found world-wide in various forms and from different periods, and includes the cave paintings of southern France and northern Spain, the passage tomb art of the Neolithic and the many examples of Bronze Age rock art in Atlantic Europe. Ireland is home to 'open-air' Atlantic rock art, a carving practice that was widespread across Atlantic Europe, including in Scotland, England, France, Spain and Portugal. Unlike megalithic art, which is associated with monuments, open-air Atlantic rock art is typically found on boulders and outcrops. The Atlantic tradition dates to the Later Neolithic / Early Bronze Age period (c3000-1500 BC). In Ireland, examples of this ancient art can be found in

clusters in Carlow / Wicklow; Louth / Monaghan, Fermanagh and Donegal. However, the densest concentration can be found in the Cork / Kerry region.

Commenting, publication author Clare Busher O'Sullivan said: "In Ireland, the most common motif in Atlantic rock art is the 'cup-mark', which is a circular human-made depression in the rock surface. The cup-mark is often surrounded by one or more concentric rings. The art is referred to in Ireland and Britain as 'cup and ring art'. The rock art is located in rural landscapes, often in open valleys or the foothills of mountains and almost always in close proximity to water sources."

She added: "There are many theories to explain the purpose and the significance of Atlantic rock art, but they are difficult to confirm due to its abstract nature and prehistoric date. Some researchers believe that the placement of rock art marks boundaries and route-ways within prehistoric landscapes, while another theory is that rock art marks places of worship and pilgrimage in prehistoric soci-

ety. However, there is no definitive explanation for the art."

An element of archaeological heritage, rock art is protected under the National Monuments Act.

Head of Conservation at the Heritage Council, Ian Doyle added: "While this form of open-air art is widely known to archaeologists, it is not well known to the general public. We hope that this publication on Atlantic rock art will bring this internationally important but enigmatic form of prehistoric art to a wider consciousness and that walkers and landowners will be able to identify more of it and be aware of the need to care for it.

"This new publication also includes the 'Rock Art Code', which provides guidance for members of the public visiting rock art sites and interacting with decorated panels, and the landowners."

The Rock Art booklet can be found on the Heritage Council website. Information on visiting rock art locally can be found on the Historic Environment Viewer on www.archaeology.ie.

Red Hurley to top Flogas Christmas Gig for Men's Sheds

On Wed 2nd December, Irish singing legend Red Hurley will be topping the bill for the Flogas Virtual Christmas Gig to support the Irish Men's Sheds Association (IMSA).

Taking place via Zoom, the free members-only event is set to lift the pre-Christmas spirits of Shedders nationwide with music, chat and spot prizes. There'll also be news of a major competition, sponsored by Flogas, that will provide a welcome focus of creative energies well into 2021.

Former Eurovision winner Red Hurley will be entertaining the Shedders with some of his most famous songs while Flogas brand ambassador David Gillick, former Olympic athlete and now author and wellness speaker, will be chatting with Frank Dillon of the IMSA about how to keep well, healthy and smiling all the way through the winter season.

To boost the festive fun, spot prizes up for grabs include signed copies of David Gillick's bestselling book, 'Back on Track' and signed copies of Red Hurley's 'Complete Collection' triple CD set.

Furthermore, John Rooney, managing director, Flogas Ireland will be announcing details of a major competition with a substantial prize, to showcase the creative skills, expertise and energies of Men's Shed branches across Ireland. John said "As the energy partner of the Irish Men's Shed Association, we're delighted to host the Flogas Christmas Gig, to help support the valuable work they do in keeping the Sheds a warm, safe and hospitable place for all its members."

Founded in 2011, the Irish Men's Sheds Association has overseen the rapid growth to over 450 sheds on the island of Ireland. Men's Sheds are community spaces that allow men to share skills, engage with their communities and improve their wellbeing.

The Flogas Virtual Christmas Gig is free and open to Men's Shed members and begins at 3 pm on Wed 2nd December. Contact your local Shed volunteer for more info. www.menssheds.ie



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REFRACTORY OSTEOMYELITIS (INFECTED BONE)
SKIN GRAFTS AND FLAPS (COMPROMISED)
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CRUSH INJURY, COMPARTMENT SYNDROME,
AND OTHER ACUTE TRAUMATIC ISCHEMIAS.
ENHANCEMENT OF HEALING IN SELECTED PROBLEM
WOUNDS (DIABETIC WOUNDS)
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NECROTIZING SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS
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The UK officially left the EU on 31st January 2020 and December is the final month of the 11-month transition period. Wicklow based businesses should make preparing for the looming Brexit threat a priority. Local Enterprise Office Wicklow have added additional Brexit supports to help clients navigate through the challenge Brexit poses to their business.

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The final 'Prepare Your Business for Customs' workshop for 2020 will take place on the 16th December 2020. Some of the issues that businesses will face from a Customs and Trade perspective will be covered. They include: Customs Duty; Import VAT; Border Delays; Additional Costs e.g. Clearance Agents, etc.; Additional Documentation e.g. Import and Export Documentation, etc.; New Procedures e.g. How and when to lodge import and export SADs, etc.; New Licenses.

Different issues will impact on each sector in a slightly different way. This course will enable companies to understand both Revenue rules in Ireland and HMRC rules in the UK. It will also cover the post Brexit simplifications being introduced by both Authorities and how to apply for these. This course can be booked through www.localenterprise.ie.

Along with the additional dates added for the 'Prepare Your Business for Customs' workshop, two designated Brexit advisors are available to meet with businesses to explore how businesses can best prepare their business and to point them to the practical steps they need to take now. To avail of this support please email: enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie requesting to meet with a Brexit advisor.

The Local Enterprise office are here to help guide Businesses through this turbulent period, so please look at the supports available on their website or email the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow office directly to see how we can help your business: enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie

Useful contacts for businesses:

To find out more or apply for an Economic Operators Registration and Identification (EORI) number please log onto: www.revenue.ie/en/customs-traders-and-agents/customs-electronic-systems/eori-system.aspx

The Customs authority designated for the purpose of taking decisions relating to binding tariff information (BTI) is The Classification Unit (BTI), Revenue Commissioners, Nenagh, Co Tipperary E45T611, Tel: 067 63370 or email: ecustoms@revenue.ie

A full suite of Brexit supports for Micro enterprises is listed here: www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Financial-Supports/Brexit/

InterTradeIreland: intertradeireland.com/brexit/
Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation: dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/EU-Internal-Market/Brexit/Getting-Brexit-Ready/
Enterprise Ireland: www.prepareforbrexit.com/

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BirdWatch Ireland's annual Irish Garden Bird Survey - the perfect stay-at-home way to help Ireland's birds

BirdWatch Ireland's Irish Garden Bird Survey is back this week and is entering its 32nd year this winter. It's the ideal activity for anyone working from home or restricting their movements in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Blue Tit on a peanut feeder. Photo by Brian Burke

"It's the largest and longest-running survey of its kind in Ireland," said Brian Burke, who coordinates the survey for BirdWatch Ireland. "Because of the restrictions and lockdowns this year, many people gained a newfound passion for the wildlife in their gardens, and we've seen that reflected in increased traffic to our website and in engagement by email and social media, not to mention in more people joining BirdWatch Ireland as members. This survey coincides with the time of year when bird activity in gardens reaches its peak, so we're asking people to send us the details of what they see in their gardens over the coming weeks."

Last year's results showed that Robin was the most common species in Irish gardens for a record-breaking 10th year in a row, followed closely

by Blackbird and Blue Tit.

Though there was no change at the top, the Ring-necked Parakeet appeared in the survey for the first time ever. This species is native to Africa and Asia and is an invasive species that is present in large numbers in many European cities, including London. They were recorded in two gardens in Dublin during the Irish Garden Bird Survey last winter and are thought to have successfully nested in the capital this summer. Their presence is cause for concern, as they might impact native species, though it does cause much excitement when people see a bright green parrot on their garden birdfeeder.

Brian Burke noted, "Last year saw a lot of common species move up the rankings, which stems from a continued recovery from the heavy snow

during the 'Beast from the East' a couple of years ago. Thankfully the two winters since that have been comparatively mild, and many species had good breeding seasons in the summers in between, so we're happy to see smaller birds like Wren, Goldcrest and Long-tailed Tit all reclaim their spots higher up the rankings table. Birds like Song and Mistle Thrushes, which struggled to find worms and invertebrates during the heavy snow, are making a comeback too."

The Goldfinch reached its highest-ever ranking last year, moving up to 7th place and in 85% of Irish gardens, while its relative

the Greenfinch fell to its lowest-ever level of 19th place, due to the continued impact of the parasitic infection 'finch trichomoniasis'. "The disease poses no threat to humans or pets but has had a severe impact on Greenfinches over the last 13 years," said Brian Burke. "It's really important for people to clean their birdfeeders and baths regularly to stop the spread. The flocking behaviour of finches, and the fact that they gather in large numbers in gardens makes it easy for this parasite to spread."

The Jay, which is a colourful member of the crow family that lives in woodlands, was visiting

around 2% of Irish gardens in the late 1990's, but that has since risen to 10%. The most recent addition to our woodland fauna, the Great Spotted Woodpecker, appeared in 3% of gardens in eleven different counties last winter, and will likely feature in even more gardens this winter, as the species rapidly establishes itself in more and more woodlands across the country each year.

The survey is open to everyone and runs from 30th November 2020 to the end of February 2021. For full details see birdwatchireland.ie and follow BirdWatch Ireland on Facebook and Twitter.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men from one another, as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me.' Then the virtuous will say to him in reply 'Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothed you; sick or in prison and go to see you?' And the King will answer, I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.' Next, he will say to those on his left hand, 'Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me'. Then it will be their turn to ask, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison and did not come to your help?' then he will answer, 'I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.' And they will go away to eternal punishment and the virtuous to Eternal Life. JUDGEMENT DAY.

C.J.

Wicklow sports clubs reminded to apply for funding

A reminder has been issued to registered sports clubs in Co. Wicklow that the 31st December closing date for receipt of completed applications under the Texaco Support for Sport club funding initiative is now nearing.

A fund of €130,000 is to be divided on a 26 county-by-county basis with each successful club - including, it is hoped, one from Co. Wicklow - receiving an equal amount of €5,000 in each case. The scheme, first announced in September, is open to all sports clubs irrespective of sporting discipline, size, membership, age, cultural appeal or gender, the only requirement being that applicant clubs be properly constituted and hold a valid Games & Sports Number (GS Number) issued by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners. Full details of the scheme and its operation can be viewed on a dedicated website www.TexacoSupportforSport.com.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a single storey dwelling, garage, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, new entrance, and associated works at Kilpipe, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow for D. Barnes. 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

Georgina Cosgrave intends to apply for Planning Permission to convert the existing garage to a granny flat and construct a first floor extension over with dormer window to rear and rooflight to front of the existing house at No. 14, Avoca Avenue, Bray Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. 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 a dwelling, garage, waste water treatment system to EPA standards, new entrance, and associated works at Ballinacarrig Lower, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow for D. Moran. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for a dwelling with connection to services, garage, new entrance, and associated works at Brockagh, Laragh, Co. Wicklow for G. Evans. 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

Significant Information/Revised Plans

I hereby give notice of the submission of significant further information to Wicklow County Council in relation to planning application ref no. 19/1338 for Stanford Woods Healthcare Ltd who are applying for permission at the site at Killickabawn, Kilpedder, Delgany, Co. Wicklow for the development which will comprise a predominantly two-storey residential care building with an attic plant room and storage area. The gross floor area will be 12,067 m², of which 5,575 m² is at ground floor level; 5,377 m² is at first floor; and a further 1,115 m² is at attic floor level. The accommodation will comprise ensuite bedrooms, day spaces, balconies at upper floor level and ancillary sanitary accommodation for residents with support services such as recreation/activity rooms, physiotherapy suite, treatment and occupational therapy rooms, oratory, daycare and hairdressing. It will include a facility run café (open to the public), administration offices; staff rest, dining, changing and training facilities; catering kitchens, laundry, plant room, maintenance workshop and electrical switch room; a substation and standby generator. The site will be fully landscaped with provision of sensory gardens and walkways including gazebo features and mounded screen planting 1.2 m above finished ground level. Employee, service and visitor car and covered cycle parking will be provided. The existing site entrance from the L1043 will be improved and, with a driveway, provide the primary access. The existing access from the L5406 will be improved to provide a recreational and emergency gated access from/to Willowgrove. The development will connect to the existing water supply infrastructure in the area. The development will connect to a proposed pumping station and rising main south of the site. This in turn will discharge foul effluent from the site at Killickabawn, Kilpedder, Delgany, Co. Wicklow into the Greystones Delgany Kilcoole public district sewerage system. Significant further information and revised plans have been furnished to the planning authority in respect of this proposed development, and are available for inspection or purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the authority during its public opening hours. A submission or observations in relation to the further information or revised plans may be made in writing to the planning authority within the period of 2 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the revised notices. A submission or observation must be accompanied by the prescribed fee, except in the case of a person or body who has already made a submission or observation.

CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

CALL: 01 2869111 EMAIL: jennie@localtimes.ie
PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIED ADS
AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY





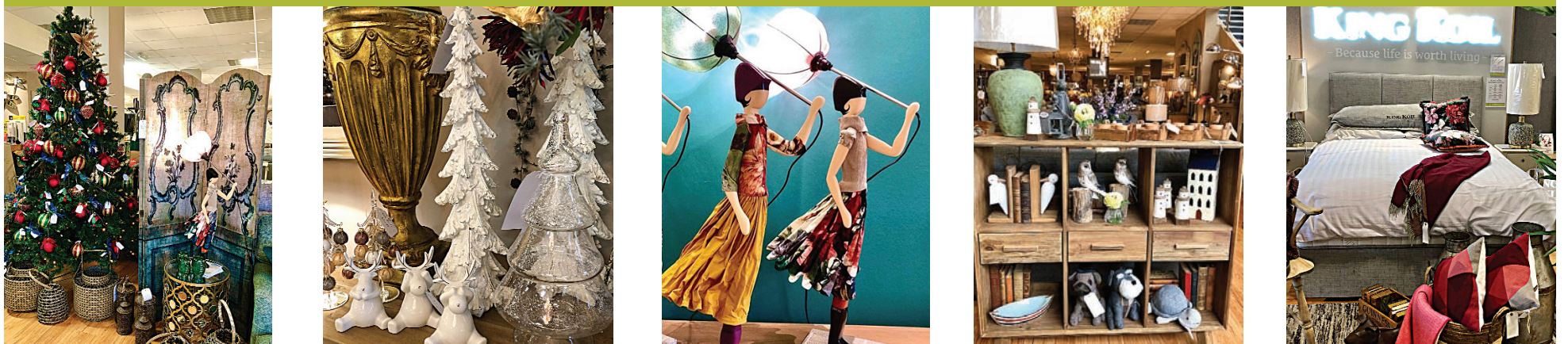
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