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MAKING MUSIC page 16

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TUNNEL UNDER GLEN OF THE DOWNS?

Last week the project team overseeing the N11 Junction 4 to 14 upgrade published the next stage of their work selecting a route corridor for the M11/N11 upgrade. The route options to the east of the N11 have now been abandoned much to the relief of Delgnay and Kilmacanogue residents. The intention now is to carry out most of the upgrade of the N11 along the existing route.

The project team have decided for the next phase of their route selection to continue to examine the Cyan corridor to the west of the M11/N11 at the Glen of the Downs.

The project team are also now to consider a tunnel under the Glen of the Downs along this section of the route. Engineers working on the project said an interim bus corridor could be introduced before the final project is completed. The retained Cyan route runs in parallel to the N11 from

Kilpeddar to Kilmac. The developers say they factor in engineering requirements, environmental impact and economic impact when making their route selection. A final decision is expected to be made in the summer.

Minister Simon Harris said "I received considerable feedback from Wicklow residents that the Cyan route would impact on the Sugarloaf amenity and habitats and I have made clear to the project team that the construction of severe embankments

and gulleys here to facilitate a new motorway would have a terrible impact on bio-diversity and habitats in this area of special conservation. Unlike 20 years ago when the N11/M11 was first upgraded we now live in an era where public transport is afforded greater priority and the reduction of carbon emissions is now an urgent objective of all policy.

"The overwhelming feedback from commuters during the 2019 public consultation was for a greater emphasis to be



Resident of St. Joseph's Shankill, Stephen Kearns, celebrating with Nicola Yau, Volunteer Manager, Trish Murray, Marivic O'Brien and Ted Tobin. Saint Joseph's Shankill, Ireland's largest care home dedicated solely to dementia care, has scooped two major awards in recognition of their work and care for people living with dementia and their families.

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placed on public transport provision along the M11/N11 corridor to reduce as much as possible the volume of single occupancy cars travelling to Dublin daily.

"There is now the largest ever budget for Cycling and Pedestrian Facilities and major projects such as the N11/M11 upgrade need to reflect this change of thinking. The next stage of the M11/N11 project will involve identification of Park and Ride and Public Transport priority. The project team have also said they are working with the NTA to see what public transport priority and improvements can be made in advance of the upgrade."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has also welcomed progress of Phase 2 of the M11/N11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme.

However, Deputy says Government must commit to funding for the remaining phases of the scheme. A final decision on the preferred route will be made in the second quarter of next year. "I believe it is vital that Government ensure that funding has been identified for the construction of the Scheme. What we don't want is another plan that just sits on the shelf somewhere without being implemented. The Government must also commit to ensuring a significant investment in public transport is carried out. Our focus now must be on reducing car dependency over the widening and building of new roads for cars. "However, ongoing public consultation will be crucial as the Scheme progresses and I hope that this continues at each stage of the Scheme."

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Faolain Merrigan Carroll, Milo Molloy, Maryann Behan, Sean Bagley, Ollie Madigan and Senan Byrne from Barnacleagh National School who had a Christmas first communion.

Magical Post Box

Santa's Post Box has magically arrived in Delgany Village. A source from the North Pole reports that Mr. Claus is so impressed with how good the children have been in 2020 that he ordered this special festive letter box to be installed. He got lots of help from Delgany Tidy Towns to organise this and to help bring some Christmas magic to Delgany.

All your letters for Santa can be posted in this magic mail box and they will be sent express post directly to the North Pole! Our North Pole source tells us that Santa particularly enjoys hearing about what presents children would like and seeing their Christmas drawings.

For children to receive a reply from Santa they need to address their letters; Santa, North Pole and include a parents email address. Santa letters can then be placed in the magical post box, with families encouraged to lodge their letters before December 20th so Santa can reply before loading up his sleigh.

The Christmas post box is located outside the Delgany Mart.

Greystones Cancer Support are having a Christmas party

Come join the Greystones Cancer Support singing group for an evening of Christmas Carols, Sing-Along, storytelling, poetry, fun, and laughter all in the comfort of your own home.

It will take place over zoom on Monday 21st December from 7:30pm to 9pm. The evening will feature Anne Randolph and other guests.

At this time of year, the GCS singing group would normally do street Christmas carols as a fundraiser for Greystones Cancer Support. As they are unable to do this this year, they have moved the venue to their own GCS Christmas Zoom Room.

"Please join us as we come together to have a Christmas party filled with singing, fun and laughter and to donate to Greystones Cancer Support in a year when fundraising activities have been severely restricted." To register, please visit www.greystonescancersupport.com.

Newtown artisan Christmas market

Newtown's first artisan Christmas market is open now and will run right up until just before Christmas. It is located opposite the Church and has many stalls with a variety of local artists and crafters selling a range of products, from unique crafted gifts to cheeses. There is also an art gallery where Catherine Eager and other local artists and designers are selling their work. The market is open every day until 6pm.

Bee gift for Christmas

If you or someone in your life keeps bees, or always wanted to do just that, the Ashford & District Beekeepers' Association is now open for new members for 2021. This is a vibrant active association, with a great mentoring policy. It is limited to just 20 new members and it costs €70 for the year. This gives you access to lectures, a monthly magazine and membership and ABKA is a member of the Federation of Irish Beekeepers. For another €80 you can join the beginners course, which is a must for all newbees! Virtual lectures are planned for the first quarter of 2021 when both the bees and the members are indoors.

Why not consider a Christmas gift of membership? Contact abka.secretary@gmail.com for details of how to join.

Wicklow women create short Christmas film

A new short film, 'Mass, Fur Coat & Sugar Rush' is now available to view on Youtube.

A piece about Christmas, hope and tradition, the film was created by three young Wicklow women (Performed by Connie Doona, Written and Directed by KathyAnn Murphy, Cinematography by Cat Leibowitz).

The piece, originally written for stage, follows the character of Kate as she speaks about her memories as a child leading up to Christmas, traditions that many Irish people have experienced. It was filmed in Arklow Methodist Church.

"We wanted our viewers to remember the importance of Christmas during these difficult times," says KathyAnn Murphy. "Filled with nostalgia and hope; we want to shed a light on positivity; family, love and tradition."

New festive tradition begins in Bray - decorating your Christmas tree with a bar of soap

A new festive tradition began in Bray this week when a local schoolboy hung a bar of soap on his Christmas tree for the first time.

Six-year-old Nathan Briggs attached a piece of soap to the tree in his home as part of a campaign by the charity Christian Aid Ireland to celebrate the life-saving power of soap and to raise awareness of the millions who still lack easy access to soap and water.

Regularly washing your hands with soap is one of the best ways to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, however an estimated 3 billion people, 40% of the world's population, don't have soap and water in their homes.

As part of its global coronavirus response, Christian Aid has so far

managed to distribute soap to nearly 250,000 people in 18 countries as part of their effort to prevent the virus spreading in some of the most vulnerable communities in the world.

Rosamond Bennett, Chief Executive of Christian Aid Ireland thanked Nathan for taking part in the campaign. She explained: "While we all wait for the coronavirus vaccine, the humble bar of soap remains one of the best ways to help keep us safe by preventing the spread of the virus.

However, the reality is that far too many of the world's poorest families don't have the basics like

soap and water at home to help keep them safe. As a Christmas decoration, soap is a sign of hope that we can beat both the virus and extreme poverty."

Christian Aid Ireland is asking people to take a photo of their soap Christmas tree decoration and share it on social media with the hashtag #SoapBuildsHope to encourage others to take part.

Soap also plays an important role in helping fight poverty too. In Ethiopia, as well as the impact of coronavirus, the climate crisis is increasing the risk of drought and famine, which is pushing farming commu-

nities further into poverty. Christian Aid is providing women with the tools they need to run a successful soap-making business. Mother-of-three Kumana Kurasho (26) has been trained in soap-making by Christian Aid using the drought-resistant aloe vera plant native to the area which thrives where other crops fail.

This year, Christian Aid has expanded its virtual gift selection to include a Charity Gift priced at €15 enabling supporters to help train more women to make soap.

To support Christian Aid and help other mothers like Kumana, visit caid.ie/SoapMaker



A new festive tradition began in Bray when a local schoolboy hung a bar of soap on his Christmas tree for the first time. Christian Aid supporter Nathan Briggs hung a bar of soap on his family's Christmas tree to symbolise the hope that soap can beat both coronavirus and extreme poverty. The campaign aims to celebrate the life-saving power of soap and to raise awareness of the millions who still lack easy access to soap and water. Christian Aid Ireland is asking people to take a photo of their soap Christmas tree decoration and share it on social media with the hashtag #SoapBuildsHope to encourage others to take part.

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Glendalough's tourism masterplan revealed

Councillors have given a cautious welcome to a masterplan developed to 'improve the visitor experience' in Co. Wicklow but many expressed concerns about what the completed project will look like and the lack of engagement thus far with councillors.

The plan focuses on Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park. One of the radical suggestions is to ban all vehicle traffic from Glendalough and make tourists take a shuttle bus from Laragh.

It is suggested that there are too many day-trippers to Glendalough and the plan seeks to address some of the issues with tourism trends, such as: Visitor numbers being high all-year round with less of a definable 'off-season'; 'Peak days' (when car parks' capacity is exceeded) are becoming more frequent; and the growing congestion on the 'Green Road'.

The plan also seeks to address some of the overall issues with tourism in Wicklow, such as the county being regarded as a 'day tour' proposition from Dublin, a problem which is compounded by Wicklow's shortage of accommodation. Co. Wicklow is also not well-known to international tourists and relies heavily on the domestic market.

The plan seeks to 'disperse' tourists to Wicklow's other more sustainable tourism spots; Improve the sustainability of existing outdoor recreation honey-pot sites; Enhance car parking and visitor service provision at key outdoor recreation sites. This includes extending/re-designing existing sites, developing new car parks, and reducing the size of other car parks.

The plan divides Wicklow geographically into different experiences: The Family and Slower Experience of the North West (e.g. Kippure Estate, Glen Ding Forest);

the Heritage and Explore Experience of The West (e.g. Baltinglass Abbey, Patthana Garden); The Food and Cultural Experience of the South West (Tinahely Farm Shop, Shillelagh Village); The East Coast Experience (Brittas Bay, Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk); The Active Outdoor Experience of North Wicklow (Ticknock Forest, Ballinastoe); The Managed Estates Experience (Avondale House, Powerscourt House, Killruddery); The Monastic Experience (Glendalough); The Rathdrum Experience; and The Uplands Experience.

"Glendalough is well overdue for investment," said Cllr Shay Cullen (FG). "I'm very much in support of the idea but I have lots of concerns. I have concerns about the overall completed vision. It's not just about parking, I have concerns about the economics too."

Cllr John Mullen (FF) said "I welcome the broad strategic aim but I share the serious concerns. You can't compartmentalize the offering. Outdoor recreation is countywide, not just in certain sectors. Glendalough is a living landscape - people live there and work there and the local community needs to be consulted first."

Cllr Tom Fortune (Ind) said "I want to see what the solutions are and how they're going to be achieved. We have some good hotels but overall Wicklow lacks infrastructure."

Also speaking about the plans, Minister Simon Harris said "I welcome that Failte Ireland has committed to engaging with a wider cross section of community groups in developing the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy to enhance the visitor experience in county Wicklow. This summer saw enormous congestion in Laragh and at popular visitor destinations due to the impact of the Covid 19 travel restrictions."

"While these have had a negative impact on the community and visitors alike it is important that any plan to reorient visitor traffic has full buy-in from the community. Failte Ireland have confirmed to me that there is no plan to ban traffic from the Glendalough area and any proposals to move visitor car parks will be developed over the coming years. The purpose of Failte Ireland's Outdoor Recreation Strategy is to ensure the enormous demand to visit Wicklow is better spread around the county."

"This new masterplan would over time lead to the development of new recreational hubs in parts of the county overlooked at present along with better public transport, cycling and pedestrian options for visitors to the county. To date the Wicklow Tourism Alliance and a number of private and public recreation and service providers have made submissions to Failte Ireland regarding the draft strategy. I have asked that Failte Ireland allow the maximum amount of time for community groups and individuals in County Wicklow to make submissions in 2021 as this strategy will have a major impact on the county for decades to come."

County Council. We need urgent action on park and ride and bus priority schemes for the existing users of the N11M11. This is because there will be long delays in the construction of road capacity improvements because of Covid. "It is essential that this scheme is prioritised by the Government now and I sincerely hope it will not be delayed any longer as a result of the Green Transport Minister's threat in the last Dail to block funding for this vital project for the commuters of County Wicklow. "It is also urgent that the Government presses ahead urgently with the extension of Luas to Bray with a spur to the proposed new town at Old Fassaroe with a huge park and ride facility constructed there to accommodate Wicklow road commuters," concluded Cllr Behan.



Cillian, Eoghan, Amanda, and Saoirse Daye with pet Bailey, out for a walk in Wicklow Town

TUNNEL UNDER GLEN OF THE DOWNS?

Continued from page 1

Independent councillor, Joe Behan commented

"I welcome the news that many of the most environmentally damaging aspects of the original improvement scheme options have been discounted by the TII and Wicklow

County Council. We need urgent action on park and ride and bus priority schemes for the existing users of the N11M11. This is because there will be long delays in the construction of road capacity improvements because of Covid.

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Jason Hughes's house in Meadowvale, Arklow, lit up for Christmas

Avian Influenza H5N8 confirmed in a free range turkey flock

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has confirmed that test results have identified evidence of Avian Influenza H5N8 in samples from a small free range turkey flock in Co. Wicklow, in the Knockanna area

Further testing to determine the pathogenicity is being carried out and the Department expect to have results over the coming days. The birds have been killed and avian influenza restriction zones are being put in place where additional protection and surveillance measures will be put in place.

The protection zone extends to Hacketstown and Tinahely, while the surveillance zone includes Kiltegan and Aughrim.

A census of all holdings within the Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone will be conducted and procedures put in place to control movements of live poultry, other captive birds, hatching and table eggs, used litter, manure and slurry from poultry holdings.

Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N8 has recently been confirmed in wild birds in a number of counties across the country, in Kildare, Mayo, Monaghan, Limerick and Cork.

These findings pose a risk to all poultry flocks and captive birds and by extension the poultry industry. Outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza have also been identified in poultry flocks in Great Britain, Netherlands, Germany, France, Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Croatia and Ukraine in recent weeks. There is no evidence of risk associated with consumption of poultry meat or poultry meat products.

Clinical signs that poultry keepers should look for in their birds include a swollen head, discolouration of neck and throat, loss of appetite, respiratory distress, diarrhoea and fewer eggs laid - although these vary between species of bird.

The Department advises strict adherence to the precautionary measures against avian influenza (bird flu) recently introduced in regulations under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013. These Regulations require specific biosecurity measures to be implemented by the keepers of all poultry (and other captive bird) flocks, irrespective of size, to help mitigate the risk of the

virus and additional enhanced biosecurity measures that must be implemented in flocks of 500 birds or more.

Poultry flock owners should remain vigilant for any signs of disease in their flocks, maintain strict biosecurity measures and report any disease suspicion to their nearest Department Regional Veterinary Office.

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre has confirmed that although the H5N8 subtype can cause serious disease in poultry and other birds, no human infections with this virus have been reported world-wide and therefore risk to humans is considered to be very low. However, members of the public are advised not to handle sick or dead wild birds and to report sick or dead wild birds to the Regional Veterinary Office or contact the DAFM disease hotline on 1850 200456. An early warning system is in place with Birdwatch Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the National Association of Regional Game Councils with regard to surveillance for signs of disease in wild birds.

The Department reinforces the need for vigilance and biosecurity and continues to closely monitor and assess the disease situation and is in regular contact with industry stakeholders.

Avian influenza or "Bird Flu" is a contagious and often fatal viral disease of birds. Wild birds, particularly wild migratory water birds are considered to be the main reservoir of avian influenza viruses. There is a constant risk of avian influenza being introduced into Ireland from wild birds particularly from November onwards each year as this is when migratory birds arrive and congregate on wetlands, mixing with resident species. Highly pathogenic avian influenza: can have up to 100% mortality in affected flocks. Low pathogenic avian influenza: generally causes mild disease in affected birds. Certain avian influenza viruses can occasionally affect humans, usually after close contact with infected poultry.

St Patrick's School send 300 Care Packs to the Homeless

St Patrick's National School last weekend delivered over 300 Care Packages and providing a hot Christmas dinner to the Homeless.

St. Patrick's National School, Church and greater community collected items for over 300 Care Packages for the Homeless over the previous two weeks. They also collected over 1200 toys for children living in poverty in the city centre. Additionally, they provided Christmas dinner and festive entertainment for the Homeless in the Lighthouse Homeless Centre, Pearse Street Dublin on Sunday 13th December.

Speaking about the Christmas initiative, St. Patrick's School Principal, Rachel Harper said "This Christmas was always going to be different and we wanted to highlight to the children, what we can do, rather than what we can't do. So we thought about how our community could reach out to another, less fortunate one and make a difference. The idea just grew from there. I am blown away by the kindness, generosity and goodwill from the children and the Greystones community. The care packages are made up of toiletries, non-perishable food, chocolate, hats, scarves, gloves

and one of the most important items is a beautiful Christmas Card with a thoughtful message, made by the children.

"This will make a difference to so many people this Christmas. The Lighthouse family outreach programme will have over 1200 toys including a kitchen, scooters, bikes, dolls, board games, books, puzzles, Lego, colouring pencils etc. to give to the most vulnerable

living in the city. The thoughtfulness and the generosity of everyone who has donated will really make a difference to so many children, rough sleepers and vulnerable people this Christmas."

Speaking about the Church helping to provide Christmas dinner for 300 people, Canon David Mungavin said: "Being able to support this initiative is what's Christmas is all about. Volunteers

from the school had their work cut out for them, providing 300 delicious hot meals to the homeless."

The Lighthouse Centre provided 60 meals a day, four days a week pre covid. They now provide 300 meals a day, 6 days a week and totally rely on donations. They also reach out to families within the community providing clubs and after school facilities.



Pictured with St. Patrick's School Principal, Ms. Harper is: Zach Johnston, Harrison and Starling Pritchard along with Eben and Marin Quinn.

Coláiste Chill Mhantáin create safe space for LGBTI+ students

Coláiste Chill Mhantáin is the first school in Wicklow to sign up to participate in a new national LGBTI+ Safe & Supportive Schools Project. Coláiste Chill Mhantáin and 19 other schools nationwide are leading the way by partnering with BeLonGTo Youth Services to undertake its LGBTI+ Safe & Supportive Schools Project, a ground-breaking whole-school approach to creating a school environment that is fully inclusive of LGBTI+ students, thus changing the lives of thousands of young people across Ireland.

BeLonG To Youth Services is the national organisation supporting LGBTI+ young people in Ireland. Findings from its Schools Climate Survey 2019 indicate that an alarming 73% of LGBTI+ students feel unsafe at school. While 68% of LGBTI+ students stated they hear anti-LGBTI+ remarks from other students, a shocking 48% reported hearing homophobic remarks - and a further 55% reported hearing transphobic remarks - from teachers and staff members.

Speaking at the launch of the programme, Pdraig Donoghue Coláiste Chill Mhantáin Principal says: "We are all very excited in CCM to get the SASS project up and running so that we know we are doing our best for our students in making school and safe and supportive environment. We also hope that following the staff training facilitated by BeLonGTo that as a staff we will be empowered to support our students in every way possible."

The Safe & Supportive Schools Project

spans people, policies and practices; its pioneering holistic approach means systematic positive supports are put in place across six key areas; Staff Organisation & Development; Policy & Planning; Curriculum; Safe & Supportive Environment; Community Partnership; Direct Support To Young People.

BeLonG To provides Programme Coordination Training for senior management and LGBTI+ awareness training for all staff members, a Toolkit and Resource Pack with everything needed to become an accredited school. Ongoing mentorship support from BeLonG To's Education and Training Coordinator. The project is not exclusively focused on the school but also working with the community outside the school gates, including any local LGBTI+ youth projects/groups, parents and community organisations to promote a wider LGBTI+ inclusive community. This project is supported by Transgender Equality

Network Ireland (TENI) and funding has been made available by Google.org through the 2019 Impact Challenge on Safety and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Moninne Griffith CEO, BeLonG To Youth Services says: "Our school years help to shape who we are and who we can become. We are proud to support Coláiste Chill Mhantáin as they begin their journey towards becoming a school that is fully inclusive of LGBTI+ students. LGBTI+ young people need to feel equal, safe and supported at school so that they can live healthy lives and thrive at school. Today we celebrate Coláiste Chill Mhantáin for taking the lead and joining our new national project to ensure that school is a safe and supportive space for all students."

BeLonG To Youth Services is the national organisation supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI+) young people in Ireland. Since 2003, BeLonG To has worked with LGBTI+ young people to create a world where they are equal, safe and valued in the diversity of their identities and experiences. The organisation also advocates and campaigns on behalf of young LGBTI+ people, and offers a specialised LGBTI+ youth service with a focus on mental and sexual health, alongside drug and alcohol outreach.



Colaiste Chill Mhantain Deputy Principal Bosco Guinan with students launching the LGBTI+ Safe & Supportive Schools Project in partnership with BeLonGTo Youth Services.

The National Framework for Living with COVID-19



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Preparing for Christmas

COVID-19 has disrupted all our lives for the past 9 months. Thanks to the patience, cooperation and resilience of the Irish people, we can look forward to Christmas.

From 18th December to 6th January, special Christmas arrangements will be in place.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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

Remember, **EVERY CONTACT COUNTS.**

If we are going to minimise the risk of infections spiking over Christmas we have to keep the numbers of people we meet as low as possible for the next two weeks.



From Friday next,
18th December to
Wednesday 6th January:



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



We can travel outside our own county.

These are the other things we can all do now to minimise risks of infection over the Christmas period:

Plan ahead for your Christmas gathering and keep numbers to a minimum



Reduce your social contacts now to limit infection spread before Christmas — don't forget the countdown has begun if you are going to visit a more vulnerable person for Christmas



Be aware, **outdoor gatherings are safer than indoors** so always consider outdoor alternatives to meeting up



Keep indoor gatherings small, keep the space well ventilated and keep a physical distance



Wear a mask even outdoors if you are in a crowded place



For full details of these special arrangements, and information on how you can enjoy Christmas safely, please go to gov.ie/SafeChristmas



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Drivers breaking speed limit 'with impunity'

A group of concerned residents have started a campaign urging drivers to reduce their speed on the Parnell road. The 'Slow Down' campaign began a few weeks ago in response to drivers continually disregarding the 30km per hour speed limit on the road.

The road is home to a Montessori school and is often used by secondary school students to get from the main street to Herbert Road.

The campaign now numbers upwards of 20 residents from Parnell Road, Davitt Road and Herbert Road, who all have concerns about the speeding they witness in this residential area daily at all times of the day.

They have been gathering on various days over the last few weeks with placards, cautioning drivers to reduce their speeds. Children from the Little Bunnies Montessori on the road have also created artwork with the message to 'slow down'.

Many residents who have not been out with placards have expressed support for the campaign.

Speaking to *Wicklow Times*, one of the campaigners Tony Curran said "it's a narrow, residential road, with a 30km/h speed limit, but drivers are breaking the speed limit with impunity. All we're asking for is for drivers to obey the speed limit."

Tony describes the speeding on the road as "practically continuous", and said that drivers often drive up on the footpath because of the narrowness of the road, which creates more danger.

He said that more signage displaying the speed limit would help. They have brought their concerns to the Bray Municipal District Council which will conduct a traffic survey on the road.

Green space identified as potential compound site for Arklow flood relief works

An area of green space at South Beach in Arklow has been identified as a potential compound site for upcoming flood relief works.

A site is usually identified as part of a flood relief project for material storage, staff parking and/or stockpiling. Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore has called on Wicklow County Council to keep this area of Arklow South Beach as a public amenity and not for use as a compound for the Flood Relief Scheme.

Speaking on the issue Deputy Whitmore said "I am saddened to hear that the green space at South Beach in Arklow has been identified as a potential compound site for upcoming flood relief works. This green space is one of very few areas for the public to use in Arklow and is vital as a public amenity for residents in the area."

"Even if the compound site was used temporarily, permanent damage can be caused and there is no way of knowing if the green space can be brought back to its original state. Furthermore, there is no cer-

tainty as to how long this green space would be out of bounds for public use and could mean residents in the area without any green space to use in the meantime. We all know how important open spaces are especially during the current pandemic, and we need to make sure they remain available to locals.

"I have written to Wicklow County Council on this issue and hope to see this green space preserved for public use. There are other options including derelict sites at the Harbour which should be considered first before any green spaces.

"We must preserve the few green spaces left in our public domain. These places are good for public health and biodiversity reasons and now more than ever we need to preserve these special amenities" concluded Deputy Whitmore

John Brady TD said, "This decision has been made without any

form of consultation with the people of Arklow. There are a number of derelict buildings and unused sites in Arklow that could be used instead of the space at the South Beach. The idea of taking a popular green space and turning it into a compound does not make any sense. I welcome any progress relating to the long-awaited flood relief scheme, but the scheme cannot come at the expense of other public amenities. Green spaces have proven to be an essential public amenity for families during the COVID-19 Pandemic. I have contacted Wicklow County Council about this decision and will be asking them to carry out a full consultation with the local people. They must also state why this location was chosen over the unused sites in the town. The council must revisit their decision and look at the many alternative locations that won't negatively impact on community space."

Contract signed for project to stop old Bray landfill being washed into the sea

Contracts have been signed to carry out work at the North Beach in Bray to stop the old Bray municipal landfill being washed into the Irish Sea. The contracts were signed the week before last and work on the €2m coastal project is expected to commence in the coming weeks.

This will bring an end to the 14-year campaign that John Brady TD has been involved in to address the serious environmental issue.

Welcoming the news Deputy Brady said "The signing of the contract to address the environmental disaster that has seen the old Bray municipal landfill at North Beach in Bray being washed into the sea is really welcome news. I have been working on this important environmental issue for the last 14 years. When work starts on the coastal protection project in the coming weeks it will thankfully bring an end to this sorry chapter which has seen tonnes of waste being washed into the Irish sea from the old dump for many years.

"The old dump which is located on the border between Wicklow and Dublin was used by the local authorities in Bray right up until the 1960s. It's estimated that it contains more than 104,000 cubic metres of waste including asbestos, excessive levels of ammoniacal nitrogen, potassium and manganese. Due to coastal erosion the old landfill has been getting washed into the Irish Sea, causing an environmental disaster.

"It is hoped that the contractors carrying out the work will be on site before Christmas, with the substantive work com-

mencing in January. Work on the €2m project is expected to take 6 months to complete.

"Unfortunately, it has been a very slow and frustrating process to get to this point. I had to lodge a formal complaint with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), ultimately, this is what pushed Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council into finally putting in place the Coastal Protection scheme."

Deputy Brady went on to say "A comprehensive traffic management plan has been put in place as a large volume of rock will be required to be transported to the site. The scheme consists of the placing of an armour

stone revetment at the toe of the cliff at the landfill and stabilising the cliff face above by re-grading to a long-term stable slope. The work will prevent contaminated material reaching the foreshore."

Cllr McManus has also welcomed the news, saying "I know the community of Bray is passionate about protecting our environment, so I know this work is very welcome in that regard.

"The scenery at the location is stunning, and there is some positive potential for the place to be transformed for the enjoyment of the community. I look forward to working to see how we can contribute to make that happen now that

these important works are finally taking place."

Cllr Dermot O'Brien said, "As we enter the final decade of the UN Sustainable Development Goals agenda it is important to recognise that actions like this make a very tangible contribution to a sustainable future for all."

Deputy Brady concluded "It is planned to maintain beach access by means of a path along the cliff top and a set of access steps down through the revetment at the northern end. I look forward to this area now becoming a public amenity as opposed to an old dump that is an environmental disaster by being washed into the Irish sea."

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Cllr Grace McManus and John Brady TD at the old landfill on Bray's North Beach

Social Democrats vote passes development on 'flood plain which is under Garda investigation'

Greystones councillors voted last Tuesday to proceed with the social housing development of 41 dwelling units on the controversial 'Three Trouts' site in Charlesland, Greystones, which some councillors claim is a flood plain and whose acquisition by the council is under investigation by the Gardai. Cllr Tom Fortune left the meeting in protest after the vote and described what happened as "disgusting".

The vote was postponed from the November Municipal District meeting as councillors felt they did not have enough information to proceed with a vote at that time. The vote was 3 to 2 in favour of the development, with Independent councillors Tom Fortune and Mags Crean voting against it. Councillors Derek Mitchell (FG), Gerry Walsh (FF) and Jodie Neary (SD) voted for it, while Cllr Lourda Scott (GP) was unable to attend. Cllr Fortune put forward a proposal to build the houses on an adjoining 22-acre site instead, and turn the Three Trouts site into a park: "I believe there is a constructive and positive way to deal with what is before us," he said. "I propose an integrated plan, to combine this site with the adjoining 22 acres and turn this site into a park with abundance of biodiversity. This would be a win win for everyone. If we do not do this then this proposal needs to be the subject of a full Oral Hearing in Bord Pleanála." The Council's Director of Housing Joe Lane, recommended proceeding with the development as it is and reas-

sured councillors that it is in line with proper planning guidelines. He advised that because of the deadline, the proposal would be passed automatically unless councillors voted to moderate or to not proceed with the development. Council officials advised that Cllr Fortune's proposal would not change anything or prevent the development from going ahead as it related to a separate site to the one being proposed. Cllr Fortune's proposal was voted on but it was defeated 3 to 2. Speaking at the meeting, Cllr Fortune said "We should not be discussing this item. This has been before the Courts. The evidence in that court case established the premise for the current Garda investigation. Councillors have asked questions before on issues that were under Garda investigation and in all these instances were told that 'as there is a Garda investigation, we cannot discuss it'. So, what is going on here?" Cllr Fortune again reiterated his concerns, which are primarily to do with flooding and the need to take on board the concerns of the residents of the housing estates surrounding the site. "There is a history of flooding. Where are the reports that have been requested, and why are we not listening to the residents? Why are we not paying attention to the An Bord Pleanála inquiry? The residents require sumps in their gardens. "Residents believe the dampness coming from the land where their houses are built is an ongoing health hazard. This needs full investigation. Residents cannot get flood insurance because insurance companies say it is a flood plain. Would anyone at this meeting tonight accept this situation? I doubt it very much." Stating her position, Cllr Mags Crean said that although she fully supports social housing, her concerns about the site outweigh this. Her concerns consist of the flood risk to the surrounding estates of Burnaby Lawns, Burnaby Court,

Burnaby Avenue and Millbrook; the threat to biodiversity as a result of the proposed bridge; and her belief that not enough documentation had been provided to make a fully informed decision. Councillors voting in favour of the development all spoke of the pressing need for social housing in the area. Cllr Neary said that although she'd had a lot of questions about the site, she felt her questions had been answered by the officials. "I feel that I can't in good conscience vote against this," she said. "There's a real social need for housing". "There's a chronic need for social housing," said Cllr Walsh. "This is a start. We're getting regular representations from people. Not far from this site there are 10 people living in a three-bedroom house." Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Derek Mitchell said "There are 394 families on the housing list in the Greystones area. It's not easy to get sites for social housing, this would be a significant development and as councillors it's our duty to sort out the housing situation as best we can."

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'Dept has serious questions to answer over Greystones school accommodation crisis'

Social Democrats Councillor Jodie Neary has requested that the Council write to the Department of Education asking that officials present to members of the Council to answer what she says are 'serious questions in relation to ongoing school accommodation crisis in Greystones District'.

Cllr Neary raised the issue of the ongoing school accommodation crisis in Greystones as a suspension of Standing Orders at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council.

A new school building, built by Western Building Systems, is to accommodate Greystones Community National School (GCNS) and new school, Greystones Community College (GCC), however pupils were not allowed to move into it in September as planned and it has still not been opened.

Greystones Community National School has had to remain in its temporary accommodation in Greystones Rugby Club, where it's been for the last five years, while Greystones Community College, a new school with 64 first-year students, has found temporary accommodation in Greystones Tennis Club.

Cllr Neary spoke about the "inherent flaws in the school building system". She said "2020 has been the most difficult year for parents and children due to the pandemic and the interruptions it has caused in relation to children's schooling. This year was further made difficult for families due to an accommodation crisis facing several schools in the Greystones District.

"Greystones Community National School located at the Rugby Club is still waiting to move into a brand new building just down the road. The post-primary Greystones Community College remains in a Tennis Club waiting for appropriate temporary accommodation while Chloiste Croabh Abhaonn is waiting for a much-needed extension and site acquisition to expand capacity.

"Without this necessary infrastructure in place, school capacity in the area has been limited, resulting in the subsequent issue of an unmet demand in school places in the area. While I welcome the start of a conciliatory process between the Department and developers of the new school build for the primary school, and a renewed focus on the acquisition of a site in Charlesland for the post-primary school, outstanding questions remain which I believe officials from the Department must answer.

"These include how this situation was left to

develop where we now have parents anxiously waiting to know where their child will go to school in the new school year and to what extent capacity will match demand in the future. There are also serious questions around planning for capacity and school places in the District where huge numbers of housing developments have taken place and where it was obvious demand would be there. Why were schools not built, and temporary accommodation units and extensions not facilitated in time for the current and next school year is beyond anyone's understanding.

"While I acknowledge the potential for waiting lists to reduce in length over time, children and their families should not have been left with such uncertainty and I believe it's a reflection of inherent flaws in our school building system that need to change.

"I have requested that Wicklow County Council write to the Department of Education seeking officials from the Department to address Council Members and their questions in relation to the ongoing school accommodation crisis and any unmet demand for school places in Greystones District. Council officials have confirmed that they will write to the Department on my request. I hope the Department will respond positively in the new year."

Cathaoirleach of Greystones Municipal District Derek Mitchell agreed that it's "an absolute disgrace" that the situation has been allowed to develop. "We zoned the land on the advice of planners but then the Department sat on its backside for 16 years".

Jennifer Whitmore TD has called on the Department of Education to deal with issues in relation to accommodation at Greystones Community National School and Greystones Community College as separate issues in order for the specific needs of both schools to be addressed urgently and properly.

Speaking on the issue, Deputy Whitmore said "The Department of Education has informed me that they continue to work on the interim accommodation needs of both

Greystones CNS and Greystones Community College while a resolution process in is train for GCNS and accommodation solutions are being sought for the secondary school.

"According to the Department, an agreement has been reached with Greystones Rugby Club to provide specialist subject rooms for the Community College on the Rugby Club grounds adjacent to the existing CNS classrooms. However, I have major reservations about this move and believe that the two schools at this juncture, must be treated as two separate entities to ensure that progress with one school cannot impact on progress with the other.

"While media reports are saying it will be 3-6 months before students can move into the new school building, however, unless the Department can guarantee this they must act now to address the unique accommodation needs of the two schools separately and urgently.

"I have written to the Minister for Education outlining this view and have made it very clear that placing the three specialist rooms at the site of the Rugby Club will mean that the future of the Greystones Community College will continue to be tied in with GCNS and their move into the new primary school building.

"It is my belief that the three specialist rooms should be immediately accommodated on the nearby lands at Eire Óg as this will offer the Community College a more stable short to medium-term solution for their accommodation needs.

"I understand that the Department has been in consultation with Eire Óg about these lands and I welcome that discussion, and I urge the Department to consider the immediate use of those lands and I would ask that the Department work with Wicklow County Council to seek a planning application for additional classrooms on this site as opposed to at the Rugby Club so that this process can be expedited while the conciliatory talks between the builder and the Department are ongoing in relation to Greystones Community National School."



Jackie B's Cafe in Wicklow Town is now five years in business. "We are extremely proud of how far we have come in 5 years. There are so many of you who have been with me on this journey and we have built friendships to last a life time. Thank you all endlessly for the support over the last 5 years - whether it was a 'howaya' Jackie! though the door or a well needed natter, it has meant the world to me. I can't wait for all of the regulars I have yet to meet! The coffee and cakes certainly made our rainy days brighter. We will continue to be a place filled with love, dancing and a lots of laughter." Pictured is Jackie B with Hannah Rose



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

MOTOR TAX OFFICES WICKLOW, BRAY & BLESSINGTON

Wicklow Motor Tax Office will close to the public on Wednesday, 23rd December 2020 at 3.30pm. The office will re-open on Wednesday, 30th December 2020 at 9.30am. Wicklow Motor Tax will open on Thursday, 31st December 2020 for a half day (closing at 12.30pm). This closure is necessary to facilitate the completion of End of Year Financial Reports on the National Vehicle Driver File System.

Normal office hours (9.30am to 12.30pm and 2.00pm to 3.30pm) will resume on Monday, 4th January 2021.

Bray Motor Tax Office will close to the public on Wednesday, 23rd December 2020 at 3.30pm and re-open on Wednesday, 30th December 2020 at 9.30am. The office will open on Thursday 31st December 2020 for a half day (closing at 12 noon). This closure is necessary to facilitate the completion of End of Year Financial Reports on the National Vehicle Driver File System.

Normal office hours (9.30am to 12 noon and 2.00pm to 3.30pm) will resume on Tuesday, 5th January 2021.

Blessington Motor Tax Office will close to the public on Tuesday, 22nd December 2020 at 3.30pm.

Normal office hours (9.30am to 12.30pm & 2.00pm to 3.30pm) will resume on Tuesday, 5th January 2021.

Wicklow County Council regrets any inconvenience caused.

REVENUE SECTION

The Revenue Section of Wicklow County Council will close for payments at 3.30pm on Monday the 21st, Tuesday the 22nd, Wednesday the 23rd, Wednesday the 30th and Thursday the 31st of December 2020.

This closure is necessary to facilitate the completion of End of Year Financial Reports.

Please note that the offices will be closed entirely on the 24th and 29th of December 2020.

Normal Office hours resume on Monday the 4th of January 2021.

Wicklow County Council regrets any inconvenience caused.



Wreath laying ceremony honours Dr. Christopher Thompson and frontline workers

A wreath laying ceremony took place in Bray on Wednesday to remember Dr Christopher Thompson (1815-1876).

Dr Thompson worked as a doctor in Bray and in 1876 when there was an outbreak of cholera. He volunteered to care for the victims but contracted the disease himself and died on 16th December 1876.

A memorial was erected in his memory and it was at this location outside the Heritage Centre, the Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District, Cllr Ann Ferris, laid a wreath in Dr Thompson's memory.

Cllr Ferris also acknowledged the contribution of current frontline workers in battling the COVID-19 pandemic saying: "Today is about also acknowledging, and honouring the sacrifice, dedication and contribution to keeping our families and communities safe. Dr Thompson had no thought but to help others in their time of need and paid the ultimate price".

She added: "We truly are indebted to our frontline workers for their commitment and dedication, and to the sacrifices they have made, and no doubt will continue to make over the coming period."

Arklow plant plays key role in development of Moderna vaccine

The Arklow pharmaceutical company Merck has played a key role in the development of the Moderna vaccine. The plant in Arklow has made one of the key elements used in the vaccine and is a vital supplier for the US company.

The Government has agreed an advance purchase agreement of 875,000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine produced by Moderna.

Moderna's vaccine uses synthetic Ribonucleic acid (RNA) messengers that use genetic code from the coronavirus to prompt human cells to generate a so-called "spike" protein found on the outside of the virus.

The process sets off an immune response from the body, which eventually blocks the actual coronavirus from latching onto cells.

Tests show the vaccine efficacy against the disease was 94.1% and vaccine efficacy against severe Covid-19 was 100%, the company reported.

The European Medicines Agency is carrying out a review of the Moderna vaccine which is expected to be completed early next month.

Arklow Fianna Fáil Councillor Pat

Fitzgerald said: "This is a good news story for Merck and for Arklow.

"Merck have always been a great employer in the town but to be involved in the creation of the Moderna vaccine is a fantastic achievement.

"It just shows a company in Arklow employing people from the town can be considered world class in their field.

"The work being done by the company and their employees is something they should be very proud of as they are helping to save lives."

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly said: Recent news from vaccine developers are a beacon of hope after a very difficult year. Vaccination is a hugely effective intervention for saving lives and promoting good health. Of course, the safety and effectiveness of vac-

ines is our absolute priority and any COVID-19 vaccine administered in Ireland will have to be authorised by the European Medicines Agency.

"While we await news on whether these vaccines comply with all of the EMA's requirements of quality, safety and efficacy, the Government has been working ahead on plans for the roll-out of vaccines.

"A key part of the roll-out will be ensuring that those most vulnerable to COVID-19 receive vaccinations first. Given the country's experience with COVID-19 to date and the risks that vulnerable people and those in front-line roles in the health and social care services continue to face, it is only right that they are prioritised in the allocation of vaccines. The government has followed the advice from our leading medical experts."

96% now likely to 'look for local' in Wicklow

Research carried out on behalf of the Local Enterprise Offices as part of their 'Look for Local' campaign has shown that 96% of County Wicklow consumers were now more likely to buy local, either online or in-store, this year, compared to 2019, as a result of recent campaigns to highlight local businesses.

Of those surveyed 8 out of 10 said that they were aware of campaigns, including that of the Local Enterprise Offices, encouraging individuals and businesses to look locally when buying goods or services. 96% of respondents in County Wicklow said they were more likely to shop locally online this year. In addition, 83% of County Wicklow respondents said they would look to support local in-store.

Nationally, 85% of those surveyed felt there were more local businesses trading online than in 2019, while 83% plan to support more local businesses in 2021. The Local Enterprise Offices have approved over 11,000 Trading Online Vouchers this year, an increase of over 800% from 2019. The Voucher enables small businesses to get established online or improve an existing online presence.

The "Look for Local" campaign is being activated by each of the 31 Local Enterprise Offices nationwide including Local Enterprise Office Wicklow and the Look for Local hub on LocalEnterprise.ie/LookforLocal now has over 4,400 businesses listed, including 214 from County Wicklow from a range of sectors that enables consumers and businesses to search for goods and services within their area.

The research was released this week to coincide with "Look for Local Day" on December 14th, where the Local Enterprise Offices,

Enterprise Ireland and the Local authorities put an increased online focus on local businesses. This included online promotions, offers and giveaways as part of the Look for Local campaign.

The research by Amarach Research, sampled over 1,900 Irish consumers, and highlights the surge across Ireland for consumers and businesses to support those in their own area.

The Local Enterprise Office's Look for Local campaign is being run with Enterprise Ireland and the Local Authorities. It is backed by the Government of Ireland.

Minister for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English TD, said: "It has been a year like no other for many small local businesses who employ over one million people in Ireland. The Look for Local campaign has provided a significant boost to many companies across the country and builds on the upsurge of support by consumers for local businesses when looking to buy goods or services.

"It's great to see that people across the country are supporting local businesses at the heart of our communities by shopping locally and safely in store, by phone or online; for home delivery or collection.

"Small businesses have risen to the challenge of trading during Covid. Many changed their business models, created new products and gone above and beyond to maintain links with their customers. This is a testa-

ment to their resilience and now their local customers are backing them."

Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, LEO Wicklow said: "This research has borne out the huge groundswell of support of local businesses we have seen this year and particularly now coming up to Christmas. With so many campaigns ongoing to try and support local businesses, the impact has been significant and the response from businesses has been outstanding. Many have had to completely change the way they do business this year and it's great to see people across communities supporting them.

"We have helped over 11,000 businesses this year with Trading Online Vouchers and they can now trade 24 hours a day as opposed to just 9-6pm. Those who Look for Local can be assured that if they are buying locally they will get a premium product that can be delivered at short notice and with that they are supporting their local economy. Hopefully this continues long into 2021 and beyond"

Ross O'Colmáin, Department Manager, Construction, Timber, Cleantech Consumer, Enterprise Ireland, said: "The Look for Local campaign survey results show the impact a collaborative, cross-agency and local business group approach can have in supporting small businesses. It has been a challenging year for small and medium enterprises around the country, and many have adapted their

businesses and strengthened their online presences, to facilitate exiting and new customers, both locally and internationally, which will put them in a stronger position for 2021 and beyond."

Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council said "Local authorities are delighted to throw our support behind 'Look for Local' Day. As Christmas draws closer and we enter one of the busiest shopping periods in the year, it's important we encourage everyone in our counties to back small businesses and retailers in their communities. Local authorities are doing everything they can to support businesses, and we know from research from the Local Enterprise Office Network that there is a strong desire among the public to shop locally this year. We would urge consumers across the country to Look for Local when they shop, and invest in local jobs and enterprise in the weeks and months ahead."

The campaign will run for several weeks on traditional and online media and profiling of businesses will continue until the end of the year to help spotlight local businesses across the country and encourage people to Look for Local.

For more information on the campaign go to LocalEnterprise.ie/LookforLocal and agencies, businesses and consumers will also be encouraged to use #LookforLocal on social media to help support the campaign..

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to ensure
this.**

Season's Greetings

from your Local Representatives

*Wishing you a happy Christmas & a brighter 2021
Best wishes Aoife & Melanie*
Working for you in Bray, Enniskerry & Kilmacanogue



Cllr. Melanie CORRIGAN
FINE GAEL
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MelanieBrayWest@gmail.com



Stephen Donnelly TD
Minister for Health
Wishing You A Happy Christmas And A Better Brighter 2021

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FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



Cllr. Aoife FLYNN KENNEDY
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- Maintain an ambitious, fair, outward looking EU trade policy to open up new markets for Irish products and services and drive entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Develop a European Green Deal that provides new economic opportunity for businesses, and secures a fair and just transition for all to a carbon-neutral economy.
- Deliver an EU digital strategy that improves regional connectivity, transforms work for people and businesses, and brings new opportunities for rural communities.



Seán KELLY MEP
YOUR VOICE IN THE EU



Cllr. Erika Doyle
WWW.GREENPARTY.IE
Wishing everybody in Co. Wicklow a Very Happy Christmas and New Year

f erikadoylegreen
t @MissErikaDoyle
Email: erika.doyle@greenparty.ie



Cllr. Lourda SCOTT

WISHING EVERYONE IN GREYSTONES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT A HAPPY AND HEALTHY CHRISTMAS

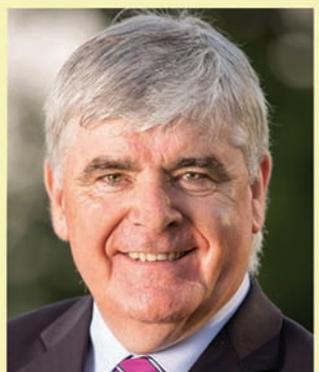


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Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Cllr Tom Fortune INDEPENDENT



#TheVoiceOfReason
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Web: tomfortune.ie Twitter: @CllrTomF
Facebook: Cllr Tom Fortune #TheVoiceOfReason #LE19

STAY SAFE & TAKE CARE

Season's Greetings

from your Local Representatives



Cllr. Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien

Working for Bray, Kilmac & Enniskerry

Wishing everyone a wholesome festive season and a new year of health and happiness



E: dermotobriensf@gmail.com
1st Floor, 27 Main St., Bray, Co. Wicklow

Cllr. Derek Mitchell



Happy New Year to the residents of Greystones, Kilcoole, Delgany & Newcastle

Kiltoorish, Manor Avenue, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.
Phone: 01-2874115
www.derekmitchell.ie
E: mitchelld@eircom.net



Wishing Everyone a Safe & Peaceful Christmas



Cllr Irene Winters

23 Wicklow Heights Court, Wicklow Town
087 244 3610
IWinters@wicklowcoco.ie

Cllr. Joe BEHAN

INDEPENDENT

Wishing everybody a Happy Christmas & Peaceful New Year



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Councillor Edward Timmins

Wishing everyone in County Wicklow a very Happy Christmas



MINISTER SIMON HARRIS

Looking forward to a New Year of hope and progress



5 WAYS TO CONTACT SIMON

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simon.harris@oir.ie
DeputySimonHarris
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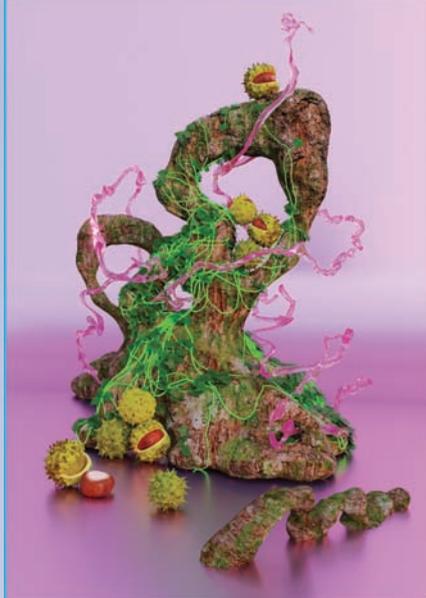


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* Behaviour & Attitudes market research, April 2017



Frank Capra's 1946 classic *It's a Wonderful Life*, starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed, will be screened in the Mermaid Arts Centre on Monday 21st December as part of their lineup of Christmas movies this month. The lineup also includes *Home Alone* on 19th December, *Miracle on 34th Street* on 22nd December, and *Elf* on 23rd December. The Mermaid said "While our doors remain closed for live performances, we are delighted to be able to bring you some Christmas movies in Mermaid Arts Centre. Please note that due to limited audience capacity we have a limited amount of single seats available and most will be sold in pairs. Book online at the links below or call box office on 01-2724030."

Making music with Sonamus

Music Network and Wicklow County Council Arts Office invite County Wicklow residents aged 55 and over to participate in a new shared learning music project with renowned Wicklow quartet Sonamus. Making Music with Sonamus: the Wicklow Teaching Residency presented by Music Network and Wicklow County Council Arts Office offers participants individual and group tuition on piano, guitar, cello or whistle between January and June 2021.

Tuition is entirely free of charge and instruments will be provided as needed for the duration of the project. Reading music is not essential for participation in this project, and players of all levels are encouraged to apply, even if a little rusty! To apply online visit www.musicnetwork.ie/whats-on/making-music-with-sonamus-the-wicklow-teaching-residency or to apply by phone please call Music Network's Programmes Administrator Sarah Ledwidge on 083 0162718.

Commenting on the announcement, CEO of Music Network Sharon Rollston said: "We're very pleased to announce this exciting new participatory project Making Music with Sonamus: the Wicklow Teaching Residency in

partnership with Wicklow County Council Arts Office. It's designed to provide a quality learning experience which helps people to rediscover their love of playing music, and we're delighted to have Sonamus on board as our ensemble-in-residence to inspire, encourage and share in their music-making journey."

Arts Officer at Wicklow County Council, Jenny Sherwin said: "This is one of these vital initiatives which will sustain people throughout the winter in creative activities and will increase their contacts safely."

Benefiting from the combined musical backgrounds of Sonamus members Eamon Sweeney (guitar), Rachel Factor (harp/chord), Annette Cleary

(cello) and Tim Doyle (whistles), the tuition programme will offer project participants an opportunity to experience and learn an array of musical styles and techniques. Between January and March 2021, participants will receive up to 10 one-to-one weekly instrumental lessons. Group instrumental lessons will also be held on weekday mornings in April at Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray.

The project concludes with three large ensemble sessions also conducted at Mermaid Arts Centre. Please note all lessons will take place either by video call or in person, as public health guidelines dictate. Technical support to enable online learning will be provided to participants if necessary.

Applicants must be aged 55 or over, resident in County Wicklow and have some previous experience on one of the four instruments on offer. Alternatively, experience on a similar instrument will also be considered. Places are limited to fifteen. Priority will be given on a first come first served basis, however additional criteria that will be taken into account for selection include availability of teaching slots, availability of instruments, ability to partake in the full programme and geographical spread throughout the county.

To apply online please visit www.musicnetwork.ie/whats-on/making-music-with-sonamus-the-wicklow-teaching-residency or call Music Network's Programmes Administrator, Sarah Ledwidge on 083 0162718. Making Music with Sonamus: the Wicklow Teaching Residency is presented by Music Network and Wicklow County Council Arts Office. Music Network is funded by the Arts Council of Ireland. This initiative is also funded by Creative Ireland and the Government's Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020-2021, and supported by Mermaid Arts Centre.



Pictured is guitarist Eamon Sweeney of Wicklow-based quartet Sonamus, with Wendy Nairn from Ashford, marking the launch of Making Music with Sonamus, a shared learning opportunity for County Wicklow residents aged 55 and over, presented by Music Network and Wicklow County Council.

Wicklow designers awarded at Future Makers Awards 2020

Three designers based in Co. Wicklow have been awarded by the Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI) Future Makers programme. 28 students and emerging designers and craftspeople received awards and supports totalling 25,000 through the organisation's Future Makers programme. The announcement took place at a virtual awards ceremony on Wednesday, 2nd December, which was led by Toby Scott, design strategist and DCCI Board Member.

The three Wicklow designers include: Stephanie Sloan, a printmaker, awarded Studio Support of €1,000. The judges appreciated her "bold simple images that embody a personal interpretation of Ireland" and noted that "this award will assist in the purchase of a key piece of equipment to allow for professional production of these beautifully crafted artworks".

Ceramicist Cathy Burke was awarded Studio Support (€1,000) for her "highly distinctive approach to her ceramic sculptures" and the judges also commented that "it is reaffirming to see how her practice has grown in the last few years with the assistance of a previous future makers award from student to becoming an emerging maker."

Eve Doyle, a recent graduate of DCCI's Jewellery and Goldsmithing Skills & Design Course was awarded material support of €500, and based in Ashford. She "makes beautiful jewellery that explores the kinetic nature of line and multiple elements. Her works explore pioneering techniques that are ready to be elevated into more precious materials."

Future Makers Awards & Supports is one of the largest prize-funded award programmes in Europe for students and emerging makers. The programme, which was established in 2009, assists the next gener-



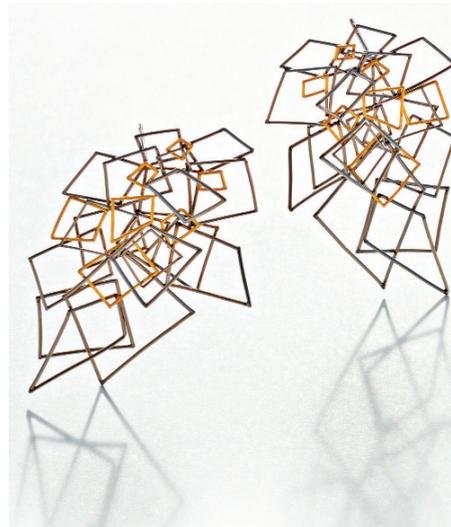
The judges appreciated Stephanie Sloan's "bold simple images that embody a personal interpretation of Ireland"

and supports and two makers as the overall winners. The successful applicants demonstrated design thinking, innovation and creativity, traditional and contemporary techniques, as well as skillful execution. Those selected come from a broad range of disciplines; from fashion design to woodturning, embroidery to jewellery design, across the island of Ireland.

Rosemary Steen, CEO, Design & Crafts Council Ireland said: "The Future Makers Awards & Supports programme is one of many Design & Crafts Council Ireland initiatives established to support the design and craft sector; providing funding for developing skills, and forging careers within the creative industry. Through Future Makers our aim is to encourage design thinking and develop the sector as a whole, by investing in the next generation of Irish designers and makers."

"We hope to work with these emerging makers and students in the years to come, supporting them through our programmes as registered DCCI client enterprises with the potential to grow and generate vital employment. We congratulate the recipients of Future Makers 2020 and wish them every success as they establish their careers," she continued.

Toby Scott, Board Member, Design & Crafts Council Ireland said: "The Future Makers awards spotlight the extraordinarily high level of contemporary design and traditional skills in Ireland. These emerging makers, recent graduates and students demonstrate real craft throughout their practice coupled with skilled execution. This programme recognises and rewards vision - investing in makers at key stages of their careers."

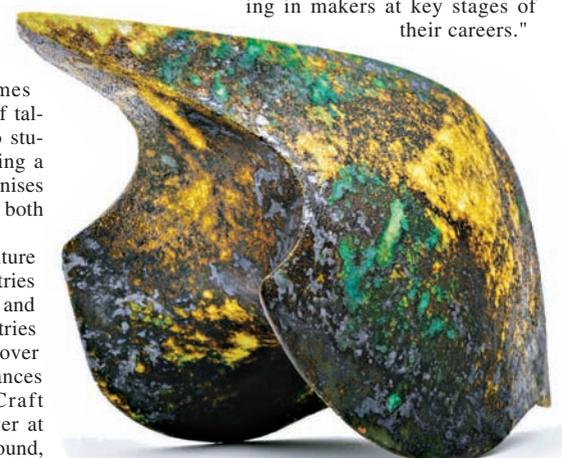


Eve Doyle from Ashford "makes beautiful jewellery that explores the kinetic nature of line and multiple elements."

ation of Irish designers and makers at a pivotal stage in their professional development. Future Makers helps recipients to develop a career in the design and craft industry with exhibition supports, studio supports, materials supports, travel and training supports along with Future Makers of the Year Awards, design awards, and craft skills awards.

Future Makers is one of DCCI's programmes which support and invest in a new generation of talent in the craft and design sector. Divided into student and emerging maker categories and covering a wide range of disciplines, Future Makers recognises and rewards vision, innovation and excellence in both making and the creative process.

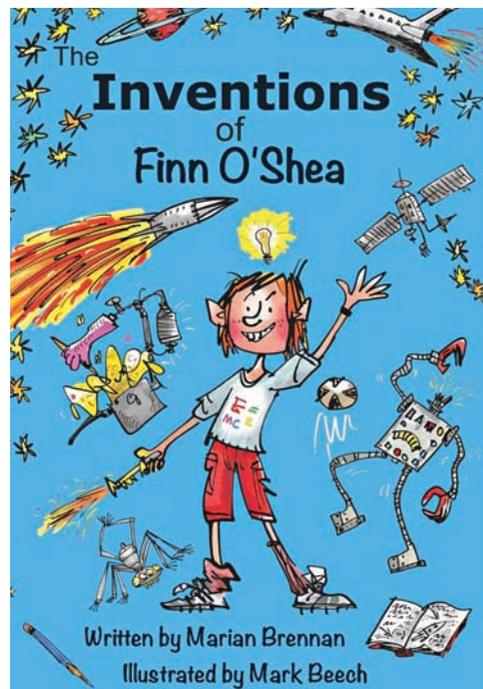
Following a call-out for entries in March, Future Makers 2020 received the highest number of entries to date with 232 online applications submitted and assessed through a formal judging process. Entries for 2020 were evaluated by a panel of judges over two stages. The first round was judged by Frances McDonald, Contemporary Design and Craft Consultant and Paula McCoy, Homeware Buyer at Arnotts who selected a longlist. At the second round, judges Rachel Dickson, Dean of Academic Programmes at Central Saint Martins and Nigel Cheney, textile artist and designer selected a shortlist and from this chose 26 applicants to receive awards



Cathy Burke was awarded Studio Support for her "highly distinctive approach to her ceramic sculptures"

Robots, rockets and gadgets in Wicklow author's new children's book

If you know a little one interested in science, then this book is written for them. Local Wicklow author Marian Brennan has released a children's book called 'The Inventions of Finn O'Shea'.



The book is set in Greystones and tells the story of a young boy who is an inventor.

Named after the Irish legend Fionn Mac Cumhaill, Finn is curious, funny and energetic! He spends all his free time making robots and gadgets out of bits and bobs. The trouble is, while school work is no problem, he is being picked on at school, and his little sister at home keeps breaking all his stuff! The stakes are high as he tries to get a handle on everything before the science competition. This is a fast paced story of determination and courage bound to inspire young readers!

Marian is scientist as well as a writer. After completing a degree in science, she moved to Dublin to do

a PhD. She currently works at the RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences. Her research interests are in bacterial infection and antibiotic resistance and she is currently working on a large global community-based study to identify drugs for the treatment of COVID-19. Her passion for science and storytelling is evidenced in her children's novels, written to spark curiosity and inspire young inventors.

"We did not expect the book to hit the bestseller list or for there to be such a high level of local demand. Now we are struggling to get enough copies into the bookshops before Christmas!"

The book is currently on the Amazon bestseller list for children's chapter books. It is available in paperback and as a Kindle eBook, as well as in the local bookstores. It is in stock at Halfway up the Stairs in Greystones, The Bridge Street Bookshop in Wicklow town and Kevin Gildea's Brilliant Bookstore in Dun Laoghaire. It can be ordered from Amazon and the Gutter Bookshop in Dalkey, as well as a number of other Dublin bookstores.



Marian Brennan

Final call for primary schools to enter 'Someone Like Me' art competition

As part of the process of Covid-19-proofing this year's "Someone Like Me" primary schools competition, the National Disability Authority has extended the deadline for entries to Friday 18th December, allowing pupils an additional two weeks to put the finishing touches onto their creative projects celebrating the things that unite children of all abilities.

The prestigious national art competition, which is now in its fifth year, is organised by the National Disability Authority as a way of fostering more positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities by highlighting the similarities that exist between all people.

This year's competition invites Ireland's 500,000+ pupils attending over 3,000 mainstream and special primary schools to take part in what has become a national creative celebration of the things that unite children of all abilities. It offers a range

of prizes up to the value of €750 for one junior and one senior category winner in every county and is open to all primary school pupils from junior infants to sixth class.

Winners will also be invited to attend a virtual national prize giving ceremony which will be streamed on the Someone Like Me website (someonelikemecompetition.ie) in January 2021.

Encouraging pupils to take part, Minister of State with special responsibility for disability, Anne Rabbitte T.D. said that entries are

welcome from individual pupils, a class pod or even a whole-school as a socially-distanced combined effort.

"This is an important opportunity to learn about disability by focusing on ability, nurturing positive attitudes at a very early age helping to ensure that everyone feels a valued member of society now and for generations to come," she said.

"Entries can come in all shapes and sizes and can be anything from a poster or collage to a papier-mâché or mixed-media sculpture. We have already received an exceptional number of incredibly creative entries from pupils who have worked on their projects both in the classroom and at home.

"I would like to wish everyone who is entering this year's competition the very best of luck and I look forward to announcing the county winners and overall winner in due course."

There will be a junior and senior category winner in every county, along with an overall national winner. The extended deadline for entries is Friday 18th December 2020. More information can be found at www.someonelikemecompetition.ie.



Minister of State with special responsibility for disability, Anne Rabbitte



Arklow Harbour, by Kenneth Redmond

Singal Arts Centre presents: The Socially Distant - an exhibition by Karen Hickey

Monday, 15th February - Sunday, 28th February 2021

'The Socially Distant' is a collection of works exploring how our day-to-day habits and thoughts have changed over the course of the last year.

In this exhibition Karen's imaginary, colourful characters narrate their thoughts and feelings. They express their new habits and observations during the period of time. Their stories tell of the mundane yet are humorous and familiar.

A lighthearted observation on how us humans have recoiled, readjusted and altered our minds to fit a new normal. With an out of the blue transformation in how we connect with others and fill the days how does a head cope with the simple things in life suddenly turning complicated? Does the brain become more creative in its thoughts, does the banal become more profound, do we care more now about the small things? In the end, we wonder are we changed people when life returns to normal?

Opening Reception: Thursday, 18th February 7pm - 9pm.



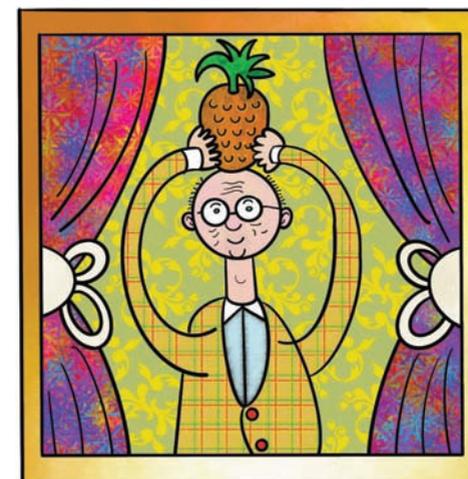
Portraits & Poetry: Young people reflect on special people and things they missed during lockdown

The Mermaid was delighted to re-open their gallery to the public on Monday 7th December, where they currently have their Portraits & Poetry exhibition on display. Pop in to see these wonderful works of art created by children from all over Wicklow.

The bond between grandchildren and their grandparents is a magical one! Wicklow children share their portraits and poems about their grandparents in this exhibition, as part of our Yarn Storytelling Festival.

During lockdown in spring/early summer Mermaid Arts Centre invited children from all over County Wicklow to submit pictures of and poems about their grandparents that they couldn't get to see during this difficult period. We're delighted to be able to reopen our gallery on Monday and showcase these wonderful works of art!

All entries can be viewed on Mermaid's website and are featured in their video tour.





Students from Presentation College Bray raised €250 for St. Vincent de Paul. The cheque was presented to president of the St. Peter's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul, Eddie Flanagan.

Love Wicklow, shop local

A 'Love Wicklow, Shop Local' campaign has been launched by Wicklow County Council with the aim of encouraging Wicklow residents to support local business throughout the festive season. People can do this by shopping locally online or safely in-store.

There is also a chance to win some beautiful Wicklow prizes by showing how you shopped local in the Cathaoirleach's Christmas Challenge.

A range of temporary measures have been introduced to ensure plenty of space for people to move around and businesses to operate in, with each of the Municipal Districts administering their own unique shop local campaigns to help restart the local economy.

The Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, said: "At the heart of our community are local business owners who work tirelessly to bring people their favourite products and services every day. This year, because of the Pandemic, they have innovated, evolved and adapted what they do and how they do it to survive. We should support them as much as we can by spending what we can locally."

In addition, consumers and businesses in Wicklow are being encouraged to shop local this Christmas

and are reminded of the huge range of goods and services they can access on their own doorsteps with a new campaign to 'Look for Local'.

More and more people are now shopping online and Wicklow County Council would encourage them to also shop locally online and to avail of the excellent range of high quality, products, services and gifts to suit all tastes.

The Local Enterprise Office Wicklow "Look for Local" campaign aims to highlight small Wicklow businesses in every sector, asking that people continue to build on the recent groundswell of support shown to local businesses when looking to buy goods or services

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr Frank Curran, commented: "Wicklow County Council is playing an important role in making sure our towns and villages continue to be a safe environment for members of the public and businesses. We aim to build on the success of the Reopening

Committees, who have been flying the flag locally within the Districts and we wanted to endorse an overall message for County Wicklow residents to Love Wicklow and Shop Local."

The 'Love Wicklow, Shop Local' festive campaign will be supported by radio advertisements on East Coast FM and on social media via Wicklow County Council's Facebook: www.facebook.com/WicklowCountyCouncil/; Twitter: twitter.com/wicklowcoco and Instagram: www.instagram.com/Wicklowcoco/ profiles.

Also, as part of the 'Love Wicklow, Shop Local' promotion, Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, has launched the 'Cathaoirleach's Christmas Challenge' which challenges people to carry out

their shopping in their local area in County Wicklow in the weeks up to Christmas. The Challenge video can be viewed on Wicklow County Council's social media channels.

Anyone completing the Challenge is invited to post a video showing how they shopped local, hash tag where they have shopped local in Co Wicklow (#Wicklow, #Arklow, #Rathdrum etc) and to 'like and share' the post. Entries must be received by Sunday 20th December 2020 and will be entered into a draw for some beautiful County Wicklow prizes. The winning entry will be contacted on Monday 21st December.

Please visit www.wicklow.ie for more information. Join the conversation - Use the hashtag #LoveWicklowShopLocal.

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A year of changing consumption and recycling patterns

Recycling centres in County Wicklow have had a busy year. Wicklow's five recycling centres remained open at all stages during Covid restrictions and experienced the changes in consumption as waste generated in our homes increased. The pandemic and restrictions changed people's behaviour in how we shopped, how we dined how we used our homes as work spaces and the works we did around our homes and gardens. Lower waste generated in our work places was offset by higher volumes of waste produced in our homes.



A study undertaken by the Clean Technology Centre for the EPA showed major changes in consumption during the first three month lockdown.

The above is some of the waste statistics which point to increased consumption at home. Glass recycling rose by 46% and online retail broke all previous records taking 15.5% of market share which generated extra volumes of cardboard recycling. Food retail was up 17%. Our recycling centres and bottle banks experienced a surge in usage during the year as we worked from home and

socialized close to home. Total volumes of recycling at Wicklow recycling centres are up year on year with a 36% increase in glass and a 16% increase in cardboard for the year.

Recycling centres operated as an essential service during the first lockdown in March to June 2020 and remained open for the duration of COVID restrictions with safety measures in place. Footfall during this time was extremely busy due to an increase in home maintenance and general clear outs of peoples sheds and attics, as well as, significant

amounts of packaging generated from increased online shopping.

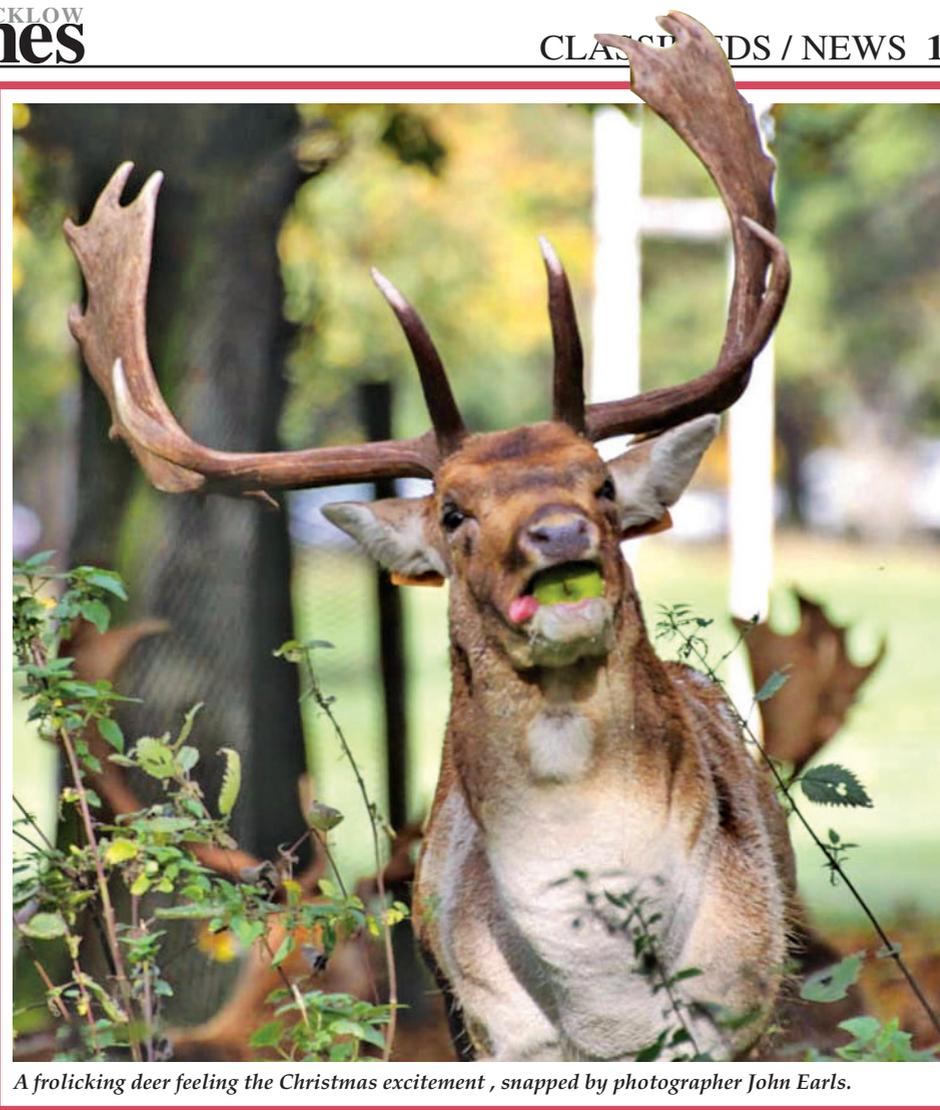
Staff in Wicklow's recycling services carried a significant additional workload handling the extra volumes while implementing social distancing for visitors and maintaining a safe experience for all visitors. They controlled numbers on site, disinfected surfaces all while dealing with the extra volume of recycling.

As we approach Christmas, always the busiest time for recycling and one where another spike in online sales has featured, volumes of recyclable

waste are rising rapidly. Wicklow County Council is encouraging householders to maximise recycling in the run up to Christmas where possible. It is a good idea to recycle the cardboard and excess packaging from deliveries well in advance. Recycling centres are always busy when they reopen post-Christmas and more than ever crowd control will be a priority in early January.

Store all recycling clean dry and loose with materials for the centre separated so that you can minimize your time on site when visiting your recycling centre. Don't store cardboard outdoors as if it gets wet it can't be recycled.

After a year with record breaking throughput in Wicklow's recycling centres staff will have a short break for Christmas but look forward to welcoming all back after Christmas to help recycle the Christmas packaging. As an added extra Wicklow County Council will be happy to take you Christmas tree for recycling at designated collection points.



A frolicking deer feeling the Christmas excitement, snapped by photographer John Earls.

Childline here for every child

Childline volunteers across Ireland are preparing to receive up to 900 calls, texts and online contacts from children and young people in Wicklow and all over Ireland this Christmas Day and every day of the Christmas holiday period. The 24-hour listening service will remain available to every child and young person in Wicklow and across Ireland who would like support in relation to any issue which may be on their mind.

In a year when children and young people have needed Childline more than ever, several vital fundraising activities on which the service depends have not been able to take

place. This includes the organisation's annual Christmas Holly campaign and bucket collections. National Childline Manager Emma McCluskey said:

"Childline is always here for every child and young person in Wicklow and all over Ireland, no matter what. Children and young people can contact Childline for free and in confidence and they won't be judged or told what to do. Instead, Childline volunteers are here to listen, to support, to empower and to help children and young people to build resilience so they can cope with whatever challenges might come their way."

"Never before has a year posed so many challenges to children and young people. As soon as Covid-19 restrictions were first introduced in March,

demand for our services surged. It very quickly became clear that issues including mental health difficulties, anxiety, self-harm, bullying, loneliness, abuse, violence and neglect do not stop in a pandemic. If anything, they are experienced all the more intensely. In recent months, more children and young people have been turning to Childline online. They may not feel comfortable having their conversation overheard at home."

The service can be reached in the following ways: Call: 1800 66 66 66. Chat online: Childline.ie. Text: 50101

PLANNING • PLANNING • PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
Milan Podhrazsky seeks permission for retention of 6sqm flat roof porch as constructed and permission to clad same in stone at 31 Upper Grattan Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
We, Mark and Hazel Evans seek planning permission for the replacement of existing single storey flat roof extension measuring 58sqm to rear with a more energy efficient single storey flat roof extension measuring 91sqm. New build to consist of kitchen/ living room, utility, WC and sitting room, including ancillary works at 18 Killadreenan, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow A63 DC85. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
Bridget and Robbie Byrne seek planning permission for a single storey extension to the side and front of existing dwelling and associated site works at 74 Woodbrook Lawn Boghall Road Bray Co Wicklow A98 E2F2. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within a period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by authority of the application.

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

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38
The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too; your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the Angel left her. C.J.

CLASSIFIED ADS & PLANNING / APPOINTMENTS

CALL: 01 2869111 EMAIL: jennie@localtimes.ie

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

GREEN CHRISTMAS

RECYCLING IN DECEMBER/JANUARY

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



Race against Waste

Repak

MEMBERS SUPPORTING THE RACE AGAINST WASTE

COUNTY WICKLOW RECYCLING CENTRES

Christmas Opening & Closing Times

Arklow

Wednesday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
Monday 28th Dec	Closed
Tuesday 29th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 30th Dec	Closed
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed
Saturday 2nd Jan	9am-1.45pm
Monday 4th Jan	9am-4.30pm
Tuesday 5th Jan	9am-4.30pm

Avoca

Wednesday 23rd Dec	9am-3pm (Closed for lunch 1-2pm)
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
Monday 28th Dec	Closed
Tuesday 29th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 30th Dec	Closed
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed
Saturday 2nd Jan	Closed
Monday 4th Jan	Closed
Tuesday 5th Jan	9am-3pm (Closed for lunch 1-2pm)

Bray

Wednesday 23rd Dec	10am-2pm
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
Monday 28th Dec	10am-2pm
Tuesday 29th Dec	10am-2pm
Wednesday 30th Dec	10am-2pm
New Year's Eve	Closed
New Year's Day	Closed
Saturday 2nd Jan	10am-2pm
Monday 4th Jan	10am-4pm
Tuesday 5th Jan	10am-4pm

The Murrough

Wednesday 23rd Dec	9am-1.45pm
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
Monday 28th Dec	Closed
Tuesday 29th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 30th Dec	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Eve	9am-1.45pm
New Year's Day	Closed
Saturday 2nd Jan	9am-1.45pm
Monday 4th Jan	9am-4.30pm (Closed for lunch 1-1.45pm)
Tuesday 5th Jan	9am-4.30pm (Closed for lunch 1-1.45pm)

Rampere Baltinglass

Wednesday 23rd Dec	8.30am-1pm
Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
Monday 28th Dec	Closed
Tuesday 29th Dec	Closed
Wednesday 30th Dec	8.30am-1pm
New Year's Eve	8.30am-1pm
New Year's Day	Closed
Saturday 2nd Jan	8.30am-1pm
Monday 4th Jan	8.30am-4pm
Tuesday 5th Jan	8.30am-4pm

CHRISTMAS TREE SHREDDING JANUARY 2021

Bring your Christmas Tree to any of the collection points below. They will be shredded, composted and used again!

No wreaths, plastic trees or decorations please.

	LOCATION	TIME	DATE
Arklow	Arklow Recycling Centre, Croghan Industrial Estate	Mon-Thur: 9.00am-4.30pm Fri: 9.00am-3.30pm Sat: 9.30am-1.00pm	4th -16th January
Aughrim	Tidy Towns, The Pavillion, Rednagh Road	Mon-Sat: 9.00am-4.00pm	4th -16th January
Avoca	Avoca Recycling Centre, Ballymurtagh, Avoca	Mon-Thurs: 9.00am-4.00pm Fri: 9.00am-3.30pm Sat: 9.30am-1.00pm Closed for lunch 1.00- 2.00pm every day.	4th -16th January
Baltinglass	Rampere Recycling Centre, Rampere, Baltinglass	Mon-Thur: 9.00am-4.00pm Fri: 9.00am-3.00pm Sat: 9.00am-1.00pm	4th -16th January
Blessington	County Council Yard, Naas Road	Mon to Fri: 10.00am-4.00pm	4th -16th January
Bray	Bray Recycling Centre, Beechwood Close, Boghall Road	Mon-Fri: 9.00am-4.00pm Sat: 9.30am-1pm	4th -16th January
Bray	Festina Lente Foundation, Old Connaught Avenue Car Park	10am-4pm Daily	4th -16th January
Greystones, Mill Road	Carpark in front of the Wicklow County Council Offices on Mill Road near to the bottle banks	9.00am-6.00pm Daily	4th -16th January
Greystones, Blacklions	Lidl carpark, Blacklions	9.00am-6.00pm Daily	4th -16th January
Hollywood	Church Carpark, Hollywood	10.00am -12.00 midday	9th January only 10am- 12 Midday
Wicklow	The Murrough Recycling Centre, Wicklow	Mon-Thur: 9.00am-4.00pm Fri: 9.00am-1.00pm Sat: 9.30am -1pm	4th -16th January

Illegal Waste Collection

Beware of unauthorised waste collectors operating in the County Wicklow area.

Only give your waste to Collectors who have a valid Waste Collection Permit. Always ask to see the Waste Collection Permit. Always note the Waste Collection Number on the Waste Collection Permit.

The Waste Collection Permit will display the Waste Collector's Name, Address and Waste Collection Permit Number. The vehicle should clearly show the Name of the Waste Collection Permit Holder and the Waste Collection Permit number.



It is a criminal offence to give waste to a unauthorised collector. Penalties upon conviction can be up to €5,000 and/or 12 months imprisonment

Report any information you have on illegal dumping to Litterline, 1890 548837 or 0404-20127



Stop Food Waste for Christmas

One third of the food we buy goes into the bin with twice as much waste over Christmas. Try to plan your shopping better, store the food more carefully, cook a bit less for the main meal and parties and save the leftovers by freezing. All help to reduce food waste.

Check out the 12 days of Christmas recipe book for leftovers on www.wicklow.ie or ask for a copy from eao@wicklowcoco.ie or **Locall 1890 222276**

For more tips on avoiding food waste visit www.stopfoodwaste.ie

Composting at home is great for the environment but don't forget to ask your bin collector to provide you with a brown bin for food waste which will result in lower bin charges.



WHAT GOES IN THE GREEN BIN?

Free talks available from the recycling ambassadors programme by VOICE. For Details See www.voiceireland.org/general-news/voice-launches-nationwide-recycling-and-waste-management-workshops/

#RecyclingListIRL

