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Tuesday 17th March 2020 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

NO TIME TO PANIC

WHAT'S OPEN AND WHAT'S CLOSED IN COUNTY WICKLOW

The Government's introduction last Thursday of measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 prompted immediate panic buying across County Wicklow as people sought to stockpile food and essentials, - chiefly bread and toilet paper.

In Bray, Tesco on the Vevay Road had its shelves ransacked and had to turn people away at the door as there were too many people in the shop, eventually they had to close the shop. At Aldi on the Boghall Road some shoppers gave up when they saw the queues. Elsewhere there were reports of people fighting over the last available trolleys. Video footage

and images on social media showed empty shelves and aisles full of people.

The measures, announced by an Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, came into effect at 6pm last Thursday and include closure of all schools, creches, childcare facilities and universities, closure of museums, galleries and tourism sites, and banning of public

gatherings above 100 people indoors and 500 people outdoors.

The Government has also asked people work from home if possible and reduce social contact. These measures are to remain in place until at least 29th March.

What has happened is that Defence Forces members have been told to report to barracks on

(continued on p 5)



Budding engineers at Wicklow Montessori Primary School were crowned the All-Ireland Lego League Champions, and will head off to the FIRST LEGO League world finals in the USA to represent Ireland. See story page 8



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For the next two weeks, while the country combats COVID 19, this service will be suspended.

However the same number of copies will be available to pick up in Supermarkets, Banks, Credit Unions, Petrol Stations, Hotels and other usual outlets. It is also available on the internet @ wicklowtimes.net and on Facebook.

We regret any inconvenience this causes and assure readers that normal service will resume as soon as possible.

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NO MIDDLE MAN, WE SELL, MANUFACTURE AND INSTALL



The pupils at Lacken National School, Blessington, celebrate World Book Day, which took place on Thursday 5th March.

RIP Gordon O'Toole

Local relatives of Bray man Gordon O'Toole wish to notify members of the community of Gordon's sad passing. Gordon (74), was well known around the Bray area and known for his fondness of singing.

He lived on Brennan's Parade in Bray but for the last 10 years Gordon had been living in Spain, where he died. He was cremated on Monday 9th March. He will be missed by his siblings, nieces, and nephews.

The Wedding Singer

Bray Music Society presents 'The Wedding Singer', in the Mermaid Arts Centre from 1st-4th April, 8pm. Tickets are €20/€18. For further information and bookings visit www.mermaidarts-centre.ie or call Box Office on 01-2724030.

Delgany Daffodil Show cancelled

Due to the ongoing concerns in relation to the containment of Covid-19 the Committee of the Delgany & District Horticultural Society has decided to err on the side of caution in the interest of all their members and supporters: "We regret therefore that it has been decided by the Committee of the Society to cancel the Daffodil Show which was to be held on 21st March next in the Old Schoolhouse, Delgany. We will keep you informed in relation to the Rose Show which is to be held on 27th June in Greystones."

Legally Fond legal podcast

Legally Fond is the podcast which aims to make law simple. The podcast is anchored by 21

year-old Enniskerry native Gavin Dowd. Alongside law students Pierce and Alex, each week the trio pick a different quirky and interesting case to pick apart and discuss. It's suitable for those studying law or merely those with a passing interest and who wish to find out more. A new episode is released on Wednesday of each week. You can listen on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Full notes on each case covered can be found on the Legally Fond blog (<http://legallyfond.blogspot.com>).

Saint John of God postpone public lecture series until Autumn

Saint John of God Hospital has taken the decision to postpone the annual Public Lecture Series until the Autumn as a precautionary measure in light of COVID-19.

The Public Lecture Series, which was due to begin this evening, will now take place at a later date in the Autumn.

The series will feature talks from a psychologist, social worker, occupational therapist and health promotion nurse about topics including depression and loneliness, parental resilience and self-care, social media and coping as a carer.

Glendalough & District Development Association AGM

Glendalough & District Development Association will be holding its AGM in the Brockagh Resource Centre, starting at 8pm on the 7th of April. All are welcome.

Wicklow Dementia Support's recruitment drive for AlzPals

Do you have a couple of hours a week to spare? Would you like to make a huge difference in someone's life? Wicklow Dementia Support is seeking volunteers for AlzPals, a befriending service for those in the early stages of dementia, who require friendship and stimulation.

It also supports the carer by providing a break for them. The key is 'compatible companionship'. Each client will be twinned with a suitable friend. This support may be inside or outside the client's home.

The service offered will be two or three hours weekly/fortnightly, during which time it

is envisaged that a relationship will grow into a friendship that will endure up to and including into Nursing Home care, continuing to provide a back up service to the professionals and the family.

Continuity of the relationship is of paramount importance and volunteers will be selected

partly on their capacity and willingness to make a long term commitment.

Volunteers will receive training. This will consist of six sessions initially over six weeks, each of two and a half hours duration. Other training may take place in the form of occasional peer group

discussion sessions during the year.

"Please contact us about our AlzPals befriending program. Training, Garda Check and Mentoring all provided free of cost. Put a smile on someone's face, call us today! Call Jenny on: 089 428 6928 or email: info@wicklowdementiasupport.org."

Meet your elected representatives

One year on from the local elections, Co Wicklow PPN is inviting the elected representatives from each Municipal District to a meeting to ask them "How do they see the Municipal District Developing over the next 4 years"?

Co. Wicklow PPN are also asking the newly elected TDs to these events to ask them "How they see the county developing over the next 4 years"?

Time will also be given for members of the community to have small table discussions with the elected representatives to highlight their concerns and hopes for the areas they live in. Meeting dates and venues are as follows: Arklow MD - Wed 22nd April in Glenart College; Baltinglass MD - Thurs 7th May in Tinahely Community Sports Hall and Monday 11th May in Imaal Hall, Dunlavin; Bray MD - Monday 27th April in Cornerstone Church (The Well), Main Street, Bray (opposite the Royal Hotel); Greystones MD - Wed 6th May in Greystones Lawn Tennis Club; Wicklow MD - Tues 28th April in St. Bridget's Hall, Rathnew

BirdWatch Ireland cancel events

In light of the rapidly evolving situation regarding the Covid-19 virus outbreak, BirdWatch Ireland Management has made the decision that all BirdWatch Ireland branch events scheduled during the remainder of March must be postponed or cancelled.

Niall Hatch of BirdWatch Ireland HQ stated: "We believe that this is the right decision for the organisation to make in light of the current public health crisis, and we very much appreciate your cooperation. Our staff are monitoring the situation on an ongoing basis, paying particular attention to updates and briefings from the Irish Government, the HSE and the WHO, and will update you in due course regarding branch events scheduled to take place in later months.

"We have clarified that this includes outdoor events so, regrettably, our Outing to Kilcoole on Saturday 21st March is cancelled."



Hannah Shine celebrates World Book Day at The Glebe National School in Wicklow Town

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LOCAL WICKLOW
Times

is published by
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Serious concerns about manning levels in Bray Fire Service

Recruitment events due to take place this week in order to increase the number of retained, on-call firefighters in Bray and Greystones have now been cancelled due to the measures introduced to slow the spread of Covid-19. There was to be open evenings in both Greystones Fire Station and Bray Fire Station.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady recently expressed serious concerns about the manning levels in Bray fire service and reiterated the need for a full-time fire service. Raising the matter in the Dáil, he said he was informed that recruitment to fill a number of vacancies was meant to have taken place in January.

Deputy Brady said "I have serious concerns for the safety of both the public and the safety of our fire-fighters in Wicklow given the continued inadequate number of fire fighters in Bray. In a reply to me from the Chief Fire Officer Aidan Dempsey in November it showed that the manning level in the Bray station was ten and two of those are on long term sick leave - so out of an establishment of what is supposed to be 15, there are eight fire-fighters.

"I subsequently raised the issue in the Dáil in December, and I was told that recruitment to fill the vacancies in the Bray fire station would commence in January.

"In February 2005, the retained firefighters in the fire station in Bray staged a day of protest over major difficulties in how the service was operated. One of their main concerns was the manning level in the station. Two years later, on 26th September 2007, two of the firefighters that took part in the day of protest in Bray, Sub Officer Brian Murray and Firefighter Mark O'Shaughnessy, died in the line of duty serving the community of Bray. Fourteen years after the protest at the station in Bray, and twelve years after the deaths of Brian and Mark there are still very serious issues with the fire service in Wicklow."

Cllr Dermot O'Brien said "No matter who I talk to about this issue, within the fire service, among the public, elected reps, campaigners and even when I explain the situation to children it seems like a full time fire service is the logical, ethical and absolutely necessary decision that is

required. I find myself wondering who actually doesn't agree and more importantly why?"

Cllr Grace McManus said "looking back on this story over the last ten plus years, and everything that has happened, it's beyond belief that we are still at a stage where no real investment has been made to back the agreed need for a full-time fire service. Reports and recommendations are only as good as the action they inspire, and I hope that in the coming year we will see that for the first time on this issue."

Deputy Brady continued "I have real concerns for the safety of both the firefighters and the public due to the current manning levels within the fire service. The low level of firefighters in the station in Bray means that when a second pump is required it must come from Greystones. This not only takes more time it is leaving the entire Greystones area vulnerable.

"The only way to protect lives and address the serious problems in the

Fire service in Wicklow is to provide a full-time fire service in the Bray area. In 2007 the council carried out a feasibility study into a full-time fire service for Bray, this was reviewed in 2014. I believe that given the serious difficulties within the fire service in Wicklow and the massive increase in the population and increase in building heights in the North Wicklow area, a full-time service is needed more than ever."

Deputy Brady concluded "Unfortunately Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil governments have failed to progress Bray getting a full-time fire service. The 2007 and 2014 reports are completely outdated. They need to be independently reviewed and updated. Critically we then need a government that will fund the provision of a full-time service. The recruitment of firefighters must also be given priority to ensure that the safety of both the public and members of the fire service is protected."



Celebrating International Women's Day in the Arklow Bay Hotel were Sadhbh Ward, Kerry Ward, Deirdre Bentley, and Loretta O'Sullivan

Bray commuters should examine Bus Connects Corridor

Minister Simon Harris has encouraged Bray to City Centre commuters to examine the latest designs from the National Transport Authority for the proposed Core Bus Corridor between Bray and the City Centre.

Minister Harris said "The National Transport Authority has published updated designs for the new Core Bus Corridor to link Bray with Dublin City Centre.

"In respect of Bray there are to be a number of significant junction upgrades including the Lower and Upper Dargle Road junctions with Castle Street/Old Dublin Road. It is proposed to replace the roundabout at the junction of the old Dublin Road and exit 5 on the M11 with a signalised junction.

"It is important that the National Transport Authority's designs for the Bus Corridor must ensure appropriate boundary treatments, planting and street furniture to enhance the entrance into the town. Further details are available at busconnects.ie."

Funding secured to carry out Arklow Transportation Study

Funding has been secured from the National Transport Authority (NTA) to carry out an Arklow Transportation Study.

Welcoming the news that funding for an Arklow Transportation Study has been secured Deputy John Brady said "This is good news for Arklow and it's a positive first step in actually moving to unlock some of the huge potential Arklow has. I believe that there are two key areas that need to be included in the study. A slip road on and off the M11 to the Vale Road is desperately needed, and the development of a new port access road.

"Arklow is a fantastic town with massive amounts of potential that needs to be unlocked. Unfortunately, traffic in the town is still a major problem and it needs to be addressed to ensure that the town's potential can be fully unlocked.

"I believe that key to addressing the traffic problem in Arklow would be the construction of a new slip road on and off the M11 to the Vale Road. Currently people travelling to Woodenbridge or Aughrim must come through Arklow. This is unnecessarily bringing cars into the town and adding to the congestion."

Deputy Brady continued "There are also a considerable number of new houses under construction on the Vale Road, and more large planning applications are due to be submitted soon. It's critically important that

the right infrastructure is in place. One of the most logical things to address the issue of traffic is to construct the new slip road to take cars out of Arklow. This was one of the main proposals in my Unlocking Arklow's Potential document which he published last year. Last year Sinn Féin launched a campaign for the development of this vital slip road and several thousand people signed a petition looking for its development too.

"I also believe that the construction of a port access road to Arklow harbour should also be explored. This would allow for the removal of heavy goods vehicles from the town centre and allow the harbour area to develop."

Deputy Brady said "When I published my Unlocking Arklow's Potential document I contacted the Minister for Transport and asked him about funding for the construction of the slip road. The Minister informed me that no application for funding has been forthcoming from the local authority for the project and that a feasibility study should first be carried out."

Deputy Brady concluded "The council has appointed a senior engineer to the project and are in the process of procuring consultants to carry out the transportation study. The study once completed will be critically important for subsequent funding applications to have the work carried out. I will continue to work with the council and the NTA to ensure that the full potential Arklow has is unlocked."

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Ella McInerney celebrates World Book Day at the Glebe National School in Wicklow Town

Council's 'Customer Care Innovation Hub' project commences

A contract for the development of the Wicklow County Council's Customer Care Innovation Hub was signed last Monday with Moston Construction Ltd.

The project will also include refurbishment of the Council Chamber and general foyer area in County Buildings.

The development of the Council's new Customer Services Innovation Hub will lead the process of major organisational change and improvements to promote efficiency of operation and customer service to support the goals of the Council's Corporate Plan.

Supported by a Customer Relations Management (CRM) system and a highly trained customer care team, the Hub will greatly improve communication and engagement with the public as well as achieving efficiencies in service delivery.

Ms Pamela Kennedy, Kube Architecture, is the Project Architect. Contractors, Moston Constructions Ltd, have over 20 years' experience working in live environments.

The project commenced last Monday, March 9th, with an expected completion date of August 24th 2020.

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ALONE launch a COVID-19 support line for older people

ALONE, the organisation that supports older people, has announced the launch of a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Ireland. This new initiative is being done in conjunction with the HSE.

Speaking on the launch Co-Leader of the Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said "this is a fantastic initiative which will really help elderly people in our communities. They are the most vulnerable to the effects of the virus but also to any changes being made such as cancellation of cultural events or visiting bans in hospitals. I also know that many people fear the misinformation out there. It's important at this time that vulnerable people like the elderly are comforted in the wake of such a threatening development. Having a helpline they can turn to will help alleviate any fears or concerns elderly people might have at this time.

"I'm also delighted to see that the initiative is a collaborative effort between ALONE and the HSE. This kind of collaboration is what works best for our communities and for vulnerable populations especially. I hope this kind of initiative that will be rolled out in future responses to COVID-19.

"At times like these, it is the support and care that our communities show to those most vulnerable that is most important and our best defence. I want to commend the many volunteers in our voluntary sector who are provide this invaluable work with communities and who are working as part of the coordinated national response to COVID-19.

"Róisín Shorthall, Health Spokesperson and

Co-Leader of the Social Democrats will be following developments to do with COVID-19 very closely and will meet with other party leaders twice a week on the issue. As a Party we are committed to making sure communities are adequately protected and support as we deal with the spread of the Coronavirus.

"I would urge anyone who is in touch with an elderly relative or neighbour to check in with them to make them aware of ALONE's helpline and the additional outreach supports available to them if required" concluded Deputy Whitmore.

On Tuesday 3 March, the National Public Health Emergency, chaired by Dr Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Health, announced the establishment of a Vulnerable People Subgroup.

The supports offered include a new national support line and additional outreach and coordinated support. This support line complements the clinical advice and information being provided by the HSE through its website and helpline.

Professional are available to answer queries regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and give advice and reassurance where necessary. **The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024, and hours may be extended to meet the demand.**

Sean Moynihan, CEO of ALONE said, "The WHO advises us to be SMART and inform ourselves about COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and to be kind and support one another.

"We are ramping up our response to COVID-19 to provide support to all older people nationwide working in collaboration with the Department of Health and the HSE," he continued.

"As the situation develops, as well as advice, information and emotional supports, we will ensure every older person will have access to food, medication, fuel, daily contact, and any other support that may be needed. We want to emphasise that these supports are free, and available to all older people, including those who have not previously used our services.

"We are also collaborating on our response with more than 100 other organisations in the community and voluntary sector working with older people, providing them with support where necessary, to create a surge in capacity and ensure a comprehensive and robust response. As the situation develops we may need to call on civic organisations to support our work."

ALONE advises that older people practice the following protective measures as outlined by the HSE:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water.
- Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance

between yourself and anyone who is coughing/sneezing.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

- Practice cough and sneeze hygiene - covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough/sneeze. Then dispose of the tissue immediately.

- Stay informed: keep up to date on latest Covid-19 information on www.hse.ie.

Contact ALONE on 0818 222 024 if you have concerns about your own wellbeing, or the wellbeing of an older person you know. Further information can be found on www.alone.ie.

Cllr Jodie Neary, who was recently co-opted to Deputy Jennifer Whitmore's seat on Wicklow Council for the Greystones District is urging people to check in on elderly and vulnerable neighbours with limited contact to curb the spread of COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus.

Cllr Neary says, "a lot of elderly and vulnerable neighbours are too anxious to leave their homes but do not have the same level of communication available to them as others do such as access to the internet etc... This means they are restricted from doing online shopping or communicating with people in ways that minimise social contact. With reports of stockpiling and increasing numbers of people with the virus, many elderly neighbours are too anx-

ious to leave their home or even answer the door.

"I am working with a local group and individuals who have recognised this as an anxious time for elderly and vulnerable neighbours. There are many local groups in the area coming together to find novel ways to help people in need while limiting social contact and the potential spread of the virus. For example, some are printing letters offering help with shopping, walking dogs, getting medication etc... and leaving the letters in post boxes to avoid physical contact. They also aim to liaise with delivery trucks so elderly people can avoid direct contact with people themselves.

"More and more groups are organising themselves and are doing fantastic work coming together as communities should do. The strength of community is really heart warming and is a valuable resource in our fight against the Coronavirus.

"I am in contact with Greystones Municipal District and Wicklow County Council to see how Councils can officially engage with vulnerable constituents in local areas and how best to coordinate local groups so that communities can continue to provide the best defence against the spread of COVID-19 and I will continue to work with local groups to ensure no neighbour is left alone at this time" concluded Cllr Neary.

Parents urged to follow Govt advice and reduce children's social contact

Social Democrats TD for Wicklow Jennifer Whitmore is urging parents to follow Government advice and reduce social contact to reduce the spread of COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus.

Deputy Whitmore says, "now that parents will be at home with their kids for some time there may be a temptation to organise play dates and social activities to fill the time. I am hearing from people that there is a temptation to do this however, I am urging parents to listen to the Government including the Department of Education advising parents to engage in social distancing and minimise social contact with each other to help avoid the spread of the virus.

"This includes minimising social contact, avoiding meeting up and keeping physical space between them. The Department of

Education is also urging parents and guardians to support their children to maintain this approach.

"I understand it will be a tough time trying to entertain kids for two weeks and no doubt cabin fever will kick in for all of us but it's important that parents do their best to minimise contact. There are a variety of online resources for parents who might want their children to keep on top of school work. There are also a variety of online sites with suggestions of healthy activities for families both inside and outside the home during this time.

"It's also important to point out that shops are open as are public walkways etc... but again, refrain from stockpiling and continue to engage in social distancing.

"Ireland does community very well and the sense of community out there is heartening. I want to commend all the hard work local groups are doing to try and engage in a safe and hygienic way, with elderly and vulnerable neighbours too anxious to leave their homes.

"For those of us who are healthy the responsibility is with us to do what we can to protect the vulnerable in our society. The best thing we can do is listen to official advice and keep ourselves up to date with the facts as given by the HSE and Government Departments" concluded Whitmore.

NO TIME TO PANIC

(continued from p 1)

Monday and to be on standby to support civil authorities.

Rumours were circulating on Friday that the army was on stand-by to enforce a Code Red Lockdown this Monday, however the Department denied this as 'Fake News'.

A Defence Forces spokesperson said: "We stand ready to provide aid to civil authorities within our means and capabilities. Misinformation like this is most unhelpful and irresponsible."

It's understood that members will be on standby in their barracks to provide whatever support is deemed necessary during the upcoming weeks.

Separately, a contingency roster is coming into effect for gardai next Monday, with a limit on annual leave to no more than 5% of the force at any time, and 210 extra Garda vehicles have been hired.

Around 325 Garda students at the Templemore Garda College will be sworn in this week, and deployed to Garda stations across the country in the coming weeks. Tutors and instructors at the Garda College will also be deployed for operational duties or essential services."

Aidan Flynn, General Manager of FTAI commented: "As the business organisation representing Ireland's logistics sector, FTAI wants to reassure the public that the nation's supply chain is resilient and well equipped to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic; there is no need to stockpile food and other basic items. However, we ask that members of the public now stop stockpiling activity as it will place unnecessary pressure on the supply chain. As a nation, we should deal with this pandemic calmly and remain considerate of others."

"We would like to reassure everyone that Ireland is prepared to continue to supply all grocery outlets for the coming months. There is no reason for Irish citizens to have any concern in that regard. The industry has never been more prepared having planned for a hard Brexit over the past number of months. Social media images of empty shelves are simply sensationalising the matter. These shelves are restocked every evening and restocking will continue into the future."

The closure of cultural venues and limiting of public gathering have meant that venues such as the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray and the Courthouse Arts Centre in

Tinahely have had to cancel all upcoming events up to and including 29th March. The South Wicklow Drama Festival has been cancelled following the announcement from the Amateur Drama Council of Ireland that the 2020 Amateur Drama Festival Circuit has been cancelled, and on a smaller scale numerous public events, from Storm Disco to Friday Night Bingo, have also been cancelled.

Purple House Cancer Support announced that "Purple House Cancer Support Centre will be closed to the public until Monday 30th March. . . "We will be operating a telephone support & Counselling service while the Centre is closed and we can be contacted on 012866966 or by emailing info@purplehouse.ie. Our hospital transport service will be continuing as normal."

Wicklow's golf courses will not close however the Golfing Union of Ireland and the Irish Ladies Golf Union stated that "The restrictions until Sunday 29th March do not prevent club competitions or casual rounds of golf taking place, however we need to be cognisant of the social nature of our game and how this element of it is impacted. Golf is a great sport for people generally to get out and about, exercise and enjoy fresh air. It is played in an outdoor setting where the risk of contracting COVID-19 is low."

In terms of other sports across Co. Wicklow, the GAA announced the suspension of all club activity including games, training, and team gatherings at all ages and grades. Likewise, the IRFU and FAI announced that all club activity must cease across all clubs and age groups. All of Bray Wanderers' fixtures have been postponed until after March 29th.

With 14 weeks remaining before the start of the biennial SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race, organisers at Wicklow Sailing Club decided to postpone the official launch which was due to take place last Wednesday. More than 100 participants from around Ireland and abroad had been expected to attend the event at the Royal Irish Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire but measures to contain the spread of the Covid-19 virus meant that a brief photo-call was held instead. However, with entries already running ahead of 2018 levels, there are currently no plans to amend the expected start date of the race on Saturday 20th June 2020. To date, the 41st edition of the classic

offshore race has attracted 38 entries from eight countries.

Kyran O Grady Wicklow Sailing Clubs commodore commented: "Heeding expert advice, it was with regret we decided to postpone the launch of the 2020 SSE

first. This will take sacrifice and some struggles, and embracing behaviour which is unfamiliar. There is no easy way. There are no short cuts. We have been preparing for this for weeks and planning to keep our country running. We will



"The nation's supply chain is resilient, there is no need to stockpile food", said Aidan Flynn, General Manager of FTAI.

Renewables Round Ireland race, ensuring safety for all is our priority on and off the water. We are continuing to plan for our 21st race and look forward to seeing you all at the start if not before."

In response to reports of panic buying by customers Wicklow TD Minister Simon Harris has said people should "buy what we need to provide for themselves, families and loved ones" but he said that everyone should consider the "unintended consequences of taking something that somebody else requires. Retailers and suppliers have assured the government there is sufficient products in the supply chain and that there is no need to over-shop. Just buy what you normally need and come back next week."

Minister Harris added: "There is a dedicated HSE helpline for Coronavirus queries 1850241850. I have been greatly heartened by the offers of help from people in Wicklow to assist and volunteer in whatever way they can to tackle the public health emergency. In the first instance it remains absolutely essential that we maintain hand hygiene and follow the advice when it comes to coughing and sneezing."

"We do not underestimate the challenge today's decisions will involve for people, for families, for older people, for employers, and we do not take the measures lightly. Public health must come

work with all sectors and communities. We will all have to pull together and help each other".

Minister Harris has also encouraged businesses impacted by COVID-19 to avail of the range of supports that have been put in place to protect businesses from the impact of COVID-19. He said: "I welcome the news from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation on the package of supports for businesses facing difficulties as a result of COVID-19. I have received a number of queries from local businesses seeking advice around the COVID-19 outbreak and this package will provide some of the necessary supports required to keep businesses on their feet".

An Post announced that "Post offices continue to operate as normal. We are carefully monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Business Continuity Plans are in place and we are working closely with the HSE Expert team, the Health Threats Coordination Group and international postal organisations. See anpost.com for further updates."

In the event of a customer not being able to collect their Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection payment personally at the Post Office a nominated person (Temporary Agent) can be nominated to collect the payment on their behalf. When col-

lecting a payment, a 'Temporary Agent' must produce the recipient's card as issued by the DEASP as well as their own valid photo I.D. e.g current Passport, Driving Licence or Public Service Card. To become a Temporary Agent, the recipient must complete the required form which is available from the Post Office.

Green Party Councillor from Bray, Erika Doyle,

some vulnerable sections of society, the recommendations, particularly the social distancing, will be impossible. I hope the relevant Government departments will give instruction to those such as BARSS assisting homeless, rough sleepers and those in emergency accommodation as to how to proceed safely while maintaining dignity and respect for all concerned."

Independent Living

not only concerned about the potential impact of COVID-19 on our health or our loved ones, we are also concerned about vital support systems that give us choice, control and freedom to live independent lives," James Cawley, ILMI Policy Officer, said.

"For many disabled people, the personal assistance service (PAS) is one support service that needs to be continued, recognized and supported over the course of any measures at containing the spread of the virus to ensure people can live independent lives to manage self-isolation at home.

"Many disabled people will not be able to self-isolate without the supports provided by Personal Assistants and this needs to be borne in mind as the State response evolves accordingly.

Meanwhile in a statement Wicklow County Council said "We wish to advise that there will be an impact on certain services over the period of 13th March - 29th March. For the duration of this period, and until further notice:

"All Wicklow County Council Libraries will be closed to the public from close of business Thursday, 12th March 2020. This includes Arklow Open Library and any event scheduled in the Library buildings during this time are also cancelled. Online library services remain in place.

Bray, Arklow, Greystones and Wicklow Swimming Pools are closed as is Wicklow Gaol. Recycling Services remain open.

"Wicklow County Council Offices/ Buildings: Wicklow County Buildings and the Municipal District offices of Bray, Arklow, Greystones, Baltinglass and Wicklow Town remain open. While Buildings are open, members of the public are being asked to make contact with the Council by phone or email where possible and to submit applications for services such as Planning etc by post. Motor Tax renewals can be processed online by applicants or alternatively, renewal applications may be forwarded by post. Members of the public with additional queries regarding Wicklow County Council Services are encouraged to contact us by telephone (0404) 20100 or by email: corporate@wicklowcoco.ie."

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Mr Frank Curran, said: "The Council is taking action to minimise the spread of the virus. Council staff will work to ensure a continuity of service across our key operations. The Council's Crisis Management team meets daily to monitor the situation as well as liaising with Government Departments and Agencies across the Eastern Region."

has pointed out that organisations such as BARSS (Bray Area Rough Sleepers Support Group) are in need of specific instructions: "For

Movement Ireland, meanwhile, have expressed concerns that disabled people are being left out of the Covid-19 response. "We disabled people are

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At Relentless Fight Championship 6, on 6th March, in the Greville Arms, Mullingar, Denis McCarthy of Arklow Martial Arts won by KO. Pictured from left are Sam Walker, Denis Nolan, Lee Walker, Alex Tyrell, Ref Lar Byrne, Denis McCarthy, Coach Brendan Doyle, and Cian Quinn

Firearm seized and arrest made on N11

A Mach type Machine Pistol was seized and a man in his 40s arrested when a vehicle was stopped in the Shankill area on the evening of Saturday 7th March.

Members attached to Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau (GNDOCB) and Emergency Response Unit supported by the Garda National Crime and Intelligence Service



investigating organised crime stopped the vehicle in the Shankill area. The prisoner was arrested pursuant to the provisions of section 30 of the Offences Against The State Act 1939/98 and was detained in a Garda Station on the South side of Dublin.

Speaking after the arrest Detective Chief Superintendent Angela Willis, head of the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau said, "The seizure of firearms and the arrest of those who are prepared to use them continues to be a priority for the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau who remain totally committed to detecting and disrupting those involved and bringing them before the courts."

New Gardai Superintendents to be allocated in June

An Garda Síochána last week announced the phased introduction of the Garda Operating Model in each of its 19 Divisions during 2020, and the allocation of Superintendents to each of those Divisions.

The Garda Operating Model will see more front-line Gardai, a stronger focus on community policing, and a wide-range of policing services delivered locally.

The Wicklow Division will be part of the third phase. It is anticipated that implementation will commence in June 2020.

Under the Garda Operating Model, Divisions will increase in size, will be operationally autonomous, and will be the key to policing delivery. Between now and the end of 2021, there will be a net increase of approximately 600 Gardai to bring Garda numbers up to 15,000. In addition, more than 800 Gardai will be deployed to the front-line. 640 Gardai have already been re-deployed to the front-line from administrative roles in the last few years.

The Garda Operating Model is being introduced as part of A Policing Service for the Future, which is the implementation plan based on the report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland.

An Garda Síochána has committed to ensuring

Superintendents will be in locations throughout a Division and not all located in the Divisional Headquarters. Before changes are made at a Divisional level, change impact assessments will be conducted at a local level to ascertain what needs to be done to enable implementation.

Under the Operating Model, each Division will for the first time have a Superintendent dedicated to Crime, a Superintendent dedicated to Governance and Performance Assurance, and a number of Superintendents in charge of Community Engagement.

An Assistant Principal, which is the grade equivalent of a Superintendent, will also be appointed in each Division to head up Business Services, which covers areas such as HR, Finance and Administration. This will free-up Superintendents from administrative tasks so they can focus on policing activity.

Following a review based on operational requirements including the submission of business cases from local management, a total of 93

Superintendent positions have been allocated across the Divisions. This is a further 17 Superintendent positions from original projections. The total number of Divisional Superintendents will go from 104 to 93.

Seven of the 19 Assistant Principals are already in situ in their respective Divisions. The remainder have either been selected or the selection process is underway.

Under the Operating Model, there will be a significant increase in the allocation of Sergeants and Inspectors to Divisions, particularly in the area of community policing.

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris said: "These changes will see us deliver a more responsive, more efficient and better service to local communities."

"It will mean increased numbers of Gardai working on the frontline, better investigations of crimes against the vulnerable such as sexual crime, and community policing teams dedicated to working with communities to identify and tackle prob-

lem crimes in their area.

"Today's announcements demonstrate the good progress we have made and plan to make over the coming months in implementing the Model. The quicker we can make these changes at Divisional level, the quicker we can deliver these improvements to communities."

Under the Garda Operating Model, a Division will be typically made up of around 600 to 800 personnel. This will ensure each Division has the resources and skills to deliver a wider range of community policing and specialist services based on the demand in their area.

There will be better investigative services locally as Divisions will have a wider range of specialist skills and expertise such as Protective Services, Economic Crime and Cyber Crime. Regions and divisions will have greater control over how policing is delivered, while working to a corporate framework and oversight from the centre. The focus of the centre will be on supporting regions and divisions.

Welcome changes to 133 route to come into effect from next Sunday

Changes to the 133 Bus Éireann Route will be implemented from Sunday 22nd March. A revised timetable along with routes will be implemented which will see increased frequencies. The service has been much complained about.

Speaking after the announcement from Bus Éireann, John Brady TD said "The announcement today from Bus Éireann about improvements to the 133 Route has to be welcomed. Last November I met with both the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann and they committed to improving the 133 Route early in the New Year. The announcement today sees the creation of four separate 133 routes serving Wicklow."

The four routes are: Route 133: Wicklow - Bray - City Centre; Route 133x: Wicklow - City Centre - Dublin Airport; Route 133b: Wicklow - Bray; Route 133L: Arklow - Wicklow via Avoca.

Deputy Brady continued: "Bus Éireann have said that there will be revised morning and evening peak services with an enhanced range of departure times. There will also be an increased evening frequency with later departures in both directions, along with increased frequency at weekends with an hourly fre-

quency throughout the day.

"We need a reliable, regular and assessable 133 Bus Route, so what has been put forward by Bus Éireann and approved by the NTA, is positive. We have yet to see the timetable, however it has to be welcomed that they have listened to my concerns and the concerns of the users and potential public transport users and have been willing to make changes."

Deputy Brady concluded "I will continue to engage both Bus Éireann and the NTA to continue to improve the 133 Route and I plan on meeting both bodies again in the near future to discuss the revised timetable when it's fully published."

At the January meeting of Wicklow County Council Bus Éireann CEO Stephen Kent acknowledged the problems with the much maligned 133 bus route service and said the company is hopeful that the new timetable will improve it. He admitted that the company "have not been delivering an optimal customer experience" with the 133.

The 133, which makes 300 trips per week between Wicklow Town and Dublin Airport, is the most complained about of all Bus Éireann's routes, receiving 889 complaints per 100,000 passengers in 2018 (compared to an average of 40 complaints per 100,000 passengers on the company's other routes).

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Housing First contract signed for Mid-East

Wicklow County Council says it is committed to the Housing First model which is being rolled out across the Mid-East Region (Wicklow, Kildare and Meath). Wicklow had its first client accommodated in December 2019, with a further client in January 2020. Other clients proposed for Housing First have been assessed by the team and are currently receiving relevant supports.

The Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness sets out the Government's aim to introduce Housing First as a means to address homelessness, by strengthening the housing led approach and extending it nationally, focussing on persistent rough sleepers and long-term homeless households. To this end the Housing First National Implementation Plan 2018-2021 was published in September 2018. The commitment to deliver Housing First is a key action of the Mid East Region Homelessness Action Plan 2018-2020.

Kildare County Council, as the lead authority for the Mid-East Region Homelessness Forum, with the local authorities of Meath and Wicklow, and in partnership with the Health Service Executive, has established a regional Housing First service. The service is co-funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Department of Health. The Mid East Homeless

Forum is advised by a multi-agency group including Non-Governmental Organisations in the sector and other relevant Statutory agencies.

Following a tender process, The Peter McVerry Trust was chosen to deliver Housing First across the Mid-East Region. The Housing First model is a participant-centred approach that focuses on ending homelessness for people with high and complex needs who have been rough sleeping or using emergency homeless accommodation for long periods of time. This is achieved by providing the individual with direct access to secure, independent housing without pre-conditions and this is accompanied by intensive wraparound housing and health supports.

The coordinated service is now available in Kildare, Meath and Wicklow with the purpose of providing tenancies in self-contained independent housing units, with the combined services of the Health Service Executive's primary care,

mental health and substance misuse teams, working in collaboration with TUSLA, the Gardaí and other voluntary agencies, managed by The Peter McVerry Trust.

Signing a Housing First Service Level Agreement with The Peter McVerry Trust today, Mr. Peter Carey, Chief Executive of Kildare County Council, noted that the central objective is the ending of rough sleeping and long-term emergency accommodation use. He noted the service model includes intensive wrap-around supports for tenancy and health supports provided to Housing First clients in a timely and appropriate manner and for as long as required.

Mr. Pat Doyle, Chief Executive of the Peter McVerry Trust, stated that the service's immediate focus is on an active settlement approach, utilising trauma-informed care which emphasises physical, psychological and emotional safety for the service user to assist them in rebuilding a sense of control and empowerment. The overall out-

come is that the person is progressed successfully and sustained out of homelessness and into an appropriate tenancy arrangement.

A priority intake list for Housing First will be jointly managed by the Local Authorities, the HSE and the Peter McVerry Trust. Ms. Ann O'Shea, Chief Officer of the Community Health Office serving Dublin South, Kildare and West-Wicklow stated that Housing First participants will be offered intensive, time-unlimited (for as long as the participant needs) visiting support from a team capable of responding to a wide range of needs including alcohol and/or drug dependency, physical and mental health (enduring or otherwise) needs.

Working in partnership, the multidisciplinary team has successfully provided secure and supported accommodation for six individuals to date, and provided additional practical support with moving in, getting established and healthy life skills to support long term tenancies.



Celebrating International Women's Day in the Arklow Bay Hotel were Jeanette Neary, Sheila Neary, Toni Neary, Susan Farrell, Helen Sunderland, Jenny Farrell and Catherine O'Leary.

Wicklow Uplands Council disappointed as no announcement is made on extending controlled burning season

Wicklow Uplands Council says it is disappointed that no announcement is forthcoming from the Department of Heritage, Culture and the Gaeltacht, regarding the controlled burning season this year.

The Heritage Act 2018, introduced a two-year pilot, which would allow for the use of controlled burning in the month of March should circumstances such as adverse weather conditions require it, however this is subject to ministerial approval.

The current permissible dates are from September 1st to the last day in February and although an announcement has been widely anticipated, the department has stayed silent on this issue.

Recent figures released from Met Eireann confirm that the month of February saw record breaking rainfall across the country, with some of the records broken dating back as far as 1850. The country was battered by three storms, Ciara, Denis and Jorge, contributing to new wind records for February being set at 11 different locations. The farming communities across the country have reported that land and vegetation remain saturated and that the weather conditions required to safely undertake controlled burning, did not materialise.

Wicklow Uplands Council continues to advocate for the need to permanently extend the permissive controlled burning season to "more realistic and workable dates" and has been in correspondence with the Department to convey this.

The Uplands Council says that "Data supports the conclusion that the month of March offers much more favourable conditions, which is reflected in Northern Ireland's use of April 15th as the final day to its season."

The Roundwood-based organisation, continues to support the provisions contained within the Act that promotes the use of controlled burning which aids upland biodiversity and prevents the spread of wildfires during the drier summer months. Controlled Burning is an effective land management tool, with farmers and land managers carrying out burning activities within the permissive season.

Speaking about the promotion of Controlled Burning Practices, Brian Dunne, Coordinator of Wicklow Uplands Council said: "In the debate over controlled burning in the uplands, the fact that these are semi-natural habitats which need to be managed appropriately, is often overlooked. Vast areas of mature vegetation which can be subsequently wiped out by summer fires, are devastating to upland habitats.

"It should be recognised that there is a significant

difference between the destruction caused by uncontrolled wildfires compared with the use of controlled rotational burning. Used correctly, it offers the opportunity to reintroduce a mosaic of vegetation which supports extensive farming, habitat quality and biodiversity, and reduces the chances of a wildfire taking hold during drier periods".

Meanwhile, BirdWatch Ireland stated "The restrictions on the destruction of vegetation are in place in order to allow birds to undertake their breeding cycle, a time when they are most vulnerable. All wild birds are protected under national and EU law, especially during the period when they are breeding. This period starts when birds seek out and establish territories, find a mate, begin nest-building and then lay eggs and rear their chicks.

"There have been calls from some elected officials for hedge-cutting to be allowed in March. We reject this call, on the basis that it is reckless and goes against the calls of many in the farming circles for recognition of hedgerows as important habitats on farms for wildlife and carbon sequestration. In addition, we stress that hedge-cutting is already fully permitted in cases of bona fide road safety concerns."



Controlled Burning at Granamore with SUAS project last year. The Uplands Council says it continues to advocate for the need to permanently extend the permissive controlled burning season to "more realistic and workable dates"



Pictured at the signing of Housing First Contract for Mid-East Region are: (seated) Justin Parkes, HSE; Peter Carey, Chief Executive, Kildare County Council; Pat Doyle, Chief Executive, Peter McVerry Trust; and Ann O'Shea, HSE; (standing); Peter McVerry Trust; Ollie Brady, Kildare County Council; Richard Price, Peter McVerry Trust; Barry Lynch, Meath County Council; Jackie Carroll and Joe Lane, Wicklow County Council, and Emma McMillen, Peter McVerry Trust. The signing took place at Kildare County Council offices on Friday, March 6, 2020.



Local Wicklow family carers are pictured at Family Carers Ireland's National Respite Weekend. TD and Leader of Fianna Fáil Micheál Martin met with Wicklow family carers at Family Carers Ireland's 'National Respite Weekend' at The Clayton Hotel Cork City on Saturday 7th March. The charity took the opportunity to call on Micheál Martin to make Family Carers Ireland's GE2020 Manifesto 'asks' a red line issue in formation talks for the next Government and to give full-time family carers a right to 20 days respite each year in line with statutory leave available to paid workers.

Wicklow Montessori Primary School Win LEGO All-Ireland Final

Budding engineers at Wicklow Montessori Primary School were crowned the All-Ireland Lego League Champions, and will head off to the FIRST LEGO League world finals in the USA to represent Ireland.

Twenty teams of young engineers from across Ireland battled it out for the title on Saturday last, 7th March, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry.

The science and technology challenge, which is aimed at 11-16 year olds, tasks teams to build a robot to tackle a series of missions, and create an innovative solution to a real world problem.

This year's 'City Shaper' challenge will see students learn more about architecture and the spaces we live in, while demonstrating their skills in robotics, computer programming, teamwork, research, problem solving and communication.

Dr Niamh Shaw, scientist, engineer, writer and astronaut in training, acted as MC for the fun-packed science day. Top tech professionals from firms like Combilift, Amazon, Sage and Qualcomm were there to help out and support teams too.

The programme is organised by the Institution of

Engineering and Technology (IET) in partnership with Irish STEM educators, Learnit.

The Dublin-based education specialist is the only official partner of LEGO Education in Ireland and runs after-school classes, workshops, summer camps and schools events that make science fun. The FIRST LEGO League is more than a robotics competition, Ross Maguire of Learnit says.

"The concepts of cooperation and competition combine. It's the idea that, by working together, we all win. FIRST LEGO League is a platform for students to discover the world of STEM and to collaborate on real-world problems. These fantastic young people are taking the first steps to becoming tomorrow's innovators, creators and problem solvers."

FIRST LEGO League participation has grown 70% in the past three years in Ireland.

Learnit works with Dublin City University and its LEGO Education Innovation Studio, with support from Science Foundation Ireland, to increase STEM awareness in young people.

Lowri Walton, IET Education Manager, says FIRST LEGO League allows young people to experience engineering in action.

"There is a great need for young people with STEM skills to fill the next generation of global engineering roles, and we are always excited to see so many bright young Irish engineering minds in development."

FIRST is an acronym for 'For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology', and the FIRST LEGO League encourages children to think like scientists and engineers, working on real-world issues.



Students from Wicklow Montessori celebrate their victory

PURE CONTINUE THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL DUMPING

In 2019 the environmental project, Pure, recorded its lowest amount of illegal dumping collected from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Last year Pure removed 150 tonnes of illegal dumping from the beautiful, scenic, Wicklow/Dublin Mountains, when compared to ten years previous in 2009, they removed 344 tonnes, which is a 56% reduction.

A significant amount of the 150 tonnes of rubbish collected by Pure was gathered by the numerous volunteers involved in the Pure Mile. Thousands of volunteers are involved in the Pure Mile Project and in 2019 they collectively improved and enhanced over 550 miles of roads, mountains, woodlands, valleys and upland amenities, with hundreds more enlisting in the 2020 Pure Mile Project.

This is the third consecutive year that Pure has seen a reduction in illegal dumping in the upland region and the lowest amount of dumping they've collected since the Pure Truck started on the road back in 2007. Pure is the first project of its kind in Ireland and works with a number of statutory and non-statutory organisations and stakeholders, including, The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Wicklow County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the Wicklow Uplands Council. This unique partnership project was established to combat illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and was officially launched in September 2006.

Ian Davis, Manager of Pure commented "The Pure partnership approach, incorporating statutory and non-statutory organisations, and members of the public, has proven extremely successful in combating illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and over the past three years we have recorded an annual reduction in illegal dumping

activity. This reduction in dumping is a direct correlation with the increase of Pure Mile areas. The Pure Mile makes a huge difference to the environment, especially in areas that are affected by littering and illegal dumping. Pure Mile volunteers have totally transformed the upland regions and because of their dedication, determination, and enthusiasm, they have not only reduced illegal dumping, but in some areas, eliminated the problem. A huge amount of progress has been made since Pure was established, however, there is absolutely no room for complacency, and it is vital that we continue to monitor the situation, or, we will see a return to the old days."

The Pure Mile engages with all demographics in society, and in the past ten years, thousands of volunteers from community groups, walking groups, cycling groups, scouts, beavers, businesses and organisations, have removed hundreds of tonnes of illegally dumped waste and thousands of bags of litter and rubbish from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Pure provide all groups with Pure Mile signage, Pure Mile bags, gloves, litter pickers and Pure Mile high-vis vests, and they also remove all of the rubbish collected by the groups. The success of this environmental community project clearly demonstrates that people do care about the environment, and, that people want to make a difference to improve and enhance the environment. The role of the Pure Project is to facilitate groups, providing them with equipment, advice, and support, so they can make that difference.

The Pure Truck is on the road every day, and since the project was established, Pure has collected over 3,500 tonnes of rubbish from over 11,000 illegal dumping sites in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and have received 12,000 reports to the Pure office. If you were to put all this rubbish into standard household rubbish bags, you would fill over 400,000 bags. If you lined up each of the bags that Pure has removed from the landscape, they would stretch all the way from Dublin to Dingle.

Ian Davis continued: "Illegal dumping is not unique to the Wicklow/Dublin uplands, however, most regions in Ireland are currently reporting an increase in illegal dumping, the Pure Project are now recording a decrease. We have been recording and mapping every location and incident of illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands since 2007, and we have built up a baseline-data of all illegal dumping activity in this region, the location of dumping, type of dumping, land owner, and amount of dumping, and for the past three years we have been recording an annual reduction."

Pure utilize a multi-disciplinary approach in combating illegal dumping, incorporating a number of preventative measures, covert CCTV operations, media/PR campaigns, public awareness campaigns, community projects, such as the Pure Mile, and educational initiatives, and due this approach the project has finally seen a marked reduction in illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. Another initiative

attributed to the annual decline in illegal dumping activity is the success of the Pure Covert CCTV Operations, which involved the deployment and installation of a number of covert CCTV units at several problematic upland dumping sites which were continually affected by illegal dumping. The footage obtained from this operation clearly identified the people involved

in both littering, and illegal dumping. This footage resulted in a number of people receiving litter fines, and one case brought before the courts involving large scale illegal dumping, resulted in a criminal prosecution and a large fine for the offending individual. A number of illegal dumping incidents caught on covert CCTV are currently under investigation by Wicklow County Council, and South Dublin County Council, and Pure are confident that both of these local authorities will proceed with court prosecutions this year.

Ian Davis added: "We will continue with our Covert CCTV Operations in 2020 and a number of locations that are continually affected by illegal dumping have already been selected for monitoring. We are collaborating with, Wicklow County Council, South Dublin County Council, Coillte, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and we are determined to catch those involved in illegal dumping and further reduce this environmental scourge."

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Running your own business is a stressful but good career and life choice. It demands your time and focus. Start by expecting to live your work until it is established so it can get off the ground. There are many different opinions about how to start a business. Read below for some basic ideas and guidelines to get you started.

If you are thinking of starting a business there are a number of issues you need to consider. Different supports and regulations apply, depending on your particular situation. You may be employed, unemployed or someone who is coming from outside Ireland to set up a business. The Citizen's Advice Bureau highlights some of the important information you need to know with links to relevant topics.

The website www.self-employedsupports.ie has

information on the services and entitlements available if you are self-employed and setting up a business.

The most important thing is to come up with an idea. You will need an idea for a business before you do anything else. This should be something you are passionate about, since your new business will consume a great deal of your time and money.

Come up with business ideas by identifying things people need which no one else currently pro-

vides, that isn't provided in your area, or which you can provide better than anyone else.

Determine your cost of operation. You will need a solid business plan to present to any investors and the best place to start would be with determining your basic cost of operations. This will outline and help you determine how much money is needed to produce the product or offer the service you intend to offer or produce. It includes production costs, shipping,

taxes, worker's wages, rent for workspace, etc.

Write up a budget. Once you have a general idea of how much money you have to work with, write up a budget for marketing which indicates how much money you have available to spend on advertising.

Create ideas fitting your budget. Once you know how much money you have, research the costs of different types of marketing and come up with ideas which fit those methods and are effective.



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At Relentless Fight Championship 6, on 6th March, in the Greville Arms, Mullingar, Aaron Lionain of Arklow Martial Arts won by TKO. Pictured from left: Aaron Lionain and ref Lar Byrne

Broadband Plan will 'leave no one behind'

The National Broadband Plan, launched in Laragh last November, will "leave no one behind", Geoff Shakespeare from National Broadband Ireland (NBI) told councillors at this month's meeting of Wicklow County Council.

Currently almost a quarter of premises in Wicklow are still without access to high-speed broadband. Mr Shakespeare said "The Government is putting €59 million of subsidy into delivering the service in Wicklow. NBI will spend an additional €80m to deliver that service over the next 25 years."

There will be a detailed plan for getting high-speed broadband to every premises, he said: "we will have surveyors out walking to check the high-level designs they will have, and they will identify which poles we are going to use, which ducts we are going to use, which poles need to be replaced and then we will buy service off Eircom to buy those. We have a require-

ment once we have passed your home to deliver a connection to you within ten days, even if I have to build poles up the side of the road. What that means is I have to plan as though an order is going to come to from every premises in Wicklow, so that I can despatch on order and have a good shot hitting that ten-day Service Level Agreement. So we will know how we are going to connect to you and what it's going to cost to connect to you when we do our detailed survey."

The Broadband Connection Plans is a process that is going to take seven years but that will start delivering for Co. Wicklow in real terms early next year, he said.

"In advance of that, we are connecting broadband community points which will be wirelessly connected by microwave that will provide wi-fi in buildings," he said. The first two sites will be the areas around Killoole and Blessington, which will be connected by June of 2021.

February sees further disappointment in new car registrations

The Society of the Irish Motor Industry (SIMI) recently released their official new vehicle statistics. New car registrations for the first two months of 2020 were down when compared to 2019. In Co. Wicklow, there were 973 new registrations by the end of February 2020 compared to 1,095 in February 2019.

The most popular brand of passenger in Wicklow is Toyota which accounts for 134 of the new units registered this year, followed by Hyundai with 111 and Volkswagen with 103. The most popular models of cars are the Toyota Corolla, the Hyundai Tucson and the Nissan Qashai.

Petrol remains the most popular engine type, with 417 units registered, while electric engines accounted for 43 registrations, petrol/plug in electric hybrid 21, and diesel/electric 3.

Grey is the most popular colour choice in Wicklow, accounting for 381 units, followed by blue and then white/ivory. The least popu-

lar colour is yellow.

Brian Cooke, SIMI Director General commenting on the market figures said: "New car sales continue to disappoint with February's registrations showing further deterioration since January. Political and economic uncertainty is depressing consumer confidence and we now have the added problem of the Coronavirus, which may disrupt new hire drive registrations for the tourist season in March and April. The introduction of the new NOx charge in January has led to a fall in the demand for older used imports, with a fall of over 40% in used imports over 5 years old.

New electric car registrations are up 15% (1,294) year to date yet, but further analysis of this number reveals that while private consumer purchases of EVs, which still attract the SEAI grant, are up over 30%, there has been a reduction in company electric car purchases where this support no longer applies."

Nationally, Light Commercial vehicles (LCV) are down 6.9% (2,294) compared to February last year (2,465) and year to date are down 0.8% (7,946). HGV (Heavy Goods Vehicle) registrations are up 14.5% (300) in comparison to February 2019 (262). Year to date HGV's are up 11.04% (684).

Open Day in Wicklow for those with disabilities looking for employment

On April 1st, National Learning Network (NLN) will be holding an Open Day in its centre on the Boghall Road, Bray from 11am. Bray is just one of 30 nationwide centres welcoming the public to see what courses NLN has to offer.

Up to 13.5pc of Wicklow's population is living with a disability - and they are twice as likely to leave school early and be jobless as a result.

Some 1,223 people with disabilities have been supported into employment in the last three years by Ireland's largest non-governmental education and training organisation- National Learning Network.

Since 2017, a further 2,500 people with disabilities, mental health difficulty or challenging life circumstances have been supported to move onto further training education opportunities. A total of 800 of whom have progressed onto higher level training and education courses including third level colleges and universities.

Those who were supported to find employment through NLN, and who may otherwise have remained reliant on social welfare payments, have contributed in the region of 750,000 to the State as a result of securing employment. It also means that the Exchequer has saved in the region of 1million annually in reduced expenditure on social welfare benefits.

The figures were released as National Learning Network launched its inaugural National Open Day, which will be held on April 1st at 11am and will see more than 30 centres across the country open their doors to the public.

NLN, which is the education and training division of Rehab Group- provides a range of flexible training courses for people with extra support needs. It is the largest private provider of personalised education, training and employment services in Ireland.

The certified training courses, which offer nationally recognised qualifications including QQI, ECDL, and City and Guilds, have impacted significantly on the progression of people with a disability and/or health conditions into employment and have seen some participants land jobs in companies such as Ryanair and Facebook.

NLN, Wicklow Manager, Deborah Coughlan said: "It can be a transformative experience for students. Our courses give excellent training, but equally importantly they add purpose to students' lives and gives them self-confidence. It's not easy when big changes happen in your life, whether through mental health issues, back pain, social anxiety, cancer or any other setback, but if it's supported to find a job or get a qualification you need, then that's where we can help."

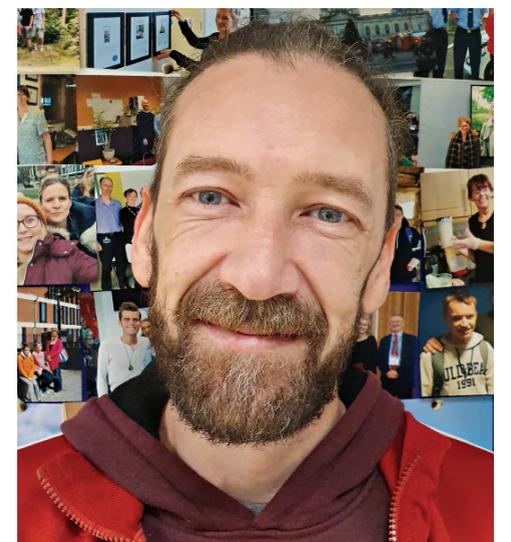
One student who was supported by NLN in Bray is Wicklow man, Darren Moran, aged 37.

"Before NLN I mainly did factory work, but I was diagnosed with epilepsy which stopped me from working in that

area. Because of this I was nervous about going out to the workplace, and for many years I did nothing. Then I heard about the National Learning Network Bray. I saw how they have helped out so many people in finding work and getting back to further education. I decided that NLN would be a good

ment. The support systems they have at NLN are amazing. Whether it's going on to further education, finding a career or job, NLN really has everything you need to put you on the right path. It did for me," he added.

Interim CEO of Rehab Group, Barry McGinn adds: "If you have a disability you are twice as



Darren Moran

place to try and re-educate myself and try a new career path. I am currently doing an IT and Business Administration course and it is going very well. Since I have started in NLN my confidence has improved so much that I am ready to get back into the work place as soon as I'm finished my course.

"I would recommend NLN to anybody looking to get back into further education or employ-

likely to be unemployed as a person without a disability. We know from the last Census that 73% of people who do not have a disability are working but only 36 per cent with a disability are working.

"This is unacceptable and this is where NLN comes in. Every day we are helping people into meaningful employment and helping them to change their story."



Students Leanne Twyford and Emma Wickham launch National Learning Network's National Open Day which will be held on April 1st Interim CEO of Rehab Group, Barry McGinn

YOUR PERSONAL FINANCE



Whether you're saving for a holiday or for Christmas, trying to manage back to school costs or struggling with balancing your regular monthly budget, seeking out the help and advice of a financial expert is a quick way to relieve the stress and burden - helping you to improve your financial wellbeing and achieve your financial objectives, whatever they may be.

Here in Co. Wicklow there are many financial professionals and trusted experts you can turn to for assistance on all financial matters; whether it's paying your mortgage; getting help with your personal banking; or getting an education loan, the experts have you covered.

At this time of year, many people will be thinking of buying a

new car or doing up their home. Obtaining a loan for these is also something a financial expert can help you with. They will put your needs first and help you get the best deal that's right for you.

Financial problems require practical, financial solutions - they won't simply go away if they are left alone. And if you're not an

expert, trying to deal with them yourself is not only very difficult, but also extremely stressful.

Maybe it's a pressing problem such as an urgent need to save money to pay a debt, pay off a loan or do your tax returns.

On the other hand, maybe it's a more long-term financial issue where a helping hand is needed, such

as planning for your retirement or planning your budget for the coming year. Whatever the requirement, whether it's a short-term solution or a long-term goal you want to work towards, talking to a personal finance expert and getting their assistance will give you something it's hard to put a price on, which is peace of mind.



You might need some helpful financial advice from an expert if you're short of funds and are thinking about taking out a personal loan; if your son or daughter is going to college and hasn't qualified for a grant; or if you have younger children going back to school. These are issues that can cause us much stress and anxiety. It's important always to remember the basics: Set a budget and stick to it; Keep on top of your bills; Try to plan ahead where possible. The importance of a good budget should never be underestimated. Even a simple exercise such as setting out your income and expenditure and calculating how much you have left over, can help you get matters more straight in your head and reduce some of the stress. Even with careful planning there will always be unexpected expenses such as a broken dishwasher or a car repair. But these too can be taken into account with the right financial planning.

In Debt? It's never too late to get your finances back on track

A recent survey found that 41% of full time workers missed a payment in the last six months and 34% of full-time homemakers can't make ends meet.

Debts and financial troubles have a way of quietly piling up, so it can be difficult to identify when there is a real problem. For people who are already living month to month, it can be hard to tell the difference between getting by and genuinely struggling, but there is help.

The Insolvency Service of Ireland (ISI) is the

independent government body with a range of solutions for all types and levels of debts including mortgage arrears, credit card debt, loans and overdrafts.

The ISI offers access to a regulated network of financial advisors (PIPs and Approved Intermediaries). Meaning they can provide you with effective help and advice from qualified professionals.

All of the debt solutions overseen by the ISI are designed to get you back on track financially, keeping you in your home where possible. At the end of the process, you will be solvent again and can start planning their future.

If you are in arrears on your home mortgage, you could also be eligible for a free PIP consultation under a the state funded Abhaile service.

Of the thousands of cases that have already gone through the ISI's systems, the majority of proposals have been accepted by creditors as it is becoming clear that it is also in the creditors' interest to sort out any backlog of debt.

The advice of someone who has already gone through the process is "Don't bury your head like I did. You need to tackle the problem and access the help that is there for you."

For more information about the Insolvency Service of Ireland and the services they offer, visit backontrack.ie, freestext GETHELP to 50015 or call the ISI's information line at 076 106 4200.

Debt can be overwhelming. We can help.

ISI INSOLVENCY SERVICE OF IRELAND
www.backontrack.ie

brian murray financial

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- Pensions at previous employers or abroad?
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Call: 0404 44862
ask for Graham to book a consultation

Unit W3A, Wicklow Enterprise Park, The Murrrough, Wicklow
Brian Murray trading as Brian Murray Financial Services is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland



Cllr Tom Fortune, Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Irene Winters, and CEO Frank Curran, are pictured with Evelyn and Kate Burns of Templecarrig School, Greystones, at the Wicklow County Council Tidy Towns, Estates & Environmental Awards

Tidy towns and residents associations awarded by County Council

Wicklow County Council recently recognised the work that has been done by a range of groups throughout the county over the last year to protect and enhance their local environment. The awards traditionally reviewed the work done by Tidy Towns and Residents Associations to maintain our streets, estates and town centres but have been evolving to include a wider range of groups including schools, coastcare groups, PURE mile communities and businesses.

They also now look at the different environmental and sustainability themes addressed by groups in the local environment. The awards showcased a variety of projects and actions undertaken in different categories showing best practice.

There were awards relating to sustainable use of resources, biodiversity, landscaping and our built heritage. Works undertaken to make people more aware and engaged with our marine environment featured strongly while the input of the business community was also recognised.

Schools have been a key partner of Wicklow County Council through Green Schools over the years and three schools received awards for a diverse range of activities. The schools worked with the wider community, often linking up with local Tidy Towns and Coastcare groups.

Wicklow County Council Chief Executive, Mr Frank Curran, said "Wicklow County Council want to work with all you to make our towns more vibrant, inclusive and dynamic, towns that provide opportunities to work, live and enjoy. Maintaining a high-quality environment is an important part of building better communities. I want to acknowledge the key role all of you have played in protecting our environment, enhancing it at local level and most importantly making people aware of the great natural resources we have here in Wicklow on our doorsteps".



Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Irene Winters, and Cllr Dermot O'Brien, are pictured with Molly Mercier Redmond who received the Youth Champion Award at the Wicklow County Council Tidy Towns, Estates & Environmental Awards

RTS Student Awards announced

The Royal Television Society Republic of Ireland Centre presented their annual Student Awards at a gala ceremony in Dublin recently, recognizing the quality of television production talent in Ireland's third level colleges and universities

On hand to present the awards in RTE's Studio 4 were Adrian Lynch, Director of Audience and Channels, RTE; Bill Malone, Director of Content, Virgin Media Television; Alan Esslemont, Director General, TG4; Jenni McNeaney, General Manager Boulder Media, and Dancing with the Stars judge, Brian Redmond.

The Award for Drama Category was presented to Director Emma Smith of the National Film School IADT Dún

Laoghaire for the short film *Starry Night*.

The Comedy & Entertainment Category was presented to Andy Power, Dundalk Institute of Technology for the short film *Ghost Estate*.

The Short Form Category was presented to Director Cian Desmond, National Film School IADT Dún Laoghaire for *Looking For*.

The Factual Category was awarded to Aidan Martin Connolly of Dundalk Institute of Technology for the docu-

mentary *The Wildgoose Lodge Massacre*.

The Animation award was presented to Director Holly Keating, Ballyfermot College of Further Education for *CTRL+ALT+Z*.

This year for the first time, the RTS Republic of Ireland Centre awarded two craft awards: Jack Desmond, National Film School IADT Dún Laoghaire, for outstanding cinematography in the Short Form entry *Looking For*; and Lori Stacey, IADT National Film School, for the excellence

of her editing on *STAR-RY NIGHT*.

The winning entries go forward to a Grand Final in London next June, contending with winners from other RTS Centres. Irish nominations have a very good track record at this venue, bringing home trophies for overall winner on several occasions. Last year's Irish and overall winner in the Drama category, *Backwater*, has gone on to gather awards and accolades at venues all over the world, after its initial success in London last June.

Advice for consumers following preventive cancellations of sporting and cultural events in Europe

The Coronavirus developments in Europe brought about travel restrictions and new quarantine decrees almost on a daily basis over the last while. Most recently, Irish consumers were affected by the cancellation in various places in Europe of major sports events, such as the recent Six Nations France v Ireland rugby match in Paris.

Attending events in Europe will always involve an air or sea journey from Ireland so a cancelled event at destination will almost always result in flight and ferry tickets cancellations or changes. This will complicate things for Irish air travellers and sea passengers, and we look at the different options on how to secure refunds for the different parts of the journey and the event itself.

Event Tickets

When an event is cancelled at destination, consumers are entitled to seek a refund of their tickets, if not already offered by the promoter or organiser. If the event organiser is based within the European Union, the United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland, the European Consumer Centre (ECC) Ireland may be able to assist consumers who run into difficulty in their dealings with the organiser.

Travel Fare

Securing a refund for flights purchased in advance may be more difficult still. In the current context of the wide-spread COVID-19 emergency in Europe, we have seen cases where refunds and free re-bookings were offered to fans as a gesture of good will from transport providers. This is not a rule, and with the travel disruption continuously evolving, we are not seeing a unified response on the part of air carriers or other transporters, such as ferry, train or coach services.

If your event was cancelled, yet flights to the destination country are not restricted, as was the case with the France-Ireland rugby match, even though the purpose of the trip has suffered changes, or was indeed cancelled altogether, any flights booked separately from the event ticket can only be considered within their own separate travel agreements, and the usual Terms and Conditions apply. Consumers should always contact the airline directly to see if a refund or a re-booking is possible or to see if the airline is offering any other once-off redress option related to that particular event's cancellation.

If you are concerned that your event might be cancelled or there is uncertainty regarding possible travel restrictions at the location or in the country of the event, monitor the airline's communications to see if any offers such as free re-bookings are offered in the near future.

Accommodation Costs

If you have bought tickets to an event that was recently cancelled, but there are no restrictions imposed

at the location or in the country of destination, and the accommodation providers you reserved with are still prepared to perform their side of the contract, securing a refund may be challenging. If you have booked through a booking engine such as booking.com, hotels.com, trivago.com, etc., please review and refer to the terms and cancellation policy received with the booking confirmation if you plan to make a claim for refund or re-booking.

There are cases where the hotel, AirBNB host or other accommodation provider offer to refund the costs without penalties, as a good-will gesture. In other cases, providers will offer accommodation credit or a voucher to be used at a later date, especially if the event in question was itself rescheduled. In all other cases, the relevant Terms and Conditions accepted at the time of booking are applicable. Consumers are advised to review these, as well as the contract's cancellation policy, and get in touch with the accommodation providers directly to see what their options are as to a refund or a free re-booking.

Your travel insurance, if you have it, may cover no refund situations also. If you have ascertained that no reimbursement of any kind is forthcoming on the part of the hotel, contact your insurer directly and see what level of cover you have and what it can help with.

All-In-One Travel Package

While package Terms and Conditions tend to be generally more favourable to the customer, securing a refund for travel tickets and the hotel costs may be difficult, unless the event was part of the package, in which case consumers are advised to contact the travel agent for assistance.

If you are planning to travel to events held in Europe in the very near future, particularly in COVID-19 affected areas or countries currently considering inward and outward travel restrictions, we advise that you carefully review your travel agreements and cancellation policies well in advance of your date of travel or decision to cancel your trip. In times of great uncertainty, one of the best options to make sure you don't end up out of pocket is to plan carefully, monitor the travel advice updates from the Irish authorities and the countries you plan intend to travel to. It's also a good idea to take out travel insurance, especially if you travel abroad multiple times a year.

Wicklow Rapid Response launch major fundraising drive for equipment

Wicklow Rapid Response will kick off our fundraising campaign for new equipment with the Wicklow Gaol break Half Marathon and 10km on Sunday 22nd of March.

In addition to the specialist skills and treatments that WWRR DOCTOR can provide, Wicklow Rapid Response is now also supporting six National Ambulance Service Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics to respond voluntarily to emergencies in their community when off duty. This further strengthens the chain of survival for out of hospital cardiac arrest in Co Wicklow and surrounds.

Currently these volunteers are equipped with old and barrowed equipment. Wicklow Rapid Response has plans to provide them with defibrillators that will allow not just to defibrillate a patient, but also monitor the patient's cardiac rhythm while providing treatment.

The Wicklow Rapid Response running team includes the Rapid doctor, volunteer Advanced Paramedics, volunteer supports and Mark Darcy of Sinnott Skoda Wicklow who sponsor the Skoda Karoq Rapid Response

Vehicle used by the Doctor. You can donate through their GoFundMe Page. Wicklow Rapid Response receives no statutory funding and is completely dependent on donations to support the service. You can also make a contribution at www.wvrr.ie

WWRR was tasked 163 times in 2019. As a community based emergency service, which is available to Ambulance Control, the WWRR Rapid Response Vehicle may be the closest emergency service and can make a lifesaving difference in time critical cases, where every second counts. On occasion, advanced critical care interventions from a trained specialist physician can be lifesaving. These interventions can include: advanced drug therapy, advanced analgesia and critical procedures such as emergency anaesthesia, roadside surgery and now pre hospital blood transfusion.

Wicklow has a significant rural population

where a community-based specialist emergency service can shorten the time to definitive care. WWRR have developed a volunteer model of pre-Hospital emergency medicine in Wicklow by using a physician and off-duty responders supported by communities working under the National Ambulance Service. Their aim is to maximise resources in the community complementing the existing pre-hospital care services.

WWRR is entirely dependant on charitable donations to fund their service. Please support them and the runners in any way you can with a donation, or contact them directly at info@wvrr.ie if you would like to help.

Wicklow Rapid Response Chairman Colm Dempsey highlighted the crucial role of teamwork in pre hospital care: "Extending skilled care to patients by supporting off duty ambulance paramedics willing to give up their free time with the right equipment

that will allow them to provide quality patient care is a positive move. Wicklow Rapid Response Team does not work in isolation. The positive patient outcomes are due to a coordinated multi-disciplinary response starting with the Emergency Call Taker and Emergency Dispatchers in the NAS Emergency Operations Centre, deployed services include Community First Responders, Off Duty Responders, NAS, the Fire Service, the Irish Coast Guard, Dublin & Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team, Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team and many others.

Notwithstanding this, there are people alive and well today due to the treatment provided by the specialist Pre Hospital Emergency Medicine level of care Wicklow Rapid Response has provided. Wicklow Rapid Response is one of only 4 such services currently providing this level of care in Ireland."

Purple House Cancer Support invite public to register for charity challenges for 30th year

2020 is the 30th Anniversary of Purple House Cancer Support and to mark the occasion, they have organised a number of exciting charity challenges, which are now open for registration.

Purple House Cancer Support Centre helped over 1,500 families last year and in 2020, the charity expects to help even more families. To help Purple House to provide vital services such as Counselling, survivorship Programmes, art therapy and camps for children living with Cancer, hospital transport and a range of practical and mental health support services, Purple House is asking the public to consider signing up to one of their 2020 Charity Challenges.

Camino de Santiago Trek - 23-30th May 2020

Make Walking The Camino one of your goals for 2020 and help Purple House to support families living with Cancer. The trek will take place from the 23-30 May 2020 will include a fully guided trek over 6 days from Sarria to

Santiago de Compostela.

VHI Women's Mini Marathon - Sunday 31st May 2020

Join Team Purple House in the VHI Women's Mini Marathon on Sunday 31st May 2020 and help us make a difference to the lives of people & families affected by Cancer. Transport to the event, technical tee shirt and post-event celebration evening all included.

Coast2Coast Galway to Bray Cycle - Sat/Sun 11/12th July 2020

This will be an unforgettable experience by cycling Coast2Coast across Ireland from Galway to Bray! Leaving from Kinvara this two-day cycle challenge traverses the country to arrive in Bray along the promenade overlooking the Irish Sea. The route will be on well researched

paved roads through scenic countryside utilising secondary and tertiary roads to minimise traffic and ensure the cycling is enjoyable.

Mizen to Malin Cycle 24-29th July 2020

This is the classic Irish Challenge cycling from the Southernmost Point to the Northernmost point in the land. The distance between these 2 extremes is almost exactly 400 miles (640km). Our route will be seeking to stay away from Main roads, maximise the scenery that is on offer, whilst at the same time avoiding adding extra km's to this already challenging ride.

For more information & an information pack on any of the above challenges, please contact Stephanie at Purple House on 012866966 or email info@purplehouse.ie



Marking World Book Day at The Glebe in Wicklow Town were Harriet Lerner and Kirsten Richmond.

Dog fouling awareness campaign comes to Delgany

Delgany National School last week got a visit from the Dogs Trust Education and Community officers to deliver the deliver 'The Big Scoop' workshop to pupils. The aim of this is to highlight that dog fouling is not a dog problem but a human one, all while using their three-tier approach-The Law, Health, and the people it affect. Delgany NS was one of 22 selected schools around the country where a workshop was held.

Dogs Trust's annual dog fouling awareness campaign, 'The Big Scoop', was launched last week to encourage more people to be kind to their community and pick up after their dog.

Free downloadable toolkits full of lesson plans, posters, fact sheets and activities were also made available. Both the toolkit and workshops educated children about this important job and encouraged them to remind the adults they're walking with (not strangers) of their responsibility to pick up after their dogs.

Delgany NS will now be invited to take part in 'The Big Scoop' national poster competition to highlight the importance of this issue. There are many prizes to be won and the overall poster winner will help represent the promotion of next year's campaign.

Dawn Kavanagh, Education Manager at Dogs Trust said: "Children are the future dog owners of Ireland so it's so important to instil the key messages around responsible dog ownership, which includes picking up after our dogs, from a young age. Adults should be leading by example, as it is the responsibility of adults to pick up after their dog.

"Our workshops will encourage children to remind family and friends, not strangers, about their responsibility as dog owners. We carried out research which revealed that almost half of people surveyed came across dog poo in local children's parks which is a staggering figure and highlights how big of an issue this is for communities.

"We hope that our 'The Big Scoop' workshops, toolkit and the poster competition will make learning fun and inspire the next generation to become model

dog owners of the future."

Deborah Martin, Campaigns Manager at Dogs Trust, said: "We are asking dog walkers to be kind to their community and to please always pick up after your dog. Our recent research highlights how big of an issue dog fouling is and we want to reinforce the message that this is solely a human problem and not a dog one. Please think of the vulnerable members of your community such as wheelchair users, visually impaired people, babies and toddlers, those who use buggies

and prams, as well as people playing sports. Whether you own a dog or not, dog waste in public spaces affects everyone so please Bag It, Bin It."

The charity is urging the public to always pick up after their dog using a Poo Bag or a scooping device before disposing of it in any bin and then to wash their hands when they get home. Remember that cleaning up after your dog is the law and owners who don't are guilty of an offence and can be fined if the poo is left behind.





Lacken National School pupils presenting a gift to Archbishop Diarmuid Martin who attended the recent confirmation ceremony in Lacken Church.

Wicklow students take part in charity schools visit to Zambia

Planting fruit trees at a school for the blind, giving an Irish dancing demonstration in 100% humidity, and abandoning a bus on impassable, flooded roads... it was all in a week's adventure for two Wicklow students who took part in a recent schools study visit to far off Zambia with Irish development charity, Self Help Africa.

Students Ciarán O'Sullivan from Coláiste Bhríde in Carnew, and Sean Byrne from Avondale Community College took part in the annual Self Help Africa schools trip, where they got the opportunity to see at first hand what life is like for people in the southern African country, while learning and sharing stories and cultural exchanges with their hosts.

Ciarán travelled with his teacher, Alison Moran, on the week long trip, while Sean, who completed his Leaving Certificate last Summer and is currently in university in The Netherlands, took part as the winner of the BT Young Scientist and Technology 'Science for Development' award winner. Self Help Africa organises the Irish Aid sponsored prize at the student science fair year, with the award winner receiving a travel bursary to go on a schools visit to a project country where the Irish charity is working.

The two Wicklow teenagers were joined by students and teachers from Sacred Heart School in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, and by representatives from Sutton Park School in Dublin.

Coláiste Bhríde is amongst more than 80 schools across Ireland who are currently working with Self Help Africa's 'Global Citizenship' school workshops programme. Students are selected for the trip based on essays and presentations that they made, together with

a campaign of fundraising activities that is organised by the school, to both cover the travel costs and contribute support to Self Help Africa's work.

During the visit the students visited a number of projects that Self Help Africa is implementing in the country, had the chance to interact with their Zambian peers when they visited a local school, visited various cultural sites, and were hosted by the Irish Ambassador to Zambia, Seamus O'Grady, at the Irish Embassy in the capital, Lusaka. Sean Byrne also gave a presentation to university students in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, on his winning project, which had created a low-cost water filtration system using eggshells.

The students all kept daily journals of their experiences, and will give presentations in their schools and communities about their African visit, over the coming weeks. Self Help Africa's Development Education coordinator Dorothy Jacob said that the annual trip gives students a chance to experience Africa, and get an opportunity to see and learn at first hand what life is like for people living in this region of the world.

To find out about Self Help Africa's Global Citizenship work in Irish classrooms, or about the annual Schools Study Visits that the organisation organises to Africa, visit: <https://selfhelpafrica.org/ie/education/>, or contact (01) 6778880.



Students Ciaran O'Sullivan and Sean Byrne with teacher Alison Moran and Self Help Africa's Jim Kirwan, from Gorey, on the recent schools study visit to Zambia, organised by Self Help Africa.

Young Wicklow Filmmakers announced as finalists in Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year

Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year 2020 moved one step closer to crowning its winners by announcing the Leinster Independent finalists on Wednesday, March 4th. The competition, which received a record of over 1,750 entries this year, announced which short films would move on to the finals from the Leinster Independent regional heats, which took place in the Light House Cinema in Smithfield. Films by young filmmakers from Iran were also screened as part of Fresh International Film Festival's International category.

Among the finalists were two young filmmakers from Wicklow were Zac Goold, 18, from Delgany with his film 'Out' about a boy who tries to tell his extremely religious parents that he is gay and Sean Treacy, 15, from Ashford with his film 'Broken Reflection' a story about the dangers of social media.

Sean described being at the heats as "exciting", saying, "It's my fourth year entering Fresh

taking place behind closed doors by Ella Nethercott aged 16 from Rathgar, Dublin, 'Synthasia', a dystopian technological fantasy by Milosh Hughes aged 18 from Malahide, Dublin, 'Wo Ai Ni, Mama' a coming out story filmed in Shanghai by Maya Peters, aged 18 from Rathmines, Dublin, 'Dear Naomi' a film about mental health by Aoife Reece, age 16 from Killinick, Wexford, 'Choice' about a woman in her 20s making

ma screen for the first time and to compete for the title of Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year. All films submitted are also considered for a range of Specialist Awards including the Radharc Trust Award (documentary), the Boulder Media Animation Award, the RTE 60 Second Short Film Award and the RTE Factual Award, in addition to the International and Audience awards.

and young filmmakers to Korea, Palestine, Austria, Germany, and Edinburgh. This year we are excited to have a number of International young filmmakers coming to Fresh and sharing their filmmaking experience with us."

Fresh International Film Festival encourages young people to make films by hosting an annual international film festival for young people, presenting Ireland's



Young Wicklow filmmakers Sean Tracey from Ashford and Zac Gould from Delgany

International Film Festival. I was thrilled to win the Junior competition in 2017. In 2018 I came second in the Senior competition and then finally I won the competition in 2019 with my film 'Rue' which is a coming of age story. I have grown as a person and a filmmaker with this Festival. I am always so excited to see my films on the big screen and I am honoured to have made it through to the finals surrounded by such a talented group of peers."

Films screened at the Leinster Independent regional heats included films by individual filmmakers from all over Dublin and Leinster. Films by young filmmakers through to the final include 'Four' a film about four stories of four girls

a life changing choice by Luke Flannagan from Asbourne, Meath and 'Enkata' an animated surreal, dark fantasy by Max Hendrickson, age 15 from Dublin.

Audience Awards were announced following each regional screening, with the winner of the Audience Award for the Leinster Independent Heat announced as 'Pirates', about a pirate station in 1980s Ireland by Cal O'Driscoll aged 17 from Castleknock, Dublin.

Now in its 24th year, Fresh International Film Festival encourages young people from Ireland and overseas, aged 7 to 18 years, to create, exhibit and share films. The festival provides an opportunity for these young filmmakers to have their work seen on a cine-

Ireland's Young Filmmakers have a very interesting approach," says Jayne Foley, Director of Fresh International Film Festival. "Storytelling is at the core," she says, "because the budget is usually either low or non-existent, film-makers have to be very inventive with plot and location." This year the festival received over 1750 films into its three categories Junior, Senior and International. Jayne adds, "The festival is a forum where young filmmakers can meet each other. Even at that stage networking is important. You may end up meeting the same people again later in your career. As advocates of young filmmaking, we also try to showcase films abroad. We've brought Irish films

Young Filmmaker of the Year Awards, acting as an advocate for young filmmakers and promoting their work worldwide. Fresh Film runs a number of initiatives throughout the year, including a Hothouse programme designed to bring young people of different ages and diverse backgrounds together to share their film experiences and create new collaborative work, as well as distributing Irish films made by young people to festivals all over the world. The Arts Council of Ireland, Limerick City and County Council and RTE Supporting the Arts support the Fresh International Film Festival. Further details are available from freshfilmfestival.com.

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FOR

(F.D.A. APPROVED)

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REFRACTORY OSTEOMYELITIS (INFECTED BONE)
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THERMAL BURNS
CRUSH INJURY, COMPARTMENT SYNDROME,
AND OTHER ACUTE TRAUMATIC ISCHEMIAS.
ENHANCEMENT OF HEALING IN SELECTED PROBLEM
WOUNDS (DIABETIC WOUNDS)
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NECROTIZING SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS
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Frances Browner in Theatre Lane, Greystones

Creative call-out for Theatre Lane Poets Wall competition

A new creative project entitled 'My Place' is calling for people of all ages living in the wider Greystones area, to submit a short poem inspired by the locality, its history and its stories. Curated by Frances Browner, and delivered in partnership with Ross McParland of Whale Theatre, this project seeks a creative response to the question, "What does this place mean to you?", with a selection of the poetic responses being displayed along Theatre Lane this summer.

Since its celebrated re-birth at the attentive hands of Ross McParland, Theatre Lane has become the cultural beating heart of Greystones, with the beautifully refurbished Whale Theatre sitting at the centre of this award-winning project. In addition to the bustling venue itself, Theatre Lane is a hub of activity with a diverse range of theatre, music and dance groups calling it home.

Although the theatre itself is a performing arts venue, there is no shortage of visual art adorning outdoor surfaces on all sides. As part of the extensive renovations, Ross McParland commissioned Russian-born, Greystones-based artist Irina Kuksova to create the giant Whale mural which is now a firm feature in the town and her

smaller paintings also subtly embellish Theatre Lane itself.

Now, there is a unique opportunity for people living in the wider Greystones area to become part of this award-winning development by sending in a poetic response to questions such as "What does this place mean to you?", "What childhood memories do you have of this place?" and "What is it like to live here today?".

The project is being curated by Frances Browner, who grew up in Dublin and spent twenty years in New York, before relocating to Greystones. Her short stories have been published in Ireland's Own & Woman's Way magazines, one taking 2nd prize at the Dromineer Literary Festival 2010 and another

shortlisted for the Francis McManus radio award. Her poems have also been published widely including the Ogham Stone, Boyne Berries and Bray Arts Journal. Her collection, *Roots & Wings*, was published by Revival Press and launched in Greystones Library, December 2019.

To be considered for the My Place Poets Wall installation, please send your submission directly to Frances at franerb2@gmail.com in an MS Word document attachment. Your submission can be in the form of a sonnet, ode, villanelle, ballad, funny rhyme or haiku and should be sixteen lines or less. The deadline for submissions is Monday 13th April 2020.

Frances Browner grew up in Dublin, spent twenty

years in New York and now resides in Greystones. Her short stories have been published in Ireland's Own & Woman's Way magazines; online in *Sixteen*, the *Blue Nib* and *HCE* online journals. One took 2nd prize at the Dromineer Literary Festival, 2010, others were shortlisted for the Francis McManus short story radio award; *The Well*, Trevor Bowen & Fish Publishing competitions.

A graduate of UCD, Dublin, and City College, New York, Frances tutors creative writing and history for Dun Laoghaire/Dublin ETB, DATE in Dundrum, and for Scíobh Arís at Greystones Cancer Support Centre. She also facilitates the monthly Poets Parlour open-mic in Mrs. Robinsons.

Creative Arklow students through to All-Ireland recycled fashion final

After yet another awe-inspiring display of regional glitz, glamour and re-purposed 'rubbish', Junk Kouture provincial winners will gather together for one last time at the competition's Grand Final in 3 Arena, on 30th April 2020.

Taking to one of Ireland's most prestigious stages, 1 local design 'Bibity Bobity Boom' designed by Lucy Bracken and Faye O'Sullivan from St Mary's College, Arklow will join grand finalists from across the country in a bid to be crowned the 10th annual Junk Kouture winner. Set to be one of the biggest events in the 2020 fashion calendar, 3Arena will play host to the crème de la crème of the country's most creative young minds!

Megan Kelly, Operations Manager, Junk Kouture said "This is our seventh final to be held in the 3Arena, and if the previous years are anything to go by, the audience is in for a fabulous night to remember! Large numbers of family, friends and fashion enthusiasts travel across the provinces of Ireland to support the designers and models, and nothing sounds better than the cheers of the Grand Final audience! So, contestants will definitely

need to bring their A game, as well as their ear plugs!"

Overall, 80 creative teams will 'strut their stuff' and showcase their striking works of wearable, recycled art, in the hope of being crowned the kings or queens of the catwalk by a celebrity judging panel including star of Ru Paul's Drag Race and Strictly Come Dancing Michelle Visage and the X-factors Louis Walsh. Apart from a celebrity judging panel, the public can also take part in competition voting online from 9am on the 30th March, to 6pm on the 3rd of April by visiting app.junkkouture.com. Feel free to vote for as many designs as you like, but only one vote per day is possible. The public vote accounts for 10% of the finalists scores and can really make a massive difference to the overall winner!

In addition to the coveted first place prize, teams will also be competing for €2,000 for their school, and €1,000 cash for their team. Five Regional Winners' will also be given the opportunity to attend the famous Cannes Film Festival in May and for contestants planning a future in fashion, there is also the chance to win creative scholarships for sole applicants to the 0



'Bibity Bobity Boom' designed by Lucy Bracken and Faye O'Sullivan from St Mary's College, Arklow

Coming up at Whale Theatre...

Chris Kent - Christy Doesn't Live Here

Cork comedian Chris Kent is coming to the Whale Theatre with his brand new show 'Christy Doesn't Live Here'.

Chris has more stories, more kids and a keep cup to compensate for his guilt about over population. Chris tries to come to terms with being called "well trained" for carrying out basic tasks. Chris also gets deep and talks about his favorite clothes horse or "garment donkey" if you're a maniac...

Thursday 2nd April at 8pm Tickets €15



String Serenade - a celebration of local talent

Join the young string students of the Bray Music Centre plus special guests the Belenus string quartet for an evening of chamber music inspired by all things nocturnal in the wonderful setting of the Whale theatre.

The title 'String Serenade' is borrowed from a multi-movement piece of music that was popular as light occasional music, usually as part of an evening social gathering, in 18th century Europe.

Enjoy a wide range of music from arrangements of Mozart's famous *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* (one little night music) and wind divertimenti for string ensemble to solo performances of classical favourites from our senior string students at the Bray music centre.

Also on the bill, the Belenus string quartet will perform Borodin's string quartet no. 2 in D major, with the famous 2nd movement *Notturmo*. This young ensemble, who recently released a Christmas song with singer Hannah May under the alias *No Strings Attached*, are respected musicians in their own right and have been playing together since July 2019. This concert marks their first major public outing as an ensemble.

Sunday 5th April at 4pm
Tickets €15/€10



See www.whaletheatre.ie or call the booking office on 01 2010550

Fisheries Officers wanted in Wicklow to protect fisheries resource

Inland Fisheries Ireland has launched a recruitment campaign for seasonal fisheries officers in Wicklow and nationwide. The positions will see the successful applicants support the development and maintenance of Ireland's fisheries resource during the summer period.



Christine Meehan Fishery Officer (South Western River Basin District), Carl Owens Fishery Officer (Eastern River Basin District) and Steven McKenna Assistant Inspector (South Eastern River Basin District)

There are numerous roles available across six operational districts. The roles are available on a six month basis with contracts commencing from Monday the 11th of May 2020 and training provided to all new recruits. Interviews will take place on the 1st and 2nd of April 2020. The location for the new position for Wicklow is in Kilcoole, the Eastern River Basin District.

Dr Ciaran Byrne, CEO of Inland Fisheries Ireland said: "I am delighted to invite applications for these seasonal positions which will support the ongoing conservation, maintenance and protection of the fisheries resource.

Roisin Bradley, Head of HR at Inland Fisheries Ireland said: "We are

looking for applicants who are passionate about developing and protecting our fisheries resource, have an appreciation for the natural environment and who have excellent interpersonal skills. Our Fisheries Officers are at the heart of the work which we do as custodians of this precious resource and we look forward to welcoming the new members to our team in the spring."

The closing date for applications is Monday the 16th of March. Applicants should be available for interview on the 1st and 2nd of April 2020 with a start date on Monday the 11th of May 2020. To find out more about the roles and how to apply, visit www.fisheriesireland.ie.

Extension to Shanganagh Park House officially opened

Leas Chathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Cllr Deirdre Donnelly officially opened the extension to Shanganagh Park House last week. This single-storey extension, to be called the Caroline Mc Dermott Room, will provide additional space and allow for Shanganagh Park House to increase the services provided from this Community Facility.

The funding for the extension provided by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council was partially provided from the Community Gain element of the upgrade of Shanganagh Bray Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Shanganagh Park House is situated in the centre of the local community and provides an impressive range of activities for all age groups which includes the provision of early years childcare services, an afterschool programme, Crosscare Youth Services, Adult Education and the senior citizens 'Recycled Teenagers' group.

Caroline Mc Dermott lived in the Rathsallagh area for over 40 years and was a leading member of the community and instrumental in developing and managing the many activities and services which are provided from Shanganagh Park House.

Speaking at the official opening, Cllr Donnelly remarked "that the extension will provide increased space at Shanganagh Park House to meet the needs of the local community, therefore increasing the wellbeing of the Shanganagh / Rathsallagh community through supporting community engagement, volunteerism and active citizenship with particular emphasis on providing services for the local youth population. The provision by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council of this newly built extension and related community and social supports in Shanganagh Park House increases opportunities for people to play an active part in their local community and enjoy activities and social interaction in their local area"

Present at the opening were invited guests including the staff and management of Shanganagh Park House and local people who avail of the facilities and services of the Community Facility, members of the Mc Dermott family, TD's, as well as Elected Members of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and Council management and staff.

Cllr Donnelly thanked Shanganagh Park House Board of Management and staff for their dedication, commitment and tireless work for the community in promoting community cohesion and inclusiveness.



Pictured at the annual Ennis Book Festival were members of the Roundwood Book Club; Helen Giblin, Eileen Patterson, Ruth Blair, Carol O'Donnell and Catherine Fleming.

Funding for 2020 Hollywood Fair welcomed

Minister Simon Harris has announced that the Department of Rural & Community Development is to provide €11,000 towards the Hollywood Fair.

Minister Harris said: "The Hollywood Fair continues to grow in popularity with people travelling far and wide to enjoy this great event. With the growing attendance the fair needs parking facilities to cater for this. The monies granted by the Department of Rural & Community Development will enable essential facilities be put in place to accommodate temporary carparks to accommodate people attending the fair. "The Fair has been a magnificent success and is a great family friendly event. I look forward to the 2020 Fair this summer, I would like to commend the Hollywood Fair Company and everyone involved for all their work on this project."

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE LICENCE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 that Sure Partners Limited, SSE, Red Oak South, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, has applied to the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government for a licence under Section 2/3 of the said Act for the for site investigations at Arklow Bank Wind Park.

A copy of the application and the relevant maps, plans and drawings are available for inspection, free of charge, at Wicklow Garda Station, Batchelor's Walk, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow, A67 HK20 and Arklow Garda Station, Abbey Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, Y14 H392 during this consultation.

The documentation is available on the Department's website

<https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/site-investigations-arklow-bank>

Any person who wishes to make an objection to, or a representation in respect of the grant of the licence sought should do so in writing, giving reasons, between the dates of 18th March 2020 and 17th April 2020 (quoting ref: FS007049), to the Marine Planning Policy and Development Section, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or foreshore@housing.gov.ie. The closing date for submissions is close of business on 17th April 2020.

All objections and representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment prior to any decision being made in the matter. Material upon which the Minister shall determine this application may be published on the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at: <http://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process>

Dated this 17th day of March 2020

Name and address:
Sure Partners Limited,
SSE, Red Oak South South County Business Park,
Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Ireland.



Greystones Community First Responders have had their latest public access Defibrillator installed on Greystones main Street. It is located between Daly's SuperValu and Mrs Robinsons, who both donated it to the community. This is the 11th Public Access Defibrillator located around Greystones and surrounding areas. Greystones CFR stated: "We would like to thank Mr Padraig Lennon (Manager) of Mrs Robinsons and Ann Daly Mr Paddy Holohan (Manager) from SuperValu and we would also like to thank Mr Michael Mulvaney (Electrician) for installing it." Pictured are Padraig Lennon, Margaret Duggan, Paddy Holohan, Sharon Chippendale, Ciara Lafferty, Amanda Roe, and Ross Thompson

Calling all budding Wicklow social entrepreneurs

"See past the problems to the solutions" is the call from Social Entrepreneurs Ireland (SEI) who last week launched its national campaign for applications, supported by DCC plc. SEI is inviting budding Wicklow social entrepreneurs, and those across the country, with innovative ideas to solve social problems to apply. Notable SEI alumni include FoodCloud (Iseult Ward and Aoibheann O'Brien), First Fortnight Festival (David Keegan) and Wicklow-based ASIam by Adam Harris.

Applications are now open for the Ideas Academy - aimed at those with early-stage ideas, and Impact Programme - aimed at those who are ready to grow and scale their existing projects.

Commenting, Darren Ryan, CEO of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland said "We believe that there are social entrepreneurs in every village and town in Ireland and we want to find them. We know that not everyone will recognize themselves as a social entrepreneur right away, so we want to let everyone know that you don't need a perfectly polished idea or business plan to apply. We're looking for people with courage, insight and ambition to put forward a solution to a social problem, and act on it. Social Entrepreneurs Ireland is here to support on every step of the journey."

Up to 60 people with early-stage ideas will win a place on the Ideas Academy where they will receive training and mentoring as they take the first steps from idea to action. The four-month programme runs in three locations around Ireland - Dublin, Cork

and Galway. SEI also announced today that due to incredible demand in previous years, it is launching a second Dublin Academy in 2020.

Up to eight places are available for Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's prestigious Impact Programme aimed at high-potential social entrepreneurs. The 11-month accelerator programme includes 20,000 in direct funding and significant non-financial supports across areas such as strategy, governance, business

modelling, fundraising, communications, and leadership.

DCC plc, the international sales, marketing and support services group, is the flagship supporter of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's national call for applications.

Commenting, Chief Executive of DCC plc Donal Murphy said: "Over the past 10 years of proudly working closely with Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, DCC plc has seen firsthand the incredible power of supporting peo-

ple with ideas to change Ireland. Our staff participate in judging applications and mentoring participants so we can share our learnings from backing commercially focused entrepreneurship for more than 40 years. We'd encourage anyone with an idea to solve a social problem to apply."

Applications for the Ideas Academy and Impact Programme are open until midnight on Tuesday, 7th April. Interested candidates can apply or find out more at www.socialentrepreneurs.ie.

Wicklow Hire & Sales Ltd nominated for top National Award

Wicklow-based firm Wicklow Hire & Sales Ltd has been announced as a finalist in the category of Best Managed Irish Rental Firm in this year's Machinery Movers Magazine Industry & Operator Awards.

The awards recognize excellence and reward outstanding achievements of individuals, operators and companies in the area of construction and quarry machinery.

Wicklow Hire & Sales Ltd, based in Bollorney, is a 'Plant and Tool Hire Company' established in 1974. It caters for the needs of a diverse customer base includ-



ing DIY, Construction, Civil and Facilities Management in counties Wicklow, Wexford and Dublin.

"We are overjoyed to be nominated for the Category of Machinery Movers 'Best Managed Irish Rental Firm'. To receive a nomination is in itself a great achievement, this recognition has given the staff and management of Wicklow Hire a massive boost for 2020," said Managing Director Billy O'Reilly.

The Machinery Movers Magazine Industry & Operator Awards was open to all companies and operators in the construction and quarrying sector on the island of Ireland.

Brian Coogan, Managing Director of CQMS & Machinery Movers Magazine Industry & Operator Awards said "The awards are an opportunity for us to formally acknowledge the excellent work being done by companies in our sector. We congratulate Wicklow Hire & Sales Ltd on their achievements so far and wish them the very best of luck on the night."

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Ford Puma is pitch perfect for Ireland

Ford's Crossover version of the Fiesta, the Puma, has just landed in Ireland and with a starter price pitched at less than €25K, coupled with its mild hybrid drivetrain, it has a very good chance of being the bestselling car in Wicklow and Ireland this year - an accolade the Fiesta itself has won many years in the past.

By **Martin McCarthy**

The move over to the higher driving position of the SUV Crossover, continues, but the Puma's most innovative feature is a boot arrangement which enables two golf bags to stand vertically in the boot, thanks to an ultra-low boot floor. This gives class-leading uncompromised luggage capacity of 456 litres.

Powerful, responsive performance and optimised fuel efficiency is delivered using Ford's EcoBoost Hybrid 48-volt technology - integrating electric torque assistance with a low-friction, three-cylinder 1.0 litre EcoBoost petrol engine to delivering 125 PS. Advanced driver assistance technologies delivering a simpler and less stressful driving experience include:

- Adaptive Cruise Control with Stop & Go, Speed Sign Recognition and Lane Centring, for effortlessly negotiating highway and stop-start traffic.
- New Local Hazard

Information, which can inform the driver of hazardous situations in the road ahead before they become visible to the driver or vehicle sensors.

The detailing - seats and cabin styling - is luxurious - especially on the higher spec ST-Line version.

"We think new Puma will prove very popular in the Irish market", said John Manning, Ford Ireland Market Lead, when the new Puma was launched to The Wicklow Times on a test route around West Wicklow. "The small crossover / SUV segment is very much a growing one in Ireland".

In Ireland, new Puma is offered in three series: Titanium, ST-Line and ST-Line X. Spec for Puma Titanium includes: 17-inch machined alloy wheels; projector headlamps with LED day time running lamps; auto high beam; Pre-collision assist with Autonomous Emergency Braking; 8-inch SYNC with Navigation and FordPass Connect modem; keyless start; electronic a/c; lumbar massage driver & passenger seats; ambient lighting; wireless charging; cruise control with adjustable speed limiter; rear spoiler.



Pictured is the Moneystown team that participated in the Cumann na mBunscol Wicklow Times Shield Day 1 in Bray Emmets on Thursday March 5th. This was the first round of the competitive Girls Gaelic blitz for this Cumann na mBunscol year. All hands were on deck as 23 teams competed over 11 pitches in the group stages. The games were played at a blistering pace supported by Transition Year students from local schools who have been trained as Young Referees.

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RECRUITMENT

PLANNING • PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I, Noeleen Fletcher, intend to apply for retention permission for development at this site No. 16 St. Patrick's Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The development will consist of: the retention of a 12 sq. m. log cabin constructed in rear garden. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. The planning application may be viewed online at www.wicklow.ie under planning online enquiries. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee, €20, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Robert Cullen intend to apply for permission for the construction of a new dwelling, domestic garage, wastewater treatment unit & polishing filter, new well, new entrance onto public road and associate works at Glassnamullen, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of Wicklow County Council, County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town, during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the planning authority on payment of the prescribed fee within 5 weeks from submission of application to Planning Authority.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, St Patrick's Missionary Society, are applying to Wicklow County Council for planning permission for the installation of 146 Solar PV panels on the roof of an existing building on the grounds of St Patrick's, High Park Upper, Kiltegan, 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 Council 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 or on payment of the prescribed fee within a period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

Covid-19 scam warning

An Garda Siochana would like to make the public aware of the possibility for fraudsters exploiting the spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus to carry out scams either online or in person. The main types of scams include Phishing, Social Engineering Scams and Fraudulent Selling/Trading. If you have been the victim of fraud or cybercrime, contact your local Garda station.



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