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GLENMALURE DUMPING page 10



NEW PLAYGROUNDS page 17

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Tuesday 23th June 2020 5 Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow Tel: 01 - 2869111 www.wicklowtimes.net E-mail: wicklowed@localtimes.ie

MINISTERS IN WAITING?

It's decision week for the proposed new government composed of Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party and by the end of the week we will know whether we have a new government or are off to the hustings again in July for another General Election.

If a government gets the go-ahead from members of the various parties the question will not be whether Wicklow gets a Minister, rather it will be how many ministers it will get.

Stephen Donnelly TD, a recent convert to Fianna Fáil, has declared in a Sunday newspaper that he expects to be the next Minister for Health with the current Minister for Health, Simon Harris as his junior minister with responsibility for Covid.

Wicklow Fine Gael members will be greatly aggrieved if Simon

Harris is dropped from the Cabinet as they feel he did a very credible job during the Covid crisis, and are tipping him for the position of Minister for Education.

Green Party TD Steven Mathews is favoured for a Junior Ministry as the Greens will have 3 senior ministries and 4 junior ministry positions to fill. This gives Mathews a better than 50/50 chance of getting a position.

However, it all depends on how the members of Fianna Fáil and the Green Party vote.

Wicklow Times spoke to a number of members of each party in County Wicklow and found there was surprisingly high support for a rejection of the Programme for Government.

Former Fianna Fail TD and now Senator, Pat Casey said "The Covid 19 crisis has changed the context of Government formation completely. The election which resulted in no TD being elected from East, South or West Wicklow has disenfranchised much of rural Wicklow and I have concerns for rural



Starling Pritchard, aged 8, from Greystones, celebrating Ireland's National Day of Youthful Creativity, Cruinniú na nÓg, as part of the Creative Ireland Programme. See more, page 20



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issues in the new Government programme. I am reviewing the document closely and will be consulting widely with the membership before I decide to support this programme. We need to rebuild an economy for all the people of Wicklow not just the large urban settlements and that will be my position going forward."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady described the Programme for Government as "a very disappointing document that does not represent the change people voted for back in February."

Deputy Brady also expressed his shock and disappointment on the total absence of proposals for county Wicklow in the Programme for Government.

"I was shocked to read it and realise nothing

was included to improve the commuting nightmare for so many in County Wicklow. Rail projects in Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford are to be prioritised in the programme for government; however, the Rosslare to Dublin rail line is not mentioned. There is no mention of the N81 Tallaght to Hollywood upgrade or the N11 scheme.

"It's clear Wicklow has been left behind again, with well overdue projects now axed it seems. A government led by Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil together does not represent the change that people voted for in February. This document that has been published is incredibly disappointing. It lacks ambition and reads as more of 'the same old same old', with a green tint."

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Terry Kavanagh, Pamela Harper, Tilly Kavanagh, Tina Kavanagh, Tanya Coleman, and Evie Coleman are pictured at the official opening of the new playground in Roundwood. See more on page 17

Annual Mass at Redford Cemetary

Regrettably due to COVID 19 the annual Mass in Redford Cemetery will not take place this year, The 11:30 Mass on Sunday 28th June in the parish will be designated to deceased loved ones. This Mass will be streamed live on www.greystonesparish.ie

Glenroe Farm to re-open this week

Glenroe Farm will re-open to the public on Friday 26th June. Admissions will be limited initially, visitors will be asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines, and there will be hand sanitiser stations.

Oxfam Bray seek volunteers and donations

Oxfam in Bray re-opened on June 11th with reduced opening hours. The store is seeking donations and also volunteers. Anyone who can volunteer some of their time, please email bray@oxfam.org or call (01)2864173.

J.M. Synge and Wicklow

Local theatre maker Cliona O'Connell, and Aughrim-based actress Andrea Kelly would love to talk to people in the area who have any knowledge or stories relating to the playwright J.M Synge, or the Synge family and their connection to the area. Do you have any stories?

"If so we would love to hear from you. You can email projectsynge@gmail.com, or give us a call/text on 087 4673858 and we will get back to you. Any information you have, no matter how small, is very welcome. We are currently working on the development of a new theatre project sited in the county, re-imagining Synge's life, work and connection to Wicklow. This project is funded under the Wicklow Artist Award Scheme 2020."

Community Call

Brockagh Centre are part of the Community Call, anyone needing assistance should call community assistance 1800-868-399 or e-mail the centre brockaghresourcecentre@gmail.com. For further information, or to share advice, email brockaghresourcecentre@gmail.com, consult the Brockagh Resource Centre Facebook page or visit www.brockaghresourcecentre.ie

Glendalough Heritage Forum

Glendalough Heritage Forum has launched their new Glendalough Heritage website at glendalough.wicklowheritage.org. "As members of Our Wicklow Heritage, we invite you to explore our local history collections and discover unique articles, photographs, documents, oral histories and personal stories. We are working together to record and make accessible the county's rich built, natural and cultural heritage. We invite you to participate by contributing your information, stories and photographs."

Laragh and Glendalough Sustainable Energy Action

The Laragh/Glendalough Sustainable Energy Action are currently conducting a survey on Energy Usage. To participate in the survey at you can go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/WXQG7Y2. The local voluntary group was set up to increase awareness of the causes and impacts of climate change, and to explore ways that the community can respond. The group was formed to identify the community's energy needs, and put in place sustainable measures that will help improve energy efficiency in their homes, reduce energy costs, and to make their homes more comfortable to live in.

New SDG webinars series

Chambers Ireland is hosting new a SDG webinars series, which aims to give members practical advice and guidance on incorporating the SDGs into their business model. Running Wednesdays 1:15PM - 2PM. Schedule: 24th June | Goal 13 - Climate Action; 1st July | Goal 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; 8th July | Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities; 15th July | Goal 5 - Gender Equality. Visit chambers.ie/events for more information.

Glen of the Downs Garden Centre

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COVID-19 Community outreach champion will continue to support local communities

The Wheel and Irish Rural Link announced that the COVID-19 Champion for County Wicklow will continue in his role as the lockdown restrictions are lifted and the wider social and economic impact of the pandemic become clearer.

Many people and families have been impacted by this pandemic, with the loss of loved ones, loss of jobs and families and friends unable to see one another for almost three months. The mental health and wellbeing of those people who have had to cocoon and the feelings of loneliness will continue to be felt for some time. There will

be a continued need for supports to help people back into society. As part of the COVID-19 Community Outreach, a national programme coordinated by The Wheel and Irish Rural Link with support from the Department of Rural and Community Affairs, the Community Champions have been very active in every county over

the past few months. As the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions ease the Champions will continue to support community and voluntary organisations along people who continue to need help and support.

We are two weeks into Phase 2 of the easing of restrictions and the Champions are continuing to receive calls from vul-

nerable people who are afraid of going back into shops and are anxious that the services they had over last few months will suddenly stop.

You can contact your local Community Champion, Brian Carty on 086 3898461 or at bcarty@wicklowpartnership.ie

Citizen's information Centres

Citizens Information Centres (CICs) are here to help during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. They are here to provide you with information and advice on a range of areas of concern.

Employment and income supports: new COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment, Short Time Work Support, employment rights during the COVID-19 restrictions, enhanced Illness Benefit or Supplementary Welfare Allowance

Mortgage, loans and rent: information on various measures to support domestic households and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (liaising with MABS)

Housing: information on supports to protect tenants impacted by COVID-19

Utilities: information on measures in place to help you remain connected to your electricity and gas supplies during this period

Education: providing you with updates as these become available

Immigration: employment permits, advice for English language students

Travel: information about holiday cancellations and other related issues, HSE advice if you are arriving in Ireland from another country, information if you are planning to travel to another country

Older people: information on supports for older people during the coronavirus pandemic

Other general queries: unrelated to COVID-19

Bray Citizens Information Centre has been set up as the central hub for taking all of your telephone calls or emails from around the county. Telephone calls to Arklow and Wicklow Town CICs are automatically diverted to Bray CIC.

Telephone Bray CIC: 0761 07 6780 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Email Bray CIC: bray@citinfo.ie
National phone service: 0761 07 4000 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (this may revert to 8pm in the near future)

Log on: www.citizensinformation.ie.

Citizens Information Centres are supported by the Citizens Information Board, the national agency responsible for the provision of information, advice and advocacy to citizens on public services.

"We are here to help you access all of your rights and entitlements and your queries will be treated in the strictest of confidence. We regret we are not in a position to provide a drop in service at this time."

PPE for sale

PPEI have put a special COVID pack together at discounted cost to members of Bray Chamber. "We are suppliers of PPE to Wholesale and retail companies, nursing homes, dentists, doctors, along with working on behalf of the NHS in Northern Ireland and UK. Feel free to view some of our PPE products on our on line Retail website. A discount of 30% applies to all Bray And Chamber Members, by using the code BCCM. For more information call 0838882799, email shane@shanerowan.ie, or see www.ppei.ie

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WICKLOW LOCAL Times

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

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Arklow selected as operations base for Wind Park

Arklow Harbour has been selected by SSE Renewables as the preferred location for the Operations and Maintenance Base for its planned 520MW Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 offshore wind farm. The decision was announced on June 8th by the leading renewable energy firm at a virtual meeting with members of Wicklow County Council.

The new base location at Arklow Harbour's 'Old Shipyard' at the South Dock will operate as a hub for the new offshore wind farm and will be home to 80 full-time employees who will be recruited to work on its operation and maintenance.

The development will support companies across the supply chain, including those involved in vessel services and site survey, hospitality, fuel, consultancy, logistics and stevedoring.

The announcement follows a detailed assessment of facilities at both

Wicklow Port and Arklow Harbour over the past year to identify the optimum site for the offshore wind farm's future service base. This assessment included extensive consultation by SSE Renewables with existing marine users at each location, including commercial, fisheries and recreational interests.

SSE Renewables has entered into land option agreements at Arklow's South Dock to progress the development. The company has also entered into option agreements to 'step into' two existing lease agree-

ments with Wicklow County Council for adjoining industrial land which also forms part of 'The Old Shipyard' site, as well as an area of quayside at the South Dock for vessel berthing and pontoons.

SSE Renewables is targeting a delivery date of 2025 to meet Ireland's interim target of 1GW of offshore wind energy in the same year, as committed to in the Irish Government's Climate Action Plan. When complete, the wind farm is expected to power around half a million homes each year with

green energy, offsetting around 600,000 tonnes of carbon emissions or a 1% reduction in Ireland's annual carbon emissions.

Clr Irene Winters said "SSE Renewables' announcement is a great vote of confidence for County Wicklow. This project will place Ireland well on its way towards achieving its objective of generating 70% of its energy from renewable sources by 2030. It provides great opportunities to build on County Wicklow's maritime traditions by providing skilled employment opportunities, skills transfer, training and development, and spin off investment for both Wicklow and Arklow. This places us well on our way towards achieving our goal of developing County Wicklow as a Centre of Excellence for the Offshore Renewable Energy Sector."

Barry Kiline, Director of Development at SSE Renewables, said: "We are delighted to confirm Arklow Harbour as the new home for our Operations and Maintenance Base for Arklow Bank Wind Park. The new base will play a vital role in the day-to-day running of the planned offshore wind farm. While Arklow's South Dock has been selected as the preferred base location, both Wicklow Port and Arklow Harbour offer very attractive facilities for any offshore wind developer. We are very confident that both Wicklow and Arklow will see significant commercial uplift and urban regeneration as a result of the economic boost from our planned investment in the construction and operation of Arklow Bank Wind Park in the years ahead."

At last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Town councillor Gail Dunne (FF) expressed disappointment that Arklow was selected over Wicklow. He complained that Wicklow is being passed over in terms of jobs and expressed hope that the next County Development Plan would address this. Welcoming the announcement, Frank



Sofia O'Dea and Katelyn Tyndall at the official opening of the new playground in Roundwood. See more on page 17

Curran, chief executive of Wicklow County Council, said: "The Blue Economy is an important pillar in the county's economic development strategy. The development of the Arklow Bank Wind Park and the decision to site the operations and maintenance base here will act as a catalyst for the regeneration and renewal of Arklow Harbour and indeed the entire town. This will dovetail with the development of the wastewater treatment plant, the flood defence scheme other exciting developments announced by locally based companies and will be transformative for the entire area."

SSE Renewables will com-

mence an extensive development programme to further progress delivery of the new Operations and Maintenance base.

Sinn Féin TD John Brady said "It is critically important that as many of the jobs that will be created will be for local people. I have contacted the Dept of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and the Dept of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and the Dept of Education and Skills and asked them to look at developing education and upskilling courses which would help people access these jobs once they come about."

Social Democrats TD Jennifer Whitmore said "Ultimately, the

decision is validation of Arklow's potential as a hub for our future renewable energy development in the country. It's also confirmation of Wicklow's potential as a regional leader of marine planning and development and I hope it doesn't end at SSE's recent decision.

"In my submission to the recent draft Marine Planning Framework I proposed that Wicklow would be best suited to coordinate the Irish Coast region for marine planning and activities. Although currently under-utilised, the two main ports in the county, Wicklow Town and Arklow, would make an ideal base for much of the regional planning, implementation and enforcement as set out in this Framework."




Citizens
Information

Citizens Information Centres in
Co. Wicklow: response to COVID-19

Your local Citizens Information Centre provides you with a free, confidential and independent information, advice and advocacy service on your civil and social rights and entitlements in areas such as Social Welfare, Employment, Health Services and many more.

Telephone us on the number below if you wish discuss your query with an Information Officer:

Bray CIC Local Office: **0761 07 6780** Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm. Alternatively email us at: bray@citinfo.ie - anytime

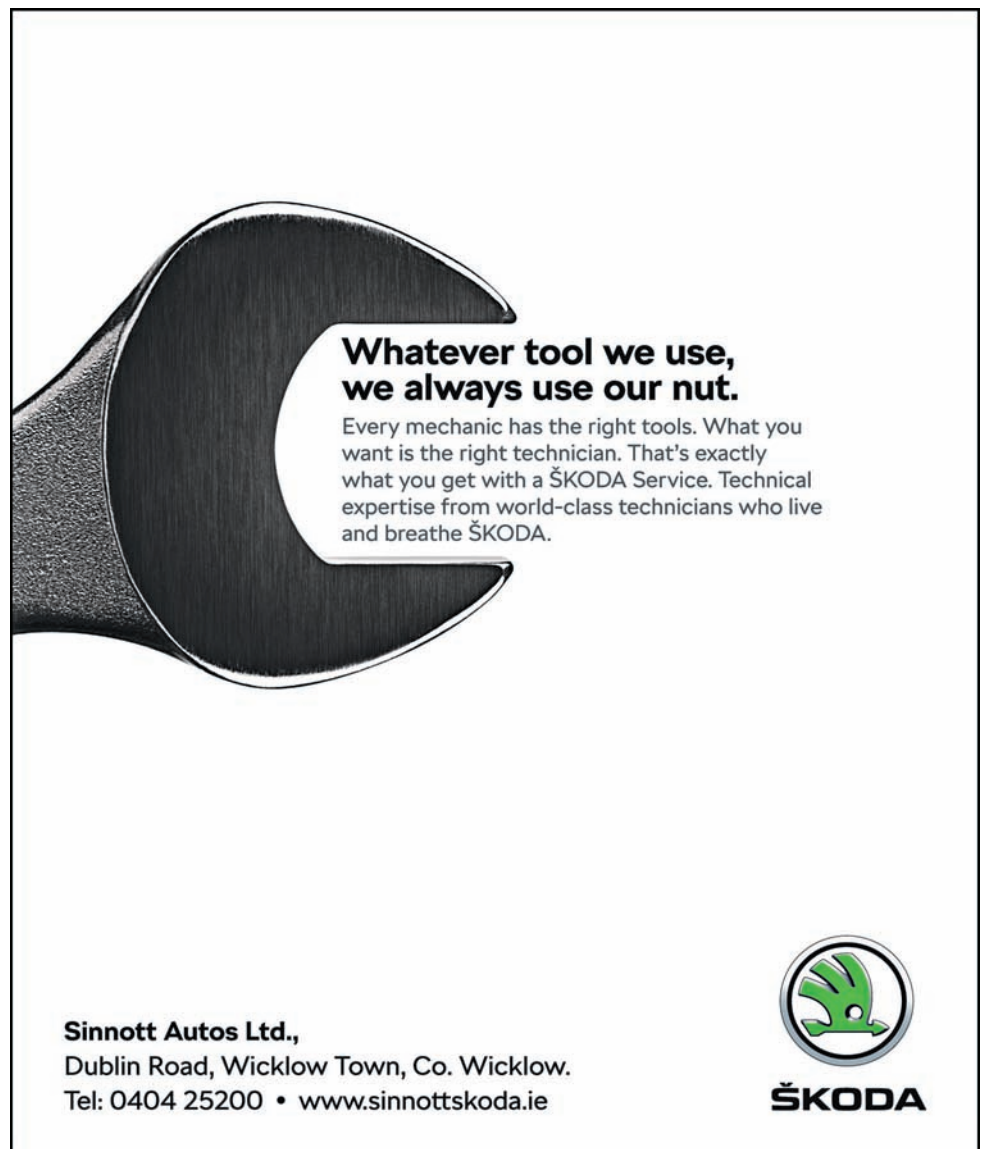
Please note that our CICs in Arklow and Wicklow Town have temporarily closed during the COVID-19 pandemic and all of their calls are being diverted to the Bray office. Regrettably, we are unable to provide a drop in service at this time in any of our offices around the county.

You can also access our service via the other contact details below: National Citizens Information Phone Service 0761 07 4000 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday (may revert to 9.00am to 8.00pm in the near future).

Our national call back service: visit citizensinformation.ie/callback to book a phone call from an information officer. You can also log on to our website:

www.citizensinformation.ie


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Pictured is Caoimhe Appleby from Arklow who completed 13,000 keepie uppies on her 13th birthday on 18th June in aid of Pieta House. Caoimhe, who plays for Arklow Town FC, raised over €600 for the charity.

136 FOI requests made to Wicklow County Council

Wicklow County Council received 136 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests last year according to the Commissioner's Office. The figures were published as part of the Information Commissioner's Annual Report for 2019.

According to the report, 36 of the FOI requests were personal and 100 were non-personal.

The report details a number of case studies, including Wicklow County Council's refusal to release a copy of its agreement with the developer of the Florentine Shopping Centre in Bray. The Council said that the agreement was commercially sensitive and there was a duty of confidence between it and the developer.

The Commissioner rejected the Council's argument and said that in the context of the existence of the FOI Act, there could not have been a mutual expectation of confidentiality in relation to the public tendering of public land.

The Commissioner has called for a review of the FOI Act by the incoming Government.

The Information Commissioner said: "After five years' experience of operating the 2014 FOI Act it is clear to me that there is considerable room for improvement. I have made a number of recommendations aimed at improving the Act for everyone, including users and public bodies".

The recommendations include: The introduction of an administrative tribunal to speedily consider appeals of the Commissioner's decisions and reduce the burden on the courts; Closer alignment of the FOI and Access to Information on the Environment regimes; Extension of the FOI Act to all bodies in receipt of significant public funding; Revision of the process for resolving disputes as to whether bodies are covered by the Act.



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'Cutbacks will be dependent on Govt compensation'

Covid-19 will have a "significant impact" on the Council's next budget, Director of Finance Brian Gleeson told Councillors last week. Mr Gleeson said that Government compensation will be key to knowing the extent of the cutbacks that will be necessary.

He said that the Council is currently looking to identify potential areas where savings can be made, but that no hard decisions would be taken until the amount of Government compensation is known.

The Council is €4 million worse off in terms of commercial rates than it was at this time last year. There have been further incurred losses totalling nearly €1 million (reductions in planning receipts, litter fines, reduced activity at harbours, and the temporary closure of Cleremont Campus in Rathnew). Mr Gleeson said that a discussion would have to take place with Carlow IT to see what their plans are for the use of the campus going forward.

As well as reduced income, the Council's expenditure has also greatly increased through the necessary purchasing of Personal Protective Equipment, signage, IT equipment, and building modifications such as perspex screens.

Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council said all of the Council's departments

would be open in July. The planning department public counter has already reopened to members of the public by appointment only. Further details are on the Council's website, www.wicklow.ie.

While some car parks are open (Upper car park at Glendalough; South Beach car park, Mill Road, Greystones; Park and Ride, Woodlands Avenue, Greystones; Trafalgar Road, car park, Greystones; La Touche Road car park, Greystones; Harbour/Marina public car park, Greystones; Bray Head car park; Brittias Bay car parks north and south; Sugar loaf car park; Seaview Avenue car park, Arklow; South Beach car park Arklow; The Cove car park Arklow; Knockieran and Baltyboys car parks Blessington; Bray Harbour), parking restrictions continue to remain at a number of locations (Bellevue Hill, at Kindlestown Woods entrance, Greystones; Sea Road, Kilcoole, at Kilcoole train station; Sea Road, Newcastle, at the beach railway level crossing access; Magheramore Beach Wicklow; Sallygap

Wicklow).

The Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk as well as the Beach Cliff Walk to Wicklow Head remain closed, including the Glen Turn Car Park serving this location, due to physical distancing concerns. Mr Curran said that the Council would look at re-opening the cliff walks in July.

The official bathing season began on 1st of June as did lifeguard patrols. Beaches patrolled this year are Bray (North & South Prom), Greystones (South Beach); Wicklow Harbour, Brittias Bay (North & South) and Arklow South Beach. Patrols will be in operation from 11am to 7pm each day through to the end of August.

The County Wicklow Community Call helpline service continues to operate over the weekend during the hours of 8.00 am to 8.00 pm, Telephone: 1800 868 399 or email covidsupport@wicklowcoco.ie.

Trained staff are available to co-ordinate assistance to elderly and vulnerable persons.

Four Blue Flags for Wicklow beaches, while Arklow misses out on Green Coast Award

An Taisce recently announced the International Blue Flag and Green Coast Award recipients for 2020. The awards were announced by Ian Diamond, Coastal Awards manager with An Taisce's Education Unit, the national operator of Blue Flag and Green Coast Award programmes in the Republic of Ireland.

Wicklow was awarded four Blue Flags; Bray South Promenade, Greystones, Brittias Bay North and Brittias Bay South.

There was also disappointment however as Arklow did not meet the required water quality to obtain Green Coast Award status this year.

The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels. The Blue Flag originated in France in 1985 when French coastal Local Authorities were awarded with the Blue Flag for compliance with sewage treatment and bathing water quality criteria. It was launched as an International programme as part of the "European Year of the Environment in 1987. In 1988, the first year sites were awarded outside of France 19 beaches and 2 marinas received the Blue Flag in Ireland. This year Ireland

continues to punch above its weight with a record equalling 90 sites awarded, up 2 on last year's total.

The programme aims to raise environmental awareness and promote sound environmental management of beaches, marinas and inland bathing waters around the world. The 80 Irish beaches and 10 marinas that have achieved this accolade must adhere to specific criteria related to water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety and site management.

An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland is responsible for the operation of the Blue Flag programme in Ireland on behalf of the Foundation of Environmental Education (FEE). 49 Countries operate the Blue Flag programme globally and more than 4400 sites and eco-

tourism boats will be awarded in 45 countries this year.

In announcing the awards from home via Facebook Live Mr. Ian Diamond, Coastal Awards Manager with An Taisce's Environmental Education unit concluded "Visits to the beach this summer will not be the same, while we go to the beach to relax and unwind we still have to be mindful of the need to social distance and bringing hand sanitizer in addition to sunscreen

with us will take some getting use to. We must also bear in mind the additional pressure being put on local authorities to manage our beaches in the most difficult of circumstances. With unprecedented numbers forced to stay at home for the past few months from work and school we must be cognisant of the challenges facing those managing our beaches. In the same manner as we have all worked together against Covid-19 we must

all exercise personal responsibility to enjoy our beaches in a safe and sustainable way. I am delighted to announce today the recipients of 90 Blue Flags and 60 Green Coast Awards for 2020. I would like to congratulate the Local Authorities, community groups and marina managers on their success in achieving Blue Flag or Green Coast Award status. I would also like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer".



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DEGREE, DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES FOR 2020 - 2021



Deer hunter poses as Uplands Council rep

An individual claiming to be associated with the Wicklow Uplands Council and its Wicklow Deer Management Project has been calling to farmers in the county in recent weeks seeking permission for the recreational hunting of deer on their land.

Wicklow Uplands Council released a statement recently declaring that the person "has no involvement with the organisation or the Deer Management Project", and that the Uplands Council would not approach landowners in this manner, especially during the Covid-19 restrictions. It's understood that the alarm was raised when the individual, calling door to door, unwittingly called upon a landowner connected with the Uplands Council. It's understood that the individual has been identified. He resides outside the county but has been operating in areas on the edge of Wicklow Mountains National Park, and it is not yet known how many deer he killed, if any. Speaking following the release of the statement, Pat Mellon, Project Manager of the Wicklow Deer Management Project added "The scope of the project does not include recreational shooting and all contact with landowners is conducted formally by myself rather than individual third parties. This development is of great concern to all involved and will be closely monitored to prevent any further incidents of false representation".

The Uplands Council stated that "the actions of this individual are potentially damaging to both the reputation of the organisation and the project, and therefore Wicklow Uplands Council is asking any landowner who may have been approached, or have concerns, to contact project manager, Pat Mellon at 0873410621 or 012818406".

The Wicklow Deer Management Project was officially launched in 2018 to address the adverse impacts of the high deer population in the county. Strategically managed by Wicklow Uplands Council and the Wicklow Deer Management Partnership, the project has successfully established five deer management units (DMUs) in different locations where issues have been identified. There are two in West Wicklow, two in South Wicklow and one in North Wicklow. Each of the units consists of landowners, hunters and other interested parties, who collectively agree upon key objectives on how best to sustainably manage deer found in their locality. Last year 40,000 deer were culled across the country, and about 15,000 were in Co. Wicklow. The size of Wicklow's deer population is unknown but it's been estimated at anything from 50,000 to 150,000. Either way, it's widely considered that Wicklow is home to the largest deer population in the state, which creates challenges that includes extensive damage to forestry and agricultural lands, native woodlands and private gardens, the spread of diseases to livestock, negative impact to sensitive biodiversity such as upland peat-land habitats, road traffic collisions and deer welfare issues. The three-year project continued to operate during the lockdown, however, all activities have been conducted on a reduced basis and physical meetings have not taken place in line with Government guidelines. The first of its type to operate in Ireland, the project is jointly funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Speaking to Wicklow Times, Pat Mellon said "there's two or three deer in the county for every one cow, and they're eating themselves out of their natural habitat and spreading. That's why in recent years we're seeing more deer around the N11/M11 and closer to sea level." In total there are about 50 landowners involved in the project and only two have firearms for the culling of deer. Pat explains that any cull is carried out in a very careful and strategic manner and is fully documented. He says that the aim of any strategic cull is to emulate what happens in nature, which means the culling of the weaker deer. "This differentiates it from recreational shooting where the hunter's aim is to get the 'big stag'." Pat says that early indications of the Deer Management Project's effectiveness are "very good".

"The feedback has been very positive; this can be the roadmap for how to proceed and hopefully it can be rolled out nationwide. The demand for more deer management units is huge. Deer certainly have a place in the eco-system, but they have to be managed and controlled."



Pictured are Tony Clarke, Darren Stephenson and Rudy Montejo, part of the Open Door team delivering vital PPE and test kits to nursing homes, residential units and hospitals in Dublin and Wicklow.

Bray Primary Care Centre nears completion

Minister Simon Harris updated his Wicklow constituents on the progress in opening the new Primary Care Centre in Bray despite the impact of the shutdown over the past few months.

Minister Harris said "The new Bray Primary Care Centre is now largely complete. The GP practice has relocated to the facility and the HSE is currently equipping the centre for other services to commence in the coming weeks.

"The Meals on Wheels will be moving into the centre in the coming weeks and it is expected to have addiction services relocated by June and other services will be July/August. Diagnostic services will take a little longer".

The Bray Primary Care Centre will include the following services when it is fully operational: Carlton

Clinic GP Practice; Public Health Nursing; Dental; Dietetics; Psychology; Occupational Therapy; Speech & Language Therapy; Addiction Treatment Services; Social Work; Counselling; Physiotherapy.

Minister Harris added "I am excited at how the Bray PCC will transform the delivery of healthcare in North Wicklow. Crucially it will also be able to house an X-ray facility which will ensure we can access x-rays in the community without needing to go to hospitals. It is badly needed and I am delighted to have been in a position to deliver this for our community."

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Humanitarian aid agency, GOAL, is calling on young people in Wicklow to join its innovative youth programme aimed at bringing young people in Ireland together with their peers in Africa to contribute to creating a better world. Participants from Ireland and African countries will create, trial, and share a development education resource to guide passionate young people on contributing to a sustainable world for all. GOAL is appealing to those aged between 18 and 25 with volunteering experience and an understanding of global issues, to apply at goalglobal.org/youth/. Pictured are OAL Youth Advisors Poonam Shokar, Elle Loughran, Lea Pesic, and Meadhbh Hayden.

Locals objecting to plan for 200 houses in Enniskerry

Objections have been lodged with Wicklow County Council against a 'Strategic Housing Development' of over 200 residential units on Kilgarron Hill within 100m of Knocksink in Enniskerry.

Local man Pat Carey says "The special conservation status of Knocksink under the EU Habitats directive, which has been implemented into Irish law, means that planning permission should not be granted to any development which could adversely affect the SAC. However, there is a real risk that the developer, who was previously refused permission, may succeed this time. This is because it has already had pre-application consultations with An Bord Pleanála (behind closed doors) and was given the go-ahead to make this application.

"If this development goes ahead, it will - Irrevocably alter the intricate ground-water systems that feed the petrifying springs which are very sensitive to any disturbances in the land; Make Knocksink extremely vulnerable to habitat and biodiversity loss from the pressures caused by increased

human activities, such as people taking shortcuts using undesignated pathways from the new housing development into Knocksink and littering; Lead to the introduction of invasive species through fly tipping of garden waste from the housing development which will upset the delicate balance of biodiversity; Potentially cause flooding due to the poorly designed system for dealing with surface water in this development; Set a precedent for the granting of further large scale incongruous developments; Destroy the natural heritage character of Enniskerry village and result in reputational damage to County Wicklow as the Garden of Ireland and our Irish green credentials. It will inevitably lead to infrastructural problems for the locality as we do not have the roads, lighting, paths, water and waste systems in place to handle a development of this size.

"We need to preserve the special area of conservation and important



Cllr Erika Doyle

source of biodiversity that is Knocksink, and the architectural integrity of Enniskerry village which is an important gateway for national and foreign tourism into the garden of Ireland.

"This is the time to make a stand and halt the dense urbanisation of an area that is otherwise seen, both at home and in European law, as a place of natural beauty and ecological diversity.

"Anyone wishing to object has only until next Monday to lodge their objection with Wicklow County Council," he concluded.

Cllr Erika Doyle, Green Party, told

Wicklow Times, "Having spoken to residents in the Enniskerry area it is clear that they feel aggrieved that a development that has already been refused by An Bord Pleanála has been lodged again with little change, and almost no mitigation measures for the issues raised at the time.

"While there is an urgent need for housing, developments need to be environmentally sympathetic and not negatively affect the community.

"I will be lodging a submission asking for a full Environmental Impact Assessment based on the cumulative impact of the existing and proposed developments on Knocksink Woods, a special area of conservation (SAC).

"There are also concerns around the density of the development, the resultant traffic, the limitations of the surrounding roads and the knock on effect on school places and also the effects on the residents of Parknasilloge," concluded Cllr Doyle.

'I want to bring the Council back to the people'

Fianna Fail's Pat Kennedy from the Arklow Municipal District was last week elected Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, taking over the role from Cllr Irene Winters (FG).

At last week's 'socially-distanced' council meeting in the Shoreline Leisure Centre in Greystones, Cllr Kennedy was officially nominated for the position by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, and Cllr Sylvester Bourke (FG) seconded the motion. His nomination was agreed unanimously.

On being handed the Cathaoirleach's chain, Cllr Kennedy praised the work done by Cllr Winters, saying that she had been "outstanding" in the role and would be "a tough act to follow". He thanked his fellow councillors for electing him unopposed and said that he was honoured and humbled.

There were warm words all around for Cllr Winters, who was only the third female Cathaoirleach of the county.

Cllr Kennedy said the Council needs to do better in promoting its good achievements. He said it would be his aim to "bring the Council back to the people of Co. Wicklow, back to the towns and villages and communities".

Another one of his priorities, he said, would be to put pressure on Irish Water to carry out upgrades to allow for development and increased housing capacity.

Cllr Kennedy said that the Council was facing one of its most challenging years in memory, and reminded his fellow councillors that "great things are rarely achieved by one person".

Cllr Kennedy was first elected to Wicklow County Council in 2014. Born in Glenmalure, he has lived in the area all his life and is married to Helena, a primary

school teacher in Rathdrum, and has three sons; John, Peter and Ciarán.

In 2019, Cllr Kennedy topped the poll in the Arklow Municipal District with 2,471 votes, the largest vote in the whole county.



Cllr Pat Kennedy, new Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council

Council's technical group divided in vote for Leas Cathaoirleach

Councillor Shay Cullen (FG) is the new Leas Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council following a vote at last week's meeting of Wicklow County Council.

Cllr Cullen was elected Leas Cathaoirleach by a vote of 21 to 9 against Cllr Tom Fortune (Ind). Cllr Cullen was nominated by Cllr Vincent Blake (FG) and the nomination was seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald (FF).

The vote revealed an apparent split in the Council's 'technical group' of councillors, which consists of 15

Independent, Labour, Green, Social Democrat and Sinn Fein councillors.

The group is coordinated by Cllr Fortune, and forms an opposing block to the Fine Gael and Fianna Fail axis. However, when the vote was taken, Cllr Fortune was supported by Independent and Sinn Fein councillors but did not get the support of the Green Party, Soc Dem, or Labour councillors. Cllr Cullen was the poll topper in his own Municipal District of Wicklow in last year's local elections and received the second-highest number of first preference votes in the county, next to Cllr Kennedy. He was elected as a first-time candidate in 2014. Cllr Cullen is a resident of Newtownmountkennedy and grew up in Roundwood. Cllr John Snell put forward Cllr



Cllr Shay Cullen

Tom Fortune (Ind) for the position, arguing that the decision should reflect the fifty percent of voters who didn't vote for Fine Fail or Fianna Fail in this year's General Election.

While Cllr Blake mentioned Cllr Cullen's experience, Cllr Snell pointed out that Cllr Fortune has been a councillor since 2004.

Cllr Mary Kavanagh seconded the proposal of Cllr Fortune for Leas Cathaoirleach, calling him a "hard worker and committed representative". Following the vote, Cllr Fortune said

he felt like he had been put forward to face annihilation, and he joked that it was reminiscent of the film Braveheart.

Speaking to *Wicklow Times* after last week's meeting, Cllr Fortune described the result of the vote as "strange": "I didn't think I would win the vote for Leas Cathaoirleach, but what makes it strange is that we see the leaders of Labour Party and the Social Democrats in the news having a go at FF and FG, so I'd love to know the rationale for then supporting FF and FG at the local level," he said.

Regarding the councillors from the technical group that didn't vote for him, Cllr Fortune said he's unsure what their position will be going forward and that the situation would be reviewed.

"If there's some agenda, I don't know what it is," he said. "I know how politics works, but that doesn't make it fair or right".



Cllr Tom Fortune



Jessie O'Connor, with Alya, Jack, and Rose Lowe are pictured at the official opening of the new playground in Roundwood. See more page 17

O'Connor elected as new Chair of Climate SPC

Independent Councillor Rory O'Connor has been elected Chair of Wicklow County Council's Climate & Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee. Cllr O'Connor has backed the Government's Government deal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 7% per annum.

Councillor O'Connor will be the youngest Committee Chair in the history of the State, at the age of 21. O'Connor will take the first two years as Chair and Councillor Lourda Scott will the final two years.

The Strategic Policy Committee assists the council in the formulation, development and review of Climate & Biodiversity policy. The Council is and remains the decision-making authority and it is the task of the committees to advise and assist the council in its work. The SPC system is intended to give elected members

and relevant sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy making process of the Council from the early stages.

The position of Chair was filled by Jennifer Whitmore TD and Steven Matthews TD prior to their election to Dáil Éireann.

Councillor Rory O'Connor said: "I would like to thank all my colleagues for supporting my nomination. My priority is to make Wicklow a national leader in taking on environmental challenges that exist today.

"I would also like to



Cllr Rory O'Connor

election, it needs drastic action now or we will all pay the consequences."

Green Party TD Steven Matthews proposed the formation of the new Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) dedicated to climate and biodiversity action when he was a councillor last year. The committee's role is to produce climate and biodiversity policy and actions for the full council to consider.

Wicklow was the first county in Ireland to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency last year.

welcome the new Government's commitment to reduce Ireland's CO2 output by 7% each year. Climate change can't wait until the next

Create a haven for wildlife

A new booklet to help people in Wicklow look after wildlife in their gardens, no matter how big or small, has been launched. It was produced by Local Authority Heritage Officers across Ireland, with help from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Heritage Council.

Taking a very practical approach, the book details projects to help wildlife of all kinds under a range of headings, with tasks suitable for everyone from the total beginner to the more ambitious DIY enthusiast. With clear instructions and step-by-step drawings by illustrator Barry Reynolds, the guide offers the gardener lots of options to help our biodiversity.

Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer with Wicklow County Council, said: "We are all becoming much more conscious of nature on our doorstep and more people than ever are taking an interest in the birds, bees and bugs that are visiting their gardens. County Wicklow is known as the 'Garden of Ireland' and we hope that this little guide will help anyone who has the time and interest now to make their garden a haven for wildlife."

With increasing agricultural intensification, gardens in many areas can be an oasis for wildlife, and with small changes we can make them even better. The guide outlines actions that can be taken to improve gardens for birds, bees, butterflies, bats and more, and the good news is many of the steps that can be taken are really easy.

Just leaving an "untidy" corner of your garden for nature, leaving roadside verges to grow naturally or allowing some of the gold star plants for biodiversity - dandelion, willow, bramble, clover, ivy to thrive in a small patch of your garden can reap huge dividends for wildlife.

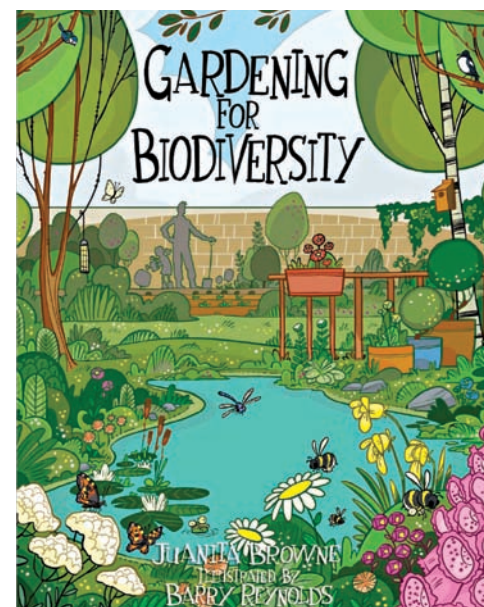
Author of the guide, Juanita Browne, said: "I hope that this simple guide to gardening with biodiversity in mind will help all of us to create gardens that are more wildlife-friendly. Gardening for biodiversity doesn't equate to letting your garden go wild, but simply doing things a little differently. For instance, when choosing plants to buy in a garden centre, perhaps you could choose plants that have insects on their flowers. Or you could create a wildflower strip around your lawn where dandelions, daisies, clover and other wildflowers are allowed to grow. These small changes can bring huge benefits for biodiversity."

For the more adventurous the book contains step-

by-step guidance on how to build a bird bath, create a log pile for hedgehogs and mini beasts, and how to install a pond or bog garden. With an estimated 2m gardens in this country, action by just some of those gardeners could make a huge difference for our native wildlife.

But it won't just benefit the biodiversity. There is increasing evidence that time spent in nature is good for our own mental health and well-being too. As more of us spend time closer to home, regular contact with the natural world has become ever more important. A 2016 World Health Organisation review found that urban green spaces, such as parks, playgrounds, and gardens, can promote mental and physical health, and reduce morbidity and mortality in urban residents by providing psychological relaxation and stress alleviation, stimulating social cohesion, supporting physical activity, and reducing exposure to air pollutants, noise and excessive heat.[1]

"Gardening for Biodiversity", funded by the Department for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as part of an initiative to encourage projects under the National Biodiversity Action Plan, is available to download for free at www.wicklow.ie/heritage or free hard copies can be ordered by e mailing dburns@wicklowcoco.ie



'Programme for Government lacks 'the needed emergency response to biodiversity', Birdwatch Ireland says

BirdWatch Ireland has broadly welcomed the publication of the Programme for Government, which mentions biodiversity 50 times. The Kilcoole-based organisation said this represents significant progress since the 2016 Programme for Government which did not mention it at all. However, Birdwatch Ireland said "there are no clear targets, urgency, concrete actions or funding commitments to address Ireland's biodiversity emergency."

On May 9th 2019 the Dáil declared a biodiversity and climate emergency, based on grave national and international scientific evidence that humanity was having a devastating impact on habitats, species and on our climate.

Birdwatch Ireland submitted 50 detailed sectoral and cross cutting "asks" in advance of government formation talks and based on our Manifesto for Nature to address the biodiversity emergency. Two of those asks are included in the Programme for Government and there are partial commitments to six others.

BirdWatch Ireland said "The Programme for Government had an opportunity to reflect the scientific evidence and to bring back thriving biodiversity as a permanent feature of the Irish landscape through transformational policies, but it has only touched the tip of the iceberg. Sectoral safeguards for biodiversity are also missing including the urgent need to address gaps in the knowledge on seabirds in relation to offshore wind farm development."

Oonagh Duggan Assistant Head of Policy and Advocacy said "Biodiversity is finally on the

political agenda but much more needs to be done to address the biodiversity emergency. We support the direction of travel of this Programme for Government and we will work hard with all parties to ensure that much more will be achieved for wild birds and their habitats, other biodiversity and a stable climate."

Birdwatch Ireland has called on the new government to set up a long-promised Citizens' Assembly to address biodiversity loss within its first 100 days.

While the Programme commits to the EU Green Deal, there are no firm commitments to the ambitious targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 which a key part of BirdWatch Ireland's "asks" of political parties in the run-up to this year's General Election, including setting a legally binding target that at least 30% of Irish land and sea be primarily managed for nature with 10% strictly protected and a target of restoration of 15% of terrestrial habitats and seas.

BirdWatch Ireland said it is very disappointed that no additional funding has been committed to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the state body

which leads on the protection of biodiversity in Ireland and whose funding has never recovered from the 2008 recession cuts.

Oonagh Duggan continued: "The proposed €1.5bn REPS 2 scheme encourages planting of native forestry and enhancing biodiversity, but this new money will need to be strategically targeted so that the most threatened species and habitats benefit and are not further threatened.

"Ireland has been a leader in targeted results-based agri-environment schemes but there needs to be many more. We welcome the support in the Programme for Government for these. Supporting landscape scale, well-funded actions with long contracts would incentivise farmers to farm for Curlew (and other threatened species), or to farm for carbon.

"In relation to the Marine the EU Biodiversity Strategy targets of 30% designation for nature and 10% strict protection by 2030 must be set in stone. The transformational policies required based on the science to address the biodiversity emergency are still to come and we will work with the new government to develop and implement them."



Newtownmountkennedy got a face-lift last week when it was adorned with the artwork of the pupils and staff of Newtownmountkennedy Primary School. With the theme 'I am.....', pupils and staff made a piece of art as an expression of their experience during Covid 19 culminating in five separate displays entitled 'Together - Apart' / 'Le Chéile-Óna Chéile'. These can now be viewed during the month of June in The Post Office, Eugene's Foodstore, The Credit Union, Adrian Dunnes Pharmacy and The Parkview Hotel. The project highlights the collaborative and supportive community in Newtownmountkennedy and the hope, optimism and resilience they hold.

Increase in visitors brings increase in litter to Glenmalure

An increase in visitors to the Wicklow Uplands recently, as a result of the good weather and an easing of travel restrictions, has led to an increase in littering and illegal dumping, PURE Project have observed.

The latest area to be affected was the Glenmalure Valley, where over the second weekend in June there were numerous incidences of camping sites being abandoned and litter left behind.

Rubbish removed included, tents, camping chairs, sleeping bags, barbecues, bottles, cans, and numerous other items, which were all discarded on the landscape. All the gathered waste was taken away by a PURE Truck last Tuesday morning.

Ian Davis, Manager of Pure commented, "The Glenmalure Pure Mile Group, and the Pure Project, are working extremely hard at keeping the Glenmalure valley clean and pristine, the way it should be. The majority of people who visit Glenmalure respect the valley, however, there are some who don't, and it's disappointing and frustrating that a minority of visitors are running it for everyone."

In relation to the recent littering and abandoned camping material, a member of the Glenmalure Pure Mile Committee stated, "We responded quickly by organising a well-supported emergency litter pick to tackle the waste left behind after the weekend. This ensures that it does not cause any further environmental damage and it lets people know that littering in valley will not be tolerated."

The Glenmalure Pure Mile Group, are requesting that all visitors to the scenic Glenmalure valley, and the Wicklow Uplands to 'take out what you bring in'.

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Wicklow County Council also recorded a significant increase in illegal dumping and fly tipping before lockdown restrictions were eased.

All domestic waste services have noted increases in waste generated at home as people spend more time there. The increase in dumping is most noticeably in the form of small-scale fly tipping with individual items dumped or small quantities of household waste by individuals.

Last year Pure removed 150 tonnes of illegal dumping from the Wicklow/Dublin Mountains, a 56% reduction from the 344 tonnes they removed in 2009. Although Pure recorded its lowest amount of illegal dumping collected from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands in 2019, litter continues to be a problem.

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 they have recorded an annual reduction in illegal dumping activity. This reduction in dumping is a direct correlation with the increase of Pure Mile areas.

Thousands of volunteers are participating in the Pure Mile Project and this year there are over 550 miles of roads, mountains, woodlands, valleys, and upland amenities being adopted, with hundreds of litter picks and cleanups having already taken place.

'West Wicklow's recreational deficit must be addressed'

Social Democrats TD for Wicklow Jennifer Whitmore has called for more recreational facilities for West Wicklow saying "COVID-19 has revealed the lack of outdoor and indoor recreational spaces for people living in this part of Wicklow and it is time that this is addressed once and for all".

Deputy Whitmore says "Since the advent of the pandemic people across Wicklow have been enjoying, in greater numbers, outdoor spaces in their locality while indoor recreational facilities have been shutdown. But for those in West Wicklow COVID19 has highlighted the lack of space for recreational use. Now that the lifting of restrictions will eventually see facilities reopening across Wicklow, a recreational deficit is emerging in West Wicklow which must be addressed sooner rather than later.

"Since before I was elected as TD, I was in close contact with a number of community groups in West Wicklow, including the Pool for West Wicklow committee in Blessington, the Allotment group and Blessington Football Club. They have revealed the level of demand for more recreational spaces in the area, particularly for a pool-

based facility for use by local residents and surrounding communities. While other parts of Wicklow have enjoyed the establishment of sports complexes, that provide not only community swimming pools, but also pitches and sports facilities, some areas, such as West Wicklow have been left behind. It's time to address this recreational deficit by moving on the proposals put forward by community groups particularly the Pool for West Wicklow Committee.

"There is sufficient land available to the Council near the Avon Ri Hotel, which has so much potential for development as a recreational centre and I have been in touch with Wicklow Council on the matter who see the potential of such a development. Not only would residents of Blessington benefit from such a development but also surrounding communities who by visiting a centre such as this



Jennifer Whitmore TD

will bring in more football beneficial to local businesses. It would also link in well with the tourism opportunities at the site, particularly once the Blessington Greenway is fully operational. "County Wicklow as a commuter town has been experiencing rapid population growth, yet services have not caught up with the needs of expanding communities across the county. Recreational facilities seem to be an afterthought in overall planning and development when really we need to think of recreation as a necessary pillar to the sustainability of any

community. Recreational spaces are better for overall health and wellbeing, particularly for young people who have no other options apart from sports-related activities.

"Wicklow Council have been supportive of the concept so far and I hope the opportunity will be grasped to really turn this site into a first-class sports facility for the town and district.

"We need to maximise the funding of community facilities, such as swimming pools, skate parks and robust activity areas through the Sports Capital Programme, and other funding streams. Young and old alike will benefit from more parks, community centres, allotments and green spaces, and recreational centres as proposed by the Pool for West Wicklow Committee. I look forward to working with the Council and the community on these important projects."

20 beds re-opened at Wicklow District Hospital

Twenty beds in the closed Wicklow District Hospital in Wicklow Town have been re-opened. The HSE confirmed that Wicklow District Hospital is currently being refurbished to fit out twenty social care beds for Covid related activity. Wicklow District Hospital closed in 2010 following a report from HIQA which outlined minor works that were needed in the Hospital.

Speaking after he received confirmation of the hospitals reopening Deputy John Brady said "It's really positive news that Wicklow District Hospital which has been closed for the last 10 years is to have twenty social care beds reopened for Covid related activity. Sections of the hospital have already been reopened as a Covid test centre and refurbishment work is ongoing to have the twenty beds brought online for Covid related activity.

"In 2010 Wicklow District Hospital closed down, this was despite a massive community campaign to try keep it open. Ultimately it was a political decision of the then Fianna Fáil/Green government that allowed the hospital to close. They hid behind a report from HIQA which showed that minor works were needed in the hospital. Evidence was shown at the time that the work could be done quickly and economically to ensure the hospital could remain open.

"The fact that twenty beds in the hospital are reopening is great news, however it severely exposes the false reasons that were used to close it in 2010. The reality is the current minor refurbishment works in the hospital could and should have been carried out in 2010. The only thing that stopped it was the political will.

"Once these beds are re-opened we must ensure that

they remain open into the future and that they are not closed post Covid. Having the hospital open in Wicklow Town has always been a major benefit to the community and the political will must be there to ensure that it's not pulled from the community again."



Deputy Brady at Wicklow District Hospital



People of Wicklow urged to shop local to help the recovery

Though things are not quite back to normal, we are all adjusting to the 'new normal', and around Co. Wicklow the green shoots of recovery can be seen as many businesses have re-opened, albeit with some changes to services and opening hours.

To aid the recovery of the local economy, it's more important than ever now to shop local and support local businesses that were forced to shut up shop in recent months.

Though travel restrictions have been eased, it's important to think of your local traders first before you head off to the city.

Steven Matthews, Green Party TD and Spokesperson for Business, Enterprise and Innovation has urged Wicklow residents to prioritise shopping locally to help businesses get back on their feet.

"Businesses returning from lockdown need our support to get them over the hump. There are some financial supports available and I urge any business having difficulty accessing these supports to contact me and I will assist where I can.

"In terms of shopping locally many shops and businesses trade online. So even if you can't get what you need at the physical store, check and see if they operate an online store. That way you can support local business from the comfort of your home. While Covid related restrictions continue, this is a great alternative to shopping in person. Your local chamber can help you with accessing further information.

"More than ever we need to pull together to ensure the survival of our locally owned business and services. They are the lifeblood of our towns, they employ our family and friends and we need to step up where we can to help them survive."

Wicklow Chamber says "By supporting a Wicklow business you are helping to support local jobs at this tough time and aiding embattled Irish businesses to weather the current storm. This is a hugely challenging time for everyone, but by working together and supporting those close to us we can all get through it together. Wicklow Chamber is also calling on local consumers

to consider buying online vouchers for their favourite restaurants, cafes, bars and hotels.

Chambers Ireland recently welcomed the launch and publication by Government of the new National "Return to Work Safely" Protocol.

The Protocol serves as a framework to support employers and employees to put measures in place that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace when the economy begins to slowly open.

Speaking at the launch this afternoon, Chambers Ireland Chief Executive Ian Talbot said, "The process involved in reopening the economy will not be a simple one. Ensuring the health and safety of workers, employers and consumers continues to be our shared goal. As businesses around the country plan for how they will adapt to operating during a pandemic, today's Protocol will be an essential framework to enable that.

"The opportunity to collaborate and consult in the production of the Protocol is very much welcomed by our members. It is intended that this will be a living document and will respond to the changing circumstances we find ourselves in over the coming weeks and months.

"Our own priority has been to ensure that the Protocol is cognisant of the needs of SMEs, as well as larger companies, so that all businesses are supported to re-open, when the time is right. We would also remind Government that the process of re-opening will come with additional costs for many employers, as was found in research published by Chambers Ireland last week. These costs will impact viability in many cases. More financial supports, along with the expansion of grants, will be essential if employers are to restore jobs and successfully re-open within the parameters in place due to the virus. We welcome ongoing dialogue with Government on this matter."

Wicklow County Council is reopening its libraries to the public for "Browse and Borrow"

Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Arklow & Blessington - Mon 22 June

Preparing to open all other 8 libraries - week beginning Mon 29 June

You are welcome to come in and choose your books / CDs / talking books / DVDs.

We have a delivery service in place to people cocooning, who are unable to get to the library, covering all areas of county Wicklow. Ask staff for details

There will be

- A welcome from staff on your return!
- Physical distancing
- Limits on numbers in libraries at any given time
- Hand sanitizing, on entering the building
- Directional signage
- Possibility to request items from libraries across the county - but not yet nationwide
- Remote printing

There won't be (at this stage)

- Study facilities
- PC facilities
- Newspapers / magazines
- Public seating

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Email: arklowlibrary@wicklowcoco.ie

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Email: cagnew@wicklowcoco.ie

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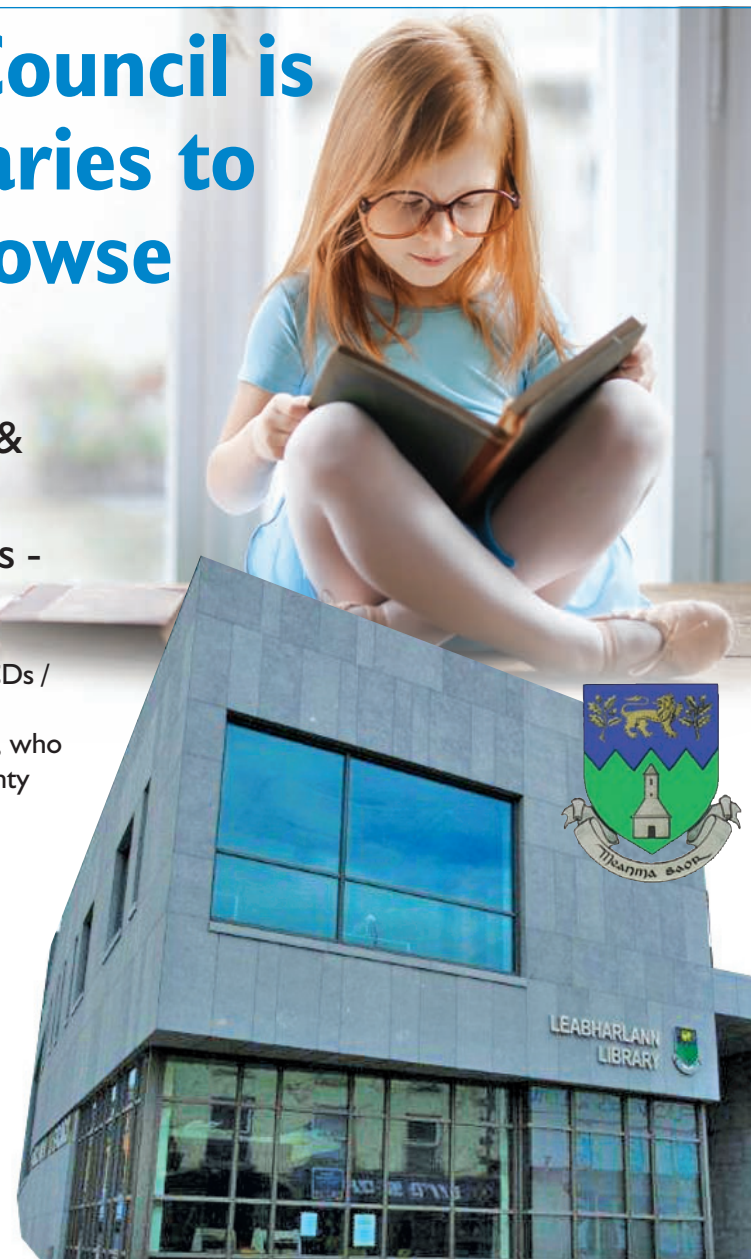
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Rathdrum library
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Email: MgtByrne@wicklowcoco.ie

Tinahely library
Phone: (0404) 38080
Email: MCarty@wicklowcoco.ie

Wicklow library
Email: wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie
Phone: (0404) 67025



Opening hours may have changed, so see www.wicklow.ie/libraries for up to date times



Wicklow is OPEN for Business

Bray is bouncing back

Bray's Reopening Committee is working to help local bray businesses bounce back safely. The Reopening Committee which was established by Wicklow County Council to help co-ordinate Bray's reopening met on Monday, 8th June.

During this meeting the topics discussed included looking at a wide range of workable solutions so that Bray is a safer environment for the public and for businesses as Covid-19 restrictions begin to ease. Council engineers have surveyed the main shopping areas and have implemented some temporary changes on Novara Avenue and Florence Road to ensure a safe space for people to navigate and businesses to operate in. Over the coming weeks, the Council's cleaning staff will be

cleansing high footfall areas around the town. Teams will clean street surfaces with inconvenience to the public and businesses kept to a minimum. Standardised Temporary Ground Graphics are being issued in order to help businesses implement queuing measures to encourage social distancing. All businesses are being encouraged to introduce these graphics supplied once received and refrain from implementing their own solutions. The Committee is keen to work closely with the local business community, to find new and innovative ways to keep everyone safe in

this 'new normal'. As part of this consultation process, it is asking businesses if they have any ideas to submit them using the form on bray.ie/covid19businessinfohub and the Committee will look at the feasibility of implementing practical suggestions received. The purpose of Bray's Reopening Committee is to coordinate reopening planning. It will be working in partnership with local stakeholders including members of the Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána to plan for a considered, responsible return to civic life which is vital to help to restart the local economy in the town.

Full-time libraries re-open for browsing and borrowing

Wicklow's full-time libraries are re-opening to the public. All libraries have now been modified to comply with strict COVID-19 requirements.

Wicklow's full-time libraries are re-opening to the public. All libraries have now been modified to comply with strict COVID-19 requirements.

The five full-time libraries - Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Arklow and Blessington - re-opened this week on 22nd June, while the remaining eight part-time libraries are getting ready to re-open from Monday, 29th June.

Director of Services, Michael Nicholson explained: "It's great to be able to welcome customers back to our libraries. We have made a lot of changes to ensure that everyone is safe when they visit. While people have been delighted with our limited library service, it is clear that there is a huge demand to actually come into the building to browse through our selection of books."

Hand hygiene stations have been installed in all libraries and social distancing requirements will have to be observed. All returned books will be



quarantined before being shelved. "The reintroduction of services is on a phased basis, in line with guidance from the national government. At this stage, we are not in a position to allow study or IT facilities, but this is a significant step in the return to our full library service," the Council said.

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, Cllr Pat Kennedy, welcomed this news, stating: "The public are delighted to be able to visit their library again. I am particularly pleased that Wicklow County Council's libraries will be some of the first libraries in the country to reopen. It is also great news that the home delivery service for people who are housebound, or cocooning, will continue throughout the summer, for every corner of the county. There has been a great uptake on this and I encourage anyone who needs books, but can't get to their library, to contact their nearest branch."

Details of all libraries in county Wicklow may be found on: www.wicklow.ie/libraries

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Arklow: 0402-41853
E: John.brady@oireachtas.ie

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E: gracemcmanusf@gmail.com

Dermot O'Brien
T: 086 063 5195
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Cllr. RORY O'CONNOR

INDEPENDENT

Wicklow is OPEN for Business

Council's Start-Up grants start to flow

Following the recent announcement by the Minister of Business, in relation to the Business Restart Scheme, an online application process was established by Wicklow County Council allowing local businesses to submit their applications via the website on www.wicklow.ie/BusinessReStart.

Local authorities are responsible for the administration of the scheme but not the funding of it. The first tranche of funding under the scheme was issued to all local authorities from Enterprise Ireland last week. To this end, Wicklow County was in a position to commence the payment of grants under the scheme to local businesses last week. Wicklow County Council will continue to process applications in order of priority according to the Governments' Roadmap, subject to the level of applications received. To avail of the Restart Grant, applicants must be a commercially rateable business and: Have an annual turnover of less than €5m and have 50 or less employees; Have suffered a projected 25%+



Gail DUNNE



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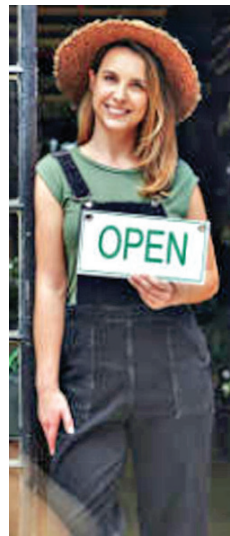
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Web: tomfortune.ie Twitter: @CllrTomF
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loss in turnover from 1st April 2020 to 30th June 2020 : Commit to remain open or to reopen if it was closed and Declare the intention to retain employees that are currently on The Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme.



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SIMON HARRIS

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Operational guidelines published for safe re-opening of the tourism and hospitality industry

Fáilte Ireland has published sector specific operational guidelines for the tourism industry to ensure the safe re-opening of tourism businesses on June 29th.

The National Tourism Development Authority developed the guidelines in collaboration with industry groups; the Irish Hotels Federation (IHF), the Irish Self Catering Federation (ISCF), the Irish Caravan and Camping Council, the Association of Visitor Experiences (AVEA), Ireland's Association of Adventure Tourism (IAAT) and B&B Ireland. Relevant Government departments including the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and the Department of Health, State agencies including the Health Service Executive (HSE), wider Government and the Labour Employer Economic Forum (LEEF)

were also consulted in the drafting of these operational guidelines which are in line with the Government's Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business and the Return to Work Safely Protocol. The guidelines provide detailed advice on the necessary systems to be implemented in order to instil public confidence and reboot business while adhering to public health advice and Government protocols. They are the first in a suite of new supports being rolled out by Fáilte Ireland to help tourism businesses to recover and re-open safely. The guidelines are live on Fáilte Ireland's dedicated COVID-19 Business Support Hub on

www.failteireland.ie.

Sector specific guidelines are available for: Hotels & Guesthouses, Self-Catering businesses, Caravan & Camping businesses, Visitor Attractions, Activity Providers, B&Bs & Historic Houses, Restaurants & Cafes. Fáilte Ireland's sector specific operational guidelines will be regularly updated in line with Government public health advice as and when this advice evolves. This includes any further guidance that is given following work by the Health Protection Surveillance Centre and National Public Health Emergency Team on the application of the existing social distancing requirements in specific,

defined and controlled environments in the hospitality industry during periods of low incidence of the disease.

Paul Kelly, CEO of Fáilte Ireland, said the new guidelines are a 'critical part in helping tourism businesses re-open safely'.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Fáilte Ireland has created an online COVID-19 Business Support Hub for the tourism and hospitality industry which includes expert guidance and practical supports on business liquidity, insurance, HR risk, safeguarding future revenues, and more.

Following the development of the new guidelines for safe re-opening, Fáilte Ireland is working with tourism businesses to support them to determine the capacity of their business and the financial

implications of this new operating model. A new suite of financial recovery supports, a 'Calculating Capacity' tool and supports around HR for re-opening are now available on the COVID-19 Business Support Hub.

To access the new Fáilte Ireland operational guidelines for re-opening and to find out more about Fáilte Ireland's suite of free supports, please visit the online COVID-19 Business Support Hub.

In April, Wicklow hoteliers called for a range of measures to allow businesses to plan for their recovery. These include: Local Authority rates and water charges: to be waived for a minimum period of 12 months; Cash flow & finance: measures to assist with cash flow for businesses facing short term problems, including interest free loans and a minimum 12-month deferment on Senior debt (both Capital and Interest); tourism VAT rates to be reduced to zero for a minimum of 12 months and until the industry has

recovered, then restored to 9% on a permanent basis. Employer's PRSI to be reduced to 0.5% for a minimum of 12 months and until the industry has recovered; business interruption grants to help businesses survive and reopen; Supports for seasonal workers in tourism who do not currently qualify for Covid-19 related payments.

Gerard O'Brien, Chair of the Wicklow branch of

the Irish Hotels Federation said "At present most of our industry nationally is closed. We are seeking an urgent response to ensure that hotel and guesthouse properties are preserved and ready to scale up when the Covid-19 related restrictions are lifted. Government controlled costs such as local authority rates, VAT and employer's PRSI are having an enormously negative impact on viability scenar-

ios during the recovery period. We recognise that the Government is being forced to increase the level of national debt to fund the health crisis and must protect the exchequer to fund ongoing services. However, these urgent measures are required now to help our industry recover and play its part in ensuring that the Irish economy will be strong enough to service post COVID-19 national debt.

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Thank you to all our clients and colleagues who enabled us to provide essential services during the pandemic within government guidelines. We continue to take all measures possible to ensure your safety and the safety of our staff and look forward to being of service to you as Wicklow re-opens.

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Wicklow businesses are urged to apply for the Restart Grant

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“We have a full range of cylinder sizes, including patio gas in stock. If you would like a delivery please call us on 01-2860254. You can also drop into our yard from 8.30am to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, where your safety is paramount.

“We wish you and your families all the best of health for the coming years.

Applications for the Government-backed Restart Grant Scheme are invited by Wicklow County Council from small businesses across the County.

Under the €250m scheme, micros and small businesses can apply for grants of between €2,000 and €10,000 to get their businesses up-and-running again. The scheme is being administered by Wicklow County Council and grant applications can be made online through the Council's website.

There are several simple actions that have been implemented across the town of Bray to help drive a message of 'Unity in the community' during these

uncertain and challenging times. They include: Temporary public signage to help pedestrians observe social distancing rules throughout the major public spaces in the town; 'Unity in our community' flags are flying high on the seafront to show a symbol of local strength, unity and pride; Temporary ground graphics will showcase 'Positivity Stones' which aims to help promote positive mental health and wellbeing. The first posi-

tivity stones were added to Bray beach during Connect Ballywaltrim's 24-Hour Youth Marathon last summer which was hosted by Connect Bray Neighbourhood Youth Project. The dedicated COVID-19 information hub's aim is to help connect local businesses with customers, share some practical hints, tips, supports and links to help the town og Bray and community bounce back. The hubs can be accessed via bray.ie.

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Advice for creating a safe post COVID-19 work environment


As the Government's roadmap to re-opening Ireland has begun, Hugh Wallace, Architect and Director of Douglas Wallace Consultants is already working with clients on their approach to re-opening their offices.

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In accordance with NSAI and Government issued protocols, here are some key aspects to be considered when devising a Covid-19 response plan:

- Ensuring your workplace is Covid-19 prepared requires an initial comprehensive risk assessment of the current office environment in terms of its likeliness to spread Covid-19 and how easy or difficult it would be to implement necessary changes

- The application of physical distancing is crucial, but clearly this has to be weighed up with the practicalities of the workplace environment

- Circulation protocols in offices will be essential to protect staff from

Covid-19

- Desks must be shared as little as possible with a rigid cleaning protocol introduced to ensure that each workstation is fully cleaned and sanitized prior to and directly after use.

- Staggering of the workforce is likely to become the new normal, but this is a complex task as it requires evaluation of the staff and team resources, ways of working and the recording and logging of staff attendances

- All of these new systems need to ensure that the operating protocols have been implemented, adhered to and recorded

- Staff induction will be necessary to the re-opening of the work environment. They will need to have a full understanding of the new ways of working, the new systems in place and the new hygiene procedures to be followed

- Employees need to have confidence in re-entering their work environment with access to new procedure guidelines - and most importantly who to ask if in doubt.

Hugh Wallace said: "There's no doubt the way we do business is changing but the health of all employees is key to the continuation of productive working environments. This does not automatically mean the spending of already tight cash flows on costly fixtures and fittings. Clear signage, proper hygiene and cleaning practices, as well as a very practical and pragmatic approach will all help to sustain the fight against Covid-19. With the majority of people returning to work by August, now is the time to plan. While glass screens are useful, people will still need to maintain a two-metre social distance. Perhaps where there were four in an office, there can only

be two."

There also needs to be thought placed on what happens if a case of Covid-19 occurs.

- Businesses will need a practical procedure to deal with an outbreak including how to isolate the suspected case (creation of specific isolation space), how to provide the personal support and how to establish contact tracing

- As well as how to re-engage the procedures and functions of the business after the suspected case, it's about ensuring companies have a pathway to follow.

Wallace concluded: "Devising a Covid-19 response plan that complies with Government issued requirements and rec-

ommendations is key - both as a vehicle to establish a way forward and also a way of documenting key Safety & Health protocols for record. It will require the full engagement of the employers and employees."

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*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges as a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement

Roundwood & Laragh Playgrounds



Two new playgrounds were opened in County Wicklow last Monday - one in Laragh and the second in Roundwood. The playgrounds were opened as COVID-19 restrictions were eased, allowing them to be enjoyed straight away by children in the local communities.



Lynn Tyndall and Liam O'Duill at the official opening of the new playground in Roundwood.

The playground in Laragh nestles in the grounds of the Brockagh Resource Centre and the second in Roundwood, beside the Roundwood and District Athletics track.

Both playgrounds have been eagerly anticipated and long sought after.

The potential for a playground in Roundwood first came to the attention of Wicklow County Council in 2012 while Laragh did not have to wait as long, as 2017 was the first time a playground was mentioned.

Both playgrounds were funded by Wicklow County Council, Community Cultural and Social Development section and progressed by Director of Service, Michael Nicholson.

Cllr Irene Winters, who as Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council performed the official openings, highlighted the importance of play in society and particularly following the latest COVID-19 restrictions which impacted especially hard on young children who express themselves through play.

"Not every child wants to be spending hours sitting in front of a screen and this is where community playgrounds play an integral part in society," she said, adding: "They are also a meeting place for parents and can lead to strong friendships and open up a social outlet for young mothers who may be isolated at home with small children."

Mr Frank Curran,

Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, thanked the two companies who did an outstanding job on the playgrounds: Play and Leisure Services who built Laragh's playground and Haffey Playgrounds who completed the Roundwood project. He also thanked the Wicklow Municipal District staff and Councillors for their ongoing support of playgrounds within their area.

A special note of thanks was also paid to the Roundwood and District Athletics club for their co-

operation with the development of the Roundwood facility.

It is hoped that these playgrounds bring lots of joy and magic into the lives of younger members of both communities for many years to come.

The council has developed signage outlining the rules of use of playgrounds for the safety of children. The new rules include a requirement that children using the playgrounds are to be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.



Lily May and Lucy Smyth at the official opening of the new playground at the Brockagh Centre in Laragh.



Jordie Butterworth and Cllr Irene Winters at the official opening of the new playground at the Brockagh Centre in Laragh.

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Stephen and Linda Russell from Wicklow weaving a fish from Willow as part of Cruinniú na nÓg. See story on page 20.

New car registrations plummet

The Society of the Irish Motor Industry (SIMI) released their official new vehicle statistics, revealing that new car registrations in Co. Wicklow for April and May declined dramatically, with a drastic 99% fall in April alone.

Just 2 new cars were registered in Co. Wicklow in April this year, compared to 163 in April 2019. In May there were 39 new car registrations compared to 106 in May 2019.

In total this year, there have been 1,180 new registrations in Wicklow compared to 1,640 by this time last year.

Retailer's showrooms remained closed until the 18th of May, as a result of COVID-19 impacting heavily on sales.

Brian Cooke, SIMI Director General commenting on the market figures said: "Our Industry is grateful to be open for business again. SIMI members continue to implement social distancing and sanitisation measures, in accordance with both Industry and State guidelines, that will protect both their employees and customers against the spread of COVID-19. With new car sales for the month over 70% down on May last year and with both the dire economic outlook for the rest of the year and no hire drive activity, it is clearly going to be a very challenging period for the Industry. In the short term the State should expedite the safe re-opening of NCT, while also re-instate the Government Grants for Company Electric Vehicle purchases. The key July registration period is fast approaching, and the Motor Industry has commenced promotional activity with a variety of attractive new car offers already announced in order to optimise sales. In addition, strong Government support in the coming weeks, months and year will be vital in helping the Industry support the nearly 50,000 people in employment."

Greystones Family Resource Centre witnessing 'unprecedented' demand for supports and services

Greystones Family Resource Centre has experienced a sharp increase in demand for their services since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the results of a survey released on 11th June by the Family Resource Centre National Forum (FRCNF), the national representative body for FRCs.

Clare Cashman, Chair of the FRCNF, said: "The FRC in Greystones and FRCs nationwide are experiencing significantly increased demand for their services and supports, at the same time as experiencing a decrease in income. There has been a sharp rise in demand for mental health supports, food and essential home supplies, activity packs for families, and check-in calls for vulnerable and isolated members of local communities.

"FRCs have adapted quickly in response to Covid-19 restrictions and to meet emerging needs within their local communities. The FRC in Wicklow is playing a central role in the local community response, and the Covid-19 pandemic has copper-fastened their significance as a source of essential support to thousands of families nationwide. In the months to come, as the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic becomes more apparent, FRCs must be adequately funded and resourced to meet the demand for their services."

The Family Resource Centre programme is the largest community-based family support programme in Ireland. Through a network of 121 FRCs, it supports families in communities experiencing poverty and disadvantage. There is one FRC in Wicklow - in Greystones.

In relation to re-opening, the survey shows that FRCs are concerned about the suitability of their existing premises to ensure staff and service-users can attend safely; ICT capacity and access amongst their staff and service-users; and the increased costs and reduced income arising from the changed circumstances brought about by Covid-19.

The main concerns of FRCs are: how they can continue to provide group activities; loss of income and increased costs (due to the need to change ways of working in the aftermath of the crisis); Changes required to physical premises to ensure they comply with all health and safety guidelines post-Covid-19.

"Many of the communities in which we work are still reeling from the aftershocks of the 2008 recession," said Clare Cashman. "There has been a huge demand on public finances in the past three months, but our message to politicians is clear: cutting investment in the most vulnerable communities now will wreak havoc in the years ahead. We need to ensure communities are supported now to properly recover and bounce back from Covid-19."

Charity hit by €500,000 funding shortfall urges public to lend support

The Jack and Jill Children's Foundation recently re-opened its charity boutique in Arklow and Wicklow to members of the public and are urging shoppers to support them to help alleviate a massive €500,000 funding shortfall for the charity.

The Arklow branch opened just in time to celebrate its fifth birthday on Thursday June 11th. The store, which is based on Main Street, had been closed due to the Government public health restrictions put in place to combat COVID-19, and re-opened as part of Phase 2 of the lifting of restrictions on 8th June. The store is once again open for business, selling ladies, gents and children's clothing, as well as handbags, shoes, bric-a-brac and furniture.

Meanwhile, the Jack and Jill Charity boutique in Wicklow town at 17 The Mall opened on Monday June 15th. Due to the closure of its nine shops around the country since March 16, and the cancellation of a raft of fundraising events, the Foundation has been facing a massive €500,000 funding shortfall.

However, now the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation is hoping that members of the public will continue to be as supportive as they have always been, confident of the range of new mea-

asures put in place to ensure their in-store comfort and safety.

The new Arklow and Wicklow town store opening hours are Monday to Saturday, from 10.30am to 5pm each day, with the first hour of trading until 11.30am prioritised for older persons and the vulnerable.

Staff at the store have been busy in recent days taking delivery of container-loads of brand-new products kindly donated by high street retailers so shoppers will no doubt be thrilled to browse the very latest fashions and accessories.

Theresa McCoy, Manager of the Jack and Jill charity boutique in Arklow, is delighted to get back behind the counter, even if it is behind a Perspex screen!

"We have been working hard in the build-up to this week to have everything in place to ensure a safe, comfortable and welcoming shopping environment for our wonderful customers.

"People will immediately notice changes



Manager Rachel Von Metzradt looking forward to welcoming customers to the Jack & Jill Charity Boutique in Wicklow town

from when they may have visited previously. We will be limiting the number of shoppers in store at any one time. We will have new social distancing and directional signage, along with Perspex screens at our counters and hand sanitiser for customers' use. Our changing rooms will be closed but, of course, we can facilitate the return of any items purchased as per our usual sales policy.

"We have invested in new steamers so people can be assured that every garment will have been thoroughly steam-cleaned and disinfected before being put on display. We have new card payment facilities in place too so that there is no need to worry about handling cash.

"So, knowing that they can expect a safe shopping environment, customers should also know that they can look forward to an exciting shopping experience too. With lots of brand-new arrivals in store, including fashion brands such as Vera Wang, Radley, Bulaggi, Heidi Higgins, Nine West, Mulberry and

Dolce & Gabbana, there really has never been a better time to visit.

"Not only are shoppers likely to snap up a bargain, they will also be making a really valuable difference to Jack and Jill's work providing home nursing and end-of-life support to children with highly complex and life-threatening conditions. Never has our work been more vital. Never has the support of the public been more needed."

Today Jack and Jill supports 340 families across the island of Ireland, including 8 families in Wicklow. Over 2,400 families have been supported by the Foundation since it was established in 1997.

If you can't wait to go shopping but want to show your support to the Jack & Jill SOS Appeal now, you can make a donation by: Visiting www.jackandjill.ie and for every 16 donated a local family will receive one hour of home nursing support; Texting WECARE to 50300 to donate €4. (Jack & Jill will receive a minimum of €3.60.



Manager Theresa McCoy looking forward to welcoming customers back to the Jack & Jill Charity Boutique on Main Street in Arklow

Business owners warned of Legionnaires' disease risk when reopening

As the phased reopening of business continues in the coming weeks and months, Green Party Spokesperson for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Steven Matthews TD has encouraged business owners, particularly hotels, B&Bs and hairdressers to take every precaution against Legionella bacteria which can develop in water tanks after significant periods of disuse.

Deputy Matthews said "As we get further into our phased reopening, our economy is opening up and as long as there is no significant shift in public health advice, this is extremely welcome. All businesses, both big and small, are eager to open their doors and I have previously voiced support for a whole range of measures to assist businesses reopening and for people to shop and spend locally if they can afford to.

that has been raised with me and by the HSE in recent weeks is the potential risk of Legionnaires' disease in the water tanks of businesses such as beauty salons, hotels and recreation centres. Legionnaires' disease is a lung infection, caused by inhaling small droplets of water, suspended in the air, which contain Legionella bacteria and can be extremely dangerous.

"Obviously first and foremost our concern



Steven Matthews TD

needs to be on Covid-19 and the potential risk of spreading that disease but

business owners must take measures to ensure that water tanks that in some cases have been lying unused since March are fully clean and safe for customers.

"The last thing any business owner needs at the moment is a further period of closure so the best thing to do is to ensure the safety of their customers and staff before reopening which I am sure business owners will be doing anyway," Deputy Matthews concluded.

Network Ireland Wicklow Launch Businesswoman of the Year Awards

Network Ireland Wicklow has re-launched the 2020 Businesswoman of the Year awards, but this year is not like any other. Traditionally the regional awards would have taken place back in May at a gala event in The Brooklodge Hotel.

Due to recent circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic, The National Executive and regional committees of Network Ireland have had to put their heads together and put this year's theme of the "Power Within" to the test.

Speaking about the awards, Network Ireland Wicklow President, Dawn Leane said: "The Businesswoman of the Year awards allow you to look at the bigger picture of your business and yourself, particularly as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. It's important that we all acknowledge and celebrate our successes and triumphs during this time and celebrate among friends, colleagues and family. I found the process enormously beneficial, and I would encourage every businesswoman in the county to participate in this process."

In recognition of these changing times, Network Ireland has released a new set of award categories for 2020, to include; Online Business Transformation; Business Innovation ; Emerging New Business; Solo Businesswoman; Transformative Employee; Power

Within Champion.

"The focus of our award categories for 2020 is on the professional women as a whole entity, looking at the totality of your professional and community work," says National President, and Wicklow member Louisa Meehan.

Louisa continues, "2020 has been a time of reflection drawing on the power within ourselves to transform and create a new way forward".

The application deadline for the awards is strictly Friday 17th of July. For more information on the awards categories and how to apply, visit www.networkireland.ie/award-categories/

Successful applicants will be invited for a short interview by Zoom on the 6th of August. This brief discussion will provide applicants with a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate how they have exhibited the Power Within both professionally and personally during these challenging times.

Successful regional winners will then go forward to the National selection. Interviews for the national awards will take place in September, ahead of the national awards on the 2nd of October in Wicklow.

Details of the Network Ireland Wicklow awards event are currently underway and will be released in the coming weeks.

The Wicklow Branch is calling on local businesses to sponsor a category. If you're interested in doing so, email wicklow@networkireland.ie



Energia has partnered with not-for-profit social enterprise GIY to give away 1,000 large GROWBoxes to Get Ireland Growing and help power a more sustainable future. The GROWBox also includes a bag of Irish Wildflower Beebombs which help re-create bee habitats and are vital to help the threatened species survive. Bestselling cookbook author Susan Jane White and her sons Benjamin and Marty are pictured launching at the launch. Register now and enter the draw for a FREE GROWBox on www.GetIrelandGrowing.ie. Photo by Leon Farrell.

Sustainable energy plan for Wicklow Town

Funding of €15,000 has been received which will allow the preparation of an Energy Master Plan for Wicklow Town.

The funding was awarded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to Wicklow Tidy Towns Sustainable Energy Community (SEC).

It will be used to identify projects and actions which will make Wicklow Town a leader on Climate Action. Wicklow Tidy Towns will work with businesses, the public, schools, clubs and public services to help identify and implement energy solutions for the town. Energy efficiency, renewables and energy transition will be a key driver for economic development in Wicklow.

Mr Frank Curran, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, welcomed the funding award saying the Council is committed to lowering the carbon emissions in the county. "This funding is good news and a welcome follow-up to Wicklow County Council's launch last year of the Sustainable Energy Community network and the establishment of the new Climate Change SPC," he stated.

The Cathairleach of Wicklow Municipal District, Cllr Shay Cullen, commended Wicklow Tidy Towns on their work and particularly on the achievement of attaining the Gold Medal for Wicklow Town in last year's National Tidy Towns competition. He added that the SECs offer an opportunity for communities in Wicklow Town to prepare the Energy Master Plan and to participate in driving forward the energy transition needed for Climate Action and to engage in transforming our use of energy and develop localised innovative solutions.



Pictured in the Brooklodge, Aughrim, are last year's Network Ireland Businesswomen of the Year Awards; Anna Dobson (The Ultrasound Suite Ltd), Rachael Davis (Remedy Pilates and Physiotherapy), Jean Evans (Highlife Office Technology), and Libby Murray (Elysian Brows and Beauty Group)

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The Eyes Want to See, The Hands Want to Caress: an exhibition by Conor Wickham

There will be an exhibition of work by Conor Wickham in the Signal Arts Centre in Bray from 17th-31st August.

This exhibition consists of drawings created over the last two years. The drawings aim to explore how we interpret and reflect upon experience, both first and secondary experiences. Therefore, the exhibition is an exercise in Reflective Drawing. The term 'reflective drawing' refers to the use of drawing as a means of expression during the reflection process.

Conor says, "Everything I have experienced, both real and through secondary sources, I have taken as my own. All memories/imaginings are constructs. We can change them, make them more interesting, make ourselves more interesting. Does it matter, if you imagine something, isn't it the same as having lived it. Through my constructed memories and imaginings, I have lived infinite lives, in different times and places. The drawings are my way of interpreting what I have experienced, both directly and indirectly. There are elements of both rational analysis and subconscious drivel within the work. There's nothing fixed, the pieces are constantly changing, only coming to an end when there is no more space left to explore.

"It is an aim to overwhelm the viewer with content, to make them feel lost, uncomfortable, confused as well as excited and positively stimulated. There is no fixed meaning within any piece, that's constantly changing and open to continuous reinterpretation."

The opening reception will be held on 21st August

Arts Council congratulates 21 Wicklow artists on COVID-19 award

The Arts Council has sent its congratulations to 21 Wicklow artists who have each been awarded a €3,000 grant to help them make new and original work during the Covid-19 crisis.

The government agency for funding and developing the arts said applications from County Wicklow artists had scored very highly. Visual Artists Alan Clarke, Ruairi Conaty, Michael Durand, Rachel Fallon (Kerskens), Shane Finan, Emma Finucane, Aisling Heaney, Jack Hogan, Laura Kelly, Jonah King and Patrick MacAllister and Musicians Annette Cleary, Vyvienne Long, Caimin Gilmore and Oscar Hackett were all successful. Jane Clarke and Lucy Sweeney Byrne were also successful for their involvement in Literature (English language), as was Eleanor Phillips for Arts Participation, Philip St John and Emily Gillmor Murphy for Theatre and David Stephenson for film.

The Arts Council said that across the whole of the country it was encouraged by both the quality of the applications, and the fact that almost two thirds of the successful artists had never before been funded by the Arts Council.

With all now notified of their award, artists will begin to create work across the full range of art forms, genres and areas of arts practice. In time, the public can expect to experience traditional arts, literature, dance, theatre, music, visual art, circus, film, opera and architecture, as well as work in specific areas of arts practice, such as for children and young people, and arts participation.

Despite the exceptional nature and fast turnaround

time of the scheme - called the Arts Council Covid-19 Crisis Response Award - demand from artists was very high, with almost 1,000 applicants, the agency said.

Minister Josepha Madigan commented, "I especially welcome the many new artists who were successful under this round. I realise that now is a particularly challenging time for artists to make work. I look forward to the imminent report from the Arts Council's Expert Advisory Group on further proposals to sustain this vital sector."

The €1 million scheme is one of a suite of measures being introduced by the Arts Council to help support artists and arts organisations through the Covid-19 crisis.

Other initiatives include honouring all existing funding commitments, and allowing grantees to draw down 90 percent of their funding to allow them fulfil in turn their own business commitments, especially to artists; the prioritisation and redirection of budgets and funding streams; a range of business guidance and assistance; and continued work with the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht and other government departments to ensure that artists and arts organisations benefit from the full range of government supports.

"We are very encouraged by the response to this award," said Arts Council Director Maureen Kennelly. "The applications were of a very high standard and showed the depth and breadth of the arts in Ireland - with greater resources we could have awarded twice as many -- and it is particularly heartening to see so many successful applications from artists not previously funded through the Arts Council. Of course, this also points to artists' particular and urgent needs at this time of crisis."

Creating together but staying apart: Virtual Cruinniú na nÓg showcases youthful creativity

Over six weeks, thousands of young people created wonderfully imaginative stories, artworks, installations, Lego, cooking, upcycling, heritage, film making and song writing at home for Cruinniú na nÓg as part of the Creative Ireland Programme.

Wicklow County Council was immensely proud to present a showcase of youthful creativity on June 13th announcing the winners of each competition and a whole range of incredible photos, stories, videos, films, songs, dream catchers, creative baking, crafting and a kaleidoscope of colour, imagination and excitement.

TV Celebrity Chef Catherine Fulvio led and judged the creative bake-off and was astounded with the high standards of the entries. The winners in the baking category were Cormac O'hAnnaigh from Bray aged 6 with his 'Sugarloaf Chocolate Pisachio Cake' in the 5-8 age category; Eimear Mc Teague from Letterkenny in Donegal aged 12 with her stunning round tower cake "My First Wicklow Experience" in the 9-12 age category and Jessica Byrne from Rathdrum aged 14 with her "Powerscourt Waterfall" in the 13+ age category.

Best-Selling Children's Author Sarah Webb was also captivated with the entries for this year's writing competition. The overall winner was Nicola McFadden from Naas Co Kildare with "The Hidden Howl" - a poignant story of the Wicklow wolf. Close runners up were Saoirse-Marie Crean Nic Oireachtaigh from

Greystones with her story 'Go Wild' in second place and Sarah Fitzgerald from Kinsale Co Cork age 16 with her story The Fierce Fox in third place.

Cathal Ryder from Avoca Co Wicklow aged 10 scooped first prize for his Wicklow Head Lighthouse in the Heritage Upcycling Competition. Nick Kane from Wicklow Town age 14 won first prize in the 'One Minute. One Take.' Film Competition and James Fennell, Greystones, Co. Wicklow age 14 was the overall winner in the Singer Songwriter Competition.

All of these and more were showcased over the internet and there was a full day of songs, games, 'Nature on your Door Step' images submitted to the Heritage Office as part of National Biodiversity Week as well as Library Stories and Brick Flicks. Mouthful hosted interactive music and movement including Animal Party Time for under 7s with costumes and toy animals, Exploring Outer Space for ages 7-11 and Hopes and Dreams singing and song writing for ages 11-14s. Artist David Beattie had Create Sound Experiments with Dancing Monsters and Listening Funnels and Art Educator Anne Bradley had Slow Play sensory activities.



Cathal Ryder, aged 10, from Avoca with his heritage upcycling project celebrating Ireland's National Day of Youthful Creativity - Cruinniú na nÓg, as part of the Creative Ireland Programme.

Wicklow Arts Office were also proud to collaborate with Bray Women's Refuge to create Dream Catchers with artist Michelle Hall and offer individual Cruinniú na nÓg creativity packs for every child at the refuge to ensure that everyone has a chance to participate and be showcased as part of the virtual event. Wicklow County Council has also worked with Barnardos sending over

50 creativity and reading packs to vulnerable Wicklow families at this time and has provided additional craft resources and reading material for another 50 children and young people as part of the programmes.

Cruinniú na nÓg in Wicklow is an initiative of Arts, Heritage and Library Services of Wicklow County Council supported by Music Generation Wicklow.



Cormac O'hAnnaigh, aged 6, from Bray, celebrating Ireland's National Day of Youthful Creativity, Cruinniú na nÓg.

Bray musician takes part in Harps for Hope

Harps for Hope is a series of online harp concerts from more than 50 of Ireland's leading harpers to express our togetherness and lend its voice to the fight against Covid-19. Never was the saying 'Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid, we live in each other's shadows' more relevant than it is now.

To date the series includes music from a selection of our leading harpers including Laoise Kelly, Cormac de Barra, Tríona Marshall, Máire Ní Chathasigh, Siobhán Armstrong among others and will culminate with a 240 strong harp ensemble performance in June.

Local Bray musician and teacher Rachel Duffy is one of the list of illustrious musicians participating in Harps for Hope and performed the air Amhrán na Leabhar alongside one of her own compositions The Gateway Slip Jig.

The piece was inspired by the landscape of Glendalough, home to an international synod of harpers in the eleventh

century. It was originally written for Music Generation Wicklow's Rithim Orchestra, a Bray-based traditional ensemble comprising 25 talented young musicians.

Rachel is a third year doctoral student at TU Dublin, exploring the transformation of the Irish harp tradition in the later twentieth century. She teaches the harp locally through the Bray branch of Comhaltas

Ceoltóirí Éireann.

Speaking about her involvement, she said, "It is a pleasure to be a part of Cruit Éireann's Harps for Hope series amidst a wonderful selection of harpers from across the country. It's also very exciting to have ten of my

students from the Bray Comhaltas Harp Ensemble involved in the final performance, showcasing the growing harp tradition here in Wicklow."

Rachel's performance can be viewed at journalofmusic.com/listing/05-05-20/harps-hope-rachel-duffy.

Aibhlín McCrann, Chair of Cruit Éireann/Harp Ireland explains, "Over the past

year, people have highlighted to us how connected they feel to the sound of the harp; how it calms them, comforts them and enhances their sense of national identity. We were struck by the depth of emotion and resonance that Irish harp holds for so

many people when it was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity last year.

Undoubtedly, Ireland's national instrument enjoys a unique place in Irish musical and cultural life and that is a tribute to the steadfast dedication of harpers, teachers, harp students and our supporters nationally and internationally".

The full series of videos are available at www.harpireland.ie. The introductory track on each of these videos is An Cruitire from the Spirit of Laois suite composed by harper-composer, Michael Rooney and performed by Siobhán Buckley.



Bray harpist, Rachael Duffy, taking part in Harps for Hope

Ballyrogan Expression presents a virtual exhibition for your quiet and private viewing

On March 12th, Arklow Visual Arts Gallery had the pleasure of launching a new body of work by Andrew, Attracta, and Sarah Eva Manson. That same day An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announced new measures to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Therefore the gallery closed the doors on this much-anticipated exhibition the very same day it launched.

It is still on the walls of the gallery today, unseen, all alone. The doors never opened again, no visitors came. "We are truly grateful for everyone who has shown their continued support. And to Pauline Merry for opening the exhibition," Arklow Visual Arts Gallery stated.

"We are offering free delivery within an hour of The Arklow Visual Arts Gallery and collection from Ballyrogan studios is welcome. Standard shipping applicable via An Post and DPD where appropriate. Quotes will be required for oversized artworks. Bank transfer/ paypal/ payment plans available. We can do home visits with larger pieces.

"If you would like to borrow a piece for a showcase, film or event please get in touch, we would be happy to facilitate. Any online reviews would be most appreciated. Please enjoy this virtual exhibition - we hope to hear from you soon."

Grandparents are important, let's celebrate them!

This is a challenging time for us all, but it is particularly challenging for young people and grandparents. The bond between grandchildren and their grandparents is a magical one.

Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre is calling on young people living in Wicklow (aged between 2 and 18) to use your imagination, get creative and draw a picture and write a poem about your Grandparents and tell how much you love them. These submissions will form an online gallery exhibition on Mermaid's website so grandparents can log on and admire your work!

In the autumn, Mermaid plans to display as many submissions as possible in the gallery in the arts centre where we exhibit the powerful and creative work of our young people.

"Whether you are only able to see your grandparents through a window, or on the phone or maybe you are only able to remember and picture them in your imagination, it doesn't matter, we want to hear



from you all. We want your portraits and poems!

"Portraits are a picture, made from anything at all, that tells a person's story. A poem can make all of us noble observers and can share the essence of a person in only a few lines.

"Get drawing and show us how beautiful, colourful and wonderful your grandparent is and also write a poem telling us even more about them and their story and how you feel about them. Perhaps they are extremely loving or silly, kind, strong, careful and maybe forgetful perhaps they follow the rules or encourage you to break them. Tell us, share with us, just how important and wonderful they have been in your life.

"At Mermaid we recognise the true benefits of creativity. We know how it is a key component in the health and happiness of us all. Further information and details on how to submit are available on www.mermaidartscentre.ie."



Bray poet contributes to COVID poetry project

WRITE where we are NOW is an international poetry project responding to the Coronavirus pandemic, launched by Carol Ann Duffy, the former Poet Laureate, and the Manchester Writing School at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Poet Mark Granier, who lives in Bray, has contributed to the project with a few poems including one about Bray Head entitled Gorse, Bray Head.

Top poets and other renowned and emerging poets have contributed to the project, sharing new work that reflects on their own personal experiences of the Coronavirus outbreak. Poems are frequently published on the Manchester Metropolitan University website, detailing when and where they were written. Many poems reflect on issues around being isolated in our homes, being distant from loved ones as well as referencing the different locations from all over the world where poets are based. Mark is an award-winning poet and photographer. His fifth collection, Ghostlight: New & Selected Poems, was published by Salmon Poetry in 2017.



Bray-based poet Mark Granier contributed to a national poetry project responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

GORSE, BRAY HEAD

Something has crept over the world's shoulder. I wake even more underwater than usual. Thoughts take

any diversion; a phone throbs, tugging me off course into that too-novel zone — I had been thinking of gorse,

the steepening, woodland path too brambly and narrow now, for safe passage; immersed in billow after billow

of vanilla and coconut — hand cream or body lotion — the intimate season has left its bedroom door half-open

on clusters of barbed stars, a prickly clearing. Drowned in the blue-green dusk, lights are pollinating the town.



Ireland AM Presenters Alan Hughes and Ciara Doherty are pictured with Sophie Gleeson and her mother Lorraine Gleeson from Devoted to Cakes.

Greystones mother and daughter are devoted to cakes

Lorraine Gleeson, owner of Devoted To Cakes from Greystones, fell in love with baking when she was 6 years old and has not stopped baking since. She loves using her skills to push the boundaries of baking and cake decorating and she has been lucky enough to be involved in collaborations with cake designers home and abroad.

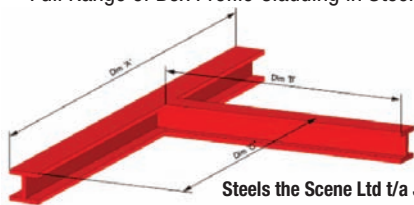
Through "Devoted to Cakes" she works alongside her daughter Sophie, sharing her skills by providing creative baking and decorating workshops, parties and events. Virgin Media launched €1 Million support fund to boost Irish businesses nationwide. Devoted to Cakes has been chosen as one of the businesses.

Lorraine said "Since Covid-19 we have had to cancel all our baking and decorating workshops, parties, camps, and events. Since schools stopped we have been running an online bake along on our facebook page. This has been a great way to connect with families from all across Ireland and the rest of the world. We will be bringing the Devoted to Cakes experience to your kitchen in the format of weekly online interactive workshops. We value everyone's support and we are bursting with ideas for new products and online workshops and events!"

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Telly Awards 2020 Gold for local media agency

Wicklow-based media agency Loveridge Designs Ltd, created by 21 year old BIFE graduate Josh Loveridge, were the official winners of the 41st annual Telly Awards for their work on Castle Costume.

The Telly Awards was honors video and television made for all screens and is judged by The Telly Award Judging Council; a group of leading video and television experts from some of the most prestigious companies in entertainment, publishing, advertising, and emerging technology.

Speaking about the award, Josh said "A massive thank you to all the team for their hard work and dedication. This is not only an award for us as a company but it is also a benchmark of the opportunities provided to us by you and for that, we are forever grateful!"

Loveridge Designs is a full-service media agency which focuses on a data-driven content creation pipeline. It is owned and operated by Josh. Loveridge Designs works closely with some of the biggest brands around the globe such as Microsoft, Sony, Redbull, Miele, and The Hilton Group.

How to combat fleas and ticks naturally

During the warmer months, lots of cats bring fleas and ticks home from their rambles, although indoor cats are rarely affected. Acute cases of fleas or ticks should be dealt with quickly as the parasites can transmit diseases and worms.

You can treat an acute case of fleas, ticks or mites by using parasite treatments. If your cat has fleas, it makes sense to de-worm her and treat the environment around her too. Maxi Zoo recommend using effective prevention in the first place to avoid a potential infestation. In addition to parasite prevention and treatments, owners must support their pets' grooming so that their animals' skin stays healthy and their coats maintain a silky sheen. Short-haired dogs generally only need a good brushing once a week, and two to three times a week during the moulting season. Brushes with soft rubber teeth or natural bristles are both suitable for this task. Rough-haired breeds have additional needs that must be attended to regularly. These tasks range from trimming, to thinning of the undercoat and removal of dead hairs from the top coat. Dogs with a long coat

should be brushed several times a week, ideally every day. You should also use a fine-toothed comb to prevent matting. You also need to be careful when it comes to washing your dog. Don't overdo it. Only give your dog a bath when his coat is heavily soiled - after rolling around in something nasty, for example - or if your vet prescribed medical baths with a special shampoo. Maxi Zoo staff are trained in all aspects of hygiene and grooming, call in store today to speak with them to choose the best treatment for your pet.

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PLANNING • PLANNING

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Sharon O'Brien I am applying for planning permission For the following 1) Retention permission for dwelling house as constructed. 2) Planning for permission for garage / garden store At: Site No 1 Mount Alto, Ashford, A67 CV61 The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding a reasonable cost of making a copy at the Offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observations in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing, on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

I Margaret Anderson am applying for planning permission For the following: Restoration and refurbishment of existing farm outbuilding and change of use to a two bedroom holiday home The proposed works include: 1) revision to elevations and internal layout 2) Ground floor extension of front porch and rear extension of utility and stairs lobby 3) New roof and first floor extension of bedrooms and ensuite 4) Connection to existing public sewage via a holding tank and pump 5) All associated site ancillary works At: The Paddock, Cronroe, Ashford, Eircode A67 K275 The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding a reasonable cost of making a copy at the Offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observations in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing, on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of five weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Gillian Toal and John Prosser are seeking Planning Permission for the construction of a part single storey, part two storey dwelling, studio/garage, effluent treatment plant to EPA 2009 standards, accessed off existing vehicular entrance to public road (L5014), together with associated landscaping and siteworks at Glaskenny, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Alphaplan Design (Tel: 086 2461269, Email: eugene@alphaplandesign.com) Seeks planning permission for conversion of domestic garage to home office, and associated works at 2 Wentworth Villas, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow for E. Cullen. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

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

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Annie White and Andrew Bowen, seek Planning Permission for the construction of a Pitched Roof providing Attic Accommodation in place of the existing Flat Roof to this two storey building, including Dormer Windows to the front, a Roof Terrace to the rear and Rooflights to the front and rear at The Loft, 6A Albert Terrace, Meath Road, 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 Buildings, Wicklow during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

We, Mark Franey and Jenny Hagstrom, intend to apply for permission for a front porch/extension, aprox; 4sqm, with two frosted road facing windows. A 600mm x 400mm frosted window on the north-west facing gable end at 26 Bayview Grange, Wicklow Town, 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. 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

We Sun Beam Housing Services Ltd intend to apply for planning permission for Change of use of part of the first floor from day training centre to office at Southern Cross House, Wurzburg Road, 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. 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.

Funding for Tidy Towns will continue

Minister Simon Harris TD has confirmed that the funding allocated to support Tidy Towns groups throughout the country this year will remain available to them.

Minister Harris said "€1.4 million was allocated this year to assist Tidy Towns groups in their preparations for the competition and any unspent funds can still be used to assist with activities they might undertake as restrictions are eased, or in preparing for the 2021 competition."

Gospel: Mark 12.28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him. Which is the first of all the commandments? Jesus replied. This is the first. Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. The scribe said to him 'Well spoken, Master, what you have said is true, that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself. This is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said 'You are not far from the kingdom of God' and after that no one dare to question him anymore. C.J.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

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

Waste Management Act, 1996

AFF Logistics, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

We are required to accept on these premises, free of charge, for the purpose of recovery, packaging waste (Cardboard/Plastic) similar in nature to that supplied at our premises. The products or packaging in question need not necessarily have been purchased from AFF Logistics.

"WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT 1996

(Nypro Healthcare)
(Corke Abbey, Bray)

We are required to accept at (Corke Abbey, Bray), free of charge, for the purpose of recovery, packaging waste of the following categories (Plastic and cardboard). The products or packaging in question need not necessarily have been purchased from (Nypro)."

Anam Cara launch online resource

Anam Cara Parental & Sibling Bereavement Support Group recently launched an online resource.

This resource can be accessed via the Anam Cara website homepage and will offer some support and solace to recently bereaved parents. Anam Cara understand the additional challenges they now face throughout the Covid 19 virus emergency and the restrictions on funerals. Anam Cara produced 8 online Bereavement Support video vignettes to help bereaved mother and fathers at this very difficult time. The 8 short videos feature Brid Carroll, an experienced psychotherapist who has worked with families through bereavement and loss for many years. Brid is also the Chairperson of the Irish Child Bereavement Network. Brid talks about the impact and challenges of the intense grief and devastation for parents and siblings after the death of a their child, of any age and through all circumstances.

Legal Notice

THE HIGH COURT 2020 No. 22 SA

IN THE MATTER OF SHANE ALLEN, A SOLICITOR, PRACTISING AS ALLEN & ASSOCIATES SOLICITORS AT 10 MOUNT KENNEDY TOWN CENTRE, NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY, CO. WICKLOW AND IN THE MATTER OF THE SOLICITORS ACTS 1954-2015

LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND

APPLICANT

AND

SHANE ALLEN

RESPONDENT SOLICITOR

TAKE NOTICE that by Order of the President of the High Court made on 15 June 2020, it is ordered:

1. Pursuant to Section 19 and 20 of the Solicitors (Amendment) Act, 1960 as amended by Section 27 and 28 of the Solicitors (Amendment) Act, 1994 that no bank shall make any payment out of the account of Shane Allen & Associates Solicitors or any account in the practice name of the solicitor;
2. That Shane Allen be suspended from practice and be prohibited from holding himself out as a solicitor entitled to practice.

John Elliot
Registrar of Solicitors
Law Society of Ireland
17 June 2020



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to form a panel from which future permanent/temporary vacancies may be filled:

• PERMANENT WASTE WATER INSPECTOR

REF: 25/2020 Salary €848.50 to €896.63 gross per week (after 10.5 years)

Application Forms and further details may be obtained from Enterprise & Corporate Services at 0404 20159 or by emailing recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie and on the Wicklow County Council website www.wicklow.ie

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS IS 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 16TH JULY 2020 SHARP

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

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Lorraine Gallagher
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e-mail: recruitment@wicklowcoco.ie

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AND APPOINTMENTS IS 12 NOON FRIDAY





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