



COUNTYWISE

Nuachtlitir Chomhairle Chontae Chill Mhantáin
Newsletter of Wicklow County Council
Winter / Gheimhridh 2018



Successful Award Season
Budget 2019
Christmas Tips and Recipes
News from around the County

Christmas Greetings to all the residents
of County Wicklow from the
Cathaoirleach, Councillor Pat Vance
and the
Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran,
together with the elected members and
staff.



Nollaig shona agus
athbhlian faoi mhaise daoibh.



Appointment of Ove Arup & Partners Ltd. as Consultant Engineers on the N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme



Consultant Engineers Ove Arup & Partners have been appointed by Wicklow County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to progress the proposed realignment of the N11/M11 between Junction 4 (M50/M11) to Junction 14 (Coynes Cross).

The scheme is in a number of phases including:

- Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility
- Phase 2 Options Selection
- Phase 3 Design and Environment Evaluation and
- Phase 4 Statutory Processes, of TII Project Management Guidelines

The project will be subject to various stages of planning, design and approval as well as public consultation.

One of the first tasks to be undertaken is to carry out a Public Information Day and a location and exact date will be advertised in advance of this.

Wicklow County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council welcome the advancement of this Improvement Scheme.



Arklow win Town Initiative of the Year and Bray win Regional Runner-up for Leinster in Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Awards



Wicklow County Council was delighted to nominate four towns to the National Enterprise Town Awards 2018. The competition which is in its third year, is sponsored by Bank of Ireland and aims to promote enterprise by bringing business and community groups together, in each town, to showcase the spirit of enterprise in their local area. It also provides a platform to recognise the efforts being made by local people to promote and grow their towns and communities, through local leadership and collaboration with the local authority.

The four entries from County Wicklow were Arklow, Bray, Roundwood and Wicklow. A committee was set up in each town, comprising of Town Team representatives, local leaders and supported by staff from each Municipal District. The groups worked tirelessly in their preparations for the judging. Each town clearly demonstrated true community spirit and collaboration, focussing on all the positive achievements in their locality.



Some highlights from around the county included a visit to Shelton Abbey and Victorian Tea Rooms in Arklow, Bray's Mermaid Theatre and Little Bray Community Centre, the magnificent Luggala and Roundwood's Varray Reservoir Trails, Wicklow's Historic Gaol and the Wicklow Enterprise Centre. Many local businesses supported their local entries also, with visits to long established small businesses, multi-national exporters and some more recent entrepreneurial organisations.

The competition is a great opportunity for local groups, supported by the Municipal Districts and Wicklow County Council to show their pride in their town and highlight the best features. Results of the competition were announced at a gala event held in the Lyrath Hotel in Kilkenny.



Rathdrum and Wicklow Hospice Foundation honoured at Pride of Place Awards



Above: Representatives from Rathdrum, Co Wicklow, receiving their award for the 1000-2000 Population category, at the IPB 'Pride of Place' awards ceremony in association with Co-operation Ireland at City Hall, Cork.

Below: Representatives from Wicklow Hospice Foundation, receiving their award for the Special Awards category, at the IPB 'Pride of Place' awards ceremony in association with Co-operation Ireland at City Hall, Cork.



The town of Rathdrum was honoured at the annual IPB Pride of Place awards held in Cork City Hall in November. Rathdrum lifted the best Urban Neighbourhood/Village with a population between 1000 and 2000. Also honoured with a special award on the night for their work was Wicklow Hospice Foundation.

The judges said about Rathdrum, "This is a small town on the move - there is hope, confidence and a realisation of the potential of some major tourist attractions. The community has decided to take its future in its own hands. There is significant support from the Council and Politicians, which was clearly signalled on the day of the judges' visit."

They also praised the Hospice Foundation: "An initiative dealing with a hugely important care issue and on course to deliver one of the most important projects any community could dare to hope to have - all being achieved through one of the greatest feats of fundraising that the judges have ever witnessed."

Members of the groups joined with 800 community heroes from across the country at the awards which are operated in association with peace building charity Co-operation Ireland.

The Pride of Place awards, described as the 'Oscars of the Community Sector', celebrates the often unsung work of community groups that selflessly work to make local neighbourhoods a better place to live in, work in or visit.

Organised by Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance, the Pride of Place awards sees the country's local authorities, on both sides of the border, nominate outstanding projects that contribute to civic pride.





Gaelic4Teens



Wicklow Local Sports Partnership in conjunction with The Ladies Gaelic Football Association ran a very successful Gaelic4Teens Programme which was funded by dormant account funding secured through Sport Ireland. The programme will help clubs to retain their current playing bases while also recruiting players in the 15-17 age brackets, which has been identified as a group with a high drop-out rate. A number of clubs took part in this initiative in County Wicklow which culminated in a National Blitz Day in Sport Ireland Headquarters. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership held a presentation night for the local clubs to look back on the success of the programme. This took place in September in the Glenview Hotel where an evaluation presentation was given by Dr Wesley O'Brien.

European Week of Sport 2018

The European Week of Sport ran from 22nd- 30th September 2018 and was a weeklong celebration of sport and physical activity. The aim for 2018 was to continue to grow and develop the week and Sport Ireland encouraged all sporting bodies to take part to build on the tremendous success of the previous three years.

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership intended to raise activity levels by providing a variety of programmes to national schools throughout the week. There was also a Be Active event organised in September on Bray Seafront. Wicklow LSP partnered with Bray Sports Promotion Unit, FAI and Tug of War Ireland and ran a Soccer League, Tug of War and a variety of fun games. This was a very successful evening with 44 participants taking part.



Ireland Lights Up

RTÉ
operation
TRANSFORMATION

Every Thursday 7pm
From Jan 17th - Feb 21st

Enjoy community walks in your local GAA Club

GAA WE ARE COMMUNITY
HEALTHY IRELAND THE ACTIVE NATION HEALTHY CLUBS
Get Ireland Walking
SPORT IRELAND
hi
safefood

Fun - Fit - Family Day



As part of Healthy Ireland Funding County Wicklow Partnership ran a fun, fit, family day in the Bridgewater Shopping Centre, Arklow in November. It consisted of an enjoyable and fun insight into physical exercise and healthy eating that all the family could get involved in for free and almost 1,000 people benefitted from this event. Included on the day was demonstrations of light exercise routines, guided health orientated walks accompanied by Arklows Mary Hickey from "Lap of the Map", Healthy Food and Eating Activities, Health Information and Facepainting. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership was present on the day to support the event.



Primary and Secondary Schools Cross Country

In October over 700 pupils took part in Primary and Secondary School's Cross Country in Avondale Forest Park, Rathdrum.

Well done to St. Saviours National School Rathdrum for winning Best Overall Girls and St. Patrick's National School Wicklow Town for winning Best Overall Boy. Both schools received Wicklow Local Sports Partnership plaques.



Physical Activity, Healthy Food Stands & Ready Steady Cook

A great day was had in October with over 700 pupils in Colaiste Chill Mhantain doing Physical Activity, Healthy Food Stands & Ready Steady Cook from Olympian Fionnuala Mc Cormack & GAA Star Leighton Glynn. Wicklow Local Sports Partnership Sports Development Officer Denise O'Shea and Tinahely GAA Star Jackie Kinch rolled out multi activities with 1st - 3rd year pupils. Also there were various stands on the day including Grainne Quinn from Tobacco Cessation, Jim Callery from Environment Section Wicklow County Council and Ann Kavanagh from Healthy Food made easy Programme. A variety of healthy food stands were on display and were showcased by the pupils of Colaiste Chill Mhantain.



Wicklow County Council

Staff Charity Fund

The Staff Charity Fund has been in existence since 1985 and since it has been established, approximately a quarter of a million has been given to numerous local, national and international charities and causes over the years.

Some of the charities we donate to are listed below:

St Vincent de Paul Conferences

Blessington
Bray
Wicklow
Arklow
Rathdrum
Brittas Bay
Greystones

Rathdrum Cancer Support

Wicklow Cancer Support

Concern

Bray Women's Refuge

Focus Ireland

Childline

Capuchin Centre



Progress to date on Wicklow Hospice

The Wicklow Hospice is looking forward to 2019 when we will see a 15 bed Hospice open its doors. The hospice is expected to be water tight by January and the build completed in September 2019, with the fit out taking place in October 2019 and patients to be cared for by the end of 2019. Everybody who has been involved with the hospice over the 10 years should be very proud.



News from around the County

Sculpture of Ronnie Delany



Christmas Festivities commenced with the switching on of the lights on the 24th November with Master of Ceremonies from TODAY fm Phil Cawley which was followed by a Punch and Judy show and the arrival of Santa, led by the Arklow Pipe Band. The finale was a fireworks display.

On Saturday, 8th December, a Park Market took place along with competitions for Busking, Best dressed Festive Pet, and Best Christmas Jumper. There was also musical entertainment from local groups throughout the day.

The Golden Ticket draw will return again this year with prizes in excess of €5,000; entries can be left in over 90 shops and businesses throughout Arklow town.

The Best Christmas Window Display Competition will once again feature. Dressing windows for Christmas has really proven to help create a wonderful atmosphere in the town. This year the winner of the Best Christmas Window Display will receive a superb prize of an Advertising Package sponsored by each of the local papers:

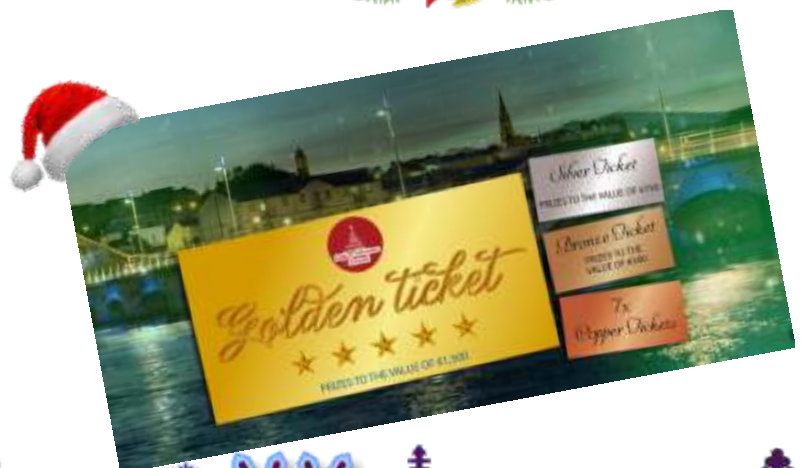
- Quarter page complimentary advert in The Wicklow People newspaper.
- Quarter page complimentary advert in The Wicklow Times newspaper.
- Full page complimentary advert in The Wicklow Voice newspaper.

The windows will be independently judged and the winners announced on Tuesday, 18th December 2018. Arklow Christmas Festival Committee would like to thank all businesses and individuals who have sponsored this festival in any way.

Approved plans to create a new public realm space at The Parade Ground, Main Street, Arklow will include a bronze life size sculpture of Gold Medal winner Ronnie Delany. Ronnie who was born in Arklow, achieved world fame when he won Gold for Ireland in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics in the 1500 metres.

Ronnie was honoured by his hometown when Arklow Municipal District hosted a Civic Reception in his honour in December 2016 to mark the 60th anniversary of his great win. Since then a number of businesses and local clubs together with Wicklow County Council have contributed to the cost of commissioning a sculpture of Ronnie Delany for his hometown.

A tendering procedure has taken place and the contract for the Ronnie Delany Sculpture has been awarded to the internationally renowned sculptor Paul Ferriter. Mr. Ferriter's previous works include sculptures of Severiano Ballesteros, Michael Cussack, Nick Faldo, Christy O'Connor Jnr., War of Attrition, Old Tom Morris & Christy O'Connor Snr.



Works carried out in Arklow MD in 2018

The following list outlines some of the recent infrastructure works completed within Arklow Municipal District.

Traffic calming measures completed within the Arklow Municipal District included:-

- Installation of speed ramps at The Woods, Rathdrum and of speed ramps at Parnell Park, Rathdrum

Replacement of Footpaths at the following locations:-

- Arklow - Mountain Bay, Wexford Road, Fernhill, Ashleigh Close and Glenview Thomastown.
- Rathdrum - Parnell Park, Memorial Park and Avonbeg Hgts, Ballinaclash

Other Infrastructure works taking place in the District are:-

- Resurfacing of Main Street Aughrim and the R752
- Pedestrian Crossings have been completed in Arklow at Coolgreaney Road, Dublin Road and Vale Road.
- Pedestrian Crossing has been installed at Avoca National School.
- Replacement of Windows & Doors in Arklow Courthouse.
- Upgrade of the Fountain in St. Mary's Park.
- The Lightship Lantern was located on the Southbound Roundabout at Junction 20.
- Dredging of the Duck Pond took place in early October.
- Introduction of Age Friendly parking bays in 3 public car parks in Arklow Town.



Since the Arklow Town Team(ATT) was formed in 2017, there has been a renewed focus on seeking out ways to enhance Arklow as a place in which to work, live, invest and visit. The energy within the Town Team has spread and again the people of Arklow have come onboard wholeheartedly to drive the town forward together.

Some of the most recent activities of the ATT include the following:-

- Tenders received for the installation of CCTV for Arklow Town
- 26 Businesses availed of the Retail Painting Grant Scheme (subsidised by AMD, Dulux and Topline Bolands)
- 210 Flower Baskets purchased by businesses
- Placing of the Lightship Lantern on the Roundabout at Junction 20
- All 8 Roundabouts are now sponsored by local businesses
- Received the Arklow Chamber of Commerce Award for the Community Award
- Arklow Town Team was shortlisted in the annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards
- Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Judges visited Arklow on Tuesday 25th September. The Town Team was delighted to have been afforded the opportunity to showcase what Arklow has to offer in the areas of Enterprise & Community. Arklow were awarded the Town of Gardens Award in the Town Initiative of the Year category on Wednesday 28th November.
- Little Christmas Lunch - a fundraising event will take place at the Woodenbridge Hotel on Sunday 6th January 2019, organised by members of Arklow Town Team in order to raise funds for a local charity and a local project.



Joint Commemoration Ceremony



A special Joint Commemoration Ceremony took place in Baltinglass on 4th November in conjunction with the Defence Forces, An Garda Síochana and Baltinglass Municipal District to honour a Soldier and a Garda whose lives were lost in the service of their Country. Private Michael McGuinn from Baltinglass was a member of the Irish Army and was killed in the Niemba Ambush in the Congo on November 8th 1960 during a United Nations peace keeping mission and Garda Patrick O'Halloran, from Gort, Co. Galway but stationed in Baltinglass, was killed in the line of duty on January 24th 1924 in Baltinglass.

The Defence Forces provided a Colour Parade while the Garda Band provided music. The attendees included senior members of the Gardai and Defence Forces, relatives of Garda O'Halloran and Private McGuinn. Speeches were made by the Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass Municipal District, Tommy Cullen, Councillor Edward Timmins, Chief Superintendent John Quirke on behalf of An Garda Síochana and Colonel Brendan Delaney on behalf of the Defence Forces and Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, Mr. Frank Curran.

A memorial stone was then unveiled by Local Councillors whilst relatives of the deceased and representatives of the Defence Forces and An Garda Síochana laid wreaths before a minutes silence was observed.





Blessington Town Team

The Town Team for Blessington was established earlier this year with the aim of creating "One Vision One Voice for Blessington." The Town Team recently achieved its first objective by organising for a comprehensive town "Health Check" to be carried out to help to identify the areas that the Town Team will focus their energies on and to create a Vision Statement and Action Plan for the Town.

The Town Team's work is carried out in a spirit of genuine partnership between representatives from the local and business community, Tidy Towns, the Gardai and Education Sector, Councillors of Baltinglass Municipal District and Council Staff and it continues to build upon the many strong, successful structures and partnerships already in existence within the town.

"This is a new process for greater collaboration between the Public Sector and Community interests in Blessington", according to the Town Team Chairperson, John Horan. "The new Town Team will be focusing on how to make Blessington an even better place to work, shop, socialise and live in".

Baltinglass Municipal District is delighted to support the establishment of the Blessington Town Team and is fully committed to working closely with the Team to achieve it's Vision and Action Plan for maximising the business, tourism and social potential of Blessington.



Momentum has certainly been building in West Wicklow. As West Wicklow Business Network's Organising Committee, a fluid yet dedicated group of business owners, have been working towards building a sustainable business Network in West Wicklow.

West Wicklow Business Network Mission Statement: The West Wicklow Business Network exists to support and promote the empowerment of all businesses in West Wicklow, through membership participation, sharing of ideas, education and networking opportunities.

Following on from the re-launch, kindly hosted by Eric Blatchford, CEO, Russborough House in March, there have been monthly morning meetings at the Coimín Centre in Blessington interspersed with local businesses hosting events in Baltinglass Courthouse, Pat Lee's summer BBQ, Baltinglass and William Quinn at Topline in Baltinglass.

The Network is an open house and welcome all people in West Wicklow at any stage of business from concept to established, this event is not to be missed if you want to grow your business in West Wicklow.

Also sign up to add your business name to the business directory on West Wicklow 365 info@westwicklow365.ie

For further information please contact;
westwicklowbusiness@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/westwicklowbusinessnetwork/
Twitter@westwicklowbiz



River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme wins Engineers Ireland Excellence Award



Wicklow County Council won the Engineers Ireland Local Authority Engineering Initiative Award 2018 for The River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme in Bray. The Engineers Ireland Excellence Awards, held in association with ESB, are presented annually in recognition of the achievements of engineers who have demonstrated exceptional engineering skills through their work. The River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme is a key infrastructure project completed in October 2017 by Wicklow County Council and the Office of Public Works. The €46m project involved the widening and deepening of the river channel, construction of flood walls and embankments along a 3.3km stretch from Silverbridge at the N11 to the Harbour Bridge at Bray Harbour.



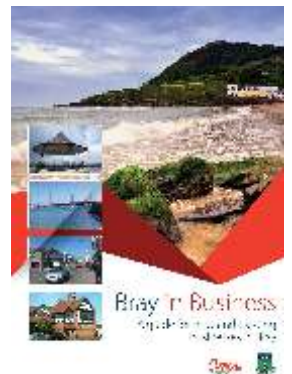
Tidy Towns

Bray was awarded a bronze medal in Tidy Towns Ireland Competition. Congratulations to Bray Tidy Towns, volunteers and Bray Municipal District staff on this fantastic result. Bray was praised for making big improvements and was up 11 points on 2017 results.



Bray in Business

The Bray in Business initiative was recently launched by Bray Municipal District. This is designed to help drive footfall in Bray, to attract more businesses and to secure a long term model for the management of the town. See www.bray.ie for more details.



Brave Maeve Trail

The Brave Maeve Trail on Bray Seafront was a winner at the Allianz Business to Arts Awards 2018 in the category of Best Use of Creativity in the Community. Check out the full story on www.bray.ie



Florentine Centre Development

The Florentine Centre Development is progressing well. The pace of the project has accelerated over the last month with the basement concrete frame well underway, reaching the ground floor on the North East of the site. With piling and temporary works now complete the project will foresee a rapid change over the coming month. Other elements of works outside of the car park basement have also commenced, such as enabling works to the main street entrance buildings.



Town Twinning

German students from our twinned city of Wurzburg visited Bray in August. They are pictured here in Bray Town Hall after a small reception welcoming them to Bray.



Reception held to honour Áine O'Gorman & Micheal Kelleher

International women's soccer player Áine O'Gorman and retired Librarian Michael Kelleher were honoured with a Civic Reception by Bray Municipal District on Tuesday in recognition of Áine's achievements in sport and Michael's contribution to the community.





Christmas Lights

The switching on of this year's Christmas lights took place in Burnaby Park on Saturday 24th of November. The event which was organised by Greystones Municipal District and Greystones 2020 included an afternoon of family entertainment with performances from "The Queen who cancelled Christmas", "Classic Harmony" and Music Generation. Local clergy participated in the event and Santa took time out of his busy schedule to meet with the many children and families who attended.



Community Archaeology in Greystones

Following a geophysical survey, a community archaeological dig was undertaken in the field of St. Crispin's Church which is part of a significant medieval settlement protected under the provisions of the National Monuments Acts.

Volunteers were sought to participate in the excavation in November under the supervision of an archaeologist which uncovered an 11th /12th century cloak pin, pottery fragments dating back to the Norman invasion and some of more recent German origin. The project was organised through local community groups supported by Wicklow County Council's Heritage office.



Suffragette Commemoration

On October 25th Greystones commemorated a significant event which took place on that day in 1910 at Greystones pier - a suffragette protest. Being one of the first such protests nationally, the event came to be recognised as a pivotal part of the early Irish suffragette campaign, which resulted in women gaining the right to vote in general elections. The commemoration involved collaboration between Wicklow County Council and Greystones Archaeological & Historical Society and included a wonderful performance by the pupils of St Brigid's School who re-enacted events.



South Beach Playground

An all-inclusive playground catering for the needs of children of all abilities was officially opened by Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD. The South Beach playground which cost €300,000 is designed for all children to play together and learn together.

The playground equipment includes a musical play area, an ability swing, a sensory path, a toddler play area, a wheelchair-accessible sand factory, zip lines and a large activity set.



La Touche Legacy Seminar

The 30th annual La Touche Legacy Seminar and 5th Festival of History was held in Greystones Golf Club in September. This event was organised by the La Touche Legacy Committee in association with the Greystones Archaeological & Historical Society. There was a great turn-out to hear lectures on the subject of 'Evolution of the Irish State - Social and Political'.



Greystones Way

The official opening of the Greystones Way Walking Trail took place on a beautiful sunny afternoon in 2018.

The eight-kilometre trail goes from Greystones train station to Kilmacanogue and connects to the Sugar Loaf Way, via the Burnaby, Kindlestown, Bellvue Hill, Kindlestown Woods, Ballydonagh, the Glenview N11 overbridge and Quill Road. Access to the walking trail is well served by public transport.

Greystones Municipal District Councillors allocated their tourism budget for the last two years to develop this walk.





Wicklow Tidy Towns unveiled their latest project on Culture Night

On Culture night, Wicklow Tidy Towns were excited to unveil "Wicklow through the Ages" Mural. On the night local people and children were invited to leave their handprints along the wall.

The Mural was a collaboration with Kilmartin Art Gallery and Wicklow Tidy Towns. Local artists Robert Teeling, Derek Lyons, Pat Dover and Barbara O'Reilly created the artwork for the mural from a list of historical events catalogued by local historian John Finlay.

The images on the mural are depicted from Wicklow Town's history commencing with the early settlers in 600 BC, St Patrick, The Vikings, and The Normans etc. One of the scrolls was set aside as a welcome to the diverse community now living in the town.

The Mural was funded by a Creative Ireland grant administered by Wicklow County Council and a contribution from Wicklow Rotary Club. Paint and materials were donated by O'Reilly Hardware to prepare the surface of the wall.

Children at Play Signs

15 "Children at Play" signs have now been recently erected in Local Authority Estates within the Wicklow Municipal District.



Footpath from Laragh Village to Trooperstown

The completion of the footpath from Laragh Village to Trooperstown has now opened up a new walking route to the start of the Avonmore Way walking trail. This will allow walkers from Laragh to connect with the existing marked trail all the way to Rathdrum village.





Wicklow Municipal District entries to the National Enterprise Town Awards



Roundwood

Roundwood was nominated in the category for towns up to a population of 5,000. It is an area famous for its scenery and the Vartry Reservoir while at the heart of the village is the Roundwood and District Community Council (RDCC) whose main objective is to "involve residents in promoting the social, educational, cultural and economic welfare of the whole community".

The Vartry Reservoir Loop Walk is a shining example of what a village can achieve through dedication, co-operation and hard work. The walk is accessible to all levels of ability and as such brings a large amount of people to Roundwood on a daily basis. This fantastic amenity has brought economic benefit to Roundwood and provides an additional eco-tourism product to the area.

Participating in the Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Town Awards enabled Roundwood to show off all that it has to offer and all that it has achieved by the simple coming together of the community. It allowed the story to be told of how from humble beginnings the Community Council have now created a tourism product to be proud of. It also allowed the community the opportunity to portray their genuine respect and appreciation for the wonderful natural environment they live in and their willingness to share this amazing amenity with others.

Wicklow Town

Wicklow was chosen to participate in the 10,000 plus population category of the Bank of Ireland Enterprise Town Awards 2018 due, in part, to the incredible work which has been carried out over the last year by Wicklow Town Team, supported by Wicklow Municipal District and Wicklow County Council. The group has achieved a lot in its tenure, with firm goals set for future objectives.

Wicklow had a very positive experience with the Enterprise Town Awards. It gave the community an opportunity to come together and highlight the very best of what Wicklow has to offer. The support from local business, voluntary groups and community representatives was overwhelming and the day helped to forge even stronger links between different strands of the community. The future of Wicklow looks bright, particularly due to the collaborative nature of its citizens and the firm commitment of the Town Team to progress their town.



#MakeWayWicklow

Wicklow County Council was delighted to be among 18 Councils taking part in the first ever national Make Way Day.

#MakeWayWicklow, which took place on Wednesday 26th September, aimed to give a gentle reminder to the public to make way for people with disabilities. Disability groups and organisations from Bray, Wicklow, Arklow and Baltinglass took to the streets to highlight obstacles such as:

- Cars or vans parked on a footpath blocking the way.
- Bicycle/motorbikes chained to lampposts creating a trip hazard for a visually impaired person.
- Illegally placed sandwich boards, forgotten bins, barrels and other obstructions.

There was a blitz of videos and photographs uploaded to social media with the hashtags **#MakeWayDay** and **#MakeWayWicklow** on the day. This resulted in the campaign 'trending' or being the number one thing spoken about on social media in Ireland that day.

Among the groups taking part are the Bray Area Partnerships Disability Network, Disability Action Together North Wicklow, the local branch of the MS Society, Cairdeas Clubhouse in Bray, Wicklow Local Authority Access Group, Irish Wheelchair Association in Arklow, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland in Wicklow Town and KARE in Blessington and Baltinglass.

Led by Disability Federation of Ireland, 17 of the country's local authorities Irish Wheelchair Association and Enable Ireland came together to call for greater public awareness of the needs of people with disabilities in the public spaces we all share. They believe thoughtlessness and genuine lack of awareness is behind most instances like those listed.

If you would like to get involved in raising awareness of similar issues in Wicklow you can contact, Pierce at piercerichardson@disability-federation.ie or 086 1301515.



Help reduce the risk of drowning at Christmas Time
This Christmas many people are planning to take part in Christmas swims and may take chances beyond what is acceptably safe. Wicklow County Council & Irish Water Safety are cautioning the public to minimize the length of time they remain immersed due to the risk of hypothermia.

“Cold shock” and hypothermia can overwhelm the fittest of swimmers but steps can be taken to remain accident free:

- Swimmers should “Get In, Get Out and Warm Up”, avoiding extended periods of exposure.
- Each Charity Swim should appoint a Safety Officer, who has the ultimate responsibility for making decisions regarding the event.
- The Safety Officer should ensure that they provide comprehensive details of each event to the Irish Coast Guard, RNLI and local Gardai,
- If the seas are rough and weather deteriorates, wait for a more suitable day to honour your charity commitment.
- Cold water cools muscles faster than during warmer summer swims and may cause cramp.
- Alcohol should be avoided before and immediately after swimming as it impairs judgment.



Enquiries:

Wicklow County Council Water Safety Development
Officer Tel: 0404 20100



The 12 Days of Christmas

FIRE SAFETY ADVICE TO KEEP YOU SAFE

On the 1st Day of Christmas..

Celebrate Christmas and New Year safely. Many fires start because people drink alcohol and fall asleep whilst cooking or smoking. Intoxication can cause drowsiness and can make you less alert to the signs of fire.



On the 2nd Day of Christmas..

Check your Christmas tree lights conform to European standards. Always use a residual current device (RCD - safety device that can save lives by instantly switching off power) on outdoor electrical equipment.



On the 3rd Day of Christmas..

Make sure your family and visitors staying for the festive period know what to do in an emergency. Make a fire escape plan.



On the 4th Day of Christmas..

Never place candles near your Christmas tree, furnishings or decorations and never leave candles burning unattended. Decorations can burn easily - don't attach them to lights, heaters, candles or place around a fireplace.



On the 5th Day of Christmas..

Never overload electrical sockets. Take special care with Christmas Lights. Always switch Christmas lights off and unplug them before you go to bed or leave the house - even briefly.



On the 6th Day of Christmas..

Test your smoke alarm every week - replacing batteries when needed, and use Christmas as a reminder to clean it and remove dust.



On the 7th Day of Christmas..

Most fires start in the kitchen - never leave cooking unattended. Never put anything metallic inside your microwave.



On the 8th Day of Christmas..

Switch off and unplug electrical equipment at night - only leave on appliances that are designed to be left on, like the fridge or your DVD recorder.



On the 9th Day of Christmas..

Make sure cigarettes are completely extinguished before going to bed. Turn heaters off and put a guard in front of an open fire.



On the 10th Day of Christmas..

Never burn household rubbish or plastic in your open fire or solid fuel stove. Make sure your chimney or stove flue is professionally cleaned twice a year. If installing a solid fuel appliance, please use a HETAS registered installer.



On the 11th Day of Christmas..

A real tree that has dried out (needles falling off) is a fire hazard. Keep tree away from heat sources and keep tree stand filled with water.



On the 12th Day of Christmas..

Take the time to check on elderly relatives and neighbours this Christmas - make sure they are fire safe. Consider the gift of a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector to keep the elderly safe.



AVAILABLE SUPPORTS

Seniors Alert Scheme (SAS)

Are seniors in your area aware of the Seniors Alert Scheme? The SAS supplies emergency alarm pendants for seniors. For further information, please visit www.pobal.ie

CLÁR Programme

The Department of Rural and Community Development has provided funding under the CLÁR programme to provide support for emergency responders in disadvantaged rural areas.

Details on eligibility and the application process are published on the Department's website www.drcd.gov.ie

Libraries

Libraries are welcoming spaces at the centre of the community where people can access newspapers, books, online resources, free WiFi, computers and communal spaces. People can go to their libraries to reflect, connect and learn. For more information on the services you can access at your local library, please see www.librariesireland.ie

Volunteering

Ireland has a strong tradition of volunteer activity. From checking in on vulnerable neighbours to staffing helplines, formal and informal volunteers have made a huge contribution during recent extreme weather events.

For more information on how you can contribute to your community, please see www.volunteer.ie

LoCall OEP: 1890 252 736 or 076 1 001 608
e-mail: oop@defence.ie

GENTLE REMINDER: CHECK ON YOUR OLDER RELATIVES AND NEIGHBOURS



If it's difficult for you to get around it will be impossible for them.

- Do you have their phone number(s)?
- Phone them or call around
- Make sure they have enough fuel, food supplies and necessary medications
- If in doubt call the Gardaí and ask them to check

You can get more information from:

- www.winterready.ie
- www.drcd.gov.ie
- www.mapalerter.com
- www.undertheweather.ie
- www.emergencyplanning.ie
- www.met.ie



www.winterready.ie

[@emergencyIE](https://twitter.com/emergencyIE)



BE WINTER-READY



You Your Community and the Winter



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES

Winter readiness is a challenge for individuals and communities across Ireland each year, and calls for cooperation and collaboration between many different groups.

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) has a unique role to play in fostering the links that bring communities together. Our mission is to “*promote rural and community development and to support vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities throughout Ireland.*”

Strengthening community links helps to improve preparedness for emergencies. Experience has shown that active preparation leads to a better response in an emergency, leading to the best possible outcome for all concerned. This preparedness enables the community to come together to use locally identified resources (people and equipment) during an emergency affecting their community, such as the flooding and heavy snowfall of recent years.

Although the response to severe weather events is coordinated both nationally and locally, communities have an important role to play in emergencies. Central to this is neighbours knowing each other and working together. Being prepared, knowing your neighbours and working together will help to ensure that you and your community are winter ready in the months ahead.

BEING PREPARED

Know Your Community

Is your community based around an apartment building, a housing estate, a street, a road or a village? Is there a local residents' association or community alert group?

Neighbourhood Supports

Do you have your neighbours' contact details?

How can you help each other? For example, do you or your neighbour have an off-road vehicle or medical experience?

Planning

What emergencies might your community have to plan for? For example, fire, flooding, snow, power outage, water shortage or accessibility problems.

Vulnerable Neighbours

Are some of your neighbours particularly vulnerable? For example, older people, people with disabilities or mobility problems, neighbours with young children or people without access to transport.

Remember

- Know your Eircode
- Know your GP's Contact Details
- Get the flu vaccine
- Keep your phone charged
- Keep warm, eat well and avoid unnecessary travel
- Know how to turn off your utility services (electricity, gas, water) in your home

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- Fill in your contact numbers below
- Keep your contact numbers on display
- In the event of an emergency, dial 999 or 112

Eircode:

Electrician:

Emergency Contact:

Family GP:

Hospital:

Local Authority:

Neighbour:

Pharmacist:

Plumber:

Residents' Association/
Community
Alert Group:

You, Your Community and the Winter

Road Safety Advice & Tips for the Festive Season

Wicklow County Council encourages all road users to stay safe on our roads at all times but in particular during the festive period.

Wicklow County Council is committed to working with the Road Safety Authority and all agencies involved in road safety to reduce fatal and serious injuries on our roads.

It is important that all road users heed the warnings and road safety messages and be road safety conscious.

The greatest gift you can give this Christmas is to safeguard the lives of others by driving responsibly, while the greatest gift you can receive is that other drivers and road users are careful with your life.

It is the hope of Wicklow County Council and An Garda Síochána that there are fewer families grieving and fewer people who need long-term care for injuries received in road crashes that could have been prevented. We would ask all road users to be road safety aware this Christmas - don't speed, always wear your seatbelt, don't drive if you are feeling tired, and never ever drink or drug drive.

To date in 2018 (3rd December)
a total of 123 families, friends and communities
have lost a loved one.

Pedestrians	36	Passengers	19
Drivers	59	Pedal Cyclists	9
Motorcyclists	13	Total	136

Wicklow County Council would like to wish all road users a safe and happy Christmas & New Year.



Wicklow Library Service

Winter is the busiest time of year in Wicklow County Council Library Service. Children are busy back at school and for many, this means attending events at their local library. This month, we have decided to showcase just some of the events that occur, at just some of our 13 libraries!

Bray – Eglinton Road

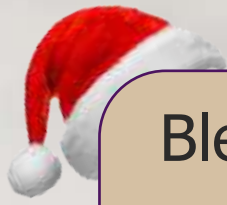
- Creative Writing (each Thursday evening)
- Knitting Circle (each Tuesday evening)
- Toddler story time (each Tuesday morning)
- "Rereading the classics" book club (monthly)
Also 2 regular book clubs
- Mindfulness for Mums (monthly)

Wicklow

- Storytime + arts and crafts (Saturday mornings)
- Teenage book club – first Saturday of each month
- Book club for adults – monthly on Wednesday evenings

Greystones

- German conversation group each Saturday morning
- Poetry group meet monthly
- 4 book clubs
- Music Circle - first Wednesday of every month



Blessington

- Storytimes every Wednesday and Saturday.
- 'Reading Role Models' where local people in the neighbourhood read to children in the library.
- Poetry Group – 'Poula Poetry' 1st Tuesday of the month.
- Crafty Hookers – Knitting and Crochet group, every Wednesday.
- Children's Book Clubs 3rd 9- 10 year olds Tuesday of the month at 7 pm and 11-12 year olds 1st Thursday evening at 7 p.m.
- Baby Booktime 10 a.m. Friday mornings.
- Toddlertime 11 a.m. Friday mornings.
- Citizen's information every Tues afternoon & Wednesday morning.
- Free Legal Aid 3rd Wednesday of the month.
- Age Action one-to one computer classes every Thursday - main library.



Arklow

- Singalong Mondays with Becky – story time, play & singing with parents and toddlers each Monday
- Twice weekly Polish language classes hosted by Monika Kosta
- Irish Sign Language tuition takes place in the Community Room every Wednesday morning 10-11am

Wicklow

...Let's talk business

Wicklow's Female Entrepreneurs Take Part In Largest National Women's Enterprise Day



Female entrepreneurs from across County Wicklow took part in Ireland's largest National Women's Enterprise Day on Thursday 18th October when they attended their local event at Powerscourt House, Enniskerry. An initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, and now in its 12th year, over 1,400 female entrepreneurs attended National Women's Enterprise Day events across the country. At the Wicklow event at Powerscourt House and Gardens, over 70 local entrepreneurs were in attendance to hear the thoughts of Sarah Slazenger, Managing Director, Powerscourt Estate, who impressed and inspired the audience with her story of the various challenges encountered in the business over the years, from the

devastating fire at Powerscourt House, turning Powerscourt Estate into a successful and profitable enterprise, global recognition from National Geographic for Powerscourt Gardens and plans for building a range of sustainable enterprises into future. Sarah said, "National Women's Enterprise Day is an excellent example of partnerships. Over the last 25 years Powerscourt has been dependent on successful partnerships to take us from local to global."

Serial entrepreneur Aisling Hurley of the Business Fairy digital marketing agency also gave the enterprising audience some sound practical advice on developing, digital marketing strategies to engage with both local and global markets. The Master of Ceremonies was Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Wicklow.

Afterwards the audience were invited by Sarah Slazengenger and Vibeke Delahunt, to join in a networking event over afternoon tea in the Garden View Room of Powerscourt House.

Tailor made Business and IT Training for SME's provided by Local Enterprise Office Wicklow

Training is an important aspect in the management and development of any small business. LEO Wicklow recognises the need to provide training courses across a wide range of business topics. Courses are significantly subsidised by LEO Wicklow and a comprehensive training programme will be launched in January 2019.

Examples of training topics include:

- Start Your Own Business Courses
- Access Finance to grow your Business / Human Resource workshop / How to test the market for your idea /
- Business IT skills such as Website Optimisation, Social Media, and Trading Online.
- Sales Courses and Digital Marketing Clinics
- Topical Seminars

To see our full offering of courses this autumn / winter and to book please go to:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Wicklow/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

Wicklow

...Let's talk business

The Hunt Is On: Under 35 Yrs Old, In Business Or Have A Great Business Idea?

Are you Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur 2019

Prize Fund of €50,000 available to support Wicklow entrepreneurs, aged between 18 and 35, to set up and grow their Business.

The search is on to find Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE). Coordinated by the Local Enterprise Offices, this nationwide competition is across three categories: Best Business Idea, Best Start-Up Business (under 18 months) and Best Established Business (over 18 months).

Every entrant into the competition from the county will be invited to attend an 'Entrepreneur Bootcamp' in April where they will be given tips and advice on how to develop their business and new venture. The Wicklow county final winners in the Best Start-Up and Best Established Business categories at county level will receive investments of up to €15,000 each and the two runners-up will each receive up to €5,000. The Best Business Idea winner at county level will receive an investment of up to €7,000 and the runner-up will receive up to €3,000 of investment. These winners will then progress to the Regional Finals and hopefully represent Wicklow the national IBYE finals to be held in September 2019.



Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office

#IBYE

2019

Could you be Ireland's
Best Young Entrepreneur
for 2019?

www.ibye.ie

Find out by entering at
ibye.ie
before 15th March 2019

Wicklow

...Let's talk business

Great News: The Trading Online Voucher Scheme For SME's Will Be Open Throughout 2019

Don't miss out: Funding available to upgrade your Website

SME are urged to get ready to start trading online and avail of the Trading Online Voucher Grant!



The Trading Online Voucher aims to encourage small businesses to develop their online presence through a website or digital marketing strategy by availing of a grant of up to €2,500. Businesses must be trading for a minimum of 12 months.

To support businesses to avail of the scheme, LEO Wicklow runs a number of Trading Online Seminars during the year where business owners get some top tips from social media guru Noel Davidson for selling online, followed by an explanation of the Trading Online

Voucher Scheme and application process. Before you can apply you will need to attend one of our free Trading Online Seminars. The next seminar will be on Wednesday 30th January 2019 in Wicklow County Campus.

For more information on the voucher and to book your place please go to:

www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow

Or call in for a chat: Local Enterprise Office Wicklow, Wicklow County Campus, Clermont House, Rathnew, Tel: 0404 30800 or email: enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie



Wicklow County Council Disability Officer



Wicklow County Council has linked with the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) to provide a Community Development worker for two days per week. Laura English has been successfully carrying

out the role for the past two years. Currently in the role is Pierce Richardson who has worked for DFI since 2015. He is committed to helping to bring about social change and improve the quality of life of people in their local area.

Contact Pierce at piercerichardson@disability-federation.ie or 086 1301515

The work of the Community Development Worker includes:

- Building representative groups of people with disabilities across County Wicklow,
- Improving the physical accessibility of the county's towns and villages,
- Improving the accessibility of services provided by the council,
- Delivering relevant training to council staff and others working in the community,
- Raising awareness of the challenges people with disabilities face through targeted campaigns,
- Strengthening relationships with existing services and groups to ensure that people with disabilities can fully participate in their local communities. For example, Local County Partnerships, the Education and Training Board, Local Sports Partnership and the Public Participation Network (PPN).



**ARE YOU
REGISTERED
TO VOTE?**

Check the register on
www.checktheregister.ie

Vote



Positive Budget adopted Total Expenditure

Wicklow County Council adopts Annual Budget 2019 on 26th November 2018.

Adopted Budget 2019 provides for the ongoing delivery of countywide services within a challenging financial environment. The decision by elected members to maintain the Local Property Tax basic rate for 2019 was welcomed as it ensures the continuation of a number of important community programmes.

As well as normal day to day operational expenditure, there is also provision in this Budget for the following:

Increased funding for Housing of the Homeless and Disabled Persons Grants.

Additional funding for County Wicklow Tourism Promotion.

Additional funding for Central Heating installation and Fabric Upgrade Works.

Introduction of Vacant Sites Levy.

Funding for Social Housing Conditional Surveys and associated works.

Increased funding for County Wicklow Fire Services.

Additional staffing provision for Libraries and increased book fund.

Continued funding for grants and contributions to community, cultural and sporting organisations and groups throughout the County - €1,500,000 in total.

New standardised car parking management contract for the county.

Increase funding for economic development and enterprise including Rates Incentive Scheme.

New energy saving measures to meet 2020 reduced energy consumption targets.



pted for Our County €103million

Discretionary Funding

For Municipal Districts in 2019

General Municipal Allocation €238,500

(Festivals, Twinning, Tidy Towns, Economic Development, Town Teams)

Public Realm Funding

€964,000

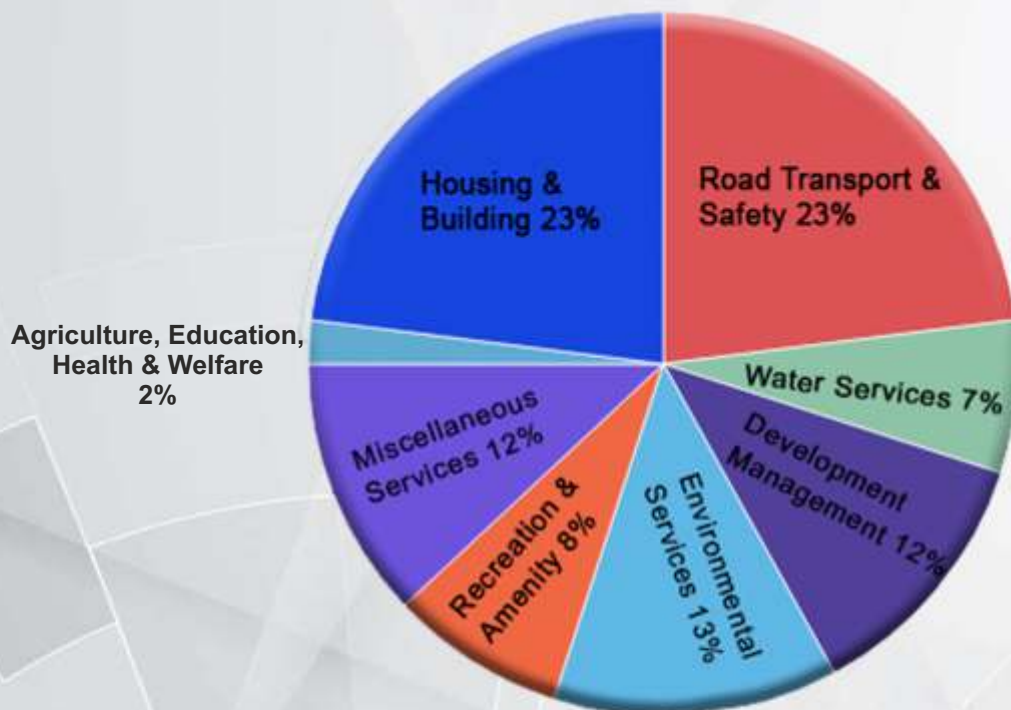
Footpath Renewal Scheme

€300,000

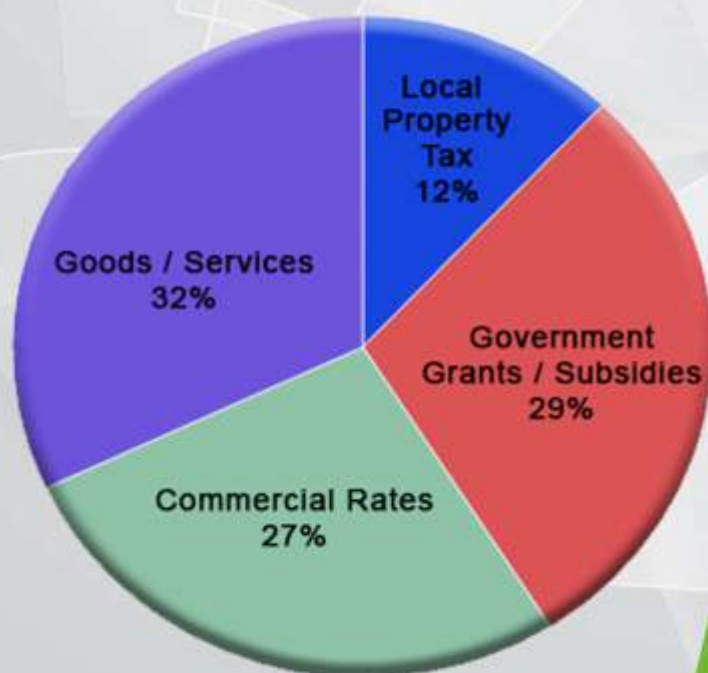
Footpath/Public lighting upgrade

€500,000

Adopted Budget 2019 Expenditure



Adopted Budget 2019 Income



A full copy of the adopted budget can be downloaded from www.wicklow.ie/finance



Wicklow Launches its new Outdoors Brand

Wicklow County Tourism in partnership with Wicklow County Council, has launched its new promotional brand: Wicklow Outdoors!

Because of its unique varied terrain and landscape Wicklow is offering its residents and visitors a tremendous playground for many outdoor activities: walking, hiking, cycling, mountain biking, horse riding, golfing, kayaking, surfing, fishing, sailing and many many more.

Directly South of Dublin and highly accessible by car and public transport, Wicklow is entertaining vast numbers of people every week coming from Dublin, the East Coast, the whole of Ireland and beyond.

The new Wicklow Outdoors brand will help better package and promote Wicklow not only to the Irish Market, but also abroad: if anyone in Germany, America or China is looking at engaging in Outdoor Activities in Ireland, Wicklow has to come up first in their searches!

Over the next few months, Wicklow Tourism will be working on the following objectives:

- Engage with local accommodation providers to carry the brand and create 'Wicklow Outdoors' packages: Wicklow offers many package opportunities: walking, cycling, equestrian, surfing, mountain biking, golfing, fishing, bush craft and more. A Wicklow Outdoors package can be something as simple as a packed lunch for visitors that want to enjoy the many trails available in Wicklow.
- Work in partnership with Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland and reach pre-defined international markets: engage with overseas influencers and tour operators from Germany, Scandinavia, Benelux, UK, China, etc, to help us promote Wicklow and attract visitors from all over the world
- At the same time, help and grow the network of walking routes connecting with the Wicklow Way and create a world-class network of trails: Sugarloaf Way, St Kevin's Way, Blessington Greenway, Avonmore Way, Vartry Reservoir, East Coast Greenway, Arklow to Shillelagh Wicklow Greenway, all creating a network of trails around Wicklow.
- Finally, Wicklow is ideal to develop a network of recommended cycling and ebiking routes: There are plenty of scenic and safe secondary roads and soon Greenway(s) that when connected together and properly packaged, will turn Wicklow into a fabulous cycling and e-biking destination

For further info, please contact Wicklow County Tourism at 0404 20070 or info@visitwicklow.ie



Developing Tourism in Wicklow



In late 2016 Wicklow County Council formed a working group to develop an initial statement of strategy for Tourism in County Wicklow. The group consisted of elected members, members of the tourism trade and officials. Just over a year ago Bluesail Consultants were appointed to develop the County Wicklow Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan which was launched by Minister Simon Harris on 31st October 2018.

Wicklow is a county of Endless Opportunities or considerable untapped potential as Bluesail Consultants suggest. There are opportunities to develop the accommodation offering, to develop towns as visitor hubs, to develop Glendalough as a world class visitor experience, to grow thematic experiences such as outdoor activities and to use a common narrative or shared story to promote and market the county.

The strategy is ambitious and has set some challenging targets but is also very practical and achievable. The next challenge will be to put a strong implementation team in place with the ultimate aim of increased visitor numbers and spend and over 1,000 additional local jobs.



CHRISTMAS PARKING IN COUNTY WICKLOW

FREE PARKING IN GREYSTONES

2 hours free on street parking will be available in Greystones on Saturday 24th of November and each Saturday in December 2018. Wardens will be on duty to enforce illegal parking on these dates.

Free parking is available in the car parks at South Beach, Trafalgar Road and La Touche Road every Saturday and throughout the town on Sundays. Greystones Park & Ride car park has 460 free spaces every day.

Free parking daily between 9am and 10am and 15 minutes grace period is allowed on commencement of parking. Cashless parking is available in Greystones using Parking Tag, which allows motorists to park by phone and extend parking times without returning to the vehicle. Details available on www.parkingtag.ie, motorists can register online or on the Parking Tag mobile app.



FREE PARKING IN WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL CAR PARKS IN BRAY EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY IN DECEMBER



#christmasinbray



CHRISTMAS PARKING IN WICKLOW TOWN

2 hours free parking will apply to all Pay and Display Parking areas in Wicklow Town from Monday 3rd December 2018 to Tuesday 1st January 2019 inclusive.

Loading Bay restricted hours between 9a.m. to 12 noon Monday to Friday will still apply.

Free parking is available in the Seafront Car Park.

The Traffic Wardens will continue to monitor and enforce illegal parking during this time.



FREE PARKING FOR CHRISTMAS IN ARKLOW

Free parking will be provided in Arklow town for the Christmas period – running from Saturday December 1st to Tuesday, January 1st 2019.

Free parking will apply to all areas with the exception of Main Street, Lower Main Street, Upper Main Street and the Wexford Road. Pay and display will remain as normal in these areas.

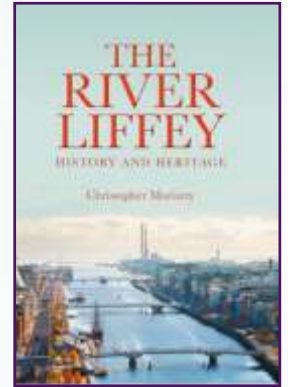
The traffic wardens will be monitoring the traffic as normal and enforcing all other aspects of the parking bye laws in relation to illegal parking.



YOUR COUNTY YOUR HERITAGE

The River Liffey History & Heritage

The River Liffey History and Heritage' is a recent publication from Collins Press by Christopher Moriarty. In this book Christopher imparts a lifetime of knowledge following an extensive academic and professional career studying the river. Sweeping and authoritative but also personal, this wide-ranging study breaks new ground in bringing together every aspect of a single river, from its place in literature to its role in industry. Beginning at its source high in the Wicklow Mountains, we are guided through the geology that shapes the river and in turn influences the agriculture and industry of the valley. As the Liffey descends to the lowlands, we explore the wealth of beautiful public parks and gardens, before providing an architectural history of the urban area of the Liffey, explaining how the development of the quays was inspired by the layout of 17th century Paris. When the Liffey meets the sea, it forms the safe haven that led the Norsemen to found the seaport which grew into the vibrant city of Dublin. The production of this book was supported by the Heritage Offices of Wicklow, Kildare and South Dublin County Council's as part of the River Liffey Heritage Recording Project. This initiative is part of the ongoing programme of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan 2017 - 2022.



Author Christopher Moriarty gave a presentation on the River Liffey in Wicklow in Blessington Library on Thursday 29th November. The book is on sale from Collins Press and local bookshops for €24.99.

Stories of Our Wicklow Women - Exhibition in County Buildings

2018 marks the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, which extended for the first time the right to vote (suffrage) to women, albeit with certain restrictions. In commemoration of this centenary, the Wicklow Heritage Forum, through Our Wicklow Heritage made a public appeal earlier this year for stories relating to Our Wicklow Women. We sought your stories of Wicklow women who have made a difference in our community: stories of success, struggle, or of quiet diligence.



The reaction has been amazing and all stories submitted have been published on our online community heritage archive www.countywicklowheritage.org. Stories cover a wide geographical spread and encompass a vast spectrum of activity and achievement. A selection of these, consisting of thirteen stories have been compiled into an Our Wicklow Women exhibition featuring the following; Mairin Cregan, Jennie Wyse Power, Lizzie Le Blond, Theodosia Blachford, Lucinda Sullivan, Kate Tyrrell, Maria Curran, Averil Deverell, Josephine Heffernan, Elizabeth Smith, Ninette De Valois, Eliza Davis and Anna Parnell.



Our Wicklow Heritage is a member of Irish Community Archive Network (ICAN) and is co-ordinated by the heritage, archives and library services of Wicklow County Council through the Wicklow Heritage Forum. This project is carried out in association with ICAN as part of European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and forms part of the County Wicklow Heritage Plan programme.

SHEEP WORRYING



Dogs make wonderful companions, and we all strive to be responsible owners. Yet every year sheep farmers around the county are subjected to dreadful attacks to their flocks by marauding dogs.

Now is a good time to remind ourselves about our responsibilities as dog owners. Aiden Corcoran Dog Warden Service said "Whether you live in or near the countryside, or visit for recreational purposes, the ISPCA reminds dog owners that they must have effective control over their pets at all times, day or night".



It is every dog's natural instinct to chase. They will join other dogs to take part in pack behaviour capable of doing serious damage to sheep. Sheep are often seriously injured in their panic to escape from chasing dogs. Pregnant ewes can also miscarry their lambs, causing huge devastation to farmers.

Under the 'Control of Dogs Act', pet owners will be held liable for the financial damage to livestock from an attack by their dog. Costs can reach well into the thousands. It is vital that dog owners keep dogs under control at all times. It is also a legal requirement that dogs are microchipped in Ireland by 12 weeks of age or before they permanently leave the premises where they were born.

If you do see a dog that appears to be a stray, please report it to the Wicklow Dog Warden at 0404 44873 or your local Garda Station.



Building Communities



Did you know that
Wicklow County Council
has 4,313 Social Homes?

*Working in the community, with the
community, for the community*



Avoca Recycling Centre a finalist in the Community Recycling Project Of The Year Category in REPAK's PAKMAN Awards



Avoca Recycling Centre was a finalist at the PAKMAN awards held recently in Dublin.

The centre was recognised for it's work with local community groups. Below is Myles Doyle, Manager of the centre with the award.



National Broadband Plan - Digital Strategy

Wicklow County Council is committed and focused on creating County Wicklow's first Digital Strategy. Digital Technologies are changing the way we interact as communities, how we educate ourselves and access information, and how we carry out day-to-day business. In order to take advantage of the opportunities digital technologies provide, and secure sustainable economic growth locally, we must be prepared to derive the full benefits from them.

Wicklow County Council has started a citizen and business engagement process which will enable all to have their say in shaping County Wicklow's first Digital Strategy. The Digital Strategy is based on four main themes: 'Digital Infrastructure', 'Digital Council', 'Digital Economy' and 'Citizen Smart'. A public workshop and online survey with regards these themes will be undertaken in early 2019 as part of the engagement process and this will help outline objectives and build an action plan under each theme of the Digital Strategy.

For more information please keep an eye on the council website:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Your-Council/National-Broadband-Plan/Digital-Strategy>

Or email broadband@wicklowcoco.ie



County Wicklow Older Persons Council Seminar



November 30th saw Hotel Glendalough play host to County Wicklow's Older Persons Council seminar. The event was well attended with a variety of speakers.

Renowned journalist Valerie Cox spoke about the rights of older people particularly on how they need to know their rights and how to fight for them. Valerie was truly an inspiration to the attendees. The attendees were reassured that Wicklow County Council is working on their behalf and including age friendly in all projects.



Tina Koumarianos, Agony Aunt, entertained everyone with tales of life and her experiences. In the afternoon Wicklow LSP got everyone moving with light exercises, injected with humour.



A huge thank you to all who supported the event and to all who donated the Babushka boxes.





LANDLORDS, PROPERTY OWNERS AND ESTATE AGENTS



WE WANT YOUR PROPERTY

Wicklow County Council is seeking to lease properties from private property owners. These properties will be used to provide housing for people in need.

Generally one, two and three bedroom houses and apartments are sought in areas where there is a general demand for housing, mainly in urban areas. If you have a residential property and would be interested in leasing it for 10 years or more, you can:

- Have a guaranteed rental income.
- Avoid losing rent during vacant periods.
- Enjoy more free time without having to manage a tenant and day-to-day maintenance.
- Escape the hassle of collecting rent and finding a new tenant.
- Avoid advertising costs.
- Shorter-term 'Availability Agreements' are an option for property owners who want to enter into an agreement which has a shorter term and keep their landlord responsibilities.

Do you have a property that you might consider renting under the HAP scheme but don't know where to start?

You could avail of all the benefits of national HAP scheme which include;


- Low administration – you don't need to collect rent or make requests for payment from your HAP tenant.
- Easy banking – all payments are made electronically to you every month.
- Consistency of payment – the HAP payment to you will not change if your tenant's income changes.
- Tax Relief - Landlords who rent to tenants in receipt of social housing supports such as HAP may avail of increased tax relief.

Wicklow County Council requires all types of rental properties for all kinds of households and family sizes across the County who are currently in temporary emergency accommodation or those at risk of becoming homeless.

Wicklow County Council can provide assistance with the paperwork and prompt payment of a deposit and up to two months' rent upfront for these families.

If you wish to make property available or would just like further information please contact the Homeless Hap Placefinder at (0404) 20120 or email hap@wicklowcoco.ie.





Vacant Housing Repair and Leasing Initiative

The Vacant Housing Repair and Leasing Initiative is available if your property is in need of upgrading and you don't have the funds to do so.

A key component of the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness, the Vacant Housing Repair and Leasing Initiative targets properties in need of repair and ensures that existing housing stock is used to the maximum degree possible.

The basis of the scheme is to fund the repair and improvement works to suitable vacant properties in order to bring them up to the standard for rented accommodation. The cost of the works is then deducted from lease payments over an agreed lease term.

Wicklow County Council will assist property owners to develop the scope of works and also aid the property owner in the completion of the repair works. Property inspections will be carried out by Wicklow County Council staff, who will identify the works required to bring the dwelling to the required standard.

Vacant Homes Scheme

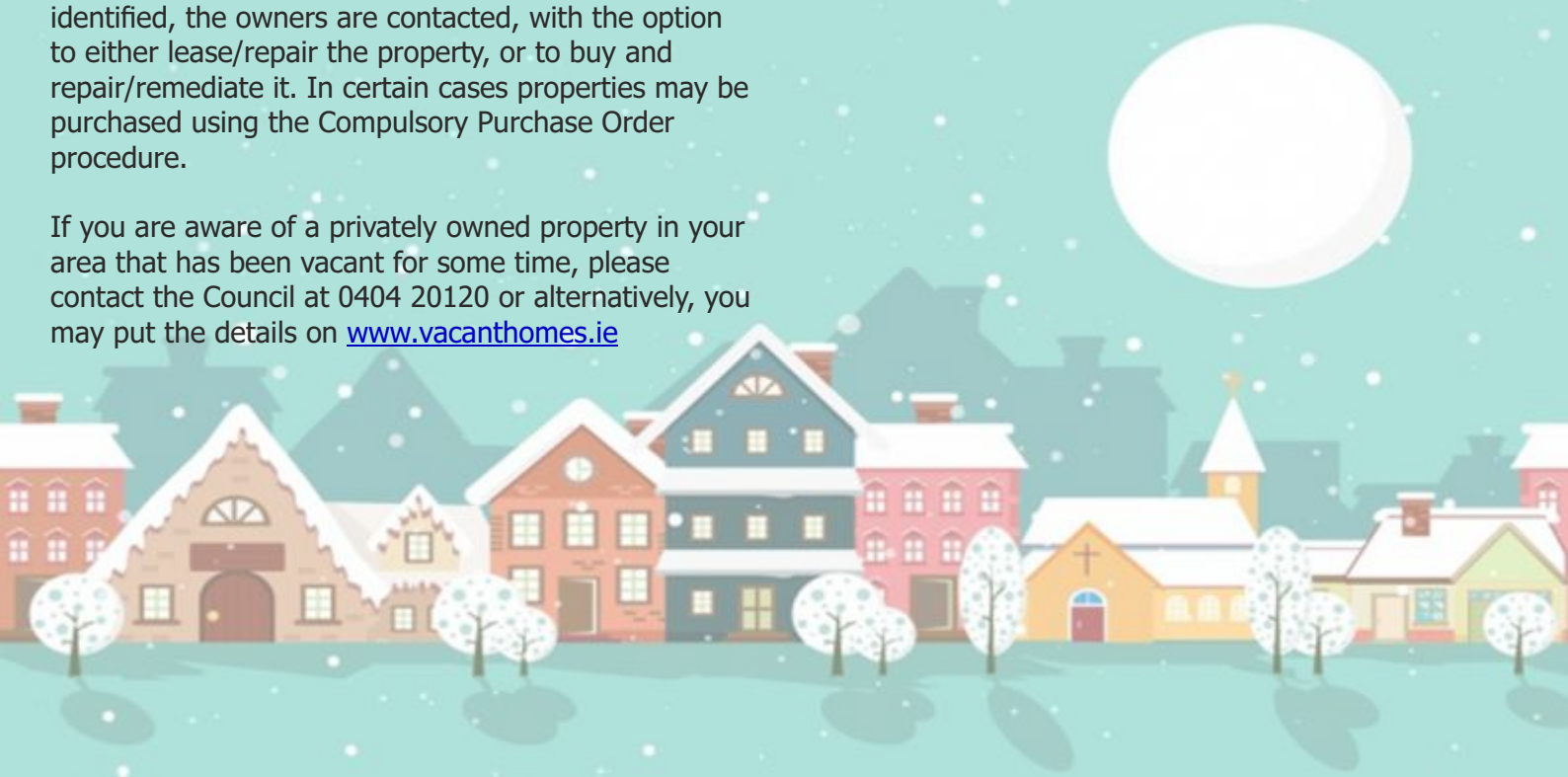
Wicklow County Council is actively looking at vacant homes that come to its attention through various sources. When a property is identified, the owners are contacted, with the option to either lease/repair the property, or to buy and repair/remediate it. In certain cases properties may be purchased using the Compulsory Purchase Order procedure.

If you are aware of a privately owned property in your area that has been vacant for some time, please contact the Council at 0404 20120 or alternatively, you may put the details on www.vacanthomes.ie

Buy and Renew Scheme

The Buy & Renew Scheme aims to support Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies to Purchase and Renew Housing Units. This initiative, which complements the Repair & Leasing Scheme, is also designed to assist local authorities to harness the accommodation potential that exists in certain vacant properties for social housing use. As with the Repair & Leasing Scheme, the use of the Buy & Renew Scheme is subject to the suitability of the property for social housing, the condition of the property and the cost of remediation.

Funding is available to purchase and renew housing units in need of remediation, and make them available for social housing use. Wicklow County Council has been buying second hand housing in recent years to achieve 'early delivery' of new social housing units. This new initiative will allow the Council to focus on an area of acquisitions that is more likely to avoid direct competition with private purchasers for good quality housing stock. It also taps into a potential supply of housing that is sitting vacant.



Refurbishment of Glending, Blessington

BEFORE

Remediation Works first commenced at the Glending Estate in 2012. Since that time, blocks of houses within the estate have been remediated one block at a time. The work involved internal and external works to the properties, including but not limited to, re-roofing, external surface water drainage works including land drainage and landscaping, re-plastering of all the external facades of the properties, mechanical and electrical works including boiler upgrades and heat and smoke detection, fire protection works, new hard surfaces and footpaths and internal painting and decorating and insulation works. When each phase of the works was completed residents of the estate are decanted back to their homes.

Arkenvale Ltd, the building contractor, won the contract for each phase of the works when it was tendered. The appointed consultants, O'Connell Mahon Architects and Arkenvale Ltd have worked diligently over the period of the remediation works and their dedication to detail and quality is evident throughout the scheme. To date more than half of the estate has been completely remediated. The BEFORE photographs date back to 2012 and the AFTER photographs show how well the estate is looking now in 2018.



AFTER



Wicklow Hosts National Convention of Older Person's Network



Wicklow County Council was proud to host the 2018 National Convention of Older Person's Councils in Wicklow on the 8th and 9th November. The event began with the gathering of the delegates from all over the country who were treated to inspiring speakers such as Christy Kenneally, Rachel Doyle and Aileen Eglington. Four trips were organised to coincide with age friendly and the beauty of Wicklow was showcased.

Guest speaker was Mary Hickey from Arklow who ran the "lap of the map" of Ireland. Three more excellent speakers, Martin Swords, Bairbre Nic Aongusa and Senator Marie Louise O'Donnell entertained the delegates on day two.





NEWS FROM THE ARTS OFFICE



Wicklow Arts Office is delighted to announce that it has been selected for the Music Network Artist Residency 2018. This is a very prestigious award given to one county in the country in 2018. The Residency aims to provide a musician with funding in order to plan and deliver a series of concerts across the county. 'Tradition in the Royal Court' will promise to be a special concert which explores the bond between Irish and European music from the 16th and 17th centuries. It will take place on 13th December and has been curated by Eamonn Sweeney. The December 13th concert featured celebrated musicians from the traditional, classical and early music worlds performing music by Dowland, O Catháin, and from the traditional canon. Paula Murrihy (Mezzo Soprano), Eamonn Bonner (Tenor), Cormac Breatnach (Sustato Whistles), Colm Mac Con Iomaire (Violin) and Eamon Sweeney (Lute, Early Guitars).

The Residency is an initiative of Music Network in partnership with Wicklow County Council Arts Office and Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre.

Creative Wicklow

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017 - 2022



On September 12th, Local Authorities launched 31 Culture and Creativity Strategies set to foster vibrant creative communities nationwide. The inspiring five-year strategies were launched by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Josepha Madigan TD, and Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD.

Local Authorities are delivering Pillar 2 of the Creative Ireland National Strategy. Each local authority has written a strategy for this work which will run from 2018-2022. With the Creative Ireland programme centred on the themes of identity, culture and citizenship, Wicklow's part in the initiative's five-year journey began with a host of creative plans in 2017.



Anna Newell



Through the Strategic Projects funding, Anna Newell has developed a new piece of interactive theatre for children with profound and multiple learning disabilities. The immersive activity is set in a hydro pool and involves three performers. Anna Newell and composer David Goodall were the main collaborators and cast members were auditioned and recruited in Wicklow.

The project played a key role in the development of relevant, accessible high quality work for this particular audience in Wicklow, who are not generally reached by arts programming. The three venues in South & West Dublin and Wicklow are in partnership with St Catherine's School at Newcastle. It will also be featured in partnership with Enable Bray in their new pool facility in 2019.

This project was supported by Wicklow County Council Arts Office as part of the call out for Strategic Projects. The Strategic Projects scheme offers the opportunity for artists, national resource organisations, individual curators, and / or artist collectives to propose projects which will nurture practice, create connectivity, generate new perspectives and voices within County Wicklow. projects which will nurture practice, create connectivity, generate new perspectives and voices within County Wicklow.



Wicklow County
Arts Office





County Wicklow PPN Training Fair

In December 2017, Co Wicklow PPN ran a survey with member groups asking them "How can we help you?" Groups identified a few areas with which they were struggling and so the Co Wicklow PPN Training Fair was developed.

The event took place on Saturday 8th September in The Brockagh Centre, Laragh. Workshops ran throughout the day on topics including Charities



Wicklow Children & Young People's Services Committee and much more. The Co. Wicklow Community First Responders were on hand with information and a demonstration of their services and our wonderful Wicklow community cafés shared their experiences of setting up these great initiatives while also providing refreshments.

Over 115 people attended and the overall feedback was that it was an excellent event providing a great opportunity for community groups to find out information, learn new skills and network with peer groups and support organisations, all free of charge and under the one roof. It was so successful that PPN member groups have asked for it to become an annual event!

For more information about the PPN contact Helen or Grainne on 087 189 5145, Email: countywicklowppn@gmail.com, web: www.countywicklowppn.ie or Facebook: www.facebook.com/CWPPN

We studied what community groups said to us and have now drafted up all the community visions and high level goals across the 6 well-being headings for our 5 Municipal Districts. These are available on our website for anyone to see here: <http://www.countywicklowppn.ie/our-vision-for-community-wellbeing.html>



Regulation, How To Manage Your Volunteers, Social & Digital Media, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), Safeguarding Children in Sport, Planning for Success, Governance Code, Garda Vetting and more.

Along with the workshops there was information stands from organisations that support and fund community groups including: BHP Insurance, JLT Insurance, Community Finance Ireland, Clann Credo, KWETB, Co Wicklow Volunteer Centre, County Wicklow Partnership, Co Wicklow Local Sports Partnership, Wicklow County Childcare Committee,

If your group would like to know more about Co. Wicklow PPN contact Helen Howes
Email: countywicklowppn@gmail.com
Tel: 087 189 5145

Wicklow County Campus, Clermont House, Rathnew

IT Carlow Providing Third Level Education for Wicklow

200 Graduates Confere at the Wicklow County Campus

Almost 200 graduates from Wicklow County Campus were conferred with Institute of Technology Carlow higher certificates, degrees, higher diplomas, honours degrees and master's degrees. They join over 2,700 new graduates from the Institute in 2018 and an alumni of over 55,000 since the Institute's establishment almost 50 years ago.

Established in 2005 in a collaborative partnership with Wicklow County Council, Wicklow County Campus has risen to become a centre of excellence in enterprise, education and innovation in County Wicklow, acting as a catalyst for economic development in the county. Some 1,200 higher education graduates have been conferred since the first conferring ceremony took place in 2009 and this year sees the highest number of graduates and highest number of enrolments at Wicklow County Campus since its establishment.

Wicklow County Council continue to invest in the Campus, including the recent refurbishment of the 2nd floor of the campus building and the creation of two additional lecture theatres to accommodate the ongoing increase in learner numbers at Wicklow County Campus.

IT Carlow is enrolling now for courses commencing at The Wicklow County Campus in early January 2019. See more information on: www.itcarlow.ie/study/lifelong-learning
Contact the IT Carlow office at Clermont on 0404 67125.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTING TIPS

The house with the most lights used to be the 'best'. Times have changed! The cost of electricity goes way beyond the utility bill. Electricity drains natural resources and contributes to climate change and costs money!

Below are some tips to consider when putting up the Christmas lights.

A smaller presentation of lights can still be attractive and more appropriate in the 'season of giving'.

Turn off Christmas lights during the day and when you go to bed.

If you're buying new Christmas lights, there are many new energy-efficient lights available, often at a better price. These give the same amount of light as their higher wattage counterparts, at lower cost, as well as being easier on the environment. They also give off less heat, making your lights safer. A 100 mini-light string will typically use less than 20 watts.

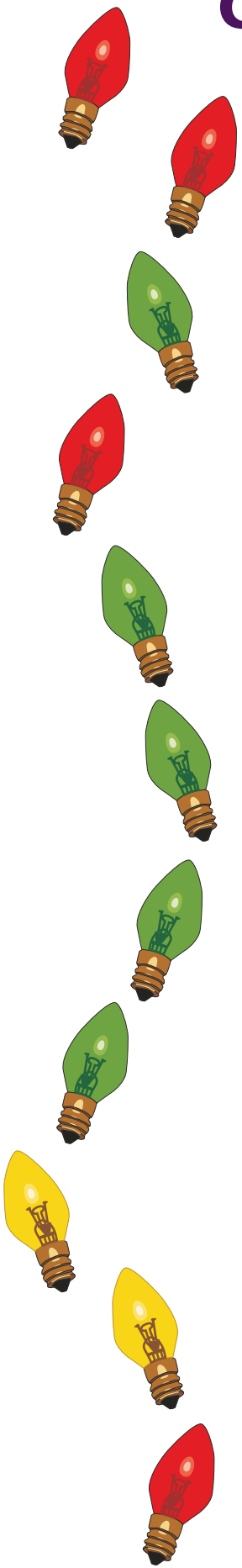
For maximum energy-saving, try new LED Christmas lights. The LED (Light Emitting Diode) Christmas lights use up to 90% less energy than larger, traditional Christmas bulbs and last up to 100,000 hours when used indoors. (Most can also be used out of doors - check the manufacturers instructions). LED lights also emit significantly less heat than conventional lights. As an added bonus, if one of the LED lights burns out the rest of the strand will stay lit.

Light Wattage: The large, traditional bulbs use 4-10 watts per bulb. Mini-lights will use 0.1-1 watt per bulb, and the new LED lights use a fraction of this again.

Lights per String: If you're buying a new set of lights, remember to compare based on equal 'lighted lengths'. The larger bulbs are usually sold 25-50 to a string, while the smaller bulb sets may have 35 to 200 bulbs per string. Icicle lights typically have 100 lights per 10-foot string. LED lights have 35-100 bulbs per string.


Strings per House: To save energy and money, use fewer lights strands on your tree. The more lights you use, the more power you'll use. But whether you use only one light string or many, you'll be rewarded with a lower power bill if you use energy-efficient lights.

Timing: Avoid leaving tree lights on all day; try using them only at night. You can reduce your energy use by running outdoor lights on a timer pre-set for three to five hours.







Twelve Green Days for Christmas




Day 1. Make a list and plan your Christmas: Good planning can make your Christmas preparations less stressful, easier to manage, save on waste and save you money. Think about who you need to buy presents for and what they would like rather than just browsing. Make a detailed list for grocery shopping and stick to it. Before buying a Christmas outfit check if there is anything in the Wardrobe that you would like to wear.




Day 2. Experience the Christmas present: We all like to receive presents but many of us would also say we have enough stuff already. Buy a gift of an experience instead this year such as a spa treatment for the mother, a round of golf for the wife, a restaurant voucher for the husband, a visit to the bowling alley or cinema for the kids. A treat to enjoy, which can also ensure we spend our money in the local economy and also don't end up with another unused item.




Day 3. Beat the traffic with public transport: Traffic congestion reaches its annual peak in the run up to Christmas and parking can be hard to find. This year why not look for opportunities to leave the car at home. Walk, cycle, bus or train for a stress free visit to your town centre when possible.



Day 4. Don't overindulge the bin when you party: We often put out too much food when hosting a party. Cooked foods leftover from a party can be a hard sell the next day at a time of plenty. Avoid this waste by cooking less and having some non perishable foods such as crisps, nuts, crackers and dips in reserve if you have a hungry mob that eat all the cooked foods. Don't forget if you're going out to a party to buy fewer groceries for home when you know you won't be there. Too much food ends up in the bin in the run up to Christmas.





Day 5. Deck the halls with boughs of Holly: Decorations have got a bit cheaper in recent years but we are also using a lot more both indoors and outdoors. Every year a large proportion of decorations get binned. When buying decorations think of how durable they will be and do think about their storage from year to year for reuse. Natural decorations from the garden can be used. Many types of greenery from the garden will work to decorate the house not just holly and ivy. Logs and cones were also traditionally widely used.




Day 6. Ditch tradition when it's not for your household: Don't be afraid to ditch a Christmas tradition if it doesn't suit your household. We often buy food stuffs because they are seen as part of the Christmas celebrations but then don't eat them. If nobody like brussels sprouts don't serve them, if nobody has space for pudding leave it off the menu, if nobody really likes Turkey why not try something else.







Day 7. Lights! Action! Thermostat turned down: Christmas arrives just after the winter solstice, the darkest and coolest part of the year. It is the time of year when we use most energy both for heating and lighting. It is no surprise that for Christmas we love to feel cosy and we love to light up our homes to counter all that darkness. On the big day the national grid is under pressure from all that lighting, heating and cooking. Often our homes can get very warm on the day with the oven on for hours and maybe a fire lit. Why not turn the thermostat down to reduce energy usage and put the outdoor lights on a timer to save electricity.




Day 8. Make the leftovers interesting: After the big day we often have plenty of leftovers. Check out Wicklow County Council's Twelve Days of Christmas for some exciting recipes to use up a range of typical Christmas foods. If sick of eating turkey take it off the bone and freeze so that it can be used later.




Day 9. A brown bin for a green Christmas: There will always be some food waste and peelings generated over Christmas. Home composting is great when you can, but the other option which is available to all of us is a brown bin. Your bin service provider is required by law to offer you a brown bin if you live in a town with a population over 500. If you don't have one already ask for one. You will save money and also help the environment.



Day 10. Get moving on one of Wicklow's great walks: We all like to get out and about after Christmas. Wicklow has some of the best walks in Ireland. Why not get out with family or friends and try one over the Christmas. There are walks in all parts of the county like the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk, The Vartry Reservoir Walk, the Blessington Lakes Walk, the Tinahely Railway Walk. Outdoor places like Glendalough, Brittas Bay or Avondale can be a bit quieter this time of year so let's get out and explore them and enjoy Wicklow's great environment.



Day 11. A second Christmas list: If visiting the January sales have a clear idea of what you need. For clothes make a list of items that need replacing rather than browsing the stores. Before making big purchases like furniture and electrical items assess whether a replacement is needed or whether the lifespan of existing items should be extended. Consider repairing items of furniture or electrical items when appropriate. See www.repairmystuff.ie for repair services in County Wicklow.



Day 12. A visit to the recycling centre: Even with the best of efforts to prevent waste there will always be extra waste to recycle after Christmas. Extra cardboard and wrapping paper, plastic and glass bottles, drink cans and Christmas cards can result in an overflowing green bin. Why not bring the excess to your local recycling centre. We also have items that need recycling like batteries, electrical goods, vegetable oil, lighting and Christmas trees which can't go into the kerbside green bin so a trip to the recycling centre will maximize your recycling.



Wicklow Workhouse Records now online!

County Archives Digitisation Programme continues

The admission and discharge registers of the Rathdrum and Shillelagh workhouses can now be accessed online in the digitised collections section of Wicklow.ie. Dating from just before the Famine in the early 1840s, these registers have only survived for a few counties. Telling the story of the poor and destitute in stark reality, some of the headings under which information was recorded include:

- Number
- Name of pauper
- Single/Married/Widow/er
- Child of
- Trade/Calling
- Disabled and nature of disability
- Observations on condition upon admission
- Date admitted or when born in the workhouse
- Date of death or discharge



Shillelagh Workhouse

Shillelagh Workhouse (www.countywicklowheritage.org)

Each volume begins with a name index, listing individuals in alphabetical order along with their allocated number. This makes it relatively easy to locate your ancestor as each entry in the register is numbered.

Labouring classes in early 19th century Ireland

Starvation was a constant threat for the labouring classes. A labourer earned about two to six pence a day if he could find work. Large tracts of land were let at a fixed rent to a single individual on a longterm lease. The middleman, as he was referred to, sublet this land and split the farms into smaller and smaller holdings to increase his profits. This resulted in great misery, as tenants had no security of tenure on their small holdings. They were almost invariably without capital and paid the rent when and if the harvest came in. When the harvest failed, unable to pay rent the tenants were evicted. Many could only wander the roads destitute.

Rathdrum Union Workhouse

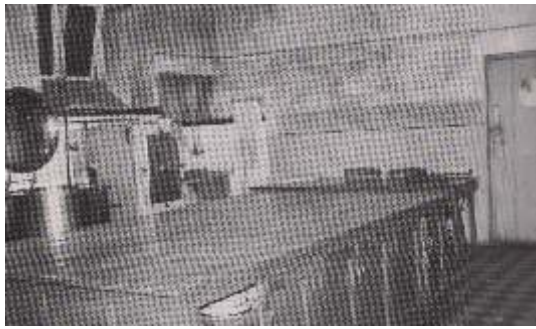
The Rathdrum Workhouse opened its doors to the destitute poor in March 1842. Built to accommodate 600 paupers, it along with similar institutions throughout Ireland, was ill prepared to cope with the onslaught of the catastrophe of the Great Famine in 1845. Numbers exceeding thirteen hundred were admitted in 1850. This institution gradually evolved into a hospital for the poor and in 1922 became St. Colman's Hospital under the care of the Sisters of the Poor Servants of God (also known as the County Home).

Kevin Byrne's book *Time Did Not Stand Still* paints an evocative picture of life in the workhouse, including a description of the equipment purchased and the typical diet:

The Diet in the Rathdrum Workhouse on March 9th 1847.

	Breakfast	Dinner	Supper
Adult	7 ozs indian meal 1 pint of milk	6 ozs of bread 4 ozs biscuit and 1½ pint soup	4 ozs of bread Same for working women
Children 9 to 15 years	5 ozs indian meal with new milk	4 ozs of bread and 1 pint of soup	4 ozs of bread 1 pint of new milk
Children 2 to 9 years	3 ½ ozs indian meal with new milk	¼ pint of soup with 4 ozs of bread	4 ozs bread ½ pt new milk

Diet in the Rathdrum Workhouse, 1847 (From *Time Did Not Stand Still*, courtesy of Kevin Byrne)



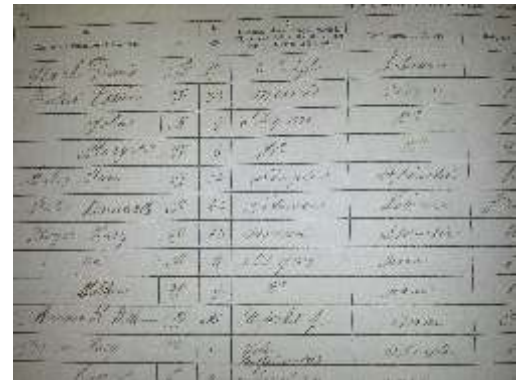
"When fitting out the building all the usual items you would expect were purchased; 100 sheets, counterpanes, bed ticks (mattress), blankets, all with the Workhouse logo, footwear and clothing for the inmates, "The Workhouse Uniform". The orders for the kitchen included 200 potato nets sorted at 22d each, one machine for cleaning potatoes at £4, one scraper for stir about, and 200 iron spoons. Andrew Belton of Rathdrum supplied 100 quart drinking tins at 5 pence per dozen and 100 pint drinking tins at 3 pence per dozen. The Board of Guardians also ordered for the grounds; wheelbarrows, dung forks, spades, hatchets and 24 stone hammers. The most expensive items purchased were the furniture

for the Board Room, which included one oak table at £8 10s 0d, one elbowed chair, 24 oak chairs, a hat rail, a press for papers and a large deal table with four drawers and locks, with an arched centre. The Workhouse kitchen in 1973 (see above) provides a realistic view of this very important part of the building.... upon opening, the Board of Guardians ordered that only two meals be served per day. These consisted of oatmeal stir about and potatoes with buttermilk":

Shillelagh Union Workhouse

Extract from Rathdrum Admission & Discharge Register, 1849 (Wicklow County Council)

Shillelagh Union was established on 20 July 1839 and the poorhouse opened on 18 February 1842 with accommodation for 400 people. Situated on a six-acre site half a mile to the south west of the village, It was built like other workhouses, to the design of architect George Wilkinson. Consisting of three blocks, the admissions building contained the porter's office, probationary wards and the Guardians' boardroom; behind was the main building, also known as the able-bodied quarters. It housed the dormitories, school and dayrooms and master and matron's accommodation. The third block contained the infirmary and lunatic wards. The dining hall, which doubled up as the chapel, connected the main building with the infirmary. Kitchens and washrooms were in an annex behind the main workhouse. The whole complex was divided into male and female compartments and surrounded by high walls.



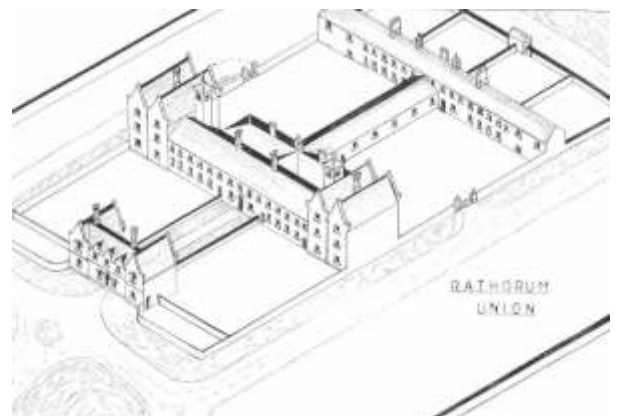
The Famine created an unprecedented demand for workhouse places and by January 1847, Shillelagh Workhouse was declared full. Admissions reached an all-time high in February 1850, with more than 800 inmates recorded as receiving relief in Shillelagh.

By early 1847, fever had reached epidemic proportions all over the country. Due to the lack of accommodation in the workhouse, new admissions, whether sick or healthy, were crowded into already full wards, leading to the rapid spread of disease. Patients presenting with fever at Shillelagh Workhouse were sent to Carnew Fever Hospital but by 1848, a fever hospital had been erected to the south of the Shillelagh workhouse. (Information from the [Shillelagh Pure Mile Project](#)).

Suffering of the poor

Perhaps the County Archives' most poignant records, these volumes illustrate the suffering of the poor in the lists of names and descriptions of those admitted to the workhouses of Wicklow, not only during famine times but throughout the 19th and early 20th century.

These records can be accessed online at the following link: <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections>





**Wicklow County Council
Recycling Centres
Bray, Wicklow, Arklow, Avoca & Rampere
Recycling Centres**

All centres will be open as normal up to & including Saturday 22nd December 2018. (Rampere will open on the 24th, 28th & 30th of December - Saturday opening hours)

The centres will re-open on Wednesday 2nd January 2019.

Bray Recycling Centre

Beechwood Close,
Boghall Road
Opening Hours:
Mon - Fri - 9am - 4pm
Sat - 9am - 2pm



Arklow Recycling Centre

Croghan Industrial Estate,
Emoclew Road
Opening Hours:
Mon - Thurs - 9am - 4.30pm
Fri - 9am - 3.30pm
Sat - 9am - 1.45pm

The Murrough Recycling Centre

The Murrough, Wicklow Town
Opening Hours:
Mon - Thurs - 9:00am - 4.30pm
Fri - 9:00am - 3.30pm
Sat - 9:00am - 1:45pm
Closed for lunch everyday 1-1.45

Avoca Recycling Centre

Ballymurtagh
Opening Hours:
Tues - Thurs - 9am - 4.30pm
Fri - 9am - 3.30pm
Sat - 9am - 1.30pm
Closed for lunch everyday 1-2

Rampere Recycling Centre

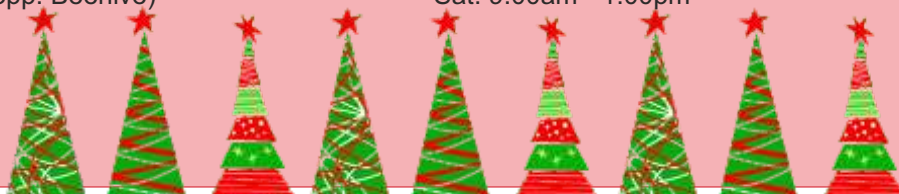
Baltinglass
Opening Hours:
Mon - Thurs - 8:30am - 4.30pm
Fri - 9.00am - 3.30pm
Sat - 8:30am - 1pm



Christmas Tree Shredding January 2019

Bring your Christmas Tree to any of the collection points below.
They will be shredded, composted and used again!
No wreaths, plastic trees or decorations please.

Arklow	Arklow Recycling Centre	Mon-Thur: 9.00am - 4.30pm Fri: 9.00am - 3.30pm Sat: 9.30am - 1.30pm	3rd - 15th Jan
Aughrim	Tidy Towns Pavillion	Mon - Sat: 9.00am - 4.00pm	3rd - 15th Jan
Avoca	Avoca Recycling Centre	Mon-Thur: 9.00am - 4.00pm Sat: 9.30am - 1.00pm	3rd - 15th Jan
Baltinglass	Rampere Recycling Centre	Mon-Thur: 9.00am - 4.00pm Fri: 9.00am - 3.00pm Sat: 9.00am - 1.00pm	3rd - 15th Jan
Blessington	County Council Yard, Naas Rd.	Mon-Fri: 10.00am - 4.00pm	3rd - 15th Jan
Bray	Bray Recycling Centre	Mon-Fri 9.00am - 4.00pm Sat: 9.30am - 1.00pm	3rd - 15th Jan
Bray	Festina Lente Foundation, Old Connaught Avenue	10.00am-4.00pm Daily	3rd - 15th Jan Donations in aid of Festina Lente
Greystones	Carpark in front Wicklow County Council offices on Mill Rd.		3rd - 15th Jan
Hollywood	Church Carpark	10.00-12noon Daily	12th Jan Donations in aid of Tidy Towns
Wicklow	The Murrough Recycling Centre	Mon-Thur: 9.00am - 4.00pm Fri: 9.00am - 1.00pm Sat: 9.30am - 1.00pm	3rd - 15th Jan
Wicklow	Green King, Coolbeg (road opp. Beehive)	Mon-Fri: 8.00am - 5.30pm Sat: 9.00am - 1.00pm	3rd - 15th Jan





pure MILE GALA EVENT

The Pure Mile, an environmental competition which aims to create a greater awareness of the countryside of Wicklow and South Dublin, had its annual awards night on Tuesday 16th of October at The Brooklodge Hotel, Macreddin, Aughrim.

The Pure Mile Competition encourages groups in Wicklow and South Dublin to adopt a mile of road in their local area and keep it free from litter, which benefits both the people who live in these areas and their environment. The awards and certificates were presented by Mr. Andrew Doyle, T.D., Minister of State for Food, Forestry and Horticulture, Mr. Frank Curran, CEO, Wicklow County Council, and the Cathaoirleach for Wicklow County Council, Cllr. Pat Vance.

2018 was the night year of the Pure Mile competition, and this year over 50 communities, groups, scouts, beavers, primary schools, walking groups, cycling groups, businesses and organisations, collectively improved and enhanced over 220 miles of road, mountains, valleys, forestries, woodlands, upland amenities, and beaches, with the removal of tonnes of illegal dumping and litter from the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands.

The groups ranged from all over Wicklow and South Dublin, and each one received a Pure Mile Certificate and a selection of native Irish trees, and all will be included in the popular Pure Mile Calendar, which will be launched in November.

The Pure Mile is the perfect opportunity for communities and groups who want to make a positive contribution to their locality and environment. It assists people to improve and enhance the place they live in, or recreate in, and the awards night enables groups to meet people with similar interests.

There were 13 awards presented on the night with cash prizes reaching a total of €5,000.





The Best Pure Mile Award, and a cheque for €1,000, was presented to The Baltyanima Pure Mile Group. The community produced a beautiful local heritage booklet outlining the numerous cultural and social heritage features of the area, the local flora and fauna, and also created a website for their area, www.puremileroundwood.com The award acknowledged the groups interpretative methods relating to their cultural and natural heritage, including, a number of informational panels along their 4-mile looped walk. Members of the winning group were delighted with their Best Pure Mile Award.

The Best Cultural Heritage Award and a cheque for €300 was presented to the Glen Heste Pure Mile, with the Best Natural Heritage Award going to The Avoca Scouts/Beavers Group for their work on creating environmental awareness on the local Avoca area. The Best Education Award was presented to Brittas Bay National School, with Best Community Effort Award going to Snugborough Pure Mile in Donard.



A number of groups involved in the Clean-Up the Uplands category received Highly Commended Awards. Two Dublin based walking groups, Atha Cliath Uplands Team, and the Glenree Walking Group, as well as the West Wicklow cycling group, Reservoir Cogs, were all commended for the clean-up days they organised in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. The overall award for Best Clean-up the Uplands was presented to Vagabond Tours.

The Award for The Best Anti-Dumping Initiative and a cheque for €500, went to the 12 miles of road that were adopted by the Stratford On Slaney Pure Mile, with two Highly Commended Anti-Dumping Awards going to the Ballyteige, Ballinatombay, Ballinabarney Pure Mile, and the Rednagh Annacurra Pure Mile group.

The 18 Pure Miles of Grange Con were presented with The Best Litter Free Award and received a cheque of €500, with Ballydowling and Ballysheeman Pure Miles receiving a Highly Commended Litter Free Award.

The awards night was also the official launch of the 2019 Pure Mile Competition, and again Pure are inviting all groups and communities living in rural areas of county Wicklow and South Dublin to take part in the 2019 Pure Mile Competition. Pure are again encouraging special interest groups, scout groups, cycling groups, running groups, walking groups, businesses and organisations, to adopt a mile of road, a woodland, an upland car park, a mountain, or a trail, in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands and take part in the Clean-Up The Uplands category. Pure supply all groups with bags, litter pickers, gloves and high-vis jackets, and the Pure Truck removes all of rubbish gathered by groups.

Anyone interested in the 2019 Pure Mile competition can request an application form and information pack by emailing info@pureproject.ie or it can be downloaded from www.pureproject.ie/the-pure-mile You can also write to; Pure Project, Wicklow Mountains, National Park, Kilafin, Laragh, Bray, Co. Wicklow, A98 K286, and they will post out all the information or request an application form and information pack by phoning Pure on 0404 45547.

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

COUNTY WICKLOW'S €6.7M INVESTMENT TO REGENERATE URBAN AREAS

Wicklow County Council is delighted with the announcement by An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, TD, of a huge investment of over €6.7m in County Wicklow.

The announcement came following a lengthy application process which encouraged collaboration between Wicklow County Council, local agencies and Town Teams. The investment has been allocated with:

- €1,645,000 for Arklow Historic Town Core
- €1,626,000 for Wicklow Town
- €3,450,000 for Bray Public Transport Bridge

The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) is being implemented by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and looks at ways to support and develop large urban areas.

Arklow will use the fund to progress plans for the Parade Ground public realm enhancements, which will improve the appearance of the area, encourage new growth in the town and promote Arklow's rich history.

Wicklow Town's project focuses on an upgrade to the Fitzwilliam Square area, improvement to public areas and some refurbishment of the former bank building for relocation of Wicklow Library.

The investment in Bray will be used on the provision of a new public transportation bridge over the river Dargle linking development lands at the former Bray Golf Club and the DART station.



Carúil Nollag



Oíche Chiúin

Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Cách 'na suan dís araon,
Dís is dílse 'faire le spéis
Naoín beag gnaoigheal
ceanantais caomh

Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh.
Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh.

Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Aoirí ar dtús chuala 'n scéal;
Allelúia aingeal ag gaoch.
Cantain suairc i ngar is i gcéin

Críost an Slánaitheoir Féin
Críost an Slánaitheoir Féin

Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Cách 'na suan dís araon,
Dís is dílse 'faire le spéis
Naoín beag gnaoigheal
ceanantais caomh

Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh.
Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh.

Rudolf an Fia Rua

Rudolf an fia rua,
Bhí loinnir ar a shrón chomh maith,
Agus dá bhfeicfeá ariamh é,
Déarfá linn go raibh sé geal.

Bhíodh na fianna eile,
Ag gáire is ag magadh faoi.
Ní ligeadh siad ariamh do Rudolf,
Páirt a ghlacadh i gcluichí.
Oíche Nollag cheomhar bhán,
Tháinig San Níoclás.
"Rudolf le do shrón gheal ghlé,
An rachaidh tú os comhair mo shlé?"

Bhí grá ag na fianna eile dó,
Is bhéic siad amach os ard,
"Rudolf an fia rua,
Nach ortsa bhéas an clú is cáil.





Comhfreagrás trí Ghaeilge

Happy Christmas to you
Happy Christmas to you
Christmas Greetings
(Season's Greetings
Prosperous New Year
(Happy New Year to you

Do you speak Irish?
Where is the meeting?
Where did you leave the file?
Where did you get the documents?
Who signed it?
From whom did you get the letter?
With whom were you discussing it?
How did you get on?
How long will the meeting be on?
How important / urgent is it?
We got a letter stating that..
Keep us informed about.....
I would like to confirm that....
DO you know when it will be done?
Let us have your observations please
A couple of members expressed that opinion at
the meeting
We will have to consider the recommendations

Nollaig shona duit
Nollaig shona daoibh
Beannachtaí na Nollag
Beannachtaí an tSéasúir
Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit
Bliain úr faoi shéan is faoi mhaise duit

An bhfuil Gaeilge agat?
Cá bhfuil an cruinniú?
Cá fhág tú an comhad?
Cá bhfuair tú na doiciméid?
Cé a shínigh é?
Cé uaidh a fuair tú an litir?
Cé leis a raibh tú á phlé?
Conas a d'éirigh leat?
Cá fhad a bheith an cruinniú ar siúl?
Cé chomh tábhachtach / práinneach is atá sé?
Fuaireamar litir a rá go /ur.....
Coinnigh ar an eolas sinn / muid faoi....
Ba mhaith liom a dheimhniú go / gur..
An bhfuil a fhios agat cathain a dhéanfar é?
Cuir do chuid tuairimí in iúl dúinn le do thoil
Nocht cúpla ball an tuairim sin ag an gcruinniú

Beidh orainn na moltaí a bhreithniú



Stop Food Waste this Christmas!



Make the New Year a waste free zone in the kitchen

Food waste increases by a massive 80% during the Christmas and most of it ends up in landfill. Add to this all the energy used to produce, package, transport and deliver the food to our homes and we have a very, very wasteful Christmas. That's not good for your pocket or our environment!

While some food waste is composted most ends up in the bin. About 1/3 of all the food we buy gets thrown out!! On average, wasted food costs each Irish household €700 a year. For some households this can be over €1,000!
You can save money and the planet all in one go!

For our 'Twelve Days of Christmas' Cookbook, using leftovers to extend your Christmas Cheer – check our website: www.wicklow.ie or email us at eao@wicklowcoco.ie / phone **1890 22 22 76**

Go to www.StopFoodWaste.ie

And check out how to:

Buy Better

Get Savvy with Storage

And Start some Canny Cooking with their Recipes

More Christmas leftover recipes and a clever menu planner is available on:

www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

In January 2017 we will be running a free three week Stop Food Waste Course on Thursday mornings at the Ballywaltrim Library. For more details and bookings contact the **Library on 01 272 3205** or caobrien@wicklowcoco.ie

You can also get this information from the Environmental Awareness Office, Wicklow County Council: **Phone 1890 22 22 76.**

And while you are doing something to save on food waste...get going on composting the kitchen and garden waste as well.

Composting is easy! Information on composting is available Wicklow County Council Environmental Awareness Office - call **1890 22 22 76**

Email: eao@wicklowcoco.ie

Turkey, Sage and Winter Vegetable Risotto

Ingredients

Go Italian over the Christmas. The ham or the stuffing can also be used in a risotto.

- 400-550 ml Turkey stock made from the bones of the turkey
- One onion
- Olive oil
- Glove of garlic
- 175g of risotto rice
- 200g of left over vegetables, cut into cubes
- 200g of cooked turkey meat, cut into cubes
- 2-3 springs of fresh sage or a teaspoon of dried sage
- 50g Mascarpone
- 100g Parmesan cheese



Instructions

1. Cook the onions in a large frying pan with the olive oil until transparent and soft.
2. Stir in the rice and cook until very hot. Add a ladleful or two of stock and cook until almost absorbed before adding more. Keep repeating this process until the rice is creamy but slightly al dente. This will take about 18 minutes.
3. Add the chopped vegetables and turkey meat and continue to cook for another two minutes. Make sure to heat the turkey thoroughly.
4. Finish the dish by stirring in the chopped sage, the mascarpone and Parmesan. Divide into 4 servings and garnish with parmesan shavings and cracked pepper. A drizzle of good olive oil will also enhance the flavour.

Tip!

Sage can be grown in the garden preferring a warm sunny spot with well drained soil. Purple and variegated varieties are available to add a splash of colour to the garden. It is best not to harvest in winter as this will make the plant more prone to frost damage. Harvest and dry leaves in summer for use over the winter months.

Cranberry Brownies

This is a great quick recipe to finish off the cranberry sauce. You can add other festive leftovers such as nuts or dried fruit.

Ingredients

- 100g of butter
- 50g of plain chocolate
- 150g of caster sugar
- 4 tablespoons cranberry sauce
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 40g of flour
- A pinch of salt

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 180° celsius, gas mark 4.
2. Melt the butter and chocolate in a heavy pan over a low heat, stirring frequently until melted and smooth.
3. Beat the sugar with the eggs and cranberry sauce in a bowl and pour in the chocolate mixture with the vanilla extract, flour and salt.
4. Pour into a 21cm square tin and bake for 15 to 20 minutes.

Cranberries can be grown in the garden but need an acid soil. Grow in a pot or hanging basket if soil conditions don't suit in the ground

Christmas Pudding Ice Cream

A kind of cheat's version of rum and raisin ice cream using leftover Christmas pudding and cream.

Ingredients

- 150ml chilled ready made custard
- 50ml double cream, whipped
- 125g leftover Christmas pudding, crumbled
- Liquor such as brandy, rum, whisky or Baileys (optional)

Instructions

Mix together the custard and whipped cream then stir in the crumbled Christmas pudding. Freeze in a large Tupperware and stir every half hour or so until it's the consistency you want. For a softer freeze, add a little brandy or leftover Christmas liquor such as rum, whiskey or Baileys.

Contact Wicklow County Council...

	Telephone	Fax	Email
General enquiries	0404 20100	0404 67792	
Arklow Municipal District	0402 42700		ArklowMD@wicklowcoco.ie
Baltinglass Municipal District			BaltinglassMD@wicklowcoco.ie
- Blessington	045 891222	045 865813	
- Tinahely	0402 38174		
Bray Municipal District	01 2744900	01 2860930	BrayMD@wicklowcoco.ie
Greystones Municipal District	01 2876694	01 2877173	GreystonesMD@wicklowcoco.ie
Wicklow Municipal District	0404 20100		WicklowMD@wicklowcoco.ie
Arklow Recycling Centre	0402 32759		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Avoca Recycling Centre	087 2288132		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Bray Recycling Centre	01 2116666		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Rampere Landfill and Recycling Services Baltinglass	059 6481677		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Wicklow Recycling Centre	0404 64120 (LoCall 1890 222 276)		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Arts Office	0404 20155		wao@wicklowcoco.ie
Civil Defence	0404 67402	0404 67294	mrichardson@wicklowcoco.ie
Community, Cultural & Social	0404 20208	0404 20113	dce@wicklowcoco.ie
Enterprise & Corporate Services	0404 20158	0404 20112	corporate@wicklowcoco.ie
Environmental Services	0404 20236	0404 67792	env@wicklowcoco.ie
Litter Line (Lo Call 1890 548 837)			
Environmental Awareness Officer	0404 20100		eao@wicklowcoco.ie
Fire Services - HQ Fire Prevention & Administration	01 2862929	01 2861535	firehead@wicklowcoco.ie
Freedom of Information	0404 20158	0404 20112	foi@wicklowcoco.ie
Heritage Officer	0404 20191	0404 67792	dburns@wicklowcoco.ie
Housing & Corporate Estate	0404 20120	0404 67792	housing2@wicklowcoco.ie
Law Agents	0404 20122	0404 20144	lawagents@wicklowcoco.ie
Local Enterprise Office	0404 30800		enterprise@leo.wicklowcoco.ie
Local Sports Partnership	0404 20100		ahubbar@wicklowcoco.ie
Motor Tax - Wicklow (Lo Call 1890 333 339)	0404 20118	0404 20293	motortax@wicklowcoco.ie
Motor Tax - Bray	01 2744937	01 2744955	motortax@wicklowcoco.ie
Motor Tax - Blessington	045 858031	045 891248	motortax@wicklowcoco.ie
Planning	0404 20148	0404 69462	plandev@wicklowcoco.ie
Register of Electors	0404 20161	0404 20112	franchise@wicklowcoco.ie
Revenue	0404 20128	0404 20140	finoff@wicklowcoco.ie
Roads & Transportation	0404 20181	0404 20101	roadtran@wicklowcoco.ie
Wicklow Family History	0404 20126	0404 67792	wfh@eircom.net
Wicklow Film Commission	0404 30800		wfc@wicklowcoco.ie



www.wicklow.ie



@wicklowcoco



Workplace Partnership



This newsletter was produced in-house by Wicklow County Council staff.

Libraries

County Library
Headquarters
Tel: 01 2866566
Fax: 01 2865811
library@wicklowcoco.ie

- Arklow
0402 39977
- Aughrim
0402 36036
- Ballywaltrim
01 2723205
- Bray Eglington Rd.
01 2862600
- Baltinglass
059 6482300
- Blessington
045 891740
- Carnew
053 9426088
- Dunlavin
045 401100
- Enniskerry
01 2864339
- Greystones
01 2873548
- Rathdrum
0404 43232
- Tinahely
0402 38080
- Wicklow
0404 67025

Out of Hours Calls Service

Wicklow County Council has put in place an out of hours call service to deal with calls which are considered to be of an emergency nature and require immediate assistance outside of the normal office hours i.e. 9.00am to 5.00pm.

The service is provided between the hours of 5.00pm and 9.00am, Monday to Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

Calls relating to:

- Public Water or Sewerage matters; callers will be advised to call Irish Water directly on **1850 278278**.
- For all other Council Services please phone the Wicklow County Council out of hours emergency service at **01 2916117**.
- For emergency services such as Fire Service, Ambulance or Gardai etc callers are advised to ring **112 or 999** directly.