

WATERFORD CHAMBER

# NETWORK

ISSUE 15 • Q2 2021

CHAMBER  
of the  
YEAR  
2021

■ **WHY WATERFORD  
IS WORKING FOR  
EVERYONE**

■ **TOP 10 THINGS  
TO DO THIS  
SUMMER**

## RIDING HIGH

SEASON OF ALL SEASONS FOR TEAM DE BROMHEAD



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Local Enterprise Office Waterford

ISSUE 15 • Q2 2021



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### Message from Gerald Hurley, Waterford Chamber

It still hasn't really sunk in as I write this but Waterford Chamber has been awarded *Chamber of the Year* at the Chambers Ireland Awards. We are deeply honoured and proud to serve the business community of Waterford and we share this award with all our members.

We are also thrilled to have won the award for *Local Authority Collaboration* for our work with Waterford Council on the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Awards, which secured €20,000 for community projects in Tramore.

In what has been one of the toughest years in business in living memory, Waterford has dug deep, worked together and achieved great things. Just look at our cover story – is there a better success story than Henry de Bromhead?

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our team here at Waterford Chamber. Small and dynamic is how we like to describe ourselves and I am so proud to see their hard work be acknowledged in this way.

It's new beginnings for us as John McSweeney steps into the role as President and we also have a new Board. I would like to thank outgoing President Danette Connolly and our past Board of Directors, all

of whom have contributed to our success.

We move into a new chapter for Waterford Chamber and what a way to begin! We are more determined than ever to continue to help, advise and support our business community and as the economy reopens, we have plenty of events and new initiatives in the planning to ensure a quick recovery.

Throughout the pages of this our 15th issue of *Network Magazine*, you will get a closer look at some of our amazing businesses, along with a showcase of things to do during the summer months.

What a wonderful place Waterford is – so make the most of this summer. Get out and enjoy it with your family and friends and rediscover what makes Waterford a great place to live, work, invest in and do business.

We'll be right there with you every step of the way.

Gerald Hurley  
CEO, Waterford Chamber



Chamber of the Year 2021



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# Congratulations to **Waterford Chamber** on winning 2021 Chamber of the Year.

We would like to wish them and the entire Business Community in Waterford continued success for the future.



■ Visit [www.waterfordchamber.ie](http://www.waterfordchamber.ie) for the online edition





# Harnessing the positive energy

■ By JOHN MCSWEENEY, President, Waterford Chamber



What a great honour for Waterford Chamber to receive the *Chamber of the Year* award and recognition from Chambers Ireland and sponsors Zurich for the work that the team and Board have undertaken over the past 12 months. Whilst Covid has brought many challenges, we must thank our members and our stakeholder partners for their continued support. Our focus continues on building Waterford into a city that we can all be proud of, advocating for members and working with stakeholders to drive positive activity across our communities.

I would like to recognise the work of my board colleagues past and present, and the excellent team at the Chamber led by our CEO Gerald Hurley for their continued support for our business members and which this award duly recognises.

This Covid pandemic, which we hope will be a once-in-a-lifetime event has in many ways re-written the business rules which will apply in the future. While most business cornerstones remain intact, their



core customer proposition and loyal customers remain, however during the remainder of 2021 the decisions they as business owners make, as well as those made by their customers, will have a greater impact than those which they made prior to the pandemic.

Businesses that are able to differentiate themselves from their competitors by utilising Customer Data, Digital Approach and Service Excellence, will increase their bottom line income that can be sustained and grown into the future. The old adage, 'Customer is King' still applies, but how one interacts with them will be critical. What value will Chamber bring in a post-pandemic business environment?

Waterford Chamber has not been immune to the challenges of Covid. However, to witness first-hand how our Chamber team under the stewardship of our CEO Gerald Hurley have responded to the needs of businesses since March 2020 has been very positive. Working with interested parties, they have been front and centre in supporting members with relevant and timely information, webinars, training and one-to-one conversations to support their needs and challenges during lockdowns. I can assure our members that we will continue to support their needs in this fast-changing business environment with best-in-class training, trusted sources of information and support when and if required. We have seen an influx of new members over recent months and we hope this will continue into the future.

## REGIONAL RECOVERY

Looking beyond the challenges of individual business, Waterford Chamber will not step back as important debates continue on economic recovery in the region and the opportunities that both public and private investment will bring over the coming years. Sustainable Economic Development, the Green Agenda, Education, Housing, Retail, Tourism, Hospitality and Transport remain key to the successful development of this Region with positive knock on impacts across our wider communities.

We find ourselves presented with advocacy challenges in a time when normal policymaking cycles have been greatly accelerated. Our approach will be a sensitive and sensible balancing of interests coupled with an ability to engage in a partnership with other stakeholders

“We have great businesses and business people among us who operate at world-class levels.”

if we are to successfully deliver on some of our goals, as outlined for example in our recent *Resurgence 25X* initiative. There is no reason why our much documented position as the 5th largest city should hold us back in not being the first to market on many initiatives as we develop over the coming years. We have great businesses and business people among us who operate at world-class levels, who want and are willing to support this city, county and region.

## NORTH QUAYS

The recent announcement regarding the North Quays Development was both disappointing and frustrating for many of our members. However, in tandem with other potential developments, it does

afford Chamber the opportunity to ensure, through proper dialogue and engagement, that any such developments will bring a vibrancy, footfall and cross-community use that supports existing businesses on both sides of the river. I remain hopeful that those parties with which we intend to engage over the coming months will be proactive and take a similar view on what any finished development should look and feel like. Given the times we operate in, brave business decisions will be required and we hope those who can deliver the changes will be willing to step up in this regard.

## SUPPORT LOCAL

We have much to be proud of in terms of Waterford as a location to live, work, study and do business in. Being able to access excellent leisure activities quickly is the envy of many people across the country. As restrictions ease, I would ask all our members and the wider community to consider supporting those in business across the city, county and region. I know they would appreciate your custom now more than ever. As a Chamber we can also look forward to returning to more normal networking events and other activities which have always proved popular for our membership.

As Waterford Chamber President I look forward to representing all of our members over the coming 12 months and working with our CEO and new Board. Our new Board brings a broad mix of skills and expertise from across business and I wish them all the very best during their term in office.

Finally, I again thank our Board for the opportunity given to me as Waterford Chamber President to represent our members in dealing with important issues which impact their businesses, staff, families and wider communities both now and into the future. We wish all our members the best in business for the remainder of 2021 and beyond, and again thank you all for your continued support for Waterford Chamber.



# Board of Directors

## 2021-2023



**Waterford Chamber**  
Advancing business together

Waterford Chamber members elected a new Board of Directors at its recent AGM in June.

PRESIDENT



**John McSweeney**  
AIB Bank

DEPUTY PRESIDENT



**Ciarán Cullen**  
HandHeld.ie

VICE PRESIDENT



**Valerie Farrell**  
Nolan, Farrell  
& Goff Solicitors

SECRETARY



**Derek Lowry**  
Almega Business  
Consulting

TREASURER



**Martina Curtin**  
PwC



**Danette Connolly**  
Home Instead  
Senior Care



**Dave Glynn**  
SE2



**Deirdre Houlihan**  
Faithlegg Hotel



**Éadaoin Carrick**  
Cantec Group



**Jonathan Downey**  
ARteSYN  
BioSolutions



**Kevin Doolin**  
Walton Institute



**Mary Phelan**  
Sun Life Financial



**Niall Griffin**  
Metalman  
Engineering



**Niall Harrington**  
Fewer Harrington  
& Partners



**Nuala Browne-Treacy**  
Meraki Marketing



**Regina Mangan**  
Liberty Blue  
Estate Agents

**MiniPods**  
1.05m<sup>2</sup>  
11sqft

Boxes 20-30  
Small Furniture  
Shop Stock  
Sports Equipment  
Appliances  
Home Contents  
File Storage  
Motor Cycles  
Hobby Gear



**StoxBox**  
3.25m<sup>2</sup>  
35sqft

Boxes 35-50  
Furniture  
Shop Stock  
Sports Equipment  
Appliances  
Home Contents  
Motor Cycles  
Hobby Gear  
1 Bed Apartment  
or House



**BoxPod**  
7.2m<sup>2</sup>  
80sqft

Boxes 35-50  
Furniture  
Shop Stock  
Sports Equipment  
Appliances  
Home Contents  
Motor Cycles  
Hobby Gear  
2 Bed Apartment  
or House



**20ft Container**  
15m<sup>2</sup>  
160sqft

Boxes 35-50  
Furniture  
Shop Stock  
Sports Equipment  
Appliances  
Home Contents  
Motor Cycles  
Hobby Gear  
Cars  
3 Bed Apartment  
or House



**Commercial Unit**  
30m<sup>2</sup>  
325sqft

Workshop  
Small Business  
Stock Store  
Garage  
Commercial Storage  
Boats



**Commercial Unit**  
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Small Business  
Stock Store  
Garage  
Commercial Storage  
Boats



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# TEAM DE BROMHEAD RIDING HIGH

**As Henry de Bromhead becomes the third sportsman to receive the Freedom of Waterford City & County, after John Treacy and Sean Kelly, Lynda Lawton speaks to the horse trainer and his wife Heather following a season of dreams for the family.**

**M**uch has been written about the bumper season Knockeen's Henry de Bromhead has had, being the only trainer in the history of the sport to train the winner of the Champion Hurdle, Champion Chase and the Gold Cup at the Cheltenham Festival in the same year. Just weeks later, he saddled the first two horses home in the Aintree Grand National (as he had done in the Gold Cup) and all this in the space of just four weeks.

Speaking about receiving the Freedom of the City honour, Henry said: "It's just amazing and very humbling. The last few months have been just surreal and this is just another part of it. I'm just very honoured, all of us on the team here are. It's an incredible accolade to receive."

What an astounding legacy for a man who wasn't even sure he wanted to become a horse-trainer! "I guess it all happened by default really. Watching my dad train, I saw how tough it was and I wasn't convinced I wanted to train at all so I started looking at other options. I tried accounting for a while but then got the chance to work with Coolmore breeding horses and saw other sides of the business. But as much as I tried to avoid training, I always got drawn back to it."

At the end of the day, running a successful training establishment is a serious business venture and takes massive commitment.

"Today's success is twenty years in the making", admits Henry. There have certainly been up and down days along that arduous journey but with wife Heather by his side, they have built a business which Heather describes now as a "well-oiled machine", with 40 people employed on a full and part-time basis.

As Heather explains, "It's a lot bigger than we ever thought it would be. We have a great team in place and we have a good structure which makes all the difference. The team are part of our family and we want to look after them. It certainly took time to get to this point and if you're not making mistakes you're not learning but after 20 years we still want more."

Like every other business person, the couple still have ambitions, and with Heather's

background in HR and Marketing and her life-long passion for eventing and show jumping, along with Henry's international experience, there is no doubt there is plenty left to come from this determined duo.

Following years of travelling the world learning from the best, including Robert and Sally Alner and Sir Mark Prescott, Henry was working in Coolmore in 1998 when his dad Harry admitted he was ready to retire.

So, on the first day of the new millennium Henry took over the licence from his father and sent out a winner with his first runner that day in Tramore.

***"This is a tough business but how lucky are we that we get to do what we love every day."***

From there the business has grown into a yard with the highest of standards. "Heather brought a lot of experience with her from the eventing world, even down to chiropractors and physios as part of the team. With her background she also had a keen eye for buying horses. I'd always get slagged at sales with fellas asking 'Where's Heather? She has a much better eye than you!'."

"This is a tough business but how lucky are we that we get to do what we love every day. This year has been exceptional and it still feels like a dream but we must now concentrate on sustaining and maintaining that for the next five to ten years."

"There are plenty of bumps in the road and we were often firefighting but it's a very interesting life – it's not a job at all really, it's still my hobby. Looking back, there were many times when we were thinking of other things we could do. We only had three winners one year and it's tough to build a business then but you learn from these things and you're thankful for the breaks along the way."

"I took over from my father with pride and determination, and my parents are really proud of what we have achieved and are fortunate they have been with us along the way."

So what about the next generation? "They are coming to an age where they are getting into it. They ride out now before school which is lovely to see. We wouldn't ever push them into it, it's long hours and long days but they are enjoying it. They saw the success in Cheltenham and Aintree and then having only one winner at Punchestown brought home the reality of this world to them."

Heather is very proud of how the children have embraced their life. "It's incredible to see them set



their alarms, get up and organised in the mornings so they can ride out before school. It will certainly stand to them going forward, whatever they decide to do.”

As with other families, Covid had an impact, according to Heather. “It certainly took its toll on the children and it was difficult to get them back to school, but the other side is they are more confident in themselves.”

As for the yard, it was business as usual. “We implemented Covid protocol straight away,” explains. “Life went on and we were still interacting with people in the yard so we were quite lucky.”

Henry is now looking forward to local racing and getting back to his beloved Tramore Racecourse during the August Racing Festival, so it's very fitting for him to receive his Freedom of the City & County from Mayor of Waterford Cllr. Damien Geoghegan at the track. “Tramore is always a great day out, made even better if you can have a winner or two. Parading the horses in April after the wins was amazing even though there was nobody there. It is brilliantly run by Owen Byrne and the shareholders and they lead the way in a lot of ways. We are looking forward to seeing people back there in August, all going well.”

And we'll leave the last word to Henry on the second-most important woman in his life – Rachael Blackmore. “She's brilliant, an inspiration, a lovely person and we are lucky to have her.”



Henry de Bromhead with his family, wife Heather and children, Georgia, Mia and Jack after he was conferred with the Freedom of Waterford.



Henry DeBromhead and Rachael Blackmore.

## Local recognition

I have known Henry and Heather for over 20 years and remember when they first started training with just fifteen horses in the yard. It has been wonderful to see their hard work pay off over that time and develop into one of the most successful training yards in the country.

From Tramore Racecourse's perspective, we are extremely honoured to be asked to host the Freedom of the City and County ceremony for Henry here at the track. It is fitting that the city and county have chosen to bestow this accolade on Henry as the achievements of winning the three biggest races at Cheltenham and then winning the Aintree Grand National will probably never be repeated.

**Owen Byrne**  
General Manager, Tramore Racecourse

# Freedom of Waterford for Henry

Mayor of Waterford City & County Council, Cllr. Damien Geoghegan has conferred the Freedom of Waterford on Waterford's eminently successful racehorse trainer, Henry de Bromhead.

In a ceremony held at Tramore Racecourse, the Butlerstown-based sportsman joined the likes of Waterford sporting heroes John Treacy and Séan Kelly in having his name added to the Freeman's Charter Roll, first established at the turn of the 18th century.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mayor Geoghegan said: “It was a great honour for me during my time as Mayor to put forward a proposal to confer this honour on Henry de Bromhead. Like everyone interested in the sport of horse racing, I watched in admiration

last Spring as Henry's horses enjoyed unprecedented success at both Cheltenham and Aintree, establishing his stable as one of the best in Britain and Ireland.

“Henry is such a humble man and a total professional in what he does...he works incredibly hard behind the scenes and is a credit to his industry and to Waterford. I had no hesitation in putting forward this proposal, for what is a most fitting and truly deserved honour.”

Thanking the Mayor and those in attendance for the honour, Henry de Bromhead touched on his unprecedented season.

“It's a great honour which I accept on behalf of not just myself

and my family, but on my whole team here in Waterford. Thank you everyone for the goodwill and support you have shown us this year. I'm happy that we're here in Tramore too, with my family connections with the racecourse going back to my grandfather's time. This year has been a terrific experience.”



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# AWARD WINNING ARCHITECTURE AND INTERIORS



MDP & Partners directors Eddie Phelan, David Merrigan and Philip Doyle

**MDP + Partners** are an award winning architectural practice which was formed in January 2019 with the merger of two established offices, Merrigan Phelan Architects in Waterford City and Doyle + Partners in New Ross, Co. Wexford. With a combined 40 years of experience in the construction industry between the 3 directors, David Merrigan, Philip Doyle & Eddie Phelan, MDP + Partners aim to deliver high quality contemporary architectural solutions that maximise the potential of each project through a design-led, fully integrated sustainable approach, on time and on budget.

Together with their staff, MDP + Partners are highly experienced in multiple fields of architecture and design, ranging from the residential sector, one-off houses, office fitout, commercial and hospitality sectors. The office has a particular interest in the adaptive reuse of existing buildings.

MDP + Partners has invested in state-of-the-art Desktop Virtual Reality (VR) technology to add to its existing design capabilities. This technology gives our designers and clients the opportunity to experience the projects they are working on in a completely immersive way, even before construction has begun.

MDP + Partners work as part of a multi-disciplinary design team on the majority of our projects. We believe in engaging with the best people for specific projects from inception to completion as we believe it results in the best outcomes for our clients.

■ **MDP + Partners are located at 2-3 Colbeck St. (2nd Floor), The Viking Triangle, Waterford, and also have a satellite office in Dublin. They can be contacted via their website [www.mdpandpartners.ie](http://www.mdpandpartners.ie), by phone on 051 854589 or by calling into them at 2-3 Colbeck St., Waterford. Check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for more examples of our work.**



## EXAMPLES OF OUR PROJECTS INCLUDE:

### HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

- Manor Hill redevelopment, Waterford City
- Housing development at Carrick on Suir, Co. Tipperary
- Housing development at Cashel, Co. Tipperary
- Large scale housing developments in Waterford City, Tramore, Dungarvan, Crooke, Passage East and Dunmore East
- Several mixed use developments in Co. Kildare, Co. Wicklow and Dublin

### COMMERCIAL AND FITOUT PROJECTS

- Air B n B, Dublin
- Rapid 7, Dublin
- Brandon House Hotel, Co. Wexford
- Arkphire, Dublin
- Colourtrend, Co. Kildare
- Audi, Kilkenny
- Bolands, Waterford
- BMW, Wexford
- Fanagan's Funeral Homes, Dublin
- Ardkeen Quality Food Store, Waterford
- Hume St., Dublin
- Boutique Hotel, Dungarvan
- Savvi Bank
- Momo Restaurant, Waterford City
- Lloyds Hair Salon, Waterford City

### ONE-OFF PRIVATE DWELLINGS

- MDP + Partners have been involved in a number of one-off bespoke dwellings nationwide and have won national design awards for these.



# Why **Waterford** is working for everyone

**When we talk about Waterford as natives, we are eager to talk about our 50 beaches, miles of coastline and in recent times the new Greenway. However, you may not realise there is a whole lot more to be discovered for everyone, regardless of what stage of life you are at. Here Elaine Fennelly of Crystal Valley Tech looks at why Waterford works for everyone.**

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

As we go to press, housing is a major political issue in Ireland with supply too low and prices too high. Waterford has the enviable position of being less than half the price to buy or rent versus Dublin. With childcare reasonably priced too, it is no wonder that it is a great choice for living and bringing up a family.

Many people love the green, pollution-free choice that Waterford offers – indeed the city is on track to become Ireland's first decarbonised city. With so many family-friendly pursuits and festivals, it is no wonder that Waterford consistently scores high on quality-of-life polls.

*“With 62 people per square km in Waterford versus 1,459 per square km in Dublin it is easy to understand why the county is lean, green and clean.”*

## EDUCATION

After fifty years, Waterford Institute of Technology is on the cusp of become a Technological University. WIT has been transformative in the region. Since foundation, its emphasis on work experience and placement has been instrumental in its success. It now boasts Research Centres for Software (TSSG / Walton Institute), Materials (SEAM), Pharma & Molecular Biology (PMBRC), NRCI (Nutrition), RIKON (Business) and Eco Innovation.

WIT can now offer Springboard Degree Level 8 programs over 24 months, six of which are placement, and it is online. Professor Willie Donnelly's vision of a software research centre is the reason for this statement by Enterprise Ireland.

## THE CAREER YEARS

For many who visit Waterford and have not been here for years, we frequently hear how they are amazed at the change they see. No longer an industrial, manufacturing city, Waterford has experienced twenty years of change. Crystal Valley Tech, a group of founders, work tirelessly to promote the vibrant tech sector and unlike many other regions that specialise in a particular type of tech, the South East has the full spectrum from Cloud, Mobile, AI, AR, VR, Payments and Crypto.

Similarly, there is newly established cluster “Engineering the South East” representing the South East's very innovative engineering sector. Health and Life Sciences too have experience phenomenal growth in recent years with a strong multinational and indigenous presence. Years ago, people may have thought moving to the South East was the end of a career but looking at the success of many firms and individuals located here, you really can have it all in Waterford.

*“Waterford is a shining example of how co-locating the incubation centre with the Institute has led to the establishment of a software industry that probably should not have existed in Waterford. Unlike the normal impacts of business around there, this industry has been driven from the educational facility. Also, in Waterford one sees the flow of graduates and researchers into local industry and start-ups”.*

**— Gearoid Mooney,  
Enterprise Ireland**

## RETIRING OR WINDING DOWN

During Covid-19 our lives changed considerably and forever. Confined to our homes and county for almost a year, we were forced to look long and hard at our immediate surroundings. Waterford people were blessed to have so many natural amenities to visit. For many people it gave them an insight into what retirement would look like, when they would not have an office or workplace to spend their days. We all appreciated the simple things like having gardens, being near parks and beaches and most of all living in a county with a low-density population.

The quality of housing in Waterford is extremely high with most homes having front and rear gardens, and as so many houses have been built in the last twenty years, the stock is new and modern. If your dream is to retire along the coast, you will be spoiled for choice too.

## A FINAL NOTE

Not too big, not too small – in fact, Waterford is perfectly sized. There is a willing business community that is eager to help. For relocation information or indeed any business query, contact Lynda in Waterford Chamber or Elaine in Crystal Valley Tech. We are ready and waiting to continue to innovate like our Viking founders!

**lynda.lawton@waterfordchamber.ie  
elaine@crystalvalley.io**





# WATERFORD'S RESUME

Smart. Lean. Green. Historic. Scaling

## EDUCATION

### Waterford Institute of Technology

On track to get University Status in 2022.

Best Institute of Technology in Ireland, celebrating 50 years of delivering education to the South East of Ireland.

Home to Internationally recognised research centres in Software, Materials, Pharma, Business, Nutrition & Sustainability.

Institute of Technology Carlow is less than an hour away in the South East too.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Tech Cluster

Crystal Valley Tech, the Tech Cluster has over 140 tech companies including Red Hat, Uber, NearForm and Immersive VR Education. An expanding sector with great opportunities.

### Kinetic Lab

A fully-equipped lab for your Pharma start-up or your company's R&D and new product development. On the ground access to mentors and experts.

### Engineering the South East

An engineering cluster representing over 175 engineering firms across the South East. Industry-led, focused on promotion, training and research.

### Waterford Chamber

For five years now the Chamber has run a *Regional Leaders Programme*, developing the future leaders for the South East. An amazing award-winning program helping companies to develop their talent pool.

## WHY WATERFORD IS DIFFERENT

A city with huge supports for start-ups including the only venture capital outside Dublin/Cork (Sure Valley Ventures), an abundance of co-working space and a network of sectoral mentors willing to advise and help.

#findyourfuture

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ireland's oldest city founded 914AD by the Vikings (very innovative people!), which makes Waterford the oldest English-speaking country in the EU.

Waterford Chamber of Commerce dates to 1787 and provide a range of services to support and nurture local businesses.

Waterford is on track to be Ireland's first decarbonised city.

Nearest regional city in Ireland to Dublin, the capital city.

## CONTACT US FOR RELOCATION TO WATERFORD

We can answer any relocation query directly or through our network.

EMAIL:  
lynda.lawton@waterfordchamber.ie  
elaine@crystalvalley.io

## THINGS TO DO

- Cycle the 30-mile Greenway from Waterford City to Dungarvan.
- Check out our 50 beaches.
- Enjoy our mountains, both the Comeraghs & Knockmealdowns.
- Enjoy the many food, music and cultural festivals that the county offers.
- View the spectacular Waterford Walls art around the City.
- Visit our amazing museums and view the only surviving piece of clothing belonging to Henry VIII.

# WATERFORD WORKS FOR ALL OF US





# CONNECTING BUSINESS AND EDUCATION

**As Waterford College of Further Education says goodbye to 800 students and looks set to welcome even more in September, Lynda Lawton speaks to Principal Noreen Reilly about the impact of Covid and her passion for life-long learning.**



**Q: Noreen, it's been a tough year for people in education and yet you had 800 students put forward for certification this term. It must have been challenging as a result of Covid-19.**

**A:** Lynda, it has been a great privilege as Principal to lead the fantastic team of staff and students in WCFE since Covid-19 struck in March 2020. The response to this unprecedented challenge in education has been phenomenal in our college. Fully supported by the CE Mr. Kevin Lewis and the entire staff in WWETB, Waterford College of Further Education has demonstrated resilience, flexibility, and adaptability in relation to our teaching, learning and assessment methods. I am so proud to say that we have maintained our very high standards of teaching and the integrity of all our awards.

The health and safety of our students and staff has been my priority throughout the pandemic and our student-centred focus has ensured that our pastoral care policy has flourished throughout lockdown. It is heartening to see the level of care expressed among and between staff and students. Wellbeing and work/life balance has been our

priority and has been integrated into our College culture.

Lest I give the impression this was easy, it was not! Changing habits of a lifetime and adapting to "the new norm" was extremely challenging but working together we got there, and it is amazing to see how much was learned by all along the way – for us in WCFE throughout the pandemic every day was literally a college day!

**Q: WCFE has always had strong ties to the business community. How important is that connection?**

**A:** We have a strong sense of connectivity and responsibility towards our local business community. Situated in the heart of Waterford City, WCFE students and staff support businesses in the area. WCFE has a long and strong tradition of providing up-to-the-minute relevant courses to meet the needs of business and industry locally and nationally. Our courses are all certified by QQI at levels 5 and 6, and many courses also have internationally recognised qualifications. All courses have a mandatory component of work experience as part of the qualifications

and we have developed strong links with local service providers and businesses to support students in this regard. Amongst our many departments we have a very vibrant Business Department that is nationally recognised for its excellence, with many students securing employment locally.

**Q: What can businesses do to support your students?**

**A:** We are so grateful to the many businesses in Waterford and beyond that support our students' learning by providing work experience places. This often leads to part-time work for students, and we regularly receive feedback on the quality of our students and their placements. This is an area we would like to grow – we would like to work with our business partners in the future to develop a broad internship programme. We are delighted to be the first college in the South East offering the National Hairdressing Apprenticeship and have greatly enjoyed the support of the hairdressing industry in this regard. We endeavour to make the world of learning relevant to the world of work and our close business relationships support this.

**Q: For those who have a passion for life-long learning, how can your courses work for people who are in full-time employment?**

**A:** There is a course for everyone in WCFE and we have designed flexible learning options to suit. We also have an adult access programme and provide core and dispersed VTOS. We offer the broadest range of courses to our dispersed VTOS learners in the South East. Our new courses are developed in conjunction with local employers' input and labour market justification requirements, thus ensuring that learners can progress directly to employment, and for those who wish to continue in education, we have developed strong progression links with Higher Education.

Waterford College of Further Education is part of the local community and we like to provide adult learners with the opportunity to upskill in their own time. In this regard WCFE has facilitated a very successful night school for the past 20 years for Waterford and surrounding counties. The aim of WCFE night school is to equip learners with the means of progressing within their chosen field of employment. To do so the college provides courses in business, beauty therapy and various other fields, including: Accounting Technician; Payroll Manual and Computerised; Bookkeeping and Accounts; Introduction to Beauty Therapy; Hairdressing; Barbering; Nail Technology.

While the aim of night school is to equip progressive learners, it also provides hobby courses which in turn presents opportunities to change career such as Psychotherapy, Psychology, Art, English literature, Music. Another aim of Waterford College of Further Education is to provide stepping stones within the community to enable further skill training to equip the community to a changing economic environment.

*"Education in my view is the key that unlocks doors so that learners can fulfil their hopes, dreams, and potential."*

**Q: There are big plans for Waterford and the South East Region in terms of education, in line with Project Ireland 2040 and the delivery of TUSEI. Does the college have a strategic plan going forward?**

**A:** Absolutely, the College has a strategic plan to meet the emerging and diverse needs of our learners into the future as we are the largest provider of diverse Further Education Courses in the South East Region. We have expanded the number of courses on offer in the College, and for the first time ever the College is offering in excess of 40 industry relevant courses that not only allow students to access employment but also progress to Higher Education. We work closely with our partners in National policy to provide learners with many learning opportunities. Our many newly developed apprenticeship programmes support this.

**Q: What is your personal vision for the college?**

**A:** I see myself as a leader and custodian of this exceptional College of Further Education, which over its long history has constantly changed and transformed to meet the current educational needs of learners and employers in the community. This is a very privileged position to hold, to be involved in creating a learning-friendly atmosphere that breeds enthusiasm among students and staff. Of course, creating a vision for the College is about teacher

collaboration, building on our strengths. I'm not the leader, I'm a leader among many teacher and student leaders in the college.

Teaching is a caring profession and in WCFE we have a fully inclusive learning environment. As a teacher myself, throughout my career, I have always believed that my work should be of a standard that I would find acceptable for my own children. This involves respecting every member of the College Community and creating an upbeat welcoming professional environment. I have brought this guiding principle with me in the many leadership roles I have fulfilled to date.

Being a learner-centred environment, teachers make a difference to the lives of learners, having high expectations for all, high standards and rigorous learning goals, combined with continuous professional development, collaboration and professional learning communities will ensure that WCFE remains at the cutting edge of education into future.

**Q: What advice would you give to anybody considering returning to education?**

**A:** As a lover of lifelong learning and having undertaken an evening course in our college myself in 2020 (which I very much enjoyed), I believe it is never too late to return to education. Education in my view is the key that unlocks doors so that learners can fulfil their hopes, dreams, and potential. There is a course for everyone in WCFE, come join us and allow WCFE to help you fulfil your dreams, you will not regret it.



# Cybersecurity advice from Radius Technologies



In light of the recent cyberattack on the HSE, it is understandable that you may have concerns about your digital security and your organisation's ability to defend against a similar attack. Radius CEO Jerry Buckley offers his advice to businesses in these worrying times. "While it is difficult and nearly impossible to protect against zero-day viruses and ransomware attacks, it is possible to ensure your staff are aware of what to do and what not to do, your systems are configured correctly and as protected as possible."

Radius recommends the following cyber security tips.

## 1. ACCOUNT SECURITY

Enforce the use of Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) on important online accounts. This involves having a code or token sent to the user's mobile phone or authentication app at the time of login.

## 2. STAFF TRAINING

Educate employees on what to look out for in terms of phishing emails and monitor stolen

credentials (staff logins and passwords) belonging to the business domain on the Dark Web.

## 3. KEEP IT SYSTEMS AND PROTECTION UP-TO-DATE

Remember, there is no single silver bullet for protection. A layered, defence-in-depth security model is essential. At a minimum, install a recommended anti-virus and ransomware protection software, and extend it to all endpoints (users' PCs) and servers.

## 4. BACK-UP DATA

Keep regular backups of your most important and current data on an offline storage device. The standard recommendation for backups is to follow the 3-2-1 method: 3 copies of the data, using 2 different systems, 1 of which is offline.

## 5. INVEST IN CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE

Prevent attackers from getting access to and disabling your security: choose an advanced solution with a cloud-hosted IT infrastructure with 'Role-based Administration' to limit access rights.

## 6. RECOVERY PLAN

Have an effective incident response plan in place and update it as needed.

As a longstanding Waterford Chamber member, Radius Technologies provide businesses with Managed IT, Cloud, Telecoms and IT Security services. To help, Radius is offering a free Dark Web Credential Check on your company's domain (@website) and one month of free Phishing Simulation & Awareness training to Chamber members.

■ To avail of the offer, email [sales@radius.ie](mailto:sales@radius.ie) or lo-call 0818 592 500.

## Read more:

- <https://radius.ie/service/dark-web-monitoring/>
- <https://radius.ie/service/it-and-data-security/phishing-simulation-and-cybersecurity-training/>



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<b>Art &amp; Design Portfolio</b> (Art Craft & Design- 5M1984)
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<b>Advanced Photography</b> (Advanced Certificate in Photography 6M3732)
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<b>Advanced Beauty Therapy &amp; Make-Up Artistry - Year 2</b>
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<b>Hairdressing - Year 2</b>
<b>Hairdressing Apprenticeship</b> <b>NEW COURSE</b>
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• Employment & Academic Skills



# EirGen Pharma announces the sale of its Sterile Fill Finish business



**E**irGen Pharma has agreed to sell its Sterile Fill Finish capability to Horizon Therapeutics plc. Within the sale is included the Sterile Fill Finish technology and the EirGen Pharma Building at Butlerstown, Waterford. Employees supporting the Fill Finish capability will transfer to Horizon Therapeutics as part of the operational change.

CEO of EirGen Pharma Damien Burke elaborated on the implications of this sale: "This is a progressive move for EirGen Pharma, Horizon Therapeutics and Waterford. It facilitates the

expansion of our global Oral Solid Dose portfolio, will allow our Sterile Fill Finish team to be successful within a Global Fill Finish operation and brings additional career opportunities for both companies within the Life Sciences industry to Waterford."

EirGen Pharma, with its parent company OPKO Health is fully invested in supporting the growth and development of its core EirGen business in Waterford, consisting of Oral Solid Dose technology for R&D and Commercial supply to global markets from EirGen's facility at Westside Business Park

in Waterford City. EirGen has and will continue to receive government support through IDA Ireland in the development of its unique R&D capability.

The EirGen Leadership team is fully committed to engaging with the extended Sterile Fill Finish team to ensure a supportive transition over the coming weeks. The EirGen Leadership team is also committed to supporting Horizon Therapeutics throughout the transition period and extends a warm welcome to them to the region.

# The benefits of VOLUNTEERING

**W**aterford Volunteer Centre is a new service with an aim of supporting and strengthening all aspects of volunteering across Waterford. We provide a volunteer placement service, matching volunteers with appropriate opportunities and offer guidance on volunteer recruitment as well as relevant training.

A particular trend that is developing is the need for board level volunteers. Many organisations are finding that they lack sufficient numbers of people and/or specific skill-sets to meet both their objectives and the increasing regulatory and compliance measures. Traditionally this was addressed by appointing more permanent board members. In smaller communities finding new board members can be particularly challenging, especially when local networks have been exhausted. Therefore, we are exploring a number of approaches to filling the skills gap that includes mentoring, short-term project-based engagement, networking support, learning supports and administrative assistance. This will hopefully create a number of interesting short and long-term opportunities, both with voluntary organisations and with the Volunteer Centre itself.



As well as being innately rewarding themselves, these opportunities may be of particular interest to people who are seeking to expand their management experience, to improve promotion prospects, or to develop their communication skills. We believe it is a very exciting time to engage in volunteering.

■ For more information you can speak to Sharon Higgins, Centre Manager ([sharon@volunteerwaterford.ie](mailto:sharon@volunteerwaterford.ie) or 083 0268144) or Paul Deegan, Placement & Development Office ([paul@volunteerwaterford.ie](mailto:paul@volunteerwaterford.ie) or 086 1424928).

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# From Waterford to the world with Walton

WIT's research wing, formally TSSG (Telecommunications Software & Systems Group) has further advanced its global ICT research impact by evolving to the Walton Institute for Information and Communication Systems Science, a multidisciplinary ICT-centric research institute, the first of its kind in the South East.

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## The Programmable Autonomous Systems Division (PAS)

Led by Dr Steven Davy, research focus here includes Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Adaptive Autonomous Algorithms and Fog Data Analytics. The team seeks to research, develop and commercialise techniques, tools and algorithms that will ensure citizens can benefit from the digital evolution.

Their expertise in Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence for example has seen dramatic improvements in precision agriculture and precision livestock farming. From a retail perspective Machine Learning is being used to enhance the online and in-store experience, to provide retail recommendations on a personalised basis.

## Mobile Ecosystem and Pervasive Sensing (MEPS) Research Division

Frances Cleary spearheads research in areas such as e-textiles, Intelligent transport systems, Risk communication, Pervasive Sensing, Embedded Systems Control and Mixed Reality Interactive Technologies (Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality).

MEPS utilises their two state-of-the-art research testbeds – Mixed Reality Innovation testbed and e-textiles and smart materials innovation lab – to break new boundaries on the research side and also as a mechanism to engage, explain and generate new ideas with interested commercial entities.

The MEPS Division also engages in Biomedical Nano and Molecular Communications future emerging technologies and techniques, staying ahead of the current technology curve and keeping a close eye on new technologies as they emerge and the innovative potential they can bring.

## The Research Infrastructure & Testbeds Division

Jerry Horgan and his team play a cross-cutting organisation role by actively engaging in the research and development of facilities, lab spaces, testbeds, other bespoke ICT systems, and providing access to, or generating, datasets. A principal element in the division is the development of connections between testbeds that will help foster inter-disciplinary research between the different fields.

This division also pursues its own research in the areas of Satellite Communications, Quantum Computing and Quantum Communications. Quantum computing has many applications. Essentially a quantum computer is faster than anything that currently exists. From a retail/marketing perspective this means significantly improved mobile data coverage and speed, AI becoming close to human-like and increased relevance of ads (super fast determination of the most relevant advert for each individual consumer).

## The Emerging Networks Laboratory (ENL) Research Division

Headed up by Dr Deirdre Kilbane, this division focuses on communication networks: how they are designed, configured and used. Recent advances in wireless networking have enabled unprecedented data rates and reliable connectivity. These advances are currently being rolled out in 5G deployments. Emerging applications like autonomous driving or mixed reality will pose significant research challenges for networking beyond 5G.

ENL members build physical and link-layer models, configure networks to use resources more effectively while responding to failures, develop resource allocation models covering networking from the centre to the edge and devise protocols to protect the security of the data and privacy of its owners. Research Focus includes Internet of Everything, Knowledge Defined Networking, Security and Reliability and Beyond 5G Wireless Communications.

## Professional Software Engineering Services (PSES)

Catherine Cuniffe leads a team of highly talented UX designers, software testers and software engineers. From critically reviewing and translating a business idea to an innovative user experience, to identifying the best tools and technologies, PSES can facilitate almost every aspect of software development and development methodologies.

PSES has an excellent reputation with Irish industry in providing software design, development, testing and consultancy support in a very cost-effective manner.

## TSSG Technology Gateway

The commercial interface for Walton, the TSSG Technology Gateway is led by Miguel Ponce De Leon and is one of the largest Enterprise Ireland Technology Gateways in the network. The team supports start-ups, micro SMEs and scaling SMEs by delivering technology solutions through collaboration on projects which are close to the market needs of the Irish industry.

Walton has a proven track record in translating world class research into market-ready products and services, and has established an eco-system of mobile & digital service companies in the South East of Ireland and beyond, creating several hundred jobs directly and indirectly in the last ten years.



# Waterford RESURGENCE in the making



**R**esurgence 25X began on January 9th with an online webinar hosted by Dr Feargal O'Neill of ATPO and Waterford Chamber's Lynda Lawton. Over the two-hour session, five guest speakers gave their thoughts on their own resurgence ideas and experiences as we look to economic recovery to 2025. Contributors included Michael Kelly of GIY Ireland, Mary Boland of Waterford's Theatre Royal, Gary Graham of Bord Bia and Bloom, along with Sean Brady, Grow Remote and David McNamara of EY.

During the session there was also the opportunity for people to share their own ideas, which were gathered and collated. This was further enhanced by a five-week radio series on the *Hot Desk* with Mary O'Neill on WLR, where guests were invited to share their ideas and listeners to get involved.

What resulted was a collection of ideas that ranged from quick fixes to long-term aspirations.

After careful consultation, five ideas were selected to explore their viability during a follow-up Resurgence 25X Viability study, which took place in May.

## VIABILITY SESSION

This event drew a huge audience with over 200 people registering to hear what the experts had to say. Along with hosting it on Zoom, Waterford Chamber also live-streamed it on YouTube and it continues to attract viewers who are interested in the resurgence of Waterford.

According to Waterford Chamber CEO Gerald Hurley, "The reaction far exceeded our expectations and the onus is on us now to move to the implementation stage. We have made some progress in this regard over the past

few weeks and we look forward to driving forward to ensure delivery of a number of the projects in the months and years ahead. It has been an exciting initiative and one which has given us all some food for thought. Feargal's vision for Resurgence continues as he works with other sectors, including the arts and health, and if each can achieve their own outputs, what a city we will become."

Below is a synopsis of the topics, the contributions and the recommendations from the Viability session.

## REMOTE WORKING HUBS ACROSS THE COUNTY

This topic began with a video contribution from An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar, who offered an overview of the changes to the working environment and the need to support people as they continue to work from home. He also spoke about

his interest in the development of Waterford.

He was followed by Seamus Kilgannon, owner of workLAB who spoke about the cost and requirements needed to run a hub successfully.

To work, these hubs will need financial support from the Local Authority and we understand Waterford Local Enterprise Office have begun to look at grant schemes in this regard.

## HIGH SPEED TRAIN TO DUBLIN

Barry Kenny of Irish Rail led this discussion by outlining the different types of trains and explained a higher speed train was an option for Waterford. This has already been explored by Irish Rail. It would take a large investment in the rail network and will be aligned with population growth.

Marian Walsh of Carron + Walsh spoke about the feasibility of such a service and also outlined the new transport hub which is planned for the North Quays.

The takeaway from this is it will happen but will take time.

## WATERFORD AS AN OUTLET CITY

A unique concept that brought about huge interaction, this was discussed by international retail expert Richard Hazell and Niall Harrington of Fewer Harrington & Partners. The concept is to utilise vacant properties in the city centre to create an outlet shopping experience. Richard spoke about how unique and attractive this concept would be to leading brands, while Niall spoke in terms of the city centre regeneration and how this concept would be a very positive move.

There are currently 33 vacant premises in the area stretching from Arundel Lane to George's Street, not including George's Court. In Nenagh, for example, there are 17 ladies fashion shops and seven shoe shops alone. Here we are as a city with a current retail leakage of €614m, with an offering nowhere near that. Research shows Waterford people have said there is a distinct lack of choice in

Waterford in terms of retail. The outlet city concept will go a long way to addressing that.

Richard Hazell has since provided a proposal on conducting a feasibility study and outlining the steps that will need to be implemented in order to achieve this. Waterford Chamber is working to progress this initiative with the relevant stakeholders.

## CITY CENTRE FARMER'S MARKET

Again a very popular proposal, about which we heard from Darina Allen of Ballymaloe fame. Darina spoke about her own experience of setting up the first farmer's market in the Coal Quay in Cork and also in Middleton, where she still trades every Saturday morning. She also gave examples of some of her favourite markets, such as Bantry, Dungarvan and Skibereen. Darina outlined how variety of choice and parking were the two most essential components to a successful market. She was emphatic that this has to be an experience, where you can get food, craft, things of interest that you can't normally get in traditional shops. She believed a large farmer's market would thrive in Waterford city centre and was hugely complimentary of the vision outlined by our second speaker Clodagh Griffin.

Clodagh currently works as an event manager in Dublin and is looking to return home to Waterford on a permanent basis. Her vision for a city centre market is based on international urban markets, which combine fresh produce and food trucks in an artistic environment.

The two areas identified as potential spaces are Blackfriars and a vacant space off Thomas Street, adjacent to Downes' Pub, in the heart of the Cultural Quarter. This is a project that can be started right away and Waterford Chamber is looking to meet with Waterford Council in the coming weeks to begin the process of implementation.

## WHERE IRELAND BEGAN THE GREENWAY BEGINS

Seen by many as a logical and

much-needed move, this proposal is about regenerating the Plaza to incorporate the start of the Greenway, bringing a guaranteed footfall and vibrancy into the city centre. With the plans to extend to New Ross, speakers Mary Houlihan from Fáilte Ireland and Ronan Mulligan of Mulligan's Pharmacy spoke on how this initiative would be of huge benefit to the city centre, both in terms of retail and also as an additional offering for the tourism market.

Waterford Chamber has met with a representative of Waterford City & County Council, who has identified a safe route to get to the Plaza and is preparing signage so cyclists will be able to access the Plaza and the city centre in a safe way.

A facelift and maintenance works to make the Plaza more attractive for visitors is also being scheduled by Waterford Council and we are awaiting a completion date for that so we can begin promoting it nationally.

## CONCLUSION

The event concluded with a summary and insights from Richie Walsh, on behalf of Waterford Council and Waterford Local Enterprise Office. Richie was complimentary of all speakers, noting that a lot of the projects could be implemented in the short-term and have a very positive impact on Waterford's future.

Work has already begun in earnest on a number of these initiatives and we look forward to driving them forward for implementation in the short to medium term.

"This is an exciting time for our city centre. We have come out of months of hardship and finally there is some positivity among the business community. We need to build on that, deliver some of these exciting initiatives and find more. By coming together, getting expert advice and encouraging public/private partnerships, we can build a vibrant city centre to be enjoyed by all," Gerald concluded.





Pictured are the first visitors to the new Irish Museum of Time twins Kate and Matthew Kirwan (age 7).

## It's a matter of TIME

The spectacular Irish Museum of Time was officially opened in Waterford by Minister Malcolm Noonan TD on June 14th. The museum is the only horological museum on the island of Ireland and boasts the finest collection of Irish watches and clocks in the world.

The Irish Museum of Time is located in the heart of the Viking Triangle in Waterford, Ireland's oldest city. Housed in a former neo-Gothic style Methodist church built in the 1880s, the new museum makes the fifth attraction in the Waterford Treasures suite of museums.

Commenting on the official opening, Minister Noonan said, "This wonderful new museum celebrates the work of craftsmen at the forefront of technology from all over the island of Ireland over the last 300 years. In their day timepieces were the equivalent of today's computers and the creativity of their makers could be a source of inspiration for our tech-savvy young people. I commend the two collectors David Boles and Colman Curran – it is heart-warming to see such extraordinary patriotism and generosity. The people of Waterford, and indeed Ireland, will be forever indebted to you. I am delighted that my Department was in a position to support this

remarkable initiative and a wonderful example of generosity and philanthropy."

Mayor of Waterford Cllr Damien Geoghegan said, "This state of the art museum is a marvellous addition to Waterford's cultural offering and the city now boasts five award-winning museums. I would like to thank the two collectors and benefactors – David Boles and Colman Curran – for sharing not just their collections but also their lifelong passion with the general public."

In an extraordinary gesture of generosity and philanthropy, David Boles, Colman Curran and Elizabeth Clooney have gifted their lifelong collections to Waterford Treasures. Speaking at the launch David said, "I have been collecting old Irish clocks and watches since I was fifteen, driven by the fact that the technological genius of their makers was not at all appreciated in Ireland and indeed was always undervalued. It is a real joy to know that these collections will be kept together and appreciated by visitors to Waterford."

Colman said, "I'm very proud to witness the official opening of a museum dedicated to Ireland's horological heritage and to see my own lifelong collection form part of this wonderful new offering for people to explore. The museum

is not only a collection of clocks and watches but also a place to discover the story and the science of time. It is great to see our dream of a national horology museum – which this is – become a reality."

Speaking of the launch of Ireland's newest museum, Waterford Treasures Museum Director Eamonn McEneaney says, "This is the finest collection of Irish timepieces in the world. Waterford Treasures is proud to celebrate the incredible skills of the virtuoso craftsmen who, since the seventeenth century, created timepieces of remarkable beauty and technological genius."

The collection is not limited to Ireland, also on display are early European timepieces, the earliest dating back to 1551, along with clocks and watches from Switzerland, England, Germany, France, Italy, Austria, the Netherlands, USA, Canada, Russia and as far away as Japan and Australia.

■ Set out over two floors visitors can enjoy a self-guided experience at the new Irish Museum of Time with interactive displays showcasing the story of the museum's significant pieces. Tickets are available to pre-book at [www.waterfordTreasures.com](http://www.waterfordTreasures.com) at €5 per person.

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# Waterford Chamber Skillnet launch 2021 Graduate Accelerator Programme

**W**aterford Chamber Skillnet is delighted to open expressions of interest for the fourth instalment of the Graduate Accelerator Programme. Starting on October 7th 2021, this IITD Award short-listed programme continues to grow from strength to strength.

The Graduate Accelerator Programme offers practical soft and hard skills training to recent graduates and new hires to ease the transition of the candidate into their new world of work. Essential topics including Emotional Intelligence, Problem Solving, Effective Presentations, Feedback,

Resilience, VUCA, Lean, and Practical Project Management will be covered to name just a few.

Since the programme launched in 2018, over 140 participants have completed the course and having moved online in 2020 the programme is now open to businesses across Ireland.

■ **To register your interest or for more information, contact Kelly Cummins at [kelly.cummins@waterfordchamber.ie](mailto:kelly.cummins@waterfordchamber.ie)**

*This programme is 100% funded under the Waterford Chamber Skillnet Skills Connect Fund.*

*"I found the programme to be really beneficial. The quality of each trainer and each course was exceptionally high. There was no day that I didn't bring home a key takeaway for me to apply in the workplace."*



## How to avail of Training Supports and Funding

Contact Waterford Chamber Skillnet Network Manager Tommie Ryan to discuss your training needs and funding opportunities!

Email: [tommie.ryan@waterfordchamber.ie](mailto:tommie.ryan@waterfordchamber.ie) | Call: 085 125 4668

For more information and current open training courses visit [www.waterfordskillnet.ie](http://www.waterfordskillnet.ie)



Waterford Chamber Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and network companies. Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais, Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta  
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science



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# Sanofi to invest €630,000 in Waterford environment

**SANOFI WAT PLANET MOBILIZATION SAND ART:** Celebrating Sanofi launching a three-year environmental awareness programme centred on Waterford and providing a model for the biopharmaceutical company's sites worldwide, this spectacular 45-metres x 18-metres sand art was created on the Copper Coast in Co. Waterford by Sean Corcoran of The Art Hand assisted by Joe Lonergan.

Sanofi is to invest €630,000 in a three-year programme driven by a team at its biopharmaceutical and medical device site in Waterford that aims to raise environmental awareness and reduce plastic consumption.

'Waterford Loves Planet Not Plastic' developed by the Waterford site's 'Green Team' was named as one of three winners in the company's *Planet Mobilization* ideas generation programme.

As part of a long-standing commitment to reduce the environmental footprint of the company's products and activities, Sanofi launched the €3m *Planet Mobilization* fund to support employee ideas and projects that will further contribute to a healthier environment. The other winners alongside Waterford this year come from Vietnam and a combined entry spanning sites in Belgium, France and Italy.

The funding to be invested at Waterford consists of two-thirds from Sanofi's *Planet Mobilization* fund and one-third of in-kind

support from the site which employs more than 750 people and is celebrating 20 years since its establishment.

Key elements of the three-year programme include a schools campaign; organised clean-ups of coastal, mountain and other scenic areas in Waterford and its hinterland; a multilingual app helping households to measure their plastic consumption and find alternatives and a sustainable shopping scheme to promote greener options to consumers. A toolkit developed at Waterford will be shared with Sanofi colleagues globally to support them in rolling out similar environmental programmes in their local areas.

Welcoming the investment, Eamon Ryan T.D., Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, said: "Waterford has already shown leadership with its decarbonisation pledge and this initiative is a very welcome addition. The government has

committed to tackle the issue of plastic waste with a ban on 10 single-use plastic items coming into force in July and more developments through our Waste Action Plan over the next few years. But we also need to win hearts and minds and encourage people to make changes. The 'Waterford Loves Planet Not Plastic' project's focus on awareness, education and clean-ups will support individuals and communities as we move towards a greener, more environmentally-friendly future and I wish it every success."

"Because the fight against climate change is also a fight for health and wellbeing, Sanofi commits to *Planet Mobilization*," said Philippe Luscan, Executive Vice President, Global Industrial Affairs, Sanofi. "We strongly believe our employees are the most powerful agents of positive change for people and for the planet. It is with this ambition and objectives in mind that we decided to create a fund of €3m to

finance ideas and projects coming from our employees in support of our environmental ambition. Today, it is fair to say that teams all over the world took up the challenge, even beyond our expectations. That's collective intelligence in motion!"

Cllr Damien Geoghegan, Mayor of Waterford, added: "Sanofi have a 20-year track record of being both great employers and corporate neighbours in Waterford. This major investment in our local environment builds on that and the benefits from 'Waterford Loves Planet Not Plastic' will reach into many communities right around our city and county. It also fits well with the broader ambition to make Waterford Ireland's first decarbonised city by 2040. Sanofi are to be commended for this initiative and I congratulate their 'Green Team' for bringing this prestigious prize home to Waterford."

Dr Johannes Schweppenhäuser, Site Head, Sanofi Waterford and a member of the site's 'Green Team', said: "We are obviously delighted with today's news. It means a lot to the site team. Waterford city and county is very much part of this success and it is the local environment that we all share which will see the benefits of this major community investment to 2024 and beyond. We are fortunate to live in a very special place and that brings with it a responsibility to protect our fragile environment."

In all, there were 161 entries involving more than 500 people in 29 countries in the *Planet Mobilization* competition with Waterford winning the 'Colibri' category for ideas built around small steps with a big collective impact when they are taken by many people. A full programme of bootcamps, hackathons and design-thinking workshops led by Sanofi's

Lyon, France-based Innovation Lab, helped the teams turn their ideas into sustainable projects that the finalists then pitched to a panel of judges.

The members of the Sanofi Waterford 'Green Team' are – Jennifer Murphy; Becky O'Brien; Brian Nolan; Sean Duggan; Sinead Keane; Matt Joy; John Norris; Louise Davey; Johannes Schweppenhäuser; Martin O'Leary and Gerard Coey.

Globally, Sanofi is committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its activities by 55% by 2030 and is aiming for carbon neutrality by 2050. To date, it has cut greenhouse gas emissions by 27% and reduced water withdrawal by 22% since 2015. The company reuses, recycles or recovers 73% of its waste and has designed a new recyclable cardboard packaging for vaccines to replace aluminium and PVC blisters.



**SANOFI WAT PLANET MOBILIZATION TEAM:** Pictured are members of the Sanofi Waterford 'Green Team' who have secured a €630,000, three-year investment programme for the local environment (l/r) Louise Davey; Jennifer Murphy; Sinead Keane; Johannes Schweppenhaeuser; Brian Nolan; Sean Duggan; Gerard Coey; Becky O'Brien and Matt Joy. Missing from photo: John Norris and Martin O'Leary.





# Businesswomen win the day!

**C**ongratulations to the winners of the Network Ireland Waterford *Businesswoman of the Year Awards 2021*. Gala night doesn't even begin to describe it as businesswomen in Waterford gathered recently to celebrate their achievements in what has been a very difficult year. The live broadcast, hosted by the Waterford Film Centre, added to the glamour and excitement of the night and certainly kept everyone on their toes!

There wasn't one, but two Waterford presidents in attendance. Network Ireland National President, Aisling O'Neill and Network Ireland Waterford Branch President, Éadaoin Carrick. They shared their thoughts on the importance of support, education and sharing expertise.

Guest speaker, Finula Egan of AIB, spoke of the resilience and courage it takes to run a business at any time not to mind in a pandemic. She reminded the audience that "from challenge comes change".

Keynote speaker Chupi Sweetman, Network Ireland Businesswoman of the Year 2019, shared her "imperfect journey of building a business. What makes a difference? Have a plan!"

But the night belonged to the winners who will now go forward to represent Waterford in the National finals of the Network Ireland *Businesswomen of the Year Awards 2021* in October. Good luck to all and well done.

Huge thanks to the Judges, Regina Mangan, Founder and Managing Director of Liberty Blue Estate Agents, David Walsh, Business Advisor, Local Enterprise Office Waterford, and Kate Delahunty, Relationship Manager Commercial Banking, AIB, for their time and encouragement.

**Official Partner AIB**  
**Supported by LEO Waterford**



Local Enterprise Office  
Oifig Fiontraíocht Áitiúil



**KAREN MURPHY**  
Murphy Larkin  
Timber Products

**WINNER**  
of the  
**Power Within  
Champion Category**



**TERI MORRIS**  
ImpulseHub

**WINNER**  
of the  
**Solo Businesswoman  
Category**



**MJ JACOB**  
Mad Jessie

**WINNER**  
of the  
**Creative Professional  
Category**



**KAREN MURPHY**  
Murphy Larkin  
Timber Products

**WINNER**  
of the  
**Employee - Rising Star  
Category**



**CIARA HENNEBRY**  
Croía Ireland

**WINNER**  
of the  
**Emerging New  
Business Category**

# REGIONAL LEADERS PROGRAMME



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**Exclusive  
Alumni**

**1:1  
Meetings**

**Group  
Sessions**

**Networking**

**Speaker  
Lunches**

## Applications now open for 2021

## ARE YOU...

**A successor for a senior position?**  
**An employee who has shown leadership potential?**  
**An individual seeking to realise their own potential?**

The Regional Leaders Programme is aimed at professionals who want to develop their leadership competencies and will benefit companies seeking to increase the capacity of their internal talent pool. The programme runs monthly from September to June and will incorporate practical guidance on leadership styles, problem-solving and key recommendations during 1:1 group sessions. Mastermind workshops and speaker lunches will create opportunities for programme participants to engage with Regional Leaders colleagues and expand their network.

For further details, contact Lynda Lawton at  
087 9379894 or [lynda.lawton@waterfordchamber.ie](mailto:lynda.lawton@waterfordchamber.ie)



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# How can we help Waterford's innovation community to thrive?

- **Change-makers sought for new Waterford Council-WIT research study**
- **Have you experience of starting, growing or spinning out a company?**
- **Have you ideas about practical actions that could drive new innovation-focused initiatives in our county?**
- **Could you spare half an hour, to take part in a change-making project aimed at helping Waterford's innovation community to thrive?**

**W**aterford Local Enterprise Office and Waterford Cultural Quarter, in collaboration with Waterford Institute of Technology, are seeking participants for a new research study which will explore how Waterford's community of innovators can be helped to thrive.

The research is particularly aimed at people who have experience of setting up, growing or spinning out companies and are willing to share their experiences and views on Waterford's innovation ecosystem. Waterford Cultural Quarter is particularly interested in hearing the opinions of entrepreneurs working in digitally-focused cultural and creative-related industries, such as design, content creation, app/web/video game development, AR/VR technologies and UI/UX.

WIT researcher Michelle Clancy said the project is an opportunity for members of Waterford's innovation ecosystem to share their 'lived experience' and be part of a change-making project focused on taking practical actions to drive innovation activity:

"For this first phase of the study, I hope to speak to people who have experience of setting up, growing or spinning out companies across Waterford's innovation ecosystem, including start-ups, entrepreneurs

and disruptors. I'm asking them to take part in a short Zoom interview with me, just half an hour, to share their views – based on their own, lived experience – regarding the gaps and barriers to driving innovation activity and the positive actions that could be taken. Further into the research project, and in collaboration with the research partners, we would hope to implement some of those actions."

The research study is taking place under the supervision of Dr. Eugene Crehan of the Centre for Enterprise Development and Regional Economy (CEDRE) at WIT and Dr. Thomas O'Toole, Head (Dean) of School of Business, WIT.

■ **If you can spare half an hour to contribute to this research project, please email [michelle.clancy@postgrad.wit.ie](mailto:michelle.clancy@postgrad.wit.ie) – all information will be treated in the strictest confidence. The research has received approval from WIT School of Business Ethics Committee.**



# toys 4.0 ENGINEERS

## Conference & Expo

30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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- Speaker Conference
- Meet the Buyer
- Recruitment





# BITE SIZE NEWS



## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

- Finance For Business
- Immersive VR Education
- Kelron Health and Safety
- Kellys of Waterford
- The Lismore Food Company
- NearForm
- Phoenix Yard Market
- Phelan's Pharmacy
- Waterford Integration Services

## WLR OUTSIDE BROADCAST UNIT

WLR welcomed its brand new, state of the art Outside Broadcast Unit in 2020 and although we haven't been able to show it off at events around the city and county since its arrival in May last year, we're finally starting to get out and about again!



## HOSPICE SUNFLOWER DAYS

Hospice Sunflower Days usually take place on the 11th & 12th June each year, but this year for the second year in a row the on-street collection has been cancelled. This is having a devastating impact on hospices and their ability to fundraise. Together for Hospice, The National Hospice Movement represents 26 hospices coming together to fundraise collectively. The Virtual Sunflower Remembrance Garden was launched in May. This is an online space where members of the public can dedicate a virtual sunflower in memory of their loved one, whilst helping to raise much needed funds for their local hospice – all funds raised locally stay locally. You can support your local hospice by dedicating a virtual sunflower at [www.togetherforhospice.ie/sunflowerdays](http://www.togetherforhospice.ie/sunflowerdays)



## HARTLEY PEOPLE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF BUSINESS

Through a global recession and unprecedented pandemic, the Waterford business has seen it all over 20 years and continues to thrive. Waterford-based Hartley People has reached an exciting milestone as the company celebrates 20 years of delivering best-quality recruitment and training solutions.

The business was founded in 2001 by siblings Fergal and Roisin Hartley who recognised a need to provide a different approach to the traditional agency recruitment model in the region. This was their motivation and founding spirit which remains in place today. Hartley People have achieved this goal through its ongoing commitment to excellence coupled with strong customer loyalty.

Currently the company employs 33 permanent staff and a further 300 are employed across all the group of businesses working on a range of client assignments. The company has very recently relocated to a larger premises in the Cleaboy Business Park with room for further expansion, elevating the groups presence and cementing it as one of the most prominent employers in the region.



## SIENNA HOME FURNISHINGS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

Over the last 15 months, during the times when the showroom was open, the majority of customers have visited our showroom by appointment. This personal shopping experience has really been enjoyed by customers and staff and the overall feedback has been very positive. Customers have enjoyed "having the store to themselves and a dedicated member of staff to help and advise them." We have taken the decision to continue to operate on an appointment basis only. Call the showroom today to book your "Personal Shopping" or "Simply Browsing" appointment. We are looking forward to seeing you all soon.



## ARCH CLUB BENEFIT FROM VR DONATION

The team at Walton Institute and WIT were proud to donate virtual reality (VR) headsets and dedicated training to the Tramore & Waterford Arch Club. The Arch Club is a social club for people of all ages with an intellectual disability. It is a safe space for them to develop their social and interpersonal skills and to learn real world skills.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers in the Walton Institute developed CoronaVRus, a free to download virtual reality application aimed at autistic children that can be used as an educational tool to showcase, educate and demonstrate COVID-19 safety guidelines in an intuitive manner.

## DUST + ROCK SELECTED FOR VIRGIN MEDIA'S €100,000 'BACKING BUSINESS'

Local Enterprise Office Waterford-supported client, Dust + Rock, was selected as one of five Munster businesses for Virgin Media's 'Backing Business' initiative. Founder Susan Furniss Radley will receive a share of an overall prize fund of €100,000 in support, which includes a digital transformation package and the benefit of expertise and insights from each of the Virgin Media 'Backing Business' partners. The Dungarvan-based commercial pilot turned businesswoman has been blazing a trail in the Irish market with her 'wrist pocket', a handy purse that fits neatly on the wrist and holds all your essentials, a unique take on an everyday purse with added functionality and peace of mind due to its clever design.



## FAB FIVE GET NATIONWIDE DEALS

Five Waterford food and drink suppliers have won contracts to supply SuperValu and Aldi nationwide as part of their continuing commitment to encourage and support local businesses.

Coffee House Lane, Frothing Ferments and lasc Seafood Bar are among the 57 suppliers whose products went on sale as part of an Aldi Special buys event which kicked off on 6th June. The three won the contract after taking part in the *Grow with Aldi* supplier development programme. The suppliers received tailored mentoring, workshops from the Aldi Buying Team and Bord Bia technical experts, teaching them the skills to help grow and develop their product, brand and business.

Waterford producers Viking Drinks and Trish's Honey Products can now be found on SuperValu shelves thanks to their participation in the company's Food Academy programme. The Waterford producers are two of 45 new Irish food producers who have completed the programme.

Now in its eighth year, Food Academy is a unique food business development programme between SuperValu, Bord Bia and the Local Enterprise Offices.



## NEW MARKETING MANAGER FOR ST. DOMINIC CREDIT UNION

St. Dominic Credit Union are delighted to announce the appointment of local man Jonathan Flynn into the role of Marketing Manager for the Credit Union. Jonathan brings a wealth of experience and skill into the role having previously held the role of Marketing Manager in Marla Communications.



Minister of State Mary Butler TD on a recent visit to Apparel Supply with Corinna Dower, General Manager and John Molloy, Managing Director.

## FAMILY FIRM GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH!

Apparel Supply, a Waterford family business, which recently created 30 new jobs to bring the total of employees to 65 continues to go from strength to strength.

Within the space of a few short months, the company developed a new medical device face mask production facility in workLAB, producing reusable barrier masks and disposable medical face masks for the HSE, regional nursing homes, and voluntary, and community groups.

The expansion has been a real team effort and Apparel Supply is grateful of the support the company received from Enterprise Ireland, the HSE, Local Enterprise Office Waterford and local representatives.

The company plans to further expand its facemask production to include a wider range of face masks, including FFP2 masks. Also, in consideration of the huge environmental impact of single use disposable masks, the company in partnership with WIT Seam and Ulster University, is further researching and developing its reusable face mask range.



# 10

## top-rated tourist attractions in Waterford

Let's explore the best attractions in Waterford City and County to visit in 2021 – Your Adventure Starts Here!

1

### WATERFORD GREENWAY

The old railway line from Waterford City to Dungarvan is a spectacular 46km off-road cycling and walking trail which travels through time and nature across eleven bridges, three impressive viaducts and a long atmospheric tunnel all the way from the River Suir to Dungarvan Bay.

Along this route in *Ireland's Ancient East* is the site of a 9th century Viking settlement; the world-renowned ornamental gardens at Mount Congreve; Waterford & Suir Valley narrow gauge heritage railway; former woolen mills and railway stations; and beautiful landscapes along the River Suir, Comeragh Mountains, Copper Coast and Dungarvan Bay.

2

### HOUSE OF WATERFORD

Located in the heart of Waterford City, the House of Waterford Crystal allows visitors to witness the creation of crystal stemware, giftware and masterpieces right before their very eyes. The factory tour is a unique and captivating experience that is sure to enthrall visitors of all ages, both national and international.

Go behind the scenes for over an hour and see exactly how Waterford Crystal pieces are made – witness every stage of production, from the initial design stage right up to the final engraving of the piece. Each year, the House of Waterford Crystal melts down over 750 tonnes of crystal!

3

### KING OF THE VIKINGS

His life was epic and brief. But now Reginald, King of the Vikings, beckons you into his domain. And so, you step into this innovative Viking Virtual Reality Adventure – a world first – in a recreated Waterford Viking house in the City's Viking Triangle: on the very spot where Reginald built his fort in 917.

On and on you are drawn by animated information panels, far away from the modern City, and you don a "magical helmet" to journey back through 1,100 years: even meeting the ghost of King Reginald as he spars with the ghost of an Irish Christian monk. Close, personal, you really feel what it was like to be a Viking. Epic and brief his life may have been, but the legacy of Reginald and his fellow Vikings lives on around you in Vadvrefjord – Waterford.

4

### MOUNT CONGREVE NURSERY & GARDENS

While the great houses and gardens of *Ireland's Ancient East* invariably boast a rich history, sometimes it's the heart-stopping views, walks and surprises that most captivate you. That's certainly true of the gardens at Mount Congreve, Waterford, which flourish over some seventy acres of richly planted woodland and a four-acre walled garden. The collection ranges from more than three thousand different trees and shrubs, to fifteen hundred herbaceous plants. Wandering paths and ponds, surrendering to breath-taking sweeps of Azaleas, Camellias, Magnolias and Rhododendrons, being surprised by a Chinese Pagoda or revelling in vistas over the River Suir: such are the magical moments that enthrall.

5

### MEDIEVAL MUSEUM

What does the 13th century ring brooch tell us about courtly love? Why was The Great Charter Roll of Waterford created? What is the link between the dazzling Cloth of Gold Vestments and the Renaissance? Why did King Henry VIII give his red velvet cap – the only surviving piece of his wardrobe – to the Mayor of Waterford in 1536? The stories behind these treasures and many more are revealed in the Medieval Museum, the only building in Ireland to incorporate two medieval chambers, the atmospheric 13th century Choristers' Hall and the 15th century Mayor's Wine Vault.

6

### MASTERPIECES IN GLASS

The Bishop's Palace has become home to an original and innovative visitor experience on early glassmaking in Waterford. The new re-enactor tour is led by Susannah Penrose, granddaughter of one of the original founders of the Penrose Glass Factory. Her mother Elizabeth Penrose's beautiful shell cabinet, featuring a menagerie of delicate glass animals, was returned to Waterford City in 2014 and now forms the centrepiece of the exhibition as a direct link to the family. The museum itself has been revamped, with new installations of delicate glassware, fine silver and exotic porcelain to give visitors a real taste of the wealth and finery of upper-class 18th century living.

7

### LAFCADIO HEARN JAPANESE GARDENS

Come on a journey, through these unique gardens and the life of Victorian writer, translator and journalist Patrick Lafcadio Hearn. In their style and planting, the gardens, in Tramore in County Waterford, pay homage to Lafcadio Hearn with elements of the gardening traditions of the countries and cultures he visited during his varied travels. Begin in the Victorian Garden dedicated to the memory of Hearn's happy childhood summers in Tramore, explore the American Garden, the Greek Garden and the traditional Japanese Tea Garden. East meets West and they grow together on your unforgettable garden journey.

8

### LISMORE HERITAGE CENTRE

Opened in 1992 to share insights into Lismore's formidable history and heritage. Boasting a picturesque location at the foot of the Knockmealdown Mountains, Lismore is famous for the magnificent Lismore Castle (dating back to 1185) that was once the home of, the famous Broadway performer, Adele Astaire and Kathleen Kennedy, sister of John F. Kennedy. Inside this private residence can only be viewed through the *Lismore Castle Experience*.

9

### MUSEUMS OF TIME & SILVER

The Irish Museum of Time is located on Greyfriars Street in the heart of Waterford's Viking Triangle. This refurbished gothic-style church is a fitting home for what is beyond doubt the finest collection of Irish timepieces in the world. Ireland's National Horological Museum features the oldest Irish-made grandfather clocks, table clocks and watches in the world and celebrates the incredible skills of the virtuoso craftsmen who created timepieces of remarkable beauty and technological genius.

Silver, one of the seven precious metals of antiquity, has long enthralled and fascinated humans who fashioned it into beautiful and useful objects. Some of these objects in the museum feature the names and arms of their owners or unusual decorations and features – but all of them tell a story. Highlights include the Waterford Kite brooch, a sword granted to the city by Edward IV, silver which belonged to the famous writer Jonathan Swift, pieces from the most famous houses and powerful families in Ireland's history as well as medals and commemorative pieces from the biggest military conflicts of our past.

10

### REGINALD'S TOWER

Raiders, settlers, traders, the Vikings left many legacies in Ireland – if you know where to look. Reginald's Tower, Ireland's oldest civic building, has been in continuous use for over 800 years and was built on the site of the original Viking fort named after Ragnall who founded the City in 914. Inside you will find a Viking warrior's weapons, the exquisite 12th-century Waterford Kite Brooch, even pieces from 'hnefatafl', a Viking board game similar to chess. Get to know the real Vikings through the prized possessions they left behind.



# AN AUGUST SPRAOI SEASON

## SPRAOI

The season will be presented  
in four blocks:

### 1. City Spraoi

Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>

### 2. Greenway Spraoi

Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup>

### 3. Participate Spraoi

Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>

### 4. Prism Spraoi

Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>

Spraoi International Street Arts Festival returns this summer. Spraoi is transformed from a three-day festival into a Spraoi season of events to be presented at multiple Waterford City and County sites during the month of August.

For the first week of August City Spraoi features four days of street performances in Waterford City. The following week Greenway Spraoi presents performances over four days at sites along Waterford Greenway. *Prism Spraoi* then closes a month of activities in the grounds of Waterford Courthouse.

The new model has been designed in response to COVID-19 contingencies. Spraoi Season will disperse audiences over time and locations while still offering safe live access to top Irish and international street artists.

To spread audiences over distanced locations both *City Spraoi* and *Greenway Spraoi* will present daily performances in different places but at the same time. There will be at least five distanced shows and sites at any given time.

*Prism Spraoi* at Waterford Courthouse will be performed over seven nights at 9.00pm and will be a ticketed event.

*City Spraoi* locations will soon be announced. *Greenway Spraoi* sites are Durrow Railway Station, Carriganore, Killoteran, Kilmacthomas, and Clonea Road crossing. Each will feature three performances daily. Artists have now been booked and details will be announced over coming weeks.

#### PRISM SPRAOI

Spraoi's original production this year is *Prism*, a large-scale art installation structure and temporary performance space. It will be erected at Waterford Courthouse. The attraction is designed and built at Spraoi Studios. Seven commissioned pieces of original music accompanied by live performers will feature nightly, echoing seven colours which merge and form white light. *Prism* is a visionary production and will be presented at dusk nightly when both structure and courthouse are illuminated.



*Greenway Spraoi* presents Tumble Circus with their show *Cycle Circus* on Waterford Greenway, August 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, it's one of five daily shows along the popular walking and cycling route.



*Prism Spraoi* features a breath-taking installation and performance structure in the grounds of Waterford Courthouse, August 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with Bausch + Lomb and hosted by the Courts Service.

## Waterford's Blue Plaque Trail

■ By DES GRIFFIN, Waterford Civic Trust

The Flanagan Brothers emigrated to America in 1911 and became the most popular group of Irish entertainers in New York City between the early 1920s and the late 1930s. They played at concerts and dances, in bars and in clubs, and also on radio, as well as recording over fifty 78rpm recordings for several record companies. Their records sold widely across UK, America, Australia, New Zealand and of course here at home.

The Flanagan Brothers consisted of Joe (b. c.1895) on accordion and Mike (b. 1897) on banjo and mandolin. Their brother Louis (b. 1896) sometimes joined them on guitar and banjo and occasionally the more exotic harp guitar. They also sang. They were all self-taught musically and while they were known throughout the world, they never actually became professional musicians. Their repertoire ranged from Irish ballads; jigs; reels; and hornpipes.

The Flanagan family hailed from Summer Hill in Waterford City where their father Arthur worked on the docks. He and his wife Ellen

(née Keane) also had three daughters. Music was an everyday part of life in the Flanagan household. Father Arthur played the single row accordion or melodeon, while mother Ellen was a singer with a large repertoire of Irish songs, which she taught to her children. Later, in Albany, Mike joined family music sessions with his father and brother Joe, who was learning to play the accordion.

When school days ended, the brothers were attracted to the bright lights of New York City. Joseph found a job as a clerk in Manhattan in 1918. Mike joined him there and found work shoeing horses for a blacksmith and working as a farrier in the colourful mid-town Irish neighbourhood known as Hell's Kitchen. Louis, along with sisters Mary and Margaret followed and, along with their father, Arthur, set up house on E. 88th St.

The Flanagan Brothers were part of the large community of immigrant Irish musicians playing in New York City at that time. Inevitably, entrepreneurs recognised the potential market for this music as recording material for

A Civic Trust Blue Plaque is a permanent sign installed on a building in a public place to commemorate a link between notable figures of the past and the buildings in which they lived or had some connection to. It is a unique way to highlight these special achievements and celebrate those who have helped to shape our heritage and history.



Mike (l) and Joe (r) Flanagan, joined by dancer Johnny Grant (centre).

the increasingly popular 78rpm records. The major record companies were at first unconvinced and it fell to small, independent labels to prove the market existed. The Flanagan's first record, *An Carrowath*, featuring the horn pipe, was released by the M&C New Republic Irish Record Company in December, 1921. *An Carrowath* was later recorded as a song, *The Little Beggarmen*, and was also the name given to the group's recording of *The Stack of Wheat*. Thus begun a highly successful recording career which produced 168 records for numerous labels over the following decade.

■ Waterford Civic Trust is a registered charity and is a company limited by guarantee. We have erected Heritage Blue Plaques in many locations in Waterford City and County. Contact us at Brick Lane, Greyfriars, Waterford. Tel: +353 (051) 849602 [www.waterfordcivictrust.ie](http://www.waterfordcivictrust.ie)





# BEST IN FEST

## for Harvest and Winterval

**As we welcome back live events post-Covid, Waterford is gearing up for two of its favourite offerings, Harvest and Winterval. Here Lynda Lawton meets the new team behind the offering, Shell Holden and Sinead McNamara of Best In Fest.**

**Q: Congratulations on being awarded the contract. You must be excited to work on such hugely popular festivals?**

**A:** Absolutely. During these unprecedented times in the festival and events industry we feel blessed to have been given this opportunity and look forward to working with all the extended team at Waterford City and County Council and both festivals teams.

**Q: Sinead, what are your plans for Harvest and Winterval?**

**A:** Over the next three years we will lead both festivals through their next phase of programming and audience development while also consolidating a sustainable and

resilient business model.

Elevating Winterval, the 2021 festival and onwards, will feature the very best elements and visitor favourites of the existing offering while introducing new and exciting programming additions. Building on Waterford's national profile as *Ireland's Christmas Capital*, we plan for Winterval to be a round-trip non-stop journey to a world of Christmas celebration, festive food and craft markets, live performance, family attractions and seasonal surprises over 19 magical days and nights all in the heart of Waterford City.

Promoting Christmas values of togetherness, family, joy, thankfulness and wonder, Winterval 2021 will mark a coming together again of friends, families

and communities to enjoy the very best of the enchanting Christmas atmosphere in Waterford City's vibrant historical setting.

Given our extensive experience in food and family festival management, we will fully leverage our industry expertise and contacts to further grow Waterford Harvest Festival over the coming three years both creatively and commercially, focusing on the rich and diverse food heritage and wide variety of high-quality producers and food offerings in the South East.

**Q: Shell, how did you and Sinead meet?**

**A:** Sinead and I met through our management roles at Ireland's

largest summer festival, City Spectacular. I am Festival Director and co-owner of City Spectacular, the free-to-attend dual-city (Dublin and Cork) festival that attracts over 250,000 local, domestic and international attendees annually.

As Commercial Partnerships Director of City Spectacular since 2013, Sinead developed a highly successful and sustainable sponsorship acquisition strategy for City Spectacular.

Under these positions, myself and Sinead have been responsible for all aspects of the successful delivery and overall management of this world-renowned event including event programming and curation, all marketing PR and promotional functions, sponsorship acquisition and brand activation, stakeholder engagement and buy-in, and overall project and event management at scale.

**Q: When did you decide to set up Best in Fest?**

**A:** Sinead and I launched our company 'Best in Fest' together in 2015

with an initial focus to organise Festival and Event Masterclasses here in Ireland. 'Best in Fest Festival and Event Masterclass Series' was born out of, what we perceived to be, an obvious gap in the market in terms of affording our peers in the festival and events industry accessible, educational but most importantly inspirational platforms to hear from dynamic and iconic festival heroes, where our delegates gain real knowledge and leave our events feeling enlightened, re-energised and reinvigorated.

In addition, Best in Fest curate, produce and project manage a broad range of live and virtual events of scale and have collaborated with peer festival and event founders/producers in assisting them achieve their creative and commercial goals including Bord Bia's Bloom in the Park, Forever Young Festival, Bram Stoker Festival, Festival of Curiosity amongst others. The Best in Fest team have developed and managed multiple award-winning festival and brand destination areas

including the creation of Just Eat Street, the international street food festival within City Spectacular Dublin and Cork events.

We look forward to building on the success of *Ireland's largest Christmas Festival* Winterval Waterford – an annual national event that already attracts over 500,000 visitors to Waterford City – and Waterford Harvest Festival, Waterford's celebration of the South East's rich food culture and heritage.



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## Delicious summer delights

### Fresh Strawberry & Almond Meringue Roulade

■ By Margaret Fleming, DessertFirst

**INGREDIENTS**  
For the Meringue:

- 4 free range egg whites
- 225g (8oz) castor sugar

**Filling:**

- 225g (8oz) Irish strawberries, hulled and sliced
- 70g (2oz) flaked almonds
- 300ml (½ pint) whipped cream

**To Decorate:**

- Mint leaves
- 2 strawberries cut into quarters
- 50g dark chocolate (melted)

**Swiss roll tin:**

12 x 8 inch (30.5 x 20.5cm)



#### METHOD

**First, make the meringue:**

Preheat the oven to 180C\350F\regulo 4. Put the egg whites into the spotlessly clean bowl of a food mixer. Whisk on medium speed for 30 seconds to break up whites and then add all the castor sugar in one go. Whisk at full speed until the meringue holds a stiff peak 5 minutes approx.

Line the swiss roll tin with non-stick baking paper (you can oil the tin lightly to help it stick to the shape of the tin). Spread the meringue gently over the tin with a palette knife and sprinkle the flaked almonds on top. Bake in the preheated oven for 20 minutes.

**To assemble:**

Turn the meringue, almond side down, onto a sheet of grease-proof paper and peel off the baking paper. Place on a wire cooling tray and allow to cool fully.

Turn the meringue so a long side is facing you. Spread three quarters of the whipped cream over the meringue, leaving a 1-inch border

on the long side furthest away from you. Arrange the strawberries on top, pressing them into the cream.

Starting at the long side nearest you, and using the greaseproof paper, carefully roll up the meringue. Unwrap the roulade and transfer carefully onto a serving plate.

Pipe some rosettes of the remaining cream onto the top, decorate with the strawberry segments and mint leaves. Drizzle the melted dark chocolate on top. Serve with fresh strawberry sauce.

**Fresh Strawberry Sauce:**

- 225g (8oz) Irish strawberries
- 50g (1oz) icing sugar
- Lemon juice

To make the strawberry sauce, clean and hull the strawberries, add to a blender with sugar and blend. Strain, taste and add lemon juice if necessary.



### Viking Tomato Relish

■ Summer recipe favourite of Dara Costello, Head Chef at the Viking Hotel

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 tins of chopped tomatoes
- 1 onion diced
- 1 inch of chopped ginger
- 2 tbsp of garlic
- 500g cooking apples
- Selection of chopped fresh herbs
- 300g caster sugar
- 300ml of white wine vinegar
- 150g (or a good fistful) of sultanas
- 1 tbsp of coriander seeds, mustard seeds, cumin seeds, fennel seeds
- Season with dried herbs, oregano, salt and cracked black pepper



#### METHOD

Start on a medium heat until bubbling, move to low heat stirring often, finish on flat top low heat if in danger of sticking. Cook until "spitting" and darker in colour than tomato sauce. Check taste often during cooking for seasoning and balance of sweetness.

Dara Costello, Head Chef in the Viking Hotel is a huge fan of the tomato relish recipe given it is so versatile. Some of his favourite accompaniments to the relish would be our Viking Breakfast Blaa, the succulent 8oz Irish beef burger and of course 'make pleasant to the taste'; add relish to any sandwich/salad to make the perfect light bite this summer.



### Black Sole at the Pier Café

■ By Malcolm Starmer, Chef/Partner, The Pier Café

Having spent 22 years as Head Chef in London and Dublin, I took the next career step last year and formed a partnership with Sara Walshe in The Pier Café in my hometown of Tramore. Despite the Covid challenges we have a thriving business thanks to the wonderful support from all the people of Tramore and surrounding areas. As chef and joint owner my goal is to create memorable, tasty dishes full of exciting flavours sourcing all the amazing ingredients that are found right on our doorstep. The dish I have created here encompasses that very ethos: Black sole with sleabhain butter, with Grantstown tomato and wild rocket salad.

**Suppliers:**

Black sole: Billy Burkes, Waterford  
Sleabhain butter: Maire Power, Tramore  
Tomaotes: David Currid, Grantstown  
Wild rocket: Paul Ryan, Dunhill

The Pier Café is located on Cove Road in Tramore, right beside the Pier and close to the swimming mecca of Newtown Cove. To contact the Pier Café, you can email them at piercafe2016@gmail.com or you can find them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.





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