



CEB Celebrates 20th Anniversary at Tech Seminar

Over the past 20 years:

- 37,000 people have availed of Wicklow CEB supports
- 9,500 people have taken part in Wicklow CEB training courses
- 1,500 individuals have completed a Start Your Own Business course
- 360 business owners have completed the Management Development Programme
- Almost 3,600 businesses have received mentoring or one to one business advice from Wicklow CEB
- 900 businesses have engaged in CEB managed business networks
- Over 13,500 secondary school students have participated in the Student Enterprise Programme
- More than 1,000 jobs have been created with the support of grant aid
- Over €4,000,000 invested in local businesses over the past 2 decades



Almost a hundred local businesses gathered at The Parkview Hotel in Newtownmountkennedy on Thursday 28th November, to hear about trends in technology coming downstream in 2014. Minister of State for Small Business John Perry TD was delighted to visit, to launch a celebration of 20 Years of Enterprise Support in County Wicklow, with Chairman of Wicklow County Enterprise Board, Mr Eddie Sheehy. The minister commented not only on the beauty of County Wicklow but also on the strong entrepreneurial spirit that we have here. He was very impressed with the large number of great indigenous businesses that have started up and thrived in County Wicklow.

Displaying at the event were some of the 20 businesses which Wicklow County Enterprise Board were showcasing as part of their 20th Anniversary Celebration – a business for every year the Board has been operating, supporting business development across the county. A wide range of industries and locations were represented, either with a stand or an appearance in the Enterprise Board’s commemorative booklet, from Mary Byrne of Bomar in Kilcoole in 1993 to 2013’s Gordon O’Neill of Goldfish.ie. Technology, food, crafts, manufacturing and internationally traded businesses are showcased in a booklet produced by Wicklow County Enterprise Board, which highlights the diversity of enterprise development throughout County Wicklow over the past 20 years.

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Minister of State for Small Business John Perry TD, with CEO Sheelagh Daly, Chairman Eddie Sheehy and Seminar Speakers Damien Mulley, Patricia O’Sullivan and Shane Byrne



The Minister with CEO & Staff of Wicklow County Enterprise Board

In addition to hearing from Minister Perry, over 100 businesses were also there to learn about Technology Trends in 2014 from Damien Mulley, noted technology expert and organiser of the annual Social Media Awards, the annual Measurement conference in Dublin and the annual Web Awards. Damien intrigued the crowd on just how much technology is around us every day, with devices tracking our every move, reporting our bad eating habits to our health insurer and our bad exercise habits to our gyms. Following a strong networking session after the Enterprise Board's anniversary launch, Bray based Patricia O'Sullivan of buildmybrief.com covered the ideal way to test out a technology start-up idea without breaking the bank. Patricia provided insight to testing the feasibility of an idea for a tech start up for less than €1,000, when launching a full "beta" site to test a new market could cost tens of thousands. Finally, local start-up from Wicklow Town Shane Byrne of ShowOff.ie gave the group some insight to starting a tech business in County Wicklow in 2013 – the challenges, the pitfalls and the good moments too. Shane's business builds apps among other things, for a wide range of businesses.

Beating the recession – Wicklow enterprises lead by example

Over the past twenty years the team here at Wicklow CEB has endeavoured to proactively develop our supports and services to meet the ever changing needs of small businesses within the constant evolution of the enterprise environment.

Significant developments have included a focus on providing supports to help businesses make the most of the ever changing technology environment, active engagement in both the design and delivery of national initiatives, the creation of business networks, special sectoral initiatives such as programmes targeting older entrepreneurs, enterprise awareness events and the development of an enterprise culture through, among others, our highly successful schools programme.

As well as offering developmental supports such as training, business advice, mentoring and networking, the Enterprise Board provides funding for eligible companies. The Client Showcase in our recent publication is designed to give a flavour of the wide diversity of businesses that have been supported financially by Wicklow CEB since 1993. Here are a few examples of local success stories for this edition of Enterprise Update:

1993: Mary Byrne, Bomar

Located on the Sea Road in Kilcoole, Bomar operate from a 10,000 square foot factory which also houses a retail outlet and showroom.

Bomar is a 100% Irish owned family business, run by Mary Byrne and her children John and Eithne, employing 10 people. Since 1987, Bomar have been supplying the highest quality aromatherapy essential oils, carrier oils and supplies, such as textbooks, jars and bottles to salons, spas, beauty schools, aromatherapists, the craft and gift sector and others. Bomar manufacture their own range of beauty products from natural ingredients to produce luxurious products such as soaps, lip balms, shower gels and candles. They also offer private label manufacturing of handmade soaps and cosmetics in addition to custom packing services. They welcome visitors to their factory premises to view the products first hand to discuss their requirements.

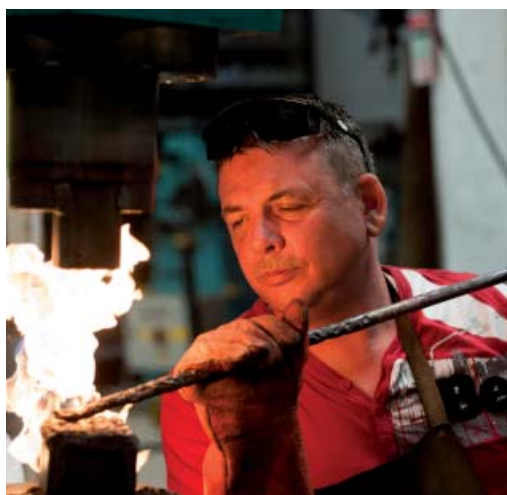


Bomar Aromatherapy, Sea Road, Kilcoole, Co Wicklow. E: info@bomar.ie T: 01 287 5110 W: www.bomar.ie

1997: Pdraig O'Murchu, Hot Metal Studio

Pdraig O'Murchu is a world renowned metal artist located in Kilbride. Having moved to London in the 1980s, Pdraig later seized the opportunity to relocate to Florida, where he spent seven years fine tuning his artistic talent. After he had enjoyed enviable training overseas, Pdraig returned to Ireland in the mid 1990s and, together with his partner Lynne, set up the Hot Metal Studio in Co. Wicklow, inspired by the duality of metal, its ability to be molten and fluid in one state yet cool and structured in another.

The Hot Metal Studio has been established in Co. Wicklow for over 17 years and has built up a considerable knowledge and experience in the craft. The artists work with a variety of mediums: copper, brass, and black mild, which can be intertwined with other natural materials such as clay, stone and leather. Each piece is individually sculptured, finished in a variety of heat treatments and patinas. The studio specializes in crafting awards, wall art, and functional items, and their professional service also includes working directly with customers to design their own bespoke creation.



Hot Metal Studio, Ballymurrin Lower, Kilbride, Co Wicklow. E: Pdraig.design@gmail.com T: 01 287 2984 W: hotmetalstudio.ie



2003: John & Bernie Hempenstall, Wicklow Farmhouse Cheese

Wicklow Farmhouse Cheese is a small family business in the South East of Wicklow employing 9 people. The Hempenstall family have been milking cows on a small dairy farm at Curranstown, Arklow for over 50 years and John established Wicklow Farmhouse Cheese to supplement farm income. He milks approximately 60 cows and has developed a distinctive range of cheeses using only his own pasteurised milk from his herd of Friesian cows. The cheeses are handmade, in a purpose built factory on the farm. They have won gold, silver and bronze awards at, among others, the British Cheese Awards, and have been recommended by John and Sally McKenna. Wicklow Blue has

specifically enjoyed critical acclaim since arriving on the market. The company has a range of products including Wicklow Blue, Wicklow Baun, St Kevin, Pressed Blue, a natural buttermilk and a new range of cheddar cheeses, Wicklow Gold, Nettle & Chive, Basil & Garlic, Tomato & Herb and Seaweed. The cheeses are available in delicatessens, supermarkets and farmers markets as well as many restaurants throughout the country. The Cheese Hampers are available to order all year round and the company also caters for weddings, parties and private functions and also can be purchased at our farm.

Wicklow Farmhouse Cheese, Curranstown, Arklow, Co Wicklow.

E: wfcheese@eircom.net T: 087 251 5980 T: 040291713 W: www.wicklowfarmhousecheeseltd.ie

2008: Bianca Divito, Divito Studios

Bianca Divito is an award-winning stained glass designer and conservator. Her work in glass includes commissions to design and install original glass art in private homes and public spaces, as well as conservation of priceless medieval church glass. Her recent innovation in glass art is the production of bespoke glass ornaments and panels for garden decoration, which led the Royal Horticultural Society to invite Bianca Divito to exhibit at the world-renowned Chelsea Flower Show in 2012. Whilst at the show, the RHS presented Bianca with the coveted Certificate of Merit for the Outstanding Presentation of her stand.



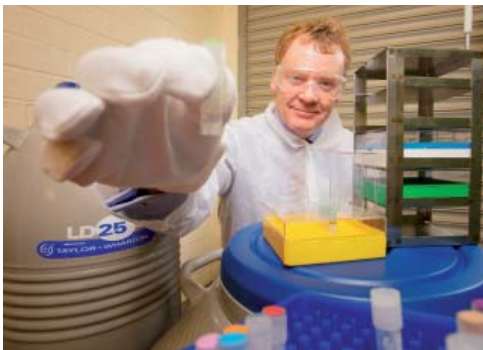
Bianca is passionate about creating bespoke art glass. Her unique and original style includes materials like crystal, semi-precious stones and gold-leaf. She is passionate about exploring the qualities of decorative glass; creating a bespoke piece for a specific location takes into account how it will respond to light and shade and enhance your space.

Previous high profile work includes the creation of a modern scheme of windows for the Guest Palace in Oman working with Goddard and Gibbs in London. Since setting up her own business in 2006 she has worked for high profile clients in Ireland including The Jesuit Order at Milltown Park, Dublin, The Church of Ireland at St. Patrick's Cathedral on The Tower Restoration Project and more recently on the conservation and restoration of The Lady Chapel there. Bianca's glass work adorns the walls and windows of many public buildings around the country including Co. Wexford and Co. Dublin schools under the "1% for Art" Fund.

Divito Studios, 22 Upper Main Street, Arklow, Co Wicklow.

E: info@biancadivito.com T: 0402 37901 W: www.biancadivito.com

2010: Tony Harbison, Asistec



Tony Harbison is Managing Director of RTD Technology Ltd Trading as Asistec based in Bray. Tony has 30 years experience working in the scientific and laboratory markets in hospitals, research institutions and industry, including setting up Jencons Scientific Ireland in 2006.

Employing 6 people, Asistec is a supplier of world leading brands of Instrumentation and Consumables to the Hospital, Educational, Research and Industrial Markets in Ireland and specialises in the design and project management of total integrated systems. Asistec's personnel's combined years of scientific experience offers expertise and trusted delivery of product and installation solutions to the scientific community.

The core market specialities that Asistec offer include:

- Biospecimen preparation, storage, identification, tracking and safekeeping
- Cell & Tissue Culture Laboratories
- Heating and Cooling Technology for basic Laboratory Applications up to Pharmaceutical Process Bioreactor Control
- Cell Culture and Fermentation Systems

Asistec, Unit 15a Solus Tower Estate, Corke Abbey, Bray, Co Wicklow.

E: tony.harbison@asistec.ie T: 01 2814650 W: www.asistec.ie

Local Enterprise Office to launch in 2014

The role of the County Enterprise Board in supporting the small businesses in the county is evolving, and 2014 will see the creation of new Local Enterprise Offices. The purpose of this initiative is to create an enhanced national micro enterprise support model, delivered at local level and supported by a Centre of Excellence for small business within Enterprise Ireland.

Enterprise Ireland and Wicklow County Council are fully behind the vision of creating a highly effective and integrated structure that leverages the skills, resources and experience of the County Enterprise Board and the Local Authority in supporting enterprise development in County Wicklow. The new model will ensure that service delivery will continue to be delivered with significant local input, and will build on the achievements of the Enterprise Board to date.

Our aim is to create the best possible local environment for small business by combining enterprise supports for business at local level with the business support services and expertise of the Local Authorities and we are fully committed to continuing to support the development and growth of small businesses into the future.



Awards Section

Clients of Wicklow CEB have been busy getting their names into the papers in recent months. Entering awards and competitions is a great way to generate low cost PR and we are delighted to see so many winners from the Garden County!

Inventise Ltd. of Bray were nominated to represent Wicklow at the 2013 National Enterprise Awards in Dublin Castle on Thursday 7th November www.inventise.ie

Identicare Ltd., Bray, were nominated to represent Wicklow at the 2013 Irish Exporter Awards in the Convention Centre on Friday 22nd November www.identicare.ie

The Wicklow Town & District Chamber 2013 Awards were a great success for client companies of Wicklow CEB.

Shane Byrne and Philip Kirwan of **ShowOff.ie** won the award for **Best New Business** while Simon Chapman of **QuoteFish.com** came runner-up in the award for Business Innovation. We would also like to congratulate our Wicklow County Campus neighbour Paul Smith of **The Mystic Celt**, whose new restaurant in Wicklow Town won Best Eating Establishment.



The Inventise Team, representing Wicklow at the National Enterprise Awards with Minister of State for Small Business John Perry TD

Christine Campbell of **Anyone 4 Science** has won a **Primary Times Star Award** for 2013 for the second year running, for their Summer Science Camps.

Congratulations to all the award winners. If your business wins an award in 2014, tell us about it & we will feature your good news in our next edition!

Spring Summer 2014 Training Programme Now Available

A lot of the old training favourites are back and we are constantly updating our courses & content to what you want & need. Log on to www.wicklowceb.ie/training to see our new schedule and book your place!



Stay up to date on awards opportunities, upcoming conferences that might be relevant for your business and other tidbits of information. It's our online signposting service. If you have something of interest, please share it on our page. www.facebook.com/wicklowenterpriseboard



Take a look at our Blog and if YOU would like to be featured in 2014, please contact us at enterprise@wicklowceb.ie

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