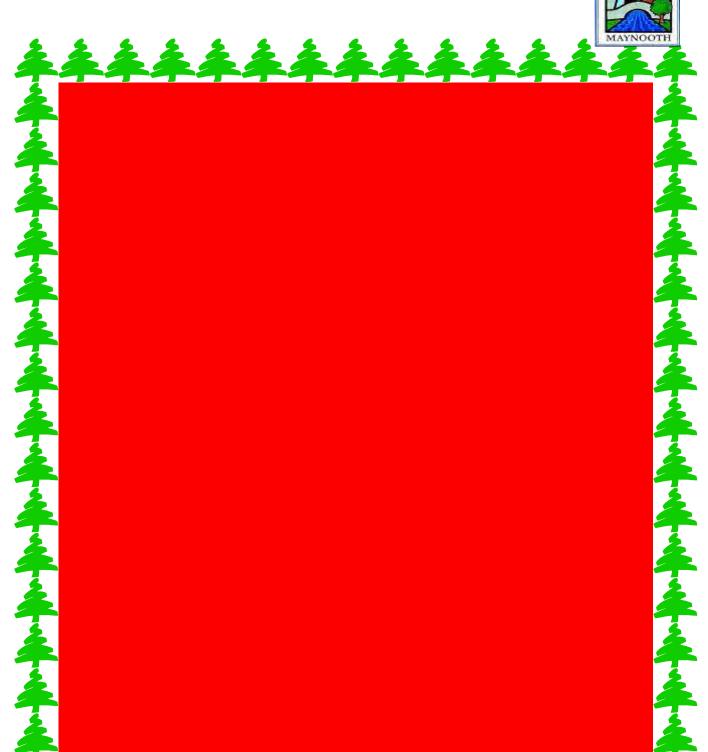
MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER



ISSUE NO 311 DEC/JAN 2003/4 PRICE €2.00

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- 2) DO YOU GUARANTEE SHOW PRICES FROM RACE-YES. **COURSE?**
- 3) DO YOU GUARANTEE SHOW PRICES FROM THE YES. **DOG TRACK?**
- 4) DO YOU PAY 1/4 THE ODDS A PLACE ON ALL YES. RACES?
- 5) DO YOU BET ON MOST SPORTS **EVENTS?**

YES.

6) ARE YOUR NUMBERS ODDS VERY **COMPETATIVE?**

YES.

7) ARE YOU COMPUTERISED?

YES.

8) ARE YOU FROM MAYNOOTH?

YES.

9) WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED?

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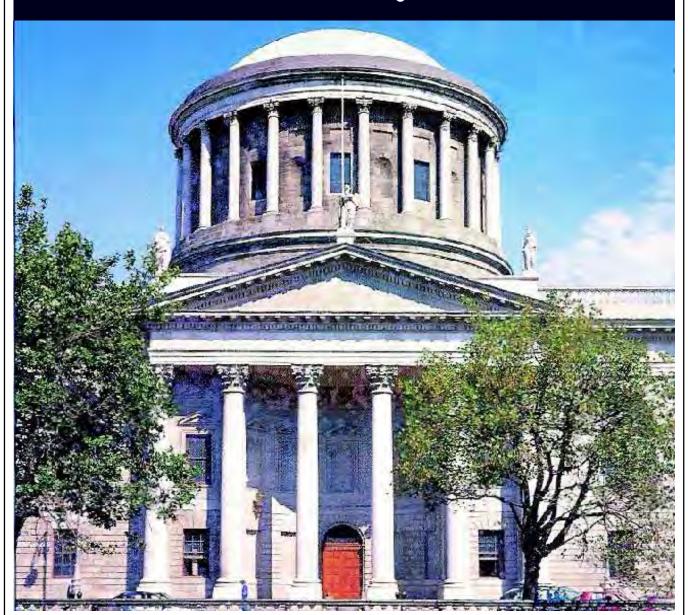


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Editorial

What a Christmas present to Social Welfare recipients. The Government estimates were published recently – a sounding board for the upcoming Budget. Among the shocking revelations were the sixteen savage Social Welfare cuts to be inflicted upon the most vulnerable of our citizens. The mean-minded cutting of funding for those with special dietary needs, the virtual elimination of the rent allowance and the cutting of the Back to Education grant will have devastating effects. It is clear that this Government does not care if families become homeless. In view of the millions spent on Punchestown, a private venture, these cuts are immoral. Within this context, the budgets for the big spending departments include the billions to be spent on the road infrastructure including the now notorious M3 that is planned to run through the Tara/Skreen valley, the very heartland of pre-Celtic, Celtic and early Ireland. The fact that the Minister for Education happily allows this destructive and sacrilegious motorway through his constituency speaks for itself. We are not to be trusted as custodians and guardians of our own heritage. A Government that will destroy the soul of our past cannot be trusted with our future. Our ancestors, our descendants and our Celtic cousins will rightly curse our desecration of the most sacred of sacred Celtic areas.

At least there is good news on a local level. The Geraldine Hall has been taken over by Kildare County Council and the realignment of Bond Bridge looks probable again. Local groups are organising themselves for protest if it does not go ahead. It is to be hoped that both contracts, for the Bridge and the Meadowbrook Link, will be signed together so that both projects may proceed simultaneously. Building the Link without realigning the Bridge will be pure madness. Our local councillors are pressurising the County Manager for action in this matter. Perhaps the County Council should look again at its planned new building estimated at €80 million.

The most pressing local issue at present is the proposed Area Action Plan for Carton Avenue incorporating a large park, a Community Centre and residential development. The Plan was discussed at the recent Community Council meeting and a decision was taken to object to the proposed plan on the basis of the density, the 3-4 storey buildings and to eliminate the apartments from the plan. The residents of O'Neill Park are particularly concerned about the impact that the proposed apartments will have on their homes. It was agreed that the Council would submit a submission to Kildare County Council addressing the concerns expressed at their meeting. Finally, we would like to wish our readers a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. There is no equivalent to Christmas in early Ireland where Notlaig was an exclusively Christian festival confined to the monasteries. The main winter event can still be witnessed at Brú na Bóinne (Newgrange) and Tara the winter solstice.

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Community Council Notes

The November meeting of Maynooth Community Council took place on the 10th November in the Glenroyal Hotel.

Chairperson, Hugh Gallagher and members held a minute silence in memory of Ann Marie McGee., nee McTigue.

Secretary, Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin led the tributes. She said that since Ann Marie came to work in the office she brought with her a great sense of purpose and was a delight to know. She said she was a beautiful person and will be a great loss to her family, Maynooth Community Council and the community at large.

Paul Croghan said Ann Marie was part of a small team that worked very well, she had a good knowledge of Maynooth and was a great asset to the Newsletter. She will be long and sadly missed in the office.

Cllr. John McGinley said she was always ready to help when need be.

Andrew McMullon said that Ann Marie did great work on the festival.

Brid Feely said Ann Marie was very helpful and she sympathised with her family and the Council.

Tom McMullon said Ann Marie will be a great loss to all that knew her, also that she was always willing the help everybody out.

Sincere sympathy was extended to her husband and children, family and friends.

Co-options to Maynooth Community Council

Carmel McAuliffe, Mary Clougher (Carton Area Action Group), Tony Bean (M.C.C.P.), Patricia Moynan (Maynooth Swimming Club), John Doogan (Bond Bridge Action Group).

Maynooth Action Strategy - Sewage Spill

Peter Connell stated that a sever sewage spill into the Lyreen And Rye Rivers was the cause of a serious fish kill which is being investigated. Cllr. Senan Griffin stated that a mechanical trip-out that failed. He said it was a design fault and should be updated. Cllr. John McGinley said that a second pump also failed and should alarms not be in place in case of pumps failing.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Cllr. John McGinley reminded all that it is time again to start thinking about the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He said he hoped the 2004 parade would be the best one yet, but we need people with new ideas to get involved. Those who wish to get involved should contact the office at 01 6285922.

Project - Pound Park Band Stand

It was noted that this project was to have started by Tony Bean said the avenue looked well. He said now. Cllr. McGinley said that if this project does not Kildare County Council are doing a good job. He said

go ahead on time, money may be lost and this would be a shame. There was a problem about the design sketch not being ready, however, Cllr. Griffin stated that the design sketch was now ready for the bandstand.

Maynooth Action Strategy

Peter Connell stated that M.A.S. have engaged the services of Barbara Caska Ph.D. Dublin Business School to conduct a survey to find out about options and needs of people living in Maynooth. The results of the survey will be published in January/February 2004. He also noted that there is a prepaid envelope enclosed.

Bond Bridge

John Doogan introduced himself. He said he was Chairperson of Maynooth Community Council for some years, and the Bond Bridge Action Group. He said that in 1999 when it looked like the Bond Bridge Project would go ahead the Bond Bridge Action Group was disbanded. He said this was a big mistake. It was noted that some years ago a loan was to be raised to fund the building of the new bridge. It was also noted that levies have already been collected in Beaufield, Meadowbrook and Castledawson. It was also felt that if money is not spent inside 7 years it should be given back to the residents.

A traffic survey showed that 2,500 cars use Parson Street everyday. John asked for anybody interested in getting involved to give support. John said it is now time for another public meeting.

Carton Avenue - Draft Action Area Plan

A full discussion took place on the Draft Plan for Carton Avenue. It was generally felt that the plan was good for Maynooth. The Action Area Plan will give the people of Maynooth the right to make submissions and decide what they want. However Cllr. John McGinley felt that high density with 3-4 storey buildings will stick out in a town like Maynooth. John proposed a motion to write to Kildare County Council to object to the high density. This was agreed. The Action Area Plan for Carton Avenue would include managed parkland, recreational open spaces and amenity areas, children's public play area, new residential development and community centre. Peter Connell wondered do we need more apartments here. with the development in Kavanaghs and the harbour area, these will provide plenty of apartment space. He felt we should be looking at starter homes. Brid Feely welcomes the plan in general. She said the people of Maynooth have the option to object and express their views. 25th November is the last day for submissions. Tony Bean said the avenue looked well. He said

Garry

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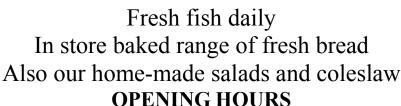
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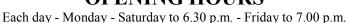
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All Come Here That Have Tried Elsewhere

Community Council Notes Cont'd.

a community centre here would be very important for Maynooth.

Mary Clougher on behalf of the residents of O'Neill Park said they were very worried about some aspects of the plans for Carton Avenue. She said they were worried about open spaces being used for dumping. She also said they found it hard to get information. They were also concerned about security and the management of the community centre. Late nights could be a problem she said.

Next meeting of Maynooth Community Council will take place in the Glenroyal on Monday, 8th December 2003.

Marie Gleeson, P.R.O.

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Cllr. John McGinley

CIIr. John McGinley

Cllr. John McGinley can be contacted at 50, Greenfield Drive or on the following phone numbers 6285293 (H), 7026536 (W) or 087-9890645.

Cllr. Colm Purcell

Cllr. Colm Purcell can be contacted on the following phone numbers 6245132 or 087-2539493.

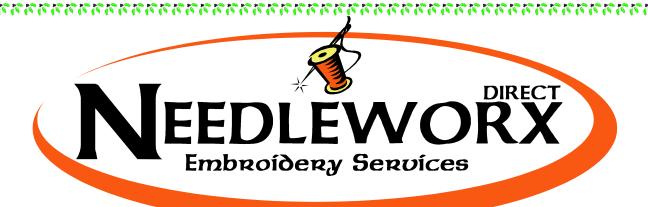


Clir. Colm Purcell

Maynooth Labour Branch would like to wish the people of Maynooth a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Planning Permissions Cont'd.

File Number	Applicant Name	Applicant Address	Application Type	Application Received	Development Description	Development Location
03/2168	Michael Mazilu	5 Parklands Court, Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	30/10/03	First floor extension over existing single storey family room, utility and kitchen, to provide 2 bedrooms and extended bathroom at first floor level and conversion of existing attic to study room and new brick porch to existing front entrance	5 Parklands Court Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2181	Paul & Karen Hartnett	47 Rockfield Court Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	31/10/03	New first floor extension with pitched roof at side of house and single storey extension with lean-to roof at rear	47 Rockfield Court, Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2184	Airlie Stud	Grangewilliam Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	31/10/03	Extensions and alterations to existing gate lodge and up-grading of existing septic tank	Barrogstown East Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2218	Dublin Bus	c/o Tom Deely Room 202 59 Upr O'Connell St Dublin 1	Р	05/11/03	A 4.6 x 1 5x2.3m high steel and glass bus shelter with 2 lighted advert panels on Leixlip/Dublin Road, Maynooth outside Tescos	Leixlip/Dublin Road Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2219	Dublin Bus	c/o Tom Deely Room 202 59 Upr O'Connell St Dublin 1	Р	05/11/03	A 4.6 x 1 5x2.3m high steel and glass bus shelter with 2 lighted advert panels on R406 Straffan/ Maynooth Road opposite Glenroyal Hotel	Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2220	Dublin Bus	c/o Tom Deely Room 202 59 Upr O'Connell St Dublin 1	Р	05/11/03	A 4.6 x 1 5x2.3m high steel and glass bus shelter with 2 lighted advert panels	R148 Kilcock Rd Maynooth University Maynooth
03/2231	Hugh & Fiona Gallagher	22 Rockfield Green Greenfield Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	6/11/03	Construct a two storey extension to the front and side of the property	22 Rockfield Green Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2294	Mrs B Flanagan	754 Old Greenfield Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	14/11/03	Alterations and extension to existing single storey dwelling house to provide granny flat accommodation to rear	754 Old Greenfield Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2306	David Collins	Hawthorn House B & B Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	17/11/03	Erection of 4 self catering accommodation units	Hawthorn House B&B Old Greenfield Maynooth
03/2311	Gerard & Uriel Hynes	17 Rockfield Grove Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	17/11/03	Erect a first floor extension to side of existing dwelling house including utility room extending below, single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling house and conversion of garage in habitable space	17 Rockfield Grove Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare





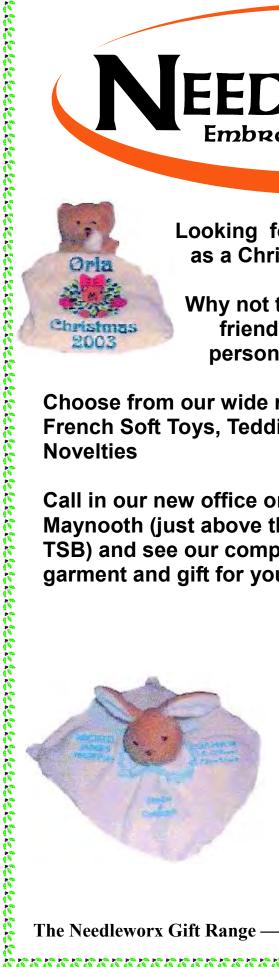
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Planning Permissions

File Number	Applicant Name	Applicant Address	Application Type	Application Received	Development Description	Development Location
03/2100	P. J. McGrath	Berkeley House 17 Berkeley St Dublin 7	Р	20/10/03	A surface care park for 39 cars with associated fence, lighting and access gates	Doctors Lane Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2001	P. J. McGrath	Berkeley House 17 Berkeley St Dublin 7	Р	20/10/03	For a surface car park for 39 cars with associated fence, lighting and access gates at a site at Doctors Lane, thirty one of the car spaces will serve as the parking provision for a proposed two storey over basement restaurant on Doctors Lane	Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2129	Maxwell Mooney	The Square Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	24/10/03	Demolition of existing single storey dwelling and erection of two storey office with attic storage and signage to front	Kelly's Lane Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2142	P. J. McGrath	Berkeley House 17 Berkeley St Dublin 7	Р	24/10/03	A restaurant. The accommodation consists of a two storey restaurant over basement containing ancillary accommodation including kitchens and toilets	Doctors Lane Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2155	Sabrina Keegan	Coarsemoor Straffan Co. Kildare	P	29/10/03	Detached one and a half storey dwelling, detached domestic garage, domestic effluent treatment system, connection to mains water and site entrance	Newtownmacabe Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2163	Richard Murphy	Former Permanent TSB Junction of Main St Maynooth & Fagans Lane Maynooth	Р	29/10/03	Partial demolition of existing main building and the existing single storey shed at rear for the construction of a two storey building, the existing front façade to Main St is to remain with minor modifications including a new shop front etc.	TSB Premises Main St Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2165	Michael & Miriam Ahern	8 Rockfield Manor Greenfield Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	30/10/03	Two storey extension to the rear and side of the building. The ground floor accommodation consists of anew single storey extended kitchen and utility area, the conversion of the existing kitchen to a family room, a sunroom to the rear etc.	8 Rochfield Manor Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2166	John & Maria Davey-Borresen	1 Parklands Crescent Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	30/10/03	Erect a two storey extension to side of existing dwelling house, consisting of a ground floor granny flat and first floor games/play area	1 Parklands Crescent Railpark Maynooth

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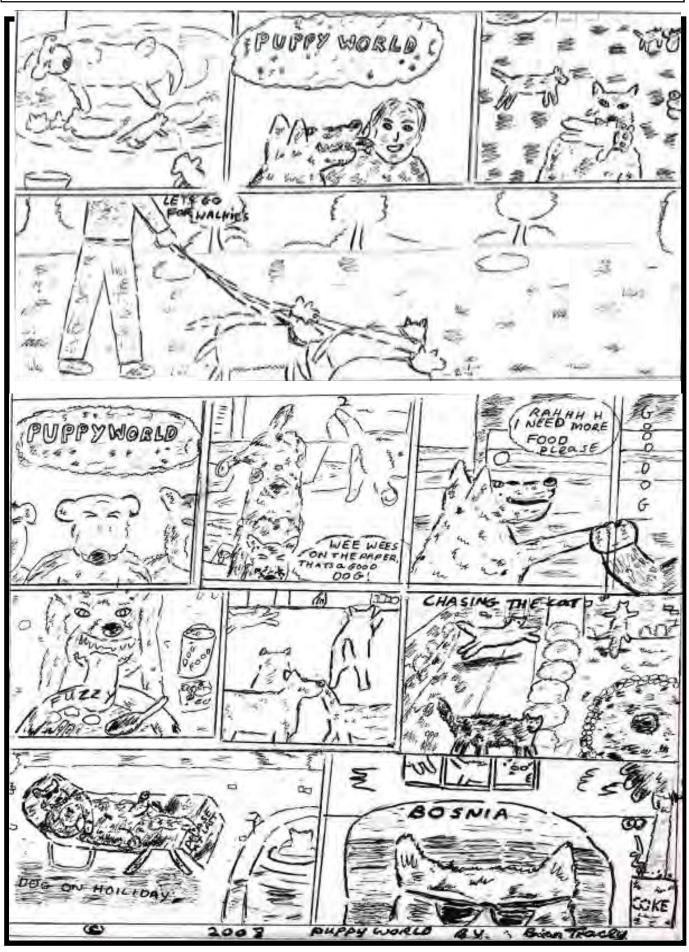
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16" SERVES 3-4

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sweet corn, extra sauce salami, pepperoni, chicken

Green peppers jalapeno peppers garlic BBQ sauce chorizo sausage spicy beef ham

Red onions, pineapple black olives, tomatoes spicy sausage, bacon, deep

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Garlic bread with lots of garlic butter €2.50 Garlic bread with cheese €3.00

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Garden salads-crisp lettuce, tomato, olives, red onion, basil and balsamic dressing

Deep fried mushrooms with bbq, chilli or garlic dip

Grilled chicken Caesar salad-grilled chicken on a bed of garden salad, Caesar dressing and parmesan croutons €6.00 Drinks 1.25 ltr coke/diet coke/fanta/sprite/ €2.00 Cans €085

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Mexican Style Pizza

Refried beans, seasoned chicken or spicy beef, diced tomato, onion, jalapeno peppers, salsa sauce and blended cheese

9"=€8.50 12"=€12.50 16"=€18.50

Fiesta Chicken Pizza

Grilled peppers, tomato, cheddar cheese, roasted chicken, sliced red onion, black olives and chilli sauce

9"=€8.50 12"=€12.50 16"=€18.50

Indian Style Pizza

Tandoori chicken, tomato, peppers, red onion, coriander and missal sauce

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Thai Style Pizza

Thai lemon chicken, carrots, spring onions, bean sprouts, spicy peanut and satav sauce

9"=€8.50 12"=€12.50 16"=€18.50

Steak Pizza Surprise

Sliced steak, pepperoni, Italian sausage, blended cheese, garlic, onions, tomatoes, red sauce and garlic dip

9"=€8.50 12"=€14.50 16"=€21.00

Californian Style

Four Cheese Pizza

Tomato, parmesan, mozzarella, goat cheese, cheddar cheese, oregano, thyme and pesto sauce

9"=€8.50 12"=€14.50 16"=€21.00

Goat Cheese and Bacon

Bacon, tomato, red and green bell peppers, red onion, mild goat cheese, mozzarella, pesto and red sauce

9"=€8.50 12"=€12.50 16"=€18.50

Vegetarian Deluxe

Grilled mixed vegetables, tomato, sweet chilli sauce, thyme, oregano, basil and cheese 9"=€8.50 12"=€12.50 16"=€18.50

American Style

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selection is not for the peckish. It's only for those with serious appetites.

Chicken Fajita Pizza

Chicken, red onion, grilled peppers, spicy guacamole sauce and salsa on 9"=€9.00 12"=€13.00 16"=€18.00 top

Chicken Philadelphia

Chicken breast, grilled onions, peppers, mushrooms, tomato, red or bbq sauce and cheese 9"=€8.00 12"=€12.50 16"=€18.00

All Meaty

Spicy beef, pepperoni, ham, sausage, mushroom and onion 9"=€8.50 12"=€12.50 16"=€18.50

Philly Style Pizza

Grilled steak, onions, peppers, mushrooms, tomato, cheese blend and 9"=€8.50 12"=€12.50 16"=€18.50 red sauce

Chicago Supreme

Spicy beef, spicy sausage, onions, mushrooms, peppers, red sauce and 9"=€8.50 12"=€12.00 16"=€21.00 chilli din

Pepperoni Deluxe

Pepperoni, smokey bacon, tandoori chicken, tomato and cheese 9"=€8.50 12"=€14.00 16"=€19.50

Super Supreme

Salami, ha,, peppers, pineapple, olives, mushrooms and oregano 9"=€8.50 12"=€12.00 16"=€18.50

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Grilled garlic chicken, rosemary potato, sweet onions, red sauce or herbed garlic butter sauce.9"=€8.50 12"=€11.00 16"=€18.00

Mushroom Pepperoni and Sausage Pizza

Spicy sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms, cheese, red sauce and bbq 9"=€8.00 12"=€11.00 16"=€18.00 dip

Bacon, Mushroom and Tomato Pizza

Crispy bacon, mushrooms and tomato base

9"=€8.00 12"=€11.00 16"=€18.00

Hawaiian Supreme

Ham, pineapple, red sauce, cheese, garlic, chilli and bbq dip 9"=€8.00 12"=€11.00 16"=€18.50

Vegetarian Supreme

Mushrooms, peppers, onions, tomatoes, sweet corn, oregano, red sauce, chilli, garlic and bbq dip

9"=€8.00 12"=€12.00 16"=€18.50

Burning Desire

Tuna, jalapeno peppers, olives, oregano, red sauce or chilli dip 9"=€8.00 12"=€11.00 16"=€18.00

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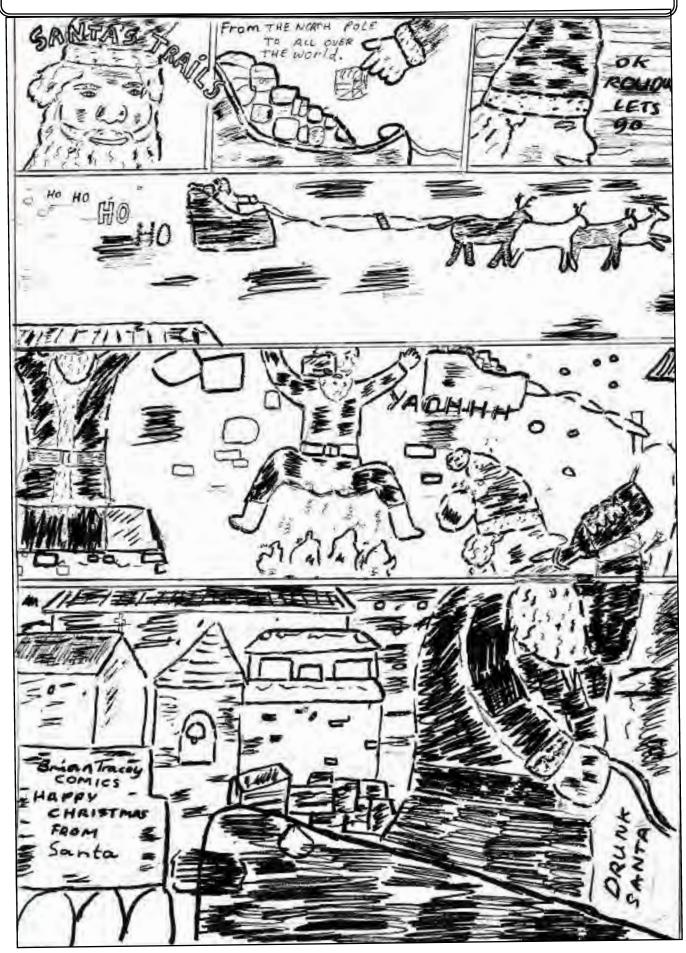
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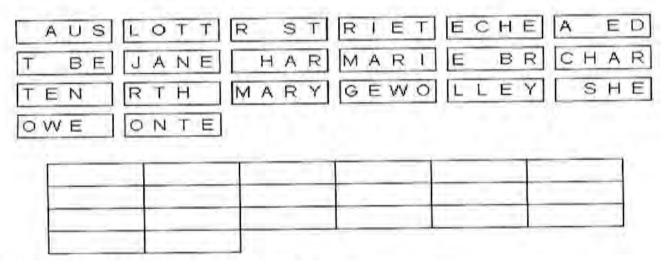


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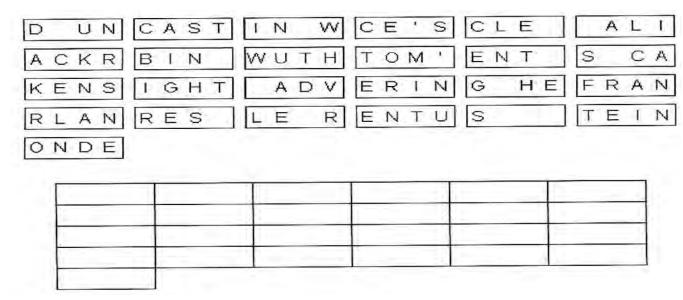
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Features

Tony Blair- A Political Crisis

Tony Blair is in trouble. The fall out from the invasion of Iraq is damaging the unity of his Government. The continuing revelations from the Hutton inquiry do nothing for his credibility or his future political career. Tony Blair continues to be on the receiving end of bad press over the death of Doctor Kelly, a gentleman hounded to his death by a House of Commons committee acting under instructions from their political masters. There are a good number of disgruntled Labour backbenchers with a score to settle and no lack of potential candidates who fancy their chances of becoming the leader of the Party. There is a feeling among many people that the Blairs are getting what is coming to them and that few tears will be shed over their demise. The recent byelection in Brent will only add to the Prime Ministers woes and make it more difficult for him to survive. There are implications for this country if Blair fails to survive. He is the first British Prime Minister fully committed to improving relations between the two countries. Some might disagree with this but an analysis of the career of Gladstone (supposedly one of the good guys) who introduced the first Home Bill in 1866 showed that Domestic considerations guided his policy on Ireland. If he required the backing of Irish MP's to form a Liberal Government, he put Home Rule on the table. If he had a Liberal Majority, Home Rule was taken off the Table. Successive British Prime Ministers who showed no interest in making any progress in Anglo-Irish affairs carried on this policy for over fifty years. Excuses were many and varied but the core problem was the unwillingness of the British to improve the conditions, in which the Irish people lived and were governed. By 1916 Home Rule was still an aspiration, 50 years after the introduction of the first Home Rule bill. It beggars belief that columnists like Kevin Myers (Irish Times) have such a disrespectful attitude to the First Dail. The Provisional Government was forced to take to arms to advance the cause of the Irish people. The history of Home Rule for Ireland was a history of deception, bad faith and pure trickery. The physical force movement, which Myers despises, arosed from an exhaustion of patience that had been stretched to the limit by British policy in Ireland.

A Russian General once said that for people to ignore history was to look to the future with both eyes closed. It is therefore important to review the path of Anglo- Irish affairs since the inception of the state in 1922 and glean what lessons should be learned if Blair falls. We often dwell on the guarrels of the Civil War without recognising the politically gifted men and women. who formed the first Provisional Government. All had to learn the art of Government and Diplomacy quickly in order to secure the gains that were made possible by the first Anglo- Irish Treaty of 1922. W T. Cosgrave, Michael Collins,

Arthur Griffith and later Eamon deValera all lacked the political guile and training that was a feature of the men from St James Palace (The Foreign Office) in London. Yet inspired by a love of their country and its people they delivered independence from the British Empire and the Irish people were free for the first time in over 800 years.

The partition of Ireland was a cause of much pain and heartbreak to many. What is important to remember is that the decision of the majority of the Irish people to vote themselves out of the United Kingdom caused as much bitterness and anger to many in the British establishment. Bitterness fuelled by arrogance is still a feature in the political thinking of some members of the Conservative Party and surprisingly some elements in the British Labour party. It has manifested itself from the times of Lloyd George right up to the Premiership of John Major and the Labour Governments of Wilson and Callaghan. Will we ever forget the pathetic Northern Ireland Secretaries of State, Merlyn Rees and Roy Mason. They were both members of a Labour Government who managed to damage Anglo Irish relations.

Margaret Thatcher was most hostile to the idea of an Ireland totally removed from British influence. She was fully committed to the Unionist in maintaining their dominant status in the Stormont Assemly. We remember her body language at the Dublin Summit with Charles Haughy, deeply uncomfortable in the mist of "Republicans". Thatcher gave the impression at photo call that she could not get away quickly enough. She had a basic distrust and dislike of the Republic of Ireland. In her autobiography " The Downing Street Years" she expresses disappointment with the Anglo- Irish agreement and regrets signing it. It must be said that the Agreement reflects great credit on the Fine Gael- Labour coalition ably led by Doctor Garret Fitzgerald. It also reflected great credit on Sean Donlon and his young bloods in the Department of Foreign Affairs. To have Margaret Thatcher sign an Agreement and later admit that she was out manoeuvred, was some play, and reflects the progress that this Nation has made in the last fifty vears. The pact that her successor John Major made with the Unionist party in order to hold a Commons majority reflected on him badly. To make this deal in a critical period for Anglo- Irish relations with implications for the IRA cease-fire shows him as a Prime Minister without moral principles. The labour leaders Wilson and Callaghan were no different. Wilson presided over the collapse of the Sunningdale agreement when he failed to enforce the law and Callaghan increased the number of Unionist seats in the House of Commons to win their backing for his minority Government. In all of this the interests of the Irish people, north and south took a back seat.

Most political analysts would agree that we are approaching the political end game in Northern Ireland. A crude head count shows both communities are heading towards a fifty/ fifty split. This does not mean that there will be a majority seeking a United

Features

(Tony Blair Cont'd)

Ireland in the foreseeable future but it does raise the possibility of a Nationalist First Minister. This situation is fraught with danger and the implications for civil order will place a heavy responsibility on the British Prime Minister whoever he might be.

Blair, I believe, fully understands the potential problems that might arise. There is no doubt that he is working hard to consolidate the structures that were set up in the Good Friday Agreement. These structures will be vital in dealing with a period of change, which will affect everybody living on both islands. What is required is a fully focused British Prime Minister who will disregard party considerations and work for a peaceful resolution to a very difficult political problem.

The greatest fear is that Gordon Browne should replace Blair. A Scot from the reformed church he has little or no knowledge of the Republic of Ireland. He may have spent some holiday time here, but has never shown any great interest in Anglo/Irish affairs. He has made little or no contribution to the resolution of the northern conflict. There is a danger that under his leadership, any progress made in the Good Friday Agreement could slip and that we could find ourselves going backwards because of his lack of political commitment. We have to take heed of what happened under previous Labour administrations and realise that it is in our best interest that Blair remains as leader of that party and Prime Minister.

Jim Healy





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Come to Dinner with Andy Mac

First of all happy Christmas to all our readers. This month it's party month, so here are a few tips for you along with the recipes.

- 1. Remember it's your party, so don't slave over a hot stove all night.
- 2. Relax and enjoy it.
- Get all your family involved with great party music and you will have everything done in no time.
- 4. Send out invitations and make sure you get your replies a.s.a.p. so you don't overbuy.
- 5. Go for a variety such as mini combinations of everyone's favourite such as beef Wellington, fishcakes, then go for exotic tastes such as Thai chicken also veggie and fish options. You will be surprised by how many meat lovers will go for these.
- 6. Setting the menu is one of the host's perks, so buy treats that you can't wait to taste yourself.
- 7. Serving canapés for 10 guests if before lunch—dinner. Make 40 for a party. Make 80 double the quantities for each extra of 10 guests.
- 8. Leave all drinks such as wine, beer, in a cold shed or outside the night before the party. They will be perfectly chilled. Have plenty of ice also in the freezer.
- You can buy ice Froman off licence and rent glasses.
- 10. Enjoy your night.

Deli Bites

Prep time 20 mins Cooking time 25 mins. Make 32 canapés

4 large slices of day old bread
1 oz garlic butter
For the toppings
3½ oz of guacamole
2 oz crispy, cooked streaky bacon, finely chopped
3 oz medium fat soft goats cheese
3 oz chunky tomato salsa
2 oz pitted black olives chopped

Preheat oven 160°c Gas 4. Thinly spread each slice of bread with the garlic butter then remove the crusts. Now cut each slice into $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ again to make 32 bite size pieces. Divide the bread pieces. Butter side up between two baking sheets and bake for 25 mins until crisp and a pale golden colour. Leave to cool completely. Store in an airtight container for up to 5 days.

Up to 3 hrs ahead, spoon guacamole on half the bites, then sprinkle with bacon spread, the rest with cheese, top with salsa then sprinkle with olives. Cover loosely with clingfilm and chill until ready to serve.

Egg and Watercress Bacon

Prep time 10 mins Cooking time 35 mins

4 large slices of bread 2 eggs Bunch of watercress 3 rashers 2 tablespoons of mayonnaise

Preheat oven to 160°c Gas 4. Cut bread into ¼ and ¼ again. Spread onto 2 Baking sheets. Bake in oven for 25 mins until crisp and golden. Put into an airtight container. Boil eggs for 10 mins. Remove shell as soon as eggs are cooked as it is easier to remove shells. Grill rashers until crisp and allow both to cool. Chp up watercress. When eggs are cold mash up, chop up bacon, add to eggs with watercress and mayonaisse. Mix well and spoon onto your crisp bread.

Smoked Salmon with Cream Cheese

Prep time 25 mins

Side of smoked salmon Cream cheese 1 red pepper Spring onion.

Shape your salmon slices into roses. Roll each slice, it will take about 4 slices altoghter to shape. Mix cheese with chopped pepper and spring onion. Spoon into the middle of the rose

Mince Pies Brandy Cream

Prep time 1 hour Cooking time 20—25 mins or 25—30 mins from frozen

1 lb 2 oz plain flour Teaspoon of salt 13 oz of unsalted butter 8—9 fl oz of cold water

Sift the flour into a mixing bowl, add salt. Dice 3 ozs of butter, rub into flour until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add 8—9 fl ozs of cold water to form a fairly soft elastic dough. Turn onto a lightly floured worksop and knead lightly until just smooth. Srap in clingflim and freeze for 1 hour (a speedy way to cool down pastry). Put 10 oz of chilled unsalted butter between some clingfilm and bash till its about a 1 inch thick oblong shape. On a lightly floured surface roll out the chilled pastry to a 18 x 6 inches rectangle, with one of the short edges in front of you put the butter in the middle of the pastry both must be cool and just

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Come to Dinner with Andy Mac Cont'd

pliable fold the bottom third of the pastry up over the butter then the top third down. Seal the edges by pressing lightly with a rolling pin. Turn the pastry 90° anticlockwise and roll out the same size as the first time, fold and turn as before. Then wrap and freeze for 30 mins. After 30 mins roll and turn once more. Wrap and freeze for another 30 mins. Then roll and fold one final time. Wrap and chill the pastry in the fridge for up to two days until ready to use. Preheat oven to 200°c Gas 7. Butter 2 12 bun patty tins. On a lightly floured work surface roll out half the pastry to 2mm thick. With a 3 inch fluted cutter stamp out 24 rounds and line the tins . Spoon 1 tablespoon mincemeat into each. Roll out the rest of the pastry and do as before but use a 2 inch cutter instead. Put on top of the pies but don't press down. Brush with milk and bake for 20 -25 mins until golden. Dust with icing sugar.



12 oz of sultanas
12 oz of currants
12 oz of raisins
5 oz of finely chopped candied peel
250g pack of vegetable suet shredded
100g pack of chopped almonds
12 oz of Demerara sugar
4 oz of chopped glace cherries
2 large Bramley apples peeled, cored and grated
4 teaspoons of ground mixed spice
Grated zest of juice of 1 lemon and 1 orange
½pint of brandy
10 fl. Oz of Drambuie

Mix all ingredients together, cover and leave in a cool place for 24 hours, stirring from time to time. Use immediately or you can spoon into sterilised jar, cover and seal. Store in a cool dark place for up to 3 months.

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An Nuadha Players in Panto Mode Again

Maynooth's Drama Group are back in action after the summer break and rehearsals are well underway for their 2004 pantomime, "Aladdin". 2003 saw the group have a very successful run with the pantomime "Cinderella" and the play "Juno and the Paycock" by Sean O'Casey. The pantomime this year will take place in the Aula Maxima in St. Patrick's College on Saturday 31st January and Saturday 7th February at 3 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. and Sunday February 1st and Sunday 8th February at 3 p.m.

This will be An Nuadha Players fourth pantomime and those of you who have seen our previous performances will know what to expect—a riotous tale of intrigue and confusion where, eventually, everything does turn out right. This year once again Martin Higgins has produced a fantastic script and brings his own inimitable style to the direction of the Grace McGrath has everyone surprising themselves with their hitherto unrealised style and rhythm as they trip the light fantastic. Our long suffering musical director Colin Sloane, has got our vocal chords rippling in surprising harmony and all is coming together to guarantee a terrific show. Many of our 'veteran' panto performers are back on stage again but watch out for a few new faces who will bring their own special magic to "Aladdin". And do keep in mind that "Aladdin" is a story about Genies popping out of lamps and carpets flying off to all sorts of places so please do be prepared for the unexpected! Tickets will go on sale in early January so keep an eye out for posters with all the details and, whatever you do, don't miss the show—its great entertainment for young and old and it gives local people an opportunity to put their many talents on display. Please come along and support us and we'll send you away with a pep in your step and a smile on your

Ann Kelly



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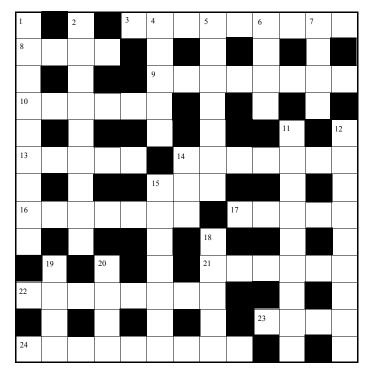
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Crossword

No: 19



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entries before: 12th Dec 03	
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Across:

- 3. Knockabout comedy! (9)
- 8. Fellow (4)
- 9. Practiser of nudism (8)
- 10. Tubing (6)
- 13. Italian seaport (5)
- 14. Lake District's county (7)
- 15. Singer, - Doonican (3)
- 16. Tumbler (7)
- 17. Francis - -, Elizabethan philosopher (5)
- 21. Lasso (6)
- 22. Explode (8)
- 23. Bulk (4)
- 24. Convenient (9)

Down:	
-------	--

- 1. Person unjustly blamed (9)
- 2. Woodwork (9)
- 4. Respiratory organs (5)
- 5. Heartbreaking (7)
- 6. Convert (4)
- 7. Expense (4)
- 11. R.C.: capital [anag] (9)
- 12. Pulling power? (9)
- 14. Domestic pet (3)
- 15. Tramp (7)
- 18. Calvin - -, US fashion designer (5)
- 19. Bark (4)
- 20. Equestrian sport (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS NO 18

Down: 2. Emigration, 3. Unsteady, 4. Corm, 5. Goya, 6. Peso, 9. Copse, 10. Transverse, 12. Salop, 13. Ballroom, 18. Trek, 19. Ague, 20. Gish

Chamber

Across: 1. Defunct, 7. Joker, 8. Fissure, 9. Capote, 11. Green, 13. Beak, 14. Dead Sea, 15. Wily, 16. Slave, 17. Entrap, 21. Bigotry, 22. Genus, 23.

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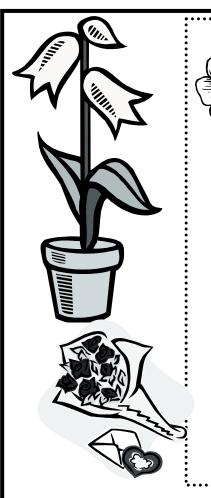
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Features

Poets, druids and early Irish poetry

We saw last year that there is very little mention of Christmas in early Irish literature. As a Christian feast it primarily within the was celebrated monastic community. So we will continue with the topic of poetry. It is said that there are three poets who spoke as infants; they were Aí son of Ollam, Morann son of Moen and Noidiu Noibrethach who gave out nine maxims about the proper responsibilities of mothers to their infant sons. There are stories about the birth of poetry and of harp music - the noblest of the arts. One tale tells of the birth of Aí son of Ollam (Aí means 'poetic art' and ollam is the word for the chief poet) and his demands from the king Fiacha son of Delbaeth of the Tuatha Dé Danann. From him comes aí airchetail ('the poetic craft'). Aí outlines what is due to him as a poet, a charter for the legal status and economics rights of poets as follows:

'Not difficult:
my land, my coupling,
a full cauldron with a vat,
be given by the king ...
a vessel, a goblet,
a chariot, a tusk-hilted sword,
thirty cows, a quern,
a band of warriors.
All this is a debt (*fiach*)
To me from Fiacha.'

An early text called *Auraicept na n-Éces* (The scholar's primer) says that there five crafts of poetry: *itat coic ae and: .i. ae ailes 7 ae chanas 7 ae aiges 7 ae mides 7 ae suides* ('There are five crafts of poetry: poetry that nourishes and poetry that sings and poetry that impels and poetry that judges and poetry that establishes.')

In the case of Aí it is the instinct of the king Fiacha to kill the baby just as the men of Ulster wanted to kill the infant Deirdre. Aí's demands display the contentious arrogance of poets and his story reflects medieval Irish society's nervousness about dependence on a powerful and to some extent uncontrollable caste of artists. The literature is full of examples of the excessive demands of poets.

Harpers feature less often in literature but they are classed as sáernemed ('free, sacred') with the poets. One of the Triads says: Trí ségainni hÉrenn, fáthrann, adbann a cruit, berrad aigthe ('Three things for which Ireland is pre-eminent: a witty quatrain, a tune on the harp, shaving a face'). This implies that harpers and poets are quintessentially Irish. The Triads again state the mastery of the poets in three arts: Tréde neimthigedar filid; imbas forosna, teinm laeda, dichetal di chennaib ('There are three things that confer status professional on the fili: encompassing knowledge that illuminates, breaking of marrow and chanting from heads'). The harpers are similarly characterized: Tréde neimthigedar cruitire: golltraige, gentraige, súantraige ('There are three things that confer professional status on a harper: music to cause

weeping, music to cause laughter, music to cause sleep').

These characteristics are associated with famous harpers in various sagas. In Táin Bó Fraích (The Cattleraid of Fraech) it is mentioned that harpers play to Ailill and Medb, the king and queen of Connacht. The text says: 'These are three famous brothers: Goltraiges. Gentraiges and Suantraiges. Boand from the Otherworld was the mother of the three. It is from the music played by Uaithne, the Dagda's harper, that the three are named. When the woman was in travail it seemed to be like weeping and sorrow at first with the sharpness of the pangs; then, in the middle, it was laughter and gladness that he played on account of eagerness for the two sons; it was sleep and gentleness for the last son on account of the heaviness of the birth, so that from it a third of the music was named. ...

Boand the mother speaks to Uaithne the harper and says: 'Men will die on hearing them being played' thus implying that harp music can be dangerous and can kill people.

In another story, *Orgain Denna Ríg* (The destruction of Dinn Ríg), Craiptine the harper uses his music on one occasion to send the court of Fir Morca to sleep so that his master can have a tryst with a princess whose mother is ever watchful. He uses it again to put to sleep all the warriors inside Cobthach's fortress so that his master's war band can slaughter the garrison.

Twice in *Cath Maige Tuired* (The Battle of Moytura) harpers are mentioned: Lug shows his musical skills at the feast when he arrives in Tara and at the end of the saga, the Dagda's magic harp becomes a weapon leaping from the wall and killing Fomorians on its way back to its owner's hands and again plays the three kinds of music.

Like poets, harpers can be wonderful and dangerous and the connection with birth is not simply the idea of beginnings but a much larger trope in Irish culture relating to female sexuality. Birth is often imaged as a woman's gift to the world, a miraculous mediation of new life, for example Boand presents the three musicians to her husband and makes a speech about their natures and destiny. The Triads again pronounce: Trí aithgine in domuin: brú mná, uth bó ness gobann ('Three renewals of the world: a woman's womb, a cow's udder, a smith's moulding-block'). But the gift of life carries the threat of death, sometimes its parent's death - a child may be destined to kill its father or a parent attempts to kill an infant. Both occur in the story of the poet Noidiu Nóibrethach. There is a prophecy that Noidiu's mother's father will die if she has a son; this prophecy is fulfilled at Noidiu's birth and his mother tries to kill the infant. The nine judgments that he pronounces are traditional maxims and proverbs through which he prevents his mother from killing him and indeed brings about her death. Murder and motherhood are brought together

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Features

(Poets, druids and early Irish poetry contd.)

deliberately. Intergenerational rivalries are expressed and birth symbolizes a complex truth. Joan Radner says: 'Through their presentation in the form of mythic birth tales, these noble arts – noble *male* arts – were represented as the gifts of women. And as women's gifts, they were imagined as naturally partaking in the nature of women, and they were regarded with the same ambivalence with which Irish society regarded the female'

Women are seen as passionate, selfish and potentially immoderate beyond the control of even a king - just like poets and harpers. Daniel F. Melia recognises the connection between sexual liasons and the death of the hero. Women are frequently characterized in wisdom texts as savage, lying and connected with nature in contrast with the male who symbolises culture. The Triads say: Trí luchra ata mesa: luchra tuinde, luchra mná bóithe, luchra con foléimnige ('Three worst smiles: the smile of a wave, the smile of a lewd woman, the smile of a dog ready to leap'). The female body is depicted as being both maternal and sexual; the sustaining power of the mother coexists with the dangerous and destructive power of female sexuality. There is one final connection between them - the Otherworld that is essentially female and is closely associated with harpers and fili. Both these classes derive their powers from the Otherworld; they are liminal figures existing in the in-between. Harpers can cause súan ('sleep') as distinct from cotlud ('sleep'). Cotlud is within human control, even as a result of drunkenness but suan is a magically overpowering sleep. One human figure can bring this about – the harper.

Harpers and *fili* seem to share certain kinds of symbolic liminality and to be regarded with similar sorts of ambivalence. They belong to this world and the other, they serve the king but cannot be controlled by him, they uphold law and order but can introduce chaos and the same powers by which they promote fertility, health and wealth can be deadly.

J. Radner finishes by saying: 'Such paradoxes of sustenance and danger set apart poets and harpers and link them with women into a single, semiotic system that is particularly obvious, in medieval Irish tradition, in these unusual allegorical birth-tales about the origins of poetry and harp music. Representing their powers symbolically as the gifts of women as well as of the Otherworld foregrounds the extent to which the sustaining and threatening female is symbolically the source of the unique qualities of these arts.'

Cf. Joan Radner, '"Men will die": poets, harpers and women in early Irish literature', in *Celtic language, Celtic culture: a festschrift for Eric P. Hamp* (Ford & Bailie, Van Nuys, California, 1990) 172-86 and Daniel Melia, 'Remarks on the structure and composition of the Ulster death tales', *Studia Hibernica* 17/18 (1977/8) 36-57.

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Clubs, Organisations and Societies

Maynooth Swimming Club

Our AGM was held on 21/10/03. Thank you to all who attended and volunteered. It was decided to bring the Swimming Gala forward to April 24th 2004.

Although transport after costs have increased the fees will remain unchanged as long as money is in the kitty. The second term commenced on November 1st and will run until December 20th 2003. All fees to be paid

on or before 22nd November. There are vacancies for swimmers in the deep end of the pool. If interested contact Patricia at 6286865. A waiting list applies for shallow end.

The club would like to wish all the swimmers, instructors, bus drivers and parents a very happy Christmas.

S. Byrne PRO

Maynooth Community Games

Wishing all children a very Happy Christmas

Parents please note Date for Calendar 2004

A.G.M.

Thursday 22nd January 2004

At

8 00 pm

In

Maynooth G.A.A.

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I wish the best for you
Spirit of this season is always mine
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You lay in your manger there
In peace you slept away
A child with such love to share
To save this world today

Sleep Heavenly child at rest
Ruler of this earth
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At the very thought of your birth
So life will be forever more
For each child born like thee
With so much love in store
To enchant a man like me

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Particulars and Arrangements Contact:

Paddy Nolan (Sec.), 7 Castlebridge, Maynooth. Phone: 6286312 and Paddy Malone, Ballycahan. Phone: 6287074

Features

The Dawning of the Day

Tim rested his arms on the wooden fence. The field fell away to a small river that meanders its way through a landscape of rolling hills that is a feature of the West Wicklow countryside. At peace with himself and just a little annoyed that even after all these years he was unable to grasp and fully appreciate the beauty of the area and the tranquillity that it brought to him. In the field the grass rustled quietly in the breeze as it swayed gently to the ever-changing direction of the winds. The sun shone down from a cloudless sky giving warmth and a golden sheen to the acres and acres of corn and wheat that covered his field of vision. Nothing much had changed in this landscape in his lifetime except his memory suggested that the summers were longer and warmer in his younger days. Tim moved slightly and emptied the burnt tobacco from his pipe going through a timemeasured ritual of refilling and re-lighting. Nothing fazed Tim; a lifetime of looking after animals taught him a humility and acceptance to th forces of nature. His eyes focused on the five year old gelding trotting round the field. The chestnut colour lightened by the rays of the sun and the four white feet parting the swaying grass as he galloped from one end of the field to the other. Tim was initially moved by the honesty of his horse, the gentle eyes and intelligence that shone from his face as he enjoyed his romp before being returned to his box. The horse trotted to the fence and nudged Tim's arms. He was not disappointed as an apple was produced and eaten in an environment of contentment that only nature can provide. Tim studied his horse. The chestnut measured sixteen hands high. A product of a mating between Strong Gale and a mare from the Mah Mahal line. The birth had been difficult and only the good hands and experience of the local vet saved the foal. He had mused over a name for the foal for some time always believing that somehow he might turn out something special. He had chosen the name "Marshal Ney" the bravest of the brave and one of Napoleon's great generals. He smiled wryly at his choice and reflected on the uncharacteristic brashness in choosing the name. Marshal Ney was extremely game and built like a little tank. He had not rushed the preparation for the horse's racing career. He finished second in his only race as a four year old, a two mile flat National Hunt race, at Punchestown. Tim now in his sixty seventh year had seen many false dawns and although hopeful for the horse's future did not raise his hopes on gaining that elusive first win. Almost unnoticed and without a word Toby, Tim's trusted farmhand led the gelding from the paddock and walked him back to the stable.

Tim returned to the house. Built nearly one hundred years ago it stood at the end of a short tree lined driveway. The Georgian architecture and the magnificent colours of the surrounding gardens had

never ceased to excite him ever since he seen the house for the first time nearly forty years ago. He smiled as he saw his wife Nancy in the garden. Busy as usual she was tending to rose plants that would in time grow and enhance further the beautiful environment that surrounded the house. Nancy saw him and walked towards him. She kissed him on the cheek and they joined hands and walked slowly towards the house. "Ted called" she said "and he thinks you have lost it"

Ted Sloan, champion jockey and good friend of Tim had called in the previous week to discuss the racing future of marshal Ney. Ted had seen the horse at Punchestown and liked him. He assumed that Tim would pick an easy maiden hurdle for his first run over jumps. Tim said nothing until they both sat down in the kitchen. He poured Ted a generous whiskey and patted his collie as the warmth from the open fire spread across the stone floor. "I am going to run him in the Champion Novice Hurdle at the Punchestown festival." Ted nearly dropped his drink. "I know it is a bit ambitious" Tim said" but I believe he is good enough". He lacks experience but I have seen Toby school him over hurdles and he is a natural. "Listen Ted, time is something I may not have a lot left and this is as good a chance I may ever get of winning a big race" Ted was silent for a while swirling the remainder of the whiskey in the glass and looking at the fire. Five foot three in height and weighing 9 stone seven he was smaller and lighter than the average national hunt jockey. He had however a great ability in making horses run for him, he sat quietly in the saddle and his use of a long rein instilled a confidence in his mounts. He was great judge of pace and always left something for the finish. Tim gave him his first leg up on a horse when he worked his summer holidays on the farm. Ted had never forgotten the kindness shown to him by Tim and Nancy and was a frequent visitor to the house. Ted, a champion jockey on five occasions, had already being contacted to ride three other horses in the race and each one had a better chance on the book than marshal Ney. He sipped his whiskey and tried to balance his friendship with Tim against the potential loss of his share of the first prize money which would amount to 10,000 Euro. Tim read his thoughts and gently leaned cross to pat him on the shoulder. "You owe me nothing Ted, it was a pleasure for me and Nancy to be involved in your career, and what ever decision you make it will change nothing, you will always be our friend and welcome in our house. I believe Marshal Ney with luck in running has a good chance of winning. Please think about it and let me know.

Tim listened as Nancy continued "Ted does not agree with you running the horse in the champion novice, however he will ride Marshal Ney and will drop over Thursday morning to pop the horse over a few hurdles" Tim was happy at the news as he felt that Ted was the perfect jockey for his horse.

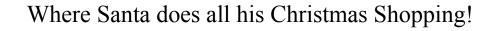
The rain continued to fall steadily as the mount up

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Features

bell was sounded in the parade ring. Tim a man of few words had even less to say to Ted. It had been agreed that marshal Ney would be taken to the front and try to make all the running. As the horses trotted out on to the track, Ted was pleasantly surprised by the feel that the horse was giving him. Striding down to the two mile start the horse appeared eager and enthusiastic for the battle ahead. As the field circled at the start. Ted identified the two horses he would have preferred to ride, Palestine with John Palmer up, a big brute of a horse who was going to prefer the rain softened ground and Durzetta a classy mare whose current form made her race favourite. There was no love lost between Sloan and Palmer. John Palmer with a powerful upper body build and an aggressive whip action was the opposite to Ted who relied on his hands to get a response from his mount. A massive cheer from the crowded grandstands signalled the off and Ted took the Marshal into n immediate lead. He cleared the first hurdle well and headed to the turn at the bottom of the straight 10 lengths in front. Marshal Ney was travelling easily and jumped the second and third in a manner that belied his lack of experience. Ted Sloan began to believe in his mount and the exchange of mutual confidence between horse and jockey soon became apparent to Tim watching from the grandstand. Marshal Ney was pounding out a demanding pace and with a mile to run it was apparent that most of the field were struggling to keep in touch. Durzetta with young Ross Brady up was the first to react and brought his mount to lead the chasing pack. Palmer lay in behind happy in the knowledge that the inexperienced Brady was going to give him a lead to Marshal Ney. Tim watched and experienced a strange serenity. He had never built up his hopes and in a way was intensely proud of his horse's performance. Honest and courageous Tim Sloan and Marshal Ney headed for the second last hurdle. Durzetta a length behind was now in trouble as Brady had done the donkey work in bringing Marshal Ney back to the chasing pair. Palestine passed Durzetta and Palmer showing a nasty triumphant grin, mounted a challenge on the outside to Marshall Ney. They crossed the second last together and raced to the final hurdle. Crack, crack, crack like three pistol shots in rapid succession Palmer tested the outer parameters of the whip rules as he laid into Palestine. His powerful strength brought Palestine to a half length lead at the last. Ted responded urging and encouraging his mount. He need not have bothered. Marshal Ney as if mindful of his famous name would not give in. inch by inch he clawed his way back and with his great heart busting drew level. But it was to late, the winning post had arrived in time for Palestine. The crowd was in uproar, they had seen a titanic battle and cheered the participants to the hig heavens. Ted offered his hand to Palmer who ignored the gesture and responded with a sneer" put on some weight and learn how to use a whip. Ted knew that this was going to be a long

and lonely walk back to the unsaddling enclosure Nancy from an early stage in their married life together never watched a race with Tim. After a succession of bad luck with fancied horses trained by her husband she was unable to bear the tension of watching his horses run. She had always loved him dearly and each reverse nearly broke her heart. She had often questioned her ability to lift him and encourage him to try again. She had watched the race unfold on television in a tented catering area beside the grandstand. Nancy was numb, her glass gripped tightly in her hand. She heard nothing, her world had gone suddenly quiet as the tears started to trickle from her eyes. Looking towards the teeming skies she silently rebuked the almighty. "Dear God just once could you have given Tim his day in the sun" She started to walk towards the parade ring. Devastated as Nancy was she was determined to retain her composure for Tim's sake and try and lift him on this awful day.

"STEWARDS INQUIRY". "STEWARDS INQUIRY" She did not comprehend the announcement until a gentle hand was placed on her shoulder. Her sensibilties were shattered by the voice of Robert Springer, the Stewards secretary. "Nancy I am in a hurry, a Stewards inquiry has been called and Marshal Ney is certain to be given the race. Palestine bumped your horse twice before the final hurdle and leaned in on him in the last 100 yards. Palmer took no corrective action and failed to change his whip hand. Congratulate Tim for me and keep a celebratory drink on ice I will drop over next week". Nancy started running towards the parade ring, this time with tears of joy. She saw Tim beaming from a distance and at that point could not remember being as happy in her life.

Jim Healy



Useful Hints

Christmas Trees

- Plant Protector Cut the branches of an unwanted tree and cover flowerbeds with them; they may not look very attractive, but they will help to keep animals off the beds.
- Outdoor Lighting Keep your Christmas tree in a garden tub throughout the year and decorate it with lights for a party.
- ♦ Bird Shelters When you've finished with your Christmas tree, replant it at the bottom of your garden as a shelter for birds. They'll be especially grateful if you keep the tree festooned throughout the cold winter months with bird treats such as sunflower or sesame seeds, popcorn or whole peanuts.
- Dog Repellent Cut the branches of an old Christmas tree and position them vertically around young tree trunks. It may help to discourage dogs from fouling them.

Greeting Cards

- Recipe Tag When giving home-baked biscuits or cakes as a present, write the recipe on the back of an old greetings card illustration.
- ♦ Picture Frame Cut a rectangle, oval or circle frame from a piece of card, making the inner section of the frame ¼ in/6mm smaller on all sides than your picture. Attach the picture to the back of the frame with masking tape. Make the frame from card of a suitable colour.
- ◆ Place Mat Glue a selection of greetings card pictures onto a 12 x 18in (300 x 450mm) piece of cardboard. Then coat them with several layers of clear acrylic to make the mat heatproof, or cover it with transparent stickybacked plastic.
- Christmas Decorations Punch a tiny hole in the top of a decorative card, and insert a length of ribbon which you can use to hang the decoration with. Write a favourite verse on the back of the card.

Gift Wrap

- Printing with Potatoes carve a simple motif on a cut potato, dip it into poster, emulsion or fabric paints or press it on a stamp pad. Your prints will have that attractive, uneven, handmade look redolent of stencilling and native folk art.
- Potato prints also give individual style to gift wrappings. Use decorator's white lining paper, available from DIY shops. You can also print flat surfaces, such as table tops, chests, bedheads, trays and boxes. Protect designs with a coat of clear craft varnish.
 - If you're printing a row of the same design, cut a notch in the potato skin at the top of the design, so that you can keep the prints aligned.

Pomander Ball

Make this and hang on your Christmas tree. It can also be used to keep the clothes in your cupboard and drawers fresh-smelling. It will also make a nice present.

To make one ball

1 whole orange or lemon

4oz/115g whole cloves

1 tablespoon ground cloves

1 tablespoon orris root powder

Press the sharp end of the cloves in the orange or lemon until the fruit is completely covered. Mix the ground cloves and orris root together in a plastic bag, add the clove-studded piece of fruit and shake well until the orange is entirely covered with the fragrant, ground spices.

Remove the pomander ball from the bag, wrap it in tissue paper and leave for two weeks. Finally attach a piece of string or ribbon to the top and hang the ball on your tree or in your cupboard.







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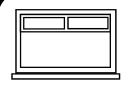
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Maynooth Tidy Town Awards 2003

Maynooth Tidy Towns Committee held their annual best estates and best shop front awards 2003 in the Glenroyal Hotel on Thursday 13th November. The following are the winners:

Best Small Estates Competition:

Most Improved: (Joint Winners) Newtown Court &

Pebble Hill

Runner-up: Parsons Hall Winner: Lyreen Park

Best Large Estates Competition:

Most Improved: (Joint Winners) Silken Vale/The

Arches & Beaufield Runner-up: Rockfield Winner: Parklands

Shop Front Winners 2003:

Most Improved: Maynooth Chiropractic Clinic

Runner-up: Maynooth Credit Union

Winner: The Roost

Senior Volunteer 2003: Tommie Holmes

Junior Volunteer 2003: Ronan MacCann

Commercial Sponssor of the Year: Gerry Mulcahy

Fundraiser of the Year: Tom McMullon

Team of the Year: Maynooth Special Olympics

Committee

Supporters of the Year - Floral Display: Dolan, Joe Buckley, Michael Barry and Mattie

Callaghan

Special Award - Floral Display: Larine Court

Garden Centre

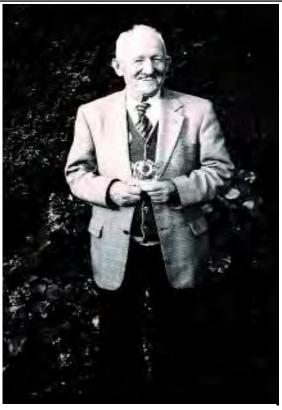
Maynooth Tidy Towns Person of the Year 2003:

Elizabeth Callaghan

Tidy Towns Committe member volunteer of the

year 2003: Sean Cushen





Tommie Holmes winner of the Tidy Towns Senior Volunteer Award 2003



Bob O'Reilly Chairperson of Maynooth Tidy Towns accepting the Award for Best Town in Leixlip/Maynooth Electoral Area 2003 with Michael Fitzpatrick, Mayor of Kildare

Maynooth Tidy Town Awards 2003 Cont'd.



Robert Byrne Deputy Manager of Gelenroyal Hotel



Ronan MacCann Junior Volunteer of the Year



Carmel Buckley Special Olympics Award Winner



Matt Kennedy & Tom Flatley



Elizabeth Callaghan Maynooth Tidy Towns Person of the Year



Tommy Daly Newtown Court Joint Winner of the Small Estates Most Improved Category Award

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Maureen and Staff would like to wish all our Customers a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



We would also like to thank all our Customers for their support during the year.

Murder of the Month

December murder - the dead nurse

It is always horrible to contemplate murder at Christmas time but violence does not respect the seasons. We have seen the most awful crimes committed during the festive season. This murder occurred on December $3^{rd} - 4^{th}$ 1966 at Walsall. It also raises the case of date rape and possible drugging of drinks long before the present day.

One that night a young trainee nurse, 19-year-old Victoria Cummings, attended a dance organised by her hospital friends in Walsall recreation hall. Unfortunately she left hand in hand with a man that she had just met. The following morning her body was found by maintenance workers on a derelict site at a factory in Darlaston near Walsall. In this case the police had very little trouble in tracking down their possible suspect. It was seen by all that she had spent most of the night dancing with a man called Brian Peake who was a 25-year-old steel worker and that they had left the dance together.

Police visited him and he was brought to the station for questioning. He said that he did not remember Victoria but the police were not happy. They let him go but later that night they returned to his home and arrested him for murder. Now he was prepared to admit that he left the dance with Victoria. He said that he had driven her to the derelict factory in Darlaston to visit with a friend of his called Harrison. He accused Victoria of being high on drugs and alcohol and of being eager for sex. The police persisted and eventually he changed his story – he admitted to being high that night and that he could have done anything that night. He said that he had put his hands around her throat until she went limp but that he did not care. After smoking a cigarette, he took her body from the car and left her on the derelict site. He tried to explain his behaviour by saying that both of them were taking pep pills that they had bought from a man at the dance and that they had been drinking as well. As a result they had sex three times in the car and during the third occasion she had passed out and died.

When the autopsy was carried out it was stated that Victoria had died as a result of cardiac failure and of asphyxia triggered by the compression of her neck. Although the marks on her neck could mean strangulation she actually died of as a result of the cutting off of the air supply by pressure on the neck. This leads very quickly to a heart attack.

The doctor said that Victoria had sex on a number of occasions before death, even after death as the man might not know that she was dead. There was no evidence of violent penetration or of bruises. But the only pills in her stomach were aspirin and tablets for indigestion. She was drunk but there were no illegal drugs and no evidence for previous drug-taking.

This brought about some speculation. How did Victoria die? Was this murder or simply sex gone wrong? The authorities sent the case for trial and the case began on Monday April 24th 1967. It was stated that pressure

must have applied to Victoria's neck for a long period of time. Although there were no illegal drugs in her body, there had been an announcement at the dance asking whoever was putting pills in the drinks should stop. It was said that there could have been pep pills and that they would mimic intoxication and would last for a number of hours.

The causes of death were re-stated by the doctor and he said that there were symptoms of asphyxia. The question now facing the jury and the court was whether this was simply rough sex or murder.

Peake himself have evidenced and said that Victoria was a willing sexual partner. He admitted squeezing her neck because she responded to this – not to hurt her. Then she went limp. He said that she sounded like she had something stuck in her throat and that he tried shaking her. He could revive her and left her there in the factory.

The defence maintained that the evidence for asphyxia was minute, there were no red marks and that these could be caused by someone trying to revive her. It was said that her main injury was a fractured throat cartilage and that if it happened before death it killed her and then the perpetrator was a murderer.

The Justice made two very salient points, first the jury had to decide whether Peake was raping her, secondly then if he were to inadvertently kills her he is only guilty of manslaughter. It was a very complicated case. Did Peake shake her violently trying to revive her or did he kill her? If Victoria's death was the result of violent love-making then Peake should be acquitted. The jury took only 4 hours to decide that Brian Peake was guilty of murder and he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

This strange case did not end there. While serving his sentence, he was on the Isle of Wight in Parkhurst prison eleven years later. In 1978 he was diagnosed with a mental illness and moved to the psychiatric wing for diagnosis. While there he encountered another prisoner - the 31-year-old Douglas Wakefield who believed that he was a woman. When his uncle had a go at him about his sexuality he stabbed him 48 times with a garden fork, and buried him in the back garden in Leeds. But on September 20th 1978 he killed again. Wakefield was a notoriously difficult prisoner. On two occasions he took warders prisoner and try to kill one of them. Then he killed Brian Peake by strangulation with a shoe lace, stabbing and battering him to death. He got a second life sentence on the grounds of mental abnormality and insisted that he be treated as a woman and called himself Dee. In 1996 he was in Durham prison. He won his legal battle to have a sex-change operation because the psychiatrist said that he was suffering from gender identity disorientation.

Wakefield is still in prison. Brian Peake, his victim, would probably have been released if he had not been murdered by him. Victoria lost all her future dreams and promise.

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SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR

Features

Well Done Ladies!

What could be so special about a coffee morning in a small place like our town? Those who thought there was something truly inviting joined their friends to share a cup of coffee while supporting a good cause.

The coffee (and tea) morning was taking place in the foyer of the Glenroyal Leisure Club and was kindly supported by its staff. The event was organised by Margaret O'Neill and her friends, as an act of charity for the Irish Hospice Foundation. Apart from donations, they were collecting orders for the Christmas cards and the book 'Peter and



Margaret O'Neill welcomes her guest Bill Campbell

the Wolf, the unique publication, which was illustrated especially for the Foundation by artist Bono and his daughters Jordan and Eve.



Orla Keane, the raffle ticket master

The main surprise was that what happened in the Leisure Club on the 5th of November could not be called a quiet gathering. Besides raffle tickets and coffee, there was a book sale, a brick-a-brack auction, wine shop, and even clothes auction which was conducted by Orla Keane. The smiles on happy faces and lively bids for the leather jacket (which everybody secretly envied) were showing that the whole morning was a success.

Along with the huge response to the morning (donations of €650 and 20 orders made) for the

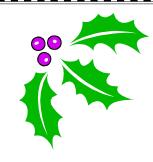
IHF, we would like to mention that events of this kind find positive feedback from the local community. Only recently we had a Quiz Table for Chernobyl, and two fundraising actions for the Crumlin Hospital for Sick Children - 'Just Dance' Ballroom Lessons and a Fashion Show at Cham Wari Shop.



Phyl Lee and Ann Green



Eleanor, Orla, Susanne, Mary, Margaret and Lise



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GARDEN TIPS FOR DECEMBER.

GARDEN TIPS FOR DECEMBER.

CHRISTMAS POT PLANTS

So many people receive, as Christmas presents, beautiful foliage or flowering pot plants that they have not grown before. Friends keep asking me for advice on their care. More plants are killed by kindness, as it were, than by any other single factor.

So, first. of all, don;t over water them. The soil needs to be kept nicely moist, not soaking wet. Dont water all the plants as a regular routine. Water only those that need it by touching the soil you can tell that it is dry enough to need water.

Secondly, dont give them too much heat, particularly during the day and leave them on a cold window-sill at night where they are in danger of catching a chill. High temperatures in a centrally heated rooms, produce a very dry atmosphere which plants dislike. The ever popular Azalea indica, for instance,must have a moist atmosphere. As well as keeping the soil constantly moist,place its pot in larger pot or container and pack the space between the two with moist peat and keep it constantly moist as well.

Similarly, the Christmas Begonia [the Gloire de Lorraine]type needs plenty of tepid water and the foliage syringed if it is in a dry atmosphere. This syringing is important for large-leafed foliage plants also. Keep Begonias

Keep Begonias well away from gas fumes.

Another problem child is the Poinsettia, (Euphoria pulcherrima). Whose red bracts at the top make such a strong appeal to most people. If Conditions are not right you will soon know because it will start dropping leaves. It needs the peat packing treatment, the syringe, and tepid water-sparingly. Water-logged soil is fatal. Needs a wall -lit spot but no draught or gas fumes. Another plant which is easy to manage is Primula obconica as long as it is well watered and a little liquid feed added to the water. But dont touch it-it can cause skin rash.

JANUARY IN THE GARDEN.

The earliest sweet -peas to grow in the garden are those sown in September, but if you if you did not sow in September, the plants should now be ready for stopping-that is, pinching out the growing tips so that the plants make new shoots from the base.

To return to sowing seed now, in a greenhouse or frame or, perhaps in a conservatory on the south side of the house.

One of the problems is to ensure that the skin of all seeds splits to allow germination, it is therefore wise to soak the seeds in water for 24 hours before sowing. If, after this, some of the seeds have not opened split the skin with a sharp knife, on the side of the seed opposite the growing, point, taking care not to harm the body of the seed under the skin.

You can use John Innes or other suitable compost if you wish; but if you wish to make your own, mix 3 parts of turfy loam,1 part leafmould and 1 part sharp sand together. Mix it thoroughly and make it evenly moist. Then you can

sow the seeds individually in containers such as egg cases, or in a 5 inch pot. Assuming your compost is nicely moist, dont water them for at least two days. Cover the pots etc., with glass and paper to keep them dark until the seeds germinate. Then remove the all cover so that they have plenty of ventilation and keep the compost nicely moist at all times from now on. When plants are a reasonable size to handle they will need potting on and when three pairs of leaves have formed the growing tips should be removed to make seedlings branch out.

When plants are 3 to 4 in, high they can be planted outside, usually in March or April, at which time a sowing in the open garden in order to extend the flowering period, which will then go on until October probably.

Seed Lists

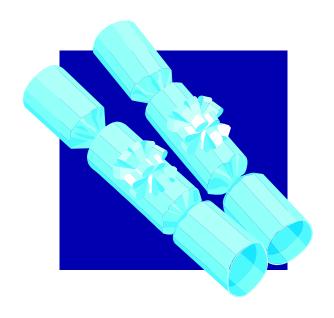
Set to and list all seeds you are likely to need over the next two or three months,and place your order without delay. This will ensures that you will receive them in time for sowing,and makes it less likely that your chosen varieties will be sold out. Early Salads

Stock up with seed of the salad onion WHITE LISBON, Which can be sown in glasshouse border or frame towards the end of the month. GARDEN FURNITURE. Bring in wooden garden furniture, to dry off prior to repainting or treating with preservative.

FEED FEATHERED FRIENDS.

Dot forget to provide food and water for birds; they will bring colour and interest to the garden.

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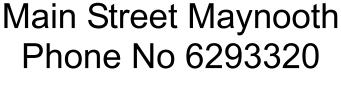


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Book reviews

Through the Gate of Ivory Patrick Devaney

The storey set in 17th Century Ireland tells of a young T.C.D. student who in a Dublin wine Tavern caused the death, or so he believed, of an English Officer who had pressed his unwelcome attentions upon his The story recounts how, fearing the person. consequences, and borrowing a handful of his father's crowns and Thomas's mare he fled from the Pale to a hostile Gaelic environment. How Charles Stanihurst, a Protestant, survived close calls with death, getting beyond the Shannon, ingratiating himself into the O'Connor and McDermott clans, his love affair with Frances, his discovery of the English officer's survival. Charles exchanging information for the support of Sir Robert and Dr. Bedell for his eventual return to Dublin and acquittal.

This gripping story is intertwined with the history of the time, the encroachment of one culture upon another - Norman upon the Gael, conflict, concessions to the Sassenach, all in a desperate effort to hold on to their lands and culture, are vividly portrayed in the story. Patrick Devaney's book is an informative historically on the life and ways of the Gaels in their confrontation with those of the Norman, as it is entertaining as an narrative. Instinctively one feels the main theme of the book is not the story of Charles Stanihurst but the story of the extinguishing of the old Gaelic way of life.

This book is obviously well researched, includes maps, glossary, family trees, extensive bibliography, and useful key date list, to assist the reader with names, places. etc.

If you wish to clear your mind of P.C.s, Mobile Phones, and take a trip back to 17th Century Ireland, this is the book for you. Fiction blended with realism gives a fascinating insight into times past. A great book to take to bed and experience the hypnotic influence of a gifted writer.

Noel Clarke

Best of Friends by Cathy Kelly

I'm very happy when I see the latest book of Cathy Kelly, because it is like sitting down having a cup of coffee and a chat with an old friend. Best Friends is set in the small town of Dunmore, around the lives of four women, Abby, her daughter Jess, and friends Lizzy and Erin.

Abby works on T.V. and is concerned about getting old, if her T.V. career is going okay, and has a boring marriage of 17 years, so she wants excitement back in her life, so when she meets an old flame, who can put the sparkle back into her life, and make her feel young again, will she, or won't she have an affair with him

Jess her daughter hates being a teenager and is doing her junior cert. She would love to have the confidence to talk to boys, but is self-conscious about her looks, and it is making her life a misery. All her classmates are growing up into confident young women, why not her.

Then there is Lizzy who is divorced and has two grown up children. She feels her life is going nowhere, especially when her ex husband, Myles, finds a new love and her daughter is getting married is there anyone out there for her to love.

Finally there is Erin, who has come back home to Ireland from Chicago, with her new husband, to face her background of secrets and lies.

Then when a tragedy touches their lives, the four women are drawn together in sadness and realise that life is out there for the taking and you just don't wait for it to come to you, because you will just get left behind

A lovely read, and when the book was finished, I felt I was leaving old friends behind.

Lorraine

David McGinn, Manager of Ulster Bank Maynooth Would like to take this opportunity



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over the last year



Wishing You All a Merry Christmas And a Happy New Year

Book Reviews

By the Harbour in Maynooth Editor by Maeve Mulryan-Moloney.

The Irish Countrywoman's Association has recently celebrated fifty years of its presence in Maynooth, and to mark this occasion, the Maynooth Guild has published a book which explores this history. The title is taken from the location of the ICA Hall at the end of Leinster Street, near the Royal Canal. Not enough attention has been paid to the great contribution that the ICA has made to Irish life over the years, and this book is a welcome attempt to fill that gap.

The book is a team effort by the members of the Maynooth Guild who have put together a highly readable and entertaining production, under the editorship of Galway-born Maeve Mulryan-Moloney. With its attractive leafy cover designed by Mayo-born artist Marian O'Donnell, the book gives you more than you might expect. It is an account of the Association's activities, yes, but it is also a portrait of a more or less typical Irish town as it grew and developed over a period in which Ireland experienced great economic and social change. And this history is made to come alive as an account of the lives and doings of ordinary Irish women in a clear and well-written text. photographs are a help here. We actually get to see some of these women's faces, from the first President Patricia Kinehan to a group photograph of the current members.

The book contains a lot of enjoyable poetry interspersed within the text, and one poem at the beginning by Betty Farrell on the Golden Jubilee sets the tone: they 'arranged flowers and painted pictures/ planted trees and made teas.' But they achieved so much in their quiet way, and the book's six chapters track some of this: there's something on the history of Maynooth town itself as well as on that of the ICA, something on Maynooth's schools as well as on the arts and crafts, the home making and community formation for which the ICA is justifiably well known and respected.

But where the book really scores is in the detail which it gives about how people lived in the recent and not so recent past, what their attitudes and concerns were, what worried them, what they wanted to achieve, and how they went about the task of making life better. On page 11, for example we are told that 'members planted gardens, organised classes, and, in times of need, rallied around each other at a minute's notice...whilst continuing to cater for the social, educational and cultural needs of the members, the ICA adjusted to Irish women's changing life styles and the challenge of new technology. They built on the success of the past and tried to meet the challenges of the future.' And, by the looks of things, they're still doing exactly that.

The book presents the past vividly, and although fifty years isn't very long ago in the great scheme of things, our parents' or grandparents' day can seem like

ancient times. This reviewer learned, for example that on census night in 1946 there were 3341 residents in Maynooth, that it was, as you might expect, an agricultural town, but that it was suffering a bit from unemployment caused by increasing mechanisation. The now-defunct Macra provided a social outlet, and Old Moore's Almanac was a main source, apart from the radio and newspapers, of information and entertainment in the days before television and the internet. It was a tough life in the not so good old days. But the book is a witness to the optimism and courage of the human spirit in sometimes difficult circumstance.

One of the most interesting chapters for the present reviewer was the one on schools in Maynooth. Although the foundation of the College in 1795 is mentioned, the focus is more on the first and second levels, and the gallant efforts - and it was an uphill battle for many in the 1950s and 60s, to say nothing of earlier times - by parents to provide the possibility of a good education for their children. This struggle was successful, and we are told (page 28) that one can nowadays go from infant's class to a PhD without having to leave the locality! The book gives us something of what it felt like to be a child in those days by quoting a lesson from the Clonard Reader of the 1930s, 'with its mixture of astronomy and fairy lore'

In all, this is a fascinating book, and the Maynooth Guild of the ICA is to be congratulated for producing it. If you want some history or something of the taste and feel of what it was like to be Irish and to have lived in Ireland in the last fifty years, this is the book for you. It'll engage you, it'll make you smile, but at the same time it's factual and not sentimental. It's available from the Maynooth Bookshop (Main Street) direct from the ICA, from Maynooth Community Council Office, Unit 5, Newtown Shopping Centre, Beaufield, Maynooth or Maynooth Town Library, Main, St. Price ∈ 10, excluding postage.

Tom Murphy



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WISHING ALL OUR CLIENTS A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Clubs, Organisations and Societies

Maynooth Golf Society

The Joe Murray Memorial Cup was held during our outing at Millicent Golf Club. The following are the results.

Nearest The Pin

Don O'Sullivan

Twos Club Norman Kavanagh, G. Moffatt

J. Bibic, B. Bean

John Doyle 33 pts Visitors



Derek Murray, son of Joe Murrary, presenting the Joe Murray Memorial Cup to Overall Winner Emmett Savage

The President's (John Tiernan) Outing was held on November 1st at Carton House Golf Club. following are the results:

John Nolan	37 pts
John Tiernan	37 pts (N.Q.)
John Byrne	35 pts
Mick Fahy	34 pts
Pa Conway	33 pts
Sam Feeney	32 pts (B.9)
Liam Farrelly	32 pts
John Saults	31 pts (B.9)
Gerry McTernan	16 pts (B.6)
Steve Greenwood	20 pts
	John Tiernan John Byrne Mick Fahy Pa Conway Sam Feeney Liam Farrelly John Saults Gerry McTernan

Visitors Paul Flood 37 pts Over 60's Paddy Foy 26 pts

Nearest The Pin

Steve Greenwood

Longest Drive

Paul Flood

Twos Club G. Reilly, D. Murray, B. Bean,

L. Farrelly, John Doyle

Next outing on Saturday 22nd November to Ladyhill.



John Byrne (Captain), John Tiernan (President) & Jim O'Keeffe

Grand Draw Results

1st prize Ryan Cummins c/o Sean O'Connell

2nd prize John Cullen c/o Society

Imelda Desmond 3rd prize

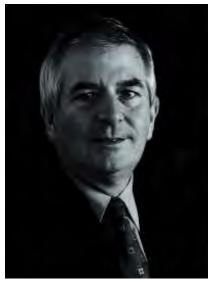
c/o Barry Desmond

4th prize Morgan Lettice

c/o Caulfield's

Thanks to all who supported our **Grand Draw**





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Clubs, Organisations and Societies

Handball Happenings

In 2002 it was decided to run a Handball Summer Camp in the GAA club in Maynooth. It was so popular that repeating the process this year was a must. So the director of handball coaching in the club, Eamonn Gorey, put the wheels in motion and with the help of the handball committee and some hurling mentors the camp became a reality.

In 2002 super coach Fiona Healy ran the camp single handedly. Well almost. She did have some members of the, now defunct, FAS scheme to assist her in a supervisory capacity.

With the numbers wishing to attend the camp being considerably up from last year it was decided to employ three coaches this year. Eimer Fallon, National and WORLD champion, her doubles partner Sinead Gallogley also a WORLD champion and Aidan Ryan were tasked with making the camp both enjoyable and successful.

In excess of thirty children attended. All had a great time and most have continued to play handball. Which would indicate that the objective of the exercise has been achieved.

Congratulations to all who helped in any way Eamonn, Tony Fingleton, Martin Connolly and Aidan Sinnott in particular.

As a result of the camp and ongoing juvenile coaching it is highly likely that the club will have players participating in the County Championships this year. In addition to this the County juvenile officer is looking at a couple of players with a view to picking them to play for Kildare at inter County level.

There are fifty three juveniles registered in the club but only fifteen adult members. So if you ever played handball or would like to have a go at it please contact a member of the committee through the GAA club and we will be only too happy to start you up or get you going again as the case may be.

Mark Ball



Darragh Lynch being presented with a certificate to say that he participated in the handball Summer Camp with some parents watching on



A group of children who attended the Camp with Coaches Adrian Ryan, Eamonn Gorey and Sinade Gallogley



Two in a row for Niall

At the McGee International Handball Tournament in Newport, Niall Leavy won The Cavan Crystal Vase for the second year in succession.

Perhaps he can make it three next year!



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and

Congratulations Ten Years Old - VTOS Leixlip

On Friday 14th November close to 300 people came together to celebrate the 10th Year Anniversary of Leixlip VTOS. Held in the Green Lane, the event was opened by deputy Emmet Stagg who congratulated the centre on its 10 years of work within the community. Éilís Clare, Assistant Co-ordinator and Dolores O'Brien Co-ordinator then welcomed the past and present students and Dolores O'Brien praised the hard work and vision of Noel Dalton, A.E.O. of County Kildare VEC for setting up the scheme in October 1993. An evening of entertainment followed, this included two pieces on the viola played by Tanya Plavans, an evocative Danny Boy played by Derenik Kolvian and a strong rendition of Catch the Wind sung by Teresa Flannery. African drumming and tradition songs were complemented by a selection of reels, jigs and hornpipes. Dressed in traditional costumes the African singers were Sharon Marie Ojo, Magdalene Mukandatsama Dodo, Victoria Ali and Nathalie Sampassa and Charlene Reilly led the Irish side with an energetic display of the best of Riverdance.



Dolores O'Brine Co-ordinator & Deputy Emmet Stagg



Éils Clare Assostamt Co-=ordinator



Dolores O'Brien blowing out the candles on the cake



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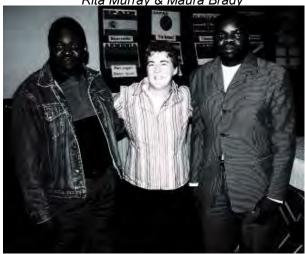
Congratulations Ten Years Old - VTOS Leixlip



Rita Murray & Maura Brady



Della Moore, Maria Byrne & Phil McAree



Bruno Bereba, Fiona & Claude



Group of VTOS students entertaining the quests on the



Sharon, Victoria, Natalie & Magdalene



Elixabeth Miller





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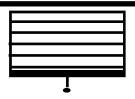
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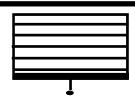




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Party Political



Emmet Stagg T.D.

Maynooth Labour News



Cllr. John McGinley

Carton Avenue Action Area Plan

Kildare County Council voted at its monthly meeting on 20 October to put the Draft Carton Avenue Action Area Plan on public display for a month. The Labour Party Councillors voted against the Draft Plan because of the excessively high densities, the three and four storey buildings proposed and because of the inclusion of apartments. The Labour Councillors were supported by Independent Councillor Tony McEvoy.

The public have until 25 November 2003 to make their views known by writing to the County Secretary in Naas. At the end of the day it is the Councillors who make the decision, not the officials. The three Area Councillors who voted for the high densities, high rise buildings and apartments have stated that they will be guided by the reaction of the people of Maynooth. Well they got their answer at the monthly Meeting of Maynooth Community Council on 10 November. The Community Council represents the community through its elected members from built up areas and from local clubs and organisations. Twenty five members attended the meeting and when Cllr. John McGinley proposed "that the Community Council make a submission to Kildare County Council on the Draft Plan calling for:

- □ The removal of apartments
- Significantly reduced densities
- Reduction of the building heights to two storey "

Only two members spoke against the motion, namely Cllr. Senan Griffin and Brid Feely the Fianna Fail local election candidate in next years elections. When the motion was put to a vote there were 22 votes for, Brid Feely was the only member to vote against the motion and Cllr. Senan Griffin and the local PRO for Fianna Fail abstained.

Cllr. John McGinley stated that in view of the overwhelming vote against the excessive densities, high buildings and apartments that he expected the other three Councillors to amend the Plan in line with the views of the representative body of the Maynooth community.

Bond Bridge and Meadowbrook Link Road

Councillors were given the following report at the Meeting of the Leixlip Area Committee of the Council on 7 November 2003:

"This matter was clarified at the September monthly meeting of Kildare County Council. Both the Bond bridge and Meadowbrook Link schemes have been subject to a tendering process. The estimated total cost of completing these schemes are as follows:

- □ Bond Bridge: €6.0m
- ☐ Meadowbrook Link Road €1.8m

Clearly, the Council is not in a position, financially, to commence both projects at this stage. For engineering reasons, it is essential that the Meadowbrook Link is constructed at the outset to ensure alternative access when Bond Bridge is being constructed. Accordingly, it is proposed to commence the Meadowbrook Link as Phase 1 of an overall scheme which will include the Bond Bridge in due course. There are, however, some issues to be finalised in the short term to include planning matters, contracts, land conveyancing etc. These aspects are in hand and it is hoped to commence construction of the Meadowbrook Link in early 2004. This phase will take circa 6 months to complete subsequent to commencement.

Party Political

(Labour News Cont'd)

Regarding Bond Bridge (Phase 11), the cost of these works has been included in the new development levy scheme which will come before the members shortly for approval. This scheme will be effective from 11.3.04 at the latest. It is clearly premature to consider the prioritisation of projects to be completed as part of this scheme at this stage, particularly as it has not even been adopted as yet. However, the Council will be committed to the completion of the therein. Proposals regarding commencement of particular projects will arise in due course as levies are accumulated and, certainly, the commencement of Bond Bridge (Phase 11) can be considered in this context. Indeed, some work has been carried out improving the Rathcoffey Road close to this location, as a prerequisite to the scheme.

In addition, a fund of €427,393 has been accumulated through the budgetary process and it is proposed that this sum be ringfenced along with the development levies collected to date. It may also be possible, without prejudice to the planning process to add to this fund levies imposed on a number of developments which may be subject to planning permission before11.3.04.

Given the cost involved a mix of financing will be necessary and this aspect is currently being considered with a view to submitting an appropriate proposal to full Council for consideration.

I trust that this clarifies matters to the members satisfaction."

Needless to say Cllr. John McGinley rejected the report as it is as clear as mud. In proposing that the contract for the new bridge be awarded now he made the following points:

- Awarding the two contracts now does not create any engineering problems as the initial work on Bond Bridge will be the manufacture of the bridge and this takes place off site and will take over six months to complete. The Meadowbrook Link can be completed within six months.
- □ By not proceeding with Bond Bridge the Council is also not going ahead with the culverting underneath the bridge which was the chief cause of the flooding two years ago.
- At the Leixlip Area Meeting on 5 July 2002 the Councils Senior Executive Engineer stated that "there would need to be certainty as to where the funding was to come from before they go to tender." They went to tender so they had to be satisfied with the funding. So what has happened since then if the Council is not in a position financially to proceed with the project? Is it because of Government cutbacks or is it because of the €2m per year that the Council have to pay for the next 40 years for the new Council Head Quarters?
- It is Council policy since March 1998 to take out a loan to fund the bridge so why are they saying

that they cannot fund it?

- □ Special levies have been set on houses in the area for the last 20 years. This proves that the policy of waiting for levies to accumulate before commencing work is nonsense and the report still proposes going down this road again. The Council should take out a loan now in order to fund the bridge, as per the 1998 policy, and repay it from future levies.
- At the Council Meeting on 20 October, following questioning from Cllr. John McGinley, it emerged that the Councils €8.3m funding of the Enfield to Edenderry road re-alignment was to be achieved through a new county wide Development Levy Scheme. In other words new houses built in Maynooth would fund this road, while at the same time the Council refuses to proceed with Bond Bridge even though residents in this area have contributed €1.2m in levies over the past 20 years.

As there was no senior engineer present to comment on Cllr. McGinley's argument he proposed the following motion:

"That the contract for the construction of Bond Bridge be awarded to the winning bidder and that a special development levy contribution of $\[mathebox{0.000}\]$ 5,000 per housing unit be set on all future housing in Maynooth in order to fund the contract."

Following an extensive debate Cllr. McGinley agreed to the following amended motion and it was passed unanimously by the Leixlip Area Committee:

"That the contract for the construction of Bond Bridge and the Meadowbrook Link road be awarded to the winning tenderer/s and that a special levy contribution, per square metre, be set on all Planning Permissions granted in Maynooth in order to fund the contract."

As the motion has all party support at the Leixlip Area level this will become Council Policy unless Fianna Fail and Fine Gael Councillors don't support their Leixlip Area Party Councillors.

Cllr. John McGinley Welcomes Rejection of 4 Storey Proposals for Former Pitch & Putt Course:

Cllr. John Mc Ginley has welcomed the decision by An Bord Pleanala to refuse planning permission for five 4 storey blocks of apartments and three 3 storey blocks of apartments on the former pitch and putt course on Dunboyne Road, Maynooth.

Commenting on the reasons for the refusal Cllr. Mc Ginley stated that An Bord Pleanala had accepted his and Deputy Stagg's contention that the proposed 4 and 3 storey blocks would have been out of character with the established pattern of development in the area which consisted of the historic Leinster Cottages which border the site. He also stated that An Bord Pleanala had rightly rejected the design of the proposal which would have been inappropriate in such a sensitive area. Effectively the proposed 4 and 3

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Party Political

(Labour News Cont'd)

storey blocks consisted of a style which was more appropriate for the inner city of Dublin. Finally as in all cases where maximum commercial profit is sought by the applicants through inadequate provision of both private and public open space the proposal represented an over development of the site. In conclusion Cllr. Mc Ginley stated that he was delighted that this ugly development had been rejected by An Bord Pleanala and he called on the applicants to sit down with the residents of the area to see if a proposal for the site can be drawn up which would satisfy everybody concerned.

Westside Waste, Maynooth

Councillors were given the following report at the Area Meeting on 7 November:

"It would appear that Westside Waste has been taken over by P. Thornton Waste. It is understood that this site which is owned by Flood brothers has been leased to P.Thornton for a period of two years from April 2003, at the end of which time the site will be given back to Flood brothers as a green field site.

P. Thornton has a license from the EPA to operate the site on condition that he scales down the operation on the site.

A recent inspection of the site, having previously inspected the site at the end of 2002, we are satisfied that an extensive reduction in site activity has taken place. The site is in operation for well outside the seven years allowed for taking enforcement action under planning legislation. It would be difficult to take a successful prosecution against the present owners/operators in light of the fact that there has been an extensive reduction in onsite activity and because of the time scale involved.

Therefore, if the present position continues and if the site continues to comply with the terms of the EPA licence there is no need to proceed with legal action. The file will be reviewed again in February 2004.

In the Maynooth Development Plan 2002 this site is within Zoned D: Light Industry/Office Park. This zoning is to provide for new office and light industrial development and any proposed development would be subject to the necessary planning permission."

Cllr. McGinley stated that while it was great news that the dump in this residential area was finally going, it was still his view that there was no EPA licence for this waste operation. He will also request the Council to take legal action in relation to the operation of the facility notwithstanding the pessimistic view of the Planning Section.

Roadway from Hand's Corner to G. B. Glass, Dentist:

Cllr. McGinley's got the following reply to his motion on resurfacing the hard shoulder and laying a footpath:

"The matter has been examined on site in conjunction with the DTO. The works in question, though meritorious, are likely to be costly particularly as there is an element of land acquisition involved. A request has been made to the DTO regarding the possibility of incorporating these proposals as part of the Charter House scheme and the members will be advised when a decision is to hand. In the absence of such funding, it is unlikely that work can proceed in the short term.

In passing there are still a number of design issues to be finalised in relation to the Charter House scheme to ensure satisfaction with the DTO requirements. Again the members will be kept informed."

Cllr. McGinley expressed his extreme dissatisfaction with the report as TESCO had been levied in order to fund this element of the Maynooth Improvement Works some time ago.

Also the further delay with the bus bays at the Girls School is completely unsatisfactory as Councillors had been told that they would be in place by last September.

Traffic Signals at the Train Station Straffan Road, Maynooth

Cllr. McGinley had asked that traffic signals be installed at this location in order to facilitate cars and pedestrians exiting from the train station and to help traffic exiting from Parklands, Castlebridge, Silken Vale and Old Greenfields. A traffic count carried out on 16 May 1997 showed that traffic signals were warranted here, yet

Cllr. McGinley got the following reply to his motion:

"A count was carried out on the 9 October 2003 and the results indicate that vehicular/pedestrian traffic are considerably below guideline standards (RT 181) which would merit either traffic signals or a pedestrian crossing at this location."

Cllr. McGinley expressed his amazement, as effectively the Council were saying that the traffic at this location has decreased considerably in the last six years. He stated that the report was total fiction and asked for a copy so that he could see what it did wrong.

Geraldine Hall is finally in Council Ownership

Citizens of Maynooth can rejoice. Councillors were told at the Area Meeting on 7 October that the Council had at long last signed the lease in order to take ownership of the Geraldine hall.

Also, at Cllr. McGinley suggestion the Maynooth Tidy Towns Committee are getting a quotation to secure the Hall from illegal trespass. Hopefully, the Council will then give approval for the work to be carried out.

Party Political

(Labour News Cont'd)

Swimming Pool Complex

A joint meeting of the Celbridge, Clane and Leixlip Area Committees will be held on 24 November at 12 noon to receive a report on the selection of a preferred site for the Swimming Pool Complex in North Kildare.

Happy Christmas

Deputy Emmet Stagg and Cllr. John McGinley would like to wish the people of Maynooth a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Cllr. John McGinley can be contacted at: 6285293h: 7026536w: 087 9890645
E mail: jmcginley@eircom.net

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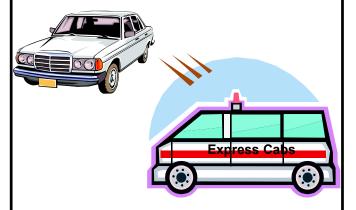
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MAYNOOTH FIANNA FAIL NEWS



Brid Feely Maynooth Fianna Fail Local Election Candidate 2004

Firstly, the Cumann would like to wish all the people of Maynooth and Leixlip and indeed the general North Kildare area a very happy Christmas and New Year. Particularly we hope everyone takes care and has a trouble free and indeed stress free holiday period. Traditionally the holiday period can be a time of contrasting fortunes with plenty of happiness centred around the family but also unfortunately with increased levels of accidents, injuries and fatalities also.

Politically it is a busy but reflective time, particularly for the people of both Maynooth and Leixlip, with both communities taking the time to examine the local Action Area Plans just drafted, i.e. the Carton Action Area Plan and the Barnhall Action Area Plan respectively.

(1) Carton Action Area Plan

The Carton Action Area Plan (at time of writing) has just been released and is currently on public display at the following venues:

The Planning Department, St. Mary's, Naas, during normal office hours,

Maynooth Library

Kildare County Councils website: www.kildare.i.e./ county council.

Submissions and/or observations are invited from all interested parties and should be forwarded to the Senior Executive Officer, Planning Dept, Kildare County Council, St, Mary's, Naas, Co. Kildare on or before Wednesday 26th November 2003. As you read this article this period of public display will have elapsed, however I feel it is likely that the period of public display may very well be extended as has happened in the Barnhall Action Area plan in Leixlip.

Brid Feely, our Local Election Candidate for 2004 is a member of the Maynooth Community Council representing the Straffan Road area and she would be very anxious that anyone living in that area should contact her if they have any suggestions with regards to the Plan. She will forward such

The Maynooth Fianna Fail Cumann are currently examining the Carton Plan and will indeed be making a submission to Kildare County Council. At time of writing that submission is not yet ready and so unfortunately it is not possible to give an account for this issue of the Newsletter. Issues that may be addressed include the Community Centre, densities, O Neill Park residents concerns, development levies etc.

The Cumann along with Brid Feely will be meeting the resident representatives of O Neill Park on Monday 17th November to hear their concerns, reservations and suggestions and will bear these in mind when making our own submission to the Council.

On initial examination of the Draft Plan, Brid has commented that the overall Plan appears to be excellent and to have been very well Obviously a lot of good work has been put into formulating the Plan and she would like to congratulate the Councillors in the area along with the officials of Kildare County Council. The Plan should ensure that a long underdeveloped, though very important area of the town will finally be offered the opportunity to blossom and take advantage of the opportunities being offered. There is no doubt that the location of the Community Centre in this area will be a major plus for all the people of Maynooth. Also the proposed residential developments are closely located to town the centre area and will benefit from the current and future retail presence on the other side of the road. The natural boundary of the Blacklion Road also ensures a clear limit is set to any future development.

The primary composition of the Carton Plan encompasses the development of 4 separately zoned residential development areas, with various densities proposed for each of those areas as follow:

Residential Area A - along the Dunboyne road approach into Maynooth. This area consists of approx. 14.6 acres and a density of 10 -14 per acre (2 storey) is proposed here.

Residential Area B - along the Dublin road approach into Maynooth. This area consists of approx 9 acres and currently a density of 20 - 24 per acre (3 - 4 storey) is proposed for this area.

Residential Area C - Again, along the Dublin road approach into Maynooth bordered by the Blacklion road. A density of 8 - 10 per acre on this 17 acre plot is proposed (2 storey)

Residential Area D - an area of approx. 1.8 acres bordered by O Neill Park where a density of approx 22 -25 houses are proposed, termed "medium" density

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.In overall terms, the above residential developments are in tandem with provision of 9.4 Ha of "Passive" Open Space Amenity and 10.5 Ha of "Active" Open Space Amenity. These amenity lands (approx 50 acres) border the Lime Walk and ensure that the historic Avenue is free from any incursion of interference by residential development.

In total approx. 450 residential units are envisaged within this Draft plan and all are designed to compliment the established character of the Lime Walk. Planning applications for residential units must make provision for car parking spaces, designated mixture of uses, orientation of buildings so as to maximise privacy and reduce operational costs by the use of solar panels to taken advantage of sunlight and protect from prevailing winds etc etc. Safety considerations will also be paramount wherein the front of buildings must face onto open space amenity lands etc etc.

The provision of a Children's Play Area is specifically zoned for within this plan.

At time of going to press, it appears that the Labour representative John McGinley is apparently attempting to use the Draft Plan for political purposes by objecting to the proposed densities which he now terms "outrageous" and "more suited to Inner city development". The Fianna Fail representative Brid Feely would like to clearly state that the densities envisaged in the Draft Plan are absolutely within the guidelines laid out in the 2002 Maynooth Development Plan which John McGinley himself himself voted in agreement with in 2002.

Furthermore, it must be clearly stated that the current Draft Plan is on public display so that the people of Maynooth can examine the Plan and make any suggestions they feel necessary or appropriate within the qualifying period. It is after all, the people of Maynooth working together with their Councillors and representatives and the officials of Kildare County Council who will ultimately formulate the best plan for Maynooth.

All planning applications must be of the highest standards as set out under this Draft Plan before consideration and permissions will be approved.

(2) Removal of Stone Wall at St. Mary's Church

Brid Feely has questioned the removal of the small stone wall opposite St. Mary's Church in Maynooth on the Kilcock road. The wall was an attractive feature which complimented other stone walls in this important area, approaching the entrance to the town. It has been removed apparently for "safety" reasons but indeed Brid feels that it's replacement offer little if any additional safety protection, and furthermore the replacement concrete kerb is an ugly and possibly

confusing presence for those unfamiliar with the roadway. The number of tyre scruff marks already on the kerb bears evidence of its disputed value and Brid is of the opinion that greater consideration should have been given in advance to the appropriate remedy by Kildare County Council.

(3) Maynooth Tidy Towns

On Thursday 13th November the Maynooth Tidy Towns hosted a reception at their Awards night in the Glenroyal Hotel. There was a great attendance and individuals, businesses and residential areas received well earned rewards and recognition for their work. Undoubtedly Maynooth looked particularly well during the summer with businesses making great efforts to improve the appearance of their shopfronts with floral displays etc and also the flower basket displays, which were put up in recognition of the Special Olympics, were outstanding on the Main St. and the approach roads to the town.

(4) Supporting Maynooth's Business Sector

As we are so close to Christmas, Brid Feely believes it is an appropriate and opportune time to ask the residents of Maynooth to fully support the business and commercial community of the town. The local community needs to be aware of the services available to them in the town centre where a strong commercial base exists providing a range of necessary services. The business community adds to the fabric of the community by providing a wide range of service and choice and can only sustain and grow if they are supported.

However, we are so close to large suburban retail centres that there is a natural tendency to travel to them for the sake of convenience as the weakness which exists locally is the lack of convenient and adjacent parking. Brid will be asking the Maynooth Newsletter office to try and help local business by perhaps doing a profile each month on a particular business, thereby making people specifically aware of the service on offer. We must acknowledge the support offered to the various community projects throughout the year by local businesses in the form of sponsorship and subscriptions etc and make every effort to return that support, particularly at the present time of year.

(5) Contaction The Cumann or Brid Feely

Anyone wishing to contact the Cumann can e-mail the Chairman Georoid Lohan at lohang@eircom.net or phone him on 086 2516639.

To contact Brid Feely please e-mail feelygorey@eircom.net or phone 0872052649.

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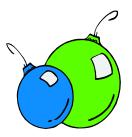




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Editorial

Maynooth Newsletter

PUBLISHED BY MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The opinions and statements expressed in the articles are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editorial Board. All materials to be included in the next edition of the **Newsletter** should be addressed to:-

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NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

We request all our contributors to make sure their material is legible. If possible, material should be typed, but as not everyone has access to typewriters, the best way to present material is to use either neat legible writing or block letters, on one side of the paper. In future all letters to the Editor must have the writer's name and address available for publication. We emphasise that material submitted after the copydate will not be accepted and will be withheld until the following copydate.

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In case of errors of fact we will publish corrections when we become aware of such.

In the case of unfairly impugning the reputation of any person we hereby offer that person or their reputation the right to reply.

Letter to our Readers:

This is just a note to remind you all that the **Newsletter** exists for your enjoyment and that we welcome all contributions from our readers. We would like to hear from any organisation or indeed from individuals with something to say or suggest. We hope you continue to enjoy your monthly read and keep us informed of your activities.

Community Council & Newsletter Staff

PUBLISHED BY MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIMITED

This publication is supported by FAS Community Employment which is

Co-funded by the European Social Fund

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The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked for many favours. This time I ask you this very special one. (mention favour). Take it, dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your broken Heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine. Amen. Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail.

A.C

Smypathies

The Newsletter would like to sympathise with the family of Ann Marie McGee nee McTigue on her recent and tragic death. She will be sadly missed by this publication.

We would also like to sympathise with the family of Sandy Nolan who also died recently and who worked with the Newsletter and the Community Council in the past. She will be sadly missed. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamnacha.

They will not be forgotten.

Maynooth Newsletter

would welcome new contributors in relation to Articles, Residents Association News, Clubs & Organisations, Family Celebrations, Upcoming Events, Book Reviews, Film Reviews, Restaurant Reviews or any thing you might think would be of interest to our Readers.

Any of the above can be submitted to our office at Unit 5, Newtown Shopping Centre, Beaufield, Maynooth

on or before copy date which is the 10th November, or you can Email us at maynoothcc@ eircom.net