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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: ANSWER 1) DO YOU GUARANTEE EARLY MORNING YES. **PRICES?** 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 YES. **EVENTS?** 6) ARE YOUR NUMBERS ODDS VERY YES. **COMPETATIVE?** YES. 7) ARE YOU COMPUTERISED? YES. 8) ARE YOU FROM MAYNOOTH? 9) WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED? **BESIDE TED KEOGHS RESTAURANT--**HE SAYS HE'S THE BEST. & 2 DOORS DOWN FROM THE ROOST.

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### Editorial

On February 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate the Christian festival of Brigit once known as Imbolc – originally a fertility festival to ensure a good growing season to come. Most of us in our urban environment are far removed from the importance of the weather but all of us look forward with hope at the slightly longer evenings once the solstice is passed. Let us take this opportunity to remind people of the forthcoming St. Patrick's Day parade – another sign of spring. The committee will be giving certificates to the businesses who sponsor the event and we would like people to support those who can be so generous to the Parade. We would also like to remind people to make an effort to participate by putting together a float to advertise their business or their clubs and societies.

For a 24 hour period recently Maynooth and the surrounding towns were left without the necessity of life - water. Not a bottle of water remained in any of the shops. Some days later, the residents of Parson Street and some parts of Meadowbrook were anxiously watching the water levels as the rain poured down. The required flood alleviation work has still to be carried out. Work on the Meadowbrook Link will begin shortly; hopefully this will be followed by the long-awaited Bond Bridge.

This will be an eventful year with all the proposed developments. Dulcedo have begun the dismantling of the mill; so long a landmark at one end of the town and the mart has already disappeared to give way to the new Tesco development at the other end. It must be stated again – the ring roads must be put in place to facilitate the increase in traffic unless we plan on personal helicopters to get us around! The limited parking available will decrease over the next number of months with the hoarding that will surround the mill site. This will be accompanied by traffic lights at the church area and the removal of the island to accommodate the developers.

We would like to congratulate Leixlip on being the town chosen to house the swimming pool for North Kildare. It is a reminder of the fact that Maynooth does not have a town council - the government have not yet enacted the section of legislation necessary to allow this to happen. But town councils should be given the powers of a County Council and local democracy should have a voice in planning and funding decisions. The proposed Development Levies Scheme should ensure that levies are spent in the area in which they are collected and used to fund such proposed developmental areas as the Public Park at Carton Avenue and the Harbour Field/ Geraldine Hall site. There is some hope for the Geraldine Hall now as it has finally been taken over by Kildare County Council. Once the Harbour Field issue is resolved the future of that part of the town looks bright.

Finally, the Newsletter is 35 years old this year and we invite readers to look back and remember favourite items and photographs as we are hoping to put together a bumper, memorial edition to be published during the summer. Were you featured in an article? Did you appear in a photograph? Have you ideas on what you would like remembered and celebrated? We have an e-mail address: maynoothcc@eircom.net\_- and get in touch!

This year will also see the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pope's visit – any memories, photographs? Again be in touch.

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### **Community Council Notes December**

The December meeting of Maynooth Community Council took place on the 8th December in the Glenroyal Hotel.

#### **Co-options to Council**

Mr. Pat O'Brien was co-opted to the Council to represent Moyglare Village.

#### Office

Paul Croghan, P.D.O. stated that the office is running very well. We have a number of vacancies at the moment and these should be filled soon. Staff were wished a happy Christmas and New Year.

#### Traffic/Planning/Carparking

Paul Croghan said residents were very concerned about future development on Moyglare Road and in the adjacent area. However this will effect all of Maynooth. With plans for a new Dunnes Stores and an Aldi Stores. He also said there is to be further development of over 500 houses on the Moyglare Road. It was also noted that the Maynooth Mart is to be relocated in this area.

While all the new planning is good for Maynooth the traffic problem will have to be seriously addressed now. He said towns in England have used a system whereby cars coming into towns have to wait 5 minutes, he said this worked well. Hugh Gallagher, Chairperson, raised the possibility of Maynooth Community Council doing a survey on the traffic problem. However, Cllr. John McGinly said that Kildare County Council have a group of independent consultants working on this and that the results are to be ready soon. He said the report will include everything, ring roads included.

Muireann Ní Bhrolchain said there is a huge movement of H.G.V.'s going through the town to avoid paying tolls.

Cllr. John McGinley stated that Kildare County Council will put up signs to direct H.G.V.'s to the Celbridge bye pass and if this does not work all H.G.V.'s should be banned from coming into Maynooth.

It was also noted that the gardai are out more walking around the town. This was a welcomed sign.

#### Disk Parking

Robert Wilson wondered could disk parking be introduced. However, he was told that the community would have to look for this. Also the only public carparking in the town is at the rear of Caulfields. Hugh Gallagher, Chairperson, said it is very hard to get through the town at any time, cars parking everywhere are causing dreadful problems. He said with tolls due to go up in the New Year this could lead to more H.G.V.'s coming through the town. We should now write to Kildare County Council about the dreadful state of the traffic situation in Maynooth.

#### Kildare County Council's proposed Development Contribution Scheme

It was stated that Kildare County Council are to introduce a new development contribution scheme of  $\in$  14,000 on all new houses and  $\in$  75 per square metre commercial building. It was also stated that four of the Leixlip Area Councillors were concerned at the short notice, also that notices have appeared in local and national papers and will be on display until 19th January. Cllr. John McGinley stated we need a separate plan for each area. He is also worried that the Carton Action Area Plan of one playground and community centre in not included.

Concerns were raised that towns like Newbridge and Naas are allocated much more money than Maynooth.

Cllr. Senan Griffin said he was worried about all the charges, also that money has already being collected and we should look for money back from the Department of the Environment. He said he is aware of people looking for housing that won't get on Kildare County Council housing list.

It was also stated that people in starter homes and affordable housing can't carry the burden of high levies. Extensions to houses will not be levied.

Cllr. John McGinley said the plan should not be accepted, it will mean no facilities for Maynooth, like the playgrounds, etc. Submissions should be sent to Kildare County Council to object to this plan.

#### St. Patrick's Day Parade

The first meeting of the St. Patrick's Day Parade committee has taken place. Secretary, John McGinley stated that we now have some new members. He said the committee needs new people to get involved and to come up with new ideas for next year.

#### **Tidy Towns Committee**

Paul Croghan said they will be meeting in January. They will be setting out their plans for 2004. He said new members are always welcome. It has been agreed that the Tidy Towns Committee will take over safe guarding the Geraldine hall Paul said they have given a guote to Kildare County Council but as yet have heard He also said he was nothina. looking at Carton Avenue and found the remains of a fire at the base of a tree. He also noted tree pruning work was not finished, but said that the avenue looks well and that Carton Estate are cutting the grass.

#### O'Neill Park Residents Carton Area Action Group

Mary Clougher said they would like to see the avenue being patrolled by the gardai. She said there are a lot of parties being held down the avenue. It was agreed to write to the gardai about this and other matters that are of concern to the people in the area.

### **Community Council Notes December Cont'd**

#### **Cluain Aoibhinn - Tree Removal**

Tom McMullon complained that Kildare County Council had removed trees from Cluain Aoibhinn Estate. It was stated that the trees removed were not the kid of popular trees that cause the big damage. Tom felt that the trees should be replaced.

Cllr. John McGinley stated that there should be no problem replacing the trees

#### **Bottle Banks**

Des Matthews raised the issue that there is no bottle bank now at Tescos. There is only one now in the public car park and this will not be able to cope with all the extra over the Christmas period.

Des also said that a section of wall on Bond Bridge needed repair, he said there was a 15 - 20 foot drop behind the wall. He also stated that a pathway was needed from Parsons Hall to the bridge and a pathway to the playing fields.

Hugh Gallagher on behalf of the Community Council offered congratulations to Leixlip Town on being selected for the swimming pool in North Kildare.

Hugh also advised people to be vigilant around this time of year.

Hugh also thanked the Glenroyal Hotel management for their generosity in providing wine and mince pies after the meeting. Hugh then thanked everybody and wished all a happy Christmas and New Year.

Next Community Council meeting will take place on the 12th January in the Glenroyal Hotel.

Marie Gleeson PRO



### **Community Council Notes January**

The January meeting of Maynooth Community Council took place on the 12th January in the Glenroyal Hotel.

#### Meadowbrook Link Road

It is hoped that work will commence on the above project end of January early February.

#### **Development at Kavanagh's Mill**

It was stated that hoarding will be erected around the site, also in Mill Street. This will restrict traffic to a great extent.

Cllr. Senan Griffin felt that the developer should meet with the gardai and Kildare County Council. Mill Street will be greatly affected and with school traffic and general traffic it is going to be choc-a-bloc. Cllr. Senan Griffin stated that at the Leixlip Area meeting on Friday 16th January he hoped the situation would be discussed and help progress it further. It was also noted that there will be no parking on the Kilcock Road or Mill Street.

#### Office

Paul Croghan said the office is running well and that the new scheme started on the 5th January.

#### Festival

Chairperson, Andrew McMullon made a strong plea for people to come forward. He said the committee needs new people to get involved. Andrew said we need people with some new ideas to get involved. Please contact the office.

#### Newsletter

Editor, Muireann Ní Bhrolchain said that they are looking at a new format for the Newsletter. The Newsletter will be 35 years in existence this year so we are looking for news items and photos covering this period of time.

#### Tidy Towns Committee

Paul Croghan said they will be having their first meeting on the 15th January. He said that they have a very strong and dedicated committee but would welcome new members to get involved. He said he hoped that they would be able to put flowers around the town this year, especially after the efforts of the Special Olympics Committee last year. He pointed out that this was a huge project and hoped that they would be able to achieve it. He also said they hoped to get a grass cutting grant as they have taken on a new picnic area on the Kilcock Road.

### No Christmas Lights in Maynooth this year.

The question of no Christmas lights in the town was raised. It was explained that the Chamber of Commerce undertook the job of putting up the Christmas lights, and at this point we don't know why they didn't appear this year.

Cyril McAree said we had the appearance of a scrooge town. The town looked dismal. It was also stated that people were bewildered and disappointed at no Christmas lights, especially the children.

A suggestion that the trees should be lit and that this did look very well was raised. Also that a big Christmas tree be put in the square area was raised by Ann Burns.

The overall feeling of the meeting was of great disappointment and bewilderment that the town had no Christmas lights this year.

#### Water Supply Cut in Maynooth

Mary Clougher raised the question of the water supply cut on Friday 9th January. it was stated that it was an electrical failure that caused the problem. The failure started at 1.30 a.m. in the morning and work got underway at 3.30 a.m., also that water was back by 11.30 p.m. that night in some areas.

However people felt that more notice should have been given. Cyril McAree felt strongly that Kildare County Council had a responsibility to people to let them know.

Cllr. Senan Griffin said that Kildare County Council gave as much notice as possible. it was decided to write to Kildare County Council to see what can be done to avoid this happening again.

#### St. Patrick's Day Parade

Cllr. John McGinley said plans for the parade are well on the way. John said they had sent out Christmas cards this year to business people thanking them for their support. He said that this was very well received. Again he said anybody wishing to get involved should contact the office.

#### **Planning Matters**

Paul Croghan raised the point regarding planning applications particularly in connection to related He wondered if planning. consultants working on two applications that were closely connected would there be any cross reference made. It was felt that planners should look at all connected issues, roads, water, etc., also that planners would know what was being planned for the county. Paul also suggested that Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge could become one huge town with a possible 100,000 population. However, Cllr. John McGinlev said this was not true. He said Maynooth was classed as a moderate growth town 5,000 -15,000 population. It was also noted that Kildare County Council had turned down a planning application for apartments at Louisa Bridge, but an Bord Pleanala gave permission. It was felt that the process needs to be worked on.

#### **Pound Park Project**

Cllr. John McGinley said the Pound Park Project which includes a band stand is a go ahead.

The next Community Council meeting will take place on 9th February in the Glenroyal Hotel.

#### Marie Gleeson PRO

## Garry

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# All Come Here That Have Tried Elsewhere

### Planning Permissions

File Number	Applicant Name	Applicant Address	Application Type	Application Received	Development Description	Development Location
03/2362	Jason Keigher	39 Laurences Avenue Maynooth, Co. Kildare	Ρ	24/11/03	Sought for detached for four bedroom dormer bungalow with Puraflo waste water treatment system	Old Railpark Road, Barrogstown West Maynooth
03/2363	Boldnote Developments Lim	Carton Demesne Carton Maynooth Co. Kildare	Ρ	24/11/03	Revisions to approved tourism/leisure development scheme. The revision includes amendments to house types for 33 of the 115 previously approved 'Golf Villa' House Types on Carton Estate. The amendments include, revisions to the internal layouts etc.	Carton Demesne Carton
03/2364	David Foran	Killane House Edenderry Co. Offaly	Р	24/11/03	Two-storey extension to side and rear	35 Maynooth Road Celbridge Co. Kildare
03/2430	Sherwood Homes Ltd.	Clifton House Lower Fitzwilliam St Dublin 2	р	01/12/03	Housing development (241 dwellings) comprising of 69 three bedroom two storey townhouses (Types Ai, H and P); 96 two bedroom townhouses (Types B1, G and J), etc.	Newtown Townland Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2434	Michael Mazilu	5 Parklands Court Maynooth Co. Kildare	Ρ	01/12/03	Extension to existing ground floor kitchen and utility room, a 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, etc.	5 Parklands Court Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2461	Dermot O'Neill	Pebble Hill Lodge Maynooth Co. Kildare	Ρ	01/12/03	For refurbishment and renovations to a two storey end of terrace building, currently comprising two retail use units on ground floor and residential/office use on first floor, also demolition of two outbuildings comprising outhouses, etc.	Main Street & Kelly's Lane Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2464	Ciaran Walker	2A Hillcrest Green Lucan Co. Dublin	Ρ	02/12/03	The demolition of bungalow and construction 2 no. two-storey three bed, end of terrace houses and 11 no. two storey, two bed town houses and ancillary site development works	Old Railpark Maynooth
03/2477	Helen Byrne	Railpark East Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	04/12/03	Development consisting of construction of a bungalow garage, and EPS Bison treatment unit	Railpark East Maynooth

## Labour Advice Service

### Emmet Stagg T.D.

Please note that Emmet's weekly Advice Service at 4.00 p.m. on Saturdays has returned to Caulfield's, Main Street



Emmet StaggT.D.



Cllr. John McGinley

### **Cllr. 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.



Cllr. Colm Purcell

### Planning Permissions

File Number	Applicant Name	Applicant Address	Application Type	Application Received	Development De- scription	Development Location
04/22	B & K Tintean Development	Hartstown Clonsilla Dublin 15	Р	05/01/04	10 no apartments in two storey building of 720 sq. m. with 15 parking spaces and associated site works	The Plant Place , Dublin Road, Maynooth
04/23	Fionan Hardiman	Dublin Road Maynooth Co. Kildare	Ρ	05/01/04	Demolition of existing boiler house, partial demolition of existing house and construction of two storey extension to rear of existing house and associated site works	The Plant Place, Dublin Road, Maynooth
03/2732	Mr Peter Kennedy	Clonfert Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	23/12/03	Dormer bungalow, puraflo treatment system and septic tank	Clonfert Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2722	Devinstown Stud Ltd.	29 Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2.	Ρ	23/12/03	A single storey extension	Ballygoran Park House, Ballygoran Maynooth
03/2687	Ann Dwyer	13 Beaufield Ave Maynooth Co. Kildare	R	22/12/03	Retention of conversion of domestic garage and additional extension to combined separate single storey flat-roofed one bedroom apartment with front facing window and door all to side ot existing dormer style house	13 Beaufield Ave Maynooth
04/3	Peter & Mary Robinson	Crinstown House Crinstown Maynooth Co. Kildare	Ρ	02/01/04	For a nursing home con- sisting of 49 one bedroom units, 9 two bedroom units, kitchen and dining rooms, oratory, staff area, administration area, ancillary spaces, new entrance, effluent treatment system and associated site works	Crinstown Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2709	Maureen O' Flaherty	Kilmacreddock Maynooth Co. Kildare	Ρ	23/12/03	Teach sha stor a thogail le Seipteach 2000, coras dramhail teaghlaigh le coras ionramh eisilteach uisce agus limistear sca- gagh agus bealach isteach a sholathair uilig	Chill Mhic Cradoigh Ma Nuad
03/2589	Tommy Richardson	519 Newtown Maynooth Co. Kildare	Ρ	16/12/03	Demolition of two houses and for provision of one house with granny flat at sites 519 and 520 and to widen and set back the site entrance gateway at site 520	Newtown Maynooth
03/2599	John & Mary Holland	13 Parklands Place Maynooth, Co. Kildare	Ρ	18/12/03	Two storey extension to side and rear of two storey house	13 Parklands Place Maynooth Co. Kildare

File Number	Applicant Name	Applicant Address	Application Type	Application Received	Development De- scription	Development Location
03/2482	Ciaran Gallagher	4 Rockfield Close Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare	Ρ	05/12/03	Dwelling house, poultry house, glass house and bio-crete waste water treatment system	Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2485	Carmel O'Flaherty	18 Meadowbrook Lawns Maynooth Co. Kildare	р	05/12/03	Dormer type bungalow and garage for domestic use and septech 2000 effluent treatment plant	Kilmacreedock Upper Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2554	David Collins	Hawthorn House B & B Old Greenfield Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	12/12/03	4 self catering accommo- dation units (216 sq.m) and to provide 4 additional car park spaces and all associated site works to the rear	Hawthorn House B & B Old Greenfield Maynooth
03/2575	John & Mary Gallen	12 Rockfield Close Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare	Ρ	15/12/03	A first floor extension to side of existing dwelling house over existing garage conversion and utility room extended on the ground floor	12 Rockfield Close Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2581	Eduardo & Anne Herrero	'LaPaz' Straffan Road Maynooth Co. Kildare	Ρ	15/12/03	External lighting consisting of two wall mounted lights and one light/lamp stan- dard located on patio/open space'	'Stella Maris' 486 Straffan Road Maynooth Co. Kildare
03/2580	Declan Kehir	Kilmacreedock Lower Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	16/12/03	A dormer bungalow, garage for domestic use and Septech 2000 effluent treatment plant	Kilmacredock Lower Maynooth
03/2589	Tommy Richardson	519 Newtown Maynooth Co. Kildare	Р	16/12/03	Demolition of two houses and for provision of one house with granny flat at sites 519 and 520 and to widen and set back the site entrance gateway at site 520	Newtown Maynooth
03/2599	John & Mary Holland	13 Parklands Place Maynooth, Co. Kildare	Р	18/12/03	Two storey extension to side and rear of two storey house	13 Parklands Place Maynooth Co. Kildare



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### Crossword

#### No: 20 2 6 8 11 10 12 13 14 15 16 17 19 21 20 23 24 26

### Entries before: 12th Feb 04 Name

#### Address:\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:\_\_\_\_\_

### 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)

**Doodle Box** 

### Special prize

#### **BOOK VOUCHER**

Give yourself the luxury of browsing and choosing the book(s) which take your fancy from the wide selection available in the store of our sponsor *The Maynooth Bookshop 68 Main Street, Maynooth* 

### Winner of Crossword No.18

Edel Barry 7 Moyglare Meadows Maynooth

#### 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 19

Across: 3. Slapstick, 8. Chap, 9. Naturist,
10. Piping, 13. Genoa, 14. Cumbria, 15. Val, 16.
Acrobat 17. Bacon, 21. Lariat, 22. Detonate,
23. Mass, 24. Opportune.

**Down: 1**. Scapegoat, **2**. Carpentry. **4**. Lungs, **5**. Pitiful. **6** Peso, **7**. Cost, **11**. Practical, **12**. Magnetism, **14**. Cat, **15**. Vagrant **18**. Klein, **19**. Yelp, **20**. Polo

X	<u> XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</u>	Z
SSSS	HAVE FUN WHILE ADVERTISING YOURSELF	<b>NNNNN</b>
K K	By Taking Part in	N N
Ø	Maynooth's St. Patrick's Day Parade	$\mathfrak{A}$
K K	Application Form for Parade	<b>N</b>
SS ISS	Name of Business	N (X) (X)
XX	Organisation, Club or Band	K K
NK	Telephone	X)
) K K K	Number of Vehicles in Entry	
XX	Do you wish to do a demo (3-4 mins) at Reviewing Stand	R S
Ä	Entrance Fee:	Ś
S CS	Commercial Float $\in$ 50 Club/Organisation $\in$ 20	3
Ø	Bands - Free	$\mathfrak{A}$
SISISIS	The categories for which prizes will be awarded are as follows:	XX
N KN K	<ol> <li>Best Commercial Float - Trophy</li> <li>Best Club Float - Trophy</li> <li>Best Band - Perpetual Cup</li> <li>Best Marchers - Trophy</li> <li>Most Topical Float - Trophy</li> <li>Best Costumes - Trophy</li> </ol>	S) S) S) C
NKKKKK	Applications with entry fee to be sent to Community Council Office before Friday 5th March or phone Christina Saults (office hours - 6285922 or 6285053) or John McGinley (6285293 (H) or 7026536 (W) )	SISISIS
S	<u> XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</u>	5

### **Maynooth Post Primary School**

Maynooth Post Primary School transition and fifth years are rehearsing for the annual musical. This year's production is Guys and dolls Opening night is February 4th and the show will run until Sunday 8th. The venue is St Mary's Parish Hall, Maynooth. Tickets can be bought from the school

The show is set in New York in the 1940's. It tells the story of the "Guys" Nathan Detroit (Cian Byrne) and Sky Masterson (Harry Oliver), whose gambling exploits organizing a crap shooting game brings them into conflict with the "Dolls". Miss Adelaide (Sallay Garnett), star of the Hot Box nightclub and fiancée to Nathan Detroit is determined finally to get (Gwendolyn Forde), who works at the Mission Centre and is eager to save the souls of the gambling obsessed guys of the city, finds herself the focus of a bet and of Sky's amorous attentions.

Crap shooting is the sewers, high kicks in the Hot Box, souls saved on the throw of the dice...the action if backed by familiar musical favourites like "Luck be a Lady" and "Sit down your rocking the boat". When the Dolls finally get their guys in the closing scenes you'll agree "call it sad, call it funny, but it's better than even money, that the guy's only doing it for some doll".

Maynooth Post Primary students will also represent the county in the Regional Finals of the Mental Health Association of Ireland's Public Speaking Project. Having won the county Kildare final in Naas on Wednesday 21st, January, the team of Raeanna Kennedy, Sallay Garnett and Fiona Nelson hope to bring success on February 12th too.

Any inquiries regarding the event can be made to Sinead O'Connell at 01 6286060.



### Liam Duff

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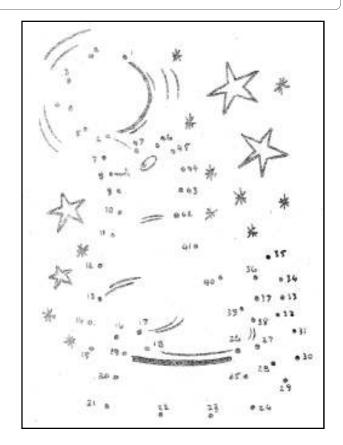


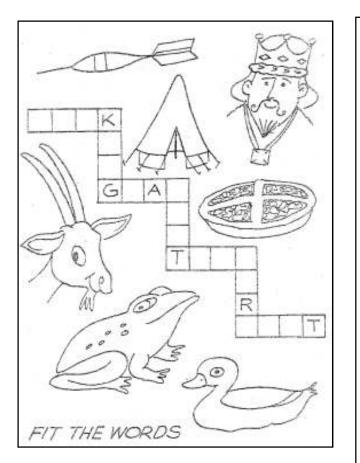
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### **BACKSTAGE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS**



### OPEN DAY FOR NEW STUDENTS 8-18 YEARS OLD

ON SATURDAY, 7TH FEB. WE ARE HOLDING AN OPEN DAY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 8-18 AGE RANGE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMPANY. ENTRY TO OPEN DAY IS FREE OF CHARGE SO THAT THOSE INTERESTED IN JOINING CAN GET A FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE OF OUR WORK AND MEET THE STAFF BEFORE MAKING A DECISION. WEAR LOOSE, CASUAL CLOTHES, ARRIVE ON TIME AND BE PREPARED TO STAY FOR THE THREE HOUR SESSION.

### SATURDAY, 7TH FEB. 10AM-1PM MAYNOOTH BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL -JUST COME ALONG-

### MINI-BACKSTAGE

\*\*\*\*\*

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MINI BACKSTAGE BEGINS ON SATURDAY, 14TH FEB. FROM 10AM-11AM. DURING THE HOURS SESSION, STUDENTS WILL HAVE TWO WORKSHOPS CHOSEN FROM A VARIETY OF SKILLS RANGING FROM DRAMA, MIME AND DANCE TO SINGING AND CIRCUS SKILLS. OVER A PERIOD OF TIME THEY WILL BE EXPOSED TO A VARIETY OF SKILLS SIMILAR TO SENIOR COMPANY

THE FEE PER WEEKLY SESSION IS €5 AND A €35 REGISTRATION FEE IS ALSO PAYABLE.

IF YOU WISH TO APPLY FOR A PLACE, REGISTRATION WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, 7TH FEB. BETWEEN 11AM-1PM AT MAYNOOTH BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM BACKSTAGE IRELAND ON 091-590706

#### A Sense of Place

### A fictional account of the beginning of an Irish village.

John awoke instantly, lifted his elbow, peered over the top of the stonewall and pulled his cap forward, Sleep could come easily again - but no, he darted forward pulled at the long meadow grass - his foot slipped off the lichen-covered bank. It had been a long day. Mother must know by now.

Old Biddy, pulled her shawl tightly around her shoulders, tapped her stick, and called - 'Bridie, quick, Bridie. She knew it would come to this. It had happened before and she had warned her boys, 'Come in, mother, come in'. Bridie darted down. Peter, what was he doing there? Where was her own John?

John smiled at the thought of his mother. He opened one eye. Around him lay the limestone. The pale blue, creamy stones he had loaded on his cart over at the quarry. What happened ? How did it start? There was bad blood between them. He sat upright. It was time to go. He pulled on his boots. He slipped down on to the roadway: straightened his back and tried to cover his eyes as he made his way into the sun on that smothering June evening.

Half dazed, he picked his way among the broken glass bottles, whistled a little tune, slowly left the village behind. The donkey watched him go, then brayed thankfully as he stumbled towards the cart. He had forgotten that Peter brought his pig to the fair. Such a careful man, hot-headed maybe, but you could depend on him. 'I wonder is he thinking about you, you poor pet' said John as he stroked the short grey growth on the donkey's neck. The stickiness of the hair made John wince.

He was weary, but the poor donkey had stood all day. without a drink or bite. 'Here, here' said John. 'Come on'. The big grey eyes looked up at him as he led him to a stream. John stripped off his heavy woollen shirt, splashed the brown, bog water across his face. He shivered. He would have loved to sit in to the cart and let the donkey bring them both home. He had a hard day, and leading the donkey they both made their way through the narrow boreen up from the main road. Mother wouldn't see him going that way. Peter hopped from one leg to the other, the silent breathing and the weariness of his neighbours were palpable round him. At another time he would have loved to look round him at the fields of oats with a light glisten of gold as the sun bore down on it. His tongue rolled round in his mouth. The porter left an ugly taste—he longed for a dish of water. My God, he whispered to himself-is the ass still out there at the crossroads? Someone would have brought him home. Maybe no one wanted to get involved. The police would watch out for supporters.

John pushed in the gate. It creaked. He lifted the red shafts, pulled off the bridle and threw it aside, stroking the matted hair on the donkey he murmured 'He'll be back soon'. Now home to face his mother. Would she be proud of him? He had run across the ditch at the first sign of the police.

*Read about real Irish villages in The Book of Irish Villages just published* 

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### Dance Classes

In Maynooth Parísh Hall

\*\* Already started but still a few places left: HIP-HOP/JAZZ on Mondays

> For 4 to 18 year olds BALLET (R.A.D) on Wednesdays

> > For 4 to 10 year olds (pre-prim/primary and grade 1)

\*\*NEW: ADULT CONTEMPORARY DANCE CLASS Monday (7.45 - 9 pm)

Bookings and Information: Nathalie 086 1999841

### SOPHIA WEIR

Health and Beauty Clinic Town Centre Mall, Maynooth, Phone: 01 6290377 Open 9.30—6 p.m. Mon—Sat Wed & Thurs Open Till 9 p.m.

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### **Maynooth Tidy Towns**

#### Tidy Towns Campaign 2004

The Tidy Towns Committee held our first planning meeting for the 2004 National Tidy Towns campaign on January 15<sup>th</sup> last and the committee welcomed two new members Pat O'Brien from Moyglare Village and Sean Lyons from Kingsbry. A number of other people had indicated that they would like to get involved, but were unable to make the meeting. Maynooth Tidy Towns now have an active membership of sixteen but we also have many volunteers who get involved in our various projects. Being involved in Tidy Towns, people are able to see the fruits of their efforts, no matter how little or much you are able to contribute. The ever-improving image of the town and the positive feeling that influences both our residents and visitors alike make the effort worthwhile. If you want to be involved in any capacity with the tidy towns please ring 6286709, we would love to hear from you.

#### Tidy Towns update five year plan

As part of participating in the National Tidy Towns Competition we are obliged to submit a five year rolling development plan outlining our work, the work of the local authority and indeed the entire community as impacting on our local environment. Our last plan ran from 1998 to 2003. Incidentally, we set a target score for 2003 of 235 back in 1998 when our score was 162 marks (1997). In 2003, our actual score in the competition was 214. People thought we were over ambitious then, but time has proven that we were right to aim high. We are not quite so confident for the next five years because of the amount of work going on in the town. At present, we are estimating a score of 245 for 2008. The maximum score that can be achieved in the competition is 300 marks.

#### *Progress means the removal of Maynooth Tidy Towns feature*

The commencement of work on clearing the Kavanagh Mill site will involve major restrictions on traffic movement and a re-alignment of the Moyglare Road/ Kilcock Road junction. Unfortunately, this means that the central island on the junction, enhanced and maintained by Maynooth Tidy Towns will have to be



removed. This feature was a major attraction in recent years and will be missed by many residents in the town. Special thanks to our Chairperson, Robert O'Reilly for his personal efforts in keeping this area in good condition over many years. Do not worry Bob, we have other work that you can do and as usual for no reward except our gratitude.

### *New feature area being created near Laraghbryan*

Maynooth Tidy Towns are creating a new open space area on the Kilcock road close to the cemetery. The new "picnic area" project is being undertaken with the support of local residents in this area. With the support of the Laraghbryan Cemetery committee work commenced late last year outside the cemetery and we are hoping that by the summer this area will be a very attractive feature on the approach from Kilcock.

#### Hanging Baskets in Main Street and Straffan Road

In 2003, the Maynooth Special Olympics Host Town Committee funded the erection of the hanging baskets in the town. Larine Court Garden Centre and Maynooth Tidy Town maintained the flowers right up to October. Will there be hanging baskets in 2004? Maynooth Tidy Towns intend to hold a special public meeting on this matter. Last year the maintenance was done with the generous commitment of Mattie Callaghan, Michael Barry, Joe Buckley and John Dolan who gave their time and own vehicles to provide the watering mechanism. Many others gave their time to assist in the watering, which was a three-person operation. Paul Dowling and Tina from the Larine Court Garden Centre undertook the task once a week . If we are to have flowers in 2004, we need better equipment and transport to undertake this task. With the proper level of funds we could contract the work out but it will need to be decided by early March on whether or not we undertake this enormous task. Anybody with ideas on how we can do this please feel free to contact us.

#### Paul Croghan Secretary, Maynooth Tidy Towns



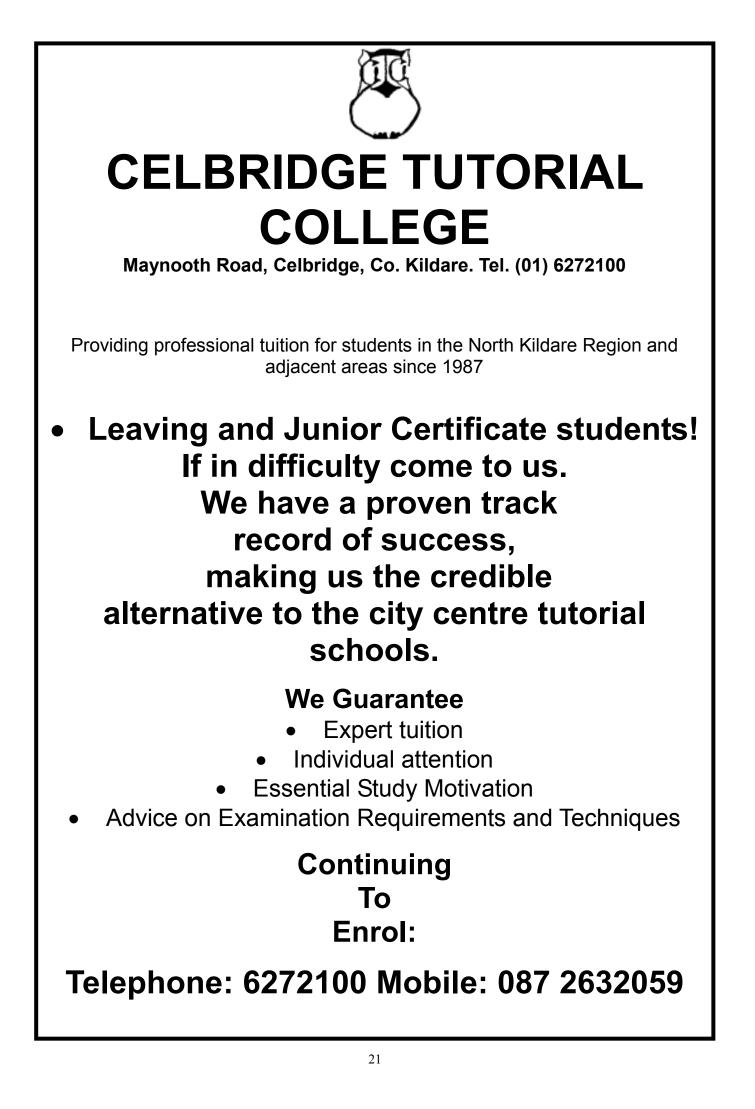
#### **Exhibition Snooker at NUI Maynooth New Sports Complex**



An exhibition snooker match between Ken Doherty and Jimmy White was held at the New Sports Complex in Maynooth College on December 3rd 2003. The exhibition was arranged by the College Snooker Club and was supported by the College Authorities. The event was a "sell out" and was extremely well organised by the club, ably led by Derek Stynes. The first half of the night consisted of a series of one frame challenges by snooker club members against Jimmy and Ken. Derek Stynes, Brian Tansey, Niall Bulfin, Mark Kennedy, Adrian Ormsby and Ciaran Mac an Bhair played a "blinder" and every "home" potted ball raised loud cheers from their appreciative supporters. The second part of the night consisted of a best of nine frame match between the two big stars. Ken showing his competitive and professional attitude raced into a four frames to nil lead, punishing mistakes made by Jimmy. Ken rarely allowed his opponent back onto the table and although Jimmy clawed one frame back, Ken claimed the sixth frame and the match with an immaculate exhibition of snooker. This was a very good night's entertainment and was enjoyed by all that attended the event. Young Darragh Murphy from Maynooth will not forget his great night out. His enthusiastic dad arranged to have his young son photographed with both Ken and Jimmy during the night's proceedings.









### **Clubs, Organisations and Societies**

### **Maynooth Golf Society**

The following are the results of our turkey outing to Ladyhill on Saturday 22nd November.

1st Overall	Proinnsais Breathnach	42 pts
2nd	Don O'Sullivan	38 pts
3rd	Tom Campbell	34 pts
4th	Michael Flynn (Jnr)	33 pts (B.9)
5th	Tom O'Haire	33 pts (B.6)
6th	Kevin Loftus	33 pts
7th	Mick Fahy	30 pts
Front 9	Gerry Reilly	18 pts
Back 9	Sean O'Connell	17 pts
8th	John Byrne	29 pts
9th	Sam Feeney	28 pts
10th	Pat Conway	28 pts (B.9)

Nearest The Pin

Proinnsais Breathnach

Two's Club

Runner Up

T. Flatley - John Byrne - P. Breathnach

Golfer of the Year Gerry McTernan

Senior Golfer of the Year Mick Flynn (Snr)

Match Play Winners John Byrne & Colm Loftus

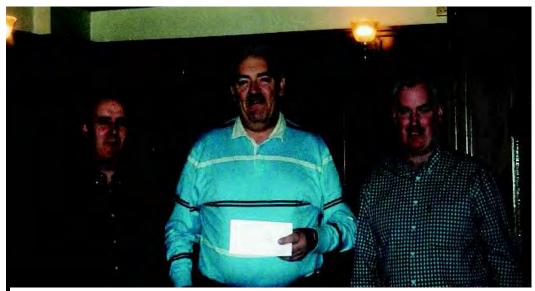
Pa Conway & Gerry McTernan



GOLFER OF THE YEAR GERRY MCTERNAN



Match Play Winners John Byrne & Colm Loftus



Winner of Turkey Outing to Ladyhill Proinnsais Breathnach

Anniversaries and dates for 2004 275 years ago-The first circulating library in Britain opened at Edinburg.

225 years ago David Hartley proposed in the House of Commons in London that the government abolish slavery at home and in the colonies.

175 years ago-John Walker a chemist at Stockton on Tees sold his first box of matches.

150 years ago-Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin.

125 years ago- The Scottish born Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. Who had the first telephone in Maynooth? When?

100 years ago-Earl Russell got the first motor vehicle registration plate in Britain, A1, for his Napier.

Who got the first car registration plate in Maynooth - What year? What number?

75 years ago-5 January 1926 - John Logie Baird gave the first public demonstration of television.

50 years ago-12 February 1954-

Link established between lung cancer and smoking. 25 years ago-

21 January 1976- Concord passenger flights began. Pope John Paul visited Maynooth.

What was life like with no car, no library, no matches, no plastic, no telephone, no television? This year 2004 - the year is young, renew the resolutions and for you it can be the best year yet. A year to look back on.







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### **Maynooth Citizens Information Centre**

#### Question

I am about to become unemployed but should qualify for Unemployment Benefit. Will I get payment for my 19 year son who is in full-time education?

#### Answer

Yes you will, but not for the first six months.

Until recently, if you were receiving one of the following short term social welfare payments:

- Unemployment Benefit
- Unemployment Assistance (for less than 15 months)
- Disability Benefit
- Injury Benefit
- Health and Safety Benefit
- Supplementary Welfare Allowance

Payment of a Child Dependent Increase (CDI) would cease when the child turned 18 or on the following 30th June if the child was in full-time education, until the child turns 22 or up to the end of the academic year after he/she reaches 22, providing you have been receiving your short-term social welfare payment for at lease six months.

Periods spent on other social welfare payments may be used in calculating the required 26 weeks providing the interval between such payments does not exceed 13 weeks.

Those getting a pension or long-term social welfare payment are paid a CDI for a child in full-time education to the age of 22. If a child turns 22 while in full-time education the payment continues until the end of the academic year.

#### Question

I work part-time. If a public holiday falls on a day I normally work, am I entitled to the day off?

#### Answer

Providing you have worked at least 40 hours ins total in the five weeks before the public holiday you are entitled to paid leave on the day or one of the following alternatives:

- A paid day off within a month of the public holiday
- An additional day of annual leave
- An additional day's pay
- The nearest church holiday to the public holiday as a paid day off.

Under the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 you may ask your employer, at least 21 days before a public holiday, which of the alternatives will apply to you. Your employer should respond to you at least 14 days before the public holiday. If your employer does not, you are entitled to take the actual public holidays as a paid day off.

Part-time workers who are entitled to public holiday leave, but are not due to work on that day, should get one fifth of their weekly pay instead of the paid days leave.

#### Question

I am in my later fifties and I have been on Unemployment Assistance for about a year. Is there any advantage in changing to Pre-Retirement Allowance?

#### Answer

If you are receiving Pre-Retirement Allowance, which is a means-tested payment for the Department of Social and Family Affairs for people aged 55 and over who decide to retire from the workforce, you no longer have to be available for work and you do not have to 'sign on'.

To qualify for Pre-Retirement Allowance:

- You must have been getting Unemployment Assistance or Unemployment Benefit for at least 15 months and have established an entitlement to Unemployment Assistance, or
- You are no longer eligible for the One-Parent Family or Carer's Allowance, or
- You are a separated spouse and you have been unemployed for the previous 15 months.

The means test is largely the same as the means test for Unemployment Assistance and the maximum rate of payment is also the same as long-term Unemployment Assistance e.g. €124.80 (January 2003) for a single person.

Pre-retirement Allowance is payable up to the date you qualify for Retirement Pension (age 65) or Old Age Pension (age 66) providing you do not take up any insurable employment/self-employment and you continue to satisfy the means test.

Application forms are available from your post office, local Social Welfare Office or the Departments LoCall leaflet line 1890 202 325.

#### Question

I have been called for jury service. I am working and believe jury service can last for several weeks. Will I be paid when I am unable to work.

#### Answer

You are entitled to be paid but not by the court.

If you are called for jury service you must attend unless you are excused. The Juries Act 1976 requires an employee to be given time off to attend the court. Some groups such as doctors, nurses and members of religious orders are entitled to be excused from jury service as of right. If you are ill or for any other good reason you do not wish to serve, you can apply to the County Registrar to be excused.

When you are attending for jury service you will not be paid by the court, nor ill you be paid expenses. Should you actually serve on a jury your lunch may be provided. However, you are entitled to be paid by your employer as you are considered to be in employment and you should not lose any other employment entitlements such as annual leave.

If your employer requests proof that you did attend court you can obtain a certificate of attendance from the jury office.

For further contact Maynooth Citizens Information Centre at 01 6285477.

### Features Party Politics - A Case For Reform

The Dail has been subject to much adverse criticism in the past few months. The benchmarking exercise increased the member's pay and they responded promptly by taking more time off. That exercise sent out all the wrong signals and reinforced the perception that politics is not a serious business. The Government has failed to act decisively in many areas and seems immune from criticism. The National Press has met its obligations, time and again highlighting the lack of professionalism shown by the current Government. The criticism is well deserved but the problem lies deeper than that. All parties within the Dail share the responsibility for the derision, which greet politicians and their entourage as they spout total rubbish on the state of our health, education and transport services. Whether it's the Fine Gael or Labour spokesman, the tired and worn party hacks all mumble out the same boring message that the Government is not doing their job. They all look old and seem to have been around for a long time. The general public could not be faulted in thinking that these guys do not have the capacity to do the job. It is therefore important to look at where Labour, Fine Gael and the Greens are at this point in time and examine what each of these parties are contributing to politics and to meeting their responsibilities to the Irish people. With a few honourable exceptions Fine Gael's contribution to the running of an effective opposition is nothing short of a disgrace. They have fallen on hard times and their founding fathers must be turning in their graves looking at the current crew. The party's commitment and their contribution to the establishment of the Irish Free State can never be questioned. The drive and energy of Doctor Garret Fitzgerald Fine Gael-Labour government was also a credit to all concerned. Those Administrations however were the exception. cursory read of the autobiographies of James Dillon and Garret Fitzgerald shows Fine Gael as a party of wealthy businessmen and lawyers who were in politics part time. They gave the impression that Government was an inconvenience to be avoided. The history of the party contains a litany of names that accepted front bench appointments from their party leader with the appropriate salaries and allowances only to land back in the law library where the real money was been made. History records that a former leader of Fine Gael handed in his chips and headed back across the Liffey to the Four Courts. Their front bench obligation to research and contest legislation proposed by the Government in their area of responsibility was soon forgotten. Men of vision like Declan Costello, who submitted a radical series of proposals for a Just Society that would have led Ireland to a socially balanced country like Germany or Austria were entertained and humoured by the property classes of Fine Gael and eventually killed off. In all of this the

members of Fine Gael paid lip service to their public duty and the consequences are something that the party have to deal with to day. The public have no confidence in the party because they have seen the last of the good men like Jim Mitchell and Allan Shatter die or retire from politics. The leader of the party Enda Kenny, moral man he is, inspires few. The impression out there is that Fine Gael is a political party marking time in a parochial environment with neither the will nor the capacity to aim for ultimate responsibility.

Labour is in this political desert as well. Their leader Pat Rabbitt is sound on party dogma but could do with an injection of common sense We are not now, or ever going to see a socialist dawn. Socialism, as in Old Labour, is dead and buried. The guy who lives in a council house is now as likely to have an apartment in Spain. The blue-collar craftsmen, the mainstay of Old Labour, are just as likely to have a healthy bank account as an accountant. There is new language required here and new responsibilities to be met. There has to be a debate about the direction that life in Ireland is taking. Our role model appears to be the intensely materialistic and demanding American model rather than the better quality of life enjoyed by our continental neighbours. Have we reared our children to serve in supermarkets that are now open twentyfour hours a day? Do we want our grandchildren left at crèches in the darkness of a winter morning and collected by exhausted parents well into a winter's night? We have to make decisions as to how best we achieve an equitable society without turning away those who create jobs. We need to eliminate the greed in the services sector and ensure that there are punitive mechanisms in place to hammer the profiteers. There is a responsibility on the various opposition parties to look at the current position and see how best they can reform to meet their duty to the electorate. The Greens in general are progressive. Media appearances by their members give the impression of a hardworking, committed, wellinformed party. They to must realise that they have an obligation to take part in pragmatic politics, which means leaving some of their abstract policies behind them. . What the Irish people are entitled to are an effective opposition to the current government. Labour and Fine Gael have never rated as low in the opinion polls. Even with all the baggage the current Government carries, both parties would still fail to convince the electorate of their ability to govern. What is required is a merging of the two main opposition parties into a Christian or Social Democratic party. It is true that there would be little difference between the policies of the merged party and Fianna Fail. This would be no different to the situation on mainland Europe where most political parties have drifted to centre politics that acknowledges the primary role of

capitalism but with a social conscience. The big difference would be of perception. The Irish electorate would now have a clear choice in selecting a government. They would have the opportunity to punish the organisation that appeared to protect the corrupt and give an opportunity to a new party to run the government. The new party based on the continental model should be in a position to put forward new social legislation that would improve the quality of life for the Irish people. The opposition front bench as we know it should be swept away and replaced by young politicians who would be up for the battle. Improvements in the Social Programme of any Government is going to cost more money. In funding a social programme the "cute hoor" mentality of mainstream Ireland has got to be rooted out. There is enough money in the country to pay for progressive social legislation. Tax avoidance, overcharging, planning scams and corruption should carry penal penalties and the perpetrators made examples of.

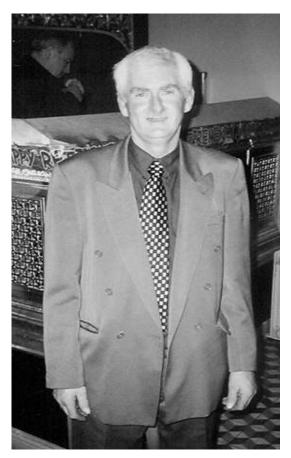
The merging of Fine Gael and Labour into a new centre party would give an impetus to Irish politics. It would be good for Democracy and would give the electorate confidence that the political system can work.

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#### Tony Mooney - Maynooth Fire Service

Tony Mooney retired from the Kildare County fire service before Christmas. He had been with the service for over twenty years. Based in Maynooth for all of that time he had seen the service develop into the best trained on call fire fighting and rescue force in the country. When the Newsletter decided to do a feature on Tony it was going to be a first time for both of us. The writer was going to do his first interview and Tony was going to recall his life with the service. He was also going to give his views on some of the social issues that society in general are finding a little difficult to cope with at the present time. Some of these issues like excessive drinking would have seen Tony and his colleagues pick up the pieces, literally, as the fire and rescue service was called out on many dreadful nights to meet the reality of broken bodies and lives. Tony will say that although you will always maintain a professional attitude when faced by this road traffic "madness" it was hard to close your heart to the pain caused to parents and relatives by the loss of their loved ones. Tony labels road traffic accidents caused by drink driving as "madness and carelessness. Tony had also worked and is now back in the Bar trade and his opinions on the proposed smoking ban represents common sense from this quietly spoken man

When Tony joined the service in 1983 they had one fire tender covering an area from the Salmon Leap in Leixlip to Clonard near Kinnegad. The fire service as it was then called also served Celbridge, Timahoe and Johntownbridge amongst others. The fireman was obliged to live and work within one mile of the fire station and was expected to be operational within four minutes of the alarm. They were on call twenty four hours every day, each day of the year. Their retention fee at that time was derisory and only amounted to a few hundred pounds per annum. The call out fee ranged between four and eight pounds, depending on the time of day. During the following years the fire service was to develop into a fire and rescue service. The skills required to provide this service to the people of Kildare necessitated Tony and his colleagues completing many hours of training on a voluntary basis. The type of training was varied but covered situations like rescuing people from submerged cars in rivers and canals. They were also highly skilled in the use of cutting equipment that over the years became easier and safer to use. Tony, a man of great faith, will always speak of the "golden hour". The men in the fire service are convinced that if a person involved in a serious accident is stabilised and brought to hospital within one hour, they will have a good chance of survival with the help of God. Tony would like to see the consequences of road accidents caused by



Tony Mooney



Tony being presented with the Universal Fireman by Station Officer Gerry Cawley

#### (Tony Mooney Cont'd.)

drink placed in front of young people on a continuous basis so that from an early age they would understand the madness of driving while under the influence of drink. This would mean continuous advertising on television and in the press. Tony is also mindful of the hard core of older drivers who continue to defy the law and their fellow citizens in continuing to drive while under the influence.

As a consequence of the development of the Maynooth area, the fire station now has three fire tenders. Tony is happy about the current financial package available to the firemen on the basis that it is far better than when he joined. He believes that it should be improved further in order to encourage and hold the best men in the job. He would also say that the standard of equipment has improved immeasurably down the years and that with some minor reservations the community is well served by the current standard. Tony will also say that the job is subject to highs and lows. Before Christmas the service was on the scene of a horrific accident involving a motorist and a tractor. The details cannot be published here but suffice to say that it was the experience of the rescue service that was a major factor in saving the motorist life. Tony appreciates that the firemen now have a debriefing and counselling service that is so necessary when you have to deal with trauma on a daily basis.

Tony has a great interest in sport. He played underage football in his native Kinnegad. His daughter Antoinette is an all round sports person who plays for the Kildare ladies football team. Tony would like to see a greater interest in sport by the younger generation to take them away from the drink culture that is a growing problem for the community. He has a great admiration for the young people in general and is just concerned by the lack of interest in taking part in sporting activity. While talking with Tony I noticed a photograph of his late beautiful wife, Ann. He freely admits that her death in 1996 after a long illness caused him and his three daughters' great trauma. He acknowledges the great support given by the community and his work colleagues during that time. He will also always appreciate the support given by the local clergy in helping to deal with his great loss.

Before leaving I asked to see the statuette of the universal fireman that was presented to Tony on the night of his retirement party. He can be proud of the contribution that he has made to Maynooth and also be proud of the esteem that he is held in the local community.



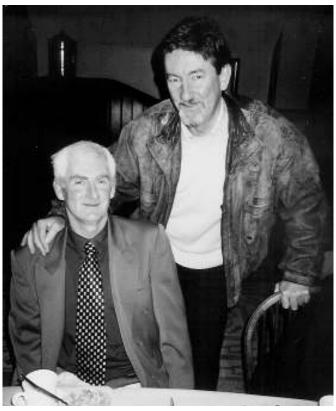
Tony with his daughters, Martina, Jackie & Antoinette



Tony with Jonahan Kelly, Philip Doyle & Brendan Kelly



Michael Riordan, Paddy Nolany, Ned Lyons & L:enny Murphy



Tony with Cllr. John McGinley

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Tony with his work colleagues

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### **Come to Dinner with Andy Mac**

#### **Red Pepper and Orange Velvet Soup**

(Cooking time 30 minutes) 2 tables Olive Oil 2 lbs Red Peppers Pinch of Salt 3 Oranges

Heat oil in a pot on a moderate heat. Deseed and quarter the peppers lengthways. Slice them fairly coarsely in a food processor and add to the oil. Add salt. Cover.

Grate the rind from one orange and add to the peppers. Increase the heat until steam starts to escape. Lower the heat and simmer 15—18 minutes.

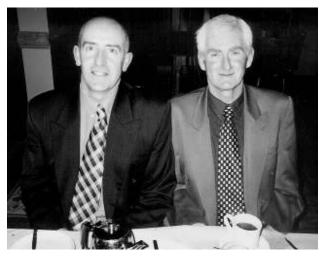
Juice all the oranges. You will need 6 fl. ozs. When the peppers are soft process or blend them into a puree. It does not matter if some of the peppers are caramelized, this adds to the flavour. Add the juice and blend again. Reheat and garnish.

### Sausages with Spiced Wine and

Apples (Cooking Time 25 minutes) 20 fl. Oz Dry White Wine 18 oz of Sausages—allow 4 per person 1 Onion 4 Apples—Brambly are best 5 oz of Butter 14 fl. Oz Chicken Stock 4 tables of Light Brown Sugar 1 level Tsps of Cinnamon

Bring Wine to the boil in a large pan and poach sausages for 10 mins. Grate the onion. Peel core and quarter and slice the apples. In another pan melt some butter and fry the sausages. **Do not throw out the wine!** Add the onion to the wine with the apples, stock, sugar and the rest of the butter. Bring the mixture to the boil. Reduce the hear and simmer it until the apples become tender and the liquid is reduced to a thin syrup. Serve the sausages with the apple sauce. This is an excellent brunch dish. To make it into a main course add some mash potatoes, green salad and sauté onions.





Tony with Station Officer Gerry Cawley

Copy date is Mon 16th for Feb For March issue

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## **Clubs, Organisations and Societies**

## Handball Happenings By Mark Ball

### Juvenile

Having tasted a certain amount of success in the Feile na nGael team competition during the Summer the juvenile handballers of Maynooth were rearing to go when the County Championships were played in December. In addition to the eight players who were involved in the Feile there were seven others more then willing to have a go.

On the specified day all headed for Leixlip. More in hope then in anticipation since their opponents were more experienced and came from a long established club. However after the first round only three of the fifteen had been defeated. Four more lost in the second round and eight progressed to the finals. Donna O'Donnell contested the under ten singles final while Ronan Gorey and Kevin Pealo were in the doubles at the same age group. All gave of their best but had to settle for the silver. Colm Pealo suffered the same fate in the under twelve singles. Louise Walsh and Roisin Gorey were our best hope of winning a championship. They played in the under twelve doubles and became the first pair to bring winners medals to Maynooth at juvenile level. This qualifies them to represent Kildare in the 2004 Leinster Championships and I have no doubt that they are as good as anyone in Leinster and that they will represent their club and county with pride. Other finalists were Ashling Farrell at under fourteen and James Molloy at under fifteen. Both played established inter county players who proved to be too strong for them. Others who took part in the championships were Eimer Connolly, Dean Leavy, Martin Lawrence, Martin O'Donnell and Hughie Faherty. The Juvenile Donovan Shield, sponsored by Mr. Sean Donovan Londis Maynooth, is due to be played at the end of February when a team of six will be picked to represent Maynooth against the other clubs in Kildare. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Donovan for his kind sponsorship.

The last time Maynooth were represented in the Kildare Juvenile Championships was in the early seventies. I am told that Tommy (Shots) Flanagan, Bernard Leavy and Niall Leavy were among those who wore the black and white of Maynooth on that occasions. The latter being the main sponsor for Kildare handball at the moment. I would love to know if there were any others who played at that level at that time? Was harry playing then?

### Adult

The Kildare 2004 40 x 20 Championships got under way on January 12th. Maynooth had ten entrants in the competition this year. Mick O'Donnell and Paul Ruane carry the clubs hopes at senior level while veteran Joe Rossiter and new member Fergus McHugh are the intermediate representatives. Sean Molloy and Mick Galvin are the junior entries and Simon O'Donnell, Tony Fingleton, Nigel Dolan and Pat Duffy are all chasing the junior 'B' trophy. At time of going to press Simon O'Donnell and Joe Rossiter had won their first round matches and Tony Fingleton got a bye. More in next months issue. The Maynooth club have won the team of six for the past four years. This event is also sponsored by Mr. Donovan. It is due to be played on the weekend of February 21st and 22nd. Missing from last years line up for Maynooth will be Declan Quigley, retired, Niall Leavy, injured and Paul Ruane doubtful through injury. However, Team Captain Mick O'Donnell assures me that he is reluctant to relinquish our hold on this prestigious trophy.



Roisin Gorey & Louise Walsh Winners Under 12's



Ronan Gorey & Kevin Pealo

Beaten Finalists

Under 10



Donna O'Donnell

Beaten Finalist

Under 10

## Clubs, Organisations and Societies

## Maynooth Flower and Garden Club

Richard Haslem was the demonstrator for our recent Gala Flower Demonstration, which raised €2213 for the Irish Heart Foundation. This makes a total €6025 raised by the Club over the last two years for the I.H.F. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank everyone who supported us in any way in raising this large sum of money.

Our fundraising for the the next two years will be "Enable Ireland".

Very many congratulations to Maureen Fagan, Mary Cleary and Noeleen O'Brien who have all qualified as A.O.I.F.A. Floral Artists Teachers.

Our annual dinner takes place in the Moyglare Manor Hotel on the 20th January.

Next floral demonstration will be on Tuesday 17th February in Loftus Hall, St. Patrick's College. Demonstrator Deirdre Campbell. Visitors always welcome.

May I wish all our friends and supporters a very happy New Year.

Imelda Desmond Chairperson Tel: 6286366



\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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# Brid Feely Local Election Candidate 2004 <u>Maynooth Fíanna Faíl</u>

*E-Maíl:* 

*Contact:* **087 2052649 or 01 6286**094 feelygorey@eircom.net

## **Useful Hints**

## Tangled flexes

- To keep lengths of unused extension lead and detachable appliance flexes neat, fold each one separately, slip it through an empty toilet roll and label it. You can also keep folded flexes in napkin rings or cardboard tubes.
- Or hang your extension leads from a tie rack.
- When putting away appliances that have a flex permanently attached to them, avoid making kinks in the flex by bending it. Hold a coiled flex together with a twist tie or a large rubber band.
- Keep kitchen worktops tidy and safe by using curly, or coiled leads for kettles. Other appliances, such as toasters and coffee-makers, may have flex-storage lugs on the underside; otherwise cut the flex down to the length required.
- Rather than have unmanageably long flexes, keep them fairly short. Use an extension cable when using items such as power tools and mowers.
- To be safe, insert a residual current circuit breaker (RCCB) into the circuit. This will trip should the flex be damaged in any way.

### Таре

- If you're having trouble find the end of a roll of sticky tape, just slide a credit card along the roll until it catches. A knife will also work.
- If tape is difficult to peal off a roll, put a drop of paint thinner on the end and wait 30 seconds.
- To mark the end of a roll, insert a paper clip under the sticky side of the tape, or fold a short piece of tape under.
- Do you need several short pieces of tape that are the same length? Use a craft knife to cut into the roll through several layers of tape at regular intervals. Then peel off one piece at a time.

### **CDs and Tapes**

- To make sure you get the best sound quality from CDs, regularly clean the discs themselves with a special cleaning kit available from most music outlets. Clean the inside of your CD player with a cleaning disc only.
- Don't touch audio or video tapes with your fingers; you'll leave grease marks and particles of grit on them.
- Don't keep tapes on top of television, amplifiers, speakers or VCRs. All these machines generate

magnetic fields that could erase the recordings.

- In the car keep tapes off a hot dashboard; they'll get brittle.
- If you bring a videotape in from the cold, let it warm to room temperature before you play it. This gives condensed moisture on the tape a chance to evaporate. VCRs are sensitive to moisture, and even a small amount can do damage

### Books

- To flatten wrinkled corners, put a sheet of paper on top of the straightened page and press with a warm iron.
- Mend torn pages with gummed tissue or glue rice paper over the tears. Sandwich newly repaired pages between sheets of wax paper so that they won't stick to other pages.
- Have you just spilled water on a book's pages? Put the book into a frost-free freezer. It will draw out the moisture and unstick the pages. If this process leaves the pages of your books crinkled, try pressing them with a warm iron as before.
- Clean leather bindings with saddle soap, neat's foot oil or petroleum jelly. Apply sparingly and gently with your fingers or with a piece of felt, muslin or chamois leather. Wait several hours, then repeat it.
- Protect your books with covers made from greaseproof paper or leftover wallpaper. Fold the paper inside the book cover, using diagonal folds at the corners. Seal with a moderately hot iron.

### Wine stains

- If you spill wine on your clothing or a tablecloth, blot it up immediately with an absorbent cloth, and then sponge it with carbonated or warm water. If the fabric is washable, stretch the stained area over a small saucepan (hold it in place with a rubber band), and pour hot water through it. Wash normally, as soon as possible.
- On non-washable fabrics, sponge the stain with a cloth wrung out in warm detergent solution, followed by clean water. Dry-clean as soon as possible.
- If red wine is spilled on your carpet, sponge it with carbonated water. Blot well, then dab with a cloth wrung out in warm detergent solution, followed by clean water. If a stain remains, a 50-50 solution of glycerine and water can be left on the stain for up to an hour, then rinse it off and blot well.



## Gardening Tips

## **Shallots and Onion Sets**

February signifies the beginning of a new year in the Vegetable growers calendar, as we make a start, provided weather are suitable, with shallots, to be followed at the end of the month by onion sets.

No special preparation is needed for shallots provided the the ground is in good heart and has been recently cultivated. It must be sufficiently dry to be friable and not so sodden that it is trodden into a solid cake. If your soil is wet like this, wait until it improves. If you can go ahead, rake in a dressing of lime, clearing weeds at the same time.

If your shallots [or onion sets] have pieces of long, dry stalks attached, snip these off before planting. Otherwise the birds seem to love having a tug-ofwar until they have uprooted the bulbs. Just push each bulb into the soil leaving only the top third exposed.

Plant them 6 to 9 in apart in rows 1ft. apart. A sunny spot is best. Fortunately they seldom suffer from onion-fly and properly ripened and stored they will last for a year. In fact, save some for planting the following season. The last few remarks also apply to onion sets. Spacing is similar to that for shallots but push these bulbs just below the surface.

The onions grown from sets are usually rather flatter in shape then those grown from seed ,try seeds that are called the ALL-ROUNDER, a name that is suitable not only for their shape but also, I understand, to their cropping quality throughout the country.

If, after you have obtained your onion sets, the weather makes it impossible for you to plant them straight away they must be unpacked and laid out in a single layer in a box in full light in a cool, dry place to prevent them shooting before they go into the ground. If this happens, many of them may well be spoilt and their virtue of not bolting [running to seed] largely destroyed.

**Ranunculus and Anemones** can be set out this month, but on heavy and wet soils anemones will benefit from a raised bed.

Once winter-flowering heathers pass out of flower they can be lightly trimmed with shears. This helps keep them tight and bushy. Take care not to cut back into older wood.

**Prune Hydrangeas.** The old flowering heads of hydranggeas, left on throught the winter to give some protection against frost, can now be pruined out.

**Summer Spinach** can be sown now and will be ready to harvest in May.

Maintain successional sowing every three weeks until July, to giveee crops in season through to September. French Beans. Make further sowings of french beans in pots or under glass.

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## **Features**

# Poets, druids and early Irish poetry

### (Contd.)

One of the most useful texts on the status of the poets is that called The Primer of Stipulations (Uraicecht na Ríar) that may have been put together in the mid-eight century. It says that there are seven grades of poet and three subgrades and gives such information as the name of the grade, the honour-price due to each, the number of people for whom refection is provided, and the period of protection which can be conferred. There are other texts that also give the seven different grades and sometimes they do not agree on the titles given. This seven-fold is used for the lay grades of lords as well as churchmen. The use of seven seems to originate with the Irish church where it was regularized in the seventh and eighth centuries. The churchmen, when they were writing down the secular and the ecclesiastical laws then used the system for all grades of society. This is in keeping with the seven sins, seven gifts of the Spirit and it is said that seven years penance was very common.

In the case of the poet, they must progress from one grade to another throughout his lifetime. The difference between one grade and another is the poet's learning with the exception of the highest grade, the ollam. He is different because his is a specific office or function and texts state very clearly that every area (túath) must have a poet, a lord and a churchman before it is recognized as such. The *ollam* himself examines a poet before the king accepts him in the grade he has reached. From the eleventh century the status of the poet depends on the type of king who appoints him. From the Middle Irish period then, it can be said that the *ollam* is the official appointee of the king. In the earlier period the *ollam* was an official of the *túath*.

The law contains a three generational requirement. The poet's father and grandfather must be poets before he gets the relevant status and honour price. A person from a non-poetic family who reaches the standard required for an ollam will not be recognised as such but as the lower grade, that of *ánruth*. This confines the position of *ollam* to the already existing poetic families and results in a monopoly. The official position of *ollam* is unique and can only be filled by one person. In the earlier period ollam denoted an office as much as a grade of learning, whereas later it could be used to denote the grade alone. This same three generational requirement also applies to noble grades.

There are three requirements of a poet: proper family background, ability and study but natural

ability is the only thing required of a bard. A person from a poetic family who has ability but who has not completed the required studies, the status of the bard is one of the options. To qualify for the status of the fili, on the other hand, one should have ability and study is essential. The ideal is that one should have the proper family background. Where ability is missing then one's poetic family background is only of relevance as long as one's father lives. We will see later that this is echoed by the unusual eight century piece of poetry called 'The Cauldron of Poesy'. This uses a model to account for the various types and degrees of knowledge, including the ecclesiastics, filid, and baird. It also emerges that the essential distinction between *filid* and *baird* was that the *filid* were scholars whereas the *baird* were not. Here are ome examples from the text of Uraicecht na Ríar from the section on the Ollam.

§2 'What is the competence, grade and honour-price of each of them from small to great? Not difficult: the competence of the *ollam* first; he has three hundred and fifty compositions, that is fifty for each grade, he is knowledgeable in all historical science, and he is knowledgeable in the jurisprudence of Irish law. His honour-price is forty *sets*.

§3 There is then an *ollam* who is paid compensation with seven *cumals*, as Irish law say: Who is the poet who is entitled to seven *cumals* for his being insulted, for violation of his protection, for the stealing of his chattels openly or secretly, for abducting his wife in disregard of him for leading the member of his household who is competent to recite into bad practices?

§6 How is a grade conferred on a poet? Not difficult; he shows his compositions to an *ollam* – and he has the seven grades of knowledge – and the king receives him in his full grade, in which the *ollam* declares him to be on the basis of his compositions, and his guiltlessness, and his purity, that is, purity of learning, and purity of mouth and purity of hand and marital union, and purity consisting of being innocent of theft and plunder and illegality and purity of body, that he have only one wife, for one perishes through dark (illicit) cohabitation aside from one chase (woman) on lawful nights.

§7 When is the family a family of poets? Not difficult, their father is a poet and their grandfather.

§8 As for the poet who does not attend a course of study, and has ability in poetry, it is his choice whether it will be the honour-price of a poet or the honour-price of a bard which will go to him, or half the honour-price of his father if he prefer.

And if the son of the poet does not have ability in poetry, he gets half the honour-price of his father as long as he is alive, if however, his father is dead and his grandfather, his poet-status is of no use to him.

The aforementioned 'Cauldron of Poesy' indicates what the poet himself thought of inspiration and

## Features

### (Poets, druids and early Irish poetry cont'd.)

indeed the lack of it. It emphasises the importance of training and ability in composition. The text envisages knowledge in the guise three different cauldrons. The poem is attributed to Amairgin (one of the first poets) and he says:

Mine is the proper Cauldron of Goiriath,

warmly God has given it to me out of the mysteries of the elements;

a noble privilege which ennobles the breast

is the fine speech which pours forth from it.

I being white-kneed, blue-shanked, grey-bearded Amairgen,

Let the work of my *goiriath* in similes and comparisons be related -

Since God does not equally provide for all,

Inclined, upside-down (or) upright,

No knowledge, partial knowledge (or) full knowledge,

It continues:

What does the source of poetic art and every other knowledge consist of? Not difficult: three cauldrons are generated in every person, i.e. the Cauldron of *Goiriath* and the Cauldron of *Érmae* and the Cauldron of knowledge.

5 The Cauldron of *Goiriath*, it is that which is generated upright in a person from the first; out of it is distributed knowledge to people in early youth. 6 The Cauldron of *Érmae*, then, after it has been converted it magnifies; it is that which is generated on its side in a person.

7 The Cauldron of Knowledge, it is that which is generated upside down, and out of it is distributed the knowledge of every other art beside poetic art.

I acclaim the Cauldron of Érmae with understandings of grace with accumulations of knowledge with strewings of *imbas*, (which is) the estuary of wisdom the uniting of scholarship the stream of splendour the exalting of the ignoble the mastering of language ... where the noble are enriched where he who is not noble is ennobled, where names are exalted where praises are related by lawful means with distinctions of ranks with pure estimations of nobility with the fair speech of wise men with streams of scholarship, a noble brew in which is brewed the basis of all knowledge which is set out according to law

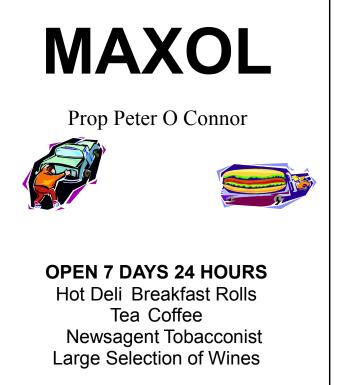
which is advanced to after study which *imbas* quickens which joy converts which is revealed through sorrow; it is an enduring power whose protection does not diminish.

I acclaim the Cauldron of *Érmae*.

For further information see Breatnach, L., *Uraicecht na Ríar- the poetic grades in early Irish Law* (Early Irish law series ii, DIAS 1987) and Gwynn, E.J., 'An Old-Irish tract on the privileges and responsibilities of poets', *Ériu* xiii (1940-42) 1-60, 220-36.

(Contd. next month) Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin





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## Sport

## Maynooth Town F. C. Notes

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Maynooth Town Football has launched a new website. The site is currently under construction and can be visited at www.*maynoothtownfc.com* Our e-mail address has also changed to *info@maynoothtownfc.com* 

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## Maynooth Town F. C. Weekly Lotto Results Sponsored by Caufields Lounge Maynooth

Date	Numbers	Jackpot	3 x €35 Winners			
12-Oct-03	4,9,11,15	€1,800	JOHN GERAGHTY	PATRICIA MORAN	SARAH MORRISSEY	
19-Oct-03	3,7,19,26	€1,875	LAURA DOOGAN	TOM BUCKLEY	LAURA & LEAH EDWARDS	
26-Oct-03	3,8,18,23	€1,950	CHRIS POKAM	KEVIN Mc NULTY	SALLY RABBITTE	
02-Nov-03	4,10,24,27	€2,025	OLLIE GEOGHAN	TOM FLATLEY	NOEL TRACEY	
09-Nov-03	20,21,25,28	€2,100	D O' SULLIVAN	BRENDAN KEEGAN	AONGHUS c/o Caulfields	

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## Features

## Murder of the Month – students who murder

The dreadful killings of the schoolchildren in Columbine are unfortunately not the only event of this kind. In 1997 on February 19<sup>th</sup> there was a similar occurrence in Bethel High School in a remote part of Alaska. The gunman, if a 16 year old may be called such, was Evan Ramsey and he was reacting to ongoing bullying in his school. He had taken enough and he wanted revenge. His school friends knew that something might happen that morning; indeed one of them even brought a camera with him!

Evan did not fit into the regime at Bethel High School, he was constantly bullied in the playground for his slight frame and his shyness. He was getting bad results in his school work and he came from a problem family. He had tried again and again to bring this to the attention of the authorities but although they had tried to deal with the problem in the beginning; after some time he was ignored.

This was the last straw for Evan; even those on whom he should be able to rely had turned their backs on him. How could he ignore the taunts forever as was the advice that he received from the principal.

He arrived at school on the ill-fated morning with a 12gauge shotgun and a bag of shells with murder in his heart. He had warned some of his school friends to avoid certain areas of the school and most of the 20-30 knew that he intended to target the principal Ronald Edwards. He walked into the area where the students gathered between classes. At first he began shooting in the air with students roaring and screaming around him. Many of the students were watching from a loft area above and the boy with the camera forgot to take any photographs.

According to the police, he had told some school mates that he had intended to shoot the principal first and then keep shooting until it was all over. When the police arrived, Evan had already carried out his threat and the principal, Ronald Edwards, lay dying in his wife's arms having been shot in the back. Evan had also shot dead another 16 year old called Josh Palacios, a basketball player whom he accused of bullying him. The young man was lying in the commonroom with a huge wound in his stomach.

The trial treated Evan Ramsey as an adult. He was sentenced to 210 years in prison after a jury rejected his defence that he had been trying 'suicide by cop' – hoping that the police would shoot him while he was carrying out his crime. They also rejected his plea that it was the constant bullying and abuse that drove him to the killing and that this should be used in mitigation.

Eventually, in the Correctional Centre in Seward, Alaska, Evan admitted that he did feel a certain sense of power when he held the gun and that it was the only way to get rid of the anger.

But Evan is by no means alone in his feelings of alienation, fear, rage, hopelessness – feelings that lead them to take similar action to him. Some people maintain that bullying is

a normal part of growing up but the figures are becoming quite alarming. Parents are afraid to send their children to school; Columbine was a real wake up call. In that case as well, it seems that the two young men who carried out the dreadful massacre were also suffering from similar feelings of alienation, hopelessness and bullying. The two young men who committed this atrocity, Dylan Klebod and Eric Harris also said that they felt bullied and alienated.

There were two further incidents in 2001 that were also associated with bullying. The first happened in San Diego. A young man called Andy Williams who was only 15 brought a 22-calibre pistol to his school Santana high School. He shot 15 of his school mates and killed two of them. He is also certified to stand trial as an adult.

Again he felt that he was being bullied and this was borne out by the evidence of some of the school children who admitted that he was verbally abused. They had accused him of being gay but it had not dawned on them how badly he was affected.

The second incident occurred two days and again there was bullying involved. This case involved a girl who felt that she was being bullied in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth Bush was only 14 and her school mates were calling her fat, ugly and stupid. She brought her father's pistol to school and shot one of her few friends in the shoulder. Kimberley Marchese had upset Elizabeth by giving up on being her friend and joining the bullies against her. She did at least admit her guilt and said that she was sorry. She was made a ward of court until she was 21. But her friend Kimberley has had two operations and still has bullet fragments in her shoulder after the attack. She is still in constant pain.

It is estimated that some 160,000 children in the States stay away from school because of bullying and intimidation. Children have to cope with increasing pressure and a competitive life style. In some schools, 80% of children admit being bullied. This will also add to problems in the future. Many of these children's problems begin at home and instead of having a fight with their bullies they now take a gun to school. This also raises the question of gun control in the States and the wide availability of guns to children and to adults. But the problem seems to be confined to the States – the Canadians also hold a huge number of guns yet they do not kill in the same numbers as in the States.

All the students involved in these child killings have the same problems – their feelings of alienations. There have been 37 school shootings in the States between the years 1974-2001 and two-thirds of the people involved said that they suffered feelings of alienation, using words like persecuted, bullied, threatened or injured. In most cases also the killer(s) had confided in a friend of their intention to murder. The psychologist who interviewed the students at Columbine said that bullying was part of the fabric of school life and that the problem will increase until it is treated as a serious issue for children and adults alike.

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## Features (Straight Talking )

## ALCOHOL ABUSE

let's get this out of the way. Sure we drank and boy did we. Whether our day was in the sixties or the seventies, we had a ball. We had the pubs, flat parties, the Harp and the vodka and anything else that made the conversation flow. We drove our cars under the influence, and let it be said that most young people would be horrified to have seen our flamboyant attitude to drinking and driving. It was great to be young and life seemed infinite. So it is very difficult to start moralising about the amount of drink young people are consuming today. Parents are on guicksand if they get involved, head to head with their teenage brood on the extent of the problem. But a problem there is and most reasonable people would agree that having made such great advances in Education, The Arts and self confidence of the individual it would be a tragedy for the country to revert to the historic badge of alcohol worn by the Irish paddy. The Irish, universally acknowledged as a progressive and enterprising race are in many countries treated with ridicule and contempt because of their over the top attitude to alcohol.

The facts are that the consumption of alcohol is now running 50% higher than in 1990. If it were a consumer product with no knock on effect then it would be just another indicator of our increased prosperity. That is not the case. Short term it is effecting policing, education and health care. Long term it must have implications for society in general by way of increased domestic and general violence. This is not an anti drink essay. It is a great time to meet friends in the local, to talk, laugh and discuss the issues of the day. Our Continental friends certainly enjoy having a few drinks in congenial company showing it to be one of life's pleasures and an indication that their society is confident and at peace with it's self.

So what is going on here? The Gardai and the hospital authorities tell us that binge drinking is rampant. Scarce resources are stretched at weekends to cope with its consequences. Gardai on the streets dealing with public disorder, A&E departments overcrowded with sick and vomiting patients and the general population threatened by drink fuelled aggression. Local communities are all experiencing unprovoked attacks by drink fuelled teenagers. The Minister for Justice response is not good enough. To trim one hour off closing time on a Thursday night with other minor changes to the liquor law belittles the man. The situation demands a lot more thought than the minister has apparently given it.

The one quality that society demands from its Government, more than any other, is integrity. The expectation is that the good of the community is of paramount importance and that all legislation is framed to protect and improve the wellbeing of the people. We have seen draconian legislation introduced to control the sale and use of cigarettes. The Government acting on behalf of the people deems the threat to the Nations general health demands that smoking be banned in enclosed public areas. This is logical, balanced legislation as most people will be aware of what excessive smoking can do to people's lungs and general health. The Government is also aware of the demands on hospital beds by patients with respiratory problems caused by cigarette smoking.

There is no doubt that measures can be taken to control the excessive consumption of alcohol. They need not be as dramatic or as draconian as the antismoking legislation as that would not be practical. The action could be taken in a number of areas.

### EDUCATION

There is a need to initiate Individual confidence development programs in our schools. The objective of these programs should be to develop the individual to the extent that alcohol is not a necessary backup when they have to mix in company and express a point of view. This could be done at an early age by encouraging debates, presentations and exchange of views in the classroom. At a later stage when the students are in their teens it should be possible to effectively highlight the financial, health and social consequences of excessive drinking.

#### ADVERTSING

To restrict or ban alcohol advertising in the Irish media is nonsense. It will have no effect because of the International nature of modern communications. Advertising should be positive and intense. The message should be hard hitting and repetitive. It should always be in front of you no matter where you are. It should highlight the attractive alternatives to spending your money on excessive drinking. New car, more holidays, deposit for a house. It should highlight the lousy value for money that binge drinking represents and tries to educate to a more balanced approach to drinking habits.

The Department of Health should fund the Campaign with full Government backing and adequate funds. No interest groups or organisations should be allowed to interfere with the program.

#### Night clubs

These locations appear to be the catalyst of late night violence. There is a legacy of murder, manslaughter and grievous bodily harm outside these night-spots The Gardai have repeatedly pointed to excessive drink as the main problem. Is there not a case for each patron to be handed a voucher for two or three drinks as part of the admission price and that no cash can be exchanged for drink on the clubs premises. Breaches

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For further information, please contact Gráinne at 045 448315 or by e-mail at artscentre@riverbank.ie

STONE

He was stone mad It was said Who sat outside his door In the sunlight, Moon Light, Rainfall and snow

Yet just across the Town Sat the the inmates Of the mental asylum Smoking, shifting Lazily drifting Nights into days

But hadn't he the freedom of the wind Ruffling through his hair Even if his stare Caught someone unaware Of his fragile sensitivities

Was he stone mad? The dog in the street didn't say so As they often sat at his toe His shoes always polished Showing of his neat socked feet To a world that was indiscreet

By Hilary Murnane



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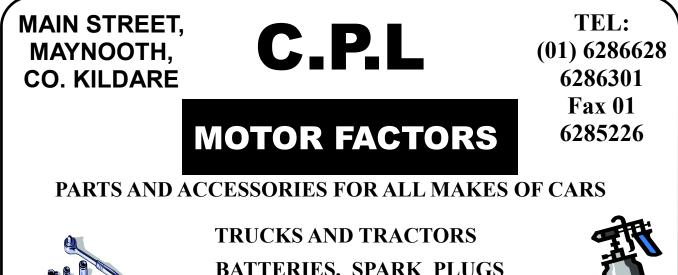




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## Heritage Trail

### Malahide Castle

My historical quest brings me today to an exciting place in the north of the city. The road and the signs lead me past the busy streets, down through the park, and then, finally, I reach my destination and stop spellbound at the entrance to Malahide Castle Demesne.

Malahide Castle which is located 8 miles from Dublin City is truly one of the oldest and the most historic castles in Ireland – for eight hundred years it had been both a home and fortress of the Talbots, one of the most influential family in Ireland. Originally, the Castle belonged to the last Viking King, however, when Richard Talbot was granted the Lordship of Malahide in 1174, he became the owner of the Castle and the land.



Malahide Castle - the stronghold and home castle the Talbot family

During the parliamentary war in 1649 the Talbots lost possession of the Castle for seven years and it was the temporary residence of Oliver Cromwell. After the Castle was returned to the Talbots, it had been the family estate until the sudden death of the last Lord Talbot of Malahide in 1973. Then his sister inherited it and in 1975 it was sold to the local authority that now preserve the Castle and its relics.

We are entering the oldest Oak Room of the Castle – with its 16<sup>th</sup> century carvings, medieval glazing and magnificent furniture. It represents the spirit of that time, when life was stormy and tough, even for the nobility. The Great Hall, with family portraits and a large canvas of the Battle of the Boyne, was a formal banqueting room. It was, indeed, one of the most important medieval rooms in Ireland. Far from official are the intimate rooms of the castle – Library featuring early 1700s wall hangings, Drawing Rooms decorated in Rococo and

Georgian styles, exquisite Victorian bedrooms – they show us the real life of the family. A castle story without a ghost? The family ghost Puck guards this magnificent estate and made his last appearance in 1975, probably expressing regret about the sale of the family home.

The biggest surprise and truly a pearl of Malahide Demesne is the Talbot Botanic Gardens, planted by Lord Milo Talbot. They cover a vast area around the Castle celebrating the mighty glory of the family and the times past.

More information available at www.visidublin.com

serj merzliakov



Malahide Demesne with magnificent Gardens is a popular place and a tourist attraction



## **Party Political**



Emmet Stagg T.D.

### Bond Bridge and the Meadowbrook Link Road

The following motion from Cllr. John McGinley, which was agreed unanimously by the Leixlip Area Committee, will be discussed at the full Council Meeting on 26 January:

"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 Applications granted in Maynooth in order to fund the contract."

The County Manager's present views on the projects are stated in his Draft Budget for 2004 i.e.

"The estimated construction cost of Bond Bridge is €6m. The cost of construction of the Meadowbrook Link Road is in the region of €1.8m. A loan charge provision of €126,973 has been included in recent estimates and, accordingly, a fund in the sum of €427,393 has been accumulated in the capital account. There are strong and coherent engineering reasons for the commencement of the Meadowbrook Link. Accordingly this scheme will commence early in 2004 with the Council having secured, through the planning process, the necessary land and wayleaves.

The financing of the Bond Bridge scheme must now be considered in the context of the likely cost of at least €6m, as indicated above. Loan charges would support expenditure of approximately €1.3m while the balance must be funded from other resources--primarily development contributions. In this context provision has been included within the proposed new development contributions scheme for the financing of this project. Such scheme in turn requires Council approval and must be in operation not later than 11<sup>th</sup> March 2004. On the basis that members may wish to accord priority to the Bond Bridge scheme the position will be discussed with Council with a view to commencing this scheme as early as possible. In the context of development proposals in Maynooth, it may be



Cllr. John McGinley

possible to arrange that part funding be provided for the scheme."

Cllr. John McGinley has taken issue with the Manager on his figures as Cllr. McGinley's records show that the amount accumulated in the capital account should be  $\in 2,094,515$  and not  $\notin 427,393$  as stated in the Manager's report. Cllr. McGinley has given an itemised report to the Manager on the levies collected for each housing estate and on the Budgetary allocation since  $1^{st}$ . January 1999. Using Cllr. McGinley's figures loan charges would support expenditure of  $\notin 6.3m$  and not  $\notin 1.3m$  as outlined in the Managers report.

However, on a more positive note it would appear from the Manager's Budget Report that he is committed to starting work on the bridge as early as possible. On the basis that the members have already prioritised Bond Bridge as far back as the Council Meeting in March 1998, Cllr. McGinley will be demanding that the contract for both projects be awarded now.

### **Draft Development Contributions Scheme**

General Development Levies for new houses are set at €5,000 per dwelling at present, however, in most cases additional special levies are imposed which further increases the total levy per dwelling. Under Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, Local Authorities are obliged to introduce a Development Contribution Scheme or Schemes to replace the existing levies. Section 48 was intended to consolidate existing arrangements for Development Levies and to allow for Development Levies to be used for the provision of local community facilities. It is Cllr. John McGinley's view that there is nothing wrong with the principle of Section 48.

What is wrong is the way in which it is being implemented. Local Authorities are being starved of finance for capital works and community facilities. The Government has in the past 18 months reduced funding for approved roads, water and sewerage projects from 100% central funding to 85% funding

Maynooth Labour News

## **Party Political**

at most and in a lot of instances funding has been reduced by 50%. As a result Local Authorities are using Development Contributions Schemes to fund the massive shortfall and in the case of Kildare County Council this amounts to a staggering €726.5m over the next 20 years.

The County Manager presented Kildare's proposed Scheme at a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December without any consultation with Councillors. Cllr. McGinley strongly condemned the absence of any consultation and he was equally as strong in his condemnation of the content of the Manager's proposed Scheme.

The Manager proposes Development Contributions of  $\in$ 14,000 on all new dwellings and  $\in$ 75 per sq.m. on commercial buildings. Apart from the level and inequity of the Development Contributions, Cllr. McGinley expressed his anger at the way the North of the County was yet again being discriminated against by the Council. Recreational & Amenity proposals for Naas are costed at  $\in$ 12.6m while those for Maynooth are costed at  $\in$ 625,000.

The proposals for Naas include Community Centres and four Children's Playgrounds. While for Maynooth, incredibly, there is no mention of the Community Centre which is part of the Carton Action Area Plan and there is only one playground in the proposals, even though the Maynooth Development Plan calls for two, one at the public Park at Carton Avenue and one at the Harbour Area.

The Draft Scheme is on public display and the public have until 19<sup>th</sup> January to make submissions. Cllr. John McGinley will be making the following submission:

1. Social and affordable houses and subsidised sites shall be exempt from paying a contribution.

2. It is preferable to have separate schemes for each Electoral Area as the needs of each Electoral Area are not the same. However, in the absence of separate schemes for each Electoral Area the contributions levied in each Electoral Area shall be ringfenced for the civil and social projects specified within each Electoral Area in Appendix 1, 2, 3 and 4.

3. The level of contributions shall be per square metre for both Residential and Commercial and shall be as follows:

•	Roads	€51.00
•	Water	€12.00
•	Waste Water	€10.00
•	Surface Water	€10.00
•	Recreation & Amenity	€14.00
•	Community	€3.00

## Total €100.00 Per Sq. M. for both Residential & Commercial

Paying per square metre is more equitable as starter homes will be levied at around  $\notin$ 9,000, while the large houses will be levied at around  $\notin$ 21,000.

Also, there is no logic to the reductions made from the top table to the bottom table on Page 25 i.e. reducing the Recreation & Amenity Contribution from  $\in$ 14 per sq. m. to  $\in$ 4 per sq. m. and the Community Contribution from  $\in$ 3 per sq. m. to  $\in$ 1 per sq. m. makes no sense.

4. Provision shall be made for Multiplex Facilities in Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, Clane and Kilcock. The Local Authority contribution shall be €5m.

5. There are serious errors and omissions in Appendix 3, Provision of Recreational and Community Facilities and Amenities. The North Kildare Swimming Pool Complex is listed as being in the Celbridge Area even though Council Officials advised Councillors that it was to be located at the Leixlip Amenities Centre. Also, if the project is ever to proceed the Council Contribution must be 100% of cost and not 50% as outlined. In the case of Maynooth the following must be added:

• Funding is only included for the provision of one playground, yet the Maynooth Development Plan 2002 calls for two Children's Playgrounds i.e. one at the Harbour Area and one at Carton Avenue Public Park A sum of €125,000 must be added to cover the two playgrounds.

The Community Centre specified in the Carton Action Area Plan has not been included. A sum of €1.5m must be included for this essential amenity.

• The County Council has taken ownership of the Geraldine Hall, a protected building. An allocation must be provided to restore it for community use and €1m should be sufficient.

• No provision has been made for a Skateboard Park in Maynooth even though the provision of one in Maynooth has been agreed unanimously by the Leixlip Area Committee. A sum of €250,000 must be allocated for this purpose.

In the case of Leixlip no provision has been allocated for a Performing Arts Centre and  $\in 1m$  should be allocated for this much needed amenity.

It is worth noting that the towns of Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge are the only towns in the county where there is no allocation for amenity land. There is an allocation of  $\in$ 6m for amenity land in Kilcock, Kildare Town, Newbridge, Naas, Clane and Athy. I assume that this anomaly arises as a result of the non provision of amenity land in the Development Plans drawn up for these towns, unlike what Councillors saw fit to do in Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge.

## Draft Regional Planning Guidelines on Public Display

The Draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area are now on public display. Submissions should be made before 5<sup>th</sup> March to:



49 Cluain Aoibhinn, Maynooth Phone: 6285387

## **Party Political**

The Mid East Regional Authority, St. Manntan's House Kilmantin Hill Co. Wicklow

The guidelines provide the planning framework for the coordination of land use planning across the entire Greater Dublin Area, which covers Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow. The importance of these guidelines cannot be overestimated as they now have statutory recognition by virtue of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Cllr. John McGinley is a member of the Mid East Regional Authority along with Cllr. Paul Kelly from the Leixlip Area Committee. The consultants who prepared the Draft Guidelines had designated Maynooth as a premier growth town with a population range of 25,000 to 40,000 to be achieved during the 16 years duration of the Guidelines.

Cllr. McGinley expressed his very serious concern at this proposal to the senior officials of Kildare County Council and made a written submission to the Director of the Mid East Regional Authority and the Consultants outlining his total opposition to this unworkable proposal. Cllr. McGinley would like to acknowledge the full support of Cllr. Paul Kelly on this very important issue for the people of Maynooth. Their efforts were successful and Maynooth is now designated as a Moderate Growth Town with a population target of 15,000 to year 2016.

The Draft Guidelines can be viewed at Kildare County Council Office, Naas or the Web Site www.rpg.ie. Cllr. McGinley has also asked that copies be placed in public libraries.

#### Traffic Signals at Train Station on the Straffan Road

Cllr. McGinley was given the following update on his motion at the Leixlip Area Committee Meeting of the Council on 5 December:

"A meeting has taken place locally with the Dublin Transportation Office (DTO) and it is hoped that funding will be secured in 2004 in order to provide signals at this location. This can be justified, in technical terms, by expanding the study area of the survey which was carried out on the 9<sup>th</sup> October last. I trust this is to the satisfaction of the members" The Senior Executive Engineer advised Cllr. McGinley that he was 99% sure of getting the DTO funding and that he hoped to install the lights early in the New Year. The exact positioning of the lights has yet to be decided, however, apart from the train users, they should also be of benefit to the residents in the estates of Parklands, Castlebridge, Silken Vale and Old Greenfield.

### Footpath from Hand's Corner to TESCO's

As a follow up to his motion Cllr. McGinley was advised at the December Area Meeting that the Council have €50,800 available from Development Levies to carry out the necessary work on the hard shoulder and footpath from Hand's Corner to the Dentist's. They hope to carry out the work early in the

New Year.

#### Bus Bays at the Girls' School

Cllr. McGinley was given the following follow up to has motion at the Area Meeting in December:

"The Council's Consultants, Moylan & Associates, have prepared a further draft design which is currently being examined by the DTO. It is hoped, therefore, to achieve closure on this matter at an early date."

Hopefully this long drawn out saga is finally coming to an end and that the much needed bus bays and safety improvements will be in place shortly.

### Pubic Lighting and Footpath on Celbridge Road

Last year Cllr. John McGinley allocated €12,000 from his Discretionary Grant Funding for the installation of public lighting along the Celbridge Road , from the beginning of Laurence Avenue up to the Gael Scoil. He has now asked the Council to extend the lighting and footpath down to the Straffan Road junction, in the interests of safety.

### Dead Trees at Rathcoffey Road at Castledawson

As residents will be aware ClIr. John McGinley allocated €1,300 in 2002 from his Discretionary Grants for landscaping and tree planting in the area on the Rathcoffey Road, outside Castledawson. The Residents Association has advised ClIr. McGinley that six of the trees have died and he has asked the Council to get the contractor to replace them.

#### Provision of Footpath from Parsons Hall to the Soccer Pitches

Cllr. McGinley was given the following update on his motion at the December Area Meeting:

- Cost of footpath on the bridge is between €1.2m and 1.5m.
- Cost of footpath from Parsons Hall to the bridge is €65,000
- Cost of footpath from the bridge to the pitches is €35,000

As the cost of the footpath on the bridge is very high Cllr. McGinley will initially pursue the construction of the footpaths to and from the bridge.

#### Planning Application for 241 Dwellings at Newtown, Maynooth

Last August Kildare County Council refused planning permission for 238 dwellings on this 18 acre site which is at the back of Castle Dawson and Parsons Hall estates.

Incredibly, Sherwood Homes have re-applied for planning permission and this time for 241 dwellings. Cllr. McGinley will again be supporting the residents of the area and objecting to the granting of planning permission. It is not that the

## **Party Political**

residents, or Cllr. McGinley are against housing on this particular site The main reasons for objecting are:

Premature pending the carrying out of the flood relief measures specified for the Meadowbrook and Lyreen in the Hydro Environmental Ltd. Report dated July 2001 which was carried out for Kildare County Council following the flooding in the area.

Premature pending the completion of Bond Bridge and the Meadowbrook Link Road.

Poor standard of design

The density at 13 units per acre is excessive and is in conflict with the recommendations of the Residential Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

### Leixlip Amenities Centre is preferred site for the North Kildare Swimming Pool Complex

When the Council approved new swimming pool complexes for Naas and Athy in 2001 Clir. John McGinley proposed a motion calling for a similar public amenity for North Kildare. This policy was agreed and in order to pursue it the Council hired consultants to select the most suitable location for the complex. Unfortunately, their report did not address the question as it stated that Maynooth, Celbridge or Leixlip could facilitate such a complex, something that we already knew. The 11 Councillors from the 3 Areas in the North of the County narrowed the site selection down to three locations i.e. Mooretown (Celbridge), Doyles land at Carton, Maynooth and the Leixlip Amenities Centre.

As the Councillors could not agree on a single site they unanimously decided that the decision would be made by the Director of Corporate and Cultural Affairs.

A joint meeting of the Leixlip , Celbridge and Clane Area Committees was held on 24 November to hear the report, from the Director, and in it he favoured the Leixlip Amenities Centre as the preferred location.

Clir. John McGinley stated that he had hoped that the Maynooth site would have been the preferred choice, however, he accepted the decision of the Director and stated that the important thing now was to proceed with haste to get the complex built. A method of funding the complex has already been agreed by the Area Committee as a result of the acceptance of Clir McGinley's motion last April. His motion called for a Scheme of Development Contributions, as required under the Planning and Development Act 2000, to fund the cost of Social Infrastructure such as Swimming Pool Complexes, Community Centres, Arts Centres, Children's Playgrounds and Skateboard Parks.

Cllr.McGinley stated the North Kildare Swimming Pool Complex should not be done on the cheap and he called for a full suite of facilities in the complex to match that in any of the private pools. This means that the complex will cost about 10m euro, however, with the amount of new buildings in the pipeline for North Kildare it should not take long for the capital cost to be met from the Development Contributions.

It is also Cllr. McGinley's view that a loan should be taken out by the Council to construct the Complex to be repaid from the Development Contributions so that we would not have to wait for the Development Contributions to accumulate.

### Bottle Bank Recycling Facility at Maynooth Car Park

Residents will be aware that there is a serious problem at the bottle bank in the car park in Maynooth. The problem is two fold:

Rehab don't empty the containers in time and over the Christmas period they became full very quickly.

People are dumping beside the containers and this is happening on a regular basis and not only when the containers are full. Just because the containers are full is not an excuse for dumping beside them and people will be prosecuted for doing so.

In relation to Rehab Cllr. McGinley has again asked the Council to make sure that they empty the containers before they are full. He has also asked the Council to get Rehab to put a notice with their telephone number on the side of each bank and requesting the public to advise Rehab when the banks are full.

### No Christmas Lights in Maynooth

Many people contacted Cllr. John McGinley complaining about the absence of Christmas lights in Maynooth. Unfortunately, many of them thought that it was the County Council or the Community Council who erect the lights on the Main Street.

The fact is that it is the Maynooth Chamber of Commerce who have the responsibility and they have been doing a good job, until this Christmas, when for some unknown reason they did nothing. What is worse is that they did not advise anyone that they were not going ahead with the lights.

All of the surrounding towns, most of which would only have a fraction of the wealthy businesses of Maynooth, were able to erect lights. What happened in Maynooth this year is a disgrace and must never happen again. We are very lucky in Maynooth to have a wonderful tree lined Main Street. I would like to suggest to the Chamber of Commerce that they get businesses to adopt a tree so that each Christmas all of the trees will be lit up. I believe that the lights in the trees would look much better than having lights strung across the road as was the case in previous years. Apart from the initial cost of buying the lights the ongoing cost would not be significant.

### Cllr. John McGinley can be contacted at: 6285293h ; 7026536w ; 087 9890645 ; E mail jmcginley@eircom.net ; www.labour.ie/johnmcginley/

## 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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Tel: 01-6285922/6285053

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### EDITORIAL STATEMENT

The **Maynooth Newsletter** is published as a service to the people and organisations of the neighbourhood. It is an 'open access' publication and will generally carry any material submitted to it, subject to the law of the land and to editorial judgement. This judgement is exercised by the editorial committee in order to preserve the independence and balance of the Newsletter. The committee reserves the right to alter, abridge or omit material which in it's opinion might rend the Newsletter the promoter or mouthpiece of sectional interests. Any contributor seeking further guidelines in this matter is invited to contact the committee.

### 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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### **RIGHT TO REPLY**

In fairness to our readers and given that this magazine is not insured against libel damages or cost, we undertake the following:

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

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### **KILCOCK DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION**

The next support meeting for parents of children with Dyslexia will take place on Monday 2 February at 8.00 pm. In Scoil Dara, Kilcock Deirdre Mc Guinness from DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND will be attending this meeting. This is an opportunity for parents to ask questions they may have in regard to Dyslexia

> Contact: Val Mulligan. PH 01 6284247

## Maynooth Parent & Toddler Group

We meet on Friday mornings, 10am-12pm, during term time for a friendly chat and unstructured play for the children. We meet in the basement at the rear of the Parochial House on Moyglare road. Coffee, tea and juice provided. €3 per This is a non-denominational session. group, all welcome.

### For further infomation Contact Margaret 01 6291063,

### **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