

*For all the people of  
Maynooth  
December 05 - January 06*

**Out with the Old ....**



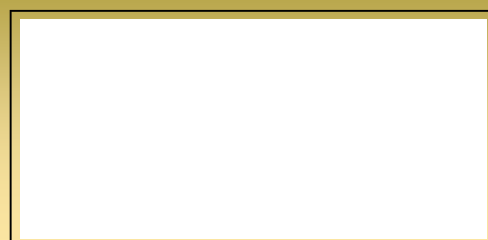
**... and in with the New!**



# Maynooth Newsletter

Issue No. 333

Price €2.00



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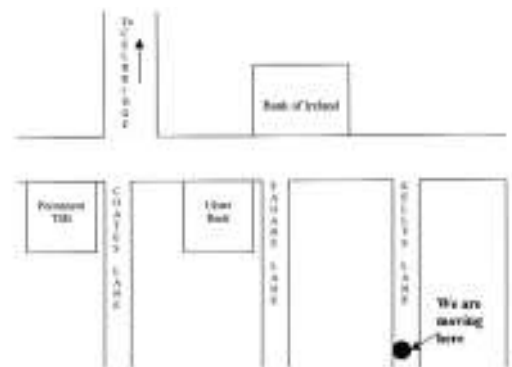
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## Editorial

The editorial board would like to wish the readers of the Newsletter a Happy Christmas and a peaceful, fruitful New Year. We would also like to congratulate the Traders Association on the erection of the Christmas lights in the town again this year.

However, possibly the greatest talking points in the town at present are the problems of traffic and parking. The opening of Manor Mill and the change in the timing of the multitude of traffic lights that have proliferated in the town has led to traffic chaos. This was not helped by the fact that the building of a pavement close to the exit/entrance to the Motorway reduced the traffic flow in that area to one lane.

The Community Council has written to Kildare County Council to ask them to re-set the traffic lights. They are now in the control of a private company and the number of traffic lights in the area were imposed as part of the planning permission by An Bord Pleanála. The timing for the right hand turn from the Straffan Road has been reduced by half causing a traffic jam in both lanes. The closure of Bond Bridge and the Rathcoffey Road means that little or no traffic is using that area, however, the timing of the lights has not been emended accordingly.

This traffic chaos and congestion would be avoided if proper planning were observed in Maynooth. But as is the problem countrywide, the planning process works backwards – build the houses and the shopping developments first, allow traffic to grow to unmanageable proportions before providing the proper infrastructure. The Meadowbrook Link and the construction of the new Bond Bridge are welcome developments but look at the time frame involved. The crazy traffic problems in a relatively small town will be further exacerbated by the Mycete development on the Moyglare Road, again given permission by An Bord Pleanála. Maynooth will not only become impassable, it will become Kildare's answer to the M50 where nothing can move. The huge development proposed by Tesco at the Dublin end of the town is set to entice thousands more shoppers and vehicles into our little town.

The corresponding, related problem is that of parking, or indeed the lack of it. In comparison with our near neighbour and growing dormitory county, Meath, Maynooth is relatively lucky to have a semi-decent public transport service but the lack of adequate parking facilities at the train station is resulting in frustrated rail passengers resorting to using adjacent housing estates for all day parking. The public car parks in the town are also used for the same purpose so that we, the residents who live and work in Maynooth, have nowhere to park during the day. This cannot be good for business in the town and negates all the supposed benefits of the bypass.

But enough whinging. Again let me wish our readers a Happy Christmas wherever they are shopping. 'Tis the season of goodwill" after all. A last word, let us try to remember those who have been left behind and forgotten by the so-called Celtic Tiger and support the causes of such groups as the St Vincent de Paul, Focus and others during this spending season.

Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin

## Contents

### Page

2	3	Community Council Notes
4,5,6,		Planning Permissions
10		Crossword
11		Finding Christmas
12		Useful Tips
14		Poetry Corner
16,18 20,		Maynooth Citizens Information Notes
21,		Manor Mills Opening
22		Trocaire Relief Programme
24		Recipes
28,30,32,		Operation Christmas Child
34,36,		
38		Gardening Tips
41		Homoeopathy Explained
44		Drink Recipes for Xmas
48		Calendar
56		Maynooth Girl's Gaelic Football Team
58,60		Maynooth Beaver Scouts,
62,64		
66		Junior Soccer Notes
68		Maynooth GAA News
69,70		St Mary's Band
74		Maynooth Golf Society
76,78		Maynooth Labour News
80,82,84,		
85,86,87		
88,90		Catherine Murphy T. D. (News)

# Maynooth Community Council Notes

## Community Centre

A meeting has taken place with Kildare County Council and Maynooth Community Council stated Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin, Brid Feely, Peter Connell, Tony Nealon attended. Peter Minnock, Kildare County Council attended, also three area Councillors. It was felt that this was a very important meeting for Maynooth.

While it has become clearer what Kildare County Council has in mind, we the people of Maynooth must decide what we want and have a plan now.

## Local Matters

The question of HGV going through the town was raised again, while it was felt that there was a improvement, there was still some HGV's coming into the town. John McGinley advised people to take the number and pass it onto the Garda. It might be helpful if signs were put on the Kilcock and Moyglare roads saying no HGV's.

## Traffic Lights

The question of the very serious state of traffic in Maynooth was raised. It was noted if going right, from Straffan Road at the Square the timing is halved also there is a longer free flow if going left as a result. It was noted that Traffic Consultants have a certain interest in the timing of the lights, also that these Consultants won't meet with Kildare County Council. Brid Feely noted that business people are worried about this.

Paul Croughan said things are getting worse, he queried who is running the town.

When a traffic survey was done a couple of years ago it was done in July, when traffic is not as heavy as in September or October.

## Moyglare Road

Paul Croughan bought up the dreadful state of Moyglare Road, he said it's a disgrace that the road has been let get so bad. John McGinley advised that work would begin in a two weeks, manholes and shower drains have to be raised before resurfacing can start. John asked for complete re-surfacing to be done.

## Harbour Action Area Plan

The Action Area Plan will be up for discussion in November. Senan Griffin said that this is a crucial plan for Maynooth. He also noted the planned upgrading of the Canal making it a very important

community amenity, also important to cut out anti-social behaviour here.

## Sub-Committees

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

Plans are going well

### Twinning

This committee are looking for people with ideas on this to get involved.

### Tidy Towns

Paul Croughan said the Tidy Towns is not about maintenance still a lot of work going on. He said their committee are looking at what went wrong and also hoping to work closer with Maynooth Community Council and Kildare County Council.

### Christmas Lights

Brid Feely said that new wiring going up also looking for support from the community as well as business people.

### Tesco Presentation Carton Park

Mr. Michael Sullivan, Development Manager, Ms. Una Cross, Mr. Owen Reynolds and Ms. Mary Corrigan attended the meeting.

Mr. Sullivan said they purchased the mart site some years ago and it has taken two years for it to come this far, he also said that the Mill Street and then the Collinstown then came along. He said Maynooth has been identified as a retail centre for North Kildare and with 40,000 identified vehicles passing Maynooth everyday it is planned to bring some of these people to shop in Maynooth. He said 17,000 of the population live within ten mins of Maynooth, 180,000 within 20 mins and ¼ million within 30 mins. He showed how the population has expanded with 20% of the population over 45 years and 80% under 45 years.

He said the new Tesco which will be 80,000 sq.ft., and will be built on the mart site. This will be built on stilts and will have car parking underneath it, also to be included is a Medical Centre, which he felt would be of great benefit to the town.

Mr. Sullivan said that a crèche is also to be built, and a drive-through restaurant. There are to be 16 new retail shops to be built and these will be built on the old Tesco site when the existing store is demolished, these will house names like Next and Debenhams.

# Maynooth Community Council Notes (contd)

## Make it a Fairtrade Christmas in Maynooth

There are to be covered walkways to be introduced.

The extra traffic that would be coming to Maynooth was raised; Mr. Sullivan said that the fashion retailers would possibly have only on delivery a week, others possibly only every two weeks.

The question of a cinema was raised by Hugh Gallagher, however, Mr. Sullivan said that a cinema was not a viable project for them. He said that some people in Naas were trying to get a cinema going but were finding it very hard, but he said if someone comes up with a plan that they will look at it.

Mr. Sullivan then went onto say that the existing nine units would be upgraded to blend them in with the new plan, he said the new car parking plan will face these units. Senan Griffin felt that these shops offer a personal service to the people of Maynooth and he said he would be concerned and would want them protected. Mr. Sullivan said that the shops are indeed part of a very viable part of the development, he said the whole centre will have to do well, also with more people coming into the centre, these shops will benefit.

Mr. Sullivan said they have significantly contributed to a relief road, re- the BBlacklion Road, also that a significant amount of space will be given to the community in the centre.

Mr. Sullivan then stated that 1,300 people would be employed in the new store. The fact that people living in Leinster Park do have worries about the new development was raised by Tom McMullon. Mr. Sullivan said that they are working with landscape architects at the moment and will be planting mature trees to help with the landscape here. Senan Griffin said building still too close to the wall here. Mr. Sullivan said there was still room for planting trees.

It was noted that the stone wall will continue along the front the of new development. Car parking will be free. New building to be built first and then the others will follow.

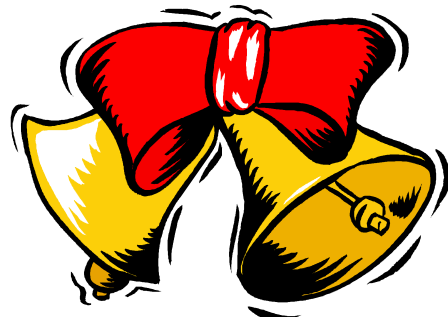
Mr. Sullivan said they are the retailer developing this project, so they want everything to be right. This concluded the presentation

Next Community Council meeting on the 12th December.

PRO Marie Gleeson

Maynooth Fairtrade Steering Committee has continued to make progress in their objective of achieving Fairtrade status for the town. At this time shoppers have a growing choice of places to buy products such as coffee, chocolate, tea etc. Among the places you can now shop or enjoy Fairtrade tea and coffee are: Tesco, Supervalu, Londis, Dunnes Stores, Castle Stores, the Glenroyal Hotel and Coffee Dock (over former TSB premises) . In addition great progress is being made in NUI Maynooth in promoting Fairtrade. A number of outlets are established on the University Campus both within individual Departments and in the Student's Union. The committee welcomes any other retailers or coffee clubs that might want to join this list.

With a growing number of stockists, Maynooth Fairtrade Steering Committee urges shoppers to ask for Fairtrade products where possible when shopping. Having a coffee during their Christmas shopping, or even during a work break, you can help by looking for the Fairtrade signs and asking if your coffee is Fairtrade or not. With a push from us all Maynooth could achieve Fairtrade status in the New Year. Surely there is no more suitable town in Ireland to achieve this than Maynooth with its long tradition of outreach to the Third World. Do your bit to help producers in the Third World get a fair deal for their labours. Ask for Fair Trade products where you can- and ask why not where you can't!



# Planning Permissions

FILE NUMBER	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT ADDRESS	APPLICATION TYPE	APPLICATION RECEIVED	DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT LOCATION
05/2416	Andrew & Martina Cully	26 Rockfield Park Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	12/10/05	First floor extension above the existing single storey structure to side of existing house and two storey extension to the rear of the single storey structure. Also with the velux windows to side and rear	26 Rockfield Park Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2418	Gerry Donovan	1202 Old Greenfield Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	12/10/05	Single storey extension to the rear, a new porch to the front and associated works	356 Old Greenfield Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2448	Richard & Pat Watson	Brynmill Leinster Park Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	17/10/05	New porch to front of existing house	Brynmill Leinster Park Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2466	Barry Walsh	10 Parklands Lawns Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	19/10/05	Ground floor extension to the rear and first floor extension to the side and rear of existing house	10 Parklands Lawns Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2474	Noel Carr	Clonfert Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	20/10/05	Dormer bungalow, domestic garage, secondary effluent treatment system and all associated site works	Clonfert Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2484	Tommy Hopkins	58 Carton Court Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	21/10/05	Two storey extension to side and rear of the existing dwelling, along with a single storey porch extension to the front, all associated site works and services	157 Glendale Meadows Leixlip Co. Kildare
05/2537	John McNerney	154 Esker Lawns Lucan Co. Dublin	P	27/10/05	Modifications to previously approved application, planning permission nos. 01/1560 & 05/956. The modifications include minor alterations to the windows style & position, the shape of balconies on the north east & south west elevations etc.,	Mariaville Moyglare Rd. Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2539	Daragh & Margaret O' Connor	15 Rockfield Grove Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	27/10/05	Single storey extension to side of existing dwelling house and porch to front of existing dwelling house	15 Rockfield Grove Rail Park Maynooth Co. Kildare



# Planning Permissions

FILE NUMBER	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT ADDRESS	APPLICATION TYPE	APPLICATION RECEIVED	DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT LOCATION
05/2547	Desmond Noone	Laragh Demense Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	27/10/05	1. to demolish existing single storey dwelling. 2. to build replacement storey and a half type dwelling in lieu of dwelling to be demolished. 3. To provide small waste water treatment unit to current EPA guidelines (Biocycle granted previously etc)	Laragh Demense Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2558	Jackie Cousins & Godfrey O' Dowd	41 The Steeple Moyglare Abbey Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	28/10/05	Two storey extension to side with ground floor portion and part of ground floor of existing house for use as a Montessori/ Playschool centre	41 The Steeple Moyglare Abbey Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2592	Eamon Cunningham	19 College Park Grove Dublin 16	P	02/11/05	New end-of-terrace two storey house attached to the side of the existing 2 storey house along with widening of the front access driveway to serve the new house and an additional vehicular access and gate on the side road to serve the existing house	28 Moyglare Village Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2611	Brendan Keegan	2 Rockfield Green Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	02/11/05	Two storey extension to the front, side and rear of existing domestic dwelling	2 Rockfield Green Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2599	F. O' Giollain & E. Martin	14 Parklands Close Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	03/11/05	First floor extension to side of existing dwelling house over existing garage conversion and a porch to front of existing dwelling house	14 Parklands Close Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2625	Patrick & Sarah O' Callaghan	170 Rockfield Square Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	08/11/05	Erect a first floor extension to side of existing dwelling house over existing garage conversion with study area created below and also a single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling house	170 Rockfield Square Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2636	Kevin Hoare	Catherinestown Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	09/11/05	Retain minor alterations to dormer bungalow granted permission on reg. ref. 98/1533. These minor alterations to include two additional dormer windows together with omission of four Velux windows on first floor on rear elevation etc.	Catherinestown Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2646	Brian, Joe & Padraig McHale	Tagadoe Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	09/11/05	6. no all-weather sports pitches with associated netting (6 metres in height), lighting (12 metres in height), car parking area and new entrance. We also propose to construct a 300 metre driving range to include tee-off structure (20 no. pods)etc	Tagadoe Maynooth Co. Kildare

# Planning Permissions

FILE NUMBER	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT ADDRESS	APPLICATION TYPE	APPLICATION RECEIVED	DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT LOCATION
05/2650	Patrick Burke	Barrogstown Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	11/11/05	Demolition of existing single storey dwelling and garage and replacement with a new two storey dwelling incorporating a garage, and associated works	Barrogstown Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2654	William Boyd	517 Newtown Road Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	11/11/05	Detached dormer type dwelling house with proposed new driveway entrance in existing rear garden of existing dwelling house and all associated site works	517 Newtown Road Maynooth Co. Kildare



## ***Kilcock Mortgage Centre***

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**Clonagh, Maynooth, Co. Kildare**

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**9 Manor Mills Shopping Centre,**  
**Maynooth.**  
**Tel: 01-6290811**

**Shanique** women's fashion, located in the new Manor Mills shopping centre in Maynooth, offers you the best of high street, Irish and French fashions this Christmas, along with the seasons must have accessories. We stock the best in brand names including **Joseph Ribkoff, Debra Veale, Animale, Fille des Sables, Peppercorn, Bugarri, Brandtex, concept UK and Villa Bleue.** Our range of accessories include bags, belts, gloves, jewellery, scarves and watches for today's fashion conscious woman. We can also facilitate you with deposits on goods.



**Shanique** is located near the main entrance of the shopping centre.  
**Opening Hours: Mon, Tues & Sat 9.30-6, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9.30-9.**  
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Tue 20th Dec	8 a.m.—10 p.m.
Wed 21st Dec	8 a.m.—10 p.m.
Thur 22nd Dec	8 a.m.—12 p.m.
Fri 23rd	8 a.m.—12 p.m.
Christmas Eve	8 a.m.— 6 p.m.

**Happy Christmas to all our Customers**

**Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lore Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus,  
I ask thee to stay.  
Close by me forever,  
And love me I pray.

Bless all the dear children,  
In thy tender care.  
And take them to heaven,  
To be with thee there.

**The First Noel**

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepards in fields as they lay;  
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel*  
*Born is the King of Isreal.*

They looked up and saw a star  
Shinning in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

They entered in those wise men three  
full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

The let us all with on accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
And with his blood mankind hath bought. *refrain*



Kathleen O'Reilly, Honorary President of Maynooth Labour Branch is presented with a bouquet of flowers by Emmet Stagg TD at a surprise party to mark her 80th Birthday in the Spa Hotel, Lucan on Saturday, September 10th, 2005.



## *Mystique Mill Street Maynooth*

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*Email: marybradley@eircom.net*



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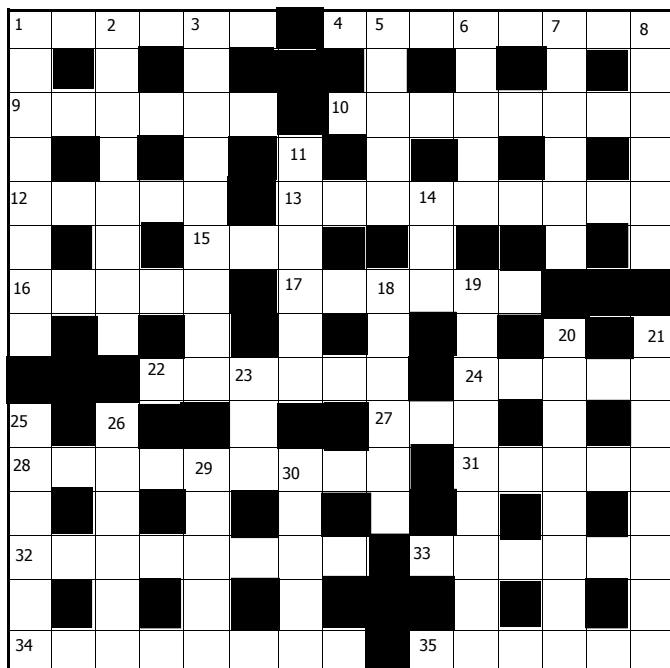
*Sun 12-6 p.m..*



*Happy Christmas to all our Customers*

# Crossword

No: 40



Entries before: 12th December 2005

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Across:

1. Canter to the Roost for the drink of the Gods (6)
4. Coo, steer away from the wood preservative (8)
9. Cooks in the oven (6)
10. Hang tics together for blistering reviews (8)
12. O Maxi, it's true (5)
13. Sounds like I'm fond of being fair and objective (9)
15. Type of leprechaun (3)
16. When I reach this, I'm lit (5)
17. Seems like my coif's mess (6)
22. Or trade for a painful experience (6)
24. Will the vehicle proceed for the transported goods (5)
27. Large animal, formerly resident in Ireland (3)
28. On the circumference (9)
31. The M.A.S.H character is the same, backwards or forwards (5)
32. Learned persons that Maynooth is famous for (8)
33. Let Tat gossip about others (6)
34. Sore tans for the upper house members (8)
35. Fortified wine who works for the Council (6)

## 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!**  
**Mary Deane**  
**Moyglare**  
**Maynooth**

## Down:

1. In short, Norman is usually a friend at the end (8)
2. Sounds like Ma is the cleaning lady with the irresistible quality (8)
3. Measure distance from the ground in real time with a T (9)
5. What a caper to go back over what we've said (5)
6. Upset the toter for the river animal (5)
7. The beginning ends with something for the tonic (6)
8. Swallow up the chasm after N (6)
11. Mix Fianna Fail initially in a pile of stuff and nonsense (6)
14. The Special Armed Services make a fool of themselves (3)
18. Where Sally and the Cats live? (6)
19. Did the Rooster and the Donadea Pub together form a nocturnal insect? (9)
20. Or red Pat eats animals (8)
21. Upset Troy's cue to show good manners (8)
23. a note to reverse the hod (3)
25. Mix up maps with the SS and suffer involuntary contractions (6)
26. Guttersnipe (6)
29. I plot with the helmsman (5)
30. A blunder (5)

## Across:

1. Staggering, 8. Overdue, 9. Cable, 10. Saps, 11. Boar, 12. Lap, 14. Lariat, 15. Lesser, 18. Dab, 20. Clip, 21. Form, 23. Tyler, 24. Gherkin, 25. Rottweiler,

## Down:

1. Sweeper, 2. Andy, 3. Gregor, 4. Recorder, 5. Nobel, 6. Consolidate, 7. Temperament, 13. Baccarat, 16. Snooker, 17. Single, 19. Bilbo, 22. Bell.



# Features



Some members of the cast

## Finding Christmas

The boys of St. Mary's Boys' National School will be presenting another musical this year.

Following on from the success of "Cool Colin" this show is another world première and has also been written by Mr. Grundy.

This year the cast will be drawn from Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First and Second Classes. There will be 225 boys involved in the show.

The musical tells the story of two boys, Sean and Peter, who write to Santa Claus and ask for lots of presents. Later, as they watch the news, they realise that other children aren't as lucky as they are and so they make their way to the North Pole to ask Santa Claus to give some of their toys to the poorer children.

The show features dancing Snowmen, Friendly Penguins and Santa is hoping to make an appearance.

"Finding Christmas" will be on in the Parish Hall on December 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and tickets are on sale from the school. Last year's show sold out weeks before opening night so early booking is essential.

# Useful Tips

## Finger Paints

A colourful diversion to keep your children occupied.

*To make enough for three colours*

6oz/175g plain flour  
8fl oz/225 ml water  
3 tablespoons glycerine  
Assorted food colorings

Mix the flour and water in a medium-size bowl. Divide the mixture equally among three small bowls. Add 1 tablespoon glycerine to each batch, stirring constantly, to which you have added the food colouring of your choice.

## Facial scrub

Avoid messing up your floors by applying this over the sink.

*To make enough for one treatment*

6 tablespoons cornmeal  
2 tablespoons honey  
1 tablespoon ground almonds  
or walnuts

Combine the ingredients in a small bowl, adding a little water if the mixture is too dry to apply easily. To use, pack the scrub onto your face and leave for about 5 minutes. Remove with warm water and a flannel.

## Bath Oil

A soothing skin softener.

*To make enough for one bath*

8fl oz/225ml honey  
16fl oz/450ml milk  
16 tablespoons sea salt or cooking salt  
4 tablespoons bicarbonate of soda  
4fl oz/115ml baby oil

In a large bowl, combine the honey, milk, sea salt and bicarbonate of soda. Stir well. Pour the mixture into a bathful of warm water and then add the baby oil. Mix well with the water. Make fresh for each time of use.

## Lost pets

- Have your name, address and phone number engraved on a tag and make sure your pet wears it on its collar at all times.
- Keep a clear colour photo of your pet and a list of its distinguishing marks

- If your pet is missing, search the neighbourhood and call the local police stations, animal shelters and vet surgeries.
- If you find a pet with a collar but address contact the police.
- The latest in pet identification is a microchip implant under the skin of the pet which contains a number unique to your animal.

## Bicycle safety

- Wear light-coloured clothing, preferably with a reflective belt, arm bands or jacket and invest in a safety helmet.
- Paint your bike with luminous paint, and make sure it carries effective lights and reflectors.
- Watch out for pedestrians who step onto the road unexpectedly.
- Be sure to indicate clearly when you are turning left or right.
- Concentrate on the road ahead and try to avoid bumps or potholes which make you lose control.
- Don't ride on the pavement!
- Don't overtake vehicles in the face of oncoming traffic or ride on the nearside of a vehicle.

## Piggy banks

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# Poetry Corner

## SANTA CLAUS

*Santa Claus is on his way  
With gifts for each child  
Ode will travel on a sleigh  
Through snow barren wild  
Rudolph with its red nose  
Will carry Santa without fail  
For Father Christmas clearly knows  
Each and every hill and dale*

*Down the chimney he will go  
With the greatest expertise  
Any chimney Santa can undergo  
With toys for all to please  
Ho Ho Ho onward Santa go  
Through valleys for and near  
All the children love him so  
And he brings so much cheer*

*On a snowy Christmas Eve  
While the stars twinkle bright  
Many blessings we receive  
To each girl and boys delight  
So sleep tight each one of you  
And dream of Christmas Day  
Santa loves you through and through  
In his own special way*

## SNOWMAN

*There you stand on the hill  
As white, as white can be  
You stay so calm and still  
And never complain to me  
In fact you are great fun  
When I see you standing there  
When winter is over and done  
You will vanish to thin air  
A carrot is for your nose  
With buttons for your eyes  
There you are in winters pose  
Made of snowflakes from the skies  
Stay with me forever more  
My treasured winter friend  
But you will melt to the shore  
And that will be your end  
I will wait potentially then  
Till next winter comes its way  
And I will build you up again  
On a snowy, snowy day*

## OUR CHRISTMAS ROBIN

*A robin perched on a holly tree  
Christmas morning bright and early  
Plucking berries as its eyes see  
It feasted on them daily  
Chuttering as loud as it could  
It seldom felt no danger  
A little creature feeling so good  
Never minding any stranger*

*A songster of many - it is indeed  
As all birds are of plenty  
Once it had its daily feed  
Its tiny stomach is never empty*

*Fly with me my little one  
To a place full of holly  
Until your berries are all gone  
On your Christmas time so jolly*

Patrick Murray

**Mother  
Barbara**

**Twins**

**Father  
Liam**

*You both are so beautiful to me  
With a wonderful future to see  
No matter what we may find  
Your welfare be always in Mums mind  
Bless you both I have to say  
Share many of a sunshine day  
A girl and a boy born out of love  
A precious gift from the Heavens above  
Enjoy life with good health and prosperity  
While the years swiftly they flee  
May you grow to be strong and stern  
Many new things for to learn  
And if life ever hurts you so  
Blessings upon you both grow  
Little children you are of prayer  
In a family filled with care  
Life in time may be hard I know  
And Mum and Dad love you so  
You are now in a secure home  
Both together never on your own  
Live well and be good each day  
The future will have its say  
Now twins so sprightly and young  
You really are so much fun*



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# Clubs, Organisations and Societies

## Maynooth Citizens Information Notes

### Question

What are the revised Medical Card Income guidelines?

### Answer

Both the Medical Card income guidelines and the income guidelines for the new GP Visit Card have been increased by 20%. The GP Visit Card entitles you to attend your family doctor free of charge but you have to pay for any drugs etc., you need. You apply for either card on the same application form, which is available from your local health centre or Local Health Office.

### Medical Card/GP Visit Card Income Guidelines - October 2005

#### Weekly income limit (gross less PRSI and tax deductions)

	Medical Card	GP Visit Card
<b>Single Person living alone</b>		
Aged up to 66 years	€184.00	€230.50
Aged 66 - 69 years	€201.50	€252.00
<b>Single Person Living with Family</b>		
Aged up to 66 years	€164.00	€205.00
Aged 66 - 69 years	€173.50	€217.00
<b>Married Couple/Single Parent Family</b>		
Aged up to 66 years	€266.50	€333.00
Aged 66 - 69 years	€298.00	€373.00
Aged 70 - 79 years	€595.50	€745.00
Aged 80 years or over	€627.00	€783.50
<b>Additional Allowances for each Dependent Child</b>		
<b>Under Age 16:</b> First two children	€38.00	€47.50
Third and subsequent children	€41.00	€51.00
<b>Aged 16 or over:</b> First two children	€39.00	€49.00
Third and subsequent children	€42.50	€53.50
In full time third level education* (*not grant aided)	€78.00	€98.00

There are additional allowances for rent/mortgage, for child care costs and travel costs to work (actual cost of public transport or mileage at €0.50 per mile).

Everyone aged 70 and over normally resident in Ireland is entitled to a Medical Card, however, it covers the cardholder only.

# Attention!

*If any clubs or organisations would like to submit any upcoming events, would they please contact the Maynooth Community Council office at*  
*Tel: 01 - 6285922*  
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*Email:*  
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# Clubs, Organisations and Societies

## Maynooth Citizens Information Notes (contd)

### Question

Do I have to pay any charges for a public bed in a private nursing home if I have a Medical Card?

### Answer

Yes you do, whether you have a Medical Card or not.

Under the Health (Charges for In-Patient Services) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No. 276 of 2005) people in receipt of in-patient services in a public nursing home are liable for charges even if you have a Medical Card. If the Health Service Executive (HSE) is providing you with in-patient care in a contracted-out bed in a private nursing home you are liable for the same charges.

The weekly charges, which have been effective since the 14th July 2005 are as follows:

Class 1 - where nursing care is provided on a 24-hour basis:

Total weekly income less €35, subject to €120 maximum per week.

Class 2 - where nursing care is not provided on a 24-hour basis:

Total weekly income less €55 or 60% of the weekly income (whichever is the smaller amount), subject to €90 maximum per week.

The following groups are exempt from these charges:

- People under 18 years of age
- Women receiving maternity services
- People detained involuntarily under the Mental Health Acts
- People in hospitals for the care and treatment of patients with acute ailments including psychiatric ailments
- People who, in the opinion of the HSE, have contracted Hepatitis C directly or indirectly from the use of Human Immunoglobulin Anti-D or the receipt within the State of another blood product or a blood transfusion

The HSE may reduce or waive the charge where it would cause undue financial hardship.

Further information is available from your Local Health Office in the HSE and from the Citizens Information Centre.

### Question

I understand that EU/EEA nationals working in Ireland may be eligible for the One-parent Family Payment without having to satisfy the habitual residence condition. Why is this?

### Answer

In May 2004 the requirement to be habitually resident in Ireland was introduced as a qualifying condition for certain social assistance payments paid by the Department of Social and Family Affairs, including One-Parent Family Payment. In general, to qualify for a payment under this condition, you must have been resident in Ireland or in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for the two years immediately prior to applying for a payment.

Since May 2005 One-Parent Family Payment has been reclassified as a Family Benefit. Child Benefit is already classified as a Family Benefit.

As a result of this change the habitual residence condition is not applied to claims for One-Parent Family Payment made by EU/EEA nationals, or by Swiss nationals, who are employed or self-employed in Ireland and who are subject to the Irish PRSI (social insurance) system. They can also receive the payment if they become unemployed and are receiving Unemployment Benefit.

### Question

Are there charges if you request information from an organisation under Freedom of Information?

### Answer

There may be charges in certain circumstances.

Under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 - 2003 (FOI) you have the right to access information held by public bodies, and in particular, the right to access information held by a public body about you and to have that information corrected if it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading. It also gives you the right to be given reasons for decisions made by public bodies which affect you.

Examples of bodies that come under FOI are government departments, most state and semi-state bodies, local authorities and third level educational institutions.



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**Bruce would like to wish you all a "Merry Christmas"!**

# Clubs, Organisations and Societies

## Maynooth Citizens Information Notes (contd)

There is no charge for the following types of request:

- A request for records containing only personal information
- A request to have incorrect personal information changed
- Requests where you are looking for reasons for decisions taken by public bodies that affect you personally

An application fee of €15 must accompany requests for non-personal information..

A reduced fee of €10 will apply if you are a Medical Card holder. This fee is in addition to the fees which may be charged for search, retrieval and photocopying.

A charge also applies in most cases where you seek an internal review or make an external appeal to the Information Commissioner concerning access to non-personal information. A fee of €75 applies to internal reviews and a fee of €150 to external appeals. The reduced fee for Medical Card holders is €25 and €50 respectively.

To make an FOI request submit the request in writing along with the appropriate fee, if applicable, to the public body, specifying that the request is being made under the FOI Acts.

Further information is available from the Citizens Information Centre.

The column has been compiled by the Citizens Information Centre which provides a free and confidential service to the public.

Tel: 01 6285477

Citizens Information is also available online at [www.oasis.gov.ie](http://www.oasis.gov.ie) and from the Citizens Information Phone Service, LoCall 1890 777121

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# Features

## One Year After Tsunami – Trócaire Relief Programme

By Serj Merzliakov

Tsunami of December 26 was one of the worst disasters recorded in history. Within hours massive killer waves caused by an earthquake turned coastline towns and villages of 18 countries into wreckage.

Within days of the new year, the world saw the horrifying consequences of the tragedy - rising death tolls, whole villages wiped out, over 180,000 dead and hundreds of thousands in refugee camps.

And people all over the world responded to the tsunami disaster with sympathy and generosity. Governments, UN agencies and numerous international organisations started to work together on relief and aid incentives.

### Our response

Trócaire, one of the oldest Irish charities, began its Tsunami Relief Appeal in the early days of 2005. The Irish people showed enormous dedication to raising funds and with a number of fundraising events organised by individuals, clubs and organisations, donations exceeded €27.5 million. Churches and parishes throughout the country raised over €19 million.

### Real help

Today we are talking with **Vicky Tindal**, Emergency Programme Officer of **Trócaire**.

*Could you tell us about your role in Trócaire?*

**Vicky:** I cover the programmes in the countries affected by Tsunami. Trócaire works through partners and I manage the relationships between Trócaire and our partners.

*Which countries will you be working with?*

**Vicky:** The countries worst affected – Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. I work with a number of local partners and organisations in those four countries.

*What activities are you involved in?*

**Vicky:** It's a whole range of activities. Firstly, it's rehousing and reconstruction for all those people who have lost their houses. This is closely linked to rebuilding the communities as well. A lot of programmes will be around what we call psycho-social care – dealing with the whole trauma of having gone through something so frightening. These could be what we call normalising activities, trying to get people of different age groups, women and men to do normal things again – music, sports, such things. Other programmes will involve things like income generation.



Image courtesy [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

*What will that be?*

**Vicky:** We will be helping people to start small businesses again. People who have lost their tools, lost their trade will start to be independent again.

*How are the programmes planned and implemented?*

**Vicky:** With Trócaire we have an advantage that we work together with partners – local organisations, we would have had relationship with before. We are a development organisation and also respond to emergencies. We wouldn't be starting from scratch, we would have been funding programmes in Sri Lanka up in the north during the war, relief and rehabilitation programmes and national peace programmes. We continue to support those programmes but at the same time try to integrate the new ones – and in the case of tsunami, such a major disaster, we send a number of key technical staff who work with our partners.

*Would you tell us how will they be helping there?*

**Vicky:** They are specialists, who will be doing counselling and advising. Such as financial advisor, shelter advisor, livelihood advisor, and advisor on monitoring and evaluation. They are working to build the capacity of our partners.

The most important thing is that we take a long term approach, so we are looking at the next three to five years.

*Will you be able to share with our readers some vivid memory while working on this programme?*

**Vicky:** I went out to Sri Lanka as a part of Trócaire team a few days after the tsunami. I travelled to one of our partners to the north of Sri Lanka, and what really struck me that a few days after the major emergency was the amazing feeling of hope. People in camps, having lost everything had still not lost their dignity. I just found that really striking. We all forget about things like that.

*What inspired you to work for Trócaire?*

**Vicky:** I've always admired them. I first came across Trócaire, when I was working in Central America just after a hurricane, and was really amazed by their work as I very much believe in working in partnerships.

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# Recipes

## Mince Pies

### Ingredients

Makes 36

170g/6oz/1 ½ cups chopped almonds  
140g/4oz/ 2/3 cup dried apricots chopped  
170g/6oz/1 ¼ cups raisins  
140g/5oz/ 2/3 cup currants  
140g/5oz glacé cherries chopped  
140g/5oz/¾ cup cut mixed peel, chopped  
115g/4oz/¾ cup finely chopped beef suet  
grated rind and juice of 2 lemons  
grated rind and juice of 1 orange  
200g/7oz/scant 1 cup soft darkbrown sugar  
4 cooking apples. Transfer the rounds to the bun tray. Fill half with mince meat. Top with a teaspoonful of the cream cheese mixture.

7. Roll out the remaining pastry and stamp out 36 x 5cm/2in rounds. Brush the edges of the pies with milk, then set the rounds on top. Cut a small steam vent in the top of each pie. Brush lightly with milk. Bake until golden, 15-20 minutes before unmoulding.

## Spiced Christmas tree

### Ingredients

Makes 25

85g/3oz butter, softened plus a little for greasing  
100g/4oz caster sugar  
1 egg, beaten  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
2tsp mixed spice  
2 tbsp golden syrup  
250g/9oz plain flour  
½ tsp baking powder  
icing sugar to decorate

1. Beat together the butter and sugar until they turn pale yellow, about 3-5 mins, with an electric mixer. Add the egg slowly, beating it in as you go. Then stir in the vanilla, spice, golden syrup, flour and baking powder. Shape into a flat disc, wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for 1 hour.

2. Heat oven to 180C/fan 160/gas 4. Grease a couple of flat baking sheets. Roll out half the biscuit mixture on a floured board so it is 4mm/¼ in thick and cut out 12 Christmas trees using a Christmas tree cookie cutter. Repeat with the remaining dough. Place on a baking sheet and bake for 10 mins until just golden brown. To decorate dust with icing sugar.  
10ml/1tsp ground cinnamon

5ml/1 tsp grated nutmeg  
2.5ml/½ tsp ground cloves  
250ml/8fl oz/ 1 cup brandy  
225g/8oz/ 1 cup cream cheese  
30ml/2 tbsp caster sugar  
icing sugar, for dusting

For the pastry

420g/15oz/3¾ cups plain flour  
140g/5oz/1¼ cups icing sugar  
350g/12oz/1½ cups of cold butter  
grated rind and juice of 1 orange  
milk, for glazing

1. Peel, core and chop the apples and mix with the nuts, dried and preserved fruit, suet citrus rind and juice, brown sugar and spices. Stir in the brandy. Cover and leave in a cool place for 2 days.

2. For the pastry, sift the flour and icing sugar into a bowl. Cut in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs.

3. Add the orange grind. Stir in just enough orange juice to bind. Gather into a ball, wrap in baking parchment, and refrigerate for 20 minutes.

4. Preheat a 425°F/220°C/Gas 7 oven. Grease 2-3 bun trays. Beat together the cream cheese and sugar.

5. Roll out the pastry to a thickness of 5mm/¼ in. With a fluted pastry cutter, stamp out 36 x 8cm/3in rounds.



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# Common phrases and their meanings

## Nautical Terms

To be **Taken Aback** suggests someone has been taken by surprise and stopped in their tracks. 'Aback' is the nautical term for sudden wind change, in which the sails flatten against the mast.

To **Have someone Over a Barrel** means that somebody is at the mercy of third parties and unable to have any influence over the circumstances surrounding them.

The **Bitter End** means this is the absolute end. This phrase has its origins at sea and is nothing to do with taste. On the sailing ships of past centuries, the anchor was fixed to the deck by solid bollards made of iron and wood known as 'bitts'. Coloured rags were tied to the rope near the deck end and once they were revealed crewmates knew the anchor could not be let out much further. The rope between the anchor and rags was known as the bitt end or the bitter end.

When you have **Had Your Chips** your luck has run out. This related to a gambler who has lost all his chips.

To be **At A Loose End** describes a time when we would be sitting around with nothing to do. We go back to the old tall ships to define this phrase. Any ship using sails would have thousands of ropes making up the rigging. Each of these lengths would need to be bound tight at both ends to prevent them from unravelling. To give the sailors something to do the captain would order them to check the rigging for loose ends. Therefore, idle men would find usually themselves 'at a loose end'.

When somebody **Passes with Flying Colours** they have achieved something with distinction. The old English Navy's term for flags were 'colours'. Successful fleets hoisted the battle flags high on the mast.

**You Scratch My Back And I'll Scratch Yours** relates to two people doing each other a favour. This term relates to lenient punishment by the English Navy to crew a member by merely 'scratching' his back.

To **Flog A Dead Horse** is to waste time and energy on a situation that will clearly have a negative outcome. Far out to sea, the Horse Latitudes can be found 30 degrees either side of the Equator, where the subsiding dry air and high pressure results in weak winds. According to naval legend, the area was so called because the tall sail ships, relying on strong winds, always slowed considerably or even

stalled. Often it took months to pass through the Horse Latitudes, by which time sailors had worked off what known as the 'Dead Horse'.

**First rate** means something is the best available or near perfect. From the time Henry VIII began organising the English Navy in the 16th century, war ships were rated on a scale of one to six. Grade one meant 'first rate' or the best.

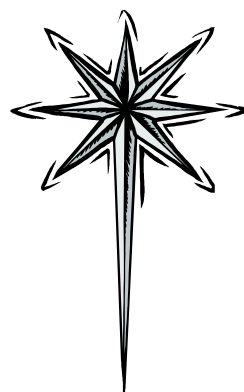
To feel **Groggy** means to feel unwell, often as the result of drinking too much. In 1740 Admiral Vernon, the commander in chief of the West Indies, replaced the neat rum which was then issued to all sailors twice daily, with a watered-down version. This became known as 'Grog' and drunk sailors were considered 'groggy'.

**Raining Cats And Dogs** is a phrase meaning it is raining too hard to go out in. Ancient mariners believed that when it rained it was the cats who caused it and when the gales appeared they were brought by the dogs.

**Son Of A Gun** implies humorous shock and disbelief. This term refers to a child born on board sailing ships behind the mid-ship gun.

To be **Under the weather** means to be ill or unable to function and is another phrase with its origins at sea. In days gone by when a sailor was ill he would be sent below decks where he could recover. Under the decks and 'under the weather' his condition could begin to improve.

A **Square Meal** is used to describe a good, solid dinner. It is a nautical phrase dating back centuries. Old battleships had poor living conditions and the sailor's diet would rarely be better than bread and water but the last meal of each day would at least include meat and was served on a square tray.



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# Operation Christmas Child

## A project of Samaritan's Purse

Last Christmas over 7 million, Operation Christmas Child, shoeboxes were sent to almost 100 countries. Millions of happy children in orphanages, street kid shelters hospitals and in poor families received Christmas presents – thanks to people just like you. Over 270,000 of those love filled shoeboxes came from Ireland and brought smiles and joy to children in Belarus, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia Armenia and for the first time Mozambique. This year Operation Christmas Child will send boxes to Swaziland and Lesotho

The boys of Maynooth National School and the girls of the Presentation together with the students of the Maynooth Post Primary School are to be commended for their efforts in compiling a sizeable consignment of shoeboxes for the annual appeal. They can be sure that those who will receive these gifts will appreciate their contribution.



**R - L**  
Cait Ni Bhroin  
Gillian Judge  
Roisin Costello  
Hannah Moynihan  
**Front**  
Stuart Cameron



**Back L - R**  
Catriona Crowe  
Katie McEvoy  
Jenna Harkin  
**2nd Row**  
Clodagh Moriarty  
Johnny Curran  
Darrag Corcoran  
**Front**  
Shauna Hayes

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*Wishing all our  
customers a "Happy  
Christmas"*



## Operation Christmas Child



*Darren & Barry Organisers of the Operation Christmas Child in St. Mary's BNS*

Operation Christmas Child would like to say a million, million thanks to all of the children, parents and teachers who took part in the Shoe Boxes 2005.

Our hearts are overwhelmed with the love and consideration that went into making up your boxes. You will certainly put a smile on a child this Christmas.

Maynooth Post Primary School and St. Mary's Boys National School were without question among the best boxes.

Go raibh maith agut.

Operation Christmas Child is an international project. The gift-filled shoe boxes bring joy and hope to poor children in Eastern Europe, Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia and Southern Africa. This is a worthwhile project which shares the true meaning of Christmas with children in these countries. This is the second year that Presentation Girls' School, Maynooth has participated in this very worthwhile project.



*L-R: Emma Ryan, Hannah Stack, Rebecca O'Neill,*



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Take Part in:

## Maynooth's St Patrick's Day Parade!

### Application Form for Parade

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation, Club or Band: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

- All vehicles entering **must have a float**, preferably a **live band** with **traditional, rock or pop music**.
- HGV's, lorries or cars ***without a float will not be accepted***.
- Do you wish to do a demo (3-4 mins) at Reviewing Stand? Yes ☐ No ☐

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- Club/Organisation ~ €20
- Bands ~ Free

The categories for which prizes will be awarded are as follows:

**1 Best Commercial Float**

Trophy

**2 Best Club Float**

Trophy

**3 Best Band**

Perpetual Cup

**4 Best Portrayal pf Irish Culture**

Trophy

**5 Best Portrayal of International Culture**

Trophy

**6 Best Portrayal of Environmental Awareness**

Trophy

Applications with entry fee to be sent to Community Council Office before Friday 3rd March or phone Christina Saults (office hours - 6285922 or 6285053) or John McGinley (6285293 (H) or 7026536 (W) )

## Operation Christmas Child



*L-R: Jennifer McMahon, Magdalene Eziashi, Ciara O'Sullivan, Shannon Thompson, Emma Brady, Róisín Flanagan & Claire Canning*



*L-R: Catherine Warren, Ruth O'Hurley, Aisling Bonass, Rebecca Dooley & Ciana Heneghan*



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*Wishing all Our Customers a Happy Christmas & a Prosperous New Year*



## Operation Christmas Child



*L-R: Christina Ward, Susan McCarthy, Sophia Dix, Breda Wilson, Anne Lavelle & Chloe Madden*



*L-R: Katie Scanlon, Muriel Muntandu, Christina O'Brien, Ciara McMahon, Giorgia Logan & Emma Toner*

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## Operation Christmas Child



*L-R: Darrielle Conlon, Eimear Sinnott, Ciara O'Dwyer, Grace Canning, Bronagh Dunning, Louise Doran & Jenny Boyd*



*L-R: Marina Lam, Shannen Lamb, Llauren Tracey, Samantha Thompson, Rebecca Sweeney & Alison Williams*

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# Gardening Tips for December

## The Flower Garden

Protect plants likely to flower this month or next: hellebores and *Iris unguicularis* usually bloom during the month (although the majority of the hellebores don't open until the new year) and need protection from slugs: provide cover unless, in the case of the iris, it is grown in a sunny, warm south-facing wall border. Occasionally there is a surprise precocious flowering of primroses, epimediums, violas, pansies, and other early spring-blooming species in brief mild warm spells.

Prevent mice and voles from digging up crocus corms by pegging fine mesh plastic netting over them, and put down a repellent, especially at the entrance of small holes.

If there is a spell of good planting weather, take the opportunity to make a special planting of border plants that appeal to you, suited to your soil and situation. Distinctive plants include the *Hosta* species and varieties, for varied foliage and cover in shade; red hot pokers, *Kniphofia* species, for a summer spectacle; *Astilbe* varieties for moist or boggy ground; a range of *Campanula* species on chalk; a cluster of day lilies, *Hermerocallis*, for summer in almost any soil; of sword-leaved New Zealand flax, *Phormium tenax*, with colourful foliage for mild gardens; and the true *Geranium* in its several species and varieties, for dryish shade.

## The Fruit Garden

Fruit trees and soft fruit. Complete winter pruning and application of a tar-oil wash to apples, pears, stone fruits and soft fruits before the end of the month. Any further delay must result in damage to buds.

- Keep the area under the branches of fruit trees clear of grass and weeds which compete with the trees' roots for moisture and nourishment. Clearing the ground will also improve soil aeration and penetration by rain, and facilitate manuring and feeding.
- Winter-feed trees and bushes with slow-acting fertilisers and manures. Provide phosphorus in the form of bone meal to all fruits, every second or third year. Provide nitrogen in hoof and horn meal (and organic manure or compost) annually, especially to black currants, culinary apples and pears. Provide a yearly feed of potash in sulphate of potash or powdered seaweed, especially to red and white currants, gooseberries, and dessert apples. Top fertiliser dressings with one of humus-forming organic material.

- Stop rabbits and hares from eating the bark of young trees, either by smearing the stems with fruit-tree banding grease as high as the animals can reach, or by fitting plastic guards round the stems. Damaged trees will recover provided the bark has not been removed all the way round the stems; but wounds should be pared clean of ragged bark, and dress with a fungicidal tree dressing.
- Check over apples and pears in store, and remove promptly any that are going bad. A strong fruit odour is caused by ethylene gas from fruits ripening too quickly. It means that the store needs ventilating.
- Cut out and burn shoots carrying bands or rings of globular eggs, deposited by the lackey moth, which hatch into leaf-devouring caterpillars in spring.
- Outdoor vines should be planted before Christmas. They need a sunny wall, or an open sunny situation in a favourable climate where they may be grown in rows, trained on wires. The fruit needs a warm autumn to ripen, even though it is hardy.

## The Ornamental Garden

### Paths

Mark out and construct paths when weather permits. To be sure of dry footing in wet situations place a line of drain-pipes underneath, in a foundation layer of broken stone, bricks or rubble.

### Lawns

Check for the presence of leather-jackets, the greyish brown larvae of the crane-fly (daddy-long-legs) when tufts of dying grass come away easily in the hand, and starlings are busy pecking and feeding. The grubs are found just under the turf. Treat them with a dressing of a carbaryl (sevin) or derris insecticidal dust bulked with sand, in a mild spell.

Finish re-turfing on light soils by the end of the month to ensure a smooth look for the summer.

Do not work on the lawn in frost or snow; do not even walk on it, as fine grasses may be bruised and damaged.

### Roses

Carry on planting new roses in mild weather, into prepared soil.

### Shrubs

Top-dress lime-tolerant rhododendrons and ericas with oak leaf-mould if available; or with decaying woodland floor leaves and even rotten fragmented branches and wood, which is what they like naturally, or moist dark moss peat.

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Saturday December 3rd

Friday December 9th

Saturday 10th December

Friday 16th December

Saturday 17th December

Big Chill

Superstars

On the QT

Abbey Delicious

Undercover

On the QT

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# The Christmas Season

*The giving season now upon us  
Hearts lift and prayers flow from us  
Shopping now takes on new meaning  
Spic and span the shops are gleaming  
Decked with holly, decked with lights  
Christmas colours all so bright*

*Festive lights and lullaby's  
Christmas delight in a child's eyes  
Tinsel, steamers and Christmas trees  
Santa knows and Santa sees  
Children creep downstairs to Santa's toys  
Some for girls, some for boys*

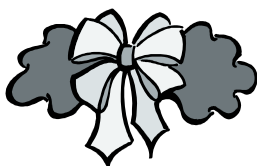
*And then for Mass on Christmas Day  
To see the manager and show off a toy  
Everyone there full of joy  
A winter wonderland we muffle up  
We stamp our feet and hands we cup  
Our joy in this day we cherish*

*And home to Christmas dinner then  
Wine, roasters, turkey and ham*

*Crackers pulled to spark some fun  
Enough to go round for everyone  
On T.V. a festive film  
And each face there a grin*

*And sad that it is only once a year  
All too soon Christmas will disappear  
And New Year greetings take its place  
New resolutions then to make  
Some to keep and some to break  
As the calendar begins again*

*Dara Lakes*



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# Features

## HOMOEOPATHY EXPLAINED.

### What is Homoeopathy?

Homoeopathy is a form of Natural Medicine using Homoeopathy Medicines or Remedies. Homoeopathic remedies are made from natural substances, they are safe and non toxic due to high dilution and therefore don't cause harmful side affects. It is a system of medicine based on ancient principles and developed 200 years ago by a German doctor called Samuel Hahnemann. It is enjoying renewed popularity as people appreciate its safety and the fact that the medicines are non-toxic. One in four European citizens used homoeopathy according to a recent survey.

### How does it work?

Homoeopathy uses natural substances to stimulate the persons own healing response. Homoeopathy stimulates the body to heal itself by treating "Like with Like". This means that any substance that can make you ill can also be used to make you well. Put another way, any substance that is capable of producing symptoms of illness in a healthy person, is also capable of treating similar symptoms in a person who is sick. For example, an individual peeling onions may experience profuse watering, burning and redness of the eyes. Sneezing and a runny nose can also be part of the picture. This group of symptoms is very similar to those of the common cold. In Homoeopathy, a specially prepared extract of onion is used to treat the above symptoms in someone who is actually suffering cold symptoms. Hence the basic law of Homoeopathy, "let like be cured with like." the stimulus with homoeopathy strengthens the immune system and means an improved level of health with homoeopathic treatment.

### What can it be used for?

Homoeopathy can be used to treat all the family, to treat both first aid situations and chronic illness as well as emotional states. It can be used safely for vulnerable groups such as babies and children-during pregnancy and childbirth and for elderly people. For recurring or chronic conditions treatment is best undertaken with the guidance of a qualified professional homoeopath.

### How is it different?

Homoeopathy addresses the source of illness and restores balance to the whole system. It treats the person as a whole taking all the symptoms into account, understanding the body has a natural balancing mechanism which can be upset by various factors, including stress and inherited tendencies.

## What happens during a consultation?

The first consultation usually lasts 1 - 1½ hours. In order to select the right remedy for you as an individual it is helpful to have an understanding of your complaint, along with details of the symptoms that you experience. Finding out about your overall wellbeing, general energy level, past medical history and your likes and dislikes are also important. This helps in selecting the most appropriate remedy for you at this time. Subsequent consultations usually last 30 - 45 minutes and take place a number of weeks after the initial consultation. This allows assessment of your response to the remedy and decides how treatment can best continue. All information is treated in confidence.

In conclusion Homoeopathy addresses the underlying cause of illness by restoring balance to the system. It stimulates the body's own healing response and can work alongside conventional medication.

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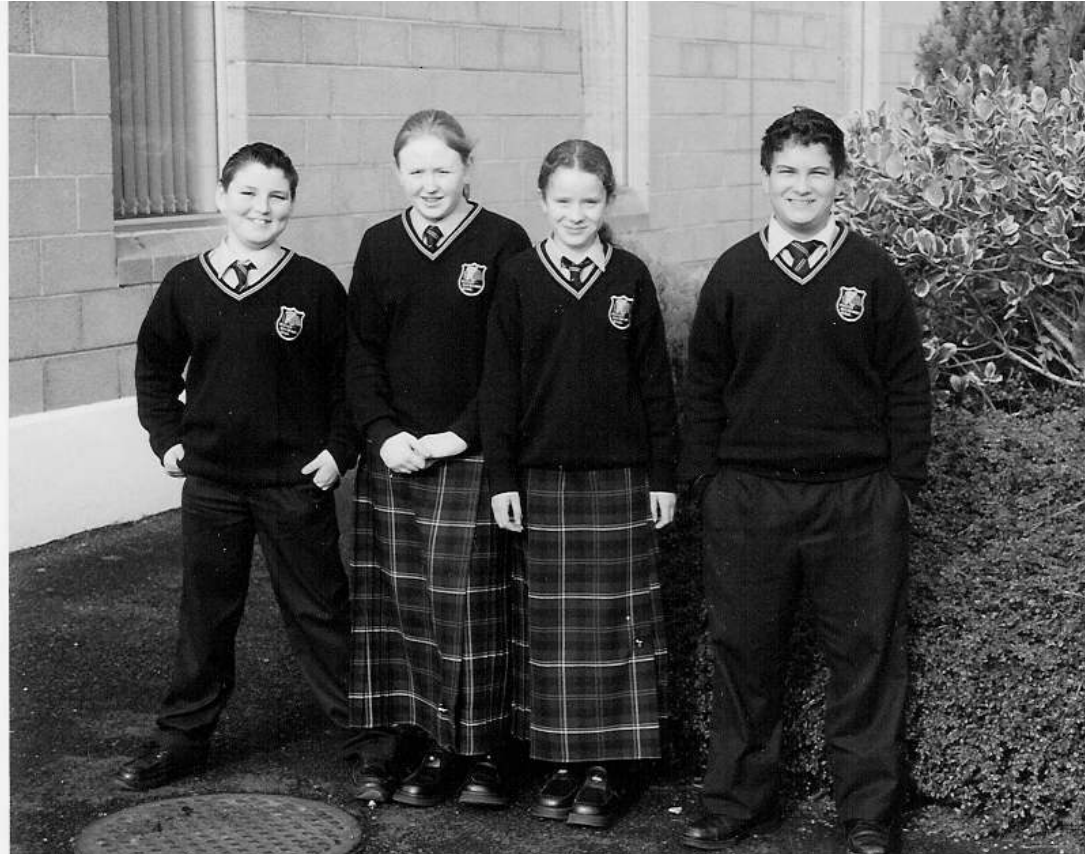
Contact:

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Lic. ISH  
Ph: 085 1264880

Anne Ryan  
Lic ISH  
Ph: 086 8245797



## First Days at Maynooth Post-Primary



*Cian Tolan, Alison Gaynor, Catriona O'Malley & Daniel Shankey*



*Elliott Leavey, Christopher Kelly, Megan Keeley & Jemma Devine*

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**B**

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a Very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*



# DRINKS RECIPES FOR XMAS!

## LEMONGRASS AND LIME VODKATINI'S

Serves 2

These are great to get the palate kick-started for a spicy meal ahead—actually, they are good anytime!

25g (1 oz) caster sugar  
1 stalk lemongrass, chopped (first remove the tough top part of the stalk and outer leaves)  
2 tsp ginger, grated  
8 mint leaves, chopped  
50 ml (2 fl oz) boiling water  
8 cubes of ice  
100 ml (3½ fl oz) vodka  
Juice of 1 lime



Put the sugar, lemongrass, ginger and mint into a bowl and pour in the boiling water (must be boiling). Stir to combine and let infuse for 10 minutes or until cool. Strain, then add the vodka, shake with ice (or stir in a jug with ice,) remove the ice then serve in a frozen glass with a mint leaf floating on top.

NOTE If you don't have lemongrass, use finely grated rind of the lime instead.

NOTE For a non-boozy version, use some sparkling water instead of the vodka.

NOTE These are good served with crushed ice too.

## MULLED CIDER

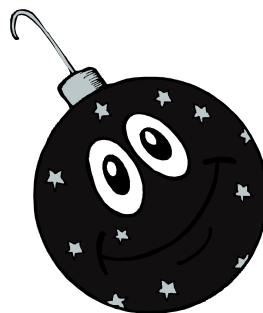
Serves 3-4

500 ml (18 fl oz) medium-dry cider of good-quality  
Apple juice  
100 ml (3½ fl oz) water  
50g (1¾ oz) Demerara sugar  
6 cm (2 in) piece of cinnamon stick, broken in half  
2 strips of orange rind, removed with a peeler

2 whole cloves

Place everything in a saucepan and heat up, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Serve.

Great at Christmas as a change to hot port and mulled wine; it's just as good if made with non-alcoholic, good-quality apple juice too.



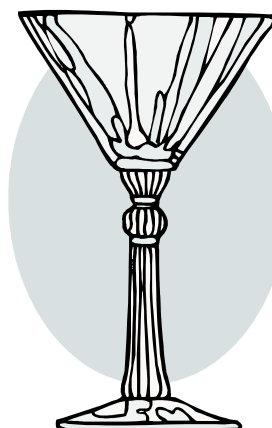
## RASPBERRY LEMONADE

Serves 8

This is so fresh and zesty, your little darlings will enjoy this drink.

250 g (9 oz) raspberries  
100-125g (3½-4½ oz) sugar  
Finely grated rind and juice of 2 lemons  
500 ml (18 fl oz) water, sparkling or still

In a food processor or blender, whiz the raspberries and sugar, then strain through a sieve into a Pitcher to remove the seeds. Add the lemon juice, rind and water. Add some ice and serve.



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# Happy

*Emmet Stagg T. D  
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McGinley would  
like to wish the  
people of Maynooth  
a  
“Happy  
Christmas”  
and  
a  
“Prosperous  
New Year”*



# Christmas

# 2006

## January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

## March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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## October

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## November

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## December

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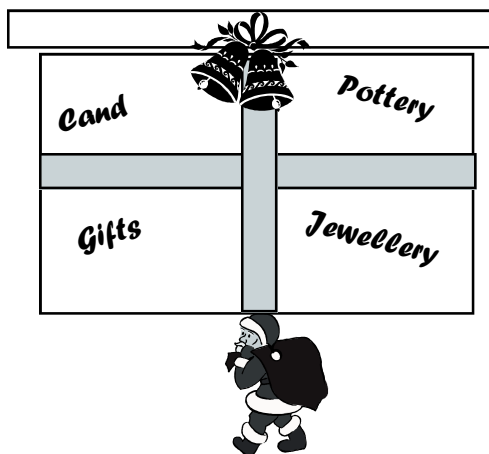
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**E- mail: [bernard.durkan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:bernard.durkan@oireachtas.ie)**



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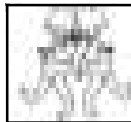
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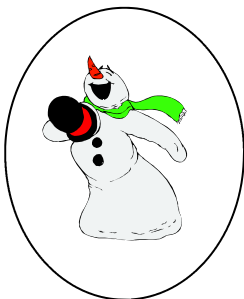
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*Copy date for  
the February*

*Edition of*

*Maynooth  
Newsletter is*

*Mon. 9th January  
2006*

## Maynbooth U/11 Girls Gaelic Football Team



### Maynooth Team:

Niamh Murray 0-02, Ciana Heneghan 1-02, Orlaith Kirwan, Jane Finnegan 1-03, Ciara Farrell 2-00 Dearbhla Egan

Subs:; Lauren Edwards ,Aoife Greally, Jenni O Dwyer, Emma Collins, Sarah Collins, Eimear Sinnott, Heather Gaffney, Rebecca O Neill, Siobhan Mc Nutt, Roisin Behan,

Maynooth and Kilcock had to make the long journey to Elistown on Saturday last to play the final of the under eleven division 3 league. After a very early start the match was delayed by forty minutes to allow the heavy fog clear.

Maynooth who having been beaten by Kilcock in an earlier round of the league started the better team and their forwards fought hard to keep the ball in the Kilcock half. Maynooth opened the scoring through Ciara Farrell who found the net and quickly added another goal through Jane Finnegan who punched the ball past the Kilcock keeper. Ciana Heneghan added a point and Louise Doran worked well in midfield to get the ball back to the forwards. Sarah Greally sent in a ball

which saw Jane Finnegan find the net. Kilcock then went on the attack and Maynooth's Emily Milner kept them at bay with her excellent defending. Before half time Maynooth added another goal through midfielder Sarah Greally which saw them lead at half time by 3-02 to 0-00.

The second half started much the same way as it ended with Maynooth getting a quick goal through Ciara Farrell and points from Niamh Murray, Ciana Heneghan and Jane Finnegan. Kilcock battled well and were awarded a free which saw them work the ball past Ruth O'Hurley in the Maynooth net. From the kick out and some slack marking on the part of Maynooth's backs Kilcock added two points. Maynooth then saw points from Jane Finnegan and Niamh Murray and a goal from Ciana Heneghan to finish the day. However Kilcock made sure they got on the score sheet again with another goal.

Final Score

**Maynooth 5-07 Kilcock 2-02**



*Kilcock Girls Under 11's Gaelic Football Team*





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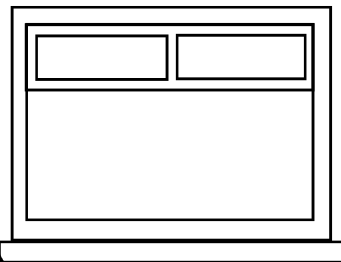
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## Maynooth Beaver Scouts enjoy Science evening.

Science Week Ireland was held nationally between November 13 -20 2005 and is a key event in the annual Discover Science and Engineering programme hosted by Forfás.

In conjunction with the national programme of science events for Science week Ireland, Maynooth Beaver Scouts held their own science evening. This took place at the Scouts Den on Monday evening, November 14.

Beaver scouts are aged between 6 and 8 years old and there are currently 30 beaver scouts in the beaver section of the Maynooth scouting Group. The beaver scouts are organised in smaller working groups called "lodges" so that they each get a chance to participate and "learn by doing".

At the science evening, the beaver section leader, Mags Caden, demonstrated a model clay volcano erupting. The beaver scouts each had a chance to put in one of the ingredients needed to generate the carbon dioxide gas to achieve "fizzing up" and give the effect of lava spilling out of the mouth of the model volcano.

Other activities at the science evening were set up by the other beaver leaders including: daffodil bulb planting activity which was supervised by Betty Broekhuizen; building a water filter, demonstrated by Anna Fitzpatrick and using magnifying glasses for examining insects which was explained by Cynthia Gallagher.

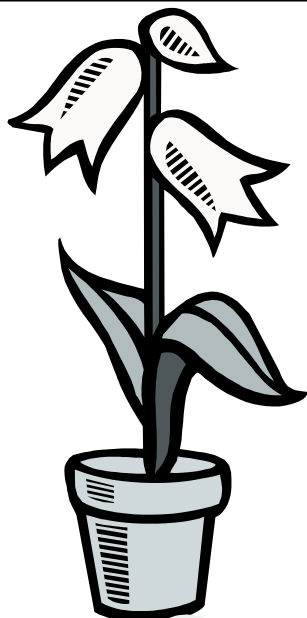
Yvonne Murphy operated an interesting activity on "composting- how does it work?" where the beaver scouts got a chance to sort out what can go in their compost bin and what cannot while Marie Marsh facilitated the beaver scouts exploring the idea of magnetism.

Group leader, John Dowling was on hand to help as always and to make sure things ran smoothly. The science evening was really enjoyed by all the beaver scouts and it clearly showed how the Discover Science and Engineering programme can be made accessible to everyone.



*The Leaders*

*Betty, Yvonne, Cynthia, Anna, Mags, Marie & Johnny*



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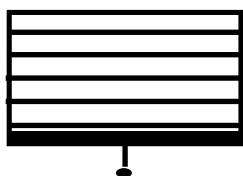
## Maynooth Beaver Scouts enjoy Science evening.



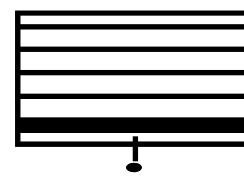
*Gary VaVasaur, Yvonne Murphy, Betty Broekhuizen & Harry Quinn*



*Jack Gallagher, Sarah Fanthom, Emma Clifford-Clancy, Sebastien Matthias, Peter Donaldson & Daniel Redmond-Murphy*



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## Maynooth Beaver Scouts enjoy Science evening.



*Sarah Heaslip, Cillian Geoghegan, Braden Millar, Donie Mullaly, Dan Doherty & Aaron Byrne*



*Emer Marsh, Karl Broekhuizen, Rachel Hynes, Doireann Caden & Eve Poole*

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## The Roost Christmas Dinner Menu

### To Start

Soup du Jour, served with brown bread  
Oak Smoked Salmon & Seasonal salad with red onions & capers  
Fan of Galia Melon with fruit coulis  
Homemade Chicken Liver Pate with apple mint chutney & toast  
Warm Cajun Chicken Salad with honey & mustard dressing

### Main Course

Roast Stuffed Turkey & Honey Roast Ham, on a carrot & potato gateau with Cranberry jus  
Pan Seared Entrecote Steak with caramelised shallots and a choice of garlic butter or peppercorn sauce  
Vegetarian Penne Pasta with roast Mediterranean vegetables in a tomato & basil sauce  
Grilled Salmon Escobar, topped with Gruyere & ratatouille marinara  
Pan Fried Breast of Chicken on a bed of rice pilaff with Champagne glaze Béarnaise  
Served with Fresh Market Vegetables & Potatoes

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# Clubs, Organisations and Societies

## **N.D.S.L. Under 10B** 15th October 2005 **Balbriggan (0) 2 V Maynooth (2) 4**

The long journey to Balbriggan this morning failed to dampen the spirit of this fine young Maynooth side. The strong defensive play of Bankole Agunsoya, Daniel French and James Penny laid the foundation for the first half dominance. The creative and fine tackling performance from the mid-fielders kept the home side on the back foot. Captain and striker Alex Birchall showed a fine predatory instinct to score two fine goals to leave Maynooth 2 - 0 at the interval.

The half time interval was but a brief respite for the home side as Maynooth resumed control upon the restart. The strength of the Maynooth squad was most evident as substitutes Fawaz Oduyebo and Michael Jones each found the net with deadly accuracy. This left the score 4 - 0 to the visitors. With their mind possible on the final whistle Maynooth eased off to allow Balbriggan to score twice. There was never any danger to the outcome, and Maynooth consolidated their position as league leaders with a determined and polished victory. Keep working lads to reap the rewards.

Bankole Agunsoya, Daniel French, James Penny, Jack Connolly, Conor Davin, Gary Daly, Alex Birchall, Shane Nolan, Dáire Byrne, Chris Donnelly, Declan Burke, Fawaz Oduyebo, Andrew Munley, Michael Jones and Jonathan Flattery.

## **N.D.S.L Under 10 B1** Rathcoffey Road 22-10-05 **Maynooth (1) 2 V Artane Beaumont (0) 0**

This top of the table clash today at the Rathcoffey Road proved a close and tight affair as both sides battled for supremacy. The Maynooth defence of Alex Birchall, Danny French and Daire Byrne provided the foundation for this solid performance from the home side. Despite some fine possessive play by the home side Artane Beaumont proved a strong and difficult outfit to break down. The breakthrough did come when a fine piece of inter-play by the Maynooth midfield caused havoc in the visitors defence. Up stepped Jonathon Flattery to display fine predatory skills and dispatch a fine shot to the net. This left the half-time score 1 - 0 to Maynooth. As long as the effort is maintained the rewards will be repeated lads.

### **Maynooth U10 B1 Players:**

Alex Birchall, Daniel French, Daire Byrne, Declan Burke, Conor Davin, Conor Gorman, Jonathon Flattery, James Penny, Christopher Donnelly, Bankole Agunsoya, Gary Daly, Fawaz Oduyebo, Michael Jones

## **Gallery Shield Section A** 12-11-05 **St Brendans (0) 2 V Maynooth Town (0) 0**

This morning's shield encounter proved a close and exciting encounter both sides acquitted themselves well and served up some exciting football. Maynooth striker Michael Jones was most unlucky not to hit the target on a few occasions in the first half at the other end Shane Nolan stood strong and proud to bring off some fine saves from the St. Brendan's attacks. The interval was perfectly balanced at 0 - 0.

The second half proved more of the same as both sides strived for dominance. Maynooth created some fine goal scoring opportunities but this was an occasion when none of them would go in. Twice St. Brendan's caught them out with quick breaks in this half and scored on each occasion. Maynooth, however, refused to buckle and still carried the fight to the home side. Daniel French produced some fine tackles in defence and Alex Birchall strived manfully up front to pierce the home defence. Lady Luck however closed her eyes as time ran out and St. Brendan's won 2 - 0.

Take heart lads from this very first defeat of the season you determined never say die attitude will carry you past many an obstacle through the season.

Shane Nolan, Daniel French, James Penny, Jack Connolly, Bankole Agunsoya, Gary Daly, Michael Jones, Daire Byrne, Declan Burke, Conor Davin, Conor Gorman, Fawaz Oduyebo, Alex Birchall, Jonathon Flattery

## **N.D.S.L U 10B** 15th October 2005 **Balbriggan (0) 2 V Maynooth (2) 4**

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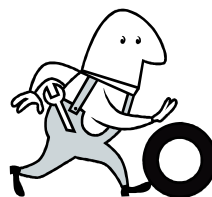
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# Clubs, Organisations and Societies

## Maynooth GAA News

The AGM of Maynooth GAA will be held in the Clubhouse, Moyglare Road on Tuesday December starting @ 7.30 pm sharp.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Maynooth GAA Club extend congratulations to Simone Gilbert who was selected as Kildare Footballer of the Year. This was a richly deserved award for Simone who had a very successful year both with Kildare and Maynooth. She was also nominated for selection on the all star team of the year.

The Maynooth Minor Hurling Team reached the final of the Kildare Championship but were unable to overcome the power, skill and artistry of an impressive Celbridge side. Both sides were evenly matched in the first half and a point separated the sides at half time with Celbridge having the slender advantage.

The main highlight of the first half was a superb point by Patrick Ward from a line ball, 13 yards from the endline. He also scored a goal for Maynooth from a penalty after Jeffrey Walsh was fouled with a goal at his mercy.

Early in the second half Celbridge began to exert their authority and with their midfield and half forward line particularly prominent, the Maynooth defence were put under considerable pressure. Two goals inside the first 10 minutes set Celbridge on their way to victory and although Maynooth played their hearts out, Celbridge were not to be denied and won by 3-11 to 1-5.

The Maynooth management team of Mick Ward, Tommy Flaherty and Paul Qualter deserve a lot of credit in preparing this team so well during the year who over came a number of difficult opponents to reach the final.

Maynooth Team:

Brendan Cawley	Mick Gillick	Harry Oliver
Terence Fitzgerald	Conor Canning	Edmund Canning
	Gerard Greally	Martin Hoare
Sean McTiernan	Andrew Higgins	Patrick Ward
Peter Warren	Jeffrey Walsh	Graham Kenny

Subs: Tadgh Dunne, Paul Curran, Paddy Comerford, James Thompson, Naoise Carroll

Maynooth GAA wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

Thomas Coffey Joint Pro. Maynooth GAA

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# Features

## St Mary's Band

Notes from St Mary's Band have been rather thin on the ground in recent times but we can assure you that we are alive and kicking and blowing away at Pound Lane right beside the Town Park.

There have been many changes in the past year or so, not least of which is the appointment of Aine Daly, a Newbridge lady who has a wealth of experience, is a professional musician and is a talented multi-instrumentalist in her own right. Erin has accepted the challenge of building on what has been achieved by our previous Conductor Niall O'Connor and already this year we have competed with distinction in Band Championship in Dublin and Clonakilty in Cork and just last month took part in a very successful concert with Lucan Concert Band to raise funds for the new heating system in Esker church in Lucan

The age profile of the Band has changed dramatically and we are pleased to say that the under twenties now hold the majority and there is a more balanced male to female ratio which is always good to see in any organisation. The downside of the younger age group is that with third level education now almost the norm we tend to lose members (temporarily hopefully) to educational institutes outside of Maynooth. It is vital that there is a continuous replacement programme in place. With this in mind we are now accepting manes for places in our new music classes beginning in the Newe Year and you will find an application form elsewhere in the Newsletter. Please complete this form and send it to the Secretary as soon as possible as we are unable to plan our classes until we have some idea of numbers. We will accept applications from 8 years upwards but experienced players on all instruments are always most welcome and can contact our Secretary John Curran at 8252445

December is the busiest month of the year for the Band but our main event is our annual Christmas Concert which this year will be held in the Aula Maxima in Maynooth on Saturday 10th December at 8pm. In a new departure this year, we will be joined by the Lucan Concert Band, winners of the Intermediate Section of the National Band Championships, in a programme of popular and Christmas music to suit all tastes. Admission is only €10 with €5 for Senior Citizens and Students and tickets are available from John Curran at 087 2239730 and almost entertaining night is guaranteed

**Highlights of our Christmas Programmes are as follows:**

Date	Time	Place
December 10th	8.00pm	Christmas Concert, Aula Maxima
December 11th	11.30am	Sunday Service Church of Ireland
December 19th	7.30pm	Blanchardstown Shopping Centre
December 25th	Christmas Morning Parade	Maynooth



**St. Mary's  
Brass & Reed Band  
Maynooth**

**Annual  
Christmas Concert**

**with Special Guests**

**Lucan Concert Band**  
(National Concert Band Winners, 2005)

**in the**

**Aula Maxima  
Maynooth College**

**Saturday  
10<sup>th</sup> December, 2005  
at 8.00 pm**

**Tickets: €10**  
€5 Students & OAPs



**St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band  
Maynooth**

**Music Classes: Enrolment Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Tel. No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Previous Musical Experience:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**What instrument are you interested in learning to play?**

**1<sup>st</sup> Choice:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>nd</sup> Choice:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to return this form any Monday evening (8.00 – 10.00 pm) to the Band Hall in Pound Lane, behind the old Irish Permanent building, or return to:

John Curran  
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St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band,  
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# Clubs, Organisations and Societies

## Maynooth Golf Society Result Sheet

Outing to Carton House, Monty Course  
Date 05/11/05

Paddy Foy Presidents Prize  
Sponsored by Lara Electric



Carton House was the venue for Paddy Foy's Presidents Prize which was sponsored by Lara Electric. Although the early morning weather conditions looked as they might ruin the day for all who were looking forward to this challenging course, the gods looked down on us again, the conditions changed to make this a very pleasant day for 42 who played.

The winner on the day was Tim Mullane with a score of 39pts closely followed by Norman Kavanagh with the same score but just piped on the back 9.

The presentation of prizes was to a large crowd in Brady's where Paddy expressed his thanks to Lara Electric for their sponsorship and to Declan Kennedy for his hospitality and his support to the Golf Society.



Martin, Bernie and Paddy Foy at the presentation

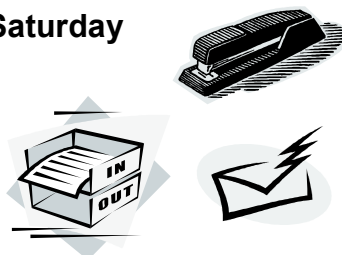
1st Prize	Tim Mullane	39pts
2nd Prize	Norman Kavanagh	39pts B9
3rd Prize	Brendan Bean	38pts
4th Prize	Don O' Sullivan	37pts B9
5th Prize	Liam Farrelly	37pts
6th Prize	John Nolan	36pts B9
7th Prize	Dave Kinlon	36pts B9
8th Prize	Michael Flynn Jnr	36pts
9th Prize	Martin Foy	35pts B9
10th Prize	Gerry McTernan	35pts
11th Prize	Albert Harrigan	34pts B9
Front 9	John Byrne	18pts
Back 9	Colm Loftus	21pts
Longest Drive	Michael Flynn Jnr	
Nearest the Pin	Dave Kinlon	
2's	John Hynes, Marty Maguire	

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*Emmet Stagg T.D.*

## **Bond Bridge**

Kildare County inserted notices in newspapers advising the public that Bond Bridge would be closed to traffic from 7 November 2005 to 7 June 2006 in order to facilitate the completion of the works within 40 weeks instead of the original plan of two years to completion. As a result Bond Bridge closed on November 7 and it was due for demolition on November 15.

Cllr. John McGinley has got agreement from the Council on the removal of trees, the provision of a 1.8m footpath and the construction of a wall and railing (similar to that at Meadowbrook Road) at the bottom of Old Greenfield in order to provide an environmentally friendly walkway for pedestrians.

The Council have also agreed to Cllr. McGinley's proposals for traffic calming and other safety measures on Meadowbrook Road. John was advised that the design drawings should be available for the next Leixlip Area Meeting of the Council on November 18.

In reply to Cllr. John McGinley's motion for a clean up of the Meadowbrook Stream before the winter sets in, he was advised that the Council's Waterworks Section were at present estimating the costs of the proposal. John stated that the clean up can be paid from contingencies built into the Bond Bridge Project.

## **Stagg Blasts Proposal for 4 & 3 Storey Apartment Blocks at Old Greenfield**

Deputy Emmet Stagg has blasted the application for Planning Permission for the provision of 4 and 3 Storey Apartment Blocks at Old Greenfield, Maynooth.

Along with his colleague Cllr. John McGinley Deputy Stagg has lodged an objection to the proposal calling it incomprehensible and out of character with the existing built environment in the area which is made



*Cllr. John McGinley*

up of bungalows and single storey semi-detached houses.

Outlining his objections to the development, Deputy Stagg stated:

The density at 43.7 units to the acre is excessive when compared with existing residential density in the area which is about 3 units to the acre.

The site is less than 0.5 of a hectare which precludes it from serious consideration for higher residential density.

The proposal has no regard for the residential amenity of neighbours which is a requirement under the Maynooth Development Plan 2002.

The Zoning of the area was set at a Higher Density to make it easier for families to get planning permission to build homes for members of their families.

The proposal is out of character with the existing pattern and scale of development in the area which is single storey.

The proposal does not integrate with existing development in the area.

The 4 & 3 Storey Blocks will cause overlooking of existing properties, particularly of rear gardens causing a loss of privacy.

The 4 & 3 Storey Blocks will cause a loss of light to surrounding houses.

The monstrous structures will dominate the skyline as viewed from the houses and gardens along Old Greenfield Lane.

The excessive development will significantly increase traffic volumes on the proposed road to the rear of the houses along Old Greenfield Lane thus increasing the traffic hazards where the road will join with the Straffan Road

The 4 & 3 Storey Blocks will destroy the entrance to Maynooth along the Straffan Road by placing ugly 4 & 3 Storey Apartment Blocks at a prominent Visual Point along the Straffan Road.

Deputy Stagg concluded by stating that the proposed development had no regard for the existing residents of the area and was simply out of character and unacceptable and he called on Kildare Co. Council to comprehensively reject Planning Permission.



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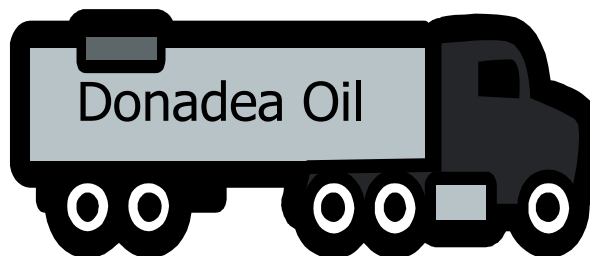
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# Party Political

## Labour News (contd)

### Stagg Lodges Objection to 02 Mast Retention at Maynooth G.A.A. Club

Deputy Emmet Stagg has lodged an objection with Kildare Co. Council along with his colleague, Cllr. John McGinley, to the application by 02 Communications for the retention of their unauthorised Mast at Maynooth G.A.A. Grounds on the Moyglare Road, Maynooth.

Deputy Stagg stated that this was 02's second attempt at applying for retention, the previous application having being declared invalid twice. The Council are now taking Injunction Proceedings against 02 under Section 160 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 seeking the removal of the Mast and Deputy Stagg has been advised by the Council that the Legal Proceedings will continue even though this new application has been lodged.

Deputy Stagg has described the proposed retention of the Mast as totally unacceptable in an area which is heavily populated and which has over 1,200 pupils located in 2 schools within 200 yards of the site. Outlining his objections to the Mast Deputy Stagg stated:

- The proposal does not comply with the Maynooth Development Plan 2002 which states that Telecommunications Masts will not be permitted in the vicinity of schools or residential areas.
- The site is zoned Open Space and Amenity under the Maynooth Development Plan 2002 and Council Policy is to protect such areas from encroachment by other uses.
- The existing Mast has been unauthorised for 3 years and the applicants have failed to examine other sites in the area or to look at sharing an existing mast.

Deputy Stagg concluded by stating that he looked forward to the commencement of Injunction proceedings against 02 and the rejection of the application for retention by Kildare Co. Council.

### 02 Mast Retention Application in Maynooth Declared Invalid Again

Deputy Emmet Stagg has expressed his utter amazement and anger that the new planning application by 02 to retain their unauthorised Telecommunications Mast at Maynooth G.A.A. Grounds on the Moyglare Road, Maynooth, has been returned as invalid by Kildare Co. Council on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The new application has been rejected as invalid for the following reasons:

- The Newspaper Notice and Site Notice do not match.
- All required Drawings of Plan Elevations were not submitted.
- The overall Height of the Mast, which stands at 15 Metres, was not shown properly on a number of drawings.

Deputy Stagg stated that the previous retention application by 02 was returned as invalid twice by Kildare Co. Council. This new application has been returned as invalid within 8 days. I stated previously that 02 were playing with the Council as they are well capable of lodging a valid application for planning permission, if they so wish.

Deputy Stagg concluded by stating that he had again contacted the Council insisting that they pursue vigorously the Injunction proceedings against 02 under Section 160 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to have the unauthorised mast removed.

### Maynooth Presentation Convent Extension Still on Hold.

Deputy Emmet Stagg has continued to question the Minister for Education in relation to the required extension to Maynooth Presentation Convent National School.

Last April the school was allowed to proceed through Architectural Planning and in her most recent response the Minister advised Deputy Stagg that her Department Officials had recently written to the school requesting further information from the Consultant Quantity Surveyor on their Stage 3 Submission (Developed Plans/Costs) and that a response is awaited.

Deputy Stagg expressed his disappointment at the response. On 16th June last the Minister advised that the Stage 3 Submission had been received and would be examined by the Department's staff in due course. Given that further information was requested only recently it must have taken Departmental Staff more than 3 months to bother examining the Stage 3 Submission. This is a clear example of obvious delaying tactics given the urgent need for the extension.

Deputy Stagg concluded by stating that he would continue to press the Minister in relation to progressing the required extension to Maynooth Presentation Convent.

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# Party Political

## Labour News (contd)

### **Minister Washes Hands on 24 Hour Garda Station for North Kildare – Now Says it is Up to The Commissioner**

Deputy Emmet Stagg has continued his campaign for the provision of a 24 hour Garda Station (District Headquarters) to serve the towns of Celbridge, Maynooth and Leixlip, which had a combined population of 40,324 people according to the 2002 census.

Deputy Stagg questioned the Minister as to why there was no intention of closing any of the existing 109 Garda District Headquarters in the State, and yet he refused to even consider the provision of a 24 hour station in North Kildare because it would remove gardai from outdoor duties.

The Minister in his response to Deputy Stagg stated that under the Garda Siochana Act 2005 the Commissioner of the Garda Siochana has enhanced responsibilities in preparing proposals for organisational reform. The Minister further stated that it would be premature to anticipate what proposals, if any, might be developed by the Commissioner.

Deputy Stagg expressed his continuing anger at the refusal to provide a proper policing service in North Kildare. He stated that he would now contact the Commissioner of the Garda Siochana with a view to making the case to him of the need to set up a 24 hour Garda Station in North Kildare.

### **Over 400 Children Awaiting Orthodontic Treatment in Kildare – 242 are Over 2 Years Awaiting Treatment**

Deputy Emmet Stagg questioned the Tanaiste and Minister for Health in the Dail in relation to the number of children awaiting Orthodontic Treatment in Co. Kildare. The Tanaiste as is her custom now referred the question to the Health Services Executive for answer as if she had no responsibility for the delivery of services to children.

The Health Services Executive advised Deputy Stagg that there were 430 patients awaiting Orthodontic treatment in Kildare, an increase of 33 since Deputy Stagg last raised this issue in July. The most worrying aspect of the response was that 242 children are waiting more than 2 years for treatment. In addition 346 children have not even got onto the waiting list because they have not been assessed yet despite their referral by the primary dental care service.

The Health Services Executive further advised Deputy Stagg that a number of recently qualified Orthodontists would be working on a part time basis with the H.S.E. in October.

Deputy Stagg described the waiting time for children as scandalous given the distress caused to children awaiting orthodontic treatment. This Government wasted €150 Million on a computer system that can't add yet we are only hiring additional orthodontists on a part time basis.

Deputy Stagg concluded by stating that the Tanaiste was responsible for the inadequate service and its time she devoted more resources to this area. We have the money but the Government have no willingness to tackle this issue.

### **Labour Publishes Ambitious Childcare Programme With Early Years Subsidy for All Parents**

The Labour Party have published an ambitious policy on Childcare which would give every parent what it calls an Early Years Subsidy of €50 per week, extend parental leave and have it paid, offer a free pre-school place for all 3 year olds and put in place a system of family friendly work options and career leave for parents in the workforce.

Deputy Emmet Stagg has described it as a policy which puts children and their needs at the heart of the childcare debate and for the first time, offers all parents real choice.

"Our proposal gives equal recognition to the contribution of all parents – whether full time in the home, part time in the workforce, or full time in the workforce, with a subsidy which goes to all, and acknowledges the high cost of childcare, no matter how the child is cared for or by whom", he said.

"We now have an opportunity to put in place something that is currently missing in Ireland - a comprehensive system of early childhood care and education, which puts the needs of children first. We can now afford a major investment in early childhood care and education, and there is no doubt that it will pay off for everyone".

"And our proposals respond to a key concern for so many parents – having the time to be at home with their children. A package of family friendly work options, including paid parental leave, career leave and flexible working, will support parents

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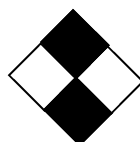
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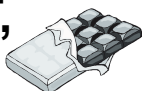


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# Party Political

## Labour News (contd)

in being parents, especially during the critical early years in a child's life", he said.

"We are also supporting the many thousands of childminders who are doing such a valuable job caring for children but who are not being acknowledged for it. We are proposing a tax exemption on the first €8,000 of earnings for childminders, many of whom at the moment do not have the benefit of social protection.

"Our proposal to have a free pre-school place for all children meets a need long recognised – to have a system of pre-school education in place for all, not just those who can afford it. And the benefits are well documented", he said.

Deputy Stagg said the package includes measures to encourage a range of after-school childcare options, which again come from the standpoint of what's best for children.

"Labour's comprehensive package will result in more childcare places being available because of increased investment, and will put quality at the heart of early childhood care and education".

Deputy Stagg said investment in childcare, especially for families living in poverty, is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and has been shown to make a significant impact on the ongoing problem of early school leaving.

"And for many lone parents, affordable childcare is what makes the difference between being at work and not being at work".

"Finally, what this policy is fundamentally about is giving every parent – no matter what their circumstances – a real choice about how they care for their children. We want parents themselves to make their own choices. Our job is to give them the help and support they need to do that".

## Stagg Welcomes Confirmation of C.P.O. and E.I.S. for Upgrade of N4 Between Leixlip and the M50

Deputy Emmet Stagg has welcomed the decision by An Bord Pleanála dated 28<sup>th</sup> October to confirm with some modifications the Compulsory Purchase Order and Environmental Impact Statement for the upgrade of the N4 between Leixlip and the M50.

Deputy Stagg stated that the C.P.O. and E.I.S. for the scheme had been published by South Dublin Co Council on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and an Oral Hearing was held in relation to the scheme on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

The improvements planned include the following stated Deputy Stagg:

- Widening the existing carriageway to 3 lanes in each direction.
- Provision of a new interchange at the Lucan/Newcastle Road Junction on the Lucan By-Pass.
- Closure of existing Median Crossings along the full length.

Deputy Stagg stated that South Dublin Co. Council will now prepare the Detailed Design of the Scheme and he called on the National Roads Authority to provide funding for the works early in 2006.

This work stated Deputy Stagg should have been completed in 2004 but was delayed following cut-backs introduced after the 2002 General Election. The work will provide relief for motorists through the provision of the additional lane in both directions and the removal of the traffic lights on the Lucan By-Pass.

## Public Lighting at The Harbour, Maynooth

Cllr. John McGinley got the following reply to his motion on the provision of proper public lighting at The Harbour, Maynooth:

*"The Meeting Administrator may wish to refer to recent reports in this instance. The Senior Executive Officer has been in touch with Waterways Ireland with a view to ascertaining whether its requirements relating to the type of lighting column might be relaxed in view of the substantial costs involved. A reply is currently awaited."*

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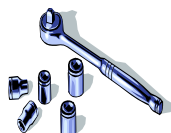
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# Party Political

## Labour News (contd)

*In brief terms, as previously outlined, Kildare County Council is simply not in funds to fund the cost of this scheme which, in turn, relates to land which is not in its ownership. However, in view of the issues involved, and as the matter has become quite protracted, it is willing to make a reasonable contribution. The members will recall that Iarnród Éireann is not prepared to contribute.*

*I have requested the Senior Executive Officer, Roads Administration to continue to pursue this issue as a matter of priority and a further report will issue in due course. The assistance of the members will also be appreciated in this matter."*

The County Manager also told Cllr. John McGinley that he was taking a personal interest in this long running issue and that he would be consulting Waterways Ireland, Iarnród Éireann, OPW and ESB as requested by John in order to reach a satisfactory conclusion. Cllr. McGinley has pointed out that this is a highly pedestrianised area and that the provision of proper lighting is a public safety issue and that its provision would also protect the Council's significant investment in the Children's Playground.

### **Provision of a Bus Shelter at the Stop Opposite The Glenroyal Complex**

Cllr. John McGinley was given the following update on the provision of the much needed bus shelter at the stop opposite The Glenroyal:

*"The Area Engineer has received correspondence from Clear Channel, the company responsible for erecting these bus shelters. A copy is available in the area office. There is a new bus shelter design available which may well suit this location. A consignment is being delivered in the coming weeks and the Area Engineer hopes to have an up-date for the next meeting of the Area Committee."*

### **Footpaths at Dublin Road/Doctors Lane, Maynooth**

Cllr. John McGinley was given the following update on his motion at the Leixlip Area Meeting of the Council on October 21:

*"A detailed report on this matter was issued for the May meeting of the Committee. Again, by way of background the members will be aware that it was proposed to create a one-*

*way system for Doctors Lane. As per drawings previously circulated, it was also envisaged that resurfacing work would take place and the footpaths would be strengthened. It was also proposed to provide additional parking as well as cycle lanes from the Doctors Lane junction to Tesco.*

*Again, as previously advised these works have been prioritised; Phase 1 (in the form of the Charter House scheme) having been carried out. However, a source of funding has not yet been identified for Phases 2 (Doctors Lane) and Phase 3 (Doctors Lane to Tesco).*

*It may be that some funding can be identified from the development contribution (old) scheme. Indeed an amount of €25,000 (Planning Ref: 02/2060) has been so identified. However, this would only cover a small element of the cost.*

I do, however, recall that this matter has been raised on a number of occasions at the Area Committee. Accordingly, I have requested that provisional costings be prepared regarding Phases 2 and 3. I have also requested the Roads Administration section to re-check if there are any further development levies (old scheme) which could be applied to such works which, indeed, are considered to be desirable. A further report, together with drawings, will be circulated for the November meeting."

Cllr. John McGinley again pointed out that over €1m in development levies have been collected in the area in the recent past and that they should be used to provide a footpath and cycle path from Doctors Lane to TESCO.

### **Northern Relief Road from Moyglare Road to Moygaddy in Meath**

Cllr. John McGinley was given the following update at the October Leixlip Area Meeting to his motion on the provision of the Northern Relief Road:

*"A preliminary design has been prepared for the Maynooth northern relief road and a copy is available for inspection in the Road Design office. Relevant officials in Meath Co. Council have been appraised regarding the issue as part of an ongoing series of liaison meetings which take place regarding infrastructural issues common to both authorities.*

# Party Political

## Labour News (contd)

*However, a formal submission has not as yet been made as there are some planning matters to be resolved in the first instance. These aspects are currently being addressed by the Council's Planning department."*

### Re-Surfacing of the Moyglare Road

In reply to his motion Cllr. John McGinley was advised that:

"A contractor will be carrying out this resurfacing work in the near future. This matter is in hand."

Cllr. John McGinley stated that nothing short of complete re-surfacing of the road would be acceptable because of the damage done during the pipe laying.

### Provision of Traffic lights at the junction of Meadowbrook Link Road/Straffan Road

Cllr. John McGinley was given the following reply to his motion:

*"This matter has been examined by the Road Design team. Indeed, as part of the Meadowbrook Link project, ducting has been provided for the provision of traffic lights in the future. However, it is not proposed that such will be provided in the short term. In this regard, a comprehensive approach to traffic management on the Straffan Road will be pursued in the context of the future opening of the proposed Straffan Road/Celbridge Road link at the Lidl development. This will probably entail the provision of traffic signals at both locations in the future. It should, however, be emphasised that traffic arrangements in the context of the reconstruction of Bond Bridge will continue to be monitored. In this regard, it is proposed that signage will be erected at Ladychapel directing H.V.G's away from the Meadowbrook Link to Taghadoe Cross."*

Cllr. John McGinley welcomed the proposal for the additional signage directing HGV's away from the Meadowbrook Link Road and Beaufield. However, he stated that with the closure of Bond Bridge it is essential that traffic signals are put in place at the Meadowbrook Link Road/Straffan Road junction in order to regulate traffic at morning peak times. The pity is that a roundabout, as proposed by John and his fellow Councillors, was not put at this location in the first place.

### Provision of Footpath on Rathcoffey Road, Across the M4 bridge:

Cllr. John McGinley was given the following reply to his motion on this much needed footpath to cater for

the footballers going to the new soccer pitches:

"Please also refer to previous reports in this matter. The issue has again been examined by the Road Design team on a preliminary basis. It is considered very unlikely that the provision of cycle lanes is feasible at this location. In the first instance, the width of the bridge is probably too narrow. In addition, and as previously outlined, this area extends well into a rural location and it would not normally be the practice to extend footpaths/cycle lane infrastructure into such outlying locations for a number of reasons as previously cited.

*"The Road Design team are, however, agreeable to look at the issue in more detail and a further report will, hopefully be available for the December meeting."*

**Cllr. McGinley stated that the reply was totally unacceptable and he asked that every effort possible be made, in the interest of public safety, to have positive proposals for the December meeting.**

### Maynooth Traffic Plan

Council Officials reported as follows to complaints from Councillors on the operation of the new Maynooth traffic Plan:

*"This matter is being closely monitored by the Road Design team. Initial observations would suggest that the system is generally working well. However, it must be emphasised that there are still works to be completed, mainly relating to pedestrian facilities etc. There should be no difficulty regarding the attendance of the Traffic Consultants (Faber Maunsell) at a future meeting to deal with detailed queries. However, it is suggested that this might best be left to the December meeting in order to facilitate completion of all works and to allow further monitoring to take place.*

*As previously outlined, the related issue of parking management also requires urgent attention and the Road Design team will commence this task hopefully in early 2006."*

Cllr. John McGinley stated that it is incorrect to suggest that the system is generally working well. He pointed out that that may be the case at the Mill end but it is certainly not the case at the Dublin Road end where traffic is backed up to Blacklion in the evenings. Also, traffic coming down Straffan Road and turning right for Dublin Road are being given very little green light time and this problem is exacerbated

# Party Political

## Labour News (contd)

*be replaced with a stone wall."*

by the failure of bus drivers to pull into the bus bay and so allow a continuous traffic flow. John has again asked that the pedestrian phase on the traffic signals at the Bank of Ireland be removed as they are a hazard and are no longer required anyway since the pedestrians signals came into operation at The Roost.

### **Cllr. McGinley's Motions and Questions for the Leixlip Area Meeting**

Cllr. John McGinley has submitted the following motions for the consideration of the Leixlip Area Committee of the Council:

#### *Motion on Parking Management Policy for Maynooth*

*"That the following parking management policy be adopted for Maynooth:*

- 1. That Pay & Display with Permit Parking be introduced*
- 2. That the profits accruing be ringfenced for use in Maynooth*
- 3. That enforcement of the Parking By Laws be vigorously policed by Council Traffic Wardens*
- 4. That increased public parking capacity be provided as a matter of urgency*
- 5. That the Minister for Transport and Iarnrod Eireann be asked to provide proper Park & Ride facilities for those commuters who use Maynooth Train Station."*

#### **Motion on Pound Park (The Green), Maynooth**

*"That the following works be carried out in Pound Park (The Green), Maynooth, without any further delay:*

- 1. That the Bandstand be removed and installed at NUI Maynooth as previously agreed.*
- 2. That full re-instatement and landscaping be carried out.*
- 3. That the mound of earth which is being used at present as a location for anti-social behaviour be levelled immediately.*
- 4. That the wall at the Band Hall be re-constructed and that the palisade fencing*

### **Question on the Re-cycling Centre at the Public Car Park, Maynooth:**

*When are the long awaited CCTV cameras being installed at the re-cycling centre at the public car park in Maynooth?*

### **Question on Traffic Calming at Laurence Avenue, Maynooth**

When is the traffic calming being installed at Laurence Avenue, Maynooth? ( I allocated funding from my Discretionary Grants for this)

### **Stagg Welcomes 10 Year Transportation Plan But is Critical of Delivery Times and Exclusion of LUAS Extension to North Kildare:**

Deputy Emmet Stagg has welcomed the announcement of Transport 21 but has criticised the delivery dates for Public Transport Improvements for Kildare and the exclusion of Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge from the new LUAS line from Lucan to the City Centre.

Deputy Stagg stated that the following Projects would benefit Public Transport Commuters in the North Kildare area.

- Rail Re-signalling in the City Centre between Connolly and Pearse Street Stations which will increase the number of trains per direction from 12 to 16 per hour. This will allow for additional services on the Maynooth Line and is due for completion in 2009.
- The opening of a new Train Station at Spencer Dock by 2009 will also provide opportunities to increase frequencies on the Maynooth line.
- The Kildare Route Project which involves quadrupling the line between Hazelhatch and Inchicore, and which is presently the subject of a Railway Order application, will be completed by 2010.
- A DART service will be provided on the Maynooth and Hazelhatch lines by 2015, and this will improve services further.
- The Interconnector, linking the Kildare Suburban line from Hazelhatch and Sallins, to



# Party Political

## Labour News (contd)

the City Centre is also due for completion in 2015.

- Additional Buses will also be provided which will improve the frequency of services.

Whilst welcoming the plan, Deputy Stagg stated it would be over 4 years before there would be a major increase in services on the Maynooth Line and 5 years before services on the Hazelhatch and Sallins line could expect major increases. The Electrification of both these lines and the provision of a DART service have been put to the back of the queue until 2015. Similarly the Interconnector has a completion date of 2015.

What worries me stated Deputy Stagg is that the former Minister for Transport, Seamus Brennan T.D. indicated to me two years ago that the Re-signalling in the City Centre would be completed by 2007 and according to this new 10 year plan it will now be 2009 before this work is completed. This does not engender any great confidence in this Government to deliver on this Plan in Time and on budget. In addition the quadrupling of the Line between Hazelhatch and Inchicore was included in the National Development Plan 2000 to 2006. Yet we are now told that it will be 2010 before this project will be completed.

The Plan also has glaring omissions, one of which is doubling the line to Kilcock which is not even mentioned and the other is the exclusion of Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge from the proposed new LUAS line from Lucan to the City Centre. Surely the provision of a LUAS line to the North Kildare Towns should have been considered seriously and it is disappointing that it was not.

In conclusion Deputy Stagg stated that this Plan at least provides in a structured way the delivery of Public Transport Improvements but it will have to be monitored closely to ensure that it is delivered on time. In addition he stated that he would raise the doubling of the track to Kilcock and the extension of the new LUAS line to Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge with the Minister for Transport.

### **Labour Motion on Management Companies for New Housing Estates:**

Cllr. John McGinley and his fellow Labour Party Councillors had the following motion on the Agenda for the October meeting of the Council:

*"That Kildare County Council cease the practice of imposing planning conditions that require the creation of management companies for new housing estates, that the formation of Residents' Associations be actively encouraged and assisted and that where management companies exist that the residents be advised and assisted on how they can be wound up."*

It was agreed to refer the motion to the Council's Planning Strategic Policy Group and that the group would come back to the January Council meeting with a recommendation for progressing the motion.

Cllr. John McGinley was advised by Council Officials during discussions on the County Development Plan that management companies would only be a requirement for apartments and would not apply to houses. However, this information was incorrect as management companies are now a condition in the grant of planning permission for many new housing estates, a practice that the Minister Dick Roche stated on RTE 5/7 Live was illegal. On hearing this Cllr. John McGinley asked the County Secretary for an urgent explanation.

### **Work to Commence on Maynooth Post Primary Extension at Last - Stagg**

Deputy Emmet Stagg has welcomed confirmation from the Minister for Education that work on the required extension to Maynooth Post Primary School will commence by the middle of November.

Deputy Stagg stated that the cost of the contract is in excess of €3 Million and that the period of the contract is 15 months. The contractors are at present moving on site with construction ready to begin.

The Extension stated Deputy Stagg will increase the permanent building capacity at Maynooth Post Primary School to 850 pupils and the extension comprises 6 General Classrooms, Demonstration Room, Computer Business Machines Room, Special Tuition Room, 2 Lecture Rooms, Administration Rooms and a Physical Education Hall.

With construction now commencing Deputy Stagg stated that the long campaign for the extension which began in 1999 has finally come to a successful conclusion and he complimented the C.E.O. of Co. Kildare V.E.C. Sean Ashe on the successful conclusion



# Catherine Murphy T.D. Press Statement

## **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CLAUSES UNLAWFUL AND UNENFORCEABLE SAYS TD**

Deputy Catherine Murphy has today stated her belief that certain conditions in the contracts of sale of homebuyers in house-only developments who have been forced to subscribe to Property Management Companies are not legally enforceable. In stating her belief in this regard Murphy referred to the legal principle that where a contract or conditions of a contract are not in compliance with an existing law they are void and or unenforceable.

"You can't contract outside the law, that's a simple fact of our legal system. So now that the Minister for the Environment and the Taoiseach have informed us that Local Authorities were not acting as they should have when they imposed planning conditions making the existence of these companies mandatory for certain developments it's clear that these conditions were not lawful. The courts need to recognise this and equity demands that they rule these conditions to be unenforceable", stated Murphy.

Minister for the Environment, Mr Dick Roche TD, informed Deputy Murphy on 25th October 2005 in the Dáil that the *Planning & Development Act 2000* is not intended to be used by Local Authorities to "side-step their responsibilities or try to pass them on to residents" where estate management companies are concerned. He went on that day to highlight that "the intention [of this act] is to protect homeowners and to expedite the process of taking estates in charge. It is not meant as a means for local authorities to side-step their responsibilities or try to pass them on to residents."

Murphy concluded in saying "I of course understand that retrospective legislation is not lawful and cannot be enacted but it is important that the Government introduce legislation ensure that the rights of property owners are safeguarded in the future. Equally however it's vital that the rights of the people who have been caught out by this unlawful practice are also vindicated."

## **Stop Considering and Start Delivering on Town Councils, Demands Frustrated TD**

Deputy Catherine Murphy has reiterated her extreme dissatisfaction at inaction on the part of Minister for the Environment Mr Dick Roche TD regarding the establishment of Town Council's. Although having net with what he termed "a number of vibrant community groups, including both Celbridge and Maynooth Community Council's" the Minister has not yet

commenced the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 2001 to enable eligible towns apply for Town Council Status.

"It's outrageous that almost 10 years on from the Report of the Reorganisation Commission that called for improved accessibility, interaction and linkages for all towns with their Local Authority the Minister is still only 'considering' steps necessary to make Town Council applications possible. 10 years is more than enough time, we need Part 17 of the Local Government Act 2001 to commence immediately" stated Murphy.

According to Part 17 of the Local government Act 2001 once a town has a population 7,500 or over (at the time of the last census) it is eligible to propose the establishment of a Town Council to their County Council, after which a detailed process is engaged to decide on whether the proposal will be accepted. Although these provisions form part of an Act which has been on the Statute Book since 2001 the Minister for the Environment has, as yet, failed to commence them making them ineffectual.

"Everything about this is anti-democratic. The Local Government Act 2001 was passed by both houses of the Oireachtas, it was signed into law by the President of the country, yet the Minister for the Environment is founding up the show while he considers whether or not he wants to commence certain parts?. This is wrong and it's the people of towns like Celbridge and Maynooth that are suffering as a result" fumed Murphy.

She concluded in highlighting the positive influence that Leixlip Town Council has had on the development of the town "as a founding member of Leixlip Town Council I know first hand just what positive focus it has given Leixlip. As towns grow in size more effort needs to be made that the sense of community remains, Town Council's have a vital part to play in doing this and I'm determined that towns like Maynooth and Celbridge be given the chances that Leixlip have had over the years

## **Gardai Intended To Tackle Drugs Problem Allocated to Traffic Duties, According to TD**

Deputy Catherine Murphy has criticised the governments approach to the setting up of the now one-year old Garda Traffic Corps. Although fully supportive of the establishment of the Corps due to what she has termed the "ongoing and consistently tragic" instances of road traffic accidents on Irish Roads, Murphy has criticised Minister Michael McDowell's inclusion of the Corps , within the overall



## Catherine Murphy TD Independent

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Co. Kildare

*Wishing all my constituents  
and supporters a  
"Happy Christmas"*

# Catherine Murphy T.D. Press Statement (Contd.)

planned increase of 2000 Gardai in the coming years.

"The government has promised us an additional 2000 Gardai to be targeted specifically at, and I quote from the programme for government, 'areas experiencing a significant drugs problem and a large number of public order offences'. This must be fulfilled over and above the staff allocation of the Traffic Corps, recent gangland killings are just a sample illustration of why" When the formation of the Traffic Corps was announced by Minister Mc Dowell on 23rd November 2004, he informed the public that there would be "dedicated Traffic Corps with its own staff and ring-fenced budget". However Murphy has stated that as the planned increase in Traffic Corps numbers from the current level of 574 to the end target of 1,200 Gardai will be staffed directly from the 2000 additional Gardai to be recruited over the coming years, we will only see an additional 800 Gardai on the beat throughout the country, a country that is seeing a rapid increase in population.

"I strongly welcome the formation of the Traffic Corps and I also welcomed the announcement of 2000 additional Gardai in the Programme for Government of 2002 but the Government should be honest and start separating the figures out. We are to have a 1,200 strong Garda Traffic Corps and an additional 800 Gardai for other other areas of policing. Lets not kid ourselves here"

## **TD Urges Vigilance in Monitoring Christmas Taxi-Fare Hike**

What is hoped to be the final Christmas taxi-fare rip-off is well under way as passengers are set to pay anywhere between €40 and €70 for the eleven mile journey from Dublin City Centre and Leixlip, according to Deputy Catherine Murphy. The North Kildare TD highlighted that this journey should, on the meter, cost approximately €30 however a small minority of unscrupulous taxi-drivers are embellishing the fare to the disadvantage of passengers.

"As Dublin taxi-drivers are not required to take fares outside their meter area and when they do are entitled to negotiate a fare with the passenger, a minority of drivers are exploiting the situation. Although the vast majority of drivers are not engaging in this practice it's important that the public takes note of those trying to rip them off and report them to the taxi regulator. This is a huge problem late at night when the demand for taxi services far exceeds the supply" stated Murphy.

However the Taxi Regulator who was appointed in September 2004 is currently engaged in a public consultation process regarding proposals for improvements to taximeter areas and fares. While

strongly welcoming the action on the part of the Regulator in what she hopes will be a 'much needed and long awaited' improvement in the taxi- services for North Kildare, she has urged caution to all of those who will be using taxi-services over the Christmas period.

"People taking taxi's from Dublin into the North Kildare Area need to be careful that the taxi drivers they approach will agree a fare with them before they enter the vehicle. And, more importantly where passengers encounter drivers who will only carry them for exorbitant fares they should take the number of the taxi and contact the Regulator to make sure that these drivers aren't allowed to continue ripping passengers off and giving all taxi-drivers a bad name" concluded Murphy.

The Taxi Regulated may be contacted at [www.taxiregulator.ie](http://www.taxiregulator.ie), [commission@taxiregulator.ie](mailto:commission@taxiregulator.ie), 01 6593800

## **T.D. Welcomes New Train Timetable**

I spoke to some Irish Rail Officials who deal with the timetable on the Maynooth line and there is some good news.

The new Irish Rail timetable for Maynooth line is due to come into effect on 11th December which is a Sunday however from the Monday commuters will notice some welcome changes.

There will be some small changes to some of the existing times but the introduction of 3 new trains morning and 2 new trains at evening peak are the big news. The expectation was that there would be one additional 8 car train morning and evening what they have done is to add a train at 7.22 a.m. and 8.40 a.m. these will be 4 car trains (they will terminate at Connolly rather than crossing to Pearse Station). The new evening trains will be at 17.28 and 18.04. Some significant long gaps will have been closed in the timetable by these changes.

I had had a PQ replied by Martin Cullen in relation to the extra slots (from 12 to 16 per hour) across Butt Bridge to Tara however that does not seem to add anything to the Maynooth line.

The next serious opportunity to add to the service will be in about 18 months following upgrades to signalling etc. but we will have to wait until Spencer Dock is delivered to get to the 10 minute peak time service that is expected in 2008.

They also hope to do a lot more in the off peak in the next revision of the timetable December 06. There is one new off peak train being introduced into the new timetable.

Given the level of overcrowding being experienced this is welcome however it makes the service more attractive and I think it is predictable that it will increase the numbers, people are voting with their feet so the more that can be delivered the more successful the line will get.

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**Best wishes to all our customers at Christmas**



# Editorial

## Maynooth Newsletter

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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 The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter, Unit 5, Newtown Shopping Centre, Beaufield, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.  
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### NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

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

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In 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.

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**NOLAN:** The family of the late Eileen Nolan wish to thank most sincerely all those who sympathised with them on their sad loss. Those who sent Mass Cards, messages of sympathy, telemessages, floral tributes, telephone calls, personally attended the Removal Mass and funeral. A special word of thanks to Fr. Paul Coyle C.C., Monsignor Alex Stenson and Fr. Brendan Casey. To all the kind neighbours and friends who helped in any way.

We trust this Acknowledgement will be accepted by all as a token of our grateful appreciation.

The Holy sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for you intentions.

From the daughters of Eileen Nolan.

### Maynooth Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The Maynooth Bethany Bereavement Support group Is a Parish based ministry, which offers care and Support to those in need following a significant Loss or bereavement. The group has been established in the parish since February 2000. The Members of the Bereavement Support Group are Volunteers who are trained to listen and provide Support in a caring and confidential manner. Some Of the members have experienced significant losses themselves and can empathise with those who are Bereaved. Bereavement support is offered in a Number of different ways including home visits, Individual contacts and telephone support as requested. It is comforting for many to know that they are not alone with their grief. Tremendous relief can be gained from sharing and talking about your loss. If you feel it would be helpful to speak with a member O the Bereavement group please contact Kathleen On 6290329 or alternatively contact the Parish Office on 6293018 for further details. Confidentiality assured.

#### New members

If you feel that you would like to become involved in the work of the Bereavement Support Group please Contact us. New members are always welcome. A Training course for new volunteers in 'Supporting The Bereaved' will commence in February 2006 in Clonliffe College.