

Maynooth Newsletter



Senior Citizens xmas party

Maynooth Flower



Review of BNS "Finding Christmas"!



and Garden Club
25th Birthday Party

*~ For all the people of Maynooth ~
February 2006*

Issue No. 334

Price €2.00



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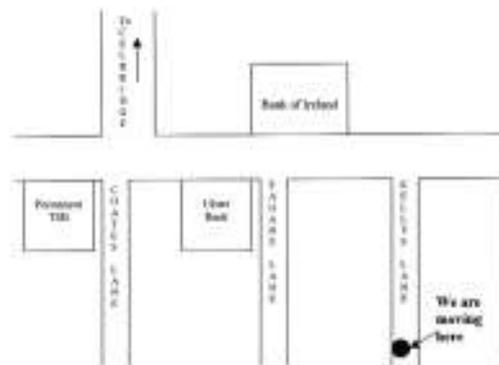
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Editorial

The New Year opens with two good news stories for Maynooth town. In the first place, the playground in the Harbour Field area has been completed and is now open to the young public that it will serve. It has taken extraordinary efforts on behalf of residents and the local councillors to have this state of the art facility provided in the town. We would like to extend our thanks and our congratulations to all those involved in the work that led to this development.

Secondly, all the groups involved in the planning for the provision of a community arts centre have agreed that this should be built around the Geraldine Hall. The Community Council agreed at its January meeting. The local councillors again have been actively engaged in the negotiations with Kildare County Council and after decades of debate, both the Harbour Field and the Geraldine Hall are now in the possession of Kildare County Council.

The Hall will be used to provide much needed facilities for the people of Maynooth. An architect's plan, put together at the behest of the Community Arts Forum, shows the versatility of the space involved. This will include, hopefully, a dedicated theatre that would attract professionals in all the performance arts as well as a venue for local talent. It would also provide a permanent base for such activities as art exhibitions, local art groups and local writers groups. It could accommodate other requirements such as snooker, a youth club and individual facilities for different groups such as the senior citizens, residents association meetings, music rehearsal rooms and a creche. At a national level however, the news is not so good. The port tunnel and the Luas are both proving problematic and closer to home the truckers are boycotting the expensive tolls on the newly opened M4 for which two tolls are planned. The case went to court on January 12th and judgement is due on 1st March. Campaigners never wanted to resort to this action, but the obstinacy of the government in the face of huge opposition to the route chosen left no option but to go to court. The Government-funded Discovery Programme spend years researching the Tara complex but now the same Government sees fit to destroy the landscape of this precious area which is set to include one of the largest interchanges in the country situated in the Gabra Valley, the putative site of the last battle of the Fianna. Obviously, Fianna Fail (the soldiers of destiny) has forgotten the origin of their very own name. On top of the Hill stands the Lia Fail, (stone of destiny), looking down on the literary graves of the Fianna.

Muireann Ni Bhrochlain

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Maynooth Community Council Notes

Community Centre for Maynooth

A full discussion took place on this. The fact that there are two sites to consider for the Community Centre i.e. Carton Avenue and the Harbour Field, we will also have to decide what we want in them. It was also noted that the Geraldine Hall is ideal to house a Community Theatre and other possible outlets. The situation of the Geraldine Hall makes it ideal and is central to the town. Hugh Gallagher said it would be better if Maynooth Community Council were to stay in the town.

Peter Connell - re - Maynooth Action Strategy, gave a brief report on the survey that they carried out two years ago. He said that it was very positive for Maynooth. He said people felt a sense of community living in Maynooth, but it also pointed out a lack of certain facilities like cultural and entertainment outlets in the town.

It was decided to have a meeting with representatives of Maynooth Action Strategy and Maynooth Community Centre Partnership and their findings on board and hopefully come up with a positive plan for the community centre and the findings reported to next community council meeting.

LOCAL MATTERS

Christmas Lights

A quote of €27,000 was needed to put up Christmas Lights this year. New safety boxes had to be installed. It was felt it will have to be a community venture next year. It was also sad to see no Christmas tree this year, the wooden structure is considered unsafe.

Hugh Gallagher reminded everybody to be very watchful as there had been an attempted abduction in the town. Ann Burns noted that at pedestrian's crossing the surface is very knobbly.

Hugh Gallagher - re - Celbridge Road said there is a need for more paving out this road.

Mary Joyce re- Turning right at Crinstown Cross, this road is in a dreadful condition with ridges both sides, this road is now being used a lot since Bond Bridge closed.

John O' Connor - re- Lyreen River is very discoloured.

The Glenroyal Hotel was thanked for providing mince pies and mulled wine after the meeting.

Next Community Council meeting is 12th January 2006

PRO Marie Gleeson

Poetry Corner

As Winter Fades

As Winter fades and Spring's lips open
New beginnings then are spoken
And tiny lambs bleat first breath
In fields now green as you can get

Flowers start to push through
As the soil renders up its treasure
Children pick them easily
Indeed in no small measure

And Mothers greet February
In a fashion that is merry
Time to book that holiday
Now's the time come what may

A new energy blooms forth
In everyone I see
Children in the Spring sunshine
Happy running free

Spring cleaning lifts the Winter dust
And every corner of the house
Is shined and polished
That's a must!

This season now close to my heart
Will be over as soon as it did start
Next is March and chocolate treats
The Easter bunny then we'll greet

Dara Lakes

Clubs, Organisations and Societies

I.C.A. Notes

The Guild has been very busy since October. The craft nights continue every Monday night and badminton every Monday and Thursday. Upcoming competitions are Guild of Kildare competition - Shadow Quilting - Rag Doll Making - Eleanor Gibbons Competition (dramatise piece of poetry or song). Members attended the Federation meeting in Ardlough and also attended a Conference on cancer organised by Little Way, Clane in Keadeen Hotel, Newbridge. A sum of €2,586.00 has been raised by the Federation for cancer research in Galway. At the October meeting an auction was organized for part scholarships to An Grianan. The winners were Felicity Satchwell and Mary Deane. Raffle winners on the night were Mary O'Gorman, Mairead Scanlan and Rosemary Hanley.

At the November meeting Mary O'Gorman was congratulated on getting third place in Ireland for her rag doll and the doll was on display at the Knitty and Stitchy Show in the RDS in November. Winners of the November competition were 1st. Betty Moore, 2nd. Mary Halton, Joint 3rd. Mary O'Gorman, Mary Halton and Teresa Corcoran. Members attended the national Council meeting in Ennis and also Federation meeting in Kill in November. "Christmas Child" shoeboxes were also collected from all Maynooth members. The Federation President Eileen Bateson from Suncroft attended the November meeting.

At the December meeting the President welcomed two new members Kathleen O' Reilly and Maura Brown to the Guild. On international matters a Polish night will be organized by Kilteel Guild in Kildare in April next. Two Maynooth members have been invited to the Senior Citizens Christmas dinner. From 3rd to 7th April there will be craft workshops at An Crianan in Drogheda (ICA College). Another competition i.e., organize dinner for two adults and two children using lots of vegetables and fruit. In addition to this there is a set dancing competition for Patsy Lalor shield and also a singing competition for the Beaumon Shield. There is also a competition for brown bread sponsored by Cuinneog members of buttermilk, butter etc. The Guild competition for January is a slice of Christmas pudding. The Federation hope to organize a trip the Chelsea Flower Show. In November there was a leader programme day organized and Mary McNamara attended this. A sports day is also organized by Kildare Sports Partnership for ICA members for December and takes place in December.

Federation meeting will be held on 23rd March 2006 in Derrinturn and next Council meeting will be held on

4th March 2006 in Tullamore. Kildare week in An Grianan will take place from Monday 10th to Friday 14th July 2006 and the weekend from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd October 2006. There is also a Craft Day in Athy on Saturday 25th March 2006.

Some Guild members also attended a cookery book launch at the request of Leixlip Guild. A lovely night was had by all with refreshments being served. Members will attend a Christmas lunch in the Orchard in Celbridge on Friday 9th December. Raffle winners at the December meeting were Betty Farrell, Teresa Corcoran, Margaret Ball, Norah McDermott, Rosemary Hanley, Eileen Flynn, Mary O' Gorman, Mary Dunne, Veva Kearins and Mary Murphy. Competition winners for the handmade Christmas card was Rosemary Hanley who was presented with a cup for same. Second place was Mary Halton and third place, Mary Dunne. Members from Leixlip, Celbridge and Clane Tuils were invited for the Guild night where some great games were played, 'pass the parcel' being one. Did you ever try to open a parcel with big gloves and a knife and fork? It is possible, as we proved - even if it does take half an hour. Great fun was had by all on the night.

The January meeting saw the members back in business for the new year. The competition winner for best plum pudding was Veva Kearins with Margaret Houlihan taking second place and Betty Farrell in third place. The raffle was won by Margaret Houlihan, second, Madeline Stynes, third Mary Halton and fourth Mary McNamara. Next months competition is to create a dessert for two people using day old bread as the main ingredient. Crafts continue every Monday night at 8pm and badminton will start again on Monday 20th February. A guild of Kildare competition will take place on Tuesday 25th April in St. Coca's Scout Hall, Kilcock. The categories for this competition are drama, cookery, remake and model crafts, arts and comortas as Gaeilge. The theme of this competition is revamp, reuse, recycle so we should see great work of the imagination here. Great fun will be had by all.

As you can see we have a very busy year ahead and something for everyone to get involved in. Our next meeting will take place on 2nd February 2006 and all meetings after that will take place on the first Thursday of the month at 8pm. We would like to see some more new members so come along to the meetings in our hall in the Harbour, Maynooth

Planning Permissions

FILE NUMBER	APPLICANT NAME	APPLICANT ADDRESS	APPLICATION TYPE	APPLICATION RECEIVED	DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT LOCATION
05/2696	A Twomey	110 Rail Park Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	16/11/05	Retain store at rear/side of house	110 Rail Park Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2728	Willie Graham	Maharg House Silken Vale Maynooth	O	21/11/05	2 four bedroom dormer bungalows and associated site works. Existing planning grant 02/2006 for same, expires on 15/01/2006	Old Greenfield Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2735	Paul & Catherine Coyle	No.11 Parklands Rise Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	22/11/05	Alterations and two storey extension to two storey semi-detached house plus new garage shed plus widening of entrance from road	No. 11 Parklands Rise Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2805	Thomas Burke	Taghadoe Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	29/11/05	Consisting of providing a new independent agricultural access road to farm of Mr. Thomas Burke	Taghadoe Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2808	Brian & Joe McHale	Taghadoe Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	29/11/05	Construct 6 no. all weather sports pitches with associated netting (6 metres in ht) lighting (12 metre in ht) car parking area and new entrance. We also propose to construct a 300 metre driving range to include tee-off structure 920 no pods. Etc)	Taghadoe Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2816	Colin & Christine Burns	32 Rockfield Park Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	01/12/05	First floor extension to side of existing dwelling house over existing garage conversion and a single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling house	32 Rockfield Park Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2884	Michael & Ita Loughnane	Leinster Park Mews Maynooth Co. Kildare	R	08/12/05	Gable bedroom window and recessed roadway entrance	Leinster Park Mews Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2885	Gwen Leavy	2 Parklands Court Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	08/12/05	First floor extension to side of existing dwelling house over existing garage conversion with new utility room created below and also a single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling house	2 Parklands Court Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2925	Anne Quigley	Moyglare Road Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	13/12/05	Dormer bungalow, garage, Puraflo treatment system and septic tank	Baltracey Donadea Co. Kildare

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05/2928	Roger Young	Clonfert Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	14/12/05	Dormer bungalow, floor area 155 sq.m., complete with septic tank and treatment unit and including a new entrance onto the road. Area of site 0.205 hectares	Clonfert Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/2995	Peter Robinson	Crinstown House Crinstown Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	21/12/05	Replace existing roller entrance door with glazed door screen unit, replace existing single door with enlarged door screen together with the retention of an existing steel floor structure and installation of new stairs and first floor for use as etc	Unit 16, Block F Maynooth Business Park Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/3016	Paul & Catherine Coyle	No. 11 Parklands Rise Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	21/12/05	Alterations and two storey extension to two storey semi-detached house plus new garden shed plus widening of entrance from road	No. 11 Parklands Rise Railpark Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/3032	N Byrne	Clonfert South Maynooth	R	21/12/05	Garage as constructed and ancillary site works	Clonfert South Maynooth
05/3040	Mathew P. Carroll	Dillons Row Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	22/12/05	Dormer bungalow, incorporating an access drive to side of existing dwelling	Dillon's Row Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/3054	Tommy Durkan	79 Terenure Road East Terenure Dublin 6W	P	23/12/05	Demolition of an existing 2 storey high, 508 sq.m, former convent building and the construction of 2 no. 4 bed detached houses (147.48 sq.m each) 9. no. 4 bed townhouses (125.28 sq.m each), 8 no. duplex units (103.44 sq.m each, 22 no. 3 bed etc	Mariavilla Estate Maynooth Co. Kildare
05/3075	Roger Young	Clonfert Maynooth	P	23/12/05	Dormer bungalow, floor area 55 square metres, complete with septic tank and treatment unit and including	Clonfert Maynooth Co. Kildare
06/2	Michael & Ita Loughnane	Leinster Park Mews Maynooth Co. Kildare	R	03/01/06	Unauthorised development comprising gable bedroom window and recessed roadway entrance	Leinster Park Mews Maynooth Co. Kildare
06/6	Boldnote Developments Ltd.	Carton Demense Carton Maynooth Co. Kildare	P	04/01/06	Revisions/modifications to approved tourism/leisure development scheme. PA ref: 441/91 and Bord Pleanala PL9/5/88418. Carton House and associated outhouses, stables and yards are currently listed under the development plan, and are protected etc.	Carton Demense Carton Maynooth Co. Kildare

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MK Presents...



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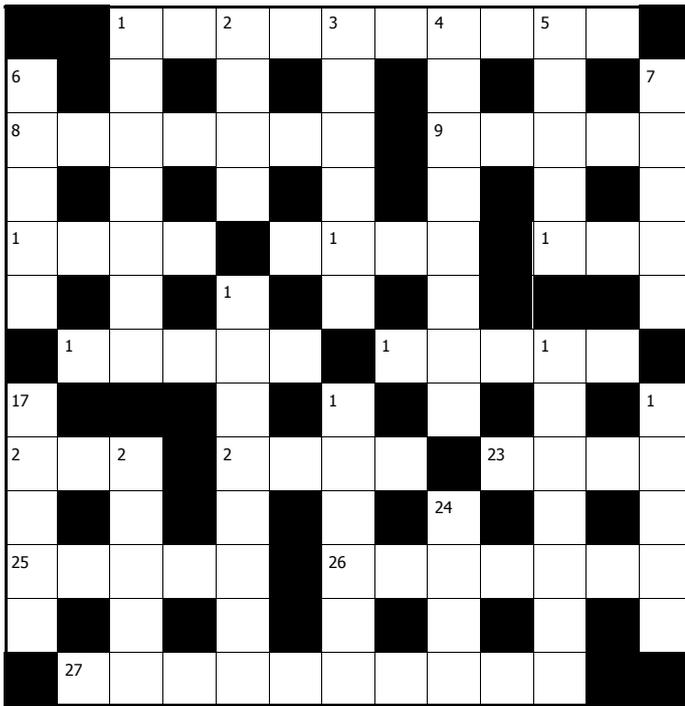
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Entries before: 13th February 2006
 Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Across:

- 1. Educational institution (10)
- 8. Learned person (7)
- 9. Origin or foundation (5)
- 10. Unclean tax (4)
- 11. Become fuzzy (4)
- 12. Make an offer at auction (3)
- 14. Formal proclamation (4)
- 15. Absurd situation (5)
- 20. Pull behind (4)
- 22. Baking compartment (4)
- 23. Double sheet bend or reef for example (4)
- 25. Keyboard instrument (5)
- 26. Native of an Jewish state (7)
- 27. Not to be depended (10)

Down:

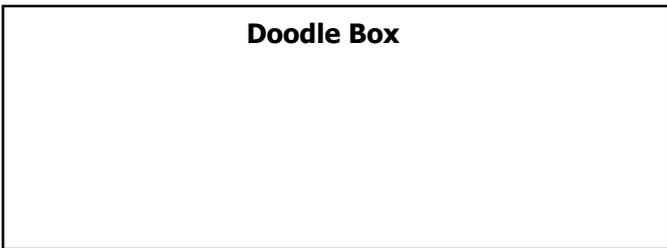
- 1. Escorted you, say and she ends up red (7)
- 2. Inactive (4)
- 3. Enters ones name (6)
- 4. Belonging on the edge of town (8)
- 5. Beat rapidly (5)
- 6. Apart from (5)
- 7. Covering for a lamp (5)
- 13. Beg from any available source (8)
- 16. Comply or surrender (5)
- 17. Simple backless seat (5)
- 18. Star sign (6)
- 19. Set of principles (5)
- 21. Police vehicle is after Paddy (5)
- 24. Insect lava for food? (4)

Across:

1. Nectar, 4. Creosote, 9. Roasts, 10. Scathing, 12. Axiom, 13. Impartial, 15. Elf, 16. Limit, 17. Fiasco, 22. Ordeal, 24. Cargo, 27. Elk, 28. Periphery, 31. Radar, 32. Scholars, 33. Tattle. 34. Senators. 35. Sherry

Down:

1. Normally, 2. Charisma, 3. Altimeter, 5. Recap, 6. Otter, 7. Origin, 8. Engulf, 11. Piffle, 14. Ass, 18. Alleys, 19. Cockroach, 20. Predator. 21. Courtesy. 23. Doh. 25. Spasms. 26. Urchin. 29. Pilot. 30. Error.



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Clubs, Organisations and Societies

Maynooth Citizens Information Notes

Question

I understand that the income thresholds for the Family Income Supplement have been increased in the Budget for 2006. Can you please details?

Answer

Family Income Supplement (FIS) is a weekly payment for families at work on low pay, including lone parent families. To be eligible:

You must be working 19 or more hours per week (38 hours a fortnight) and the work must be expected to last for at least 3 months. (Back to Work Allowance, Job Initiative, Social Economy Programme and Part-time Job Incentive are eligible for FIS, Community Employment is not.) Where your spouse/partner is also working, your working hours can be combined to satisfy this condition.

You must have one or more children (under age 18, or aged 18 to 22 in full time education) living with you and you must be supporting them.

Your average weekly family income must be below the appropriate income limit for your family size. Assessable income is net family income. It includes most social welfare payments, but not Child Benefit.

As of January 2006 the weekly income limits are as

If you have	Your family income is less than
1 child	€465
2 children	€510
3 children	€565
4 children	€630
5 children	€705
6 children	€775
7 children	€845
8 or more children	€905

follows:

FIS is calculated as 60% of the difference between your average weekly family income and the income limit for your family size. The minimum payment is still €20. It is paid for 52 weeks while you remain employed for at least 19 hours per week (38 hours a fortnight). At the end of the 52 weeks you should re-apply if you think you are still eligible. Claim forms are available from your local Social Welfare Office.

Question

Can you please give details on the new rates for hospital charges that were announced recently?

Answer

From 1st January 2006 the statutory charge for attending Accident and Emergency increases from €55 to €60. If you are a medical card holder or have a letter of referral from your doctor you do not have to pay this charge.

The statutory charge for in-patient services in a public ward has also increased from €55 to €60 a day (subject to a maximum of €6000, i.e 10 days, in any 12-month period). If you stay in two or more hospitals in the course of the year and your stay in hospital exceeds 10 days overall, you should bring this to the attention of the last hospital you attend.

Everyone is entitled to public in-patient services regardless of his/her income but subject to the statutory charge mentioned above. There are a number of groups who do not have to pay the statutory charge such as medical card holders, women receiving maternity services, children up to the age of 6 weeks and children suffering from prescribed long-term illnesses. In cases of undue hardship the Health Service Executive (HSE) may provide the service free of charge.

Hospital Category	Private	Semi-private	Day-care
HSE Regional Hospitals Voluntary and Joint Board Teaching Hospitals	€551	€432	€397
HSE County Hospitals Voluntary Non-Teaching Hospital	€469	€370	€329
HSE District Hospitals	€197	€168	€146

The charges for private and semi-private accommodation in public hospitals have also increased by 10%. The daily rates are as follows: These charges are additional to the public hospital statutory in-patient charge given above

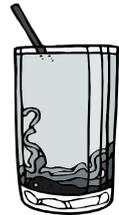
Question

Can you claim any tax relief for employing a carer to look after a person with disability?



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Clubs, Organisations and Societies

Maynooth Citizens Information Notes (Contd)

Answer

You can claim a tax allowance if you employ someone to care for you or a family member who is totally incapacitated. You will not be eligible for the tax relief if the carer is employed as a housekeeper only.

The Tax Allowance for Employing a Carer is claimed at your highest rate of tax (i.e. 42% or 20%) and you can claim for the cost of employing the carer less any amount recovered from the Health Service Executive. Where two or more persons employ the carer the allowance may be shared between them.

For 2006 the maximum tax allowance you can claim for is €50,000 for the full year. Since 2004 you can claim relief for the tax year in which the person becomes totally incapacitated. In this case, however, the maximum relief you can claim is reduced by reference to the number of months in that year the person is totally incapacitated e.g. 8/12ths of €50,000.

The carer may be employed on an individual basis or through an agency. Any member of the wider family who engages the carer may claim the tax allowance against his/her own income. The wider family includes a blood relative, a relative by marriage or a legal guardian.

To claim the allowance you should complete Form HK1. If you are a PAYE taxpayer, your Certificate of Tax Credits will be increased to include the relief due. If you pay tax under self-assessment, the Form HK1 should be attached to the tax return and relief will be given in your Notice of Assessment.

As it is necessary for you to employ a person to qualify for the allowance you will have to register as an employer, and deduct PAYE/PRSI. In certain circumstances, where the carer is provided by an agency and the agency pays the carer directly, the agency will normally be responsible for deducting PAYE and PRSI. You will still be eligible for the allowance and should submit your claim on Form HK1 as usual.

Question

Our 10-year-old child has a disability and is attending a residential special school. He comes home for holidays and weekends. Are we entitled to Domiciliary Care Allowance?

Answer

Yes, you should be entitled to a pro-rata Domiciliary Care Allowance providing your child satisfies the eligibility criteria.

Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) is a means-tested payment made by the Health Service Executive in respect of a child with a disability up to age 16. The child must require constant care or supervision that is substantially greater than that normally required by a child or supervision that is substantially greater than that normally required by a child of the same age and sex. The disability must be present at the time of the application and be likely to continue for at least a year. The care can be provided by the parents or somebody else.

Only the means of child, such as compensation payments, are taken into account. However, as such payments are normally held in trusts and the child has no direct access to the money, it is unlikely to affect eligibility. The means of the parents are not considered.

Payment is normally made to the mother of the child but it may be paid to the father or to the person who is providing the care. From January 2006 the maximum DCA is €250.90 per month. Where there is more than one eligible child in a family a full payment is made in respect of each child.

The allowance should not be stopped if the child is absent from his/her home for short periods up to 2 months in any 12-month period, e.g. on a holiday or in hospital.

A pro-rata DCA is payable in respect of periods spent at home, e.g. weekends and holidays, where an eligible child is normally maintained in an institution.

A Respite Care Grant of €1,200 will be paid in June 2006 by the Health Service Executive for each child being cared for. However, it will not be paid unless the child has spent at least 6 months in total of the previous 12 months at home.

Further information is available from the Citizens Information Centre below.

Citizens Information Centre provides a free and confidential service to the public.

Tel: 01 6285477

Citizens Information is also available online at www.oasis.gov.ie and from the

Citizens Information Phone Service:

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Recipes

Pancakes

Ingredients
Makes 10

150g (5½ oz) self-raising flour
1-2 tbsp caster sugar
1 egg lightly beaten
150ml (5oz) milk
50g (1.75oz) butter
1 lemon

1. Sieve the flour into a bowl, add the sugar and stir. In a separate bowl, whisk together the egg and milk, make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients, add the liquid milk and mix just until it comes together.
2. Heat a frying pan and turn the heat down to medium low. Put half of the butter into the pan and put tablespoonfuls of the mixture into the pan and cook for about 2 minutes, until bubbles appear on the surface.
3. Turn the pancake over and cook until firm in the centre and the bottoms are golden. Repeat with the rest of the mixture.
4. Serve straight from the pan with a squeeze of lemon and sprinkle on some sugar.

Poached salmon

Ingredients
Serves 4

1 large bunch of fresh basil
2 celery sticks, chopper
1 carrot, chopped
1 small courgette, chopped
1 small onion, chopped
4 salmon steaks about 50g/2 oz each
75ml/3 fl oz white wine
125ml/4 fl oz water
1 tsp lemon juice
15g/½ oz unsalted butter
salt and pepper
basil sprigs, to garnish

1. Strip the leaves off half the basil and set aside.
2. Spread the chopped celery, carrot, courgette and onion evenly over the bottom of a large flameproof dish or pan with a lid, place the salmon steaks on top and cover them with the remaining basil.

3. Pour over the wine and water and add salt and pepper to taste. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer for about 10 minutes. Transfer the salmon to a warmed serving dish.

4. Bring the poaching liquid and vegetables back to the boil and simmer for 5 minutes. Strain into a blender or food processor and add the cooked and uncooked basil. Blend to a purée and transfer to a saucepan.

5. Bring the purée to the boil and reduce by half to thicken.

6. Remove the pan from the heat, add the lemon juice and stir in the butter. Pour the sauce over the salmon steaks and serve, garnished with basil sprigs.

Strawberry Meringue Pudding

Ingredients
Serves 8

250ml (9 fl oz) cream
6 meringues broken up into 2-3cm pieces
250g strawberries
icing sugar to serve

1. Whip the cream until thick and then add the broken-up meringues and quartered strawberries.
2. Serve in little glasses and dust with icing sugar.



Attention!

If any clubs or organisations would like to submit any upcoming events, would they please contact the Maynooth Community Council office at
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Fax: 01- 6285922
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A Century of Irish Sporting Heroes - John Giles (1940 -)

John Giles, has been a respected soccer TV pundit for so long now that it might be easily forgotten that he was one of the best midfield players in Football League history. John, Dublin born and a youth player for Stella Maris was the midfield genius for Leeds and Ireland for over a decade in the 60's and 70's. John was by common consent the best of his time. Good soccer players as Eamon Dunphy might say are plentiful, great ones are rare. Due to saturation TV coverage of Soccer we have been privileged to see great mid field players of the modern era in action. Zidane of France and Figo of Portugal spring to mind as the best of our time. Their ability to hold the ball, create space for their players and rarely waste a pass gives them a class status above the rest. John Giles was just as good and he was playing at a time when the game was much more physical and the playing pitches not up to the standards of to day.



John Giles was a midfield artist of patience, guile and hidden aggression. The perfect cog in the midfield of a team. He had such good sense of positional play that he was always there when needed and nearly always followed the gaining of possession by passing a ball to a teammate with "Beckham" like accuracy. Rarely were his passes wasted, he was a great team player for his colleagues always there to get them out of trouble. Despite his small frame (5ft. 7in.) he was a difficult player to get the ball from. He was so nimble that he found the agility and turning capacity to create the space needed to control a game. "Hard men" tended to avoid him as he tended to dish out more

than he took. He controlled midfield, created space and dictated the pace of a game to suit his teammates. Players like Gerard and Beckham are very good but would fail to make the cut with Giles who always played a more "complete" game.

John one of the great soccer brains started his Premiership (Division 1) career with Man United in 1959/60 season. He started on the right wing and won a FA cup medal in 1963. The experience gained in this position gave him the confidence to hold the ball. So many "stars" of the modern Premiership do not have the ability to hold the ball, gain an instant picture of defensive formations and split them with well placed balls. Overhyped, they would not be in the same league as John. A short sharp quarrel with Sir Matt after the Charity Shield match against Everton in 1964 resulted in his immediate transfer to Leeds. Even the "greatest" make mistakes and Busby subsequently admitted to that one. John Giles joined a potentially great Leeds team. Captained by Jack Charlton with fellow English internationals Hunter, Cooper and Reaney, Scottish International and Giles midfield partner Billy Bremner. Perhaps Gary Spark, goalkeeper, was the only weak link in the team and that was debatable.

Due to bad luck, crowded fixture lists and lack of support from the English FA, Leeds United won only two Division One Championships. Leeds won their first championship in 1966 securing a record number of points (67) although recording the lowest number of goals scored (66) and conceding only (26). Peter Lorimer and Paul Madeley were the only members of the Leeds squad who failed to gain International representative honours for their countries. Goalkeeper Garry Sprake, who made his debut for Wales at 18, played in every game. In that successful bid for the Championship John Giles displayed his full range of skills from ice cool penalty kicks to precision placed free kicks that led to many goals for his team.

The 1969 season epitomises the kind of bad luck the team experienced. After a slow start, Leeds overhauled Everton in the table and seemed well set for the treble. Their European Cup exploits were going well and so were their efforts in the FA Cup. But eventually fixture congestion and a marathon semi final with Manchester United -3 games in thirteen days- robbed them of everything. In those days the English FA had no respect for European competition and made no allowances for English teams competing. On March 14th 1970 they drew 0-0 with Manchester United. Four days later they beat Standard Liege at Elland Road to secure a semi final place in the European Cup. Three days later they beat Wolves away to stay top of Division One. The replay with United the following



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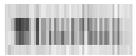


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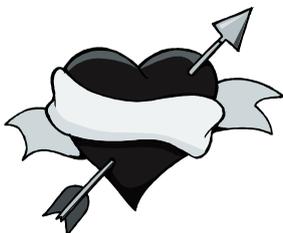
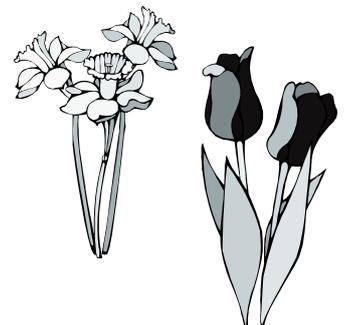
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A Century of Irish Sporting Heroes - John Giles (1940 -)

Tuesday ended again 0-0. The FA in its wisdom fixed the second replay for two days later at Bolton. Leeds won, but Waterloo was facing them. The demanding Easter programme started Saturday where they lost at home to Southampton and they surrendered the Championship at Derby by fielding a reserve team on Easter Monday. Things got worst, they lost a famous two-leg tie with Glasgow Celtic in the European Cup Semi- final and lost the FA Cup to Chelsea in a replay. This sequence of events summed up a decade of football at Leeds. Champions yes, but Leeds United were unlucky not to win more trophies.

John Giles was capped 59 times for Ireland. We came agonisely close to qualifying for our first World Cup Finals in 1966. Spain edged us out in a Group Play off in Paris by 1- 0. Come to think of it who were the bright sparks in the FAI who agreed to Paris as the play off venue? John subsequently went to West Brom, America and returned to Ireland where he initiated a youth academy scheme at Shamrock Rovers. John, as well as his TV work also has a number of business interests in the UK.

Jim Healy



The Leeds United midfielder gets a centre past Chelsea's Eddie McCreadie at Wembley in the inconclusive 1970 final

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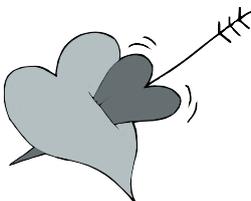
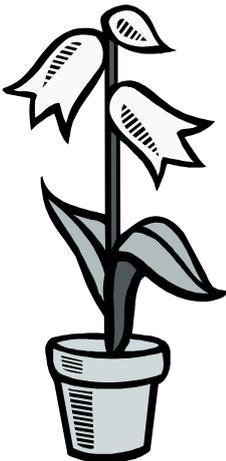


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Useful Tips

Valuables

To enable you to identify your property if it's ever stolen, mark each item indelibly with your postcode. Then, to make it unique to you, add the number of your house or flat, or the first two letters of your house name. Use invisible, fluorescent ink pens, ceramic markers or diamond-tipped engravers. These can be bought individually or in kits at art supply or craft shops.

Ask a professional valuer to assess the value of your jewellery, antiques and rare objects. Then make sure that your contents insurance covers the full replacement value of what you own. Remember, it will probably cost you far more to replace your old oak kitchen table than your originally paid for it.

Making a household inventory

- ◆ Compile a complete written inventory of your most valuable household belongings: keep one copy at home, another with your bank or your solicitor and a third with your insurance company. Although making the inventory may be tedious, it will be extremely valuable if you're ever the victim of theft, fire, flood or any other disaster and have to make a claim.
- ◆ Catalogue each room thoroughly; open every drawer and cupboard and carefully list anything of value. Write a description of each piece (including its serial number and brand name), the date you bought it and its price. Keep receipts and valuations for any very valuable items.
- ◆ Photograph each item against a plain background with a ruler by the side of it to give some idea of scale. Make a careful note of any distinguishing marks such as crests or initials. Small items are often difficult to mark and the photograph is a useful supplement to other precautions.

Winter clothing

Keep warm in winter with thermal underwear. Silk or synthetic thermal underwear comes in flattering styles these days and gives the warmth of several layers of thick clothing, so you can wear lightweight clothing over it and still be warm.

- ◆ Wear several layers of clothes rather than relying on one thick garment to keep your warm.
- ◆ Keep your extremities covered at all times. Thermal mittens, socks and wool mix tights make a great difference. Tie a silk scarf at your neck and wear a hat that pulls down well past your ears.
- ◆ Wear boots and fingerless gloves when working

outside or in cold, unheated rooms.

- ◆ If your jacket isn't waterproof and you need to go out into the cold, you can, at a pinch, use a large plastic rubbish bag as a windcheater. Cut head and arm holes and wear it under your jacket. Small bags over your socks and gloves will also keep out wind. (However, plastic will make you sweat, so don't rely on these measures for too long, or the moisture will cool down.) If you don't have plastic bags, put newspaper or foam under your coat or shirt, and inside your boots and hat.
- ◆ If your child gets a rash from his wool or wool-mix winter hat, attach a cotton liner to the inside of the hat.

Icy paths

- ◆ Use sand, sifted ashes or cat litter to improve a slippery surface.
- ◆ Spread rock salt before snow or sleet falls; this helps to keep ice from bonding to a concrete surface.
- ◆ Keep a path relatively dry and ice-free by digging shallow trenches along both sides. They'll trap rainwater and melting snow.
- ◆ On an icy walk, tilt your body slightly forward and set your feet down flat. Short steps also improve stability. If you fall, don't tense up; go limp and try to roll as you land.

Alarm Clock

- ◆ An electronic timer can serve as a backup alarm clock for home or travel. You can get one that times up to 10 hours and, with three separate channels, can even work a 'snooze alarm'.
- ◆ Ask a friend or relative to give you a morning wake-up call - and offer to return the favour.
- ◆ Set an automatic timer to turn on all the lights, the radio and the TV in your bedroom for the time you have to get up.
- ◆ On the night before you have to get up early, set out a breakfast that needs little preparation - fruit, cereal and rolls, for example. Invest in an automatic coffee or tea machine with a timer to make your early morning drink





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Features

Rural Social Scheme

What is the Rural Social Scheme?

The Rural Social Scheme was initiated by the Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs Mr. Eamon O' Cuiv and launched on the 17th May 2004. The RSS has two main aims and they are to:

- Provide income support to farmers and fishermen
- Provide certain services of benefit to rural communities
-

Who can participate in the RSS?

To be eligible to participate in the RSS individuals must be in receipt of Farm Assist
OR

They have been allocated a herd or flock number from the Department of Agriculture and Food
AND

- Be in receipt of one of the following allowances from the Department of Social and Family Affairs
- Unemployment Assistance
- Unemployment Benefit (if previously on a CE Scheme)
- Disability Allowance

Can a spouse participate in the RSS?

If you are eligible under the criteria to participate in the RSS but do not wish to avail of it then your dependant spouse can take your place.

Will participants be able to continue their normal working activities?

Participants will be expected to work 19.5 hours per week. However this will be done in a way that will suit a farmer friendly schedule.

Annual leave will be calculated in accordance with the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997.

Will this job be on a permanent basis?

Participation in the RSS is not intended to be on a permanent basis. The operation of the RSS will always be reviewed after each twelve month term. If your application is successful, you will be included on the RSS for an initial period of twelve months

Rates of Pay

Single person: €173.20 Married Person: €271.90
Child dependent: €16.80

In Summary

Are you in Receipt of Farm Assist
OR

Have you got a Herd or Flock No.
AND

Are you in receipt of one of the following

- Unemployment Benefit (If previously on CE Scheme)
- Disability Allowance
- Unemployment Assistance

Then you may be eligible to participate in the RSS.

For further information or an application form
Contact: Suzanne

Tel: 045 861973

Mob: 086 0741343

What are the benefits of the RSS to rural communities?

The RSS will provide additional resources to maintain and improve local amenities and facilities in rural communities.

Communities will benefit from the skills and talents of local farmers and fishermen.

Participants will experience opportunities to improve existing, or develop new skills, and perform valuable work in the community.

KELT

Kildare European Leader

11 Teoranta

Tel: 045 861973

Email: Suzanne@kelt.ie

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3 Best Band

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4 Best Portrayal of Irish Culture

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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))

Sam Feeney - Celbridge Road

It was a bright December morning when I called on Sam. The countryside that surrounds his home on the Celbridge road out of Maynooth looked better, thanks to a pale blue sky and sunshine that made a rare appearance in what was one of the shortest days of the year. The writer warmly welcomed by Sam and his wife of thirty-five years, Ann, adjourned to Sam's newly built conservatory. His preference for this sanctuary is well signposted. Magazines and newspapers are liberally spread across the table and Sam confirms that he much prefers to read and listen to the radio than watch television.



Sam relaxing at home

Sam was ten years old when he came to Maynooth with his family in 1959. Under a Land Commission programme farmers from the West moved to the richer pastures of Kildare and Meath leaving their holdings to be divided among those who continued to eke out a living from the rock strewn ground of the Galway Gaeltacht. On reaching his new home with its thirty acres of good farmland, Sam recalls that it was the opportunity to play his football in a field that was grassy and level that gave him the most joy in his new home. With his brother, Colm and his three sisters, Anne, Maura and Nora he quickly settled into his new way of life. He enjoyed his school years noting that his schoolmates were intrigued when he lapsed into Irish sayings or worst still, curses. He feels that he had a head start in school in some ways, as the School Principal in the Boy's National School was a Galway man and a keen supporter of the Irish Language. In those days you progressed to second level within the existing National School Building. Life was not all school and football however. Up at 4am each morning to milk the cows before filling the milk churns to be collected off a platform on the roadside by Dublin Dairies. Sadly his Dad, Sean, died in 1964 five years after he left Galway. Sam feels that his Father worked too hard and that was the reason why he died at a relatively young age. Trying to keep his

holding going in the West while holding down a job with the ESB took a lot out of his health. With the help of great neighbours, men like Pat Flaherty, Sean Nolan and Seamus Byrne, the family kept the farm going. Sam never did really like farming. In today's context where we have young executives working long hours and missing out on social and family life we have the new "in" numbers, 24/7. Farmers however have been working these hours since the beginning of time. Sam was mad keen on football and the social life that went with it. Running a farm meant that the socialising went out the back door as he hurried home to look after farm duties after a match. He played Gaelic football and hurling for Maynooth and won the county premier hurling minor final in 1965. He was sixteen years old. He also represented Kildare at minor level. Although he was passionate about Gaelic football at the time he did begin to play soccer. Sam feels that the growing availability of television at the time that England held the world cup in 1966 gave an impetus to soccer in Ireland. At that time there were two soccer teams in Maynooth. Maynooth St Mary's and his local team Ballygoran. The two clubs amalgamated in 1972 to form Maynooth Town AFC. Although the ban on foreign games was in force many players not only in Maynooth but all over Ireland played both codes. Examples were made and bans were enforced from time to time but it did not restrict the widespread pool of dual players. Maynooth Town AFC appeared in the Sheeran Cup Final but unfortunately lost the game. Sam recalls times where healthy living was the least on people's minds. Players liked their cigarettes and some lit up at half time never mind waiting for the game to end. Sam himself gave up smoking as he felt it was interfering with his fitness to play the game. Team players included Willie Saults who, he remembers, as a good left winger who had the ability to rise above the rest to head home. He remembers most of the names on the accompanying photos, good friends and players who played many a match and enjoyed the social life that went with it. He also remembers Tim Guiney, and Bartle Redmond who done Trojan work for the sporting youth of Maynooth.

Deciding that farming was not for him, he began his working life in the office in The Mill in Celbridge. The three floor mill building now used as small business centre processed wool for Navan Carpets. At peak production 400 were employed reducing to around 250 before it closed in 1982. He then joined RTV Rentals who had a total of thirty-eight shops. Sam worked in the office until 1994 when he joined Securicor. Suffering a heart attack in 1997 he called a halt to his working life and happily retired. During his working life Sam took an active interest in the running of Maynooth Town AFC. A decade and a half looking after the affairs of the club and helping to

Sam Feeney - Celbridge Road

oversee a ground lease that will protect the home ground of the club for decades to come.

Sam and Ann married in 1970 and have three children Garry, Shauna and Niamh. The early years of Garry's life proved most difficult as he suffered from cancer. It is not hard to imagine the stress caused to parents who live with the fear that they may lose their son at any time due to this illness. Thankfully and with the help of prayer and the grace of God Garry gained increasing periods of remission to the extent that he was eventually cleared of the cancer. Garry now works in NUI Maynooth in the IT /Computer area. Niamh is also employed in the University Campus.

Sam is a fluent Irish speaker. It is probably extraordinary that this is the language in which he readily communicates with his 86-year-old Mother who lives nearby with his Sister. During his lifetime the language nearly disappeared. It is timely to remember the sequence of events that rescued the culture of our ancestors and brought a new interest and respect for the traditions of the Irish Race. In the sixties there were signs of what was to come. Sean O'Riada composed the theme music for the Gael Linn documentary "Mise Eire" the story of the 1916 Insurrection and the War of Independence. This was the first attempt by an Irish musician /composer to take Irish music out its traditional roots and mould it into a classical art form. There were a number of subsequent traditional artists and groups who contributed to this development. Planxty and the Chieftains swiftly gained recognition abroad and Irish music was heard for the first time in cities as diverse as Peking and Paris. But it was not until "Riverdance" thundered across the stage at The Point Theatre that the true passion and majesty of Irish Music, Dance and Song was recognised as the personification of a New Ireland. To aid the renaissance of the Irish language the setting up of TG4 with its young presenters speaking Irish so articulately gave new-found prestige to the language. All of this might not have been possible had the language being lost before we had a chance to retrieve it. There is a strong case to be made that Sam Feeney, his family and their contemporaries made a significant contribution to this renaissance by keeping the Irish language alive as a spoken language. JH



Sam with his wife, Ann

Maynooth Flower & Garden Club

25th Birthday Celebrations

Maynooth Flower & Garden Club celebrated its 25th Birthday with a Fancy Dress Party in Moyglare Manor Hotel last October. Approximately 60 attended on the night, some founder members and past members who had served on the first committee 25 years ago. The evening commenced with the AGM and voting for new committee followed. This business was speedily dwelt with so that the festivities could begin. A beautiful buffet supper was served and enjoyed by all and a fancy dress parade followed. Prizes were awarded and each person received a memento of the occasion in the form of a pretty glass vase containing a rose. Mrs. Felicity Satchwell, Club President, was especially commended for her long-term commitment to the club, never having been off the committee in the 25 years. As usual, Mary Doyle baked the special 25th Birthday cake. Mary always bakes the cake for the club's birthday and if possible it seems to get better every year. AOIFA, (Association of Irish Floral Artists), members Kitty Gallagher, Nancy McKeever and Nuala Hegarty attended the party, all well known visitors to Maynooth Flower & Garden Club. The Flower & Garden Club meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. in Loftus Hall, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. New members and visitors always welcome. 4 includes refreshments.

**Jo O'Connell,
PRO.**

Successful Fundraising Event

The Moyglare Manor Hotel became the venue for a fundraising event last December to raise funds for victims of the recent catastrophes in Pakistan and Kashmir. The owner of the hotel, Mrs. Devlin kindly offered the use of the hotel for a Coffee Morning and her good friend Mrs. Felicity Satchwell, President of Maynooth Flower & Garden Club organised everything with the help of some members of the club. The day was very well attended and over €5,000 was raised. There were flower arrangements and cakes and bric-a-brac and items suitable for Christmas gifts. Mrs. Satchwell wishes to thank all who helped her set up for the morning and everyone who made the day so successful especially Mrs. Devlin, the Flower & Garden Club members and Bridge Club members and all who attended the event. Thank you all again.

**Jo O'Connell,
PRO.**



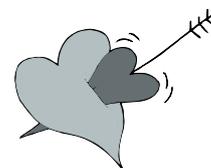
*Winners of Fancy Dress
L-R: Mary Strickland & Kathleen Travers*



*First Committee Members
L-R: Mary Costello, Mary Doyle & Betty Farrell*



L-R: Kitty Gallagher, AOIFA Chairman, Felicity



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Senior Citizens enjoy the Xmas party at The Glenroyal



Maisie Knott & Peter Mullahey at the Maynooth Senior Citizens Christmas Party



Agnes Boyd, Santa, Mary Flanagan & Mayor John McGinley at the Maynooth Senior Citizens Christmas Party

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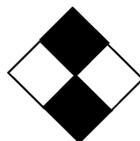
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Senior Citizens enjoy the Xmas party at The Glenroyal



Joan Branagan & Nina Karpenko at the Maynooth Senior Citizens Christmas Party



Rita Kilduff, Bridget Nolan, Margaret Walshe & John Walshe at the Maynooth Senior Citizens Christmas Party

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Maynooth Boys' National School

Review of "Finding Christmas"

Maynooth Boys' National School treated us to another world premiere on December 17th - 19th as they presented a new musical, "Finding Christmas".

The show starred the pupils of Junior and Senior Infants and First and Second Class. Altogether 225 boys took to the stage.

Some boys from Sixth Class, Ben, Cian, Aaron and Rónán returned to the stage to act as narrators and comperes and to work as stage crew. The role of Elvis Elf was brilliantly played by Joshua Miller appearing for the first time in Ireland. The band under the baton of Mr. Davis added so much to the show with their great rhythm and music that it was difficult to believe that they were from Fourth and Fifth Class. Well done to Daniel, Lorcan, Stephen, Caelan and the band leader, Peter.

"Finding Christmas" was written by teacher Seamus Grundy who had also written last year's "Cool Colin". The musical told the story of two boys, Sean and Peter, ably played by Conor Dooley and Ian Flattery, who write long letters to Santa asking for lots and lots of toys. Later as they watch the news (read by a boy who is sure to grace the comedy stages in years to come, Andrew Corrigan) they realise that they have been too greedy and that other children in the world have nothing. They immediately resolve to post themselves to the North Pole and tell Santa to give them just one toy each and to give the rest of their lists to the poor children. On the way to the North Pole they meet some singing and dancing Snowmen and Penguins and of course in Santa's workshop they meet his elves. However, their problems aren't over yet. When they reach the workshop a naughty elf, Erasmus (wonderfully played by Tomás Feeney) is causing havoc as he mixes up all the toys. Luckily Sean and Peter are on hand to catch Erasmus and on Christmas Eve every boy and girl gets the right toy.

The young performers each played their parts with such joy and enthusiasm that it was hard not to be carried away with them to Santa's kingdom. The sets and costumes, which were painted and sewn by parents of the boys, were so bright and colourful that they would do credit to any stage.

Many of the audience commented that between the songs (written by teachers Noel Davis, Seamus Grundy and Owen Creevey) and the story the show had perfectly captured the Christmas mood.

Great credit must go to the teachers, Miss Ring and Miss Flynn (Junior Infants), Miss McLoughlin and Miss Henderson (Senior Infants), Miss Buckley and Mr. Fenton (First Class), Mr. Davis and Mr. Murphy (Second Class) as well as Mr. Creevey (stage manager) who put so much energy and effort into getting the boys ready.

And as principal Mr. Coakley said "Our school shows highlight all that is best about our school. The teachers and parents work together, giving many hours of voluntary effort, to make the children's lives more enjoyable. Over the past months your son will have learned his lines, his songs and his actions but I hope you took a moment to teach him the most important lesson of our shows.....When a community works together we can and do accomplish wonderful things."



The Band



Elvis Elf

Maynooth Boys' National School



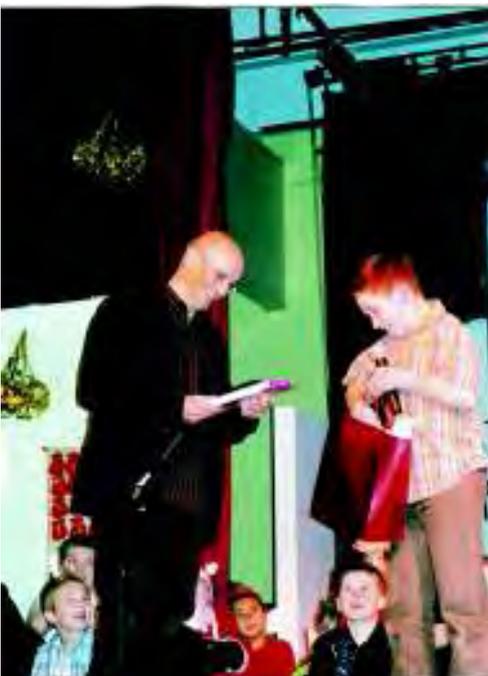
Elves



Elves



Snowman



Mr. Grundy



Penguins

Gardening Tips for February

Despite its reputation as a rainy month, February usually has more dry days than wet. From February to early May, take into account the effects of latitude, site and soil condition, available light and especially air and ground temperatures on outdoor operations.

- ◆ Finish any deep digging or trenching of vacant soil as soon as weather permits. Break up topsoil well with a fork, and leave it rough for frost and thaw to break up the clods.
- ◆ Use moist and very well-rotted materials for organic manuring, whether farmyard manures, compost, peat, leaf-mould, forestry bark or weathered sawdust, so that they can be well worked into the soil. Unrotted manure slows down fertility by needing the attentions of bacteria which normally release nitrogen into the soil for plants.
- ◆ Conditions heavy soils and clay with a calcified seaweed soil conditioner roughly raked in a few days before cultivating.

Lime. This is the month to apply lime as long as the soil has not just been organically manured. Leave an interval of at least two weeks between manuring and the application of lime, if lime is necessary for a particular crop or plant. Most garden plants thrive on soils that are slightly acid to neutral. The old-fashioned terms of 'sweet' for a soil with enough lime, and 'sour' for a soil needing lime, have little scientific accuracy. Too much lime can be as harmful as too little.

Lime improves the structure of heavy clay soils by promoting larger pore spaces, to the benefit of aeration and drainage. It also supplies calcium, a nutrient element essential to growing plants. Its key function, however, is to neutralise soil acidity so that mineral elements are made available as nutrients to plants.

The flower Garden

Delay sowings and lifting of plants for division to the end of the month or leave until March until the light strengthens and temperatures begin to rise. This means being two to four weeks behind gardeners in the south. Take into account the reaction of native plants to climatic conditions; the soil temperature and how quickly it begins to rise, which will depend on the aspect and texture, height above seal level, and exposure to the sun's warmth.

- ◆ Place glass or plastic cloches or hand-lights over early-flowering bulbs and corms and hellebores likely to be injured by adverse weather. Scatter a thin mulch of ashes, coarse sand or grit around the stems to keep slugs at bay.
- ◆ Take advantage of sunny mild days to lift and move deciduous shrubs, if necessary,

herbaceous plants and ferns to new quarters in the garden; lift with plenty of soil clinging to the roots and do not allow them to dry out before replanting.

- ◆ Plant lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*) crowns or pips with tips just below the soil surface. Choose a site in partial shade with well-drained soil enriched with leaf mould or well-rotted organic matter. They take a year to become established. The variety 'Fortin's Giant' gives larger, longer-stalked flowers a fortnight later than the type; 'Rosea' has rose-pink-tinted, strongly scented flowers and is less vigorous.
- ◆ Plant corm-like tubers of *Anemone coronaria* of the St. Brigid and De Caen strains, and *A. x fulgens* in most rich loam 5cm (2in.) deep, to give early summer bloom, a little later than the October planted tubers.
- ◆ Plant the claw like roots of the half-hardy *Ranunculus asiaticus* in the handsome colourful flowering forms of the Perisan, turban and peony-flowered varieties in the last week of the month. They need a sunny sheltered site and good loam soil and will flower in June.
- ◆ Take advantage of the first dry days to weed, refirm the roots, and rake in a light dressing of a nitrogenous fertiliser such as dried blood or hoof and horn meal to bedded-out stocks and wall flowers.
- ◆ As soon as the flowers drop, lift clumps of snowdrops that have become overcrowded, divide and replant immediately, without exposing the roots to dehydration by air. Space large bulbs 10cm (4in) apart. If replanted with care, the plants make vigorous leaf growth and are one of the few bulbous plants successfully propagated in this way.
- ◆ Check primroses, polyanthus, and autumn-planted pansies and violas for slug damage in mild weather. Slug pellets are effective but harmful to wildlife and pets; an alternative is to water in a solution of metaldehyde.
- ◆ Give a top-dressing of fine bone meal and well-rotted manure or compost to crown imperials (*Fritillaria imperialis*) early this month. A well-drained site is essential, and it is advisable to plant the bulbs on their sides to prevent water collecting in the depression on the top. The lemon-yellow variety 'Lutea' is outstanding and looks magnificent in full spring sunshine.
- ◆ Lift and divide hardy herbaceous border plants while still dormant, removing the roots of invading weeds such as couch grass, horsetails and binweed before replanting.

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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 as 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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A Message from Cllr. John McGinley, Mayor of Kildare

“Residents will be aware that the finest Children’s Playground in the country, located at the Harbour Field, Maynooth, opened for use on Monday 9th January last. It has two distinct sections for age groups up to 6 years old and from 6 to 14 years. It is not designed for teenagers and adults. The children of Maynooth have had to put up with having no playground for far too long and it would be a sad reflection on us if the playground were to be used for purposes other than children’s playtime.

Hopefully these fantastic facilities will be enjoyed by the children of Maynooth for many years to come and I have no doubt that the playground will be greatly appreciated by their parents. The community needs to act as guardian of the playground and it is up to us as a community to report any night time anti-social behaviour to the Gardai.”

Thanks
John



Presentation of cheque to Senior Citizens for the proceeds of the Annual Sponsored Walk organised by the Maynooth Branch of the Labour Party.

L-R: Mayor John McGinley, Josie Moore, Imelda Farrelly, Toisin Farrell & Emmet Stagg, T.D.

Maynooth Golf Society

The last outing of the year was a fund raising Scramble held in Ladyhill Course Bodenstown. The sponsor for this event was Declan Kennedy/Brady's Clock House.

This was a very successful fund raising event for the Senior Citizens of Maynooth. Over 30 members braved the elements on this winter day to raise funds for the Senior Citizens of Maynooth and a substantial cheque for €1000 was presented by our Captain Tom Nolan on the prize giving night which was held in Brady's.

Thanks to all who took part to raise funds for the Senior Citizens and all who supported the Maynooth Golf Society throughout the year.



*Cheque for Maynooth Senior Citizens 2005 - Ladyhill Outing
(Main Sponsor Declan Kennedy, Brady's Pub)
L-R: Tom Nolan, Captain, Norman Kavanagh, Treasurer & Kevin Loftus, Secretary*

Results are as follows:

Christmas Scramble at Bodenstown on Sunday 11th December in aid of Maynooth Senior Citizens Sponsored by Brady's (Declan Kennedy)

1st prize	Don O'Sullivan Pa Conway Tom Flatley	63.1
2nd Prize	Tom Nolan John Hynes Tim Mullane	65.3
3rd Prize	Martin Deveney Joey Edwards Barry Farrell	66.3
4th Prize	Gerry McTernan Tom O'Haire Declan Kennedy	67
5th Prize	Mich Flynn (Snr.) Mick Fahy Norman Kavanagh	69



*Winners of Ladyhill Outing in Aid of Maynooth Senior Citizens
L-R: Tom Flatley, Pa Conway & Don Sullivan with Tom Nolan, Captain*

Match Play Results

The final of the match play proved to be a close encounter between two well matched teams. Gerry McTernan and Joey Edwards were taken to the 18th hole where they secured a victory and the trophy over the pairing of Michael Flynn (Jnr.) and Marty Maguire at Grange Castle.

Golfer of the Year Results Dave Kinlon (32 points)

This was a well deserved win of the "golfer of the year" for Dave who is one of the lower handicapped golfers in the society and consistently scored well throughout the year. Runner was the senior player of the year.

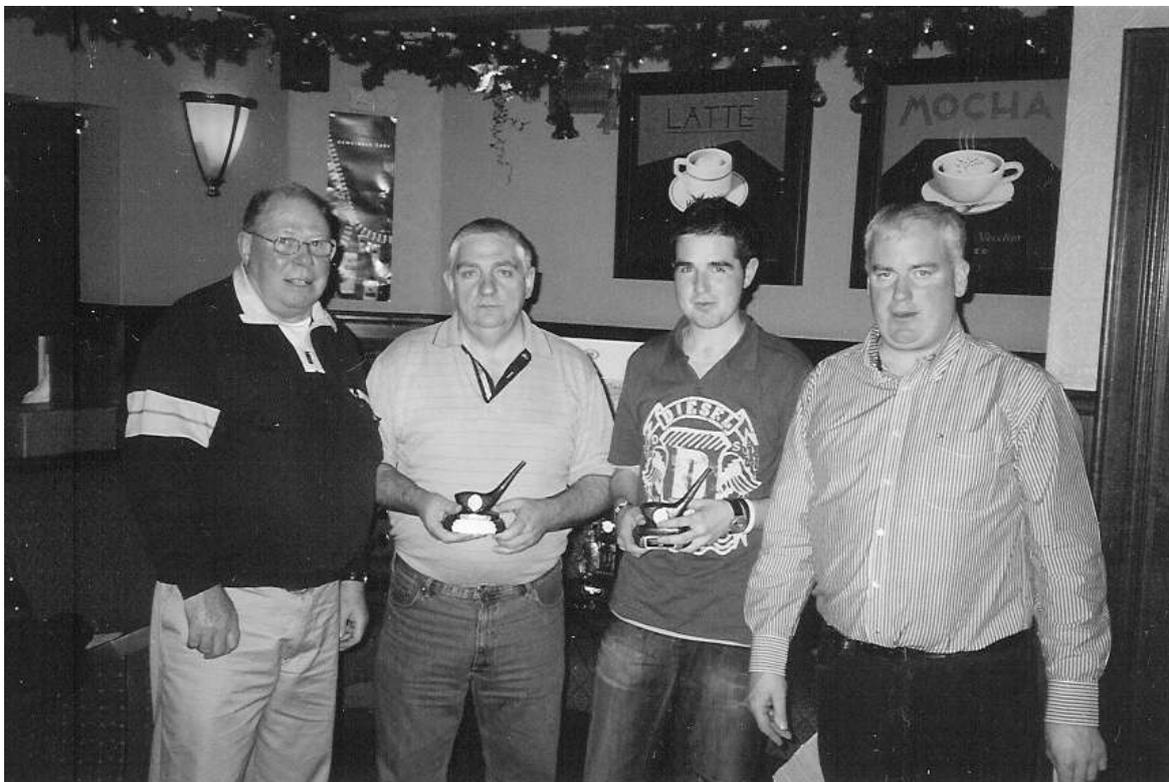
Don O'Sullivan (27 points), Gerry McTernan (25 points), Liam Farrelly (25 points)

Maynooth Golf Society



Math Play Winners 2005

L-R: Tom Nolan, Captain, Joey Edwards & Gerry McTernan (Winners) & Kevin Loftus, Secretary



Match Play Runners Up 2005

L-R: Tom Nolan, Captain, Mick Flynn (Jnr) & Martin Maguire (Runners Up) & Kevin Loftus, Secretary

Maynooth Golf Society



Golfer of the Year 2005 Dave Kinlon being presented with his prize by Tom Nolan, Captain



Senior Golfer of the Year 2005 Don Sullivan, with Tom Nolan, Captain & Kevin Loftus, Secretary

Copy date for the
March Issue of the
Newsletter is
Monday 13th
February at 5 p.m.

Party Political

Fianna Fail Political Notes

Budget Outcome:

Maynooth Fianna Fail Cumann are delighted that many of the issues raised by the members and submitted to the Ministers department were included in the Budget. These included the wide range of reliefs offered to the parents of children in childcare, the increases in social welfare allowances et. We believe that the incentives and benefits presented in the budget will build on and continue to support the strong position of the economy.

John Lonergan's Visit:

The turnout at the recent visit by John Lonergan, Governor of Mountjoy Prison to a public meeting in the Glenroyal Hotel was as usual treated to a very entertaining evening by Mr. Lonergan. He spoke widely and informatively in his own inimitable style, covering a wide range of topics from youth issues to prison reform and society in general.

Candidate Selection:

Hopefully by the next issue of the Newsletter the candidate selection process will have been completed and the nominees will have been chosen to stand in the general election. We wish all the candidates every success.

Bond Bridge and Meadowbrook Link Road:

It is great to see the work on the bridge continue at a pace and no doubt the good weather of recent weeks will help keep an early completion date on target. On a less positive note it is a concern that the Meadowbrook link road continues to have many public lights out of order. This is hardly acceptable on what is a new road but also one that is carrying a large amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. We would be particularly concerned that the pedestrians using this road to either Straffan Wood or any of the older estates are being put at risk while using this badly lit access road. We will be seeking an immediate lighting of all the lamps on this route.

Gael School Building Confirmed:

The announcement by Minister Hanafin last Friday that the Gael Scoil in Maynooth has got the go ahead for its permanent buildings is very welcome news indeed. The School has been operating with great success from its ever expanding temporary buildings and the prospect of a permanent structure will be of a great benefit to both teachers and pupils.



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Emmet Stagg T.D.

Maynooth Labour News



Cllr. John McGinley

Allocation of Gardai to Carlow/Kildare Division Remains Disproportionately Low on Population Basis.

Deputy Emmet Stagg questioned the Minister for Justice in the Dail in relation to the strength of the Gardai in the Carlow/Kildare Division and Nationally as of November 1st, 2005 and 30th September 2003.

The response from the Minister stated Deputy Stagg shows that since 30/09/03, whilst there have been 397 new Gardai appointed in the State, only 5 of these were assigned to the Carlow/Kildare Division. This represents 1.2% of new Gardai assigned. This is against the backdrop where 4.9% of the population of the State live in the Carlow/Kildare Divisional Area.

To further prove his point that the Carlow/Kildare area was undermanned Deputy Stagg stated that 3.2% of the Garda force was assigned to the area whereas the population of the area accounted for 4.9% of the Population of the State. It is acceptable that there will be a higher concentration of Gardai in the City and border areas but these figures show how undermanned the Garda Forces are in Carlow and Kildare.

Some examples are as follows:

Whilst the percentage differences might seem small

	% of Population	% of Gardai Nationally
Co. Clare	2.6%	2.6%
Co. Tipperary	3.6%	3%
Co. Mayo	3%	2.5%
Sligo/Leitrim	2.1%	2.6%

1% of the Garda Force Nationally equates to 103 Gardai stated Deputy Stagg. On this basis there should be at least an additional 100 Gardai assigned to the Carlow/Kildare Division and even more if the Government had kept its promise to provide an additional 2,000 Gardai

These figures stated Deputy Stagg prove beyond any

doubt that the Carlow/Kildare region is severely undermanned even allowing for the fact that there is a higher concentration of Gardai in Cities and in Border areas and also allowing for geographical considerations.

Deputy Stagg concluded by stating that he intended to raise the undermanning of the Garda Force in the Carlow/Kildare Division with the Minister of Justice.

Traffic Management Problems in Maynooth

Cllr. John McGinley has made the following points to the Council and their consultants, Faber Maunsell Transport Engineers, in order to correct the serious problems arising as a result of the new traffic management system in Maynooth:

1. Traffic turning right at the Square from the Straffan Road are given a green signal for 12 secs and this is resulting in cars having to queue back to the train station. It also means that the additional 50 secs given to the traffic turning left is unused, as these cars are blocked by those turning right. As well as increasing the time for those turning right I'm asking that the right turning lane be extended up to the Glenroyal (drivers are doing so illegally at present anyway) in order to free up the left lane. The box junction should remain at the entrance to Manor Court in order to facilitate entrance/exit from there. In addition the bus bay at Joe Buckley must be lengthened so that bus drivers can pull in properly. Most of them stop in the middle of the street at present and stop the traffic flow.
2. Traffic coming from Dublin road to the Square are given a green light for 22 secs and then they have to endure 90 secs of a red signal before they get another green signal. This is leading to chaos at peak times and the cars are queuing back to Blacklion at the evening peak time. This green time needs to be increased.
3. The timing of the green light for cars coming from/going to Parson Street/Main Street needs

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Party Political

Labour News (contd)

to be reduced to take account of the closure of Bond Bridge. This in turn will give more time for the other changes needed.

4. In the absence of traffic signals being turned on at the junction of the new Meadowbrook Link Road/Straffan Road, it is essential that a box junction is painted here so that drivers will be less likely to block it. Also, the design of this junction should be temporarily changed to create a right turning lane onto the Meadowbrook Link Road, until the new Bond Bridge is opened. This can be done by taking a section off the bus island at ESSO.
5. I again ask, for the umpteenth time, that the pedestrian phase of the lights at the Bank of Ireland be removed as they are surplus to requirements, hold up traffic unnecessarily and more seriously they are a hazard for pedestrians.
6. The pedestrian lights at Manor Mills gives priority to pedestrians i.e. as soon as the button is pressed the pedestrian gets a green light. These lights should be the same as those on the Straffan Road at the train station.
7. Cars are at present parking at right angles to the footpath at Mill Street and in doing so they are blocking both the cycle lane and part of the footpath. The car parking bays need to be marked at the junction of Mill Street/Pound Lane and at the Church on the Kilcock Road.

Cllr. McGinley has been advised by the consultants that all of these points will be considered as part of their review of the system in January and the consultants will be attending the February meeting of Leixlip Area Committee to advise on the actions taken or proposed.

140 Elderly People on Waiting List for Admission to Public Nursing Home Beds in Kildare

Deputy Emmet Stagg questioned the Tanaiste and Minister for Health further in relation to the number of elderly people in Co. Kildare who were awaiting admission to a long term care bed in State nursing homes in the County.

The Health Services Executive responded to Deputy Stagg and indicated that there were 140 elderly people awaiting such places in the County. The total number of beds in State Nursing Homes in the Kildare Area including Peamount and Baltinglass stands at 349, which are all full. Therefore, Deputy Stagg, stated that there remains and underprovision of 40% which is similar to the position when he last raised this issue in May.

Deputy Stagg stated that this underprovision causes real hardship for elderly people and their families in a number of ways:

- Elderly people, living alone at home, who are incapable of independent living within the community are struggling to keep going with the support of relatives, friends and neighbours.
- In cases where are two elderly people at home, one of whom requires long term care, the other elderly person has to struggle to act as a nurse and a carer.
- In many instances adult children are expected to take in their parents, give up their jobs and provide 24 hour care, without any backup, training or compensation.
- Finally, many elderly people are in acute beds in hospital awaiting a placement.

Deputy Stagg stated that this treatment of our elderly people, in their twilight years and having paid their taxes all their lives, shows how uncaring this Government is. It's a shocking indictment of this Government and with all the money they have they refuse to build additional Units such as the one in Maynooth, to ease the suffering of elderly people. A recent National Economic and Social Forum report has found that Government Spending on care for the elderly is running at only half the E.U. average and to bring Ireland up to the O.E.C.D. average would entail additional expenditure of €500 Million per year on care services for elderly people.

Deputy Stagg concluded by stating that he had requested information in relation to the cost of building the Maynooth Community Care Unit and the annual operating costs and he intended to fight for more Community Care Units once he had the financial ammunition to argue the case.

Maynooth Harbour Action Area Plan

The Action Area Plan for the Harbour Area is scheduled to go before the Full Council for approval on 30 January. The new road from opposite the Glenroyal entrance to Parson Street will emerge at numbers 13 and 14 Parson Street as outlined in the Draft Plan that went on public display.

Council officials will be discussing the future building requirements of the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) as their current premises will be demolished to make way for the new road. Cllr. John McGinley is available to the ICA to assist them in their consideration of the options open to them.

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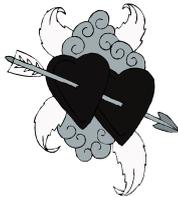
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Labour News (contd)

Carton Action Area Plan

Unfortunately, progress on this Action Area Plan has been held up by one of the landowners. However, as the County Manager has personally intervened and outlined the facts of life to the landowner in question it is hoped that there will be agreement shortly.

Minister Refuses to Budge on Setting Up New Town Councils

Deputy Emmet Stagg has criticised the inaction by the Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for his failure to bring forward regulations under the Local Government Act 2001 to allow for the establishment of new Town Councils.

Deputy Stagg questioned the Minister in the Dail on November 15th in relation to the introduction of regulations to allow the establishment of new Town Councils. The Minister advised Deputy Stagg that he was considering the steps necessary to commence the relevant provisions of the 2001 Act, including the establishment of the Local Government Commission, and confirmed that he had met with both Celbridge and Maynooth Community Councils in relation to the issue. He also advised Deputy Stagg that he had initiated consultations with Local Government Interests, in regard to the creation of new Town Councils and their prospective functional responsibilities.

Deputy Stagg dismissed the Minister's response as anti-democratic. Whilst the Minister may only be in Government in 2001. Under the Act it is envisaged that Towns with a population of 7,500 at the preceding Census can make a proposal to establish a Town Council. A pre-requisite for this though is the establishment of the Local Government Commission which the Minister refuses to set up. Deputy Stagg also expressed concern that the Minister's consultation with Local Government interests, which in all likelihood include Co. Managers, will kill off the initiative as they will want to see power retained at County Council level.

Deputy Stagg concluded by stating that he would continue to raise this issue with the Minister until Local Democracy was established for Towns such as Maynooth and Celbridge which would qualify under the last Census and Clane which will probably qualify under the 2006 Census.

Motions for Leixlip Area Committee Meeting

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

1. Beaufield Estate:

"That the fence at Beaufield/Rathcoffey Road be repaired without any further delay and that the recently damaged new fence at Beaufield Green, opposite Newtown Shopping Centre, be repaired before vandals are encouraged to do further damage".

2. The Harbour Field

"That the contract for the grass cutting on the Harbour Field, Maynooth, be awarded to Maynooth Town Football Club in order to ensure that it remains suitable for playing both soccer and GAA sports."

Pedestrian Beacons at Newtown Stores on Beaufield Road:

Cllr. John McGinley has asked the Council to activate the lights in the beacons at this new pedestrian crossing as unlit they are a serious hazard to pedestrians at night time when it is difficult for motorists to see the pedestrian crossing.

Taking HGV's of the Kilcock, Moyglare and Rathcoffey Roads to Maynooth

Cllr. John McGinley got the following reply from Council Officials to his motion on the above:

1. *As part of the Bond Bridge project it is proposed to divert H.G.V's away from Meadowbrook Link in the interest of residential amenity and road safety. Accordingly, the Road Construction department have erected signs at Ladychapel directing H.G.V's to Tagadoc Cross. It should, however, be noted that this is a temporary measure pending the completion of the Bond Bridge Scheme.*
2. *An original signage plan was put in place last year diverting H.G.V.'s away from Maynooth town centre. By all account this would seem to have been a successful initiative. However, the possibility of progressing a similar proposal for the Kilcock/Moyglare roads is not feasible in view of the fact that the Council would be obliged to identify alternative routes. Such an option is not currently available.*

Needless to say Cllr. McGinley rejected the reply and in relation to the Rathcoffey Road he stated that it was very hard to fathom the logic in erecting signs diverting HGV's on a temporary basis and he demanded that the signs remain in place.

Banning HGV's from the Kilcock Road would also mean banning them from Kilcock village (something that Cllr. McGinley agrees with completely) and this would require the agreement of the Clane Area Committee. Council officials believe that the opening of the M4 Kilcock by-pass should eliminate HGV's from both the Kilcock and Moyglare Roads,

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Party Political

Labour News (contd)

Maynooth. Cllr. McGinley would welcome the views of the public.

Stagg Re-lodges Objection to O2 Mast Retention at Maynooth G.A.A. Club

Deputy Emmet Stagg has re-lodged an objection with Kildare County Council along with his colleague, Cllr. John McGinley, to the application by O2 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 O2's third attempt at applying for retention, one previous application having been declared invalid twice, and the other declared invalid also. The Council are now taking Injunction Proceedings against O2 under Section 160 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 seeking the removal of the Mast and Deputy Staff 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 (M.D.P. 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 M.D.P. 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 O2 and the rejection of the application for retention by Kildare County Council

Moyglare Village, Maynooth

Cllr. John McGinley's motion "That the €10,000 Bond on Moyglare Village Estate, Maynooth be used to rectify the serious problems with the main sewage system in the estate" got the following reply from Council officials at the Area Meeting on 16th December:

The companies registration office confirmed this week that Crewhill Properties Ltd. are still trading and the

status of the company is listed as normal. Kildare County Council took enforcement action last year in the form of an Enforcement Notice and we then referred the case to our solicitors for further action. We will follow this up with our solicitors as a matter of urgency. €10,000 would not cover the work required in the Enforcement Notice. It may not be enough to address the problem referred to above. However, the appropriate action at this stage is to seek satisfactory completion of the estate through enforcement of the planning permission. In the meantime one of our Development Control Officers can meet with representatives of the Residents' Association on site to discuss the problem referred to above. Please contact Stephen Cunningham, Paul Faughnan or Willie Hannigan in Development Control to arrange a mutually suitable date and time in the New Year for this meeting."

Cllr. McGinley has sent this reply to the Residents' Association. John also asked for a Progress Report on the taking in charge of all of the estates in the county and he was told that this would be available in January 2006.

Stagg Critical of 18 Month Wait for Children for Speech and Language Therapy Assessment - Staffing Levels Remain at 1998 Levels.

Deputy Emmet Stagg was contacted by a number of parents who were concerned that children of 2 years of age, who had been referred for Speech and Language Therapy assessment had to wait 18 months for the actual assessment at Maynooth Health Centre.

Deputy Stagg questioned the Minister for Health on the issue and she referred the issue to the Health Services Executive. The Principal Speech and Language Therapist for Kildare advised Deputy Stagg that the waiting time for assessment following referral was indeed 18 months and further stated that this was caused by inadequate speech and language therapy staff numbers. There are the same number of therapists working in this area as there were in 1998, despite the population increase in the area since then. At present there are 7 therapists working in this area where as an additional 14 therapists would be required to deal with the number of young children now living in Kildare. Without an increase in staffing the waiting list will remain as it is.

Launching a scathing attack on the Minister for Health Deputy Stagg stated that for all her mouthing about increased funding for health services and increased numbers of employees this is a vital area which she has neglected. With the population boom in Kildare, one would have thought that additional therapists would have been hired. But such is the ineptitude of this Government that they are happy to leave children

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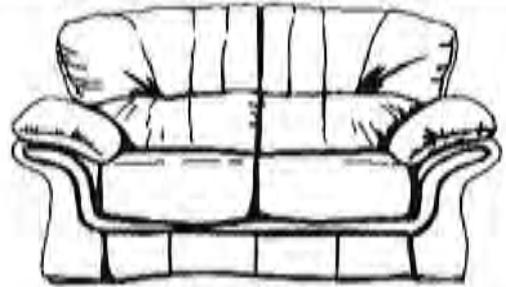
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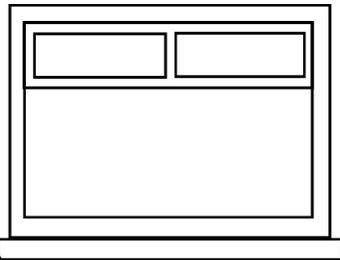
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Party Political

Labour News (contd)

without assessment in their early developmental years which are so important. In effect they are forcing parents into private assessment which cost €250 for the initial session. There are in effect blackmailing parents into paying for the service because it does not exist.

In conclusion Deputy Stagg stated that he intended to raise the issue further with the Minister for Health to find out why there has been no increase in the number of therapists since 1998.

Maynooth Northern Relief Road from *Moyglare* Road to Dunboyne Road

Cllr. John McGinley was given the following reply to his request for a Progress Report on the Northern Relief Road:

"preliminary designs have been prepared in respect of the Northern Relief Road Scheme (copy herewith). This has been formally forwarded to Meath County Council for inclusion in its County Development Plan. Drawings relating to the project are being circulated at the meeting. Perhaps, have seen these, members might wish to submit views on the proposals, whereupon a response (either by way of report or attendance) will be provided."

Cllr. McGinley asked for a report on the cost, funding, CPO's and timescale for the next Area Meeting.

Traffic Calming and Other Safety Measures for Meadowbrook Road

Cllr. John McGinley got the following reply to his motion for traffic calming and other safety measures for Meadowbrook Road:

"A detailed assessment and design has been prepared in relation to these works will be carried out as part of the Bond Bridge project."

Headlines Offences for First 9 Months Show Crime Explosion in Kildare - 13% Increase on 2004

Deputy Emmet Stagg sought information from the Minister for Justice in relation the Provisional Headline Offences recorded and detected in the Carlow/Kildare Division for the first 9 months of 2005.

The figures released to Deputy Stagg confirm a shocking increase in Crime in the Carlow/Kildare area. In 2004 there were 4,669 Headline offences committed, yet in the first 9 months of this year, 3,979 Headline Offences were committed. If we extend this figure for the full year it will bring Headline Offences in the Carlow/Kildare Area to 5,305 or a 13% increase over

2004.

In addition to the above figures the Detection rate in the Division has now fallen to 28% from 29% in 2004.

Whilst the Minister pointed out that the figures were provisional and liable to change, Deputy Stagg stated that they are recorded through the Pulse System which thankfully is nothing like the PPARS System in Mary Harney's Department.

Headline Offences cover murder, assaults, sexual offences, arson, possession of drugs for sale or supply, thefts, burglaries and robberies.

Deputy Stagg stated that on December 16th the Minister for Justice published the 2004 Garda Annual Report which showed a 2% drop in the Headline Offences in Carlow/Kildare between 2003 and 2004. The Provisional figures for 2005, with a 13% increase are an indictment of the under-resourcing of the Gardai in the Carlow/Kildare area

It's time Kildare got its fair share of Gardai concluded Deputy Stagg

Cllr. John McGinley can be contacted at:

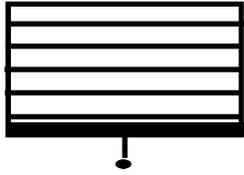
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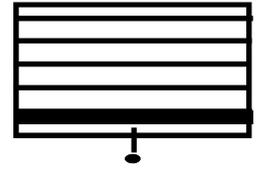
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Deputy Catherine Murphy (Ind). News

Speech & Language Therapy Services in Kildare Unable to Cope With Demand.

Deputy Catherine Murphy (Ind) has expressed grave concern at the shortage in Speech & Language Therapy staff to service the needs of children in the North Kildare Area. She highlighted that when children move from primary school to secondary school they are losing these services completely due to a lack of resources. "It's incredible that parents who fought tooth and nail through the courts to get appropriate education for their children at primary level are seeing those services withdrawn when children arrive at second level for no reason other than the child is growing older is incredible, this opens up the prospect of parents returning to the Courts" stated Murphy.

The North Kildare TD as it stands, those primary school students who are diagnosed in need of Speech Therapy are entered onto a waiting list with the service provider and as soon as a space becomes available begin receiving this therapy. However Murphy is concerned that as soon as children finish their primary school education and move to, or attempt to move to, secondary school education the service is withdrawn from them and allocated to the next in line on the waiting list. "This poses all manner of problems for the therapy providers, children and their parents as this lack of continuity is disruptive to all concerned and seriously hinders the development of children" expressed Murphy.

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She went on to conclude that although the number of speech therapists has remained stagnant since its 1998 numbers the population of Kildare and its surrounding counties has increased consistently and significantly. This under provision of speech therapy service, she said, "appears to fly in the face of the Minister for Health & Children's own stance on the role of Speech Therapy as a tool to develop the potential and prospects of individuals who require them". Indeed the Minister's website states "thousands of people in Ireland fail to access education, social, economic and career opportunities due to communication difficulties

of one kind or another. Therapy services help people to maximize their communication potential and offer assistance with daily living".

Tiger Cubs Getting A Raw Deal Says Murphy.

Deputy Catherine Murphy (Ind) has today stated her strong concern that a whole generation of children are being passed by where recreational and leisure services are concerned. The North Kildare TD has emphasized that while there has been some movement on the construction of playgrounds for younger children, older children and teens are being left out of the fold. "I welcome the establishment of play areas for young children, they're a vital amenity however lets not forget that young people of all ages must be provided for. At the moment we're at best providing facilities for younger children but doing nothing for their older siblings or even for these young children themselves who'll soon grow out of these play areas" stated Murphy.

The TD's comments came en foot of the launch of a study conducted by the National Children's Office that highlights the emergence of a new trend whereby resident's groups are increasingly opposing the construction of playground facilities. The study also highlights that the majority of 12 to 18-year-olds believe there is little leisure provision for adolescents in their locality. According to Murphy "there's a serious lack of commitment on the part of Government in allocating funding and staff to provide these essential services for young people.

"I'm not at all surprised there's been increased opposition to the development of playgrounds, if you don't provide for older children they are of course going to begin congregating in the recreational areas that are there. Often however these areas are unsuitable for them. The Government's strategy needs to be multi-faceted on this issue if it's to be resolved. We need to see more support for after-school groups, and we need to see the construction of play areas for older children, however it's no good providing these things if the annual maintenance budget and staffing budget are not also provided. There are security issues in playgrounds at present because local authorities like Kildare County Council are overstretched but are not being allowed to take on extra staff to take care of these facilities. Until this changes we're going to see even more objections to playgrounds and unhappy children because of it", concluded Murphy.

Government Departments Reveal Concern For Decentralisation Plans

Deputy Catherine Murphy (Ind) has today revealed that in communications she received from 7 of the 10 Government Departments involved in Decentralisation

**Cllr. Gerry McDonagh
(Independent)**



Contact details as follows:

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Senior Citizens enjoy the Xmas party at The Glenroyal



Sarah Burke, Mary Doyle, Nell Byrne & Mairead Bean at the Maynooth Senior Citizens Christmas Party



Josie Moore, Catherine Mulready & Carol Barton Members of the Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee at their Christmas Party in the Glenroyal Hotel.

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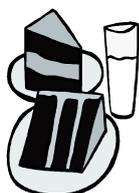
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Deputy Catherine Murphy (Ind) News (Contd.)

Staff Turnover has been expressed as a major concern. Furthermore, although figures have been released that would indicate the overall cost of the project will be in the region of €3billion only one Department when asked was able to provide an estimate of the costs that will be involved in the move. "This is worrying as anyone with experience in project planning and management will know that estimating the overall cost is only possible when each segment is accounted for. How do we know that this figure of €3billion wasn't just plucked out of the air, and it that's the case how can we be sure that overruns won't happen on a par with PPARS" stated Murphy.

The North Kildare TD went on to highlight her concerns that instead of spending much needed funds on increasing the numbers of Gardai on our streets, nurses and even beds in our hospitals "when the front-line services are stretched beyond all capabilities, decentralisation will increase the cohort of administrative staff which fly's in the face of the public service embargo which was intended to streamline the administration service of Government. The Government has it's priorities all mixed up on this one and it's important that we don't let them go ahead with a blank cheque on this project without some guarantees of service levels and reasonable costs" stated Murphy. She went on to demand that the Government put a bolt on the public purse strings until accurate budgetary information can be provided on the projected costs of this project. "I'm not satisfied that this is being carried out in a planned fashion, it's the same old haphazard exercise that's been the trademark of this Government".

Deputy Murphy made the point that the Decentralisation process was more like a dispersal process with little or no logical pattern to be seen. She highlighted that if the Government was serious about this project it would be establishing these Government Departments in Hubs and Gateways designated by the National Spatial Strategy as development centres. "It seems ridiculous to me to on one hand say the Government is promoting a policy of corporate development in Gateways and Hubs but on the other hand refuse to follow suit. It smacks of a do as I say, not as I do attitude", concluded Murphy

Patchwork Of Temporary Sewerage Puts Inhabitants And Development In Kildare At Risk

Deputy Catherine Murphy (Ind) has criticised the Department of the Environment for failure to act on 2 Proposals submitted to them by Kildare County council in 2002 requesting an upgrade of the country's sewerage. Following consultations with Kildare County Council County Officials, Murphy has also revealed that unless the entire sewerage treatments networks of North and South Kildare are upgraded development will have to dramatically decrease or come to a

complete standstill. The increasing instances of untreated waste spilling into the River Liffey due to lack of capacity commercial and residential Sallins, Co. Kildare are just examples of how pressure from consistent commercial and residential development can impact on existing infrastructure. "It's not good enough that a rapidly developing county such as Kildare is subject to a patchwork of temporary solutions to sewage management, stated Murphy "the county has experienced massive development over the past 30 years but investment in services such as sewerage has not followed suit. If something's not done immediately overflows will become the rule as opposed to the exception and we'll open ourselves up to all kinds of health risks".

The European Commission announced its initiation of legal proceedings against the Irish Government on 13th January 2005 due, inter alia, to its failure to address the upgrading of 8 sewage treatment plants in Ireland, and Murphy is critical that a year on no progress has been in relation to the upgrade of one of the countries most rapidly developing counties i.e. Kildare. " Its hard to comprehend the thinking of the Department of the Environment on this one. The EU have clearly highlighted that the immediate improvement of sewage treatment services in Ireland must be prioritised and they have initiated legal proceedings to make sure that the Irish Government complies. So how can the Department of the Environment justify letting two reports that state the critical need for an upgrade of the Upper and Lower Liffey Valley catchments sit gathering dust for over 3 years?", Murphy.

While welcoming the allocation of funding by the DOE to alleviate a local capacity issue in Sallins, Co. Kildare, Murphy has highlighted that the expanding town has been experiencing significant problems with sewage overflows as the upgrade to the towns sewage treatment facilities should have been undertaken years ago. "I'm hugely concerned at the complacency that the Department has shown where sewage treatment services are concerned. It stands to reason that these facilities must be upgraded where a significant change in user numbers has occurred. This is an environmental time-bomb just waiting to go off and it's not only the people of Kildare who'll suffer but everyone who depends on the River Liffey for their water supply" concluded Deputy Murphy.

Some Significant Problems With Budget Provisions But Pleased To See Childcare Highlighted - Murphy.

Deputy Catherine Murphy (Ind) speaking from the Dáil today on Budget 2006 welcomed some measures

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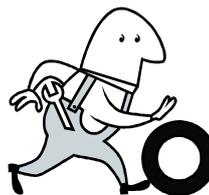
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Deputy Catherine Murphy (Ind). News (Contd.)

relating to childcare set out by the Minister for finance however criticised the overall package as failing to tackle the financial strains experienced by the majority of parents and childcare providers. "I'm pleased the Government has begun to address the issue of childcare and it's important to commend the people of North Kildare and Meath for raising it so vociferously on the doorsteps during the March By-Elections. I'm confident we wouldn't have seen childcare addressed in today's budget had those elections not taken place. Nonetheless there are negative aspects of Mr Cowen's announcements", stated Murphy.

She welcomed the additional child benefit of €1000 however strongly criticised that no provision was made for children over 5 or for children experiencing child poverty. "It's definitely welcome but to make absolutely no provision for children over the age of 5 is simply unacceptable. A lot of parents will feel extremely aggrieved at being passed by on this and while a targeted payment for younger children is an important step some provision must also be made for the over 5's, stated Murphy who further highlighted that "while benefiting all households the additional payment doesn't go far enough to tackle the fact that 1 in 7 children in Ireland live in poverty. An additional payment for those on lower incomes is necessary to tackle this problem."

The current low-level of funding provided by County Childcare Committees also featured in her criticism. Although Minister Cowen announced these Committees responsibilities for regulation and training of those providing childcare for up to 3 children workers in the home he didn't commit to increasing their funding. According to Murphy the number of childcare workers operating in informal settings is likely to grow given the allocation of a €10,000 tax exemption to those who choose to engage in such work, intensifying the problem. "I'm very apprehensive about this", stated Murphy "the €10,000 is going to draw childcare workers out of formal and into informal settings which will put a huge burden on County Childcare Committees. I'd have significant concerns relating to child protection here".

While concluding that expectations of this years budget were given the profile of the childcare issue over the past 9 months Murphy conceded disappointment was inevitable. She however stated she would continue seeking a guaranteed preschool place for all children, front-loading on training the additional 17,000 childcare workers, and further increases in paid maternity leave. "The one thing I agree with the government on is that they have a lot more to do."

TD Welcomes Announced Investment In Kildare Schools But Stresses Need For Further Funding.

Deputy Catherine Murphy has welcomed an announcement this week by Minister for Education & Science, Mary Hanifin that 6 Kildare schools, 3 of which are based within her constituency of North Kildare, will receive funding for major works such as refurbishments, extensions and, in some cases, brand new school buildings. However, while pleased that investment is being made in the educational infrastructure of the county Deputy Murphy highlighted the urgent need for increased funding in this area to provide for the expanding populations of both North and South Kildare.

"This is great news for the schools who'll receive funding from the Department of Education and I'm delighted for them but there are many towns and schools out there that have missed out on funding yet again. Kildare's population has been rising significantly for a number of years and educational facilities should be pre-empting or at the very least matching this growth. To have only selected 6 schools in a county such as Kildare's is just not good enough and while the Minister is heading in the right direction she needs to increase her expenditure in Kildare" - Murphy.

Gaelscoil Ui Fhiaich (Maynooth), Gaelscoil Nás na Riogh (Naas) and Scoil Chóca Naofa (Kilcock), which are based within her constituency of North Kildare, were referred to by Deputy Murphy as "prime examples catering to expanding populations". And, although commending each on their successful efforts to secure funding as lacking transparency, strategic planning and speed. "Simply coming out with a list of successful applications at the beginning of each year doesn't give the public an understanding of what, if any, development strategy the Department of Education is applying. I'd like to see a situation where the N4/M4 Development Plan and its counterparts are used to determine when and where school building/upgrades takes place so that we can see what logic the Department is applying" concluded Murphy.



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Editorial

Maynooth Newsletter

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