

Editorial Dec. 07/ Jan. 08

October has proved to be a busy month for the town of Maynooth but also for the Community Council and briefly I would like to give a quick run down on what has been happening at Community Council level.

1. The Community Council responded to an invitation from the Minister John Gormley to make a submission on Local government and from our point of view, in particular our desire to be appointed Town Council status. The Minister will be publishing a Green Paper on the issue before the end of December and thereafter a White Paper which we hope will result in the reform of local government leading to Town Council status for Maynooth.
2. In October, the Department of Transport responded to a letter from the Community Council in which we asked for a meeting to discuss the sad absence of parking facilities in Maynooth. A 3 man delegation met with officials from the Department of Transport and the meeting was very useful from the point of view of clarifying the existing position with regard to funding and identifying present and future needs for parking in Maynooth. Basically, the Dept. of Transport has not renewed proposals in front of them yet, seeking funding of any description for the provision of an underground car park at the Harbour Field. Obviously, funding can only be considered when such a proposal has been received by the Dept. Neither Kildare County Council Iarnrod Eireann have forwarded such a request or proposal to date.
3. On November 12th the Community Council held a special meeting at which all our public representatives were invited to discuss topics of concern and interest to the residents of Maynooth. The meeting was a great success in terms of strengthening the relationship which should exist between the Community Council and all our public representatives irrespective of any political persuasions. It is proposed to hold similar meetings regularly each year so that aims and plans can be formulated and progress measured in an ongoing way to focus on and to ensure the best achievements for Maynooth. The meeting was positive, interesting and very informative and the community councillors went away feeling energised and with a sense of direction.

I would like to wish all our readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Brid Feely
Editor

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Maynooth Community Council Notes

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

This was a very special meeting of Maynooth Community Council as our four local TDs Bernard Durkan, Aine Brady, Emmet Stagg, and Michael Fitzpatrick were in attendance, as were our local Councillors, John McGinley, Paul Kelly. Chairperson Brid Feely welcomed all to the meeting. She said she was sure that there would be no branding of political parties and that all here would work for the future and good of Maynooth. We are here to get things done. She also commented that she hoped that such meetings would continue throughout the year and that all present would attend.

Topics:

- **Social amenities – Community Centre and Geraldine Hall.**
- **Town Council Status.**
- **Services – Library services, Litter services.**
- **Garda enforcement and presence - Enforcement of byelaws with regard to drinking in public places, more visible presence of Garda, Community policing initiative in Athy.**
- **Co-ordination services for new Developments - provision and proper planning for schools, roads, crèches.**
- **Communications - Lack of information from the Council with regard to Maynooth.**

Social amenities– Community Centre and Geraldine Hall.

Terry Nealon (Maynooth Arts Forum) said that they had sent two submissions to Kildare County Council and had received no reply. He said that they put on four productions each year. There is nothing in Maynooth for the Arts at present, he felt that every thing was pub based. He asked the panel for their view and likely developments in this area.

Cllr John McGinley said that the 2002 Development was now up for renewal and that Maynooth Community Council was very involved also that he gave information at these meetings. This is part of the Harbour Field Action Plan. He said there is no project management team in place and that consultants have to be brought in. It's very important that all development in the Harbour Field area goes ahead as one major development and not in a piecemeal way.

Cllr Paul Kelly said that a lot of work was going on here also he had met with new County Manager to see where all this is heading, he also said that

Maynooth is relying heavily on schools as venues etc. and that this is not right. He felt that things will start happening, and one area on the market will have a big influence on the plan. He said that the four Councillors will be pushing this.

TD Emmet Stagg commented that TDs have no say in the matter but that funding is available and we should be able to get assistance. He said that Maynooth Community Council wanted this passed last March and its going to happen soon.

TD Bernard Durkan said the new County Manager will have Maynooth well in his favour, and that funding is available. He said that Maynooth Community Council is the driving force on this.

It was noted that Developers are driving all this as well, so it is being pushed very hard.

Paul Croghan said that An Board Planála could have a say on this and that we should be careful. He also said that Maynooth failed to get funding on services to the Community project.

Maynooth Community Council would propose to be the Anchor tenant and funding will be most important. Deputy Emmet Stagg said that we should look at all funding that is available.

Cllr Paul Kelly commented that the new County Manager has a Pro-active approach to funding renewal and would be looking favourably on the North/East area of Kildare. He said that we are all at the mercy of An Board Planála and its important that all are in agreement on this.

Deputy Aine Brady said there is a drastic lack of facilities in the area and that she would fully support the project. However she was not sure that the Geraldine Hall could support a full Drama and Arts Project.

Deputy Michael Fitzpatrick said this was his first time at a Maynooth Community Council meeting and he congratulated the Council on the work that they are doing and its all to Maynooth's gain. He promised that he will do whatever he can to help this project.

Town Council Status

Paul Croghan said that he felt that Maynooth was being disadvantaged by not having Town Council status, and he asked who on the panel supported this. Deputy Aine Brady said that she felt that Minister John Gormley would be issuing a green paper on this and had noted our submission on this also.

Deputy Emmet Stagg said that the Ministers response, was "that its on review", the same as it was ten years ago,

The Council has written to Minister John Gormley on this. Cllr Paul Kelly said that the new Minister on the development he is fully in support of Town council status for Maynooth.

Cllr John McGinley said that the green boundary areas have being agreed and that this is very significant, but

(Continued on page 3)

Maynooth Community Council Notes

(Continued from page 2)

however felt that it was unlikely that any new Town Councils would be formed.

Chairperson Brid Feely said that this was a hugely important issue for Maynooth and we will continue to pursue the prospect of Town Council Status for Maynooth.

Services and Litter

Library opening times was one of the issues raised.

Deputy Michael Fitzpatrick said that Breda Green County Librarian has made huge improvements to Maynooth Library.

He also said that there are plans for an over all plan for the services in Kildare.

Sean Cushan said they had a number of issues to raise. Seven Day Cleaning, more bins and Litter Wardens to get more powers.

Peter reported that on Sunday mornings the town is a disgrace. It was noted that Peter Keegan has now retired.

Tom McMullon said that there is no litter warden service in Maynooth, there are too many takeaways in the town and this adds to the litter problem. The takeaway in Greenfield was praised.

Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin commented that it's not so much the takeaways that cause the problem it's the dirty people that don't bring home their rubbish.

There should be a separate Litter Management Plan said Cllr John McGinley. Also Cllr Paul Kelly said we should have a seven day cleaning service and to invite the Litter Warden to a meeting of the Council in Maynooth. John O'Connor noted that the town comes alive from Thursday, that's when we need the service.

Garda Enforcement

Pat O'Brien spoke on this issue. He said he has lived in Maynooth for a long time and over the past five years there has been a major deterioration in Maynooth - law and order has broken down. There has been a huge increase in population and with this we need an increase in the number of Gardaí. He asked the Deputies to bring this issue to the Minister for Justice. We need Gardaí on foot patrol and there is an urgent need for patrol cars. There is now a growing rise of disorderly behaviour. We also need more access to the Garda station. The Business Association are very pro-active RE-CCTV and are very involved on this. The Business Association would welcome Community Council support on this said Brid Feely.

Deputy Stagg said that Maynooth is in a very critical situation at the minute, with only 13 Gardaí and taking into account sick leave etc. there could only be 3 Gardaí on patrol. It was felt that the public order acts were not being used by the Garda.

Aine Brady said that she and the other TDs would be

looking for an increase in resources in Kildare. Garda presence on the street is very important. To this end we will take action together to bring this to the notice of the Minister.

Deputy Durkan felt that the makers of crime are not punished and let off with warnings, these people are giving the wrong signals to others that no action is taken and that they are getting away with it. The issue needs to be addressed he said.

Co-ordinated services for New Developments – schools, roads etc.

Colm O'Cearuill spoke on the issue of a Gael Scoil for North Kildare and made the point that Maynooth would be an excellent choice. He said it is time for action and he was looking for support from our representatives.

Deputy Brady gave her full support. There has been a population explosion and she cited the BNS need for an extension now, which was not expected for some time yet. She said that there is a demand for a second school in North Kildare. She said the fight is very much on for this facility in North Kildare.

Deputy Stagg said we should be able to work out the number of class rooms needed at any given time even if the government can't. However it seems that the Minister has other ideas on this and has made it clear that it's not on. Deputy Michael Fitzpatrick said that this could be achieved with Kildare County Council, and Kildare VEC, working with the Department of Education we will get a Gael Scoil for North Kildare, and he said that there will be a lobby group forming shortly.

Communication - lack of information from Council regarding issues pertaining to the area.

Brid Feely said that we need more information on issues and perhaps we will get feedback tonight.

We need leadership from our TDs. John O'Connor asked was it possible to get information on Maynooth issues, and who are the people that make decisions on this. It was also noted that all Leixlip Area and Kildare County Council meetings are open to the public. It was suggested that the Maynooth Newsletter is a good forum and if more political parties used this and put their notes in the Newsletter each month it would be of great benefit to the public. Brid Feely suggested that we should have a better relationship with our public representatives and more meetings are needed, maybe twice a year. Brid thanked all for coming and felt that it was all very worthwhile.

Next Maynooth Community Council meeting—10th December.

PRO-Marie Gleeson.

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Maynooth Citizens Information Centre Know your rights

Question:

My spouse recently turned 70 years of age and is now entitled to a medical card without a means test. Does this change my eligibility to a medical card, even though I am under 70 years of age?

Answer

Everyone in Ireland who is over 70 years of age and normally resident in Ireland is entitled to a medical card, regardless of income. This medical card covers the applicant only and does not cover dependants.

If you are under 70 years, you will still have to pass a means test to get a medical card. But in the case of a married couple where one spouse is aged over 70 years and the other spouse is aged under 70 years, the income limit is significantly increased.

The weekly assessed income limit for a married couple under 66 years of age is €266.50. This increases to €298 if one spouse is aged 66 to 69, but when one spouse is over 70, the weekly limit increases to €596.50. The limit increases again if one spouse is over 80, in which case it is €627.

These limits apply to gross income less tax and PRSI, and you can also make deductions from your total income for reasonable expenses on rent/mortgage payments, travel to work and childcare.

If you do not qualify for a medical card you may still be eligible for a GP Visit Card which allows you to visit your doctor for free. Eligibility is assessed in a similar way to the medical card but the income limits are higher.

For a GP Visit Card, the weekly income limit for a married couple is €400 or €477 if one spouse is aged 66 to 69 years. If one spouse is over the age of 70, the income limit is €895. If one spouse is over the age of 80, the limit is €940.50.

If you think you may qualify under these increased limits, you can apply for both the medical card and GP Visit Card using a single application form. You can get the form from your local health office, or you can download an application form from the Health Service Executive website, www.hse.ie.

Question

What financial assistance is available to older people to improve the living conditions in their homes?

Answer

Two new schemes have been introduced to assist older people with necessary improvements to their homes.

The Housing Aid for Older People Scheme replaces two former schemes (Special Housing Aid for the Elderly and the Essential Repairs Grant). It funds work such as structural repairs or improvements, re-wiring, repairing of windows and doors, cleaning, painting and the provision of water, sanitary services and heating.

The maximum grant available is €10,500, which may cover 100% of the cost of works. Prioritisation of eligibility is on the basis of financial need with 100% of the approved cost of working available to those with annual household incomes of less than €30,000, tapering to 30% for those with annual household income of €54,001 to €65,000.

The Mobility Aids Grant Scheme is a new scheme which will provide grants for basic works designed to address mobility problems in the home. The grant could for example, be used for the purchase and installation of handrails, stair-lifts or access ramps. It is primarily, but not exclusively, intended for older people.

The grant is available to people whose maximum household income is less than €30,000. The maximum grant available is €6,000 and may cover 100% of the cost of the works.

The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability is a revised scheme that assists with the provision or adaptation of accommodation to meet the needs of the people with a disability.

The maximum amount of this grant is €30,000. If your household income is under €30,000, the grant may cover up to 95% of the cost of the works, tapering to 30% for household incomes of between €54,001 and €65,000. The Housing Adaptation Grant for new houses for people with disabilities has a maximum limit of €14,500.

(Continued on page 7)

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Maynooth Citizens Information Centre Notes

Know your rights

(Continued from page 4)

Question

How can I obtain a parking card so that I can use parking spaces that are reserved for people with disabilities?

Answer

Disabled Person's Parking Cards are available to people living in Ireland with certain disabilities and those who are registered blind, whether they are drivers or passengers. The parking card can be used by disability person in any vehicle in which he or she is travelling. This means that a disabled person who is being driven at different times by different people can bring the Parking Card and display it in the appropriate vehicle.

The Parking Card allows the person to park in designated areas also allows parking at parking meters and in disc parking areas free of charge. The card is also known as a European Parking Card and can be used by disabled people within the 27 member states of the EU and is also recognised in the US and Canada. This means that when you travel abroad, you can bring your Parking Card with you.

You will automatically qualify for a Parking Card if you hold Primary Medical Certificate (which exempts you from payment of VAT, motor tax and Vehicle Registration Tax). Although you qualify automatically, you must still make an application to obtain the card.

If you do not have a Primary Medical Certificate, you will need to have an application form completed by your doctor, to confirm that you meet the medical criteria and have the form stamped by the Gardai.

Application forms for the Parking Card are available from the following organisations:

- Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland, Ballindine, Co. Mayo, Tel: 094936 4045
- Irish Wheel Chair Association, National Mobility Centre, Ballinagappa Road, Clane . Co. Kildare Tel: 045 893 09

Question

I am planning to get married but don't intend to have the wedding ceremony at a church or registry office. Is it possible to get married elsewhere?

Answer

Up to now wedding ceremonies in Ireland could only take place in churches or registry offices but from November 2007 they can be held at other venues.

If you plan to have a wedding at an alternative venue in Ireland, it will need to be inspected and approved by the Health Services Executive beforehand to ensure that it meets requirements.

You will also need to ensure that a Registrar is available to solemnise the wedding. Anyone solemnising a civil or religious marriage must be on the Register of Solemnisers of Marriage which is maintained by the General Government Office.

Contact the General Register Office for more information or for details of your local Registrar: General Register Office, Government Offices, Convent Road, Roscommon, Lo-call 1890 252 076.

The General Register Office has no function in advising on, or the registration of marriages of Irish citizens that take place abroad. Marriages that take place outside the state are not normally registered in Ireland. In that case the legal validity of your marriage will depend on the laws of the country in which you marry.

If you need to get married abroad and you are not sure of the legal requirements for marriage in the country you will be marrying, contact the relevant embassy or the religious authorities in that country in advance to find out what is required.

Further information is available from your local Citizens Information Centre.

Telephone: 01-6285477

Lo-call: 1890-777-121

www.citizensinformation.ie

Features

A Book For Christmas

TROUBLE WITH THE LAW:

CRIMES AND TRIALS FROM IRELAND'S PAST

**The stories tell about
Cork, Dublin, Gretna
Green, Lyons Estate,
Rathcoole, Saggart,
Tallaght, Westmeath
etc. etc., and include
the Paul Singer affair
with stamps in the
1950's**

This is an ideal book to dip into over the holidays. Ten stories reveal how Irish men and women got into trouble with the law, through abduction, adultery, bigamy, extortion, petty crime or through rebellion, surely a treasure of times past. The intrigue, outrageous behaviour, massive fraud, or crimes committed by a range of characters in trouble with the law is a fascinating exposure of life, all the way from Athlone to Zurich, from Australia to America. All the stories uncover something of the local, public, and private worlds of Ireland in the past through relationships between husbands and wives, rulers and ruled, buyers and sellers, clergy and laity. .

Law breakers fascinate. Our interest is not limited to questions of guilt or innocence, but what do the breaking of social rules tell us about life lived long ago, and indeed not so long ago? **TROUBLE WITH THE LAW: CRIMES AND TRIALS FROM IRELAND'S PAST** has it all. The authors are local: Karina Holton, Sean Bagnall, Austin Stewart, Denis Cronin, Maeve Mulryan-Moloney, Fr. Paul Connell, Tom Hunt, Liam Clarke, Marie Ni Chearbhaill, and Marie Mhic Giobuin.

When you have read "Trouble with the Law", look out for four previous books by this writers' group - Irish Towns-lands; Irish Fairs and Markets; Irish Villages; Hanging Crimes. **Enjoy.**

TROUBLE WITH THE LAW: CRIMES AND TRIALS FROM IRELAND'S PAST.

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A Very Happy Christmas and a
Prosperous New Year



To all our Readers, Advertisers and Contributors

From Maynooth Community Council
and
Newsletter Staff



Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Presentation marks Maynooth Town's achievement in winning NDSL under 14 league



Maynooth Town under 14 soccer team, which won the North Dublin Soccer League 2006-07, has been presented with a set of hooded tops to mark their achievement by their sponsors, the Newtown Inn. The presentation was made by Mr Padraig Gallagher of the Newtown Inn on Saturday, 20th October.

Mr Gallagher said that the Newtown Inn, as team sponsor, wanted to acknowledge the success of the team in 2007. He said: 'To be crowned champions of the NDSL is a great achievement and, the Newtown Inn is glad to be associated with this talented group of underage players.'

Mr Declan Byrne, co-manager of the team, thanked the Newtown Inn for its continued support of the team. Mr Byrne said 'It is important that local businesses support and encourage young people to participate in sporting activities'.

The team won the NDSL league at only their third attempt, having been formed in 2004. The team had to win the league the hard way through a play-off with St Ita's Portrane. Maynooth Town triumphed 4-0 in the play-off, to assert their superiority as worthy league champions.

Mr Derek Murray, also co-manager of the team, said that as a result of their league success, the team had since been promoted to the A division of the NDSL.

Mr Murray stated: 'This is a very competitive division and we need an even greater commitment from the team to raise their standards in the coming year. I don't think this team has reached its full potential yet and I look forward a successful year ahead.'

Also present at the presentation were parents and families of the players. Speaking on behalf of parents, Jim Walsh said 'We wish to acknowledge the commitment and talent of the team and the managers. As parents, we are delighted to see our sons progress so well on this relatively new team. We also get a lot of enjoyment from attending the matches.'

At the presentation, two of the players from the team – Adrian Dornan and Johnny Curran – displayed their league winner's trophy and medals to Mr Gallagher of the Newtown Inn (see picture right). Mr Gallagher told the players that the Newtown Inn would be happy to continue to support the team next year.

For further information on the presentation, contact Jim Walsh, 086-1518382





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CO. KILDARE
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Email : Sales@Ballooniverse.ie
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Christmas Crafts & Decorations

Shooting Star Christmas Tree Ornament

A simple-to-make Shooting Star Christmas Tree Ornament.

Materials: A small piece of thick paper, felt, or other flexible, easy-to-cut material - one or two colours, * Scissors, *, Pencil, * Reinforcements (optional), * Glitter (optional), * Markers (optional), * Glue

Step One



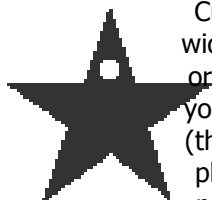
Cut a circle from the paper, felt or other material. A good circle template is a coffee mug.

Step Two



Starting at the edge, cut a spiral going to the centre of the circle. Decorate with glitter or markers.

Step Three



Cut a small star, about 1 or 2 inches wide. Make a tiny hole in the star. The ornament will hang from this hole, so you might want to use reinforcements (these are doughnut-shaped pieces of plastic used to reinforce the holes in notebook paper and are available at stationery stores). Decorate the star with glitter or markers

Step Four



Glue the star to the centre of the shooting star.

Brown Paper Christmas Stocking

Make a great Christmas stocking from a brown paper grocery bag. You can hang it from your mantle and stuff it with Christmas goodies.

Materials: Thick brown paper (like grocery bag paper) or brown felt, * Pencil, * Scissors, * Glue, * A holepunch, * Yarn* Markers or crayons

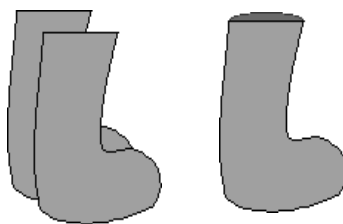
Cut 2



Step One

Draw a large stocking on thick brown paper (or brown felt).

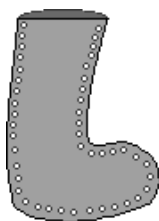
Cut out two copies of this stocking.



Step Two

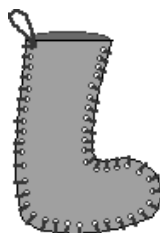
Glue the two stockings together around the edges (make sure you don't put any glue along the top opening).

Step Three



Punch holes around the edges of the stocking.

Weave yarn in and out of the holes. Leave a loop of yarn at one end, and tie it in a knot.



Step Four

Decorate your stocking with crayons, markers, stickers, construction paper cut-outs, or glitter.



Christmas Crafts & Decorations (continued)

Santa Hat or Decoration

This cute Santa Hat (or decoration) is easily made from construction paper and cotton

A large piece of red construction paper (one large, one regular size) [If you only have regular-size paper, you can use these hats as great decorations, but they will be too small to wear. You can also use a brown paper bag to make the hat, colouring it with tempera paint.] * Small scraps of black, yellow, and pink paper, * A pencil, * Scissors, * Hole punch, * Red crayon or marker, * Stapler, * Glue, * Cotton balls.



Step One

Draw and cut out a half circle from a large piece of construction paper.



Step Two

Twirl the half circle into a cone-shaped hat. Staple along the seams.



Step Three

Cut a small circle of pink paper for Santa's face. Glue it to the cone. Cut a strip of black paper and glue it to the cone as Santa's belt. Cut a small yellow rectangle for a belt buckle. Glue it to the belt.



Step Four

Glue a cotton ball at the top of the cone (the top of Santa's hat). Glue some cotton balls around the cone just above Santa's face (this is the bottom of his hat). Glue cotton balls around the face for Santa's beard.



Step Five

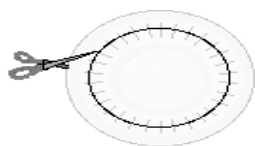
Cut out 2 tiny black paper circles using a hole punch (these will be his eyes). Glue the eyes to Santa. Draw a mouth. Now you can wear your Santa hat for Christmas!

Make a Snowman from Paper Plates

Make a cute snowman decoration using two paper plates. This makes a nice decoration to put on a door or hang in a window



* 2 white paper plates, * Construction paper (black, red) or wrapping paper, * An orange pipe cleaner (for the nose), * A short length of yarn or ribbon, * Hole punch, * Marker or crayons, * Scissors, * Glue, * Optional: googly eyes, large buttons



Step One

On one of the paper plates, cut off the outer rim, making a smaller plate.



Step Two

Punch a hole near the rim on both plates.



Step Three

Tie the two plates together, using the yarn (or ribbon).



Step Four

On black construction paper, draw and then cut out a top hat and two boots. On coloured construction paper (or gift wrap paper), draw and then cut out two mittens.

Step Five



Either glue on googly eyes or draw eyes. Draw a mouth. For the nose, cut a short length from an orange pipe cleaner. Stick the pipe cleaner through the plate to secure it (if the plate is too tough, make a tiny hole with the tip of the scissors). For the buttons, you can cut out shapes from construction paper, use round stickers, glue on real buttons, or simply draw them. You now have a cute snowman decoration!

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

An Nuadha Players—A Good Year

Another good year for the Arts in Maynooth and An Nuadha Players. A great start in January with our annual pantomime "*Robin Hood*" written and directed by our own Martin Higgins. I think this was our funniest and most enjoyable panto to date if the sounds of laughter coming from the audience is anything to go by. In March we produced a CD "*A Maynooth Miscellany*" to highlight the wealth of Arts activity in Maynooth. It proved a great success with a two pronged approach to celebrate the Arts and show the dire lack of cultural facilities in the University town of Maynooth



**Terry Nealon presents a cheque for
€3,000 to Christina Burke,
Maynooth Community Care Unit**

Our most ambitious production to date "**The Shaughran**" was staged in June in the parish hall. A show of colour, music, fun, a great cast, and a dog (Tatters) who stole the show every night. Lots of new people joined our ranks, and again with Martin Higgins directing and choreography by Grace McGrath, the audience love the show which was a pure joy to be a part of.



**John Bean with
Tatters
(real name Mary)**

In September An Nuadha teamed up with the History Group for the re-enactment of the **Flight of the Earls**. This was a great success despite the worst rainfall since Noah boarded the Ark. With the wonderful backdrop of the castle, the atmosphere and reaction from the crowd, it was a most enjoyable experience. A Historical re-enactment during the festival sounds like a good idea now that the committee are considering bringing the dates forward.



An Nuadha Players & The History Group

We are now busy in preparation for our annual pantomime "**Cinderella**" to be performed in the Aula Maxima in February 2008 (O Yes we are). On a sad note the parish hall cannot be used anymore as it is officially dangerous. It means we now have no venue in the town to perform plays. It also means the end of the excellent children's group, run by Martina Murphy, and a number of other group activities. This is a sad day for Maynooth and I hope the powers that be take note. The people of Maynooth deserve better.

Have a Happy and an Arts filled Christmas.

Terry Nealon : Chairman, Maynooth Arts Forum

December in the Garden



The month of December has most people scurrying about with a long list of 'to-dos'. However probably the last thing on anyone's mind at this time of year is working in the garden. Fortunately, the list of gardening 'to-dos' for this month is more like a list of 'do's/don'ts'.

If you have been keeping up with your gardening tasks for the last few months, you should be able to take it pretty easy this month (at least in the eye on, and a few optional things you will probably be tending to your house

This year, consider purchasing a living Christmas tree for your home.

garden). There are a few things to keep an can do in the garden. Your biggest concern plants.

This year, consider purchasing a living aren't that much more expensive than prove your landscape, and at the same into the house, water it thoroughly. Living Christmas trees should not be kept in the house for any longer than 10 days.

Christmas tree for your home. They really a cut tree. This is an excellent way to im-time, save a tree. Before bringing a living tree

Perennials, annuals, and bulbs

- If you potted up some bulbs, such as hyacinths, daffodils or tulips last September for winter forcing, keep an eye on them. Make sure they remain moist, and in the dark until they have established their root systems. It is possible that they have already filled their containers with roots and that the new top growth has begun. If this is so, bring them into the house and set them in a cool room, in indirect light. After a week or so, move them into bright light, and watch them go to town!
- Check on any corms and tubers which you dug up, and stored this fall. Remove and discard any which show signs of disease or rot.

Shrubs and trees

- Winter rains tend to make you forget about watering your garden. However, plants and shrubs which are growing beneath large evergreens or under the eaves of the house, may be bone dry by this time. Lack of water in the cold winter months can be fatal to many of these plants. A quick check will let you know if you need to do a little winter watering.
- If there is a sudden drop in the temperature, provide extra protection for your more tender flowering plants like Rhododendrons, Camellias, Azaleas and Daphne. You can provide temporary, emergency protection by driving in three of four stakes around the plant, and then simply covering the plant with some type of cloth, like burlap, a sheet or an old blanket. Don't let this material come into direct contact with the leaves of the plant. Remove the cover completely, as soon as the weather moderates.
- December is a good month to take cuttings of rhododendrons, azaleas, and other evergreen shrubs. The cutting should be taken from new tip growth, and kept in bright light, at about 70 degrees f.

House Plants

- Glossy leaved house plants such as Philodendrons, Rubber plants, and Palms should be sponged off periodically, to allow them to breathe.
- Plants which have fuzzy, textured, or other non-glossy type leaves should be set in the sink and sprayed gently with room temperature water, until the dust is cleaned away. Be sure that the foliage is allowed to dry completely.
- Provide your house plants with extra humidity by grouping plants together, or by setting the pots on leak proof trays filled with moistened pebbles.
- If you successfully kept last years plants alive, and have been keeping it in 14 hours of darkness since September, your Poinsettias and Christmas cactus should be ready bring back into the living room by December first. With the proper care, these Christmas plants will remain beautiful for many weeks.
- They prefer to be kept on the cool side, 65-70 degrees during the day and 55-60 at night.
- Keep them in bright, natural light whenever possible.
- Keep them away from heat sources.
- Keep them out of drafts.
- Be sure to water them when they become dry.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

ICA Notes

Great thanks are due to Intel Volunteers, who painted our hall, and did a great job. It is now looking very nice and bright inside and, can be enjoyed by all our members. I.C.A. is undergoing a revamp at the moment, with strategic meetings taking place all around the country, and the final strategic meeting will take place on 1st December in the Burlington Hotel. Thanks to guild members who collected €563.00 for "The Arthritis Foundation" at the Church gates.

Federation Craft Day is booked out.

Evelyn McKee from Prosperous Guild has been nominated as one of the "Kildare People Of The Year" for her work in The Little Way Cancer Centre in Clane. She was further nominated for "A Community Award" for the same work in a National Competition, and has actually won the award. So as you can see, I.C.A. have very talented and hardworking members.

The I.C.A. will be celebrating its Centenary in 2010 and, plans are afoot for great celebrations.

Maynooth I.C.A. will be collecting their shoe boxes for the Samaritan Purse. This venture is well supported every year and hopefully, gives great pleasure to the children who receive the full boxes of presents.

Some members attended the Kildare weekend in An Grianáin, and had a great time socially, and also doing crafts. The Competition for Wild Flowers in October was won by Margaret Houlihan, Vera Kerins and Catherine O' Reilly, and in second place Mairead Scanlon and Teresa Corcoran. In third place was Rosemary Hanley. The raffle was won by Mary O' Gorman, second Margaret Houlihan and third Mairead Scanlon.

At the November meeting Mary Deane was wished a speedy recovery. The Guild are very busy at the moment is with crafts continuing every Monday night. Unfortunately the badminton on Tuesday and Thursday has come to a standstill, as the Parish Hall is now closed down. It is hoped to get a venue somewhere else so that members can continue playing, and keep fit. The November Meeting also held a Prayer Service for the past and present members, and was organised by Eilish O' Malley, and attended by Fr. Liam Rigney. Thanks so much to Eilish who organises this for the Guild every year, and to Fr. Liam for attending.

We have our "Federation Meeting" in Rathangan on 22nd November, a Christmas Lunch on 12th December, and a Christmas Dinner in December, the date to

be arranged. "The Inter Cup Competition" is a Book-Mark in crochet, cross stitch or embroidery, and closing date for entries is February 2008.

On 8th November the Guild hosted an Open Night by Lancôme, and was enjoyed by all. The Council Meeting was attended by Mary O' Gorman in Buncrana, and gave a lengthy report on same, which in turn keeps all members in touch with what's going on, on a National level.

A new Newsletter called "Realt" has been published for the I.C.A. with all the up to date news in it. The Newsletter will be published three times a year. The I.C.A. were donated a lovely Seasonal Hamper, and will raffle it for Christmas in the Guild. The November Raffle was won by Eilish O' Malley, with Jo O' Connell in second place and Fr. Liam Rigney in third—a lucky night for the visitors.

Next Meeting will take place on Thursday 6th December at 8 p.m. in The I.C.A. Hall in the Harbour, and new members are always welcome.

Norah McDermott
I.C.A. Pro



Horoscopes



ARIES—March 21—April 20

Socially you're in demand for the holiday season. Meeting friends will help you take a trip on Friday and rekindle some old feelings. Thursday is your lucky day number 5, colour brown



TAURUS—April 21—May 21

The party season starts with a bang and keeps going on until the new year. Christmas day will be a happy one with a few surprises waiting. Saturday is your lucky day number 12, colour silver



GEMINI—May 22—June 22

Its jingle bells all the way Gemini and you will have a joyous and merry time over the holiday period. We wish you and yours all the best. Friday is your lucky day number 16, colour yellow



CANCER—June 23—July 23

You may find yourself away from home and family just before Christmas, but still the season brings warm thoughts of years gone by as the season draws near. Monday is your lucky day number 56, colour green



LEO—July 24—August 23

Its all things left to the last minute for Christmas Leo. Don't worry things should work out alright. Be careful not to over do it. Sunday is your lucky day number 67, colour peach



VIRGO—August 24—Sept 23

The next few weeks will be very busy both at home and at work. Come Christmas you will be ready to take things a little slower. Thursday is your lucky day number 78, colour indigo



LIBRA—Sept 24—Oct 23

It's time you thought of yourself for a change. You'll be very busy this week sorting out everything and making plans for the holidays. Wednesday is your lucky day number 89, colour gold



SCORPIO—Oct 24—Nov 22

You'll be happy when the holiday season is over. Christmas day will find you at home with loved ones and is easily the best day for you over the holidays. Monday is your lucky day number 44, colour white



SAGITTARIUS—Nov 23—Dec 21

Having a good time is not the only thing Christmas brings. The new year also has some good news in store so this is your time to enjoy. Saturday is your lucky day number 73, colour blue



CAPRICORN—Dec 22—Jan 20

All goes to plan and friends and family turn out with some surprises. Enjoy the time and the moment. Sunday is your lucky day number 90, colour pearl white



AQUARIUS—Jan 21—Feb 19

Big changes are on the way and you will have to run to keep up. Its up to you to get moving and get ahead. Tuesday is your lucky day number 55, colour black



PISCES—Feb 20—March 20

The magic of Christmas has come early. Over the next few weeks things will seem like a dream, enjoy the season and all that goes with it. Monday is your lucky day number 32, colour navy blue



**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Maynooth Tidy Towns

Our November meeting was a planning one looking at immediate work such as planting bulbs for flowering in the spring which committee members have done since the last meeting. We also looked at some long term projects—2008 is the 50th anniversary of the first tidy towns competition.

We hope to make a huge effort for this anniversary but will be dependent on you dear reader. Can you help us in some way?

Every member of Maynooth Community can help by giving some time to your community.

We will be organising meetings with residents' associations, businesses, schools etc. EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Happy Christmas to you all and thank you for your support.

Paul Croghan,

Pro Maynooth Tidy Towns



More Pictures >>>>

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Maynooth Tidy Towns (continued)





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E-mail: info@davey.ie

125 Chambers Park Kilcock.

Immaculate 3 bed end of terrace, standing on a corner site in this renowned development. This property boasts bright and spacious living accommodation & has been well maintained by its current owner. A.M.V. €330,000



Cooligmartin, Donadea Co. Kildare
Exceptional newly built 4 / 5 bed detached dormer bungalow standing on circa 0.5 acre site with an airy atmosphere particularly fine well proportioned accommodation, enjoying the benefit of secluded garden with a South Westerly rear aspect. Geo thermal under-floor heating & electrified gates are just 2 of the many very fine features this property has to offer. A.M.V. €750,000



1283 Highfield Park, Kilcock.

Introducing to the market an upgraded 3 bed end of terrace house, with access to rear suitable for car parking. Highfield Park is a peaceful and well established development, situated close to the new M4 intersection. A.M.V. €270,000



Baconstown, Enfield, Co. Meath.

Delightful 4 bed detached bungalow on 1/4 acre of maintained gardens with south facing decking to the rear, situated only 10 mins. from the M4 intersection & Enfield Train Station. A.M.V. €530,000



13 Hillview Heights, Clane

Excellent 4 bed semi-detached residence, with a large side entrance suitable for construction of garage & driveway to accommodate up to 3 cars. Set in a quiet cul-de-sac of this mature estate, ideally located only a short walk from Main Street, Clane. A.M.V. €385,000



Brannackstown, Longwood

Truly magnificent newly built 5 bed family home, circa 3,000 sq. ft., complete with detached garage & stables. The property just new to the market, stands on an excellent site of circa 1.7 acres. A.M.V. €800,000



Coole, Kilcock, Co. Meath.

Exceptional bungalow situated on circa 0.6 acres, located adjacent to Coole post primary school. Only 5 miles from the M4 intersection at Kilcock & 2 miles from Summerhill village. A.M.V. €565,000



10 Donadea House, Lyreen Manor, Maynooth.

Luxurious 2 bed apartment, situated in an unrivalled location in the heart of the university town of Maynooth, enjoying pleasant views of the historic castle. No 10 is the ultimate choice for modern living combining style & flair with the finest of features. A.M.V. €310,000



47 Chambers Park, Kilcock

This immaculate 3 bed end of terrace comes in showhouse condition throughout, having been luxuriously decorated by its present owner. No 47 is ideally located, ending a quiet cul-de-sac, positioned towards the left rear of the development boasting a quiet tranquil atmosphere. A.M.V. €335,000



6 Brayton Park, Kilcock

Immaculate 4 bed semi-detached home located in 'Brayton Pk'. A newly built development adjacent to the M4 motorway. A spacious property boasting c.1250 sq. ft. A.M.V. €395,000

Simple Christmas Recipes

Easy Mince Pies

Ingredients

350g/12oz Cream Plain Flour
225g/8oz Butter (at room temperature)
125g/4oz Golden Caster Sugar
1 jar Mincemeat
1 small Egg (beaten) - for brushing
Icing Sugar for dusting

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C/400°C/Gas 6. Lightly grease two bun trays.

Place flour into a large mixing bowl. Rub in the butter, then mix in the sugar. Bring the mixture together to form a ball! Do not add any liquid, keep bringing the dough together and it will form a ball.

Press small sized pieces of pastry into each section of two patty tins. Put a teaspoon of the mincemeat into the centre.

Take slightly smaller pieces of pastry than before and pat them out between your hands to make round lids, big enough to cover the pies. Top pies with the lids, pressing the edges together to seal. Brush with the beaten egg.

Bake for about 20 minutes until golden. Leave to cool in tin for 5 minutes, then remove to a wire tray.
To serve, dust with icing sugar.



Simple Christmas Cake

Ingredients

225g/8oz Cream Plain Flour (sieved)
175g/6oz Margarine
225g/8oz Dark Brown Sugar
375g Sultanas
375g Fruit Mix
100g Cherries
Rind and Juice of one Orange
3 Large Eggs
100g Chopped Mixed Nuts
100g Ground Almonds
1 teaspoon Mixed Spice
2 baby bottles of Brandy

Method

Put margarine, sugar, fruit, rind, juice and one baby bottle of the brandy into a large saucepan. Slowly bring to the boil, stirring occasionally, until the margarine has melted.



Turn off heat and leave to cool for approx. 30 minutes. Meanwhile pre-heat oven to 140°C/275°F/Gas 1 and line an 8"/20cm round deep cake tin with greaseproof paper.

Stir the eggs, nuts and ground almonds into the fruit mixture and mix well.

Finally, stir in the sieved flour and mixed spice.

Spoon the mixture into the tin and smooth it out evenly - the back of a metal spoon dipped in water is handy for this!

Bake for 2 1/2 - 3 hours approx. After 2 hours, cover with paper if cake is browning too quickly. To check the cake is done, insert a skewer into the centre - if it comes out clean, the cake is cooked.

Make holes in top of warm cake and pour over remaining brandy.

Leave cake in tin to cool completely.

When cold, wrap in greaseproof paper and then tinfoil. Store in a cool dry place.



Quick Christmas Pudding

Ingredients

50g / 2oz Self Raising Flour
125g / 4oz Brown Sugar
125g / 4oz Margarine
2 Eggs
1 teaspoon Cinnamon
1 packet (375g) Fruit Mix
1 tub (100g) Cherries
125g / 4oz Breadcrumbs
300ml / 1/2 pint Stout

Method

Beat margarine and sugar together, add the eggs and mix well.

Stir in the flour and cinnamon, next add the fruit and cherries. Mix well.

Finally, add the breadcrumbs and stout, stir well.

Cover and allow to stand overnight.

Next day, transfer to a greased 1 litre / 2 pint pudding bowl.

Steam for about 6 hours.

To steam pudding in oven

Preheat oven to 150°C / 300°F / Gas 2.

Put two long strips of tin foil crosswise on work top.

Place roasting tin on foil.

Sit pudding bowl into the tin and fill with boiling water to within 1" of the top of tin. Quickly bring the foil around to form a parcel, which should be airtight to prevent any of the steam escaping.

Steam for 6 hours.



Podiatry/Chiropody Clinic Has Come To Maynooth

Already well established in Naas for over four years Footstop Maynooth now offers the same expertise in footcare treatments. We are situated at:

**The Leinster Clinic
Kilcock Road
Maynooth**

For appointments ring (01) 6290895

Free parking available on site.

Children's Colouring Competition

Winner Of the September Edition



**Leah Cleere
Castledawson, Maynooth**

**Happy Christmas
from
MAYNOOTH U3A**

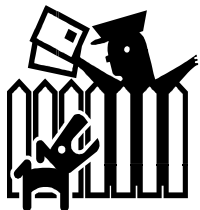
**NEW MEMBERS
11 am Fridays
11 and 25 January**

**Maynooth Town
Library**

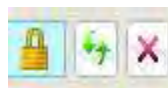
(SEE NOTICE IN LIBRARY WINDOW)

Age Action Ireland

Features



<https://www.amazon.co.uk>



Shop Online Safely

How to pick trustworthy online retailers and avoid scams

Millions of people buy online every day without any problems. With a bit of commonsense and knowledge, you can avoid problems with ecommerce. Many tips on buying on the internet are the same as for buying from a shop, such as:

- Shop around. That great deal might well be on offer somewhere else - and cheaper. Use shops and services you know about - or ones that have been personally recommended to you.
- Take into account the shipping, postage and packing costs. Weigh them up against the parking and travelling costs you would have to pay if you went to the your favourite store. All reputable websites will give details of their postage charges.
- Also be aware that VAT is charged on certain items such as CDs. Books are VAT free.

Risks

- Buying goods that aren't delivered.
- Goods which don't match the description.
- Delays and hassles with online purchases.
- Poor after-sales service.
- Misuse of your credit or debit card details.



Deal with reputable sellers

Pick good sellers, especially when buying from private individuals.

How to pick good sellers

In auctions or other situations where you are buying from a private seller:

- Look for a seller with a good reputation from other buyers.
- Check out the description of the item for sale – is it clear, detailed, honest? For example, does it mention minor flaws as well as features? Does it look unique or copied straight from someone else's catalogue?
- Ask the seller questions and see how promptly they answer.
- See if the seller is selling other items and what they are. This might indicate if the seller is consistent in their descriptions and in how they describe themselves. In particular, look for a seller who will take payment using a secure payment method which offers recourse should something go wrong.
- Will the seller accept a variety of payment methods? This is better than someone who will only accept cash or instant cash wire transfer.
- Prefer sellers with clear returns policies and shipping charges.
- Look for other signs of trust such as regular or power sellers, who may have a reputation that they are keen to protect. Also look for sellers who have taken steps to prove their identity to the auction site or who offer a recognised dispute mediation process.

(Continued on page 40)

Local Useful Telephone Numbers

Name	Details	Telephone No.
A.C.R.A	National Association of Resident Associations Contact Michael Quinn, 3 Laurence Avenue, Maynooth	6285258
ADULT CEILI AND SET DANCING	Contact: Rita Doyle	086-2862475/ 6286169
AN NUADA PLAYERS	Contact: Terry Nealon	086-8068068
BRIDGE CLUB	Contact: Joan Howard Williams	6289239
CASTLE COMMITTEE	Contact Tony Bean Sec. Gerald &Joan Howard Williams, Carton Demense	087-949459
CASTLE KEEP ART GROUP	Contact: Susan Durack Sec.	6289349
CHIROPRACTORS	Dr. Linda Finley-McKenna Dr. Liam Harkness	6285962
CITIZENS INFORMATION CENTRE		6285477
COMMUNITY GAMES	Contact: Joe Geraghty Margaret Houlihan	087-6181235 087-2054854
DENTIST	Dr. G.B. Glass Dr. G.A. O'Reilly Dr. J.G. Merrick	6289284 6286318 6286318
DOCTORS	DR. D. Gaffney DR. D. Nolan DR. C.D. O'Rourke DR. J. Cornish DR. N. Wilson DR. M. Cowhey	6291169 6285943 6285210 6292556 5052135 6289044
FAS OFFICE		6290556
FLOWER CLUB	Contact: Moira Baxter, Applewood, Laraghbryan ,Maynooth	6289102
FOLK GROUP	Contact: Elaine Bean	087-9704912
G.A.A. CLUB	Maynooth G.A.A. Club Contact :Dominic Nugent	6285020 087-6368722
GARDA STATION		6291413/6286234
GOLF	Maynooth Golf Society Contact: Kevin Loftus	086-8261221
HEALTH CENTRE		6285415
I.C.A.	Contact: Norah Mc Dermot	6244695
KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL		045-980200
LARAGHBRYAN CEMETRY COMMITTEE	Contact: Breda Holmes, Barrogstown, Maynooth Sec. Helen Johnson	6289757
LIONS CLUB	Contact: Freddie Melia,	6289555
MAHER SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING	Contact : Catherine Maher	6285739 087-8222740
MAYNOOTH ADULT DAYTIME EDUCATION (MADE)	Contact: Bernadette Duffy	6016179

Local Useful Telephone Numbers (Cont'd)

MAYNOOTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION	Contact: Brid Feely	087-2052649
MAYNOOTH FAIR TRADE	Contact: Dr. John Sweeney	087-2476516
MAYNOOTH JUDO CLUB	Contact: Mary Mc Donald	087-9677596
MAYNOOTH PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC & LEINSTER CLINIC		6290895
MORTALITY SOCIETY	Contact: Paddy Nolan	6286312
NORTH KILDARE JUNIOR TENNIS CLUB	North Kildare Club	6103909 6287243
PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP	Contact: Bronwyn Mooney	6289405
PARISH	Fr. Paul Coyle Fr. Liam Rigney Parish Office	6290553 6286220 6293018
POST OFFICE		6286259
MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Librarian: Bernadette Gilligan	6285530
ROYAL AMENITY AND RESTORATION GROUP CANAL	Office Contact: Mark Kennedy, 83 Maynooth Park Maynooth	6290980 6286443
SCHOOLS	Boys' National School Presentation Girls' Primary School Post Primary School Scoil Ui Fháich	6293021 6286034 6286060 6290667
SCOUTS	Catholic Boys Scouts of Ireland Contact: Johnny Dowling	085-1017492
SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE	Contact: Patricia Cusker, Silken Vale, Maynooth. Josie Moore, Greenville, Straffan Road, Maynooth.	087-2982455
SOCCER CLUB	Contact: Seamus Thompson Sec. Pat Moynihan	086-8564590 087-9078861
ST. MARY'S BRASS AND REED BAND	Contact: Melanie Oliver	087-9704910
SWIMMING CLUB	Contact : Catherine Carton	6290479
TIDY TOWNS	Contact: Paul Croghan	6286079
U3A	Maynooth Town Library	6285530
VIOLENCE IN THE HOME		1800-341-900
YOUTH FOROIGE CLUB	Contact: Sheila Hawthorne	087-1339051

Features

(Continued from page 36)

- Be more cautious with sellers who have recently changed their identity.
- It's your money. If you get a bad vibe from a seller, just walk away.
- With some overseas sellers, you may not get the same consumers' rights that you have in the EU and there may be duty and VAT payable on imports.
- Look for evidence of a physical address and telephone contact details.
- Don't judge a person or company solely by their web site.
- Be especially cautious when buying from overseas companies.
- Check sellers' privacy policy and returns policy.

Use an appropriate, safe means of online payment to get some protection against non-delivery.

Use a secure website

- Make sure you use a secure web site to enter credit card information. Look for a **padlock** symbol beside web address which itself should begin with '**https://**' If you get a warning about a certificate be very cautious indeed. However, the padlock is not an absolute guarantee of safety and it says nothing about the business's ethics.
- Click on the padlock to check that the seller is who they say they are and that their certificate is current and registered to the right address. Don't be fooled by a padlock that appears on the web page itself. It's easy for conmen to copy the image of a padlock. You need to look for one that is in the window frame of the browser usually (Internet Explorer) itself.

Beware scams

- If a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is. Cross-check information on the internet and see if anyone else has had problems.
- Beware of work from home scams which promise easy profits but never pay.
- Buy from reputable companies. Be extremely wary of anything that is offered in an unsolicited or spam email.

Protect Your Password. Make it difficult to guess.

- If using a public computer (such as in a library or Internet cafe always log out when you've finished.

- Keep your passwords to yourself. Anyone who knows your password can access your account. Do not write down your passwords.
- When creating a password, use at least eight characters—a combination of letters and numbers is best. Do not use dictionary words, your name, your partner's name, your e-mail address or other personal information that can be easily obtained. You should change your password frequently. Avoid using the same password for accounts on different websites.

Check your seller's feedback

- Always check a seller's feedback history prior to ordering an item from them. Feedback is the most important indicator of a seller's overall quality. Look for clues within a seller's feedback that indicate the following: Ability to fulfill and dispatch orders in a timely fashion; willingness to resolve transaction disputes; an indication that the quality of the products dispatched matches the description supplied by the seller.

More Info

Below are some useful websites if you need further information on secure online shopping:

- **www.consumerconnect.ie**
- Download the European Consumer Centre's shopping online leaflet [PDF 400K] http://www.eccdublin.ie/publications/leaflets/subject_guides/shopon.pdf
- Read the Revenue Commissioners' leaflet explaining import charges on goods bought online <http://www.revenue.ie/index.htm?/leaflets/pn1882.htm>
- Check eConsumer.gov's list of consumer agencies in other countries. http://www.econsumer.gov/english/contentfiles/country_about-contact.html The website also explains ways to resolve problems against online traders based abroad.

In the end it comes down to using your head and not taking risks with the unknown. Happy, safe shopping.

Jane MacNulty

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**Thank you for your
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Constituency Office:

Abbey St.

Naas, Co Kildare.

Tel: 045-888438

Fax: 045-888437

Email: michael.fitzpatrick@oireachtas.ie

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from 10.00am**

**Clinic Every Saturday Morning in Celbridge F.F.
Office Main St. From 10.00am**

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to**

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**Michael is also
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constituents
outside the above
times by
appointment and
he can be
contacted
at:
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Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Girls Glow in Glory

Maynooth Town FC first ever Girls Team victorious in debut match

Who will forget the eruption of cheers in every corner of Ireland when Ray Houghton put the ball in the English net? Those cheers could be heard echoing around Maynooth Town on Saturday morning, when Becky Gisbey scored the first ever goal for the newly formed Girls Under 12's team, who then went on to win their match 3 -1 against W.F.T.A. For the Club it was a historical day and for the girls it was, hopefully, the beginning of a successful season in the NDSL Ladies League.

It was a crisp, but sunny, Saturday morning, when the girls lined out for the first time, in their brand new white and black strip to who had travelled The first 10 minutes both teams sought and find their feet, have been a nerv-first match. How-fifteen minutes broke from midfield Gisbey who took put it passed the Cheers erupted on Maynooth Town supporters cele-ever goal.

W.F.T.A. came right home side, but defending by ney and Jane Finne-them from scoring. passing, the ball



face the team from Finglas. were tense, as to settle down in what must ous and exciting ever, with almost gone, the ball and found Becky control of it and W.F.T.A. keeper. the sideline as Girls team and brated their first

Coughlan just passed the half way line. Aoife looked up, took aim and sent the ball into the back of the W.F.T.A. net. The home side was ahead 2 – 0, and once again, cheers rang out from the sideline.

In the second half, Maynooth found themselves once again under attack, as W.F.T.A. strung together a series of passed, which, but for the skills of Aoibhin Conway, M.T.F.C.'s goalkeeper between the posts would have resulted in the away team scoring. They did score a few moments later, when the ball was released from midfield and the forward for W.F.T.A. took the opportunity to reduce the score to 2 – 1. However, the gap was only narrowed for a short time as Aoife Davin's goal ensured a 3 -1 victory for Maynooth. The final whistle came at last and cheers rang out from girls and supporters alike, mixed with sound applause of appreciation for the opposition and for a match that was played in the spirit of the game.

Congratulations to Breedge Conway and Colm O'Connor, whose managerial and coaching skills have, in a few short weeks molded together a group of 24 girls meeting on a Tuesday evening to kick a ball around into a squad of football players. As only 14 players can field on any given Saturday, Breedge and Colm will play the girls on an alternate basis each week. Judging by the skills demonstrated and the obvious enjoyment by the girls, Breedge and Colm will be spoiled for choice.

Team: B.Gisbey, (Captain), A.Coughlan, S.Haughney, J.Finnegan, J. O'Connor, A.Tierney, N.Feeney, A.Davin, A.Donovan, A.Flood, A.McKeever, A.Moloney, A.Conway, L.Cooke.

Edel Hutchinson,
Secretary,
Maynooth Town FC.

Features



A Pony for Christmas



Linda was only eight years old and she wanted a pony for Christmas. It was only seven weeks away now. She was hoping that Santa would bring her a Pony for Christmas. So on Friday night she sat down and wrote her letter to Santa. Her mother said that she would post it the next day in town, when she went to do her shopping. Linda was delighted. Peggy put Linda's letter with her shopping list for shopping. Her younger brother Damien wanted Action Man from Santa. Their mother brought Damien's letter too. Damien was four years old and he wanted to visit Santa's Grotto. He knew that he would get a present from Santa and that he would come down the chimney on Christmas night. Peggy said to their dad Tom that she would bring the children to see Santa at Christmas. She had brought Linda when she was four years old. Linda got a Barbie Doll from Santa. Now she wanted a Pony from Santa.

She knew that if she behaved counting the weeks to Christmas making the cakes and pudding. She always ordered a butcher. So the next day in the morning she went to the butcher to make three cakes and would ice two of the cakes. Damien would be starting school next year so she would bring him and Linda to see Santa as a little treat. Linda had wanted to see him again. Linda was still secretly hoping for a pony. Now it was only two weeks to go so Peggy and Tom brought the kids to see Santa. The children were delighted. Linda got a jewellery set and Damien got a train set. They brought the children home and Peggy made everyone hot chocolate.



she would get her pony. She was mas. Her mother would be busy doing. She would order her turkey from her local town she bought enough ingredients to make three cakes and would ice two of the cakes. Damien would be starting school next year so she would bring him and Linda to see Santa as a little treat. Linda had wanted to see him again. Linda was still secretly hoping for a pony. Now it was only two weeks to go so Peggy and Tom brought the kids to see Santa. The children were delighted. Linda got a jewellery set and Damien got a train set. They brought the children home and Peggy made everyone hot chocolate.

Santa got Linda's and Damien's letter. Santa was watching how good the children were for their Mummy and Daddy. He decided to come down the chimney on Christmas night with their presents. Everything was ready. Peggy put the two children to bed and said that Santa was coming in the middle of the night. So on Christmas night Santa came down the chimney. He had a Pony in one sack and an Action Man in the other one. He put the Action Man under the Christmas tree for Damien and he put Linda's Pony out in the garden for Linda.

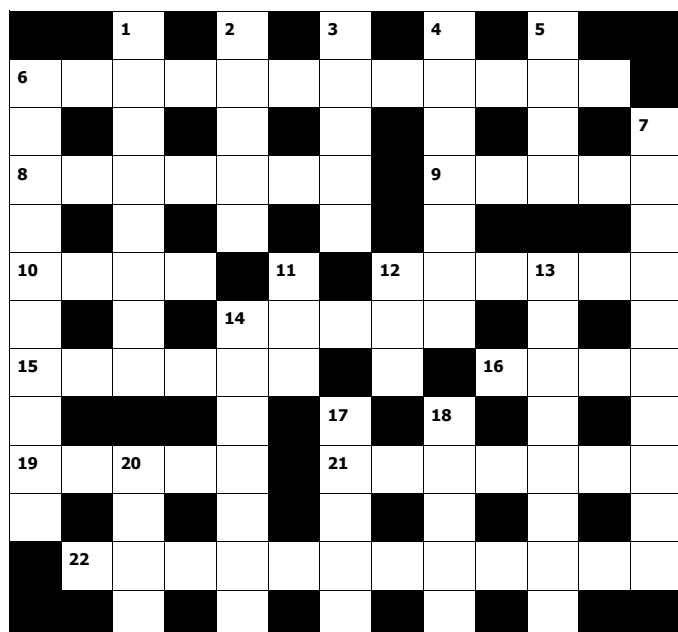
The next morning the children woke up and ran downstairs to the tree. Damien found his Action Man under the tree. Linda looked for her present but didn't see it. Then Tom said to Linda "come over and look out the window". Linda took her father's hand and went to look out of the window. Outside was a lovely Pony in the garden. "He did come", she squealed. She was over the moon. Her mother came to her and asked her did she like her present. Linda said she did. Linda went back upstairs to change into her clothes. She came bounding down the stairs and out into the garden to touch the Pony. The Pony had a lovely white coat and a long white tail. Her dad came out into the garden too. You will need a saddle so that you can get up on him and ride him.

"OH! I do love Christmas daddy". The saddle was in the shed. "Go over and look in the shed" said her father. Linda went over to the shed. She opened the door and looked inside. There was a saddle on the bench. Linda knew what to do straight away. She lifted the saddle and saddled the horse. She mounted the Pony. Her dad walked around the garden with Linda on the Pony. They would have to put him in the stable overnight. Then her dad said, "you will have to get down now and give the pony a rest. I will put him in the shed for you. And then we will go inside and eat our dinner".

Santa comes to every child.

Enda Clavin

Crossword No: 62



Entries before Friday 11th January 2008

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Across:

6. Mind specialist (12)
8. Inexperience, innocence (7)
9. Funeral hymn (5)
10. Rule of conduct (4)
12. Yearbook (6)
14. Fashion designer, Yves _ _ _ Laurent (5)
15. Food store (6)
16. Garden of delight (4)
19. Block of metal (5)
21. Dance (7)
22. Man who created a famous monster! (12)

Special prize

BOOK VOUCHER

Give yourself the luxury of browsing and choosing the book(s) which take your fancy from the wide selection available in the store

of our sponsor

The Maynooth Bookshop
 68 Main Street, Maynooth

**There
 was no winner
 this month as there
 were no correct
 entries**

Down:

1. Tube (8)
2. Impudence (5)
3. Actress, _ _ _ Hannah (5)
4. Wise (7)
5. Consumer (4)
6. Antibiotic (10)
7. WWII bomber (10)
11. Impair (3)
12. Social Insect (3)
13. Starved (8)
14. Navigation device (7)
17. Repeatedly (5)
18. Be living (5)
20. The _ _ _ From Ipanema, song (4)

Solutions to Crossword No. 61

Across:

1. Canopy, 3. Astute, 6. Enmity, 7. Camber, 8. Husky, 10. Quintet, 14. Derek Jacobi, 17. Obligated, 19. Suave, 20. Pliant, 21. Cudgel, 22. Dismal, 23. Uproar.

Down:

1. Crèche, 2. Petty, 4. Swami, 5. Errata, 9. Shell, 11. Utah, 12. Tibia, 13. Skye, 15. Lopped, 16. Cellar, 18. Genoa, 19. Slump.

Doodle Box

Poetry Corner

Spirit of Christmas

A season of feasting with joy
With good will in the hearts of all
Birth of a tiny baby Jesus boy
Forever in our minds is his call
A blessing spread throughout the Earth
While a little child sleeps in a manger their
Praise to our leaders birth
With companionship for us to share

Children play with their gifts galore
With much happiness in their hearts
It is of children we all adore
With love that near departs
Above this plant is a radiant sky
That never changes in time
A sprit of Christmas that will never die
While in peace the stars forever shine

Patrick Murray

Peace

Silent is the long night
Darkness with its gloomy shadow
Everything is so quite
With peace to under go
Thinking thoughts in solitude
Dreams of love and life
Tender is my youth
Contemplating without any strife

May my peace last forever
To endure pain no more
As love is my endeavour
With tranquillity in store
I pray for a peaceful mankind
For the young and old
May each heart unwind
With care to unfold

Life been a prayer of peace
For every creature on Earth
May all evil cease
Bring forward a new birth
A new world for tomorrow
Is the cry within my heart
To end all sorrow
Let peace take its part

Patrick Murray



Joy Of Christmas

Sing joy of love for Christmas time
A way of feasting of good wine
A restful way to celebrate
Birth of Jesus at Heavens gate
Sing joy to the Lord
Joy of Birth
Of this precious Earth

A time to last forever
Make God your endeavour
To look forward to anew day
Their our Baby Jesus lay
Creator of this Universe
Sing praise to our creator
A tiny child is born
For all of us to adorn
Forever more to stay
Pray for us at Christmas Day
In a manger their you lay
Stars are twinkling in the sky
Praising to an Earthly boy
To lead this world forward on
It is of you God our souls have grown
So pray for each day re-born
To praise your birth at Christmas morn
May each child born live there
Live a life of eternity

Patrick Murray

Ring Out, Wild Bells

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.-

Alfred Lord Tennyson,

Puzzles—Sudoku

Easy

	5		3		6			7
				8	5		2	4
	9	8	4	2		6		3
9		1			3	2		6
	3						1	
5		7	2	6		9		8
4		5		9		3	8	
	1		5	7				2
8			1		4		7	

Medium

4	5		3		9			
	7	2		1	8		5	
				4			6	
	6	4			7	3	8	1
3	8		4		1		9	6
5	9	1	8			2	7	
	4			5				
	3		9	6		1	2	
			1		3		4	5



Difficult

			6				5	
					8	9	4	
				2		7	6	
3			7	4				6
	9	7				1	8	
6				9	5			2
	2	6		5				
	7	4	2					
	5				6			

Super Difficult

			6				7	
		5						4
2		6			5	8	3	
				1		4		3
	1	4		9		2	8	
3		9		2				
	3	7	2			1		6
5						3		
	2				9			



Party Political

Press Release from Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.

Three New Schemes being introduced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, on November 1, 2007

1. Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for People with a Disability
2. Mobility Aids Grant Scheme
3. Housing Aid for Older People

These (3) three schemes will replace the current schemes – The Disabled Persons Grant and the Essential Repairs Grant for the Elderly, which are administered largely by the local authorities. They assist in the upgrading of certain categories of private housing with particular emphasis on those in most need such as older people and people with a disability.

*The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability – is available to assist in the carrying out of works that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of a person with a disability who is a member of the household.

*The Mobility Aids Grant Scheme – is available to fast track grant aid to cover a basic suite of works to address mobility problems, primarily, but not exclusively, associated with ageing, in order that recipients are not subject to delays in accessing works.

*Housing Aid for Older People – is available to assist older people living in poor housing conditions to have necessary repairs or improvements carried out. Thank you and regards

Michael Fitzpatrick T.D. 086 2706150

Features

MAYNOOTH BRASS AND REED BAND

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Mary's Band Maynooth hold their Annual Christmas Concert in St. Mary's Church of Ireland on **Saturday 8th December at 8pm.** Thanks to the generosity of the Church of Ireland this venue has proved a most suitable location for this concert over the past couple of years and in turn the Band has been delighted to take part in their annual Christmas Carol Services.

The Christmas Concert is one of the many events held during the year by which the Band endeavours to show the people of Maynooth how valuable an asset it is to the town and how appreciative they are of the support they receive during their important fundraising flag week-ends and Christmas carol collections. St. Mary's Band is possibly the only fully active band in Kildare succeeding where much larger towns have failed. Central to this success is the ongoing need for a continuation in the raw materials required- PLAYERS - and thankfully a new batch of beginners started last September and are making very satisfactory progress, some of which will be seen at the forthcoming concert. Of course the Band always welcome experienced players to their Monday night rehearsals in the Band Hall at Pound Lane and there has recently been a degree of success with the arrival of two adult trumpet players, both of who are enjoying the experience tremendously.

Apart from the concert the Band will be making their usual appearances with Carol recitals in the lead up to Christmas as well as maintaining their unbroken Christmas morning tradition after the 11.30am Mass. For further information on all of the above please contact the Secretary, Melanie Oliver, at 0879704910.





Emmet Stagg T.D.

Cllr John McGinley's Motions for Consideration of the Leixlip Area Committee Meeting of the Council on 23 November:

Extending the Ban on HGV's to the Moyglare Road:

"That the successful scheme banning HGV's from Main Street, Maynooth be extended to cover the Moyglare Road in order to reduce the risk of accidents to the residents of the 620 houses on the road and the 1,500 pupils of the Secondary and Primary Schools on the Moyglare Road."

Cycle Lanes between Maynooth & Leixlip and Between Maynooth & Celbridge:

"That cycle lanes be put in place between Maynooth and Leixlip and between Maynooth and Celbridge in order to create a "Sli na Slainte" for cyclists, family spins, safe commuter routes, links for third level students etc."

CCTV System at the Harbour Field:

"When is the CCTV System being installed at the Children's Playground at The Harbour Field, Maynooth?"

The cabling for the CCTV system was installed when Cllr. McGinley succeeded in getting funding for the new public lights at The Harbour earlier this year. It is very disappointing therefore that there appears to have been no progress in installing the CCTV System. The CCTV System would be a deterrent to the illegal drinking and thuggery that is presently taking place.

Safety at Junction of Straffan Road/ Meadowbrook Link Road, Maynooth

Following requests from members of the public, Cllr. John McGinley has sent the following letter to Kildare County Council:

Maynooth Labour News



Cllr. John McGinley

"At peak traffic times it is very difficult for traffic to get onto the Straffan Road from the Meadowbrook Link road. For traffic turning right it is particularly hazardous and it is even more frightening when there is traffic trying to turn right from the Straffan Road to the Meadowbrook Link Road."

"I understand that wiring for traffic signals were included in the design of the new road."

"However, in my view the best solution is to provide a roundabout. There is ample space as there is a Bus Turing point at this location."

"If action is not taken now there will be a serious accident sooner rather than later."

Lights not Working Between Bond Bridge and the Train Station Car Park

Following requests from members of the public Cllr. John McGinley has asked the Council to get Iarnrod Eireann to repair the three lights that are not working and to re-erect the 6th pole in that was knocked down some time ago.

As a result of so many lights being out of order in such a short space pedestrians are rightly concerned for their safety.

Bond Bridge Project--Areas Still Needing Attention:

Cllr. John McGinley has sent the following letter to the Project Manager, George Willoughby, on 17 October:

"I appreciate that great work was carried out on this project. The following are two of the areas still needing attention:

1. *The two palisade gates still have not got the timber paneling that you agreed to last March.*

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Party Political

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The "green area" at Meadowbrook Lawns opposite the Site Works Compound has been left in an appalling state following the works. Prior to the Bond Bridge works the residents were able to cut the grass here. However, it cannot be cut now and is a complete eyesore and detracts from the lovely works leading to the bridge. Also, the narrow strip at the footpath in this area was never properly landscaped following the Bond Bridge works. I would appreciate if you arranged for this work to be carried out ASAP".

PS "I assume that landscaping of the Site Works Compound will be carried out shortly as well."

Proposed Introduction of Pay Parking in Maynooth

The Council agreed to Cllr. John McGinley's proposal that the Draft Proposals be deferred from publication until the concerns of the Lyreen Residents' Association are taken on board.

John has also asked that a safe traffic management system for Back Lane/Pound Lane and the Lanes leading to Main Street i.e. Double Lane, Coates Lane, Fagan's Lane and Kelly's Lane be agreed with the Lyreen Residents and that it be included in the costs of the proposed Pay Parking Scheme.

Cllr. McGinley was given the following reply to his motion at the Leixlip Area Meeting on 25 October:

"Details of the draft parking by-laws are being prepared in parallel with the development of a Traffic Management Plan by WSP consultants. Local Gardaí have been consulted regarding the draft proposals and a meeting is also planned with the Lyreen residents group as part of the preliminary consultation process.

"To assist in preparing draft proposals for public consultation of both projects, a special meeting with the Area Committee would be considered beneficial before the next scheduled area meeting."

WORK TO COMMENCE ON EXTENSION TO MAYNOOTH PRESENTATION CONVENT

Deputy Emmet Stagg questioned the Minister for Education in the Dail in relation to progress on the required Extension to Maynooth Presentation Convent. The Minister, in response to Deputy Stagg, stated that the Board of Management of Maynooth Presentation Convent were advised to accept a tender for the

works and that it was expected that building works would commence shortly.

The Extension to Maynooth Presentation Convent consists of refurbishment works, the construction of 3 additional classrooms, 4 Resource Rooms and a replacement General Purposes Hall.

Welcoming this progress Deputy Stagg congratulated the Board of Management in finally getting the Department to sanction the building work having been delayed by bureaucracy since November 2001.

STAGG CONCERNED AT TEMPORARY CONTRACTS FOR ADDITIONAL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

Deputy Emmet Stagg questioned the Minister for Health in relation to the appointment of the 3 additional Speech & Language Therapists to the Kildare/West Wicklow Service as indicated to him by the HSE last August.

The HSE, responding on behalf of Minister Harney, advised Deputy Stagg that the additional therapists were now in place on temporary contracts and also indicated that a further additional post was to be filled shortly. Whilst welcoming the appointment of a further speech and language therapist Deputy Stagg expressed alarm at the indication that the 3 additional therapists now in place are on Temporary Contracts. This he stated was no use whatsoever.

Government neglect of Speech & Language Therapy, through the imposition of staff ceilings, led to a waiting list of 20 months for children to even get an assessment and to appoint temporary therapists was simply unacceptable given the serious deficiency in the existing service. It smacks of further cut –backs by this uncaring Government

In conclusion Deputy Stagg stated that he intended to raise this matter further with the Minister for Health as the positions must be full time if we are to provide our children with the best chance of overcoming difficulties which they encounter with speech and language.

STAGG WELCOMES PROPOSALS TO INCREASE CAPACITY ON MAYNOOTH SUBURBAN RAIL LINE

Deputy Emmet Stagg questioned the Minister for Transport in relation to the City Centre Resignalling Project and other measures to increase capacity on

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Party Political

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the Maynooth Suburban Line including additional carriages at peak periods.

The Minister advised Deputy Stagg that the remaining peak period services operating with 4 carriages will be extended to 8 carriages during 2008 following the reallocation of commuter railcars currently in use on the Sligo line when new intercity railcars are introduced over the coming months on the Sligo line.

In relation to the City Centre Resignalling, the Minister advised Deputy Stagg that Iarnrod Éireann are currently reviewing its plans for resignalling as part of its broader plans for the upgrade of the railway infrastructure in the Dublin area. Specifically in addition to electrification of the Maynooth line, Iarnrod Éireann intend to resignal the line and where possible, eliminate level crossings. Crossings along the line are at Blakestown, Clonsilla, Porterstown, Coolmine, Ashtown and Reillys and the most critical crossings are from Clonsilla to the City Centre. These works which are expected to be completed by 2011 would substantially increase capacity on the Maynooth Suburban Line.

Deputy Stagg has welcomed the proposals to further increase capacity on the Maynooth Suburban Rail Line and awaits final confirmation on the phasing of the works.

WAITING TIME FOR EYE TESTS FOR CHILDREN ON WAY BACK UP AGAIN

Deputy Emmet Stagg questioned the Minister for Health in relation to the waiting time for children for Eye Tests in Maynooth and Naas Health Centres and to his annoyance that the waiting times have increased dramatically since last April.

The HSE responded to Deputy Stagg on behalf of Minister Harney, and advised that the waiting time for new referrals was 15 months for Maynooth and 12 months for Naas. This compares with waiting times of 8 months in Maynooth last April and 7 months in Naas last April.

Reacting to the response, Deputy Stagg stated that it was scandalous that this Government could not provide proper services for our children given the amount of money available to the State. When waiting times were this bad in 2006 and were highlighted by Deputy Stagg, additional child optical clinics were put in place to reduce waiting times. It is obvious from the new figures that the HSE have ceased these additional optical clinics.

In conclusion, Deputy Stagg stated that he would

raise the matter with the Minister and the HSE again by calling on them to reinstate the additional optical clinics at both Health Centres in the interests of providing the best service for our children.

STAGG CONTINUES CAMPAIGN FOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC NURSING HOMES – STRONG POSSIBILITY OF SAME

Deputy Emmet Stagg has continued to question the Minister for Health in relation to the provision of additional Public Nursing Homes in Co. Kildare similar to the very successful facility located at The Harbour in Maynooth.

The HSE, responding to Deputy Stagg on behalf of the Minister, advised that there were 1,317 Extended Care Beds in Co. Kildare, with 1,055 of these in private nursing homes and 262 in public facilities in St. Vincent's in Athy, the Maynooth Community Unit and at the Drogheda Memorial Hospital in the Curragh. The HSE further added that in view of the increasing number of older persons, that additional long stay beds would be required in Kildare and that the location and capacity of the facilities that could provide these beds is currently under discussion and that it is anticipated that these additional places will be provided from the public and private sectors.

Welcoming the recognition that additional Public Nursing Homes were required in Kildare, Deputy Stagg stated that he was pleased that the HSE recognised their role and that older people were not going to be simply left in the hands of the for-profit Private Sector. It was important that a Strong Public Nursing Home System was built to provide an alternative to the Private Nursing Homes and give them competition and drive their unaffordable prices down. That would be the ideal but Deputy Stagg indicated that such a major programme is unrealistic under Harney in Health. The critical thing is to get as many additional Public Nursing Homes as we can and Deputy Stagg has vowed to continue to campaign on this issue.

UPGRADE OF N4 BETWEEN LEIXLIP AND THE M50 EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN MARCH 2009

Deputy Emmet Stagg has been in contact with South Dublin Co. Council in relation to the timetable for the completion of the Upgrade of the N4 between Leixlip and the M50.

South Dublin Co. Council have advised Deputy Stagg that the Contract for the work was awarded to Jons Civil Engineering Company, who commenced work on the 3rd September last and that the duration of the

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contract is 18 months, giving a completion target date of March 2009.

Welcoming the commencement of the work Deputy Stagg stated that it was critical that the work was well managed to ensure that existing traffic moved during the course of the work. Past experience on the N7 upgrade and works to the M50 Roundabout at Palmerstown have shown that it is possible to keep traffic moving relatively well whilst construction work is been undertaken.

Deputy Stagg stated that the N4 upgrade will bring relief to motorists from North Kildare through the Widening of the Existing Carriageway to 3 lanes in each direction and the provision of an Interchange at the Lucan/Newcastle Junction on the Lucan Bypass. The work is costing €40 Million and Deputy Stagg concluded by stating that originally the work was to be completed by 2004 but Government Cut-Backs imposed in 2002 saw it fall back to its present completion date of 2009.

STAGG PRESSES GORMLEY ON ADDITIONAL STAFFING FOR KILDARE CO. COUNCIL

Deputy Emmet Stagg questioned the Minister for Environment in relation to his efforts to have the Public Service Embargo lifted for local authorities such as Kildare Co. Council where there has been a large rise in the population covered by Local Authorities and given the demand for Public Services placed on Co. Council's in growing areas.

The Minister advised Deputy Stagg that he was reviewing the overall employment levels in the local Government sector having regard to the need to deliver front line services and achieve value for money within the parameters of Government policy on public service employment. The Minister further advised Deputy Stagg that as part of the review, his Department is consulting the Department of Finance in relation to the current ceiling on local authority staff numbers, including increased servicing requirements in areas which have high population growth.

Commenting on the Minister's response, Deputy Stagg indicated that it smacked of similar responses from the former Environment Minister Dick Roche T.D., and he stated that it would be better for the Minister to meet the Minister for Finance face to face to argue the case rather than leaving it to Officials.

Kildare Co. Council stated Deputy Stagg is operating

at a significant disadvantage when compared with other Co. Council's as follows:

CAVAN CO. COUNCIL	1 Staff member for every 140 people
CLARE CO. COUNCIL	1 Staff member for every 131 people
KERRY CO. COUNCIL	1 Staff member for every 128 people
KILDARE CO. COUNCIL	1 Staff Member for every 227 people

In conclusion Deputy Stagg stated that the population of Kildare had risen by 38% since 1996 and the Public Service Embargo which has been in place since 2002 must be lifted now.

STAGG LODGES APPEAL AGAINST 4 & 3 STOREY APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT AT OLD GREENFIELDS.

Deputy Emmet Stagg and his colleague Cllr. John McGinley have lodged an Appeal with An Bord Pleanala in relation to the decision by Kildare Co. Council to grant planning permission for the development of 13 of the rear gardens of Old Greenfields Cottages, Maynooth, comprising 4 & 3 Storey Apartment Blocks.

Whilst accepting that some improvements had been made to the proposal during the planning process, Deputy Stagg and Cllr. McGinley indicated that the proposal as amended still impacted negatively on the amenity of residents in Old Greenfields and The Crescent.

In their appeal Deputy Stagg and Cllr. McGinley made the following points:

- They reiterated their concerns that the 4 Storey Apartment Blocks, because of their sheer scale, would be visually obtrusive for residents of bungalows in Old Greenfield's and The Crescent. The inclusion of balconies in the gable ends of the blocks facing directly into Old Greenfield's would cause overlooking and a loss of privacy.
- They pointed out that the 4 Storey Blocks would be visually obtrusive from the Straffan Road at a prominent point at the entrance to the Town.
- They indicated that a 2 Storey Block on the Western portion of the site, which includes balconies, would cause a loss of amenity for residents of bungalows directly adjoining this part of the site.
- A 2 Storey Block with developed roof space which looks directly into the rear gardens of existing houses

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in Old Greenfields and The Crescent would also cause a loss of amenity through overlooking and a reduction in privacy.

They indicated that the proposal as presented was totally out of character with the existing built environment in the area which comprises of bungalows and semi-detached bungalows.

In conclusion Deputy Stagg stated that it is regrettable that developers continue to seek to over develop sites in Maynooth and other areas of North Kildare to the detriment of existing long established residents and he expressed the hope that An Bord Pleanála would overturn Kildare Co. Council's decision in the interests of the residents of the area.

STAGG ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF ABANDONING CARE OF THE ELDERLY

Deputy Emmet Stagg questioned the Minister for Health in relation to the number of elderly people in Co. Kildare awaiting admission to a Public Nursing Home in Co. Kildare and the numbers awaiting sanctioning of Home Care Packages.

The HSE advised Deputy Stagg that there were 114 elderly people awaiting admission to Long Term Beds in Public Nursing Homes in the County whilst a further 130 were on waiting lists for Home Care Packages which are a means of allowing them to live at home and receive care following discharge from Hospital.

Describing the figures as shocking Deputy Stagg stated that the Government was failing to provide adequate services for 244 elderly people in Co. Kildare and if this was the case across the Country there would be 5,500 elderly people in similar circumstances.

It all boils down to funding and priorities stated Deputy Stagg and when it comes to funding Minister's Salary rises, there is no problem but when it comes to looking after the very people who worked to build up our Economy to what it is today the Government simply could not care less.

In conclusion Deputy Stagg indicated that he would continue to press the Minister and the HSE on these issues until proper services were put in place for the most valued members of our Community.

Cllr. John McGinley can be contacted at:

6285293h ; 087 9890645

E mail jmcginley@eircom.net

Web: www.labour.ie/johnmcginley/



Acknowledgment

Carmel Oliver (nee Rochfort) late of Maynooth Park and Kilcock who died on 31st August 2007.

Carmel's daughters Melanie and Francesca and her brothers Jim and Tom would like to extend a sincere thank you to all who sympathised and supported us in our recent sad loss. Our thanks to Carmel's great neighbours in Maynooth Park for all their help and support during this difficult time. A special word of thanks to Dr. Michael Hanlon, the staff of the day hospital in Naas and staff of the day care centre Dunboyne Road, Maynooth for the kindness and care shown to Carmel. Thanks to the Maynooth Folk Group for their wonderful singing and support.

To Fr. Paul Coyle and Fr. Liam Rigney for the very meaningful removal mass. To the ambulance crew and Gardai for their kindness. To Oliver Reilly Undertakers for their professionalism in arranging the funeral. Thanks to everyone who travelled long distances, called to the house and attended the removal and funeral, sent mass and sympathy cards and flowers. As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this as an acknowledgment of our sincere thanks.

Features



A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DAY

Unit one was bright and cheerful as we all reported for duty that Christmas morning. With forty elderly residents looking forward to a special, day we were determined it would be the best for them.

Mrs. Wards son, FR. Tom, was home from South America for his first Christmas in almost thirty years and as he wished to spend the day with his mother, he had offered to celebrate Mass on the Unit for all the residents and staff.

The day room was suitably decorated. A large Christmas tree stood in one corner with presents for all underneath: a log fire burned brightly in the hearth and holly and ivy covered the sills of the big windows which overlooked a vast expanse of green.

Sheila was ninety four years old and had been with us for five years. She had been a music teacher and during her early days with us, she talked about her life. She was a widow for thirty years and never had any children. In fact, her only relative was a distant cousin. Sheila was a very private person, preferring her own company and as she had been blind for many years, she spent her time reading BRAILLE. Now, unfortunately due to progressive dementia, she was becoming more isolated and preferred to remain in her room. Her speech had deteriorated over the years and at this time she had not spoken for over a year.

I explained to Sheila about the mass and she agreed to come to the day room. She had chosen a rich red velveteen leisure suit to wear: she liked the soft feel of it and with her long white hair put up in a chignon she looked really elegant.

I wheeled her up just as Fr. Tom arrived and was greeting everyone. Before starting to robe for Mass, he put a tape into the recorder and soon the room was filled with the strains of Silent Night. My attention was drawn to the window and I saw snow falling, turning the green into a winter wonderland. Sheila's silence seemed to be reflected in the quiet beauty outside.

Mass was about to begin when suddenly the sound of "Adeste Fidelis" enveloped us all. It felt as if our hearts were lifted up. I heard a voice apart from the tape and on turning around I saw Sheila, sitting upright in her chair, an expression of pure radiance had transformed her face. Both arms were outstretched as if conducting and she sang each wonderful note perfectly. This was such a joyous experience; nobody had heard her sing before and she had not uttered a word for so long. Sheila continued to sing during the Mass (appropriately).

Sadly, I never heard her sing again, silence returned and remained. Sheila died in her sleep three weeks later. Her last Christmas gift to us all is a beautiful memory which touched our hearts.

Helena Kirkpatrick.



Aedeana

Lots of Love—Emily, Lorraine, Amy, Stephen, Mam & Dad

Clubs, Organisations and Societies

Maynooth Golf Society Christy Kenny Cup

Early Friday morning on 12th October, twenty one members of Maynooth Golf Society departed for Portugal. We landed at Faro Airport and were picked up and transferred to our Four Star Don Pedro Hotel in Vilamoura. The hotel accommodation and full breakfast facilities were first class.

The outing was to be played over three courses – Laguna Golf Club (Saturday 13th Oct), Old Course (Sunday 14th Oct), by far the best course, and Vita Sol (Tuesday 16th Oct).

The weather was hot but fine for golf. The first day we saw Barry Farrell and Kevin Loftus pull away from the group but on the second and third day Mick Fahey, Tom Flatley, Norm Kavanagh and Martin Shields came charging out of the pack. In the end Barry Farrell – leader on day one and two— easily took the overall win on day three at Vita Sol with a total of 93 points. We all had dinner together on the Vilamoura Maria Promenade on Tuesday night “reminiscing” on what might have happened, but Barry was the winner by a good nine points. The presentation was held in Caulfields and the Christy Kenny cup was presented by Tess Kenny.

Portugal 12-17 Octobers 2007 Christy Kenny Cup

1	Barry Farrell	93 Points
2	Mick Fahey	84 Points
3	Tom Flatley	80 Points B18
4	Norman Kavanagh	80 Points
5	Martin Sheils	79 Points
6	Kevin Loftus	76 Points
7	Tim Mullane	72 Points

Front 9: Brendan Leigh
 Back 9: Martin Deveney
 Nearest the pin day 1: Norman Kavanagh
 Nearest the pin day 2: Norman Kavanagh
 Nearest the pin day 3: Martin Maguire

Deuce: Norman Kavanagh
 Paul Murray
 Barry Farrell
 Martin Maguire



***Left to right (Winner) Captain)
Tess Kenny, Barry Farrell, Pa Conway***



~ Have Fun While Advertising Yourself ~

Take Part in:

Maynooth's St Patrick's Day Parade!

Application Form for Parade

Name of Business: _____

Organisation, Club or
Band: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Contact Person: _____

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

Entrance Fee:

- Commercial Float ~ €50
- Club/Organisation ~ €20
- Bands ~ Free

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

1 Best Commercial Float

Trophy

3 Best Band

Perpetual
Cup

**5 Best Portrayal of International
Culture**

Trophy

2 Best Club Float

Trophy

4 Best Portrayal of Irish Culture

Trophy

**6 Best Portrayal of
Environmental Awareness**

Trophy

Applications with entry fee to be sent to Community Council Office before
Friday 29th February or phone Marie Gleeson (office hours - 6285922 or 6285053) or

Maynooth Newsletter

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NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

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

Email us at maynoothcc@eircom.net

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

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

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

LETTER TO OUR READERS

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

Community Council & Newsletter Staff

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