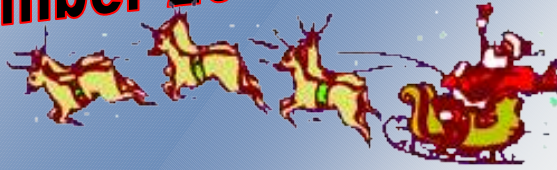


Maynooth Newsletter

December 2008/January 2009



Maynooth GAA Ladies Football Team



Boys National School "Operation Christmas Child"

Issue No.366
Price €2.00

Editorial

Editor.

One might have thought that with the R-word (recession) that the early Christmas rush on advertising and lighting would come to a halt but the opposite has happened. The lights went on earlier in Dublin and despite the plea to buy Irish the huge display in Dublin came from France – some financial irony there.

The Christmas ads have begun on radio and television and I pity any parent of young children, as I do every year, bombarded with requests for all the latest expensive toys. The pressure on parents will be even greater this year as unemployment rises at an extraordinary rate, particularly in the commuter counties, and the rising costs of basics such as food, heating, fuel and motoring eat into people's income. The demands on the Vincent de Paul have increased beyond their expectations and as they say themselves the people who used to contribute to them are now coming to them looking for help.

The developments in our own town continue apace with the opening of the new Tesco at the beginning of November and the development plans being put forward by the University. It is also time for the publication of the new Draft Development Plan for Maynooth that will go on display in the New Year. Unfortunately, there are downsides; the increased traffic, problems with traffic light sequences and a certain amount of road rage.

The Newsletter is produced by the FÁS project sponsored by Maynooth Community Council and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their ongoing support. We would also like to thank Intel for their recent support of the Community Council Office and their help with the Newsletter; it is a very welcome development. Hopefully this partnership will continue in the future.

Finally, the seismic shift in the politics of the USA must be mentioned. Who would have thought that 2008 would see an African-American, Barack Obama, elected to the highest office of the largest democracy in the world? I'm sure that many Irish people went to work bleary-eyed the following day from staying up to watch the results or getting up in the cold, dark Irish winter to see who won this historic election that could have seen the first female president of the USA. We wish him the best of luck; the hopes, dreams and expectations of his supporters were visible in their emotional faces and tearful eyes as they listened to his moving speech in Chicago. They were of every colour and creed and he carries their dreams on his shoulders – it will be a heavy burden.

Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin

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Community Council Notes

Community Council Notes for 10th November 2008

The Community Council had two presentations at the meeting of the 10th November. The first was made by Deirdre Watters who explained the new advertising campaign on behalf of NUIM that will launch on the 17th November. She showed some examples of the posters that will appear on bus shelters etc. along the commuter lines used by the students. The University is the fastest growing one in Ireland and Maynooth is the only University town. They wanted a language to describe the experience of going to college in Maynooth; to engage and to inspire.

The members drew attention to the existence of the town crest, the cooperation between the town and the college that led to the Fair Trade town and mentioned support for Town Council status. The planning sub-committee would be pleased to meet with the College and that all stakeholders should be involved in future developments. It was noted that the Carton application had gone ahead without any consultation with the Community Council or the town.

The second presentation was given on Adult Education Classes by Ann Cumerford of the Leixlip Adult Learning who outlined their activities. They cater for people over 16 and engage in part-time learning such as English, Maths and History to Junior and Leaving Certificate level, now they are teaching English as a second language and they cater for all North Kildare. Premises are the problem since the MADE centre closed down; they use the library in Maynooth. Most of them are volunteers.

Another topic that was discussed at length was the traffic in the town, traffic jams and the new traffic lights system that is the one known as 'intelligent' lights and that it takes time for the lights to 'learn' about the traffic patterns and this will take time. However, the problems were exacerbated by the inadvertent cutting of some cables and this will take time to correct.

A connected issue was the new pay parking system in the railway station, some members noted that the machines are badly placed and that this system will push cars into the surrounding estates where people can park free of charge. Pay parking will need to be introduced in the whole town to ensure that commuters cannot take up parking places all over the town and park all day leaving no room for the people of the town and shoppers.

It was agreed to invite the four local councillors to the next meeting, 8th December, to discuss the Draft Development Plan for Maynooth that will go on display in the New Year. The Planning and Development committee will be inviting the Heritage Officer and the Conservation Officer for Kildare to a meeting.

The chairperson congratulated the Tidy Town committee on the Awards Ceremony and the committee thanked everyone involved, particularly the Glenroyal Hotel and Ray Grehan for hosting the event.

The Ladies Football Team were congratulated on reaching the semi-finals on Sunday.

M. Callaghan said that the Maynooth would be united for Community Games again instead of the North/South division of the past number of years.

Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin

Poetry Corner

A Christmas Childhood

One side of the potato-pits was white with frost—
How wonderful that was, how wonderful!
And when we put our ears to the paling-post
The music that came out was magical.

The light between the ricks of hay and straw
Was a hole in Heaven's gable. An apple tree
With its December-glinting fruit we saw—
O you, Eve, were the world that tempted me

To eat the knowledge that grew in clay
And death the germ within it! Now and then
I can remember something of the gay
Garden that was childhood's. Again

The tracks of cattle to a drinking-place,
A green stone lying sideways in a ditch
Or any common sight the transfigured face
Of a beauty that the world did not touch.

My father played the melodeon
Outside at our gate;
There were stars in the morning east
And they danced to his music.

Across the wild bogs his melodeon called
To Lennons and Callans.
As I pulled on my trousers in a hurry
I knew some strange thing had happened.

Outside the cow-house my mother
Made the music of milking;
The light of her stable-lamp was a star
And the frost of Bethlehem made it twinkle.

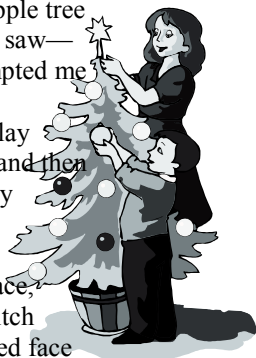
A water-hen screeched in the bog,
Mass-going feet
Crunched the wafer-ice on the pot-holes,
Somebody wistfully twisted the bellows wheel.

My child poet picked out the letters
On the grey stone,
In silver the wonder of a Christmas townland,
The winking glitter of a frosty dawn.

Cassiopeia was over
Cassidy's hanging hill,
I looked and three whin bushes rode across
The horizon — The Three Wise Kings.

An old man passing said:
'Can't he make it talk'—
The melodeon. I hid in the doorway
And tightened the belt of my box-pleated coat.

I nicked six nicks on the door-post
With my penknife's big blade—



There was a little one for cutting tobacco,
And I was six Christmases of age.

My father played the melodeon,
My mother milked the cows,
And I had a prayer like a white rose pinned
On the Virgin Mary's blouse.

by Patrick Kavanagh

Baby's First Christmas

You have to hold him up to see
The angel on the Christmas tree.
And even though he's still too small
To know the meaning of it all
You watch his eyes reflect the glow
Of coloured lights that come and go
And feel him quiver with delight
At every new and wondrous sight.



There's Santa with his jolly face
Beaming from the fireplace.
And from the stocking hanging there
Peeks a cuddly teddy bear.
Bright ornaments and candy canes --
Musical toy and wooden trains --
There's just no end to the delights
Spread out for him this night of nights!
He points and grins from ear to ear
And then he yawns - his bedtime's near!
Dad gives him a kiss and you tuck him away
To rest up for the fun of his first Christmas Day!

by Alice E. Chase

Our Christmas Robin

A Robin on a holly tree
Christmas morning bright and early
Plucking berries as its eyes see
It feasted on them daily

Chuttering as loud as it could
It seldom felt no danger
A tiny creature feeling so good
Never minding any stranger

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

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

by Patrick Murray





The 12 signs Of The Zodiac

DECEMBER 2008 /JANUARY 2009



ARIES—March 21—April 20

Things get a little out of hand this week when events you thought you could not control take a new turn. But is it lady luck, you will just have to wait and see. You have a skill that sets you apart from the crowd. You'll be called on to use it and are also being considered for work in a larger capacity.

Your lucky day is Saturday , Number 1, Colour yellow.



TAURUS—April 21—May 21

You're drawn to activities that don't interest the people around you. Give yourself permission to be an original. Life is changing all around you and the season brings joy and family happiness . It is also a time for meeting new and old friends. Take some time to yourself to avoid last minute shopping and worn out feeling. Merry Christmas.

Your lucky day is Wednesday, Number 4, Colour green.



GEMINI—May 22—June 22

You know when to make a big deal over little details, like the accomplishments of children, the words you choose when you greet people and the side dishes you prepare for dinner. The time to get things together for the Christmas is now as you will be busy at work and at home. Get a plan and get things moving.

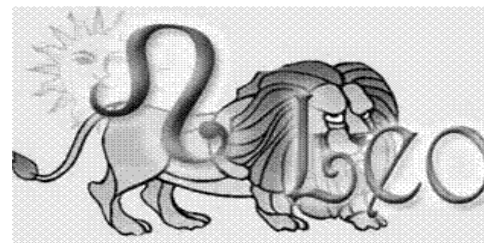
Your lucky day is Sunday, Number 16, Colour sky blue.



CANCER—June 23—July 23

Much depends on other people knowing about your talent, so get the word out. Show people how to view you, highlight your strengths and frame your accomplishments in the best possible light. Christmas is going to be good this year. You will be kept busy and the big day will be all you hope for. Don't eat too much.

Your lucky day is Friday, Number 12, Colour white.



LEO—July 24—August 23

Though others think you're terrific as you are, there are many areas in which you'd like to improve. Choose one goal and stay with it until you feel a change. The holiday season starts now and so to the parties with family and friends. Things go with a bang this week and a good time is had by everyone.

Your lucky day is Tuesday, Number 22, Colour purple.



Virgo—August 24—Sept 23

When the gossip mill gets churning, it creates a kind of suction. Stay your distance so that you don't get slurped into a nasty and negative conversation. If you must chime in, inject something positive. Someone will surprise you this Christmas with their present. Things go well and there will be a night you will remember.

Your lucky day is Monday, Number 9, Colour orange.



The 12 signs Of The Zodiac

DECEMBER 2008 /JANUARY 2009



LIBRA—Sept 24—Oct 23

You have reserves of physical strength to tap into for that extra push at the gym or to handle the heavy lifting at work. Just don't forget the warm up and cool-down that your muscles need. This Christmas season is the first of many good ones for you.

Your lucky day is Friday, Number 10, Colour pearl white.



SCORPIO—Oct 24—Nov 22

You see so much around you that could be better, and many of your ideas would work if they were applied. Getting others to hear you as a supporter and not a critic will be key. You are looking forward to a family Christmas and the 24th when a visit to Santa brings joy to the little ones and time to do some late shopping.

Your lucky day is Sunday, Number 14, Colour indigo.



SAGITTARIUS—Nov 23—Dec 21

You're happy when others are recognized for their accomplishments. Really you are. It's natural to have pangs of jealousy. They will soon subside. The tree is up and the holly is out so it must be Christmas time again. Are you ready for all that goes with the holiday season?

Your lucky day is Friday, Number 8, Colour blue.



CAPRICORN—Dec 22—Jan 20

People you used to know pop into your mind, and you wonder whether this might be a good time to get back in touch. Just pick up the phone and dial. Nothing to loose. Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year and all that you wish for the new year.

Your lucky day is Saturday, Number 11, Colour brown.



AQUARIUS—Jan 21—Feb 19

The work that's in front of you is not your favourite. Get it over with quickly so you can go back to being your happy self. Pull a cracker make a wish and this Christmas your dreams could come true , and one long remembered in time to come.

Your lucky day is Monday, Number 15, Colour gold.



PISCES—Feb 20—March 20

You get a power surge this afternoon and will truly feel that you can do anything, especially that one thing you've been worrying about all week. Take it on. You're invincible. Its' carol singing all the way and having a good time this holiday season. Easy on the cake and chocolates. Enjoy your Christmas.

Your lucky day is Tuesday, Number 18, Colour silver.

Features

SANTA CLAUS



It was Noel's birthday in two day's time, he had been a Christmas baby six years ago. He had a lovely head of black curly hair and the most deep blue eyes when he was born, his mother and father were so delighted they called him Noel, they knew he would be an only child. His Birthday was the twenty third of December, and they thought they were so lucky, as he was the happiest baby, even then.

Noel was six this Christmas, and he always got his presents on Christmas day. This Christmas he wanted a Train Set, Action Man and a Harry Potter book, his letter to Santa Claus for his presents had gone weeks ago, but his Mother and Father told him not to ask for too much as there were a lot of children for Santa to get to and he could only carry a certain amount on his sleigh. He was a good child and they loved him very much and promised something special for his birthday too

His parents, Margaret and Simon, were busy getting things ready for Christmas. She was baking three Christmas cakes this year, and was icing two of them and leaving the other one plain. They were expecting a lot of visitors as well. His Dad was also busy putting up the Christmas tree and decorating it, Noel was helping him too. It was going to be a really good Christmas this year. They were all getting into the Christmas spirit and had the turkey ordered and ready to collect.

They told him that he would have to go to bed early that night because Santa Claus was coming down the chimney with all his presents. Noel put out some Christmas cake and a glass of milk for Santa Claus and he didn't forget his reindeers, he put two big carrots out for them. Then he went to bed looking forward to Santa Claus coming, he was asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow, excitement making him tired.

When he woke up that morning, he remembered straight away that it was Christmas day. He got out of bed and ran downstairs to the Christmas tree. Sure enough Santa had brought Noel his presents. The cake, milk and carrots were gone with only crumbs to show where they had been. His Mum and Dad were in their bedroom when they heard the commotion coming from the sitting room. They smiled knowing that it was Noel, as they came downstairs to him, he said "Look Santa Claus has come."

He began to open his presents, first there was his Train Set then his Action Man and his Harry Potter book, he was so delighted and happy that he got all he asked for. Just then his Mum and Dad said "look what we got you for your Birthday". They brought him over to the window and said look outside. Standing in front of the window was a little white pony. "You didn't tell me that Santa was bringing me a pony" Noel said. "Well your such a good little fellow we got it, not Santa, we said we had a surprise for you"

"Is that really for me daddy.?" Noel said with awe. "Yes it is son so get dressed and we'll go out and see the pony" His Dad replied. He put Noel on the pony and led him round for a bit. All of a sudden it started to snow. Lovely white flakes started to come down from the skies. It was a white Christmas and Santa Claus had come to a little boy. "Isn't Christmas and Birthday's great daddy, thank you" He smiled at his Dad, They stayed out in the snow till it got too heavy so they went into the warm kitchen and got some hot Chocolate for the start of a very happy day.

Enda Clavin

Happy Christmas Puzzles—Sudoku

Happy New Year

Easy

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

Medium

3								

Difficult

8	4							
9								
7								

Super Difficult

8								



Solutions

Super Difficult

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

Difficult

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

Medium

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

Easy

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

Christmas Houseplants



Houseplants need to be pampered to thrive in a modern house. Wilting, flower failure and pest and disease outbreaks are common problems. Here's what to look out for.



Azalea

Q Why has my azalea withered?

A Leaves and flowers may fall off an azalea exposed to draughts, watered erratically, or if the rootball dries out. The secret of success with azaleas is keeping the compost moist at all times. Azaleas are acid-lovers so if you live in a hard water area, use rainwater if you can.

When the water is at room temperature, submerge the whole pot in it. You will see air bubbles coming from the pot – wait until these stop, then remove the pot and let it drain. Don't leave azaleas standing in water – this can be as bad as under-watering. How often you water will depend on the temperature of the room. You will probably need to water two or three times a week, but small pots may need daily watering. Increase the humidity around the plant by standing it on a tray of wet pebbles and spraying daily with tepid water. Remove faded flowers carefully so you don't damage the growing buds underneath. Azaleas don't like hot, dry rooms and prefer to be cool; a hall or porch is ideal. Make sure you don't put them near radiators. They will do best at a constant temperature of 10-15°C, though they will survive at temperatures as low as 4°C. Excessive heat will cause the leaves and buds to drop and inhibit flowering.

Azaleas like to be in bright, indirect sunlight and will do well on a west, east, or south facing windowsill. Don't leave them on a windowsill at night as the temperature behind the curtain can drop rapidly. You can revive a plant showing early signs of drought by plunging the pot into a bowl of tepid water, but one that has been exposed to prolonged drought may not recover.

Q How do I keep my azalea for next year?

A Once flowering has stopped, begin to feed your azalea weekly with a liquid feed. Pot on in ericaceous compost and if there are any long shoots, prune these to half their length. After the last frosts in spring, stand the plant outdoors in a semi-shaded position. Azalea roots are very sensitive to drought and water logging so add grit to ensure good drainage; the peat-based compost will provide a moist, acidic environment. Bring the plant back indoors just before the first frost and it should flower again the following spring.

Christmas cactus

Q How do I stop the flowers falling off?

A Christmas cacti do best at an even temperature of 13-15°C and the flowers should last about six weeks. Water sparingly, but don't let the compost dry out completely. Plants can be saved for next year, but let them rest for two months (keep cool and water rarely). Then stand them outside in summer in a shady spot.

Q How can I get it to flower again next year?

A The Christmas cactus is a short-day plant so it will only flower as the days shorten. When you bring it inside at the end of summer, keep it in a room where it will not get artificial light until the flower buds develop, then it can be moved. Choose a room with a similar temperature, or shock may cause the buds to drop.

Q My plant has rotted. What happened?

A The usual cause of root and base rot is overwatering. Although water is needed during the winter, the compost should be allowed to dry between waterings and kept only just damp. Discard the plant if the rot is well advanced, but you could try taking some cuttings from less affected parts.

Q How do I get rid of the 'cotton wool' growths on it?

A This 'cotton wool' is the protective coating of mealy bugs. Adults and eggs are covered in tufts of white, waxy wool. These sap-feeding insects cluster around the joints in the leaf-like stems. A heavy attack can weaken the plant. A light infestation can be dealt with by hand. Pick off individuals with a paintbrush or similar implement. To clear a heavy infestation, use repeated sprays of a houseplant insecticide approved for use on cacti and succulents.

Cyclamen

Q Why has my plant wilted?

A Cyclamen wilt due to lack of water. To rehydrate a plant, stand the pot in a saucer of tepid water and let it soak up moisture from the base. After a couple of hours, tip out any water left in the saucer. In heated houses, wilting is often due to high temperatures. Keep them around 5-10°C.

Cyclamen are prey to vine weevils. If the plant wilts for no obvious reason, these could be to blame. Check the corm to see if it is infested with white, maggot-like grubs which

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Christmas Houseplants,

(Continued from page 12)

are about 9mm long. They can quickly eat their way through the corm, often severing the plant just below soil level.

Plants with severe damage are best discarded, along with the compost. If damage is restricted to a few roots, tease out the roots and wash them carefully to make sure no grubs remain. Repot in fresh compost. Keep an eye out for adult weevils and destroy them.

Q Why has my cyclamen stopped flowering?

A This is probably due to lack of light and underfeeding. While flowering, they need good light and winter sunlight is weak. During the flowering period, give the plant a weekly liquid feed, or add a slow-release fertiliser to the compost.

Q How do I keep my cyclamen for next year?

A Once spring arrives and your cyclamen finishes flowering, stop watering to allow the corm to dry out. Store the dry corm until late summer when it will begin to show signs of growth. Repot using fresh compost so the corms are just showing above the compost and start to water again.

Poinsettia

Q Why has my poinsettia wilted and the 'flowers' faded?

A Poinsettias wilt when they get too hot and dry. They do best at a draught-free 15-21°C and should keep flowering for 12 weeks. To extend the flowering and keep the leaves in tip-top condition, place the pots on a pebble tray, mist the leaves and feed regularly. Put your plants in the brightest possible winter light to maintain the bract colour at its best. Water the poinsettia from the top of the pot, allowing the compost to become completely dry before the next application. But if the leaves start to wilt, water thoroughly with tepid water.

Q How do I make my poinsettia 'flower' again next year?

A You are unlikely to get your poinsettia to produce its colourful bracts again next year, as 'flowering' is triggered by a regime consisting of 14 hours a day of constant darkness at a temperature of 18-20°C, followed by ten hours of daylight every day for eight weeks.

If you'd like to have a go at creating these conditions, be prepared to provide light and dark in the sequence required starting in September. To provide adequate darkness, try putting the plant in a sealed cupboard or covering it with a thick, black polythene bag.

Winter cherry

Q Are winter cherries (*Solanum capsicastrum*)

poisonous?

A Yes, the brightly coloured fruits are poisonous.

Q Why have the leaves fallen off my winter cherry?

A Leaf fall is usually due to the plant being dry. Keep the compost just moist at all times. Excessive heat can also encourage leaf fall.

Q How do I keep my winter cherry for next year?

A To get fruit next year, prune back stems by half after fruiting has finished (usually during February or March), stop feeding and reduce watering. Place outside for the summer in a sheltered but sunny spot, feed and water regularly. When the flowers appear during summer, spray with tepid water to help with the production of fruit. Then return indoors by September.

Common pests and problems

Q What is the grey, fluffy growth killing the leaves of my houseplants?

A This is grey mould (*Botrytis*), a menace to cyclamen and poinsettias. It typically affects plants grown in cool, humid conditions where the grey, fluffy mould spreads rapidly. Destroy the affected parts. To stop grey mould recurring, improve ventilation and reduce watering and misting. Twist gently when removing dead stems from cyclamen so that they break cleanly at the base – half stems that are left can rot.

Q What are the small, white flies on my houseplants?

A These are adult whitefly, though it's their larvae that do the most damage. Apart from a brief 'crawler' stage, the larvae live as immobile scales on the underside of leaves. They feed on sap and excrete sticky honeydew. The adult flies are wedge-shaped and fly around in clouds when disturbed. Eradication is difficult and will require spraying with a houseplant insecticide every few days until well after the infestation appears to have ceased.

In a way winter is the real spring, the time when the inner things happen, the resurgence of nature.

Edna O'Brien



Clubs, Organisations And Societies



Kildare Ladies Football The Best Maynooth GAA Football Team Ever? Probably



Team:

1. Rachel Tallon, 2. Louise Walsh, 3. Aisling Farrell, 4. Annmarie Farrell, 5. Sinéad Murray, 6. Catríona Dolan, 7. Michelle Kearney, 8. Fiona Bradley, 9. Siobhán Mac Court, 10. Róisín Murray, 11. Simone Gilabert, 12. Hazel Mulligan, 13. Eimear Connolly, 14. Aodhín McBride, 15. Zoe Dunbar,

Substitutes:

16. Anto Mooney, 17. Sarah Quinn, 18. Heather McAree, 20. Roisin Kearney, 21. Orla Canning, 22. Aisling Rodgers, 23. Jenny Moore, 24. Laura Corcoran, 25. Ailbhe Flynn, 26. Meaghan Dunne, 27. Béibhinn Ni Chosáin, 28. Yvonne McAndrew, 29. Anne Dempsey

Manager: Anto Mooney



Fiona O'Neill & Catríona Dolan

While Maynooth just missed out on a place in the Junior Club All Ireland by the slenderest of margins, great credit is due to the team and Manager Anto Mooney. Having struggled for a while in recent years as the team lost all of the players from the nineties, except Annemarie Farrell, and a new young team emerged from the underage ranks they won back their Division 1 Senior League status in 2005 and have now consolidated that position. This year they went into the Junior A Championship as hot favourites, and justified that rating with a smooth run to the final and a well deserved win when they got there. Into Leinster was a challenge, but they carried their form through the Quarter and Semi Final and then had a magnificent win in the Final. The trip to Liverpool was a costly affair but the girls took on the necessary fund raising with a great gusto and assisted by a few loyal troopers they and Dunne's Stores made it a very successful trip. On Sunday they were up against a physically stronger and much more mature team but went within an ace of upsetting Kilmihill. The Clare club had the benefit of neighbouring Doonbeg not fielding this year, and the 5 or 6 recruits gave them that little bit extra.

While Kilmihill go on the play Knockmore of Mayo in the Final in 2 weeks time, Maynooth can look back with pride on an exceptional

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Clubs, Organisations And Societies

(Continued from page 16)

year. Having won the County Title after a 10 year gap and then adding the Leinster title they can deem the year a success.

Kildare Ladies Football

Another success was the outstanding way in which the Club hosted the game. A pre-match reception for a host of invited guests, as well as having the table well laid for the Kilmihiill team and supporters as they arrived was second only to the work done on the pitch. New fencing had been erected at the Club House end as were new dug-outs, and the pitch was roped off with plenty of stewards on hand. The big work was the miracle worked on the playing surface as all of the rain on Saturday left large pools on the playing surface but great work by the Club Members got rid of every single drop before the game started and when the game was over there were piles of sandwiches etc for the supporters of both sides and a hot meal for both teams. Great credit to all involved especially the Club Executive lead by Chairperson Matt Doran and Gerry Egan's Ladies Football Committee.



Simone Gilabert



Hazel Mulligan & Elaine O'Halloran

Competition: VHI All Ireland Ladies Football Junior Club Championship Semi Final

Played: Sunday 9th November 2008

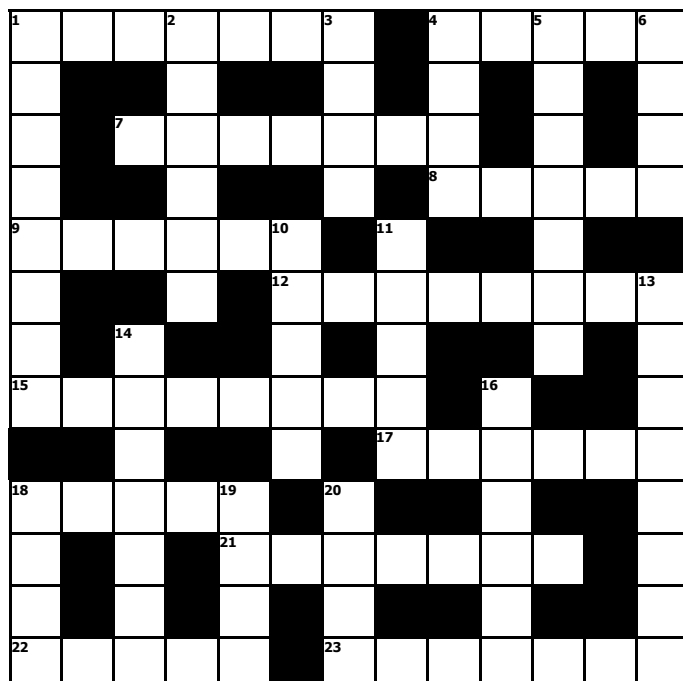
Venue: Maynooth Time: 2 pm

Maynooth 3 – 4 Kilmihiill (Clare) 3 – 5



Features

Crossword No. 73



Special Prize

Book Voucher

Give yourself the luxury of browsing and choosing the book/books which take your fancy from the wide selection available in the store of our sponsor

The Maynooth Bookshop
68 Main Street, Maynooth

Winner

Caroline Mulligan,
Ballinakill, Enfield

Down:

1. Comedienne, _ _ _ Wood (8)
2. Provoke (6)
3. American university (4)
4. Essence (4)
5. Settle elsewhere (7)
6. Nimble (4)
10. Swift (5)
11. Sparse (5)
13. Game of chance (8)
14. Idolised (7)
16. Wager (6)
18. Bulk (4)
19. Imperfection (4)
20. Prevent (4)

Solutions to crossword No. 72

Across: 1. Rotated, 5. Part, 7. Etna, 8. Shrub, 9. Ming, 10. Leaf, 12. Yoghurt, 14. Grotto, 18. Fad, 19. Afters, 23. Louvred, 25. Race, 26. Beta, 27. Roams, 28. Talc, 29. Lava, 30. Element.

Down: 1. Rising, 2. Torero, 3. Tablet, 4. Delay, 5. Pamphlet, 6. Tight, 11. Fonda, 13. Ruhr, 15. Reno, 16. Traviata, 17. Offer, 20. Fierce, 21. Ethane, 22. Sunset, 23. Label, 24. Dance.

Entries in before: **15th January 2009**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Across:

1. Assortment (7)
4. Soft Shoes (5)
7. Red (7)
8. When _ _ _ Met Sally, film (5)
9. Edible shellfish (6)
12. Forefather (8)
15. Apply for a role (8)
17. TV Show, The _ _ _ Quiz (6)
18. Inflexible (5)
21. Beatles fit of 1970 (3,2,2)
22. Bequeath (5)
23. Artist's board (7)

Doodle Box

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Maynooth Citizens Information Centre

Question

I would like to take a couple of months off work to care for my children but my employer does not want to give me unpaid leave. Do I have any legal rights in this regard?

Answer

Parental leave law entitles you to take leave to care for your child. It applies if the child is up to eight years of age or up to 16 years for a child with a disability.

If you have more than one child qualifying, you can take leave for a total of 14 weeks for each child, though you can only take one 14-week entitlement in any 12-month period. You may take the leave as one continuous period or as two separate periods of at least six weeks each, but your employer may agree to more flexible arrangements or to longer leave.

The leave is unpaid and does not entitle you to a social welfare payment. But your employment rights are not affected if you take the leave so, for example, you continue to accumulate your entitlement to annual leave and public holidays.

To qualify for parental leave you must have been working for your employer for at least a year. However if your child is nearing the age limit and you have been working for less than a year but more than three months, you have a pro-rata entitlement of one week's leave per month of employment.

If you intend to take parental leave you must give your employer six weeks' notice in writing, stating when you intend to start the leave and for how long. Then, at least four weeks before the leave starts, you will need to sign a document with your employer confirming the details.

Before this confirmation stage, your employer may postpone the leave for up to six months if your absence will have a significant negative impact. You are entitled to four weeks' notice of the postponement.

If you feel you are being denied your entitlements to parental leave you can refer the dispute to a Rights Commissioner at the Labour Relations Commission, Tom Johnson House, Haddington Road, Dublin 4, Tel: (01) 613 6700.

Question

I have an ATM card and Laser card at the moment and have paid stamp duty on them with my current bank. If I change now to a new bank will I have to pay the stamp duty again to get the cards on that account?

Answer

Stamp duty is charged each year for cards that are held on December 31. This means that you can change to a new bank account during the year but you will not be charged for cards on your previous account if it is closed before December 31. The stamp duty you paid earlier this year was for the use of the cards in 2007.

In the 2009 Budget, the stamp duty on ATM cards and Debit/Laser cards was reduced from €5 per card to €2.50. If you have a card that combines both ATM and Debit/Laser functions, the stamp duty on the card is €5. These new rates apply to the current year, the stamp duty for which will be collected in early 2009.

The duty applies to each card, rather than each account, but it does not apply to replacements for lost cards.

There are a number of cases where stamp duty does not apply.

If you have not used the ATM or debit functions of your card during the year then it is not liable for stamp duty.

It does not have to be paid if you have only used the card to request a chequebook, a balance statement, or to establish your identity or account number.

(Continued on page 22)

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

(Continued from page 20)

There is no duty payable if the card is issued on a deposit account which has an average balance of less than €12.70.

You are also exempt from stamp duty if your billing address is outside the State.

Question

In the media coverage of the Budget I heard about a government scheme that pays for the cost of medication. Who can avail of this scheme?

Answer

The Drugs Payment Scheme applies to everyone who is ordinarily resident in Ireland. That is, everyone who is living here and intends to continue living here for at least a year.

The scheme applies if the cost of approved prescription drugs, medicines or certain appliances used by an individual or family is above a certain amount. For 2008, the most that an individual or family unit is required to pay in a calendar month is €90 but this threshold increases to €100 from 1 January 2009.

Family expenditure covers the nominated adult, his/her spouse or partner, and children who are under 18 years of age or under 23 if in full-time education. There is no age limit for a dependant with a physical or mental disability or illness living in the household who does not have a medical card and is not able to fully maintain himself/herself.

The scheme doesn't apply to medical card holders because they are entitled to approved prescription drugs and medicines free of charge.

You may register for the scheme by completing a registration form which is available from pharmacies or your Local Health Office. Your Local Health Office will then issue a plastic swipe card for each person named on the registration form. You present this card when you are having prescriptions filled.

Your application for a new card can take a number of weeks to process. If you incur any expenses during this period, you should retain your receipts until you receive your card and then forward the receipts to the Drugs Payments Scheme Division of your Local Health Office.

If you pay tax, you can claim tax relief on money that you spend on prescribed drugs and medicines for yourself or for another person. You can contact your regional Revenue office to apply for this relief at the end of the tax year.

Question

My employer has told me that he is changing my conditions of employment by reducing my wages. Is he allowed to do this?

Answer

If you work for an employer for a regular wage, then you have a contract of employment with your employer, whether it is written or not. Certain terms of your employment including your rate of pay and your hours of work must be given to you in writing by your employer within two months of starting work.

Your employer cannot make changes to your contract of employment without your agreement, unless your contract already allows for such changes. If there are changes in the law that require your contract to be amended then you and your employer must comply with these.

If there is agreement between you and your employer to change the contract, then you must be given details in writing within one month of the changes coming into effect.

In some cases, change could come about by implication rather than by formal agreement. If, for example, you start work earlier at the request of your employer and continue with this new start time, this could be taken to mean that there has been an implied change in the contract.

If your employer makes a significant change to your contract which you do not accept, you should first raise the issue with your employer and maybe also your trade union if you are a member. If you cannot resolve the matter you may refer the dispute to a Rights Commissioner. You can contact the Rights Commissioner service at the Labour Relations Commission, Tom Johnson House, Haddington Road, Dublin 4, Tel: (01) 613 6700, Lo-call: 1890 220 227.

You may feel you have no choice but to leave the job and claim unfair dismissal. If you are forced to leave the job by the actions of your employer it is known as constructive dismissal. It is advisable to seek legal advice before taking this course of action as you may later need to prove that you left as a last resort having used all available means to resolve the problem.

Further information is available from Citizens Information Centres and from the Citizens Information

Phone Service, LoCall 1890 777 121

Pet Corner



Christmas Safety for Pets



When Christmas time approaches it's easy (and fun sometimes) to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of it all., but before you do, it's a good idea to consider your pets at this time of year, and make sure you're doing all you can to give them a happy, and a safe Christmas.

Food: Christmas just wouldn't be the same without all of the delicious treats that come with it. Unfortunately, most of our favourite festive snacks are also some of the most dangerous to our pets. **Turkey**, for one, can be dangerous to your pet if you are not careful to dispose of **bones** safely. Bones can easily puncture your pet's lungs or digestive tract, or cause your animal to choke, either of which can potentially be fatal. **Chocolate** is another potential hazard, and can actually kill your dog or cat depending on their size, the type of chocolate and the quantity consumed. It can also lead to extreme hyperactivity or even seizures in your animal. It is important to avoid keeping chocolates in easily accessible areas for pets, such as hanging in stockings or on your tree. If you feel like you have to give pets a special treat on Christmas day, try making their regular diet more exciting, say by giving them the canned version instead of dry.

Plants: Many of the beautiful and fragrant plants we fill our homes with at Christmas also put our pets at risk. Popular plants like **poinsettias**, **mistletoe**, and **holly** are extremely toxic if ingested, and can cause anything from gastrointestinal upset to cardiac problems to comas to death. For these reasons, these plants might be one of those things worth avoiding this Christmas. If you simply must have them, make sure you keep them far out of reach. Luckily, your Christmas tree isn't toxic, and shouldn't pose any serious threat to your pet.

Decorations: There are a wide range of decorations people use to brighten up their homes for Christmas, and a wide range of hazards that accompany them. From the toxic **artificial snow** in the windows to **sharp staples** and **tacks** that deck the halls, decorations should be used with caution. All **electrical wires** should be taped down or placed behind heavy furniture.

Visitors: Christmas generally means a lot more visitors than usual, and a general air of excitement that can leave people a little more carefree (and careless) than usual. With so many people going in and out, the chance of your pet getting out of the house is greatly increased during the holidays. Find a place in your home that you can set aside for your pets for when the house gets busy; not only will this allow you to enclose them during times when the front door is opening and closing, but it will also give your pets a place of refuge for when they feel overwhelmed. Like anyone, your pets can become stressed by the crowds and noise at big family gatherings, and most will appreciate the chance to be alone for a while.

Microchips: Now is the perfect time to have your pet **microchipped**. Thanks to current technologies, it is now possible to provide your pet with a means of identification far superior to the name written on their collar. Microchips are a permanent and reliable form of identification. Not much bigger than a grain of rice, these chips are implanted just under the skin on the back of your pet's neck. Unlike ID tags which can get scratched or fall off, microchips remain functioning and in place for the entire length of your pet's life. Also, unlike a tattoo or other permanent marking, When workers at the local animal shelter or veterinary clinic are presented with a lost animal, the first step they will always take is to scan the animal for a microchip. With this number, it is simple for microchip companies to search their database for your information, which they will provide to the clinic or shelter where your animal is located. After that, your pet's safe return is **only a phone call away**. The information contained in microchips can be read and understood by virtually any veterinary clinic or animal shelter.

Pets for Christmas.

The S.P.C.A. strongly advises against the giving of pets as presents so please don't give Christmas puppies or kittens as a surprise gift. **Remember a pet is for life not just for Christmas.**

"If you are worthy of its affection, a cat will be your friend but never your slave".

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself".

Wishing all our readers a Purrfectly Happy Christmas

New Pet Shop Opens in Maynooth



It's a welcome addition to the Maynooth area, where there has never been a pet shop. The new shop is large and airy with lots of space to walk around and has a wide range of products for all your domestic animals, and even some exotic ones. The experienced staff are on hand to give advice and help with choosing food or accessories for your pet. They also carry a wide range of tanks and pet habitats, be it a Dog house or Rabbit hutch. The staff are also there to give advice on the best pet for you or your children and how to care for them. So don't be shy, call in and see for yourself, the friendly atmosphere sets you at ease.

Budgies Pet Shop



Main Street
Maynooth
And
Kilcock



Budgies Pet Shop has also been in Kilcock since Feb 06, where it has established a regular cliental from all over the surrounding areas and even as far as Naas and Clane. They carry a wide range of Pet food including Red Mills, Royal Cannin, Purina and Eukanuba, which come in a verity of sizes from small boxes to large 10kg bags. The new shop in Maynooth will carry an even bigger range as it has lots more space, but if you need something that they don't carry just ask and they will do their best to help. You can get your pets name and your phone number on their collars as they also provide this service, so your pets can be safe.



We wish Budgies Pet Shop all the best in the future.

Features

TONY SMITH MEMORIAL WALK 2008

The Tony Smith Memorial Walk 2008 was held on Sunday 19th October.

The Walk, which started from Maynooth G.A.A. Grounds, was led off by Deputy Emmet Stagg and Cllr. John McGinley and proceeded down to the Village and up the Avenue into Carton Estate.

The amount raised this year is expected to be in the region of €9,000 and all funds will be handed over to the Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee at their Xmas Party on Sunday December 14th.

Maynooth Labour Branch would like to thank all those who took part in the walk and those who sponsored our walkers. We would also like to thank Lee Mallaghan for allowing the walk to proceed through Carton Estate and we want to congratulate Ellen Leavy who raised an incredible €4,539.90 for the Walk.





Maynooth Newsletter

2009 Calendar



January

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December

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Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Maynooth Taekwon-Do School

Maynooth Taekwon-Do School is celebrating after two of its students achieved the coveted rank of Black Belt. Taekwon-Do is a popular Korean Martial Art and the Maynooth Taekwon-Do School has been teaching it in the area for over 20 years. The Instructor is current Republic of Ireland National Head Coach Stephen Doyle who holds a 6th Degree Black Belt. Maynooth's two new Black Belts are Suzy Farrell (15) and Kevin Molloy (17). Suzy successfully passed the bi-annual R.I.T.A Black Belt Grading under the panel of Irelands most Senior 8th Degree Masters, Master Robert Howard, Master Anthony Phelan and Master Francis Barrett on September 27th. Kevin Molloy attended the International Instructors Course conducted by Senior Master Francis Barrett over the week-end of 18th & 19th of October. After the two days of training he was examined by Senior Master Barrett and was promoted to Black Belt. Maynooth Taekwon-Do now has three Black Belts who all go to the Maynooth Post Primary School after Richard Judge achieved his Black Belt in 2007.

Next up for the members will be the Team Challenge event on 8th November and the Irish Open National Championships on 6th December both in Tallaght, Dublin.

Training is in St Marys Boys National School Wednesdays from 8.30-9.30pm and on Fridays in NUI Maynooth from 7-8pm. New and old members are always welcome to attend. Contact Stephen Doyle at 087-6986491



Suzy Farrell



Kevin Molloy & Stephen Doyle

If you require any Further information please contact me at any of the below.

Regards
Stephen Doyle

RITA National Coach
6th Degree Black Belt
tel +353 (0)1 462 5252.
mob. +353 (0) 87 6986491
email maynooth@rita-itf.org
visit us at www.stephendoyletkd.com

A Letter To Santa



Santa Claus
The North Pole

Dear Santa Claus,



December, 2008



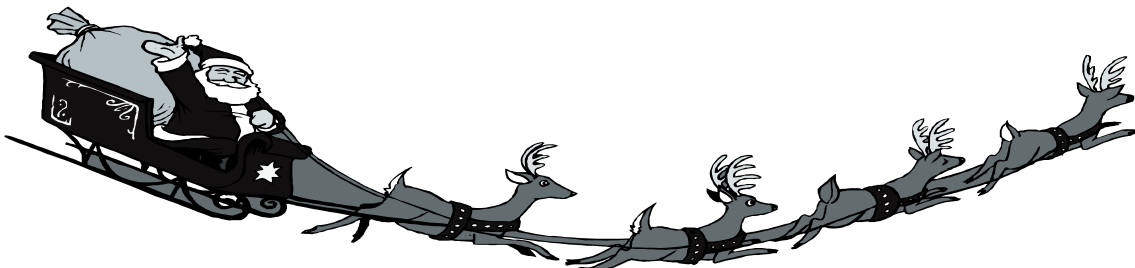
Love,

Name

Address

.....

.....



Post your letter in Casey's Super Valu Maynooth (beside Glenroyal Hotel)
Santa will be visiting on Saturday 6th December to collect all your letters.

Features

Maynooth Credit Union Limited

Happy End to a Successful Year!



*Peter Greene presenting the cheque to
Bernie Fitzpatrick*

Ms Bernie Fitzpatrick, from Maynooth and now living in Clane, was the lucky winner in the second round of Maynooth Credit Union's First Cash Prize Draw. The delighted mother of two thought it was a wind-up when word reached her on Saturday morning within minutes of her name coming up first on the computer screen. When she began to understand that the story was true, she was shocked. By the time she met Peter Greene, Chairperson, pictured above presenting the €8000 cheque to Bernie, she was beginning to enjoy her good fortune.

When Bernie joined Maynooth Credit Union as a teenager, she was following a family tradition which she has passed on to her children. Bernie's seven-year-old son Daniel has been a member almost since he was born and his younger brother Rhys will soon become a member. In this way, Bernie has passed on from her parents the saving habit that they encouraged in her.

'The Credit Union is great when it comes to saving for holidays or taking out a loan to buy a car,' Bernie says.

Maynooth Credit Union exists to enable members like Bernie to create the fund in the community to finance such needs.

The success of the first Cash Prize Draw has encouraged Maynooth Credit Union to turn it into an Annual Cash Draw. Members have already started to build the prize fund. When the final size of the fund becomes clear, the plans for this year's rounds will be announced. The more Members in, the more there is to win! This is also how the Credit Union core business works: the more members pool their savings, the more there is available to lend when the need arises.

Credit Union House, Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
Tel; 628 6741 Fax; 629 1399
Website; www.maynoothcu.ie
E-Mail; info@maynoothcu.ie

Simple Christmas Recipes

All-in-one Fruit Cake Recipe

Ingredients: Makes one 20 cm / 8 in cake
Important : All ingredients must be at room temperature.
175g/6 oz butter or margarine, softened
175 g/6 oz soft brown sugar
3 eggs
15 ml/1 tbsp golden syrup
100 g/4 oz glace cherries
100 g/4 oz sultanas
100 g/4 oz raisins
225 g/8 oz/2 cups self-raising flour
10 ml/2 tsp ground mixed spice
2 tablespoons whiskey

Method:

Place all the ingredients in a bowl and beat together until well blended, or process in a food processor. Spoon into a greased and lined 20 cm/8 in cake tin and bake in a preheated oven at 160°C/325°F/gas mark 3 for 1.5 hours until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. Leave in the tin for 5 minutes, then turn out on to a wire rack to finish cooling.

Brandied Chicken Liver Pâté

Ingredients

1/2 cup butter, divided
1 lb chicken livers
1 small sprig fresh rosemary (or 1 tsp dried)
1 bay leaf
5 Tbsp brandy
Salt & freshly ground pepper to taste

Method

In a large skillet over high heat, melt 2 Tbsp of butter. Add the chicken livers and herbs. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the livers are crisp outside but still a bit pink inside, about 3 minutes. Remove and discard the herbs. Add a splash of brandy to deglaze the pan and transfer the livers and pan juices to the bowl of your food processor. Process until smooth. Add the remaining butter and brandy and process a few seconds longer. Taste and adjust the seasoning. Scrape into serving dish (or individual ramekins). Cover with plastic wrap and let it firm up in the fridge for a few hours.

Victoria Sponge

Ingredients

225g/8oz butter or margarine
225g/8oz caster sugar
4 eggs beaten
225g/8oz self raising flour
Pinch of salt
3 tbs warm water

Method

Cream the butter/margarine with the sugar until light and fluffy, and then slowly beat in the eggs. Sift the flour and salt together and fold gently into the egg mixture. Sufficient warm water can be added to make the mixture just drop from a spoon.

Prepare two 8in/ 20cm cake tins by greasing and lining with paper before pouring half the mixture into each tin.

Bake in the centre of the oven at Gas 5, 190 deg C, 375 deg F until golden and risen. When cooked, turn out of the tins and leave to cool completely on a wire rack.

Sandwich the layers together with jam or butter icing. Sprinkle the top with icing sugar.



Mulled Wine

2 large oranges
3 pints of water (48 fluid ounces)
8oz granulated sugar
2-3 cinnamon sticks
10 cloves
2 bottles of good red wine
1 apple, sliced and cored
1 orange, deseeded and sliced
Brandy (optional)

1. Slice 2 oranges and place in a saucepan with 3 pints of water, 8oz granulated sugar, 2-3 cinnamon sticks and 10 cloves. Heat gently until the sugar is dissolved. Then bring to the boil and simmer for 30 minutes.
2. Strain the syrup. (The syrup can be prepared in advance and left to sit in the fridge for a day or two.) Return the syrup to the pan, bring to the boil, add 2 bottles of red wine, add a sliced, cored apple and a whole deseeded sliced orange into the mixture and serve.



(Continued on page 38)

Simple Christmas Recipes

(Continued from page 36)

Fresh Cranberry Sauce

12 oz fresh cranberries .
1 cup sugar
1 cup water

Heat the sugar and water until boiling. Add the fresh cranberries and bring back to a boil.

Cook on a light boil until the cranberries burst open. This should take about 5 minutes. Do stir occasionally during this time. Reduce heat to low. Let the cranberries simmer along. They should start to shrink. The overall look of the mixture should be like a soft jam. Stir fairly often to make sure that the berries do not stick to the bottom of the sauce pan. Pour the mixture into a bowl and let cool to room temperature. Then chill.

Cranberry Sauce can be made several days ahead. Just pour in a bowl when you're ready to serve.

Easy Mince Pies

Ingredients

350g/12oz Plain Flour
225g/8oz Butter (at room temperature)
125g/4oz Caster Sugar
1 jar Mincemeat
1 small Egg (beaten) - optional 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 walnut 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 – you do not need to seal them with milk, egg or water as they will stick on their own! If liked they may be brushed 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.

Gluten Free Cranberry & Orange Bread

Ingredients

1 packet Wheat Free Multigrain Quick Bread
100g packet Dried Cranberries
Grated Rind of 1 Orange
350ml/12 fl oz Water
2 tablespoons Vegetable Oil

Method

Lightly grease a 900g/2lb loaf tin. Preheat oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6.

Empty contents of packet into a bowl, add the cranberries, orange rind, water and oil.

Mix well with a spoon to produce a batter.

Transfer to prepared tin. Smooth top with a wet spoon.

Make a deep cut lengthwise along the centre.

Bake for about 35 minutes until golden brown.

Turn onto a wire tray and cool completely before slicing.

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.

Steam for 6 hours.

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Maynooth Tidy Towns



*Ray Murphy (left) & Sean Lyons
(Chairman Maynooth Tidy Towns) and
in the background Conor Dempsey*

*Left to right ; Conor Dempsey, Fr. Liam
Rigney P.P., Rosaleen Higgins,
& Sean Cushen.*



*Owen Leavy, Gerard Heraghay, Boys of
6th Class, St. Mary's School. They are
very interested in green School*

Features

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project. It delivers love-filled-shoeboxes to millions of needy children across the world.

Many of these children are in orphanages, shelters and hospitals. Operation Christmas Child is more than a shoebox; it means so much to the boy or girl to know that someone, far away, whom they will never meet, is thinking of them. It brings joy, hope and a little bit of God's love into desperate situations.

Last year I accompanied the Operation Christmas Child team on a distribution trip in Romania. There I experienced 1st hand the joy, excitement and hope each time a box was opened. The wonderful happiness a simple pair of flip flops, bag of sweets or toy brings to these under privileged kids cannot be expressed in words. Here we were strangers in a foreign land bringing the most amazing joy during Christmas. I want everybody who participates in Operation Christmas child to know that their effort to fill a box makes a big difference in the lives of kids who otherwise would go through Christmas empty handed.

Thanks to Hugh O Neill from Maynooth who kindly donated the use of his warehouse this year. Its located behind the TSB bank on main street Maynooth if anybody wants to pop in and say hello and see what goes on. We have had a great number of volunteers turn up to help with the logistics this year to whom I would like to say a huge thank you! This job couldn't be done without you!

We have collected over 1000 boxes in the Maynooth area already. We would like to say a very special thank you to all the Schools in Maynooth, Maynooth ICA, The Bridge Club, The Glenroyal, Department of Agriculture, and many other organizations who participate. Also, to everyone who has made a shoebox. Every shoebox means a happy child at the other side.

I would personally like to thank Jacqui Hobbs and Carmel Nolan for all the hard work they put into Operation Christmas Child. They have coordinated this area for the past 5 or 6 years and they really do great work. Well Done Ladies! I would also like to thank my church Maynooth Community Church for the hours of work they have done for us. Thank you all so much!

I look forward to doing it all over again, with you all, next year.

Thanks Sinead Hussey

Operation Christmas Child
Boys National School



*Pupils : Gareth Cummins, Keith Kelly, Michael Jones,
Darren Maguire, Gracious Palissery, Shane Roche, Louis Hartnett,
Alex Howell & Teacher, Cathal McGready.*

(Continued on page 44)

Features

(Continued from page 42)

Operation Christmas Child Boys National School

Every year St. Mary's BNS school takes part in Operation Christmas Child. This year it was organised by Teacher Roísín Murphy. Coming up to Christmas, the children are asked to fill a shoe-box with presents suitable for children. Some contribute second hand toys in good condition that they no longer need while others spend their pocket money on buying new items.

The boxes are then wrapped in Christmas paper and labelled for either a boy or a girl. They are then sent off to parts of the world less fortunate than ourselves.

The boys learn that even a colouring book and some pencils could make someone's day in some places. Our corridors as ever were filled with colourful boxes this year.

The children worked very hard collecting the shoe boxes. They put presents that are suitable for both boys and girls. The boys collected a total of 354 boxes, this was 100 up on last year.

Thanks to boys, & parents for boxes, and teachers for their co-ordinating effort.



Pupils collecting parcels & bringing them to the van



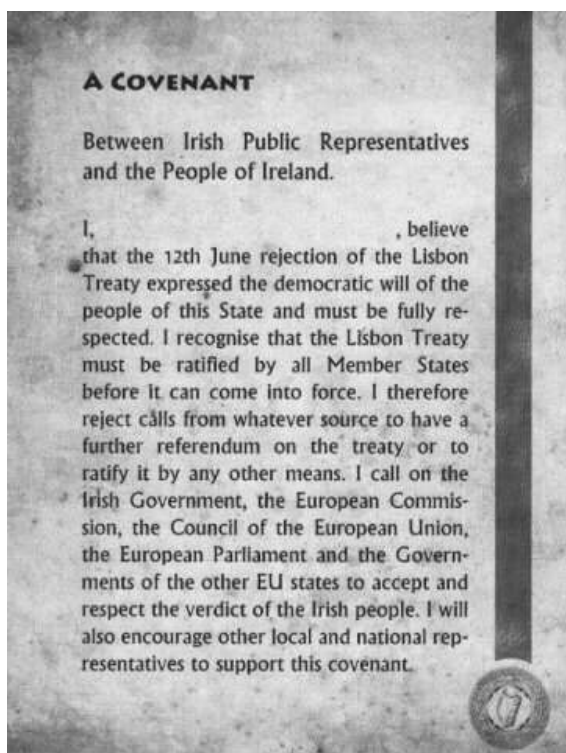
Pupils loading the van consisting of 354 parcels



Job completed

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT GLUAISEACHT AN PHOBAIL

Covenant launched



The People's Movement has launched a ***Covenant between Irish Public Representatives and the People of Ireland***. The text declares that the signatories believe the referendum on the Lisbon Treaty 'expressed the democratic will of the people of this State and must be fully respected'. In addition to existing public representatives, candidates in next June's local and European elections will be invited to sign the document. We believe that local TDs, county councillors, and town commissioners, by virtue of the fact that they hold public office as a result of the same democratic process that rejected the Lisbon Treaty, have a special role and responsibility to ensure that the Government fully respects the decision of 12 June. In particular, because of this democratic process, we hold that this responsibility applies equally to public representatives who campaigned for a Yes vote as those who called for a No vote. In the interests of the intergety of politics we sincerely request and expect a positive response from all our local public representatives and look forward to advising the public of north Kildare with the outcome of our initiative.

EU to make our tax a double?

Can you remember the Government or any of the other supporters of Lisbon Treaty telling us prior to

the referendum last June that Lisbon provided for direct EU taxes? Recently, People Movement researchers have brought to our attention that if implemented Lisbon would give the EU the power to raise its own taxes and impose any tax, including income tax or sales tax, by consensus amongst the governments, without the need for further new treaties or referendums (Art.311 TFEU /Treaty on the Functioning of the EU). So, it would be a case of giving unto our own Caesar (The Irish Revenue) what is Caesar's and then unto Caesar Maximus (Brussels) whatever the EU bureaucrats decree. Seems to us another very good reason to insist: NO means NO.

Safeguard Valuable Jobs

One of the hallmarks of the 'Celtic Tiger' era was the use of a flexible corporation tax regime to attract blue chip multinational to Ireland. North Kildare benefited hugely from this, with thousands of jobs at Intel and HP. This flexibility has been criticised by the dominant EU Big States, Germany and France in particular. If we sign up to Lisbon we put this policy at risk. Can North Kildare afford to gamble with the loss of these and future jobs?

Solve your Xmas present problem for 2008 - with a Ballagh

What can you give the man or woman in your life that has everything? Robert Ballagh is one of Ireland's most prominent living artists. His paintings are on display in the National Gallery, Ulster Museum and Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery. Robert is also a patron of the People's Movement and has kindly made available, as a fundraiser, a limited edition of his evocative fine-art print, entitled *Mise Éire*. Each print is signed, numbered and blind-stamped by the artist. Cost is 300 euro, framed or 250 unframed – modest at the price for a work of art that can be expected to appreciate in value! To view a copy locally, please contact the undersigned or visit our site at www.people.ie



Michael Quinn, Sec.

North Kildare Branch
quinnutd@eircom.net

Maynooth Community Library

MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY CHESS CLUB

CHILDREN : Mondays 6 - 7pm

ADULTS: Thursdays 6 - 8pm

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP meets every Wednesday morning at 10am in Maynooth Community Library.

YOUNG ADULTS!

See our new range of Graphic Comic Novels in Maynooth Library.

MAYNOOTH **"Film for All" club's** next film is " The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" and takes place in the John Hume Theatre in NUI Maynooth on Wednesday 3rd December at 7.45pm . It tells the moving story of Dominique Bauby, editor-in-chief of French Elle who went from playboy to paralysed. For details contact Maynooth Community Library at 01- 6285530.

HUMOUR FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Mistletoe Jokes:

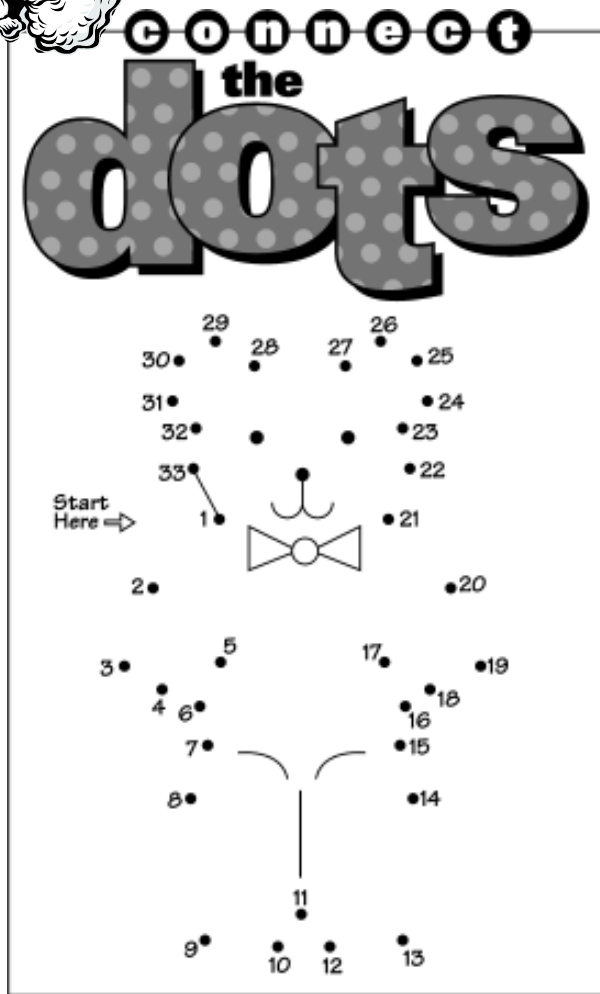
Jennifer was a pretty 18 year old girl. In the week before Christmas she sauntered up to the curtain counter, and was trying to decide which of the many types of tinsel she would buy. Finally, she made her choice and asked the spotty youth who was manning the fabric section. 'How much is this gold tinsel garland'. The spotty youth pointed to the Christmas mistletoe above the counter and said, 'This week we have a special offer, just one kiss per metre'. 'Wow, that's great', said Jennifer, 'I'll take 12 metres'. With expectation and anticipation written all over his face, the boy measured out the tinsel, wrapped up the garland, and gave it to Jennifer. She then called to an old man who had been browsing

Christmas Wiscrack:

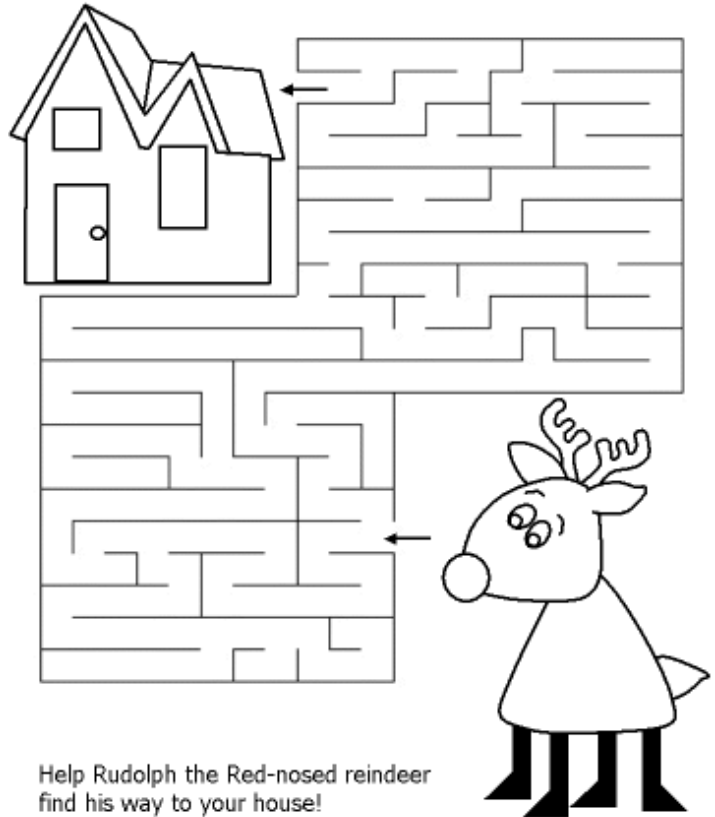
Picture this, it was just before Christmas, and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, 'What are you charged with?' The prisoner replied, 'Doing my Christmas shopping too early'. 'That's no crime', said the magistrate. 'Just how early were you doing this shopping?' 'Before the shop opened', answered the prisoner.



Children's Corner



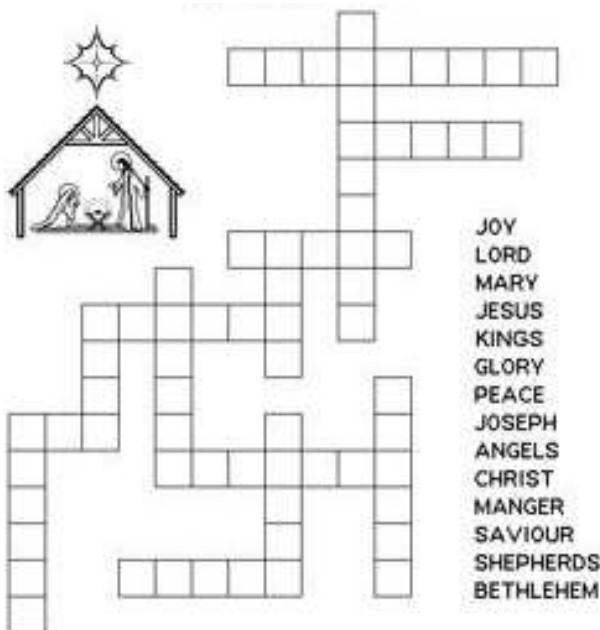
Christmas Maze



Help Rudolph the Red-nosed reindeer find his way to your house!

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword. Each word is only used once



JOY
LORD
MARY
JESUS
KINGS
GLORY
PEACE
JOSEPH
ANGELS
CHRIST
MANGER
SAVIOUR
SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM

Word Search

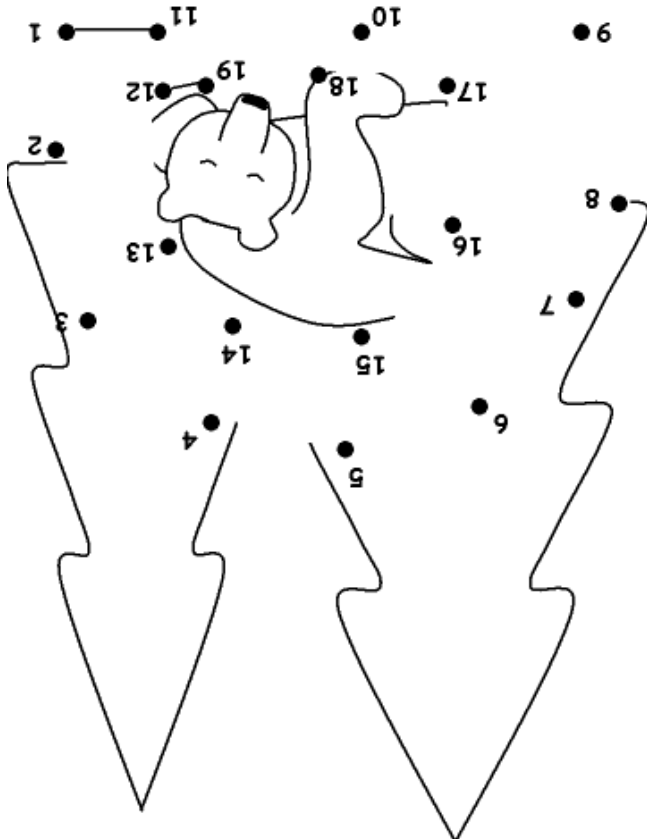
Can you find the hidden words? Each word ends with the letter **H**. The words may be horizontal or vertical.

D R N G D T E N O U G H V
A P E A C H F R E S H J M
M O N T H V I S M O O T H
B W N S E A N O V B Y C P
E A R T H N I L Z D I S H
A T L O M I S M Y T H C T
C C E M D S H L D J I R O
H H N A U H N A E M G A U
V V G C W R R R P B H T C
P T T H A O I C T A E C H
E Y H M S U C H H T A H V
M A R C H G H T V H C Y G
T V Y Z L H I J O U H V J

ARCH, BATH, BEACH, DEPTH, DISH, EACH, EARTH, ENOUGH, FINISH, FRESH, HIGH, LENGTH, MARCH, MONTH, MYTH, PEACH, RICH, ROUGH, SCRATCH, SMOOTH, STOMACH, TOUCH, VANISH, WASH, WATCH.



Answer to Spot The Difference



Connect The Dots



Can You Spot The Difference

Across

2. June
4. Saturn
7. Play
9. Month
10. Space
14. Milkyway
15. Rocket
17. Travel
19. Comet
21. Pluto
22. Crayon

Down

1. Stars
2. Jupiter
3. Near
5. Rings
6. Shuttle
8. Orbit
11. Planets
12. Earth
13. Sky
14. Mercury
16. Crater
18. Venus
20. Moon

Answers

1. The Milky Way is made up of these stars.
2. First month of summer.
3. Opposite of far.
4. This planet has the largest set of rings.
5. Saturn has these rings.
6. 30 days equal one month.
7. Children do this.
8. Outer planet.
9. One name for a collection of millions of stars.
10. Before the Space Shuttle this was used to travel of space.
11. Take a trip.
12. Our planet.
13. You see this when you look up.
14. Closest planet to the sun.
15. The moon has these craters.
16. This planet is called our sister planet.
17. Earth has one, it comes out at night.



SPACE CROSSWORD



Christmas Stories

A Christmas Story

There was a kindly nobleman whose wife had died of an illness leaving the nobleman and his three daughters in despair. After losing all his money in useless and bad inventions the family had to move into a peasant's cottage, where the daughters did their own cooking, sewing and cleaning.

When it came time for the daughters to marry, the father became even more depressed as his daughters could not marry without dowries, money and property given to the new husband's family.

One night after the daughters had washed out their clothing they hung their stockings over the fireplace to dry. That night Saint Nicholas, knowing the despair of the father, stopped by the nobleman's house. Looking in the window Saint Nicholas saw that the family had gone to bed. He also noticed the daughters' stockings. Inspiration struck Saint Nicholas and he took three small bags of gold from his pouch and threw them one by one down the chimney and they landed in the stockings.

The next morning when the daughters awoke they found their stockings contained enough gold for them to get married. The nobleman was able to see his three daughters marry and he lived a long and happy life.

Children all over the world continue the tradition of hanging Christmas stockings. In some countries children have similar customs. In France the children place their shoes by the fireplace, a tradition dating back to when children wore wooden peasant shoes.

In Holland the children fill their shoes with hay and a carrot for the horse of Sintirklass. In Hungary children shine their shoes before putting them near the door or a window sill.

Italian children leave their shoes out the night before Epiphany, January 5th for La Befana the good witch. And in Puerto Rico children put greens and flowers in small boxes and place them under their beds for the camels of the Three king



Santa Claus

Santa Claus, also known as **Saint Nicholas**, **Father Christmas**, **Kris Kringle**, or simply "**Santa**", is the ghost of Saint Nicholas who, in Western cultures is described as bringing gifts on, Christmas Eve December 24 or on Saint Nicholas Feast day, December 6. The legend may have its basis in folklore tales concerning the historical figure of Saint Nicholas.

The modern depiction of Santa Claus as a fat, jolly man (or gnome) wearing a red coat and trousers with white cuffs and collar, and black leather belt and boots, became popular in the United States in the 19th century due to the significant influence of caricaturist and political cartoonist, Thomas Nest. This image has been maintained and reinforced through song, radio, television and film. In Europe, he is depicted often as identical to the American Santa, but he is commonly called *Father Christmas*.

Father Christmas is said to reside in Lapland he is married and lives with Mrs. Claus; and that he makes a list of children throughout the world rewarding the Children according to their behavior with presents including toys and sweets

One legend associated with Santa says that he lives in the far north, in a land of perpetual snow. The American version of Santa Claus lives at the North Pole, while Father Christmas is said to reside in Lapland. Other details include: that he is married and lives with Mrs. Claus; that he makes a list of children throughout the world, categorizing them according to their behavior; that he delivers presents, including toys, candy, and other presents to all of the good boys and girls in the world, and sometimes coal or sticks to the naughty children, in one night; and that he accomplishes this feat with the aid of magical elves who make the toys, and eight or nine flying reindeer who pull his sleigh.

Party Political-Labour News



Emmet Stagg T.D.

Maynooth Labour News



Cllr. John McGinley

The Dreaded Traffic Lights at The Glenroyal.

At the Area Meeting on 24th October Cllr. McGinley again demanded that the traffic lights at The Glenroyal be switched off in order to get traffic moving again. He stated that the distance between the Glenroyal, Doctors Lane and Main Street was too short to make traffic lights work no matter how modern the system. He pointed out that the €150,000 spent on Doctors Lane had been wasted because cars cannot get out of it at peak time because of the Glenroyal lights.

The engineer stated *"that the system is still being monitored. However, due to damage caused by utilities the full impact of the new system is not clear yet."*

Teenage Activity Area & Fitness Zone at The Harbour Field

Work began on the two projects on 7th November and Cllr. McGinley was advised that work should be completed before Christmas.

Flooding at Laraghbryan Cemetery

The Area Engineer has advised Cllr. John McGinley that due to a backlog of works the laying of the pipe across the road cannot be done until next year. John stated that this news was very disappointing and he asked that a private contractor be employed to carry out the work now.

The Process of Preparing a Local Area Plan for Maynooth:

The first step in preparing a new Local Area Plan (LAP) for Maynooth was taken on the 5th June 2008 when the Council sought Pre-Draft Submissions from members of the public. Cllr. John McGinley made the following submission:

"The Kildare County Development Plan 2005 to 2011 states:

"Given the level of land currently zoned for housing (2,700 acres in the county) it is not anticipated that any further housing/residential zoning will be necessary during the period of this plan. This however does not preclude additional such zoning in specific locations where the council is satisfied that a clearly established need for such zoning is evident."

There are 3,800 housing units occupied in Maynooth at present.

There is enough land already zoned residential to build a further 2,010 units, 1,117 of which have already got planning permission.

So the size of Maynooth can increase by more than 50% without any further rezonings.

(Continued on page 54)

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(Continued from page 53)

In my opinion it would be planning madness to rezone any further land for housing in the Proposed Maynooth Local Area Plan."

At the first stage of the preparation of a new LAP, it is the Planners who prepare the draft, having regard to the submissions received at the informal pre-draft consultation and having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, regional planning guidelines, county development plan, national spatial strategy, retail planning guidelines, county strategy and any other national or local policies.

The Council has advised Cllr. McGinley that the Planners will have a Draft of the Maynooth LAP ready in early 2009.

The Planners will discuss the details of the Plan with the 4 Area Councilors before it goes on Public Display and the Councilors can recommend changes. However, the Planners need not include these changes as it is still the Managers Plan at this stage.

When the Draft is published, the public have 6 weeks to make submissions, the Planners have 6 weeks to write the Manager's Report on those submissions and all 25 Councilors have a further 6 weeks to consider the Manager's Report. In reality it is the four Area Councilors who will make the changes and it now becomes the Councilors Plan rather than the Managers. We can decide to accept the draft LAP as published, accept or reject some or all of the Manager's recommendations arising out of the submissions and propose changes of our own. If we change the draft LAP in any material way, within 3 weeks of that decision, the **proposed changes** go back out on public display for a period of not less than 4 weeks for a second round of consultation. The Manager has another 4 weeks to prepare a report for the members on the submissions received and the Full Council have a further 6 weeks to make a Final Decision on the Plan.

As can be seen from the above it can take 35 weeks from the time that the Draft Plan is published to approve it and as the Draft Maynooth Plan will not be published until January or February it won't be completed until September/October 2009.

Proposed Extension of the 66 and 67 Bus Routes

Cllr. John McGinley was informed by the Council that Dublin Bus have yet to confirm the route extension and when the Department of Transport issues the licence that the council will make contact with Dublin Bus. John asked that Dublin Bus and the Department of Transport be invited to the next meeting and that in the meantime that the Roads Department of the Council check the proposed routes for suitability of the bus extensions.

Safe Route to the Soccer Pitches on The Rathcoffey Road

Cllr. McGinley was advised that the Council have not yet finalised a design for the project.

Taking in Charge of Silken Vale/The Arches:

As a result of Cllr. John McGinley's motion The Councils, Willie Hannigan, was due to give a report on the completion of Silken Vale at the October Area Meeting, however he was unavailable on the day. John asked that in view of the failure of the developer to complete the estate that Court procedures be considered. He also asked that the process for taking the Main Road in charge be started immediately. It was agreed that Willie would be at the next Meeting on 21 November.

Provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Rathcoffey Road

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following motion to the October Area Meeting:

"That a pedestrian crossing be provided on the Rathcoffey Road, Maynooth from the Castledawson side, where the footpath ends, to house number 75 Cluain Aoibhinn, as there is no footpath on the left hand side from there to Bond Bridge and that funding be taken from the '09 Deficit in Infrastructure Fund."

Council Officials stated that they would examine the proposal and report back to the November meeting.

Motion on Removal of Medical Cards:

Cllr. John McGinley has submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Council:

(Continued on page 56)



Eamon Gilmore, T.D., Nessa Childers

Nessa Childers is the Labour Party candidate of EU elections

The Labour Party convened in the Glenroyal Hotel on Sunday 9th November to elect a candidate for the EU elections to take place in the summer of 2009. Nessa Childers was selected before a packed audience who listened to speeches from the candidate herself as well as the Party Leader, Eamon Gilmore. Also present were Emmet Stagg T.D.,

Jack Wall T.D. and Liz McManus who will be Director of Elections. Deputy Gilmore congratulated her and pointed out that she came from strong political roots on both sides of her family. Deputy Stagg stressed the need for a strong and vibrant Labour Party in the present political climate.



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To All
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Thank you for your custom in 2008
Happy Christmas and New Year
Looking forward to seeing you in 2009



**MON-FRI
SAT**

**10 am - 6 p.m.
10 am - 5.30 p.m.**

Party Political-Labour News

(Continued from page 54)

"That this Council condemns the recent government budget decision to remove medical cards from over 70year olds and the refusal to reverse this decision in total."

Stagg Welcomes Climb Down on Medical Cards for Over 70`s But Calls for Universal Access for All

The Labour Party believes that it would have been more honest if the government had announced that it has simply decided to scrap its original proposal and stuck with the principle of universal access to medical cards for all those over 70. Medical research has shown that full eligibility for the cards has led to significant improvements in the health of the elderly. In addition, it is likely that there will be significant costs involved in administering the complicated means testing system that will now be required.

However, the announcement by the Taoiseach on revised criteria for eligibility of the over 70s represents a climb-down by a government on a budgetary issue that is unprecedented in recent decades. It is a particular political humiliation for the Minister for Health, Mary Harney, who devised the scheme and the Minister for Finance who made it a central part of his first budget.

However, I am concerned at the Taoiseach's statement that the government intends to proceed with its plans to repeal Section 1 of the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act. This will mean that those over 70 have no legal entitlement to a medical card. It also means that at any time in the future, the income limits announced by the government today can be cut at the stroke of a ministerial pen.

We also need further clarification as to how the actual limits will be set. The Taoiseach referred to 'gross incomes' while the procedure to date has been that eligibility for medical cards has been based on 'net income' i.e. income after tax and after payments such as rent or mortgage payments.

If the income levels are as generous as those announced , it is difficult if not impossible to see how the government can still make the savings of €100m, which they are still claiming will be made.

While the announcement will be positive news for many who would otherwise have lost their cards, the political implications are enormous. The Taoiseach and the Minister for Finance introduced a budget that they are now incapable of getting through the Dail. In any other country this would have led to resignations.

ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION FOR HOUSING GRANTS OF €250,000 WELCOME BUT ONLY A DROP IN THE OCEAN

Deputy Emmet Stagg contacted the Minister for Environment in relation to the serious shortfall in Funding for Housing Grant Schemes for the Disabled and Elderly in Kildare.

The Minister for Environment has advised Deputy Stagg that a further sum of €250,000 has been allocated to Kildare Co. Council for the Housing Grant Schemes.

Whilst welcoming the further allocation, the shortfall of €7 Million identified in Co. Kildare, stated Deputy Stagg is critical to the needs of our Disabled People and our Senior Citizens and the level of funding provided by the Government has totally underestimated demand in Co. Kildare. The additional allocation is only a drop in the ocean.

The Housing Adaptations Grant provides grant assistance up to a maximum of €30,000 for downstairs extensions to build a bedroom/bathroom for wheelchair bound people. The Mobility Aids Grant scheme provides grant assistance to a maximum of €6,000 to enable the provision of stair lifts and level access showers in homes of people who have difficulty in climbing stairs or simply getting in or out of a standard bath. The Housing Aids for Older people Grant provides grant assistance up to €10,500 for structural works to the homes of Senior Citizens including rewiring, central heating provision and replacement of substandard doors and windows.

Deputy Stagg concluded by stating that it was time the Government allocated real resources for the provision of these necessary grants to enable disabled people and our senior citizens to live with some modicum of comfort in their homes. To do other wise represents a further attack on the most vulnerable people in our Society.

(Continued on page 57)

Party Political-Labour News

(Continued from page 56)

UNEMPLOYED ABANDONED AS LIVE REGISTER GOES OVER 250,000 – 74% INCREASE IN KILDARE

Deputy Emmet Stagg has stated that the Live Register figures published on 5th November and the Figures Published on 7th November for Co. Kildare are truly shocking and suggest that unemployment is now spinning out of control.

With almost 252,000 on the Live Register in real terms and a seasonally adjusted level of 260,000, there are now almost 100,000 more on the Live Register than twelve months ago. This is the first time the figures have exceeded the quarter of a million figure since August 1997.

The figures for Kildare show an increase from 5,662 people in October 2007 to 9,851 people in October 2008, an increase of 4,189 or 74%. That is the equivalent of 84 Medium sized businesses closing down in the past year in Co. Kildare.

It is clear now that unless some action is urgently taken, we are again going to see 300,000 again on the Live Register – a figure not seen since the 1980s.

The huge increase in the numbers out of work is greatly adding to our economic difficulties. We are losing the tax revenue that people in work would be paying, while we are facing significant additional costs for unemployment and secondary benefits for those who could be in work and who want to be in work.

And this is before you even consider the social damage caused by unemployment and particularly, long term unemployment.

The budget came and went and again it did not contain a single significant initiative to deal with the unemployment. Indeed virtually the only action taken in the budget that impacts on the unemployed was to make it more difficult to qualify for jobseekers benefit and to restrict the period over which it is paid.

The government appears to have abandoned the unemployed and thrown in the towel in on the unemployment problem.

The Labour Party has proposed a series of measures to combat the unemployment problem that have been totally ignored by the government. These include a major school building programme to take 40,000 children out of pre-fabs and put them into proper classrooms and a national insulation scheme to make our housing stock more energy efficient, thus reducing carbon emissions and reducing household energy bills. Both of these programmes would have the potential to take back into employment many of the workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the downturn in the construction sector.

We also need a substantial programme of investment in skills and retraining, and an increase in the number of places available under the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme.

STAGG DENOUNCES TARGETING OF CHILDRENS EDUCATIONAL CHANCES IN BUDGET CUTS

Addressing the Dail on 30th October on Labour's Private Members Motion calling for the reversal of Education Cutbacks Deputy Emmet Stagg denounced the targeting of children by the Government in their attempts at balancing the books.

In his address Deputy Stagg outlined how Fianna Fail had promised to reduce class sizes in 1997, 2002 and 2007, when the State had money, and yet they failed to address the issue. Over the years of the Celtic Tiger we consistently had the worst class sizes in the EU and despite a major campaign launched by the INTO before the last Election, they again failed to deliver.

Deputy Stagg went on to say that in his time as a member of the Dail he had never seen a Budget like this before, where cutbacks were targeted at children who only have one chance to lay a foundation for the rest of

Party Political-Labour News

(Continued from page 57)

their lives. The Government will damage that chance and that foundation by what it is proposing here. All of those who vote for the budget proposals – including Deputy Paul Gogarty, who runs with the hare and chases with the hounds, and my Constituency colleague, Deputy Aine Brady – who is a very fine Deputy – will be damaging these children. Resigning from her teaching post in Celbridge, as Deputy Brady promised to do in the local newspaper, will have no effect at all on this issue. What Deputy Brady needs to do, if she wants to be effective, is vote against the cuts.

Referring to the Minister for Education's claims that Teachers Pay was the problem by using up 80% of the Education Budget Deputy Stagg said that the reason so much of the Budget went on Pay was because the Minister's Government had consistently refused to fund the very many other facilities which are needed to run a proper educational system which in turn forced parents out begging on the streets to provide such essential facilities.

Specifically in relation to the effects of the cuts Deputy Stagg made the following points:

- In the 15 National Schools in Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge as of now 28% of pupils were in classes of more than 30. That position will now worsen.
- In one of these schools, St. Brigids in Celbridge, there are at present 4 classes of 34 pupils and that school is to loose 2 teachers under the cutbacks proposed.
- Deputy Aine Brady's school, Scoil Na Mainistreach in Celbridge will loose 3 teachers. She said if it lost any teachers she would resign her job as a teacher. I understood her job was in this House, but that is a matter for her.

St. Patrick's National School in Celbridge, where 85% of the pupils have foreign parents will loose 3 language support teachers – down from 5 to 2.

Concluding his remarks in the Dail Deputy Stagg accused the Government of targeting the poorest children by the shameful removal of the school books grants scheme and the reduction in capitation grants for schools attended by Travelers. He stated that the Government should be ashamed of themselves for not going after the Fat Cats in the Budget and instead introducing cuts aimed at the poorest of victims.

Cllr. John McGinley can be contacted at:

6285293h ; 087 9890645

E mail jmcginley@eircom.net

Web: www.labour.ie/johnmcginley/



St. Patrick's Pharmacy

Greenfield Shopping Centre
Straffan Road
Maynooth

Late Night Opening Hours of Business

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Sat. 9.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.
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Winner Of the October Edition



Orlaith Elliott



Áine Brady, Fianna Fáil T.D.

Working For You In Your Area

Contact Details

Dáil office: Dáil Eireann, Kildare Street, Dublin 2
Maynooth Constituency Office: No. 4 Centre Point Mall, Maynooth
Tel: 01 618 3057, **Fax:** 0 618 4510
E-mail: aine.brady@oireachtas.ie



Advice Centre Details:

Every Monday at 11.30 am	Constituency Office, No. 4 Centre Point Mall, Maynooth
1st Monday of every month at 8 pm	Leixlip GAA
Every Monday at 2.30 pm	Fianna Fáil Office, Main St., Celbridge
1st Monday of every month at 7 pm	O'Keefe's, Kilcock

Christmas & New Year Greetings To All Our Constituents

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Maynooth I.C.A. Notes

The members have been very busy for October and November months. Craft classes continue each Monday night and Badminton players are out twice a week. The federation has just completed an Effective speaking course. The members helped at the arthritis foundation church gate collection. We are very busy reinventing I.C.A. at the moment and updating our constitution as we must move on with the times. Lots of meetings have been held around the County discussing the new constitution which will be passed at a meeting in the Gresham in December. The members will travel to An Granáin this year for their annual Christmas Party. A craft day had been organised for Saturday the 22nd November in Sarsfields G.A.A. in Newbridge and all guilds have been notified. A trip to tour Croke park has also been arranged for December. A sculpture exhibition took part in botanic Gardens and included work by our member Marian O' Donnell and was also attended by some of our members. A guild auction was held in October for a scholarship to An Granáin and the lucky winners were Cara Walsh, and Mary Dunne. Winners of an October guild competition was Cara Walsh with Mary Halton taking second place and Eileen Flynn in third. At the craft class the members are still very busy making teddies, bonnets and vests for Babies in underprivileged countries as lots of these babies will never have or own anything. The recent make and model competition took place in Killeel, and Killeck guild was the winner. Competition's coming up over the next few months are to design a new I.C.A. brooch. Creative writing, an essay of 2000 words on "what if", a hand knitted toy of any variety, make a decoupage Card, do a variety show for 15 minutes on a T.V. Programme, and a set dancing competition. So as you can see there is lots to do in I.C.A. over the next couple of months. The next federation meeting takes place on 19th November in Kill G.A.A. The competition for the guild in December is make a Christmas stocking. The raffle winners at November meeting were 1st Mary Deane, 2nd Catherine Reilly, and 3rd Irene Mathews. The usual Christmas raffle will take place at the December meeting and a special members raffle will also take place. Our meetings take place the first Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the I.C.A. Hall in the Harbour and as you can see by the report there is something for everybody in I.C.A. Do feel welcome to come along to our meeting and join I.C.A.

Norah Mc Dermott P.R.O.

Maynooth Band Bulletin



It's hard to believe that we have almost reached the end of another year, where do the years go but it's good to report that the Band is facing in to 2009 on a very positive note. While not always appearing in the Newsletter notes we still go through the weekly recitals all through the year with the exception of a short break in August just to give our lips a little breather.

While the Band traces it's origins back to 1795 it has been going non-stop since 1931 and there are still a number of very loyal members still with us since 1954.

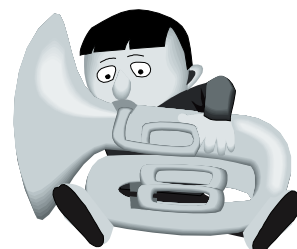
As with many other local organisations there is a very high turnover of members who join and leave afterwards for various reasons but we are delighted to report that we are currently in an upward mode with a large number of younger members among our ranks. This was particularly obvious at our Mass for Deceased Members last month where we really appreciated the huge volume of congratulations received on our performance in the Church and it is responses of this nature that make the weekly rehearsals worthwhile. We had to make a quick getaway from the Church to play the National Anthem at the beginning of the Maynooth Junior Ladies Football team's All Ireland Semi-Final where the local ladies just missed on a final spot by a single point. Commiserations girls.

As in previous years December tends to be a hectic month for Maynooth Band. Our programme gets underway with our Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday 7th December at 3pm. This year it is being moved from the Church of Ireland to the Aula Maxima in St. Patrick's College as we anticipate a larger audience than normal due to the amount of new members in the Band this year. So just to confirm the details once again Sunday 7th December in the Aula Maxima, Maynooth College at 3pm and we hope to see you all there for a feast of popular and Christmas music at prices that really allow for the downturn in the economy.

Our Christmas Carol programme has not yet been decided on but keep an eye out for the Band in the lead up to Christmas and if you have any money left over after your shopping we can make sure it will be put to very good use. There has been a huge drop off in paying engagements for the Band over the past number of years and we have become very much dependant on donations and fundraisers to cover the running costs, especially insurance which is a huge problem, and with the recent increase in band membership extra uniforms will be needed over the next year. To this end we intend organising a couple of fundraising events next year so hopefully we can count on your support and to make sure that St. Mary's Band will continue to flourish for many years to come.

Finally just to remind you all of one of the traditions which has survived for many, many years - Carols after Christmas Day Mass - which this year will again be provided after the 11.30 Mass.

It's just our way of thanking the people of Maynooth for their continued support throughout the years and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of St. Mary's Band to wish all of you a happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.



Party Political—Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.

Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.



Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.

Deputy Fitzpatrick welcomes move by Government to stabilise Irish financial system

Deputy Michael Fitzpatrick has been informed by Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal & Developing Areas, Michael Finneran T.D. that a supplementary allocation of €250,000 has been allocated to Kildare County Council towards the operation of the Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People & People with a Disability.

This further allocation reflects the importance of these grant schemes at a local level and will assist local authorities in meeting the needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

Earlier this year Kildare County Council received €1,642,680 for the operation of these grant schemes in 2008.

Deputy Fitzpatrick added "local authorities have been advised to operate the grant schemes on a prioritised basis, with particular consideration to be given to applicants requiring adaptations to facilitate discharge from hospital or to alleviate the need for hospitalisation in the future and those applicants requiring improvement works to facilitate the continuance of care in their own home".

New Grant Scheme for Parent and Toddler Groups to be funded through City and County Childcare Committees.

The Minister for Children & Youth Affairs, Mr. Barry Andrews T.D., launched a new grant scheme which his Office will provide funding for from January 2009 through the local network of City and County Childcare Committees.

The new scheme, is funded under the National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP).

The scheme was allocated €250,000 in 2008 and a similar level of funding will be allocated in 2009. Parent and Toddler Groups who are interested in participating in the Scheme should contact their local City and County Childcare Committee for further details.

Deputy Michael Fitzpatrick in welcoming the grant scheme, added this grant recognises that Parent and Toddler Groups are providing informal support to parents, grandparents and childminders, as well as to young children and are an important source of social contact especially for families new to an area. This is an important community service which brings children and their families together within their local community."

In Kildare contact
Administrator
The Woods, Clane, Co. Kildare
Tel: 045-861307
Fax: 045-982411
info@kildarechildcare.ie
www.kildarechildcare.ie

(Continued on page 63)

Party Political—Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.

(Continued from page 62)

Suckler Welfare Scheme payments to begin – Fitzpatrick

Payments under the 2008 Suckler Welfare Scheme will begin on Monday the 17th of November according to local Fianna Fail TD Michael Fitzpatrick.

"The payments of €80 per cow will continue on a rolling basis for calves born in 2008 as additional animals become eligible."

"Payments will begin now and continue into 2009."

"Eligible farmers should complete and return their forms, either paper or on-line as soon as possibly to ensure speedy process and payment."

"The Minister for Agriculture has assured me that his Department are now issuing letter to farmers where there are any queries and that every effort is being made to clear outstanding cases."

"Any farmers in Kildare who need clarification or have any queries should phone the lo-call number 1890 252 707," concluded Deputy Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick encourages local voluntary groups to apply for grants

Groups who provide marriage, child and bereavement services have been urged to apply for grants by Kildare North Fianna Fail TD, Michael Fitzpatrick.

"The grants will be provided through the Family Support Agency for 2009."

"Last year over €11 million was provided to over 600 organisations nationwide."

"Letters have been issued to organisations who received funding last year, but any organisations providing these type of services in Kildare can also apply for funding."

"The services provided by groups who provide marriage, child and bereavement counselling are vital for families and people in severe distress and emotional difficulty and these grants provide practical support for that excellent work."

"Full details and application forms can be found at www.fsa.ie. I would encourage any organisations who think they might qualify to apply for a grant," concluded Deputy Fitzpatrick.

Issued on behalf of Deputy Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.

Tel: 045 888438

Email: Michael.fitzpatrick@oireachtas.ie

Party Political-Áine Brady T.D.

Aine Brady TD - Constituency Office Maynooth, No 4 Centre Point, The Mall, Maynooth - available to meet constituents every Monday. Please phone 01 618 3057 or 01 628 5257 for an appointment.



Aine Brady T.D.

Aine Brady TD - Constituency Office Maynooth, No 4 Centre Point, The Mall, Maynooth - available to meet constituents every Monday. Please phone 01 618 3057 or 01 628 5257 for an appointment.

Medical Card – for the Over 70's – Question and Answers

I have received a large number of calls from residents in Maynooth in connection with the withdrawal of the medical card for the over 70's. I have made strong representations to the Minister to have the situation reviewed. I enclose below a Q&A in connection with the revised Entitlements. I hope the revised entitlements are more acceptable.

Questions and Answers – Medical Cards for people aged 70 and over

What has the Government announced?

Today, the Government has announced that with effect from 1 January 2009 new income thresholds will apply for medical cards for people aged 70 and over.

The current arrangements for medical cards will continue to apply until the end of this year.

All existing medical cards will continue to be valid after 1 January 2009 unless your income exceeds the new thresholds.

The new arrangements mean everyone aged 70 or over whose gross income is less than €700 a week (€36,500 a year) if single and €1,400 a week (€73,000 a year) for a couple **can now be sure** they will keep their medical card.

These new arrangements are designed to make the system as clear and user friendly as possible. They mean that:

- those whose income is less than €700/€1,400 will have a medical card;
- those whose income is over the limit may still get a medical card if their personal or health circumstances cause them undue financial hardship; and
- other people will be covered by the Drug Payment Scheme.

How many people will keep their cards?

95% of those aged 70 or over – about 330,000 out of 350,000 – will keep their cards.

Will you be contacted by the HSE?

The HSE will write to all medical card holders aged 70 and over informing them about the new arrangements. People whose income is below the new threshold will simply keep their cards and continue to use them as normal. Only those above the income limits will be required to notify the HSE.

(Continued on page 66)

Party Political—Áine Brady T.D.

(Continued from page 65)

If you know your income is below the limits you don't need to wait for the letter to arrive to be sure you are keeping your medical card.

The HSE will start sending out letters in Mid November.

Why was income set at €700 for a single person and €1,400 per couple?

The new income thresholds are designed to ensure that the vast majority of persons aged 70 and over will continue to have a medical card, and that only those on higher incomes will lose their entitlement. The new income thresholds announced by the Government for persons aged 70 and over mean that, from 1 January 2009:

retired Ministers, Ministers of State, Judges and Secretaries General of Government Departments will not qualify for a medical card;

retired nurses, teachers and gardaí would be expected to qualify for a medical card if single or if married to someone with a similar or lower level of pension;

retired TDs, school principals and principal officers in the civil service will not qualify for a medical card if single but may qualify if married subject to the income of their spouse.

Will there be a means test?

People who are aged 70 years or over and apply for a medical card after 1 January 2009 will be means tested to establish that their income is under €700/€1,400 a week.

Existing card holders will not have to undergo a means test unless their income is above the limits and they want to apply for a discretionary medical card on the basis of their personal circumstances.

There will be a means test for new applicants after 1 January 2009 to establish that their income is under €700/€1,400 a week.

People whose gross income is above €700/€1,400 (single/couple) a week will have to declare this to the HSE. In January next, the HSE will review the self-assessment process outlined above, examine the level of compliance and consider available options to confirm the information received.

Legislation to give effect to the new arrangements will provide that all existing medical cards will continue to be valid after 1 January 2009 if the person's income is below the relevant new threshold.

What does income mean? Is it gross income or net income?

Income is any earnings you receive in the form of a pension or through investments or savings. What is assessed is gross income, i.e. income before tax or other deductions. It is easier for people to know what their gross income is.

The new gross thresholds are well in excess of the net limits of €360/€720 (single/couple) which previously would only have qualified an applicant for a GP visit card.

What about savings?

It is only the interest earned on savings that is counted as income, not the savings.

Income from savings up to the first €36,000 for a single person and €72,000 for a couple is not counted.

What happens to people whose income is above the limit?

The HSE will write to everyone aged 70 or over. People whose gross income is above €700/€1,400 (single/couple)

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Party Political—Áine Brady T.D.

(Continued from page 66)

a week will have to declare this to the HSE and will not be entitled to use their existing cards after 31 December 2008.

Those whose income is over the limit may still get a medical card if their personal or health circumstances cause them undue financial hardship.

The existing HSE appeals mechanisms will also continue to apply.

What will happen on 1 January 2009?

All existing medical cards will continue to be valid after 1 January 2009 unless the person's income exceeds the relevant new thresholds.

Persons who reach age 70 will be able to apply for, and receive, a card in the normal way and will get a medical card if their income is below the €700/€1,400 threshold.

What about someone who is under 70 now and married to someone over 70?

If one member of the couple is aged 70, they will both qualify for a medical card if their income is below €1,400 a week.

Maynooth Traffic Flow raised with Kildare Co Co

Deputy Aine Brady has made representations to Kildare Co Co to have the traffic management systems analysed with a view to seeking an improvement to the flow of traffic through Maynooth.

'Since the turning on of extra traffic lights on the Straffan road, I did feel that the traffic flow had slowed and this was raised with me by many residents in Maynooth.' stated Deputy Brady.

'Following my representations, the council has assured me that signalised junctions are included on the scoot traffic system and are currently under extensive monitoring via CCTV and Loops. Apparently, there were some problems caused by the ESB excavating at the Celbridge / Straffan Road Junction which destroyed some loops and these will be replaced next week.'

'I have been assured that significant resources are being allocated to the Maynooth area to minimise the timescale between the start-up and when the system is working in a satisfactory manner.' concluded Deputy Brady.

HUMOUR FOR CHRISTMAS

What A Boy Wants For Christmas:

Darren remembers accompanying his father out shopping in the toy department of a large store one Christmas Eve. Dad said, 'What a marvellous train set. I'll buy it.' The girl behind the counter looked pleased and murmured, 'Great, I'm sure your son will really love it.'

Dad replied with a glint in his eye, 'Maybe you're right. In that case I'll take two.'

What A Girl Wants For Christmas:

The Santa Claus at the shopping mall was very surprised when a Emily, young lady aged about 20 years old walked up and sat on his lap. Now, we all know that Santa doesn't usually take requests from adults, but she smiled very nicely at him, so he asked her, 'What do you want for Christmas?' 'Something for my mother, please,' replied Emily sweetly. 'Something for your mother? Well, that's very loving and thoughtful of you,' smiled Santa. 'What do would you like me to bring her?'

Emily answered quickly, 'A son-in-law.'

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
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. Corish 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
GATEWAY WRITER GROUP	Contact : Kate Dempsey	086-8583316
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
MARTIAL TAEKWON-DO	Contact: Stephen Doyle	087-6986491

Local Useful Telephone Numbers (Cont'd)

MAYNOOTH ADULT DAYTIME EDUCATION (MADE)	Contact: Bernadette Duffy	6016179
MAYNOOTH LOCAL HISTORY	Contact: Rita Edwards	087-6387687
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 CANAL AMENITY AND RESTORATION GROUP	Office Contact: Mark Kennedy, 83 Maynooth Park Maynooth	6290980 6286463
SCHOOLS	Boys' National School Presentation Girls' Primary School Post Primary School Scoil Ui Fháich	6293021 6286034 6286060 6290667
SCOUTS	Scouting Ireland Contact: Peter Gareth	087-2241387
SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE	Contact: Patricia Cusker, Silken Vale, Maynooth. Josie Moore, Greenville, Straffan Road, Maynooth.	087-2982455
SOCCER CLUB	Contact: Edel Pat Moynihan	087-2998661 087-9078861
ST. MARY'S BRASS AND REED BAND	Contact: Melanie Oliver	087-9704910
SWIMMING CLUB	Contact: Edel	087-2680405
TIDY TOWNS	Contact: Secretary	087-3153189
U3A	Contact: Bernadette	6289131
VIOLENCE IN THE HOME		1800-341-900

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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**

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

7 Best School Float

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
John McGinley (6285293 (H) or 7026536 (W))

Maynooth Newsletter

Maynooth Newsletter

PUBLISHED BY MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The opinions and statements expressed in the articles are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editorial Board. All materials to be included in the next edition of the **Newsletter** should be addressed to The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter, Unit 5, Maynooth Shopping Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
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E-mail Maynooth Community Council: maynoothcc@eircom.net

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

NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

We request all our contributors to make sure their material is legible. If possible, material should be typed, but as not everyone has access to 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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2009

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