

# Maynooth Newsletter



Serving the people of Maynooth

December 2011/January 2012 Issue

Local News

FREE

## TESCO IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WITH ONE DIRECTION

## MAYNOOTH YOUTH CAFÉ OPENED AT MANOR MILLS SHOPPING CENTRE



**Hundreds of screaming and excited fans welcomed X-Factor boy band One Direction to Tesco Extra Maynooth on Saturday 19th November last.** Dedicated fans queued as early as 5.00 pm on Thursday 17th November to purchase the band's new album. Over 600 wristbands were given out on a first come first serve basis. A great atmosphere was created by fans singing songs and generally just having a good time while waiting to see their heroes. As **One Direction** took to their seats, they waved and posed for pictures with VIP guests, competition winners and staff. Nothing was too much for the boys on the day. They signed CDs, kissed the girls, had photos taken which I know was very much appreciated, as I myself was given dozens of letters, gifts and well wishes from their adoring fans. I know from speaking to my colleagues, it was an enjoyable day for them and customers alike.

As one mother said "what a lovely bunch of lads", as she accompanied her two daughters to see the group. Even though time was very tight, they were very focused and made a lot of effort with their fans. I think it's good to have events such as this in store as it generates a very positive atmosphere in the area. I can honestly say that One Direction had a good time in Tesco Maynooth as we sent them off out to Clare Hall with sandwiches and pizza prepared by the lovely ladies from our café. Well done to fans, staff and One Direction for a wonderful day and one that will not be forgotten for a long time.

**Bernie Kane**  
Community Champion  
Tesco Extra Maynooth



Dedicated Fans who camped out for 24 hours

Since my last note we have opened "Maynooth Youth Café" on Thursday 10th November (8-10pm). We had 15 boys and girls attend the opening. We had planned having a band playing on the opening night, but given the space available we decided that rather than having the band on the night we would have them in a bigger space at a future date, possibly in Manor Mill S.C itself, with the permission of Dunnes Stores, where we could accommodate larger numbers in a safer environment. The opening night was a fantastic success with the boys and girls playing Snooker, Pool, Table Tennis, and Cards and enjoying Hot Cocoa, Coffee, soft drinks and snacks on the night.

We have had the same numbers every Thursday night since and the young people attending are very encouraged by every body's effort to provide a safe environment in which they can meet, chill out, talk among themselves, listen to their music and play each other in the games provided.

We as a Committee are also very encouraged by the level of enthusiasm shown by the boys and girls attending who are asking to be represented on the Committee and play a meaningful role in the overall running of the Café. After all the Café belongs to the Youth of Maynooth under the supervision of the Committee.


We need more young boys and girls, to support and grow the Café, to make it a venue they can be proud of and organise events internally and other activities that they can participate in within the Community at large.

We would encourage parents of the TY to Leaving Cert age group to make contact with us through Maynooth Community Council Office email...

maynoothcc@eircom.net .We can organise Garda vetting which is essential for any adult to be part of Maynooth Youth Café.


The Maynooth Youth Café will be open every Thursday night from 8-10pm going forward and all are welcome to attend in the TY to Leaving Cert age group.

**Thanking you,**  
**Conor O'Dwyer**  
**PRO**



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**Wishing All Our Readers A Happy Christmas & New Year**



# Times of Services in Maynooth over the Christmas Period

## St Marys Parish Maynooth

### Christmas Eve:

Saturday 24th: 10.00 a.m., 5.00 p.m. Children's Mass, 7.00 p.m., 9.30 p.m.

### Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day:

Sunday 25th: 9.00 a.m., 10.15 a.m., 11.30 a.m., 12.45 p.m.

### Confessions:

Confessions after 10.00 a.m. Mass up to 12.00 noon

Saturday 17th

Thursday 24th (Christmas Eve)

## Ladychapel

### Christmas Eve:

Saturday 24th: 9.00 p.m.

### Christmas Day:

Sunday 25th: 10.00 a.m.



## Maynooth Community Church



### Ecumenical Carol Service

Sunday 18th: 8.00pm

To be held in St. Mary's COI

### Christmas Day

Christmas Breakfast: 9.30a.m.

Christmas Service: 10:30a.m.

### New Year's Day Jan 1st

Communion Service at 10.30am

## St. Marys Church of Ireland, Maynooth

### Carol Service

Friday 11th: 11:30am

### Ecumenical Carol Service

Sunday 18th: 8:00pm

### Christmas Eve Service

in Dunboyne: 11:30a.m.

### Christmas Day Service

in Maynooth: 10:30a.m.





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## Maynooth Senior Citizens

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.

We are coming to the close of another successful year despite the economic situation. While it was necessary to curtail some of our expenditure, the important work remained on target. This, of course, is down to two factors, our financial management and a generous community. Many thanks to all who supported our sale of Work in Nov. As I write this article donations are still coming in, so we are heading for €10,000. This is a wonderful result and it speaks volumes about the people we have in our community. I also wish to thank our regular sponsors, Barton Transport, Thornton's Recycling, Super Valu, Sean Donovan, Maynooth College, Frank Walsh, William Kiernan, Age Action Ireland and Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Our next event will be our Christmas shopping night on Wed. Dec. 7th, courtesy of Super Valu and our Annual Dinner will take place on Sun. Dec. 11th at 4pm in the Glenroyal Hotel. Our morning club will close on Thurs. Dec. 8th and will reopen on Tues. Jan. 3rd. 2012. Our Mass bus will continue throughout this time and our Senior Citizens will be informed of any Christmas Mass time changes. Our A.G.M will take place on Tues Feb. 7th 2012 at 8pm in the Health Centre. This is an open meeting to which all are welcome.

In the meantime may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and peace throughout the coming year.

Josephine Moore.

Chairperson.

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Sunday 11th Endeci

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Thursday 15th Big Generator

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday 16th Rudea & Top Dj

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Saturday 17th Bipolar Empire

\*\*\*\*\*

Sunday 18th Endeci

\*\*\*\*\*

Thursday 22nd Waxx

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday 23rd Rudea & Top Dj

\*\*\*\*\*

St. Stephen's Night Monday 26th The Springsteens

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday 30th Rudea & Top Dj

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## Editorial

Firstly, the Newsletter would like to wish all our readers, supporters and the advertisers a Happy Christmas and New Year. We would also like to encourage people to support our local businesses who advertise with us and to keep jobs locally as well.

As the winter solstice and the shortest, darkest day approaches, the future for Europe and for the euro currency is still uncertain. The frightening prospect of economic contagion is now a reality and the death of the euro and the European project seems imminent. The Irish economy is said to be improving but, increasingly, for ordinary people the future is also doubtful. Retailers depend on the Christmas spending spree but there is little evidence of this as people wait for the axe of the budget to fall. The ‘bail-out’ is now a year old and the Fianna Fáil/ Green coalition paid the ultimate price for losing the country’s economic sovereignty. The clouds of contagion and the problems encountered by Greece, Portugal and Italy make Ireland look quite healthy. Should we cut our losses now? Leave the euro, join sterling and the Commonwealth?

But is there any difference between the old and the new Government? Increasingly, the tactics of the new coalition in taxes, finance and economics seems to be very similar. The large salaries, the huge pensions remain in place. The story of the Cardiff nomination and the intervention of Eoin O’Shea have shown the Irish in a very bad light with other European countries. They cannot quite understand what is going on and that this is the Irish way, it is certainly not the European way and they made that quite clear. The behaviour of some politicians in trying to shut down comments by MEPs was equally unpleasant. The whole scenario made Ireland look like a typical banana republic losing 3.6bn down the back of the sofa.

It is equally unsettling to watch the RTÉ debacle and how

many people were involved in allowing the programme to air without the proper care being taken. The national broadcaster has taken a huge hit in this case. It was a brave decision to take on such a large organisation but it has proved successful.

On a lighter note, the election of Michael D. Higgins as president and his inauguration ceremony brightened the public mood. The tone of his speech as well as the organisation of the day itself, particularly the haunting singing of the Galway choir Cois Cladaigh (beside the Claddagh), was proof of what is best in Ireland. Ba aire iontach é Michael D. nuair a bhí Páirtí an Lucht Oibre sa chomhrialtas sna 90aidí. B’eisean a bhí i gceannas ar cultúr agus oidhreacht, thosaigh sé TG4 a chuir borradh faoi teanga do ghlúnta óga agus a thug cláracha cosúil leis an sobaldráma Ros na Rún ar an scáileán. Some days after his inauguration, the possible end of the Heritage Council was mentioned as part of the cull of the quangos. The irony was not lost on some and the catastrophe was averted. Hopefully, he will bring his vision (aislin as he said himself) to bear on his presidency, his ideology and he is a man of both ideas and ideology and makes no apology for this – unlike other politicians who believed that ideology was a dirty word.

There is no evidence locally of much economic activity either but there are bright stars on the Maynooth horizon, the scouts have been granted planning permission for the Geraldine Hall and they are looking for as much help as possible from the people of the town. The Festival Committee is also looking for local help and perhaps, in these straightened times; there might be more time to volunteer.

On another local note, the Gardaí have asked that we highlight the growing incidents of crime in the area but particularly to be careful about the possibilities of theft in car parks and at supermarkets. This applies chiefly to woman who may be distracted when putting the groceries

into the car and may not notice a thief approaching taking a handbag.

In these dark times, the future of education is even more important and one of the few ways out of this present dire situation for our young people. Although it is depressing to see nurses, teachers and doctors being educated here and then heading immediately for the emigration plane. Maynooth is a unique educational hub with three different levels and two universities in the town. The importance of the school and its location has been highlighted in this publication on a number of occasions and this arises again in this issue with the number of letters that we have received from the public, the advertisements placed by organisations and a wonderful speech given by a transition year student in the Post-Primary School recently. This speech is printed elsewhere in this publication but it is a credit to the school in two ways; firstly the ability of a 15 year old to give such a speech but also that this student was so fulsome in praise of the school.

To finish with the words of our new President, in his second language, fluently spoken as he emphasises the importance of hope, heritage and culture. He also mentions the creativity, imagination and humanity of Ireland.

‘Ní díonas ach dóchas a bheidh ag teastáil uainn ins na blianta dúshlánacha atá amach romhainn. Dóchas as ár n-oighreacht shaibhir, as ár ndúchas iolrach; dóchas as ár n-acmhainn samhlaíochta agus cruthaíochta; as an daonnacht choiteann a fáisceadh as stair chasta ár muintire i ngach cúinne d’Éirinn.’

### Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin

## Community Council Notes

Among the issues raised and discussed at the meeting were the following:

### 1. Community Space up and running

Paul Croghan (Vice-chairperson, PDO) updated the meeting on the new Community Space at Manor Mills. He reported that many local groups were now using the space, including Teen Space, U3A and Nuada Players. The VEC was also using it for a course for early school leavers. There were still some time-slots available, and new local groups about to set up were particularly welcome. Manor Mills had been extremely helpful with setting up the space. Helena Kirkpatrick (U3A, Youth Café) said that the Youth Café would be having an open evening for parents and senior-cycle students shortly. Councillor John McGinley (Labour) said this was the first community space to be funded by Kildare County Council. The permanent community space at the Tesco site would be very large - 4,500 square feet - and it was important to show that this would be fully utilised when it is provided in a number of years time. Paul Croghan added that Maynooth Community Council had spent quite a lot of money on the present space in order to provide adequate sanitation, comply with fire regulations, and so on. However he was hopeful that it would be possible to provide it to local groups at 'as close as possible to free.' It was important that those using the space cleaned up after meetings as other groups would be using it after them.

### 2. Fear that Senior Citizens' services might suffer cutbacks

Tom McMullon (Chairperson) congratulated Josie Moore (Senior Citizens Committee), who was recently honoured at the Person of the Year event in recognition of her years of dedicated service to the senior citizens of Maynooth. Josie Moore thanked all those who had helped the Senior Citizens Committee over the years. She said that the annual sale of work would take place shortly at the Aula

Maxima in St. Patrick's College. There was some discussion about the likelihood that facilities currently available to senior citizens in Maynooth might be affected by Government cutbacks. Maura Wilcox (U3A) expressed her fear that services at the Day Care Centre and the Community Care Unit would be cut and that standards of care would slip. Josie Moore said she had written to the H.S.E. and had received a response which said that 40 beds were now open 'in line with workers available.' It was agreed that this was not very reassuring.

### 3. Scouts appeal for support

Peter Garrad (Scouts) told the meeting that the Scouts had received planning permission for their redevelopment of the Geraldine Hall at the Harbour as a scout facility. They were looking forward to bringing this fantastic building back to life, but it would take some time to raise the necessary funds. One of the conditions of their planning permission was that they would develop and make good the old building first. The new facility would not be just for scouts - it would also be available for other community activities. The Scouts would be using the hall five nights a week and at weekends, but it would be available to the rest of the community at other times. Peter Garrad said that the Scouts would be running events each month to raise funds for the project, and he asked for assistance from anyone in the community who could help with fund raising. Josie Moore said that the Senior Citizens Committee would like to use the new facility because the committee had started out in the Geraldine Hall in the 1960s. It was pointed out that public lighting outside the hall is poor, and Brendan Ashe (NUIM) said that students were recommended not to use the area at night for security reasons. Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin (Secretary) suggested that the hall would be a good candidate for flood lighting. The Scouts can be contacted at maynoothscouts@gmail.com.

### 4. Suggested dates for the Festival

Tom McMullon (Chairperson) said that planning for next year's Maynooth festival needed to get going, more people were required on the organising committee, and it was

important to liaise with Canet en Roussillon in good time so that they could participate. Naoise Ó Cearúil (NUIM Students' Union) said that the students' union would like to get involved with the Community Council and the festival, and would present more ideas at a later stage. There was a discussion about dates for the festival. Peter Garrad suggested that running it mid-summer was wrong as it missed out on student and school involvement. Aongus Ó Maoláin (NUIM) suggested mid-October as a good time because new students were being introduced to the town and at the beginning of term students in general would have time to participate. Deirdre Cullen said this date would also suit second level students as it didn't clash with exams. Paul Croghan warned against the festival becoming Rag Week by the back door, and said the idea of a Harvest Festival had sometimes been suggested. Tom McMullon said Maynooth's festival was called the 'Geraldine Festival' and the history theme should be remembered. Naoise Ó Cearúil suggested that children's activities could be held during the day and other activities at night. Hilda Dunne (History Group) pointed out that the Castle was an important venue for festival events and is closed in October. Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin thought it might be possible to arrange to have it opened for the occasion. It was agreed to take up names of volunteers to join the committee, and to seek further festival support and help in the town.

### 5. Garda Advice

The Garda representative at the meeting warned that handbags were being snatched at car parks in Maynooth at present, especially where there were no security cameras. People were leaving their handbags in their cars while they put their trolleys back, and their handbags were being stolen while they were away from the car.

### D. Cullen PRO

## Letters To The Editor

A chara,

The Department of Education is currently deliberating the issue of patronage for two new post-primary schools slated to begin construction in Maynooth, County Kildare in 2012. In this university town, over the past forty years, the VEC-led Maynooth Post-Primary has assembled a very impressive track record, producing leaving cert results almost a third better than the national average and consistently ranking amongst the top schools in the country in terms of proportion of students going on to higher education. Based on this success, the VEC has proposed a unified patronage structure for both these schools. They have also made a very strong case for a single patron system, based on spatial logistics and human resource cost-efficiencies. In other words, the VEC proposal addresses many diverse social requirements at a time of straitened national finances and an increasing focus on a highly educated workforce required by the so-called knowledge economy.

As a blow-in, albeit one of nearly two decades residence, and a proud father of two children likely to attend post-primary school in Maynooth, I am persuaded by the VEC's case. As a social scientist (an anthropologist) with, what one might call, a professional interest in communities, I am very concerned about a competing proposal arguing for Catholic religious patronage for one of the schools on this site. First, in a national system positively saturated with Catholic patronage of schools at all levels, serving a population of increasing ethnic and confessional diversity, another religious patronage of this sort seems at best unnecessary and at worst genuinely counter-productive. More importantly, it is all but inevitable that a two-school solution will amplify various stratifications within a community that has managed, in the time that I have been here at least, to maintain a high degree of unity and sense of inclusion. Class, ethnic, town-gown, amongst other divisions in this area would find ready-made institutional expressions in a two-school set up, complete with uniforms, geographies, potentially confessional spaces, and, I fear, post-secondary school life-trajectories. As an anthropologist, the two-school set-up strikes me as an interesting (if wholly unnecessary and somewhat unethical) social experiment, which, as a resident and a parent, I would very much prefer to avoid.

The Maynooth Post-Primary School, under VEC patronage, based on an inclusive ethos and a dedication to serving the entire community, has for decades been a unifying factor in the experience of coming of age in Maynooth. It has maintained this commitment while emerging as one of the best schools in the country. The VEC proposal for the new schools best serves the whole community of Maynooth. It deserves the full support of the Department of Education.

**Yours etc.,**

**A. Jamie Saris, PhD**

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Maynooth Post Primary PTA I would like to sincerely thank members of the public for their warm reception and positive response to our campaign supporting Kildare VEC's application for patronage of the second new school. The parents and staff of Maynooth Post Primary School have been out and about on the streets and in our shopping centres explaining and discussing the patronage question while asking for support for Kildare VEC's application to be patron of the new second level school in our town. The support of our six Councillors from the Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge Area Committee, John Mc Ginley, Senan Griffin, Colm Purcell, Anthony Larkin, Kevin Byrne and Frank O'Rourke is greatly appreciated. I also wish to publicly acknowledge our four public representatives Deputies Emmet Stagg, Bernard Durkan, Catherine Murphy and Tony Lawlor for attending our meetings, for their advice and for their wholehearted support of the VEC patronage.

Yours Sincerely

**Teresa Murray**

**Chairperson Maynooth Post Primary Parent Teacher Association**

### Parents and Friends of Maynooth Post Primary School and Kildare VEC

A new lobby group who's aim is to promote the patronage by Kildare VEC of second level education in Maynooth, held its inaugural meeting on Thursday 24th November. In a statement announcing its formation their spokesperson explained that the group was formed in response to concerns about the implications of divided patronage at second level education in Maynooth.

The founding group includes retired Maynooth Post Primary principals Tom Ashe (honorary president), Senan Griffin and Willie Coughlan (joint treasurers), as well as parents and former pupils. They intend to publish and distribute information about the benefits of Kildare VEC patronage. Any person who wishes to join this group are invited to do so by email at [newschoolpatronage@gmail.com](mailto:newschoolpatronage@gmail.com) or to make a donation; please send cheques payable to 'Parents and Friends of Maynooth Post Primary school and Kildare VEC', c/o Maynooth Post Primary school, Moyglare rd, Maynooth

### Please support the choice of Parents for a Gaelcholáiste as the Second Secondary School for Maynooth.

Muintir Mhaigh Nuad, a chairde, Education has always been highly valued in Ireland. It is the key which enables the development of intellectual, social, cultural and spiritual potential. It plays an important part in shaping people's lives, their economic opportunities, their participation in society and their view of themselves. For society, education is a means of shaping the future and equipping the next generation to face the challenges that emerge.

As Parents we wish to give our children the best educational opportunity that is possible. Since 1995 a substantial number of Maynooth Parents believe that this opportunity is best served through Irish medium education. Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich has grown from humble beginnings to a successful 16 class school. The majority of Parents are not themselves fluent in Irish but realise the benefits for their children. Irish medium education provides students with fluency in both Irish and English. Cognitive skills are increased as the student communicates through both languages. This process allows for the easy assimilation of a third or fourth language leading to multilingual skills. This diversity of language leads to a greater respect for the culture which is behind each language. As the Irish language belongs to all of us it is an inclusive element of modern Irish society. The Parents being aware that these educational benefits carry through to second level sought the provision of an Irish medium secondary school or Gaelcholáiste. They have pursued this objective diligently since 1997 on behalf of their children. Our local representatives have impressed upon Ministers for Education the need for the Maynooth Gaelcholáiste through Dáil questions. The reply down through the years from the office of each Minister was that if Maynooth Parents wished to have their children educated at second level through the medium of Irish, such a facility existed in Lucan, Co Dublin.

The Department of Education & Skills have now announced that a new second secondary school will open in Maynooth in 2014.

We ask you to support the long running campaign to establish Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad. We ask this in the interests of students who have received their education through the medium of Irish in Maynooth and who wish to continue to do so in their home town. We ask your support in the interests of Educational and Parental choice. We ask your support in the interests of the democratic rights of the Maynooth Community.

Is sinne anois ar thairsceint an dhórais Gaelcholáiste a bhunadh anseo ar an mbaile. Tá gach éinne ar an eolas faoi an feachtas tríd na blianta ar a shon. Anois tá sé in am ghníomhú chun an fis sin a fíoriú. Táimid fíor bhuíoch don Foras Patrúnachta as ucht an Gaelcholáiste a thógaint faoin a chúraim. Tá moladh tuille ag an Coiste Bhunaithe, táid dianbháilte, eagraithe agus díograiseach. Is orainn atá an dualgas anois an scéal a chur i láthair ár dTeachtaí Dála, is í a scaipeadh i measc an phobal.

We are on the threshold of securing the Gaelcholáiste for our town. Everybody is aware of the campaign down through the years on its behalf. Now is the time to ensure that this long held aspiration is realised for the benefit of our children's future. We are most grateful to an Foras Patrúnachta for accepting Patronage of the school. The work of the Coiste Bhunaithe in promoting the establishment of the Gaelcholáiste has been well organised and diligently persued. The following is a brief history and raison d'être for the Gaelcholáiste as outlined by Máirín Ní Chéileachair, Príomhoide, Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich, at a public meeting on the 23rd. Nov., attended by parents of all four Gaelscoileanna.

Irish Medium Education in North Kildare/Meath

- Scoil Uí Dhálaigh, Léim an Bhradáin, 1979
- Scoil Uí Riada, Cill Choca, 1986
- Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich, Maigh Nuad, 1996
- Scoil Tullach na nÓg, Dún Boinne, 1998
- 1,600 páiste (measta) attending Irish Medium Primary Schools in the area

Post Primary Provision

- Maynooth Post Primary, "Sruth", 1st year-Junior Cert, 1 class per year, approx 90 pupils.
- Coláiste Cois Life, Lucan, capacity approx 600 pupils, sporadic enrolment from North Kildare, under pressure from growing schools in Lucan.
- Gaelcholáiste Chill Dara, Naas, distance is an issue.

Proposed provision

- The transfer of the existing "sruth" within the existing MPPS, to the Gaelcholáiste.

Coiste Bunaithe

- Established in 2006
- Met with MPPS
- Met with Kildare VEC
- Met with An Foras Patrúnachta
- Coiste representative of Local Schools and MPPS and VEC
- Initial Survey November 2006, 80% first preferences for Gaelcholáiste located locally
- Application denied Feb 2007
- Appeal denied May 2007, on the grounds of proximity to Coláiste Cois Life and space there
- Coiste advised to wait until Coláiste Cois Life nearer capacity
- Survey 2010, 88% first preferences for local Gaelcholáiste
- Application 2010 denied on the grounds that North Kildare not designated area for Gaelcholáiste

Where to from here?

- Application for Gaelcholasite has been for one of the two schools sanctioned for Maynooth. The other school being MPPS replacement school.
- Latest application under VEC patronage refused. The second patronage cannot be awarded to a body with an existing school already in the town.
- An Foras Patrúnachta will apply for patronage of "new" Maynooth second secondary for Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad.
- We need public support for this application.

What can you do?

Fill in an expression of interest form or register interest online at [www.foras.ie](http://www.foras.ie)

Canvas to your friends and neighbours to do the same, even those with younger children who are considering Irish-Medium Education (IME)

Lobby local politicians and public representative to question the Department of Education and Skills as to why North Kildare has not been sanctioned a Gaelcholáiste in spite of obvious demand from parents over many years for a Gaelcholáiste

Mar focal scoir, iarrimid do thacaíocht ar son an teanga is an chultúr Ghaelach.

Guímís Nollaig faoi sheán is faoi mhaise daoibh !

Colm Ó Cearúil, ar son an Coiste Bhunaithe.



## Letters To The Editor Cont.

Dear Editor,

A situation has been foisted upon our community that has unsettled and confused our town unnecessarily. The Minister for Education and Skills has sanctioned a second post primary School. This proposed school will sit side by side, on the same site, with the new school building for the existing post-primary. The patronage for this new school has yet to be determined and the DES has requested applications from all interested parties. The turmoil in our community stems from this dilemma. A number of patrons have come into play, all vying for the patronage of this new school.

Picture this scenario, three short years from now. Two schools, with two separate patrons, adjacent to each other, sharing one site and one entrance. Two separate schools with two sets of expensively equipped specialist rooms, with two sports halls, two administrative centres etc. Two disparate groups of students, walking to school along the same road, wearing two different uniforms. Two separate groups of students pitted against each other on the sports field or in the debating forum. Who can tell us that this will not cause division in our town?

Try telling any individual who has grown up in a community with two schools that both schools are regarded equally. Invariably one school becomes the "good" school and the other the less attractive option. What happens when "your child" is the one who fails to

gain access to the "good" school?

Presently, in Maynooth, we have a strong, vibrant school with an excellent reputation academically and in all other aspects. The proof of this is that nearly all students from our primary schools choose MPPS for secondary education. This, despite the fact that within a five mile radius there is ample and diverse choice available.

At the moment, our school building is unable to accommodate the growing numbers of students attending – such is its popularity. So, what we need, from our DES, is a larger building to accommodate our present and future needs and to facilitate the continuation of an ethos that produces a cohesive school community of happy, well educated, tolerant and well rounded individuals. Instead, what we are being offered is two schools, one of which will be bursting at the seams, the other housing a mere handful of students at the start.

At a time when the Minister is cutting funds to all schools and increasing pupil-teacher ratio etc it seems ironic that he should see fit to sanction two schools in a town where one would suffice. What a waste of tax payers' money!

Our plea would be that Kildare V.E.C. retains patronage of second level education in Maynooth. If it ain't broke – don't fix it!!

Yours,

Nuala Forde & Mary Walsh

## A Dáil Question

To ask the Minister for Education and Skills his plans for the new post primary school in Maynooth, County Kildare; if there are to be two separate schools covering the junior and senior cycle or one building; the stage of planning for the school; if it would be more cost beneficial to build the schools on same campus;

Ruairi Quinn (Minister, Department of Education and Skills; Dublin South East, Labour)

A replacement school building for the existing VEC post-primary school in Maynooth has been approved. Earlier this year I also published details of new procedures and criteria for the establishment of new second level schools and of the process for determining the patronage of such new schools. I also announced details of 20 new second level schools that would need to be established between 2012 and 2017 to meet our increasing demographics. As the Deputy will be aware, Maynooth is one of the areas where a new 1,000 pupil second level school is to be established. Applications for patronage of any of the new second level schools, including the new school in Maynooth, would need to relate to the provision of a full curriculum through from first year to sixth year. This is one of the key requirements of the process. In the case of the Maynooth school the main medium of instruction will be English. The closing date for receipt of applications for patronage of the new second level schools is Friday, 13th January 2012.

Both new school buildings will be located on one campus and responsibility for the delivery of the buildings has been devolved to County Kildare Vocational Education Committee. I understand the VEC is in the process of appointing a Design Team.

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## Maynooth Castle (14)

### A Focal Point of Local History

To the evidence for the cultural activity at Maynooth in the heyday of the Kildare FitzGerald's we can add the foundation of a college which, had the times been more favourable, might have developed into Ireland's first university.

This was the brain child of the Great Earl who decided to follow the example of his cousins of Desmond who had founded a college at Youghal. Rev. M.T. MacSweeney, writing in the Irish Ecclesiastical Record in 1940, quotes from an article by Rev. John Healy in the same periodical in 1880, which tells the story of the foundation as follows:

"No person who enters the gates of the College can fail to observe . . . on his left, just within the walls, a square ivy-covered tower of much more ancient aspect than the Protestant Church of Maynooth, of which it now forms a part. The old tower is all that remains of the ancient College of St. Mary of Maynooth, which was founded and endowed by . . . Gerald, Earl of Kildare, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary . . . This Gerald (The 8th Earl), by his will assigned the Manor of Rathbeggan and the lands of Kiltel and Carbestown, in Meath . . . to the intent that the feoffees should grant the Manor and lands aforesaid to the Master of the College . . . Rathbeggan, between Dunboyne and Dunshaughlin, contained 271 acres, Kiltel, three miles west of Dunshaughlin, contained 140, and Carbestown 80 acres . . . In 1518 Gerald, the ninth Earl . . . presented a petition to William Rokeby, Archbishop of Dublin (1511-1521), for licence to found and endow a College at Maynooth which was granted. . . . The Earl then built the College in a most beautiful form adjoining the Castle of Maynooth, and dedicated it to the Blessed Virgin. He appointed a Master, five Fellows (priests), two clerks and two boys . . . By the Constitution of the College, the nomination of the Master and the Sub-Master was vested in the Earl and his successors; they were, however, to obtain induction from the Archbishop. The five Fellows were to be chosen by the majority, the vote of the Master to be reckoned as two. The boys were to be nominated by the Earl, to whom was reserved the donation of the temporalities. The investiture of the spiritualities was to rest with the

Archbishop, who granted to the clergy the privilege of having a common seal and of suing and being sued as a corporate body, without infringement, however, of the rights of the Prebendary of Maynooth, the Vicar of Laraghbryan, or the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's Cathedral. These ordinances, made on the 6th of October 1518, were confirmed by royal letters patent of Henry VIII on the 12th of the same month. So early as 1248, with the consent of the Baron of Offaly, the Church of Laragh Bryan was made a prebend of St. Patrick's Cathedral by Luke, Archbishop of Dublin . . . Shortly after [1518] the Earl endowed Maynooth even more amply . . . [he] also rebuilt the church, which had originally been attached to the Castle, and caused it to be made a prebendal Church, instead of Laragh Bryan. The perpetual right of presentation, however, even to the College Church, was still reserved to him and his successors down to the disestablishment of the Irish Church. In 1521 this prebend being vacant, it was at the Earl's request, annexed to the Mastership of the College . . . the Vicar of Laragh Bryan should be Sub-Master of the College in which he was also to reside, while retaining the cure of souls in the Parish of Laragh Bryan. The profits of the vicarage were to be added to the funds of the College, with exception of £6. 13s 4d per annum, to be paid to the vicar . . . Five marks were to be deducted from the profits of the vicarage for his support in the refectory. 'A good and learned curate' was to be provided at the expense of the College, to celebrate the divine service in the 'Cathedral' of Laragh Bryan. The members of the College were generally prohibited from going to market to buy corn, on any occasion however urgent, even for feasts of Charity."

The College founded with so much enthusiasm and generosity was given very little time to develop and prove itself. The political scene in Ireland was changing. The Tudor monarchs of England presided over a policy of drawing control into the hands of central government, and the days when a mighty lord could rule Ireland almost independently were coming to an end. The usual Fitzgerald strategy of demonstrating that the kings of England could not control Ireland without their support no longer worked. The ninth earl found himself more and more often in trouble with Henry VIII. He was summoned to London and died there in September 1534 as his eldest son, Silken Thomas, came out in open rebellion against the king. Maynooth Castle was stormed and taken by the

King's forces in 1535. The power of the house of Kildare came to an end, and in 1538 the College was suppressed together with many other religious institutions.

Gerald the ninth earl of Kildare was called Garret Óg, or Garret MacAlison, after his mother, Alison Eustace, by the Irish annalists. As a boy he spent some years at the court of Henry VII as a hostage for his father's loyalty. These however must have been pleasant years. There are records of the King ordering for his use such items as black velvet and tawny satin doublets, crimson and tawny hose, and velvet gowns trimmed with white lambs fur, not to mention boots, spurs, shoes and slippers. Also, before he returned to Ireland he had married his first wife, Elizabeth Zouche, who was a cousin of the King himself. Back in Ireland, he was appointed Lord Deputy soon after the death of his father in 1513. His career followed the pattern of that of his father in many respects. He lived and acted in Ireland as an Irish chief, furthering the interests of his family, while at the same time trying to keep the king satisfied that he was acting only in the defence and best interests of the English crown. Unfortunately in his lifetime the time arrived when the kings of England felt strong enough to refuse to tolerate this situation any longer.

#### Sources

Rev M.T. MacSweeney, 'The Parish of Maynooth (1040 AD – 1614 AD)' in Irish Ecclesiastical Record (1940)

Marquis of Kildare, The Earls of Kildare and Their Ancestors (1864)

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The family of the late Deirdre Cusker would like to thank their extended family, friends and neighbours for their support over the past twelve months. It has been an extremely difficult year, however your help, generosity and kindness have made rebuilding our lives a much less daunting task. Although life moves on Deirdre will never be forgotten and lives on in our hearts and minds. We will love you forever – Willie, Neil and Caoimhe. "And when the work of grief is done, the wound of loss will heal".



## MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS

We would like to wish all the readers a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you are buying a Christmas Tree you can help Maynooth Tidy Towns by purchasing locally from Jim Doyle who will be selling trees adjacent to the Garda Station.

At this time we ask you to recycle your bottles and cans in the following locations---Tesco, Aldi and Supervalu Supermarkets.

Finally we would like to thank our committee members, business supporters and anyone else who has helped us during the year.

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## LORETO SECONDARY SCHOOL

### *Will Maynooth get a Loreto Secondary School?*

Thanks to all the parents who have indicated their support for a Loreto Secondary School in Maynooth in 2014.

The closing date has been extended by the Department of Education so

### **THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER YOUR SUPPORT!**

Make your views count before January 2012

Register online at [www.loretoeducationcentre.ie](http://www.loretoeducationcentre.ie)

Home page: [Maynooth New School](#)

or

at Maynooth Community Library, Main Street

or

Local Primary Schools



### An Nuadha Players Community Theatre

Reminds you that

**Sinbad**

is in Maynooth

Fri 9<sup>th</sup>. 7.30pm

Sat 10<sup>th</sup>. 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Sun 11<sup>th</sup>. 2.30pm

At

The Aula Maxima

In

St. Patrick's College

Some Tickets still available at the Maynooth Book Shop, Main St.

€12 and €10 concession

**Health Warning:**

**Non-stop Laughter**

**Can result in aching ribs.**

**Maynooth Post Primary Past Pupil John Lee with President Michael D Higgins**



The community of Maynooth Post Primary School, parents, staff and pupils would like to congratulate former pupil John Lee, on the fantastic achievement of designing and making the chair on which President Michael D Higgins was inaugurated.



### **O'Neill's Pub Maynooth Serving Maynooth since 1912**

Popular spot for live music with Comedy in the bar on Thursday nights, a mix of new & established acts take to the stage in THE BUBBLE LOUNGE  
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## *Christmas Centrepieces*

### *Christmas Poinsettia Centrepiece*

**Materials for Christmas Poinsettia Centrepiece**

- low-growing poinsettias or artificial plants
- floral foam or styrofoam
- decorative bowl, cache pot, or soup tureen
- greenery



Follow these simple steps to make your poinsettia centrepiece:

- If you're going to use cut flower stems, place a brick of floral foam or styrofoam into the container and secure it in place.
- Place small, low poinsettia plants or artificial stems into your bowl, soup tureen, or cache pot.
- Be sure the flower pots do not show above the top of your decorative container.
- Add trailing greenery around the base of the plants.
- Place the container with plants in the centre of your table.
- Place the soup tureen on its serving plate.

### *A Simple Centrepiece for Christmas*

**You will need;**

- A vase
- Masking Tape
- Roses
- Greenery



Tear masking tape into small strips to create a grid on the top of a vase to hold stems evenly in place.

Trim Roses and greenery to create a casual yet elegant and festive Centrepiece for your holiday table. A few bunches of Nandina berries to add a glossy and smooth texture against pointy greens and velvety red roses.



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### Dental Care For Your Pet

We have all seen the ads on television advertising specialist toothpaste and dentists advising on their proper use. However we shouldn't forget our pet's teeth when it comes to dental care as they too can suffer many of the same dental problems that we do. It is therefore important that your pet's dental needs become part of everyday pet care. At Maynooth Veterinary clinic we recommend that your pet's teeth should be checked by us at least once a year. We do this as part of their routine annual health check when they come for examination or vaccination.

Amongst the dental problems that pets can get are infected gums, broken teeth, halitosis (bad breath) periodontal disease and even occasionally, tumours. Sore infected teeth and gums can cause your pet to stop eating.

Periodontal disease affects tissues and structures surrounding healthy teeth. Normally it is seen in dogs over 3 years of age, and can affect over 85% of dogs in this age category. Regular cleaning and dental care is the best prevention, as untreated periodontal disease can result in the loss of healthy teeth.

Just take a moment to consider how you would feel if you failed to brush your teeth every day, your dog's teeth are no different. Ideally training should begin at the puppy stage, but with patience, even elderly dogs can be trained to have their teeth brushed. Training should commence by placing a small amount of pate or soft meaty treat your dog likes on the toothbrush and brushing up and down with the jaw held closed. Some patience may be required so start by doing this for small periods at a time, ensuring to rub bristles against gums and teeth. Most dogs tolerate their cheek teeth being cleaned in preference to their front teeth or incisors, however, once more with small frequent sessions, these potential difficulties should disappear. When you have achieved success in cleaning the outside surfaces of the dog's teeth, it should be possible to proceed to the inner surfaces. To do this, it is important to hold the dog's head up as high as you can, and then to gently open his mouth, then commence gentle cleaning by being careful not to excite or agitate your pet.



The inner surfaces of the dogs teeth do not require much brushing as their tongues are comparatively long and flexible and therefore the build-up of tartar on these inner surfaces are considerably less in dogs than people. A special canine toothbrush is available for the regular cleaning of your dog's teeth. We are happy to supply these. If your best attempts to clean your dog's teeth fail don't worry, we have special foods that are formulated to assist with tooth cleaning and dental care. We also prescribe gels which dispense within the mouth and in so doing, help to maintain dental hygiene. In cases that present where we feel normal brushing will not succeed, we in Maynooth Veterinary Clinic use an ultrasonic de-scaler to remove all plaque tartar and other deleterious material from your pet's teeth and gums.

As always we are very happy to answer your queries concerning this matter, and indeed all other pet issues, please contact the clinic in Newtown Grove, Rathcoffey Road, Maynooth, Phone 01-6289467





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# Picaderos Restaurante

Main Street, Maynooth  
Tel: 016292806

for reservations

## Beienvenidos!

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Navidad

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Early Bird 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday

**Full Spanish Menu, Argentinean, Grills & Tapas.**

**A La Carte at all other times ~ Tapas Available All Day**



### Now Taking Christmas Bookings & Parties

Christmas Party Lunch Menu **€24.90** per person

Christmas Party Dinner Menu Choice of **€29.90**

and **€37.90** per person

*Glass of Sangria  
or festive warm Mulled Wine  
on arrival with all  
Christmas Party Bookings*

### Picaderos Restaurante ~ Christmas Party Menu A

#### Starters

##### Combination Tapas Platter

Chicken Croquettes, Garlic & Lemon Chicken Skewers, Mixed Olives, Spinach Croquettes, Potato Bravas, Spicy 'Piri Piri' Chicken Wings, Spanish Toasts with garlic and plum tomato & Chorizo sautéed in cider

#### Main Courses

##### Pollo Lanzarote.

Succulent slices of pan fried chicken breast cooked in a tomato sauce with black olives, garlic, onions, capers & a touch of cream.

##### Parillada de Verduras con salsa Romesco. (v)

Barbequed courgettes, aubergines, mixed peppers, tomatoes, spring onions & asparagus with Romesco sauce.

##### Estofado de carne de buey

Mouth watering beef stew with potatoes & mixed vegetables served in its own cast iron casserole dish,

Tapas of Ratatouille & fresh crusty Spanish breads.

##### Cerdo al Limón

Succulent pan seared fillets of pork sautéed in a garlic butter, lemon & white wine sauce.

##### Entrecôte de Rosario.

10oz prime Striploin Steak cooked on the lava rock grill & served with choice of traditional Argentinean Chimichurri or Pepper sauce.

#### Dessert

##### Assiette of dessert

The chef has arranged a mini selection of seasonal desserts.

#### Tea/Coffee

Merry  
Christmas



### Donatello's Christmas Menu

€29.95

Glass of festive warm Mulled wine on arrival

#### Starters

##### Soup of the day

The chef's choice. Cooked daily, using the freshest of produce.

##### Bruschetta con Pomodoro

Slices of oven-toasted bread topped with freshly chopped tomato, basil and garlic oil.

##### Baby Back Ribs

Roasted in BBQ sauce and served with fresh salad

##### Parma Ham & Melon

Fresh juicy melon wrapped in Italian cured ham - great appetiser!

##### Calamari Fritto

Warm breaded calamari rings served mixed leaf salad & Garlic Aioli sauce.

#### Main Course

##### Linguini con Cozze

Linguini pasta & fresh clams cooked in a white wine, lemon, garlic & freshly chopped tomato sauce.

##### Gnocchi alla Sorrentina

Petite potato pillows cooked in a rich vine tomato & lightly spiced traditional Italian sauce.

##### Pollo Lombardy.

Succulent chicken filled with Gorgonzola sauce & cooked in a white wine reduction.

##### Saltimbocca Alla Romana

Thin slices of pork and parma ham dusted in flour and pan seared in white wine & sage sauce.

This dish served with a Side Order vegetables.

##### Risotto al Funghi

Creamy risotto cooked with wild mushrooms, truffle oil & parmesan shavings.

#### Desserts

##### Sticky Toffee Pudding

A layer of caramel sponge topped with lashings of toffee sauce served hot with ice cream.

##### Profiteroles

Cream filled choux pastry smothered in a chocolate sauce with vanilla ice cream.

##### Panattone Bread & Butter Pudding

Traditional Italian Christmas Bread & Butter Pudding.

Merry  
Christmas

Donatello's Ristorante  
Town Hall Centre, Maynooth  
Tel: 6289660



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## Christmas Recipes

### Smoked Salmon Rolls

#### Ingredients

1 Packet Brown Bread Mix  
250g/8oz Shelled Prawns (cooked and cold)  
3 tablespoons Mayonnaise  
3 tablespoons Greek Style Yogurt  
2 tablespoons Lemon Juice  
1 tablespoon chopped Dill  
Freshly Ground Pepper  
325g/12oz Smoked Salmon (sliced)  
Thin Sprigs of Spring Onion or chives to "tie" the rolls  
Lemon slices and sprigs of Fresh Dill to garnish.



#### Method

1. Make the Brown Bread Mix as per pack instructions. Allow to cool.
2. Mix together the prawns, mayonnaise, yogurt, lemon juice, dill and pepper.
3. Separate the slices of smoked salmon. Take 2 thin slices and form into a roll. Put some prawn filling into each roll and tie with a thin strip of the spring onion or chive.
4. Cut the bread into slices; place a slice of bread on a serving plate, spread with a thin layer of butter or mayonnaise. Sit a smoked salmon roll on each slice and garnish with lemon slices and sprig of dill or as preferred.

### Light Christmas Cake

#### Ingredients:

- 275g/10oz Cream Plain Flour
- 225g/8oz Caster Sugar
- 225g/8oz Margarine
- 4 Eggs (beaten)
- 100g packet Ground Almonds
- Juice and Rind of 1 Orange
- 100g tub Mixed Peel
- 100g tub Cherries (halved)
- 1 x 375g packet Sultanas



#### Method:

1. Preheat oven to 150°C/300°F/ Gas 2. Line a 20cms/8" deep round cake tin with baking parchment.
2. Put sugar and margarine into a large mixing bowl and cream together. Gradually add the eggs, beating well after each addition.
3. Stir in the ground almonds, orange rind and juice. Add the flour and gently stir until well mixed through.
4. Finally add the fruit - mixed peel, cherries and sultanas. Mix thoroughly.
5. Transfer to prepared tin. Bake for about 2 1/2 hours or until nicely browned and a clean knife inserted into centre comes out clean. After an hour cover top of tin with a sheet of brown paper!
6. Cool in tin. When cold wrap in greaseproof paper and store in a cool dry place.

### Mince Pies

#### Ingredients:

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



#### Method:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C/400°C/Gas 6. Lightly grease two bun trays.
2. 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.
3. Press small walnut sized pieces of pastry into each section of two patty tins. Put a teaspoon of the mince meat into the centre.
4. 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.
5. Bake for about 20 minutes until golden. Leave to cool in tin for 5 minutes, then remove to a wire tray.
6. To serve, dust with icing sugar.

### Mulled Wine

#### Ingredients

- 1 Bottle Red Wine
- 600ml/1pt. Orange Juice
- 75g/3oz Caster Sugar
- 1 Orange (stuck with Cloves)
- 1 Orange (cut into slices)
- 1 Lemon (cut into slices)
- 5cms/2" pieces of Cinnamon Stick
- 2 Tablespoons Brandy (optional)



#### Method

1. Put all the ingredients into a large saucepan and heat to simmering, stirring occasionally until all the sugar is dissolved.
2. Keep it barely simmering for about 20 minutes, so the flavours can combine!
3. Do not boil or the alcohol will evaporate!
4. Ladle into heatproof glasses to serve



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--	---

**Restaurant Specials**

Sunday to Friday €28 pp. or €59 per couple inc Bt.Wine - Saturday €28 pp or €65 per couple inc Bt.Wine. Special discounts on menus for private parties.

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--	---



# Brady's Clockhouse

Main Street

Maynooth

Tel: 01 5054725

## Sample Menus

### 4 Course Set Menu (€ 17.95)

Fresh Cream Soup of the Day  
Breaded Spicy Chicken Wings  
Chicken and Mushroom Vol au Vent

\*\*\*\*\*

Roast Stuffed Turkey and Ham  
with cranberry sauce and roast jus

Cajun fried Salmon  
Served on a bed of champ with a tarragon fish cream

Roast Sirloin of Beef  
with pink peppercorn sauce

All served with a selection of potatoes and vegetables

\*\*\*\*\*

Fresh Fruit Pavlova  
Warm Apple Pie with Vanilla Ice-cream  
Plum Pudding with Brandy Custard

\*\*\*\*\*

Freshly Brewed Tea or Coffee

### 3 Course Set Menu (€ 15.95)

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**Thursday 22nd:** Traditional Music (Lounge) Music (Bar)

**Friday 23rd:** Donnelly & Buller (Lounge)

**Wednesday 28th:** Donnelly & Buller (Lounge)

**Saturday 31st:** Owen Gerrord (Lounge)

**PARTIES OF 20-30 CATERED FOR WITH FOOD**



# Avenue Café

## RESTAURANT

Avenue Café, in Maynooth, has become one of most popular restaurants in Kildare. When it opened in 2007 owners Robert and Bronagh Kennedy were intent on providing consistently good food and service to customers.

Their passion for excellent service began in 2003 after they opened the clubhouse in Carton House. It was after building up a strong reputation there that the Kennedy's considered moving into their own premises in Maynooth village as they felt the town was lacking when it came to good casual dining restaurants.

"It was because of a huge level of commitment and dedication from our staff that we were able to open and run our restaurant" says Robert. "By maintaining this dedication, we have been lucky to welcome so many people into our restaurant, building a very loyal customer base".

Bronagh, who trained with Darina Allen in Ballymaloe in Cork, introduced her knowledge of Irish cooking into their kitchen and it has been translated into head Chef John Cole's dishes as he has consistently provided modern Irish food of excellent standard and taste. The menu is imaginative and boasts a wide range of good quality, flavoursome food.

"Food traceability is very important to us here and the origin of all of our produce and suppliers". Avenue steaks and burgers are 100% Irish Hereford beef and the restaurant has a keen emphasis on local produce and ingredients such as Jane Russell sausages.

The food caters for many tastes with dishes such as burgers, salads, excellent fish dishes, steaks and a great choice of desserts and although the menu displays a strong sense of inventiveness, it still maintains the

modesty and simplicity that a casual dining menu promises.

With Great Lunch offers from €10, Avenue also provides an early bird menu which runs throughout the day till 6.45pm. The menu offers two courses for 18 euro and three for just 23 which means customers can enjoy an inexpensive and delicious meal.

The restaurant also hosts Ladies night on Tuesday evenings which begins at 6.45. This menu provides two courses for 21 euro, three courses for 26 euro and there is a complementary glass of wine with the meal.

Downstairs or upstairs is ideally suited to cater for larger groups. Avenue has been a popular choice for Christmas parties. Large or small, birthdays, christenings and even the odd wedding!

This year The Irish Restaurant Awards chose Avenue as their winner for 'Best Customer Service' in Kildare. This award has provided the restaurant with the recognition it deserves after four years of consistently excellent service.

The restaurant service hours are from 12pm-9.45pm Monday-Saturday and 1pm-7.45pm on Sundays with the Early Bird menu running all day.

Avenue Café Restaurant, Main Street, Maynooth, Co Kildare

[www.avenuecafe.ie](http://www.avenuecafe.ie)

Tel: 01 6285003

email: [Info@avenuecafe.ie](mailto:Info@avenuecafe.ie)



## Maynooth Post Primary School Celebrates their 40th Anniversary







A new secondary school will open in the Maynooth area in 2014.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN AN IRISH-LANGUAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN MAYNOOTH?

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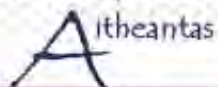
AM/TIME: 8PM

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An Irish Medium School provides education to the highest standard to our pupils, fosters and develops all children in a holistic manner, supports the promotion of the Irish language and Irish culture.

An Foras Pátrúnachta in association with Aitheantas and An Coiste Bunaithe Ghaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad will soon be making an application to The Department of Education and Skills for a new Gaelcholáiste in Maynooth. For more information on the benefits of Irish medium schools and to support this new Gaelcholáiste, please attend

Cruinnithe Poiblí urraithe ag feachtas de chuid Aitheantas  
Public Meetings funded by the campaign group, Aitheantas



Tuilleadh eolais/For more information:

An Foras Pátrúnachta, Bloc K3, Campas Gnó Mhaigh Nuad, Maigh Nuad, Co. Chill Dara  
(01) 6294 110 » eolas@foras.ie » www.foras.ie

» Pre-enrolment form also available on our website

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Seasons Greetings To All Our Clients

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## THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS



Christmas is the one holiday celebrated by most cultures around the world, though much of its popularity is due to the commercial promotion of it. In many Protestant Churches through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Christmas was noted but not really celebrated. It was observed in some church liturgies but there was little in the way of gift giving and celebration, in fact until recently, in the last part of the nineteenth century, it was a regular working day. In many areas of the world today it remains an insignificant Holiday even among Christians.

The story of Christmas still captures the heart in a way that transcends all the commercial hype. There is something in human nature that would rather focus on the birth of a baby, especially children, whom the story of Christmas with all the images of angels, a young mother, the shepherds and the three Kings in a stable make the season captivating.

Contrary to advertising campaigns the season starts on Christmas eve and lasts till the 5th of January, as this is twelve days it became the twelve days of Christmas. That's why some cultures celebrate on the 6th of January.

Through the years the holiday has been adapted to local customs, culture, and history with a variety of Christmas traditions around the world. Some, such as the giving of gifts, the use of a star came indirectly from nativity stories, others like the legend of St Nicholas who has origins in church history, a fact that became legendary. The Yule log and evergreens have pagan origins but were adopted by Christians,

carolling were local traditions that spread and others such as reindeer, elves, and the North Pole are loosely associated with the holiday through popular imagination and marketing techniques.

Though Christmas is now an important celebration on modern culture, historians agree that it did not begin till the fourth century. The most common conclusion is that Christmas originated in Roman culture to celebrate the winter solstice on December 25th and was a pagan celebration of the birth of the sun as it once again began its journey north.

The abbreviation of Xmas for Christmas, though hated by some cultures is not as bad as it seems, the Greek language used X as "chi" and in the Roman alphabet the first letter of Christ is X. When writing in old manuscripts, or printing, to save ink they used X as a type of shorthand.

Christmas is something most of us don't really understand though most of us celebrate it in some way. It give us a happy feeling to give and to watch the faces of children even if their not our own. Whatever the real meaning is, no matter what religion you are, the best reason to celebrate is to bring us all together, family, friends, relations and even those we don't have much in common with.

It's a time for forgiveness and understanding, of coming together and helping others, especially those who have no one else.

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# New School Patronage

**The Department of Education and Skills has requested school patrons (management organizations) to declare their intentions on patronage of new schools by the 13th January 2012**

**Kildare VEC intends to apply for patronage of the new post primary school to be built for the Maynooth area**

**To gauge parental support for the application, parents and guardians are asked to register their support by the 16th December 2011**

## **WHY SHOULD PARENTS AND GUARDIANS REGISTER THEIR SUPPORT FOR KILDARE VEC PATRONAGE?**

**KILDARE VEC IS WILLING TO SHARE SCHOOL BUILDINGS WITH OTHER SCHOOLS. FOR EXAMPLE, MAYNOOTH POST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**KILDARE VEC IS WILLING TO ESTABLISH AN AONAD TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR EDUCATION THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF IRISH IN THE MAYNOOTH AREA**

**KILDARE VEC PATRONAGE HAS A PROVEN TRACK RECORD AT MAYNOOTH POST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **HOW CAN PARENTS AND GUARDIANS REGISTER THEIR SUPPORT FOR KILDARE VEC PATRONAGE?**

**RETURN A COMPLETED KILDARE VEC EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM TO MAYNOOTH POST PRIMARY SCHOOL, OR ON LINE AT [WWW.KILDAREVEC.IE/NEWMAYNOOTHSCHOOL](http://WWW.KILDAREVEC.IE/NEWMAYNOOTHSCHOOL) OR [WWW.KILDAREVEC.IE](http://WWW.KILDAREVEC.IE)**

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER THEIR SUPPORT?**

**THE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF NEW BORN TO TEN YEAR OLD CHILDREN(0yrs -10yrs), WHO WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO START POST PRIMARY SCHOOL IN AUG/SEPT 2014 ie CHILDREN IN 4<sup>TH</sup> CLASS AND YOUNGER.**

*Dear Parents and Guardians,*

*Above are some of the reasons to support Kildare VEC patronage. In particular WILLINGNESS to share the new school buildings is of crucial importance to our children. At the moment there are 1,056 students attending Maynooth Post Primary in a building designed for 800. This number is expected to rise to 1,400 over the next few years. One patron managing both schools and willing to share classrooms etc is the only way to meet the immediate demand for school places and provide the broad subject choice available at Maynooth Post Primary School to all the students of the Maynooth area.*

*Yours sincerely,*

**TERESA MURRAY, Chairperson Maynooth Post Primary School PTA**



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## MAYNOOTH LABOUR NEWS

### **Cllr. McGinley Seeks Safety Improvements for Parson Street:**

*Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Celbridge Area Committee of the Council:*

"That the following safety improvements be carried out at Parson Street, Maynooth:

That the road be resurfaced

That the footpath at the residential side be reconstructed

That the double yellow lines on the college side be repainted"

John was given the following response at the Area Meeting on 18 November:

*"This section of road is in the Road Works Programme for 2012. Unfortunately there is no funding for the footpath and also the levels of the doorways are too low for the construction of a path here. The double yellow lines will be restored after the road is resurfaced."*

### **Draft Maynooth Pay Parking Scheme to go on Public Display**

The Celbridge Area Committee has agreed that the Draft Maynooth Pay Parking Scheme could now go on display as agreement has been reached on extending the public car park at Doctors lane.

### **Cllr. McGinley Seeks Safety Improvements for Celbridge Road/Laurence Avenue Junction:**

*Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Celbridge Area Committee of the Council:*

"That a footpath be constructed from the Celbridge Road to Laurence Avenue at the junction in order to make it safer for the school children attending the Gael Scoil."

John was given the following response at the Area Meeting on 18 November:

*"There is no source of funding for this work in 2011 budgets. At present, the Traffic Management Section staff are concentrating on completing schemes which have funding allocations confirmed. However, the proposal can be evaluated in December to determine if the council is satisfied to include it on*

*the list of potential schemes seeking NTA funding in 2012. It should be noted that it is expected that the NTA allocation available to Kildare County Council in 2012 will be noticeably less than in 2011.*

Cllr. McGinley pointed out that this is a very serious safety issue and that he will allocate funding from his Discretionary Grants next year so that the small amount of footpath necessary can be put in place.

### **Cllr McGinley Continues to Seek Traffic Signals at the Straffan Road/Meadowbrook Road Junction:**

Cllr. McGinley raised this issue again at the Area Committee Meeting on 18 November.

The Senior Executive Engineer from the Traffic Management Section of the Council stated that the NTA has asked the council to make a case for funding for improved safety on the Straffan Road and Moyglare Road and he is hopeful that this will include lights at the Meadowbrook Road junction.

The lights are the only solution to prevent cars doing U Turns at Carton Court.

### **Cars Speeding on Rail Park Road, Maynooth**

Cllr. McGinley has again asked the Council to write to the Gardai asking them to enforce the 60km/h speed limit on this narrow road.

### **VEC Youth Grants Awarded**

**Cllr McGinley is a member of the VEC Youth Sub-Committee and at their meeting on 21 November they agreed to award Grants to the following Maynooth Youth Clubs:**

**€1,000 to 8th Kildare (Maynooth) Scouts**

**€300 to Maynooth Brownies**

**€300 to Maynooth Girl Guides**

**€1,000 to North Kildare Maths Problem Club**

**€1,750 to St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band**

**€800 to Teen Space Maynooth**

### **STAGG WELCOMES APPROVAL OF €29.7 MILLION TENDER FOR EXPANSION OF LEIXLIP WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Deputy Emmet Stagg has welcomed the announcement today by the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, that he has approved the

necessary funding to enable Fingal Co. Council to accept a tender for a major expansion of the Leixlip Water Treatment Plant.

Deputy Stagg stated that the €29.7 Million contract will see production rise from 148 to 215 million litres per day and will help to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to deal with demand from population growth and future economic development in North East Kildare, Fingal and the north side of Dublin City. The work is expected to take 2 years to complete.

Taken in conjunction with the Castlewarden/Ballygoran Water Supply Scheme which is expected to commence next year at a cost of €18.7 Million, these schemes will greatly assist in ensuring security of supply for North East Kildare and should ensure that we do not have water supply shortages which have been experienced both at Winter and Summer times in the North East of the County in recent years. The Castlewarden/Ballygoran Water Supply Scheme will see an additional supply taken from Castlewarden which will be piped to Leixlip via a new storage reservoir at Ballygoran in Maynooth.

In conclusion Deputy Stagg stated that both the schemes now approved will enhance the delivery of Water to residents and businesses in North East Kildare.

Cllr. John McGinley can be contacted at:  
6285293 or 087 9890645  
E mail [jmcginley@eircom.net](mailto:jmcginley@eircom.net)  
Web: [www.labour.ie/johnmcginley/](http://www.labour.ie/johnmcginley/)

John is also on Facebook

### **Winter Advice and Information.**

**For information, alerts and advice see Kildare County Council's website: <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/emergencynewsandinformation/>**

There will also be a household advice leaflet available on the website and the leaflet will be distributed through the Council's offices and libraries.

A national campaign was also launched on the 9th November with an accompanying website <http://www.winterready.ie> and a "Be Winter Ready" advice booklet available to download from the website.

Sonya Kavanagh

Roads, Transport & Public Safety



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**To arrange for assistance  
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**Abandonment of current plans to construct the Dart Interconnector shows "same old lack of vision" which has "crippled our development"; says Catherine Murphy TD**

Deputy Catherine Murphy (Ind – Kildare North) has criticised the Government's decision in the review of infrastructure and capital investment to defer, into the very long term, any commitment to build the Dart Interconnector.

"This particular project was recently described as "the game changer" by a senior Irish Rail Official. Given that this project alone has the potential to treble rail capacity in the greater Dublin area to 100 million passengers annually, by networking all the suburban lines, it would have economic, transportation and environmental benefits to the surrounding counties of Meath, Kildare and Wicklow.

"While the economic climate might indeed be tough, the argument for proceeding with vital transport infrastructure projects is a strong one. While labour costs are lower, and skilled construction workers are desperate for employment, we must seize this opportunity to both stimulate the economy and finally upgrade our shockingly badly resourced public transport system.

"The lack of an adequate high capacity public transport option in the Greater Dublin area adds to congestion, adds to insurance costs and detracts from the efficiency of the region. The greater Dublin Area, in which one in every three of the Irish population resides, will be the driver of our recovery – therefore we must make every effort to ensure we fulfil the potential of the region".

"We measure the public benefit of projects like the Dart Interconnector in the hundreds of years; sadly the Government remains focused almost blindingly on the short term and will not take the braver decision to back this project. This is especially disconcerting given the support which would be available to us from the European Investment Bank to shoulder some of the costs.

"In the last capital review, spending on public transport was planned to be almost as much as the projected spend on roads. This review skews that ratio drastically; so that roads will now take twice the exchequer spend as public transport. The Government has clearly learned nothing from the mistakes of the past.

**Catherine MURPHY**  
independent TD

**Constituency Office:**

Unit 4, The Post House,  
Leixlip Shopping Mall,  
Main Street, Leixlip,  
Co. Kildare

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**Phone: (01) 615 6625**

**e-mail: catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie**

**website: www.catherinemurphy.ie**

**Advice Service:**

**Advice Centres will take place on the last Friday of every calendar month at the following locations:**

**2pm: The Turn Inn, Derrinturn**

**4pm: Keogh's The Corner House, Clane**

**6pm: The Monread Lodge, Naas**



**Catherine Murphy TD • Independent • Kildare North**

**Achieving citizen focused public services must be at the heart of reform – Deputy Catherine Murphy**

Achieving citizen focused quality public services, at an affordable cost, must be the primary objective of public service reform according to Deputy Catherine Murphy.

The Deputy has today published a report entitled "Public Service Reform: Rebalancing & Renewal" which aims to highlight the flaws of the current system of public service resource distribution and offer a simple message for reform.

At the core of the document is the fact that current resource allocation relies more on historic trends of demand than on projections of future need based on current growth trends. While short, "Public Service Reform: Rebalancing & Renewal" is intended to highlight the fundamental and systemic changes needed to usher in a more forward-looking, efficient and citizen focused public service in order that Ireland can truly use this time of economic downturn to eliminate dated, ineffective and wasteful practices which lie at the core of the problems we currently face.

"There is a major opportunity to radically reform our public services, values such as placing the citizen at the centre, must be at the heart of the process, otherwise all that will occur are crude financial cuts and a major opportunity will be lost".

Deputy Murphy will present a copy of "Public Service Reform: Rebalancing & Renewal" to Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, Brendan Howlin TD on the floor of the Dáil this afternoon during question time.

**Murphy expresses dismay at racist remarks of Councillor Darren Scully**

Deputy Catherine Murphy (Ind – Kildare North) today condemned as 'outrageous' and 'totally unacceptable' remarks made by Councillor Darren Scully to the effect that he intended not to deal with any black or African constituents. She described as 'unfathomable' the reasons why Councillor Scully felt the need to make such a statement.

"While listening to Kildare FM this morning I could scarcely believe what I was hearing. It's right and proper that Councillor Scully step down as Mayor of Naas immediately and I welcome his decision to do so – however it's essential that if he remains as a public representative he must undertake to represent all of the people, without qualification or prejudice.

"Ireland has so far managed to largely avoid the extremely destructive social and racial conflict that has sometimes been seen in some of our European neighbours, yet discrimination and prejudice are unfortunately a feature of the lives of many people from different ethnic backgrounds who have made their homes here. We rely on our elected representatives to take the lead in challenging potential racial discord, not encouraging it so patently.

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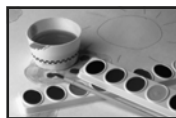
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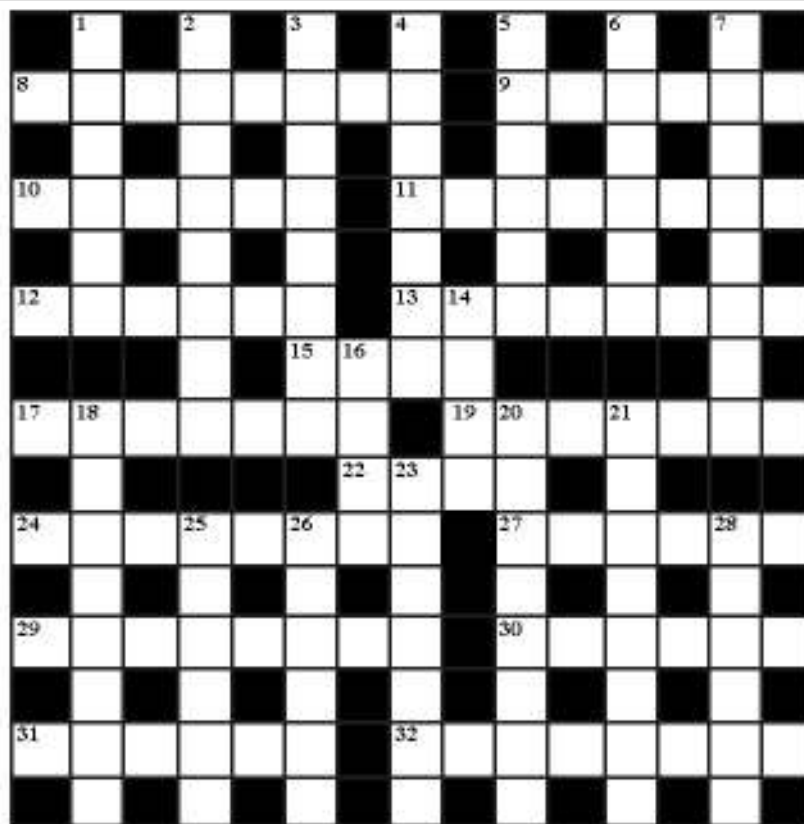
Wishing All Our Customers A Happy Christmas



## December 2011 /Jan 2012 Crossword —No: 398

## ACROSS

8. Determined, dead set (8)  
 9. Felines of the forest (6)  
 10. Church minister (6)  
 11. Emotions (8)  
 12. Empower (6)  
 13. Lessen the intensity (8)  
 15. Cook slowly in liquid (4)  
 17. This son, if the son of another, is a healer (7)  
 19. Sets of steps (7)  
 22. Compass point at 90 degrees (4)  
 24. Evident, seeming (8)  
 27. Brown songbird (6)  
 29. Game played in sable lab (8)  
 30. Tag showing fare or fee (6)  
 31. Round figure (6)  
 32. Young children (8)



## DOWN

1. It's now Sri Lanka (6)  
 2. Dreadful, awful (8)  
 3. Fastest (8)  
 4. Fragrance, scent (7)  
 5. Be present at (6)  
 6. More unsightly (6)  
 7. Shinier or smarter (8)  
 14. Nocturnal birds (4)  
 16. At that time (4)  
 18. Forceful and definite (8)  
 20. Posture or opinion (8)  
 21. Without deviation (8)  
 23. The late one is very fit (7)  
 25. Business that serves other businesses (6)  
 26. Rubbed out  
 28. Large scissors with strong blades (6)

## Answers to No. 397

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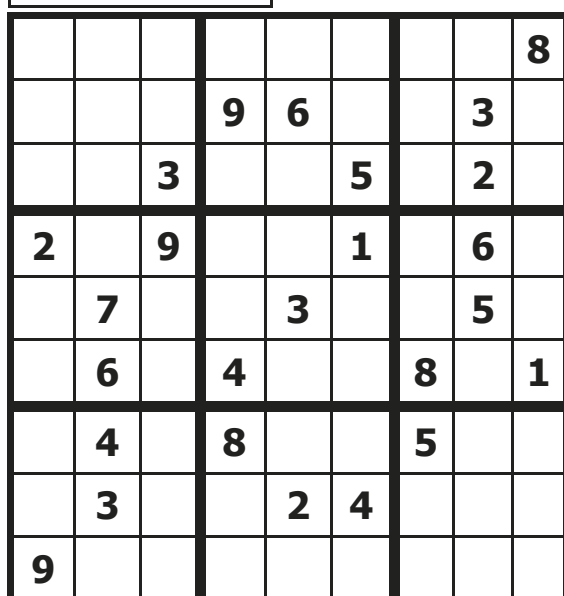
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Winner of Crossword No. 397

**Carmel Madden**  
 Moyglare Abbey,  
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## Difficult

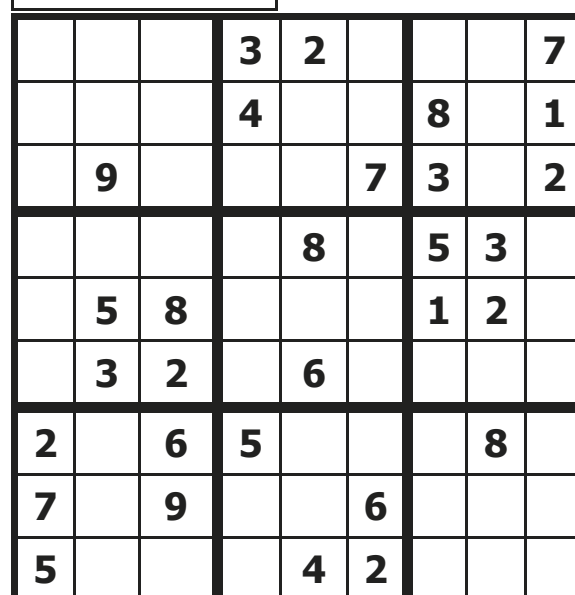


# Sudoku Challenge

December 2011/January 2012



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## Maynooth Citizens Information Centre — Know Your Rights

### Question

**I work a 5-day week, Monday to Friday. What days off will I get at Christmas?**

### Answer

Christmas Day (25 December), St Stephen's Day (26 December) and New Year's Day (1 January) are public holidays every year.

In 2011 Christmas Day falls on a Sunday and St Stephen's Day falls on a Monday. New Year's Day 2012 falls on a Sunday.

There is no specific rule about what happens when a public holiday falls on a weekend. You are not automatically entitled to take the next working day off work. You are entitled to the normal alternative arrangements for public holidays. These are:

- A paid day off within a month of the public holiday
- An additional day of annual leave
- An additional day's pay

- The nearest church holiday to the public holiday as a paid day off.

Under the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 you may ask your employer, at least 21 days before a public holiday, which of the alternatives will apply to you.

Your employer should respond to you at least 14 days before the public holiday. In practice, most employers will give employees Tuesday 27 December and Monday 2 January off in lieu of Christmas Day and New Year's Day – but it is important to remember that this is not an automatic entitlement.

The National Employment Rights Authority (NERA) has published information about the Christmas public holidays on [www.employmentrights.ie](http://www.employmentrights.ie).

You can make complaints about public holidays to a Rights Commissioner at the Labour Relations Commission, Tom Johnson House, Haddington Road, Beggar's Bush, Dublin 4, Tel: (01) 613 6700, Lo-call 1890 220 227.

### Question

**We are not happy with the service that our frail and elderly parents are getting from a number of health and social care professionals. Where and how can we complain?**

### Answer

You should be able to find the right place to give your feedback on a recently launched website called [healthcomplaints.ie](http://healthcomplaints.ie). This website has been developed by a group of public and voluntary organisations, including the Citizens Information Board.

[Healthcomplaints.ie](http://Healthcomplaints.ie) provides information on how to make a complaint about a healthcare service or a social care service in Ireland. It is aimed at people who use health and social care services, as well as their families, care-givers and advocates.

As well as explaining the options for making a complaint about many specific services, the site also includes sample complaint letters, case studies and guides on how to complain, along with checklists to help ensure that you give all the relevant information.

You can download a booklet, a leaflet and a poster from the site, explaining what it does and how to use it.

### Question

**I was told to apply for Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) while I wait for a decision on Jobseeker's Allowance. What is SWA and where do I apply?**

### Answer

The Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) Scheme provides a basic weekly allowance for people with little or no income. Its main purpose is to guarantee a basic minimum income and provide immediate help for people waiting for decisions on other State payments.

The Scheme also includes:

- Rent Supplement;
- Mortgage Interest Supplement;
- Single payments for urgent or exceptional needs;
- Payments in emergency situations, such as flooding.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) used to administer the SWA Scheme through its network of Community Welfare Officers (CWOs). All CWOs have recently transferred to the Department of Social Protection and are now known as Department of Social Protection representatives administering Supplementary Welfare Allowance.

These officials are still based in health centres, so you will visit your local health centre to apply for a Supplementary Welfare Allowance payment. The Department's representative will have to assess your income – this may involve a home visit. They will actively refer you to other State agencies and/or voluntary organisations, if relevant. For example, they may refer you to the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS).

Before applying for SWA you must have applied for any other benefit or allowance that you may be entitled to. SWA is a means-tested payment. You must also meet the habitual residence condition.

You will not normally qualify for any payment under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme if you are in full-time education or full-time work – that is, working for more than 30 hours per week.

### Question

**I have ordered some Christmas presents from UK and Belgian websites. Can I return them if I'm not happy when they arrive?**

### Answer

Online purchases within the EU are covered by the European Directive on Distance Selling. Under this Directive you are entitled to a cooling-off period of 7 days. During the cooling-off period, you can cancel distance contracts without giving a reason and without incurring charges or penalties, other than possible charges incurred in returning the goods.

You must send the goods back within this 7-day period. It is not enough to say that you will return them.

The 7-day period begins on the day that you receive the product, not the day that you make the purchase.

Upon cancellation, the distance seller is obliged to repay you within 30 days. Once the contract is cancelled, any credit agreements entered into at the time of the contract will be cancelled as well.

Your supplier should have provided you with written confirmation of the contract, including information on after-sales and guarantees, how to cancel the contract and a postal address for complaints. Where a supplier doesn't provide this written confirmation, the cooling-off period can be extended to 3 months from the date you receive the goods.

Cancellation may not be accepted, however, in certain cases, as follows:

- The goods cannot be returned because they were made specially for you
- The goods are audio or video recordings (like CDs/DVDs) or computer software whose seals have been broken by you
- The goods are newspapers or magazines
- The price of the goods or services is dependent upon financial market fluctuations that are beyond the supplier's control
- The provision of services has already begun with your agreement

The European Consumer Centre handles queries on purchases within the EU.

Information is also available online at [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie) and from the Citizens Information Phone Service, Lo-call 0761 07 4000.

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## PATRONAGE DEBATE

### An address given by a transition student at the information meeting about Kildare VEC Patronage held on 17th November in Maynooth Post Primary School

My name is Mary-Kate Quane, and I am a Transition Year student in the school that former President Mary McAleese referred to as 'the best school in Ireland', Maynooth Post Primary. With so much talk about the plans for the new school, with budgets and designs I think it is important to also talk about the community of the school, which is why I would like to share with you my experience of Maynooth Post Primary from a student's perspective.

Before I started first year in this school, to say I was 'nervous' would be a major understatement. Like most adolescents at that age, butterflies constantly inhabited my stomach for weeks before entering into the 'unknown'. Truthfully, I didn't know what to expect, I just hoped that the first year horror stories I had heard from other schools, would not be the case in this school. Despite all my little queries and worries, I was not too anxious about making the life-changing transition from primary to secondary school, because I knew that all my friends were going to be right with me, as they too experienced the same transition to Maynooth Post Primary.

The first thing I noticed about the school, after calming down from the initial shock of the size of the place, was how well the students from all different years mixed,

despite the overwhelmingly large numbers at the time. There was a constantly positive, and relaxed atmosphere about the place, free from any tension or unease. Nothing about the students mixing ever seemed forced, it was always by choice. However, I never really appreciated this bond until later during my first year. Not only were the tragic, unforeseen events that took place dealt with consolingly, compassionately and sensitively by all staff members, but by the entire student body, in particular, the year above us. That year all pulled together and decided "We have to look after the first years" - and that they did. I will never forget the warmth and support that was thrust upon us. Not only did this support last until the final bell rang signalling the end of the school day, no, that support was brought into our personal lives creating friendships that I believe will last a lifetime. All of the time and energy that year put into us, and not once did they expect a thank you. Having talked about this truly incredible reaction to friends of mine from other schools around the country, I know for a fact that, that experience was unique to Maynooth Post Primary.

I think each person here tonight is aware of the academic excellence this school is renowned for. An attribute that I believe is as a result of the lack of pressure put on students to perform 'the best' rather than to the best of their ability. I believe that subconsciously knowing this, the students of our school strive to reach their potential leading to these excellent results. Maynooth Post Primary encourages competition academically, in our many sports teams and in extra-curricular activities such as debating. However, something Maynooth Post Primary does not encourage is rivalry. It is difficult enough being a

teenager these days with peer pressure and social cliques, that this school knows competition socially or emotionally will only increase pressure or strain on teenagers. That is why the student body of Maynooth Post Primary never feels it's about 'me' against 'them', because it is always about 'us'. I know of schools where it is not 'socially accepted' to have friends in different years, but in Maynooth Post Primary that idea seems absolutely ridiculous, as that is just not how us students choose to function.

From my years in Maynooth Post Primary, I have learned a lot, socialized a lot and managed to fit study in as well, but really it was all the opportunities I was offered, experience I gained and people I worked with that not only made me the person I am today, but the person I hope to become. Maynooth Post Primary truly is something to be proud of, and somewhere, I know will continue to grow and improve, despite what it is faced with. I have no doubt that all the atmosphere and ethos of the school, and the student body will remain the same no matter how many people are in the school - the more the merrier!

Looking back on the last 3 years, I know that had I not attended Maynooth Post Primary, I would not be the person I am, and I would be severely missing out. With that in mind I look forward to the next three years in Maynooth Post Primary.

Thank you.

==PRESS RELEASE - FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2011==

Maynooth Students' Union Occupies TD's Office

Maynooth Students' Union (MSU) has occupied the office of Kildare North TD Anthony Lawlor, Naas.

The occupation follows a long national campaign involving every Students' Union in the country to get the Labour Party and Fine Gael to honour their pre-election pledges to students.

Maynooth Students' Union President Rob Munnelly said:

Last year, the maintenance grant was cut by as much as 60% for the students who need it most. For families that don't get the grant, fees per student went up by a third, and now they look set to go up again.

If you think these fees and these cuts didn't hurt students then ask yourselves why this Students' Union had to introduce food vouchers this year. It's a disgrace. And we simply can't let it get worse next year.

The failure of both parties to publicly stand over their pre-election promises to students, parents and families is simply unacceptable given the unprecedented level of access that the parties had to information on the public finances prior to the election.

But this is not just a student issue - it's a family and a national recovery issue. We've tried everything. We have repeatedly called on this Government to keep to their promise and they have refused every single time.

We contacted every single Government TD in the country and not one would stand by their pre-election promise - not another rise in college fees, no more cuts to the grant. We met personally with almost every single Government TD in the country. We've sent tens upon tens of thousands of letters. We've made tens of thousands of phone calls and sent almost one hundred thousand tweets. We took out full page ads in major newspapers with a list of every Government TD that lied for votes - Deputy Lawlor is on that list.

Twenty thousand students from all over the country - from Mayo, from Cork, even from Belfast - travelled to Dublin two weeks ago for a day of peaceful protest that said to this Government, "If you raise fees or cut the grant you are not just keeping me out of college, you are keeping my friend, my brother and my sister out of college."

When they ignored that, Students' Unions all over the country protested for hours outside their local TDs offices - we were here just a week ago. They're just not listening. It's come to this. The height and depth of last year's fees and cuts made it impossible for too many of our members to stay in college this year.

We have been left with no alternative. If you thought students were going to take this lying down, then think again."

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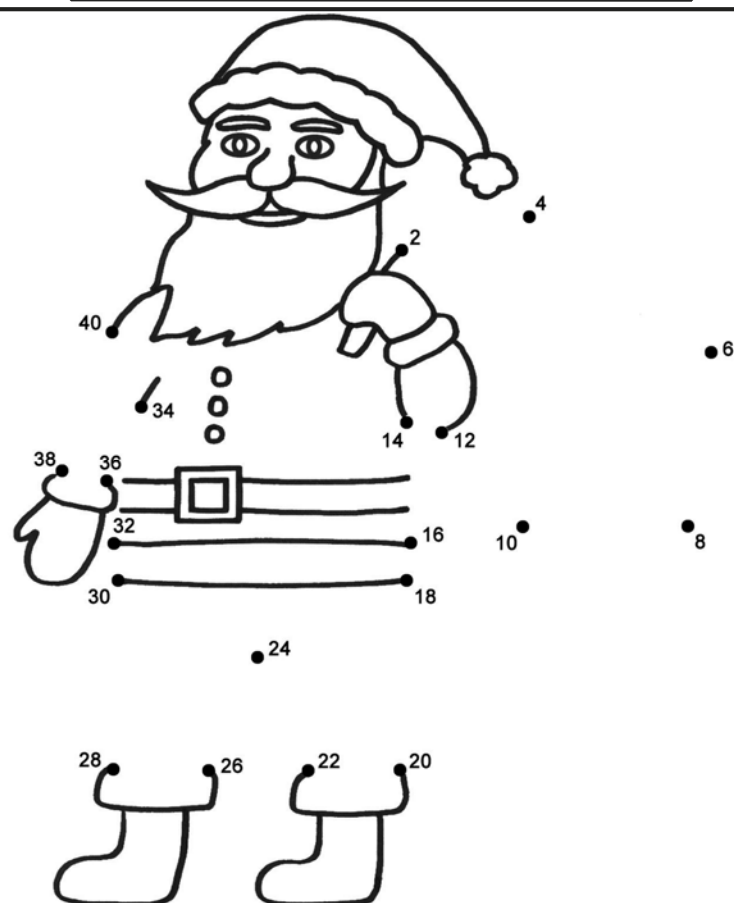
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Christmas Greetings To All Our Customers



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## Word Search



## Santa's Reindeer

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u	a	w	r	w	h	c	p	r	k	n	m
t	o	s	c	e	z	k	e	y	d	b	z
e	d	t	d	l	e	c	u	i	r	m	l
m	a	o	e	u	n	d	p	k	t	c	r
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v	k	v	i	x	e	n	v	e	v	i	d
x	y	r	e	c	n	a	d	d	a	t	s
j	r	a	v	w	j	d	v	x	n	p	b

Blitzen	Comet	Cupid	Dancer
Dasher	Donner	Prancer	
reindeer	Rudolph	Vixen	



## McDonalds Children's Colouring Competition



Prizes :  
Free Family Meal  
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it's what i **eat** and what i **do**

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

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

## October Winners:

Age: 3—5 : Ciara Regan, Railpark Maynooth

Age: 6—7 : Hannah Carroll, Rockfield Sq.

Age: 8 & Over: Oisin Marron, College Green,

**Prizes for Colouring Competition** can be collected at:  
Maynooth Community Council Office, Unit 5, Tesco Shopping Centre.  
Entries must arrive before: 24th January 2012







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READERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

& A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR



## December Diary Planner

### I.C.A.

Meetings take place every 1st Thursday of the month at 8.00pm. in the I.C.A. Hall in the Harbour. Crafts Every Monday Night at 8.00pm. New members welcome

### Community Library

Opening Times  
Mondays & Fridays  
2pm to 5pm  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
1pm to 8pm  
Wednesday 9.30am to 1pm  
& 2pm to 5pm  
Saturday 9.30am to 1pm

### Irish Girl Guides

Meetings Tuesday evening in Maynooth. For further information contact Jackie on 085 1413787 or visit I.G.G. website [www.irishgirlguides.ie](http://www.irishgirlguides.ie)

### Senior Citizens Club

Club meets every Tuesday & Thursday morning in the I.C.A. Hall.  
Christmas Shopping courtesy of Supervalu takes place 8th December.  
Annual Dinner Dance takes place on 11th December at 4 p.m. in the Glenroyal Hotel.  
Morning Club will close on Thursday 8th December and will re-open on Tuesday January 3rd January 2012.

### Taekwon-Do

Children's Classes for 5 years and up held every Wednesday in St. Marys Boys School, Moyglare Road & on Fridays in Educate Together, Celbridge Road 6.30 p.m.—7.30 p.m. For details: Contact Stephen Doyle 087 6986491

### Parent & Toddler Group

Every Tuesday from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. in the Community Space, Manor Mills Shopping Centre.

### Vincents S.V.P. Shop

Toy Sale takes place on 6th December 10.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

### Bridge Club

Open for new members. If you would like to play in a friendly club with Purpose built facilities in the centre of Maynooth, please see our website at [maynoothbridgeclub.com](http://maynoothbridgeclub.com). Contact Katherine Cooney 086 8205910

### University of Third Age (U3A)

Weekly meetings on Tuesday & Friday in Maynooth Community Space, Manor Mills.  
New Members Welcome  
Enquiries : Bernadette  
Phone: 6289131

### Rathcoffey Historical Group

Christmas Extravaganza in Rathcoffey GAA Thursday 8th December 2011 @ 8.30 p.m.  
Warm Mince Pies and Cream served  
Admission €10

If you would like Your event for February put into The Diary please contact The Newsletter  
Phone 01 6585922/6285053





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# Maynooth's St Patrick's Day Parade!

## Application Form for Parade

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

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

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

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

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

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

Entrance Fee:

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

**Bands ~ Free**

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

1 Best Commercial Float	Trophy	3 Best Club Float	Trophy
2 Best Band	Perpetual Cup	4 Best School Float	Trophy
5 Best Portrayal of Irish Culture	Trophy	6 Best Portrayal of Environmental Awareness	Trophy

Applications with entry fee to be sent to Community Council Office  
Unit 5, Tesco Shopping Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.  
By Friday 2nd March or phone (office hours - 6285922 or 6285053) or  
John McGinley (6285298 (H) or 087-9890646 (M))

Pictures from St. Patrick's Day 2011





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Paddy Nolan (Secretary to Maynooth  
Mortality Society),  
Maynooth Office Tel: 01 6289452  
Main Office, Naas Tel: 045 868230  
Paul Reilly Mobile: 086 8105581





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