



With best wishes for a Happy Christmas
& A Prosperous New Year from



Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the people of Maynooth

Dec 2015 Jan 2016

Local News

Free



Keep Maynooth Working Shop Local This Christmas

Shop local this Christmas it does make a Difference

Small in size but huge in character, Maynooth comes alive with festive atmosphere for Christmas. This beautiful town is packed full of specialised shops, pretty boutiques and a variety of restaurants and cosy café's where you can drop in for a hot chocolate to warm chilly fingers.

You will find exceptional value for money to be had in the smaller local shops where you get a more personalised service and friendly atmosphere. Whether you are looking for the "must have Christmas outfit" we are spoiled for choice with the wide variety of boutiques right through to the bigger departmental stores. If it's that perfect Christmas gift for family and friends come and explore the wonderful selection of book, jewellery and craft shops right on your door step.

Gift ideas can also consist of a voucher for a product or service that someone would benefit from, a voucher for the Beautician's, Gym or Hairdressers, the list is endless. Shopping locally takes the stress factor out of the annual search for all your Christmas presents. Consider the real cost of shopping outside Maynooth, cost of fuel, hours spent travelling, crowded shopping centres, costly parking fees, long queues for fitting rooms, restaurants and other services.

When the shopping is done you can visit any one of a great selection of pubs for a bite to eat, a quick drink and a coffee for the driver. Maynooth with its excellent train, bus & taxi services is also a great place to meet for the work's party. Think Maynooth first when you shop this Christmas. By spending in Maynooth we secure local jobs for our families and friends. Remember Local Business is the life blood of the Community.

Christmas Dates for your Calendar

5th December 2015

- Aonach na Nollag - Maynooth Castle - 11am - 5pm

6th December 2015

- Senior Citizens Christmas Shopping/Party - Supervalu - 3pm
- Visit Santa - Glenroyal Hotel - 1 - 4pm
- Craft Fair - Glenroyal Hotel - 12 - 6pm

Maynooth Gospel Choir singing Christmas Carols

12th December 2015

- St Mary's Catholic Church - Maynooth Christmas Flower Festival - 11am - 6pm

13th December 2015

- St Mary's Catholic Church - Maynooth Christmas Flower Festival - 2 - 5pm
- St Mary's Brass & Reed Band - Glenroyal Hotel - 3pm
- Christmas Carol Service, St Mary's Catholic Church - 8pm

Admission €10

20th December 2015

- Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner - Glenroyal Hotel - 4pm
- Maynooth Christmas Concert - Manor Mills - 7pm

In aid of Kildare Refugee Centre

27th December 2015

- RCAG - Royal Canal "Christmas Recovery Walk" - Maynooth Harbour - 12.45pm

Christmas Panto

The Snow Queen - The Aula Maxima - Maynooth University
December 10th to 13th - Thur 7.30pm - Fri 7.30pm - Sat 2.30pm
& 7.30pm - Sun 2.30pm

Bookings: Maynooth Bookshop - Main St. or contact: 086-8068068.
Facebook.com/annuadha

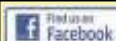
Maynooth Photographic Calendar 2016 on Sale €10.

All Profit to St Vincent de Paul. Available at MCC/Newsletter Offices.

Visit our Facebook for more information.



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Maynooth Community Council, Unit 5, Tesco's S.C. Carton Park, Maynooth. Phone - 01-6285922 - Email maynoothcc@eircom.net No. 442

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OBESITY IN DOGS AND CATS

DOGS



Obese dogs are usually carrying 10-15% excess body weight. Obesity is most commonly seen in dogs between 5-10 years old. It is easier to determine obesity in pedigree dogs as these dogs have ideal body weights. So by weighing your dog we can classify him. Non pedigree dogs can be judged by the fat cover on their ribs, lumber region on the back and the base of the tail.

Some owners bring their dogs into the Clinic worried about "lumps" on the lumber back area, which are in fact heavy deposits of fat. When the ribs of a dog cannot be felt because of fat cover, this dog is classified as obese.

Obesity can cause your dog to be depressed, in pain, inactive, aggressive and sometimes unsocial. When the obese dog loses weight it becomes happy, social, confident and has an improved quality of life. Obesity is a disease just like heart, kidney or liver disease. It affects the dog's bones, joints, digestive organs, lungs and heart. It can shorten your dog's life. Before putting an obese dog on a diet some health issues have to be ruled out e.g. hypothyroidism, diabetes or neutering.

In Maynooth Veterinary Clinic (01 6289467) we run a Weight Management Clinic with a free consultation for your dog or cat. At this consult we take a full history of your pet's habits while also giving a dietary plan and support over the 5-6 month period. Remember 5% weight loss is the initial challenge!



CATS



Obese cats have become more of a problem in recent years. Cats over 5kg body weight regularly come into the Clinic. Obesity in cats causes poor skin and coat condition as the cat is too heavy to groom itself. It can also cause urinary tract infections as they are not active and urinate less frequently. These cats can also suffer from diabetes where the animal becomes immune to the effect of insulin. In the majority of cases this can be reversed by weight loss.

People usually don't realise their cat is overweight. They think he or she is happy to lie around all day sleeping with no play, no hunting or no exploring. It is only when they reduce weight that the "kitten activity" reappears!

Feeding your cat little and often, weighing out exact daily feeds, and encouraging play and activity will help them reduce weight!



**Copydate for February Newsletter is
Tuesday 19th January 2016
Maynooth Community Council Office will close on
Friday 18th December 2015
Reopening on Monday 4th January 2016**



Kildare North General Election Candidate

Working for You

Cllr. Frank O'Rourke

Please feel free
to contact me
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Comhaltas in Maynooth

The Autumn term of music tuition at Comhaltas Craobh Mhaigh Nuad is well underway with teaching recommenced since the beginning of September. This builds on the branch's hosting of the hugely successful Leinster Fleadh held during July, which brought an amazing 15,000 visitors to Maynooth for competitions, sessions and to enjoy the selection of traditional music and dancing on offer in Maynooth square.



Branch session in McMahon's

"The Fleadh increased the profile of both the local branch and the traditional arts in North Kildare, and the branch have seen the benefit of this in this year's registration process", said Seán Treacy Chairman of the local branch. "Seeing their friends playing on stage at the Fleadh, and rocking along to Goitse until late Friday night has meant the kids have been really energised turning up for lessons and sessions, and the Fleadh has given both young and old a view of what a gift playing our music is", said Seán.

The teaching team at the branch is enhanced this year by the addition of Sligo's Jason McGuinness (fiddle), Ellen Godley (concertina), Cillian McCabe (banjo), James Ryan (guitar) and Rita Doyle (Set Dancing), adding to the existing line-up of Aimee Farrell-Courtney, Lauren, Karen and Sean Treacy, and Sean Ó Mhórgha.

Lessons are run from 7-9pm on Wednesday evenings in Maynooth Post Primary School and to reflect the importance of playing and collaborating in groups, the branch has also an increased focus on the session setting this year. One lesson per month, is given over to playing in groups – we had the first on 21st October and our players absolutely love it, as a more informal break from the class setting, enjoying the music as it was meant to be played.

In addition to this, there is one session per month in McMahon's Maynooth – the next session will be on the 16th December start time 9.30pm. For younger members, a session takes place Sunday afternoons at 3pm. The next session will be on the 13th Dec. All musicians are welcome to these sessions, whether branch members or not, so we look forward to seeing you there, to sample the atmosphere and the tunes.

Photos were taken by John Boyd and Rory O' Connor. Lots more information on www.ccemaighnuad.com and Facebook & Twitter (CCEMAighNuad).



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 Visit & Gift - €5

Visit, Gift & Photograph - €6
 The Hotel will be set in a Magical setting for Christmas with a Craft Fair from 12-6pm & The Maynooth Gospel Choir singing Christmas Carols

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Maynooth Senior Citizens Sale of Work A Huge Success

Many thanks to all who supported our Sale of Work again this year. We raised €10,092 which speaks volumes about the sense of community we are so lucky to have in Maynooth.

Congratulations to all who won prizes on the day. The result of our Monster draw was as follows: Monster Christmas Hamper was won by Gay Hoare, €200 Jeanette Holten, €100 John Walsh. In other draws Mary Deane won 32" TV and Daniel Nicoll won the Tablet. The big winners of course are our older people, because your generosity shows the respect you have for them, you are just the gift that keeps on giving. A big thank you to all our sponsors, SuperValu, Sean Donovan, Manor Mills, Thornton's Recycling, Frank Walsh, Willie Kiernan, Maynooth College, Gerard and Siobhan Mc Myler and Eugene O' Reilly.

The thank you of the day must go to our young people especially the Maynooth Scouts who give up their weekend each year to help us out. In a climate where there is such bad press about young people, the parents of these particular young people should be very proud, and not forgetting their Scout leaders Peter, Tony and Johnny who guide them along the way.

Just a reminder to our Senior Citizens that our SuperValu Christmas shopping / party takes place on Sun Dec 6th at 3pm and our Christmas Dinner takes place on Sun Dec 20th at 4pm in the Glenroyal Hotel.

Finally I wish you all the best for the festive season and we will do it all again in 2016. Le Cúnaimh De

Josephine Moore - Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



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SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS



Community Council Notes

Maynooth Community Council Notes from the meeting of Monday November 9th held at Maynooth Community Space at 8.30pm

CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Catherine Mulready was co-opted to the Council as a representative of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The Festival Committee congratulated Bernie Kane from Tesco Extra Maynooth on winning the *Local Community Star Award* at the recent *Tesco All Ireland Values Awards 2015*. Bernie organises the Tesco fun day section of the Summer Festival which always proves popular with the youngest members of our community. She is also instrumental in the 'Community Fund' whereby customers can place the blue tokens received after shopping into one of three nominated charity collection points. Nominated charities are rotated every 6 weeks and they share in €1000 at the completion of each 6 week period. Many local organisations have benefited from this initiative.

The Maynooth Calendar is currently on sale at various locations throughout Maynooth including the Newsletter Office, Durga Ireland (beside the Avenue Restaurant) and both St Vincent de Paul shops. It will also be on sale at *Aonach na Nollag* on December 5th at Maynooth Castle. The calendar is a collection of the photographs submitted for the photography competition which was part of the 2015 Summer Festival. It is priced at 10 Euro and proceeds will go to the local St Vincent de Paul Society. **Check the Maynooth Festival Facebook page for regular updates.**

Preparations are well underway for *Aonach na Nollag*, the first open air Christmas Fair organised in conjunction with Maynooth Community Council. Saturday December 5th will see Maynooth Castle grounds open to the public where local craftspeople will be displaying and selling their products. The Festival Committee are very grateful to everyone involved with this new venture. A full list of sponsors and exhibitors will appear in the next edition of the *Newsletter*.

TIDY TOWNS

The Tidy Towns Committee expressed their delight at their Silver Medal Award in this years National Competition. Having graduated from Bronze awards in 2013 and 2014, it shows the level of commitment from the volunteers, and the general appearance of the town reflects their hard work. On behalf of the residents of Maynooth, thank you and congratulations.

On Friday November 6th, Tidy Towns had their Volunteer Celebration Evening in the Glenroyal Hotel. Gratitude was expressed to Ted Robinson from the Glenroyal for sponsoring the event. Thanks also to the staff of the Glenroyal, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Craobh Maigh Nuad for the lovely entertainment and to Darren Mooney from Quickstitch Embroidery for his presentation of polo shirts emblazoned with the Tidy Towns logo. Presentations were also made to some young

volunteers and to Marian Cawley who won a Local Hero award at the Nationals.

Clean ups continue regularly and anyone wishing to volunteer or help in any way can do so by contacting Mattie Callaghan, Richard Farrell or by sending a message to Maynooth Tidy Towns Facebook page which is updated regularly. Details of clean up times and meeting places are posted weekly on Facebook.

It was suggested by MCC Chairman Tom McMullon that thought be given to bringing back the Tidy Estates Competition. If everybody looked after their own little patch it would make the workload of the volunteers that little bit lighter.

SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Chairperson Josie Moore noted that following her observation at last months meeting about the footpaths on the Dunboyne Road being in need of repair, work had been taking place. This will make it easier on senior citizens who require rollators.

The Halloween party took place on October 18th and was attended by many in fancy dress, including committee members.

The Sale of Work took place in the Aula Maxima on Sunday November 15th. It was reported that ticket sales for the Monster Raffle were better than ever. Josie expressed her thanks to Supervalu, Maynooth Tidy Towns and Maynooth Scouts for their ongoing assistance and promotion of the event.

MAYNOOTH GIRL GUIDES

The Brownies held a recent Culture Night and the Rangers were on hand helping out at the Sale of Work.

MAYNOOTH SCOUTS

The Scouts are very pleased that the Geraldine Hall is being utilised by many different groups. It has been the venue for the Senior Citizens 50th anniversary ecumenical service, and classes in drama and sign language also take place there.

The Bingo is now in full swing every Wednesday at 8.30pm. All are welcome. Proceeds go towards the maintenance of the Hall.

The Scouts went to Glenmalur for a camping weekend. No electricity or running water on site so it would have tested the mettle of even the toughest of the group. The plans are well underway to take the Venture Scouts to Italy next year.

The Scouts also continued their association with the Senior Citizens Sale of Work by volunteering on the day.

ICA

Crafts continue every Monday night. There was a recent Copper Craft evening which was enjoyed by many. Pilates takes place in the Boys' National School on Wednesdays.

The *ICA Book of Christmas* is currently on sale and contains traditions and recipes for the perfect Irish Christmas. They are running a 'shoe box appeal' for blankets, coats and duvets to help the Peter McVerry Trust in their fight against homelessness.

The ICA were planning to have a tree festooned with homemade decorations at The Christmas Tree Festival to take place over the weekend of November 28/29 at the Church of Ireland. They will also have exhibits at the Flower Festival in St Mary's Church between 2-6 on December 11th.

Delegates attended the recent Hospice Foundation Think Ahead initiative. The booklet is on sale now priced at 2 Euro.

MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

SU President Matt O'Boyle extended his sympathy to the family of the late Dean McCarron from Monaghan who died tragically young while in America to attend his brother's wedding. Dean was a former student of Maynooth University and was very active in many aspects of College life. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

Christmas Day in the College will take place on December 14th, and plans are currently being put in place to try to avoid anti social behaviour.

Temple Street Hospital's Renal Facility will be the Student Union charity for 2016.

COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN CRAOBH MAIGH NUAD

The Maynooth branch of Comhaltas have classes ongoing and are heartened to see so many new junior members following on from the success of Fleadh Laighean 2015. A donation was made to Maynooth Tidy Towns Committee from the proceeds of the Fleadh. They also provided entertainment at the recent Tidy Towns Volunteer Celebration. Craobh Maigh Nuad hope to make a number of other donations to other local groups in the near future.

HISTORY GROUP

A talk took place on Monday 16th of November on 'Events that changed Europe 1200-1600'. The group went on recent trips to Baldonnell Aerodrome and the Curragh Museum. Both were recommended as outings for people who had never been.

An Artifact Night is planned for January 18th. People are encouraged to bring along an artifact of historical significance and give a brief outline of same.

EDUCATE TOGETHER SCHOOL

Erasmus students from Finland and Germany visited the ET School to teach the children about various aspects of culture in their countries. The students of ET are involved with the Tesco Initiative for Schools whereby they take part in crafts, poetry and story writing with the theme 'Kindness at Christmas'. The Winter Fair will be held on December 17 at the school.

(Continued on page 8)

Community Council Notes (Cont.)

(Continued from page 7)

ST PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL

Fund raising is due to take place soon for the St Patrick's Day Festival. The plan is to have a marquee in the town with breakfast, lunch and dinner sittings encompassing the foods and cultures of the many international groups in Maynooth. Entertainment will also be on hand at the marquee.

The Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin Perpetual Trophy has been added to the list of prizes for the 2016 St Patrick's Day Parade. The Council decided it would be fitting to commemorate Muireann in a permanent and public way. As she was a founder member and former Secretary of MCC and a very hard working community activist. The trophy is a bronze statuette of CuChulainn. It will be presented to the float with the best Celtic theme, which ties in with Muireann's academic interest in Early Irish Literature, Culture and Heritage.

MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY CHURCH

On Sunday December 20th there will be a Christmas Concert in Manor Mills at 7pm in aid of Kildare Refugee Centre.

SIGNAGE & ROADS

It was mentioned that certain Estate Agents are slow to remove the signs advertising that properties have been sold. The signs can be unsightly and should be removed promptly upon completion of the sale of the property.

It was noted that the frequency of the Road

Sweeper attending local estates has increased which was welcomed by all attending.

Since the MCC meeting, there was a meeting of Maynooth Municipal District Councillors and the North/South Corridor was discussed. Local residents had been concerned about a proposal to remove the right turn filter lanes at the Train Station, Silken Vale and Greenfield. Thankfully common sense prevailed and this idea was decided against. The following motion was subsequently passed.

"That the Part 8 report on the Maynooth North-South Cycle Corridor be approved while maintaining the filter lanes on the Straffan Road for right turns to Maynooth Train Station, Old Greenfield and Silken Vale; and that the detailed design for the next stage seek to provide improvements in segregation between cyclists and motor vehicles and that this be brought to council for finalisation"

MAYNOOTH ARTS CIRCLE

If members of the community would like to become involved with a group very much at the exploratory stage, they are asked to leave an expression of interest at the Newsletter Office marked 'Maynooth Arts Circle'. If there is enough interest then a group will be formed to meet once a month to perform in a 'Monday Miscellany' style event. It is along the lines of a singing circle but less restrictive. Attendees can sing, recite poetry, or perform a drama piece or a dance. This is an idea following on from the successful Yeats Night which was held at the Community Space.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The subject of the Christmas Lights was mentioned. Every year the town is lit up beautifully by the Business Association. This does not happen by magic or by accident and funding is always required. Local residents and businesses are asked to make donations, if they so wish, to the Business Association. Mark Nolan of Maynooth Cabs, Declan Kennedy of Brady's Pub and Robert Kennedy of The Avenue Cafe and Restaurant would be only too happy to speak to you in regards to this annual venture.

The Executive Board of Maynooth Community Council are heartened to see the attendance increasing at the monthly meetings. There are still local areas and groups that are either under represented or not represented at all. If you feel that you would like to represent an area or group then please write to the Council. The Council will check the representation of that area and if there is a shortfall then you can be co-opted onto the Council. By working together we can put the unity back in Community.

Maynooth Community Council would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

Paul Daly- PRO - Maynooth Community Council



Editorial

December/January is that time of the year where we reflect on the past year and anticipate the new one. Space here does not permit me to either reflect or expect in any detail but from the Community Council perspective there have been good and bad in 2015 and hope and optimism for 2016. The good was minimal in comparison to the loss that was brought to us in 2015 on the untimely death of our colleague Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin. I am sure that colleagues and friends will remember her at this time. Maynooth Community Council has established an award to be presented at the St. Patrick's Day Parade each year in her memory.

One of the striking things about Maynooth is the range of people living in our community who probably do not consider Maynooth as their home. For example there are increasing numbers of International students attending Maynooth University. Also there are many people working in Ireland on International assignments or indeed people that are here for many other reasons. In such a community it is likely that this important time of the year will be celebrated in many different ways in Maynooth.

On the International front there will be continuing challenges for Ireland, Europe and beyond. There are many people living elsewhere that consider Maynooth as their home. I know that we get feedback from Maynooth people living abroad on matters raised and written about in the "Maynooth Newsletter". This monthly publication is available each month on the web as each edition is added to the electronic archive. We extend best wishes at this time of the year to everyone living abroad that associate themselves with Maynooth.

While Maynooth has links with many places around the

globe two in particular come to mind. Firstly our twinning partner of Canet-en-Roussillon in France. There are continuing visits between the two towns and more will continue in 2016. Remember that if you are planning to visit there in 2016 and you would like some assistance please feel free to contact Maynooth Community Council. We are regularly made aware of visitors from Canet-en-Roussillon who have visited Maynooth, so if you meet any of these visitors, please make them especially welcome to our town. Further developments in this twinning relationship will happen in 2016 and if you want to be involved all you need to do is to leave your details in the Maynooth Community Council office beside Maynooth Post Office. Secondly, there are also ongoing connections with Maynooth in Ontario, Canada. While we are not in a formal twinning relationship with this area a number of people from both towns stay in regular contact.

Lastly but by no means least, please look out for your neighbours at this time of the year particularly if they are elderly or in need of any other assistance. While many of our residents will go away for the festive season there will still be people who you may not have spoken to in your neighbourhood that this time of the year gives you the chance to share good wishes with them. Also the potential for winter to finally arrive could mean that your neighbours may need your help. The gift of giving at this time of the year is primarily associated with presents but we often underestimate the value of a kind word or deed.

*Happy Christmas and best wishes to all
our readers.
Paul Croghan*



Letters to the Editor

A Chara,
I would like to thank all those that either attended or donated to my coffee morning in September. It was the Annual National Coffee Morning in aid of the Hospice Foundation. The final sum raised on the day was €3110 with a cheque from Tesco Community Fund still to follow.

Our family has been linked to the Hospice Foundation since 1999 and we have been fundraising since 2000. In the past 16 years with the help of local people and local businesses, we have raised just over €56,000, for which St. Brigid's Hospice in The Curragh is most grateful. There are too many to name individually so I hope this is acceptable as a token of gratitude to all concerned. I also hope I can count on your support again next year.

Remember, to die with dignity is a right, not a privilege.

Thank you,
May Daly
Moyglare Rd



To the Editor,
I am writing to congratulate all who worked so hard to win the Tidy Towns Silver Medal Award. I read the judges report and I was disappointed that little mention was made of Carton Avenue (My pet subject). It was great to refer to Maynooth as a University town. I would also like to know who gave permission for building of flats in the town above Manor Mills

Raymond Keogh
Cormicktown Wood, Maynooth

Maynooth Labour News

Cllr. John McGinley can be contacted at: - 6285293 or 087 9890645 - E mail jmcginley@eircom.net - Web: www.labour.ie/johnmcginley/

Common Sense Prevails on Right Turning Lanes

At Maynooth Municipal District (MD) meeting on 11 November Councillors unanimously agreed to Cllr. John McGinley's following Motion:

"That the Part 8 Report on the Maynooth Town North-South Corridor be approved with the exception of the removal of the right turning lanes at Old Greenfield, Silken Vale and the Train Station."

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Cronin on 11 November. She had also previously done so at the MD meeting on 15 October. As none of the other seven Councillors indicated support for Cllr. McGinley's motion on 15 October John became very concerned that the right turning lanes would be removed and in consultation with his colleague Deputy Emmet Stagg it was agreed to send a letter explaining the issue to all houses along the Straffan Road and Celbridge Road.

We believe Councillors only voted for Cllr. McGinley's motion on the 11 November because of the massive amount of E mails that they got from the public in opposition to the removal of the right turning lanes. People power won and Deputy Emmet Stagg and Cllr. McGinley would like to congratulate the people of Maynooth on their success in getting this crazy proposal reversed.

Cllr. McGinley Seeks the Re-alignment of the Straffan Road/Glenroyal Complex

Cllr. John McGinley has made the following submission on the Glenroyals new Planning Application Ref: 15/947:

"I wish to make the following submission to this Planning Application:

The existing exit from the Glenroyal Complex to the Straffan Road is of very poor design, especially for traffic turning left. Please see attached correspondence from 2014 on the issue.

Now that an additional 35 extra guest rooms are proposed it is an opportune time to re-align the junction."

Cllr. McGinley Seeks Update on the Taking in Charge of Housing Estates in Maynooth

Cllr. McGinley got the following reply from the Council Planners:

"Sorry for the delay coming back to you. We are still working our way through the 38 estates advertised in February and the 16 advertised in July.

We intend to go to each of the relevant Municipal District meetings in December with a recommendation to take in charge any of these estates which are ready at that stage for taking in charge.

Part of Griffin Rath Hall which was taken in charge 19/12/2011. None of the rest of the estate has been taken in charge to date but the developer has engaged with us in relation to the completion and taking in charge of the remainder."

Implementation of Maynooth Parking By-Laws to Proceed

Cllr. McGinley was advised by the new Director of Services, Niall Morrissey, that he had given the go ahead for the Maynooth Parking By-Laws to proceed now. He said that he was also conscious of the upcoming Christmas period.

Safety Improvements on Newtown Road, Maynooth

The Area Engineer gave Cllr. McGinley the following update to his motion asking for safety improvements on Newtown Road:

"The Municipal District Office has now undertaken speed measurements at Parsons Hall and at Cluain

Aoibhinn. It has recorded a significant number of speed violations at both of these locations and will be working with the Roads Design Department to develop traffic calming measures."

He further advised John that all traffic calming measures, including ramps, would be considered.

Cllr. McGinley Demands Answers on the Delay in Getting the 66 Bus Extension to Newtown, Maynooth:

Cllr. McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 11 November:

"What is causing the delay in extending the 66 bus service to Newtown, Maynooth? Is it:

a) Lack of NTA funding,

b) Lack of action by Dublin Bus or something else?"

John was given the following reply:

"No funding was approved by the National Transport Authority (NTA) for this project for 2015."

Cllr. McGinley responded saying that the Council were being treated in a disgraceful manner by Dublin Bus as we were told on 15 January 2015 that they were going to Public Consultation on the proposed extension. Dublin Bus attended a meeting of the Maynooth MD on 8 October 2014 and had previously attended the old Celbridge Area Committee on 21 March 2014.

Also the Council wrote to them in Maynooth 2015 and we are still awaiting a reply, six months later. It was agreed to again write to Dublin Bus and the NTA (National Transport Authority) inviting them to our next Municipal District (MD) Meeting.

Cllr. McGinley Asks for Safety Improvements at Doctors Lane/Dublin Road

Cllr. McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 11 November:

"Can the Council do something to improve safety for pedestrians from Dublin Road to the back of the Library on Doctors Lane, Maynooth?"

John was given the following positive response:

"The Municipal District Office has been examining this situation and will be working on a design for a new section of footpath from the Main Street to the right-angle bend on Doctors Lane. The path would require the removal of two parking spaces on the opposite side of the road so public consultation would be required. Work will be scheduled for 2016."

Cllr. McGinley Calls for Paint Tin Collection at the Council Yard

Cllr. McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 11 November:

"That the Council provide a collection service, at the Maynooth depot once a year, for paint tins, until a Recycling Centre is provided in the north of the County."

John was given the following highly unsatisfactory reply:

The Environment Section is progressing plans for a local civic amenity site in North Kildare to serve Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip. The proposed facility will allow the public to dispose of paints and specified hazardous materials at the centre.

Regrettably, although the current motion has particular merit, the recycling of paints would require approvals from the Environmental Protection Agency and practical arrangements to properly dispose of such waste.

John stated that the Environment Section seems to have

misunderstood what he was looking for, which is for the Council to provide a skip once a year for people to dispose of their waste paint tins and then the Council could take it to the Silliot Hill Recycling Centre, Kilcullen, rather than having householders having to drive to Kilcullen themselves.

8 Contractors Tender for Construction of Two New Maynooth Secondary Schools

Deputy Emmet Stagg has continued to press the case for the Construction of the Two New Secondary Schools and shared Sports Facility for Maynooth on the Moyglare Road with the Minister for Education and he has now been advised that 8 Contractors returned Tenders for the Construction of both Schools and the Sports Facility

The Tenders stated Deputy Stagg will now be assessed by the Design Team and it is expected that the preferred contractor will be chosen within 3 to 4 weeks. A report recommending the preferred tenderer will then go to the Department for approval and given the scale of the project it is expected that the evaluation of the winning tender will take about 6 weeks. Deputy Stagg stated that both of the Schools, the new Maynooth Community College and the Replacement school for Maynooth Post Primary School, will cater for 1,000 pupils each.

Given the timeframe for approval of the winning tender it is expected that the construction of the Two New Secondary Schools and Sports Facility will commence on site in February 2016 with a 24 month construction period. Welcoming the continuing progress Deputy Stagg stated that Maynooth will have State of the Art Secondary Schools and a Sports Facility for our secondary pupils and he thanked his colleague Minister for Education Jan O'Sullivan T.D. for securing the funding necessary for the Schools and Sports Facility.

46 PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN KILDARE NORTH GET MINOR WORKS FUNDS OF €544,856 IN NOVEMBER

Deputy Emmet Stagg has welcomed the fact that a total of 46 primary schools in Kildare North received Minor Works Grants totalling €544,856 in November.

The grant enables Boards of Management and school principals to improve their existing school facilities and to help schools purchase furniture, PE and IT related equipment. This ultimately benefits the educational experience of local pupils.

"Each primary school received a grant of €5,500, as well as €18.50 per pupil. Schools also get €74 for every pupil with special needs enrolled. The grant is worth more than €11,000 for a 300 pupil primary school, or almost €13,000 in the case of a special school with 100 pupils. "Some €28m is being made available to facilitate this year's scheme and I am pleased that local primary schools in Kildare North received their fair share of this vital funding stream."

STAGG WELCOMES REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS TO GIVE WORKERS MORE CERTAINTY OVER WORKING HOURS

Deputy Emmet Stagg has stated that the findings of the Report carried out by University of Limerick, 'A Study on the Prevalence of Zero Hours Contracts among Irish Employers and their Impact on Employees' commissioned by Minister Ged Nash, will come as welcome news to workers in Kildare. Deputy Stagg commented: "The Report commissioned by my Labour Party colleague Minister Ged Nash, recommends that the use of "if and when" contracts by employers needs to be addressed.

(Continued on page 10)

Maynooth Labour News (Cont.)

(Continued from page 9)

"Interestingly, it shows that zero hour contracts, as we know them, are not extensively used. However, a new phenomenon of "if and when" contracts has been identified by the researchers.

"The Report recommends that employees are given at least 72 hours' notice of any request to undertake work and the same amount of notice should be given for the cancellation of hours. If a worker undertakes extra hours without the minimum notice, they should be compensated at 150% of the rate they would be paid. If workers do not get the minimum notice for the cancellation of hours, they should be paid at their normal rate for the hours which were scheduled.

"People who work on "if and when" contracts face difficulty planning their everyday lives because they have little certainty over their work schedules and how much they will earn in a month. This makes it difficult for people to budget and pay bills or even plan a family day out. I fully support Minister Nash's efforts to address

this type of precarious work and I am glad Labour in Government is addressing this important issue which I know affects many workers.

HOUSING PACKAGE PROVIDES STABILITY IN VOLATILE MARKETPLACE

Deputy Emmet Stagg has welcomed the housing announcement by the Minister for Environment, Community, and Local Government Alan Kelly, and the Minister for Finance Michael Noonan. Speaking on the announcement, Deputy Stagg said, "The broad suite of measures announced will provide stability for thousands of people living in private rented accommodation."

"The changing of rent reviews from 12 to 24 months, and stronger tenant rights will give more certainty to people living in the private rented sector. The changing of rent review periods means that anyone who has faced a rent increase in 2015, will not have another until 2017. In addition landlords will be obliged to give a minimum of 90 days notice of new rent instead of the existing 28

days and will also be required to supply the PRTB with additional documentation in support of any rent increase sought including documentation in relation to the market rent for 3 similar dwellings in the area.

"Landlords who take in families on the HAP scheme will receive 100% mortgage interest relief on their borrowings if they commit to housing tenants for a minimum of three years. "As a TD, I deal with incredibly challenging housing cases every week. Labour backbenchers have consistently raised the need for large-scale Government investment in housing. The announcement is a significant step in the right direction, especially for thousands of people who live in the private rented sector."

Cllr. John McGinley can be contacted at:
6285293 or 087 9890645

E mail jmcginley@eircom.net

Web: www.labour.ie/johnmcginley/

St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band

It has been quite some time since the Band has featured in the *Newsletter* but it is very much alive and flourishing as we come to the end of another year. Our recitals during the year have taken us to Farmleigh

House, Maynooth Girls' School, Dunboyne Primary School and Scoil Uí Rhiada in Kilcock as a part of the Family Days in each School. We also participated in the Tesco Open Day and were delighted to be a part of the Leinster Fleadh held in Maynooth for the first time and by the time these notes appear we will have taken part in our Annual Mass for Deceased members on Sunday 29th November.

We had a change of Musical Director during the year and were very happy to secure the services of Karen Ní Bhroin who is an extremely experienced Conductor who has worked with a number of Bands, Choirs and Orchestras, including the RTE Concert Orchestra so hopefully the Band will make further progress under her baton.

December tends to be a busy time for the Band and we have been busy rehearsing for our Christmas Concert which is again being held in the Glenroyal Hotel on Sunday 13th December at 3pm. This promises to be a most entertaining event with a mixture of popular and Christmas numbers and we hope to have a number of guests joining us as well on the day.

Although the date has not yet been set we expect to again join our Friends in the Church of Ireland for their Christmas Carol Service and no doubt you will also meet the groups of the band when they appear in the usual locations in the town in the lead up to Christmas shaking boxes to help fund the high cost of keeping the Band going throughout the year.

Finally we are delighted to report that Junior Classes are still being held to keep the flow of musicians coming through and if you are interested in joining please mail your details to sec@stmarysbandsmaynooth.ie and we will let you know when the next term of classes begin. Of course proficient musicians are indeed welcome at all times and already this year we have had a number come to join us for which we are indeed grateful.

If you can play a brass, reed or even percussion instrument please don't hesitate to drop in to the Band Hall at Pound Lane any Monday night (except Bank Holidays) between 7.45pm and 9.45pm and we would be delighted to see you.



COUNCILLORS ENDORSE MEDIOCRITY FOR MAYNOOTH

On a morning when traffic in Maynooth almost came to a standstill, the councillors of Maynooth Municipal District endorsed low quality walking and cycling facilities when they approved the Part 8 Scheme for the Maynooth North South Corridor.

In the days before the vote, a consultant's proposal to remove three right turn lanes came to the fore, and we will address this issue directly in the future. However for us, the critical issue was whether the plan would provide sufficient space to create a high quality environment for pedestrians and cyclists. The approved scheme singularly fails to do this.

In many English speaking countries, there is a lot of spin associated with cycling schemes. Many claim to provide high quality facilities but few live up to the hype. The plan for Maynooth is no different in this regard.

The Straffan Road is exceptionally wide and has enough room to provide high quality space for cyclists and pedestrians, even with the retention of the right turn lanes, simply by reducing the width of vehicle lanes. As secondary benefits, this would calm traffic, reducing noise and pollution. It would also make entering and exiting the road easier and safer. However, the plan approved by councillors calls for a 1/3 reduction in the space for pedestrians at crossings, with extra space provided only at places where it is not needed. Space for cyclists is generally unchanged from the current twenty year old scheme. In addition much of the off-road tracks will be moved on-road. The reduced space for pedestrians can be seen on the works currently underway south of the Maxol petrol station. The road is effectively being widened and pedestrians being moved closer to traffic with barely enough space to walk two abreast.

- At Main Street, the off road cycle tracks are to be removed. Cyclists will be expected to share the narrow roadway with the 20,000 cars and trucks which use this road daily. This will be a particular problem for young children cycling to the Presentation Girls School. We predict that even fewer will do so, worsening the traffic congestion due to the 'school run'.
- On Mill Street, the existing on-road cycle tracks are used as parking spaces by cars and as loading bays by commercial vehicles, especially in the mornings when children are going to school. As well as pushing cyclists into the vehicle lane, this subjects them to the danger of hitting opening car doors. The Part 8 proposals ignore these problems and contain no plans to widen the busy but narrow footpath outside Dunnes Stores.
- The Moyglare Road could have up to 2000 cyclists a day with the relocation of the secondary schools. The cycle track proposed in the Part 8 scheme is of the lowest quality standard and is substandard even by Irish standards. In particular, the proposal to have two way cycle tracks has been identified internationally as increasing the risks for cyclists compared to conventional one way cycle tracks.

Internationally, cities such as Oslo, London, Leeds and Glasgow have recognised the importance of high quality cycle facilities to sustainable development and improved quality of life. It is a matter of regret that the people of Maynooth are being offered substandard provision, even by 20th century standards. It is also regrettable, as demonstrated by the works south of Maxol, that road widening at the expense of pedestrian facilities, is being undertaken in the name of cycling provision.

**Maynooth Cycling can be contacted via our Facebook page Maynooth-Cycling.
Our twitter feed is Maynooth Cycling.**



Fianna Fáil Notes – December 2015

Contact: Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil / cllrnaoise@gmail.com / (086) 728 0050

Cllr. James Lawless - e-mail: james@jameslawless.ie - Mob: 086 834 8869 - - Cllr. Frank O'Rourke: e-mail: frankorourke1@gmail.com - Mob: 087-2555257

Gaelcoláiste approved for Maynooth in 2019

The Department of Education and Skills announced on the 16th of November that a Gaelcoláiste is to be established in Maynooth in 2019. The school will have joint patronage between the Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) and An Foras Pátrúnachta. This is excellent news for parents of children in gaelscoileanna in the area. The press release stated that the viability of the Aonad in Maynooth Community College is a factor in the establishment of the Gaelcoláiste. It is vital that parents with children in 5th and 6th class send their children to the Aonad if they want their children to be educated through the medium of Irish until the Gaelcoláiste is built.

I have campaigned and lobbied for a Gaelcoláiste long before I was elected and this was one of my main goals when elected as a county councillor last year. I am extremely proud of the work done by parents and the people of North Kildare who have fought for this for over twenty years.

Maynooth North-South Corridor

The Maynooth North-South Corridor was passed by the Maynooth Municipal District on the 11th of November with two conditions. The first condition was that the right turning lanes at the Train Station, Silken Vale and Old Greenfield are kept. The second condition was that councillors have a continuous input into the plan, where problems may arise.

In relation to the right turning lanes, there was mis-information circulated that councillors were in favour of their removal. This was complete fabrication and inaccurate. No councillor was in favour of removing the lanes, this was evidenced by how councillors voted on the day. I also appreciate the emails and letters I received on this plan from many people in Maynooth. The project will now proceed and will bring great improvements to the town.

Parson's Street

I proposed at the Maynooth MD meeting on the 11th of November that double yellow lines be painted in the houses side of Parsons Street. This is due to many accidents at this area and also the inability for two cars to pass at once on a double carriageway. I was not supported by my fellow councillors but will re-visit the problem and try and find a solution.

O'Neill Park

I queried the area engineer about what safety features could be installed in O'Neill Park, Maynooth to alleviate road traffic entering the estate? At present, many cars use the roundabout in the estate to turn around at peak traffic times leading up to the Main Street. Unfortunately the engineer is not aware of any measures which could be adopted to prevent cars entering the estate to undertake turning manoeuvres that would not be equally inconvenient to the residents of the estate who themselves use the turning circle to effect turning manoeuvres

Footbridge at Manor Mills

I also queried when the much needed footbridge at manor mills would be built but no time commitment was given. This bridge is much needed with the huge volume of pedestrians going across the bridge on a narrow footpath.

Upgrade of Straffan Road

The first steps in improving the Straffan Road are complete with an excellent job done. People will notice the difference at Carton Court and at Kingsbry.

Maynooth Senior Citizens Sale of Work

Congratulations to Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee on organising another wonderful day at the Sale of Work. Numbers were at their biggest to date and this shows our community's commitment to the older people in our community.

Christmas Lights

I have been organising the Christmas Lights again this year with the Maynooth Business Association. The turning on the lights ceremony will take place on Saturday the 5th of December at 5.30pm at the square. Santa Clause will be coming down again from the North Pole to turn on the lights. This is an excellent family event and I hope to see many of you there for a mince pie.

Aonach na Nollaig

The very best of luck to the Maynooth Festival Committee of Maynooth Community Council who are organising a Christmas Fair in the grounds of Maynooth Castle on Saturday the 5th of December from 2pm-5pm. This promises to be another brilliant family event.

Nollaig Shona

I would like to wish everybody a Nollaig Shona and a Prosperous New Year. Thank you for all of your support in 2015 and I look forward to working even harder in 2016.

Representations

Cllr. Ó Cearúil has been making representations on behalf of residents on a range of issues. If you have an issue or need advice please get in contact. Areas covered to date include;

- Local Issues
- Grants for Older People
- College Grants (SUSI)
- Housing Issues
- Planning Issues
- Medical Card Issues
- Business Start Ups

You can contact Naoise by telephone on (086) 728 0050, email cllrnaoise@gmail.com or via facebook.com/naoiseoceanuil

Right turning lanes off Straffan Road

One issue that many constituents contacted me on recently was the fear of losing the right turning lanes into Silken Vale, Old Greenfield and Kingsbry. This stemmed from an NTA proposal to prioritise cycle lanes in the town. All across the County the NTA are bringing forward projects which may have worthy goals but are not taking sufficient account of local realities. I am delighted that my colleagues on the Maynooth local area committee voted down this proposal. I understand that traffic continues to be an issue in the town and I am engaging with the engineer and roads teams to try address some of the bottlenecks at the many junctions.

GaelCholáiste in North Kildare

Another issue that was raised with me was the need for a GaelCholáiste in North Kildare. I attended a packed meeting on this issue in Leixlip in November and pledged my support to the parents and the committee who are working hard to achieve this goal.

Need to invest in Transport Network

Kildare commuters will be faced with increasing delays in the coming weeks and months due to growing traffic congestion, warns Cllr James Lawless. The Fianna Fáil Dáil candidate for Kildare North made the comments following a week of traffic chaos for Kildare commuters following the closure of the M50 last Wednesday. Delays were faced on the N4 and N7 in recent

mornings. Cllr Lawless is himself a commuter and he has consistently called for greater investment in public and commuter transport infrastructure. "The long delays faced by commuters across Kildare recently with the wild weather, and tragically with accidents, demonstrates that we have a growing problem with traffic in the Greater Dublin Area," said Cllr Lawless. "I have been consistently raising transport issues for commuters over the last 10 years. The failure to invest in public transport will only compound the long delays that commuters are now experiencing on a daily basis. This is having an impact on people's quality of life, and is also putting potential investors off doing business in the Dublin area."

"Unfortunately gridlock is going to become a persistent problem for Kildare commuters. The M50 is already over capacity despite the fact that it acts as the main route to north and south Dublin alongside the city centre itself. Any accident along the route has the potential to shut down all roads across the Greater Dublin Area."

"Commuters are growing increasingly frustrated with the excessive delays they are expected to endure just to get to work. I have been contacted by people who had to endure a five hour commute last week as the traffic came to a standstill. On the previous day many people were caught up in significant delays on the N7 due to an accident. Such delays are becoming increasingly common. I reiterate my call on the Government to

invest in our transport infrastructure to alleviate the congestion on the M50. The Government should be investing in projects such as DART Underground to take the pressure off the M50 and make it easier for Kildare commuters to get to work. Serious consideration must also be given to the idea of creating an 'outer M50' orbital route to help relieve pressure on the current road. I called for this at a Fianna Fáil Transport Conference only in February of this year" Note, a copy of the transport policy presentation by Cllr Lawless can be found here: <http://kildarefiannafail.com/cllr-lawless-transport-policy-presentation/>

Rates concession for living "in the town"

I put forward a motion calling for Kildare County Council to consider a scheme whereby rates concessions be granted to retail main street properties where upstairs floors are used for residential use. I think concession rates for those living in the upstairs of main street properties would encourage more people to live on our main streets and breathe some life back into our town centres, if we were to encourage people to convert vacant space into residential space. This would give a big boost to towns like Maynooth and Naas.

Feel free to contact me on mobile 086 834 8869, by email on james@jameslawless.ie, or find me on FaceBook at 'jamesLawlessFF'

Radical action needed to address Kildare housing needs - O'Rourke

Fianna Fáil General Election candidate for Kildare North Cllr Frank O'Rourke is calling on Kildare County Council to allocate land banks in its possession for the construction of social housing. Cllr O'Rourke says such a measure would allow the local authority to work alongside private partnerships in order to increase its housing stock and provide much needed accommodation for people at risk of becoming homeless.

"We are in the midst of a serious housing crisis and the predictions are that the number of people needing accommodation will outstrip supply for the coming years. This crisis has already led to an increase in the number of people living in emergency accommodation in Kildare, and the lack of

housing supply has led to a major spike in rents," said Cllr O'Rourke. "From meeting with people on the campaign trail it's perfectly clear to me that housing is one of the greatest concerns for the public. People feel that not enough is being done to overcome the crisis." This is understandable when you consider the fact that there are currently 6,681 on the housing waiting list and the number is growing by the day.

"Only 11 new houses were added to Kildare County Council's housing stock between 2011 and 2014." This is down from 791 houses which were provided to people on housing waiting lists between 2007 and 2010. The Government is failing in its obligation to provide quality and affordable housing to people in need. "Kildare County Council is finding it difficult to get to grips with the housing crisis in the face of rapidly rising

demand. I firmly believe that there needs to be a co-ordinated public-private partnership effort to help boost housing supply in the county. I am calling on our local authority to allocate land banks for housing, and to bring in outside expertise in order to speed up the design and construction process. This needs to be backed up with firm financial support from Government."

Govt. betrayal on prescription charges continues - O'Rourke

Fianna Fáil General Election candidate for Kildare North Cllr Frank O'Rourke has accused the Government of continuing to betray medical card holders following the announcement of Budget 2016. Cllr O'Rourke pointed out that Fine Gael and

(Continued on page 12)

Fianna Fáil Notes December 2015 (Cont.)

(Continued from page 11)

Labour have overseen a five-fold increase in prescription charges despite promising to abolish them altogether four years ago.

"Many people took former Minister for Health James Reilly at his word when he promised to abolish prescription charges in 2011. Instead he decided to treble the charge to €1.50 in 2013, and then added another euro a year later, bringing the charge to €2.50 per item." This massive hike in prescription charges is particularly cruel on many older people who rely on medication on a daily basis. "Fine Gael and Labour insisted that economic circumstances meant it was necessary to triple prescription charges, despite independent analysis showing that there were fairer options open to the Government at the time. However again people took the Government at its word, but they are angry to realise that they have been betrayed yet again.

"The Government had the option to abolish these deeply unfair prescription charges as part of Budget 2016. However they decided not to do this and haven't even reduced the charge by one cent." It's deeply disappointing for countless older people who were hoping that this unfair charge would be lifted as part of the budget. "I am calling on our Government TD's here in Kildare to speak some sense to their Minister's. This charge is continuing to cause deep upset amongst medical card holders and it should be abolished without any further delay," said Cllr O'Rourke.

O'Rourke outlines key priorities for General Election campaign

"Working for You, New Voice, New Choice and New Ideas"
As your Fianna Fail candidate, and as we edge closer to the

election, I feel it is important that I outline the following: Since getting elected to Kildare Co Co, I have worked hard to improve the conditions for the people that I represent. My work ethic is recognised by most, and I believe that we have made some significant achievements that have had a positive impact on our community.

During my canvass, I have captured the many and varied issues that are affecting us; namely the Housing Crisis, Special Needs Assistants and Pupil Teacher Ratios, Health Services, Child Care, Supports for our Older People, assisting Rural Communities and measures to support our small business. As a first time Dail candidate, taken together with my experience as a councillor, my approach will offer you a new way of dealing with these issues and will offer a new choice on your ballot paper.

As your local Fianna Fail candidate, I will continue to work on the issues raised with me during my recent canvass.

While an economic recovery is underway, people across Kildare are still seriously struggling to see a single improvement in their quality of life. The cost of living is on the increase, people's variable mortgages repayments are higher than they should be, rents have surged in recent years and childcare bills have spiralled out of control. Meanwhile wages have stagnated despite people working harder than ever. I believe there is a much fairer way forward – a way that rewards hard working families, that gives back to communities and that supports pensioners who have spent decades paying their taxes.

People are looking for leadership and a new way forward. I will be a strong voice for people in Kildare.

I also hold a weekly clinic each Monday in the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth and I encourage people to visit me if they need any assistance.

Please feel free to contact me, should you wish to raise any local or national issues.

Councillor Frank O'Rourke



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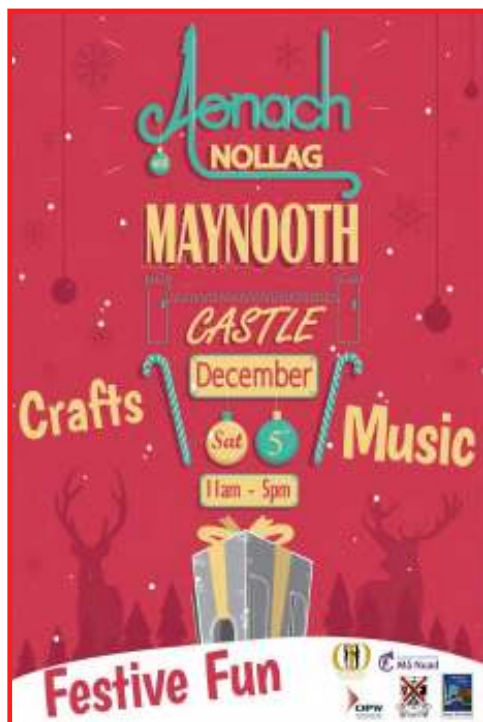
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Aonach na Nollag Maynooth Castle

Saturday December 5th - 11am - 5pm

We at Maynooth Festival Committee with the help of organisations and societies in Maynooth University are holding an Irish/English Christmas Fair in the grounds of Maynooth Castle.

Small businesses and hobbyists will showcase and sell their crafts and food alongside artists and painters.

Carol singing, fun entertainers and musicians will all be in attendance, as well as the man himself, Mr. Claus!

We hope to create a festive weekend that the public can enjoy and in turn support local businesses in the town.

Maynooth Flower & Garden Club Christmas Flower Festival

In St Mary's Catholic Church, Maynooth

On Saturday 12th - 11am - 6pm

& Sunday 13th 2pm - 5pm

Christmas Carol Service

On Sunday 13th - 8pm

In St Mary's Catholic Church, Maynooth

Admission €10 including tea/cake

Teas, craft and raffle in Boy's National School all Weekend

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

PUBLIC MEETING

GLENROYAL, MAYNOOTH

DECEMBER 8th, 8PM

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Colm Keaveney TD

Fianna Fáil Mental Health Spokesperson

Colm is a Fianna Fáil TD for Galway East and is the party representative on Mental Health and Special Needs. Before his entry into elected politics, Colm was a Trade Union representative and former president of the Union of Students in Ireland.



Dr Ciarán McMahon

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Dr Ciarán McMahon is an Information Security Consultant and award-winning academic psychologist. Ciarán has long been enthusiastic about online safety. In 2013 he developed evidence-based anti-cyberbullying resources for Safer Internet Day. Dr McMahon has worked at a number of third level institutions, most recently at the RCSI CyberPsychology Research Centre. Ciarán will be talking about evidence-based ways in which parents, teachers, and the community as a whole can keep our children safe and secure online.



Cllr. James Lawless

Chairperson

James is a Councillor and is a member of Fianna Fáil Justice and Law Reform policy group. A qualified barrister, James made a submission to the Law Reform Commission last year on updating legislation to cover internet crime including on-line harassment and cyber-bullying. James is the Fianna Fáil candidate for the next general election in Kildare North.



Cllr. JAMES LAWLESS

Working with Frank O'Rourke in Kildare North

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**Happy Christmas &
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From The Executive &
Members of Maynooth
Community Council**

Merry Christmas

WING TSUN - IEWTO

Maynooth

Self – Defence Class

Venue: Maynooth Community Space
Unit 11 Carton Park (Tesco)
Shopping Centre
Maynooth



Class Times

Wednesday 8 - 10pm

Sunday 10am - 12pm

Class Sizes Limited

Instructor

Si-Hing Barry Smith 1st HG

Contact - Barry Smith

Phone: 087 4504869

E-Mail: barrysmith265@gmail.com



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CHRISTMAS RECIPES

ROAST TURKEY WITH THYME AND ONION STUFFING

- 7kg turkey, oven ready
- Salt, pepper and a little flour
- 2 tablespoons of butter softened
- 8 slices of streaky bacon

STUFFING

- 450g breadcrumbs
- 6 tablespoons fresh parsley chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme chopped
- 1 medium onion, cut into quarters
- Salt and black pepper
- 150g butter melted



Put the breadcrumbs, herbs, onions, salt and pepper in a bowl and pour in melted butter. Mix together and set aside. Set the oven to 200C or Gas 7 and stuff the turkey by loosening the skin at the neck end and packing the stuffing in. Season the turkey with salt and pepper and dust with a little flour. Rub all over with the butter, then lay the bacon slices on the breast, overlapping each other. Wrap in foil and roast in the pre heated oven, 30–40 minutes per kg. Baste a couple of times during roasting and uncover for the last 30 minutes.. Check to make sure its cooked by inserting a skewer into the thickest part of the leg and make sure the juices run clear.

HAM WITH PORT ORANGE AND REDCURRANT GLAZE

- 1 whole ham
- 1–2 carrots chopped
- 1–2 sticks of celery, chopped
- 1 onion halved
- 1 tablespoon peppercorns
- 1 bay leaf and 1 tablespoon of whole cloves



GLAZE

- Zest and juice of 1/2 and orange and 1/2 a lemon
- 1/4 teaspoon of allspice and 1 large cinnamon stick
- 4 tablespoons of redcurrant jelly
- 2 tablespoons of muscovado sugar
- 2 tablespoons of port

Cover ham with cold water and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer for approx 3 hours. Reserve some cooking liquid. Place all the glaze ingredients in a pan and heat gently until sugar is dissolved. Bring to a boil and cook rapidly to form a syrup. Remove skin from ham, place in roasting dish and score fat into diamond shapes. Place a clove in the centre of each diamond. Brush with glaze, add a ladle of reserved stock to keep meat moist and bake for about 40 minutes at 200C Gas mark 6

A Very Merry Christmas to All

NASA's List of Best Houseplants

Last month we explored the latest scientific research on the many benefits of houseplants. They purify the air, reduce blood pressure and other symptoms of stress and tension, ease headaches and allergies, filter mould and bacteria, decrease sick days, and improve productivity.

Keeping the air inside clean and healthy is especially important in the winter when we keep the windows and doors sealed as tightly as possible. But which houseplants are best? Some plants are better than others at filtering chemicals and bacteria in the air. NASA has done extensive studies to determine which houseplants are best at cleaning our air, and many of them are both hardy and beautiful. These plants top the list for removing indoor pollutants.



Peace lily (Spathiphyllum wallisii): Very visually appealing, this plant boasts one of the highest transpiration rates as well. They do well in shade and prefer cooler temperatures, so they are ideal in the home. They don't require much watering – weekly is plenty unless it starts drooping, and in the winter you can water less frequently.



English ivy (Hedera helix): Incredibly adaptable and easy to grow, it also tops NASA's list as the best plant for filtering formaldehyde from the air. It works as a floor plant but makes an especially lovely hanging display. They prefer bright to medium light. It doesn't like overly wet soil, so let it dry out between waterings.

Snake plant/mother-in-law's tongue (Sansevieria trifasciata 'Laurentii'): One of the hardiest and most tolerant indoor plants, they don't require much light or water. Also, these plants absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen at night (while most plants do this during the day), so add one to your bedroom for a clean air boost at night. They'll filter a lot of the toxins released by your carpet and furniture. Let the soil dry out a bit between waterings.



Red-edged dracaena (Dracaena marginata): Attractive and effective at purifying the air of solvents and varnishes, this plant prefers bright, indirect light but may tolerate medium light. It is prone to rot if overwatered, so don't water until at least the top inch of soil is dry. Equally, it will wilt if the soil is left to thoroughly dry out.

Spider plant (Chlorophytum comosum): These resilient plants are difficult to kill on top of being powerful purifiers. Many people keep them near fireplaces to deal with the carbon monoxide. They tolerate a variety of conditions but prefer bright, indirect light and cooler temperatures. Keep them well watered but don't allow them to become soggy – allow the soil to dry a little between waterings.



Weeping fig (Ficus benjamina): A ficus is great at filtering many common pollutants that accompany carpeting and furniture, but it can be one of the trickier houseplants to care for. They prefer bright indirect light and cannot tolerate low temperatures or drafts. Cold drafts from windows and doors can kill them, so keep them someplace warm. Misting the leaves helps maintain their humidity, but they don't like wet roots so check if the soil is dry before watering.

Bamboo palm (Chamaedorea sefrizii): It easily fits into smaller areas with indirect lighting. It's one of the best air filters for benzene and trichloroethylene, and it releases moisture into the air which is great at combating problems from stale air. They do not require much care. Water when the soil surface feels dry until it is evenly moist. Do not overwater it or leave it sitting in water.



Golden pothos (Scindapsus aureus): This undemanding and easy to care for plant makes the NASA list for its ability to clear formaldehyde from the air, and it's effective at eliminating carbon monoxide. Try adding it to your kitchen or sitting room as a hanging plant and letting the leaves grow down in cascading vines. These curious plants tolerate bright indirect light or even very low light (people grow them in their garage or bathroom), and they can live in dry soil or vases of water. This is a

great choice for people new to houseplants.

Aloe (Aloe vera): This easy-to-grow, sun-loving succulent helps clear formaldehyde and benzene, which can be a by-product of chemical-based cleaners, paints and more. Aloe is a smart choice for a sunny kitchen window. Beyond its air-clearing abilities, the gel inside an aloe plant can help heal cuts and burns.

If you want functional, beautiful home decorations that will improve your health and happiness, consider adding some of these houseplants. NASA recommends one plant per 100sq feet.



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Ex Maynooth Town Schoolboy makes Irish International Debut

Alex Kelly made his full International debut
for the Ireland U16's on the 3rd of November
against Wales in the home nations Victory
Shield tournament hosted in Newport
Stadium Wales.

Alex played for Maynooth Town at U7, U8,
U9 & U10 under managers Kevin Judge,
Paul Hartnett & Liam Walsh.
Congratulations to Alex from all at MTAFC
& wishing him every success in his future
career.



TECHNOLOGY CORNER

TIPS, TRICKS, AND WHAT'S NEW IN THE WORLD OF TECH



Online Learning: Technology's role in improving our minds

Christmas and New Year's Day are coming, which often involves examining the events of the past year and thinking about hopes for the year coming. No matter where we are in our lives, there's always room for improvement, and the Internet is making it easier than ever before to broaden our horizons, increase our skills, and discover and develop new interests.

Basic home DIY has become accessible to a wide range of people thanks to the Internet. People can teach themselves how their computer works and how to build a new one. Anyone struggling for dinner ideas has access to a world of recipes online. Thousands of videos offer detailed instructions to budding artists of all kinds. Many people now carry the Internet with them in their pocket due to the spread of smartphones, so people who get a flat can look up detailed step-by-step videos demonstrating how to change a tyre on the spot if they are unsure.

For all its other uses, the Internet has become a powerful tool for education and learning. More and more people are using it to brush up on things they learned in school or to learn brand new skills for both fun and for opening up a wider range of job opportunities.



In recent years, a lot of research has been done on how people learn and how the brain changes through learning. Scientists used to believe that the brain was a physiologically static organ that was fully developed by our teens, so we couldn't change or improve it as adults. However, we have now come to realise that this idea is wrong thanks to studies in neuroplasticity. Neuroplasticity refers to the brain's ability to reorganise itself and to form new neural connections throughout the lifespan. Your brain never stops changing; our neural pathways and synapses change as we develop new skills and change our behaviour, environment, and emotions.

This is having a big impact on how we view learning and education. For instance, a common myth in school is that some students are "maths and sciences" people while others are "arts" people. Did you ever think that you were just "bad" at maths or just don't have the head for it while other people seem innately mathematical? It's a widespread notion but an incorrect one. The ability to use mathematics is a skill just like any other, and anyone can become good at it with practice.



Online learning platforms are making it easier than ever to develop new strengths or to work on subjects that might have proven difficult in school or at university. Some of the biggest advances in learning are being made in MOOCs – Massive Open Online Courses. A MOOC is an online course that offers unlimited participation and open access through the web.

Despite being online, they offer many traditional course resources such as filmed lectures, readings, and problem sets. However, they have the added benefit of interactive user forums that foster discussion between professors, teaching assistants, and students from all around the world. The popularity of MOOCs is a relatively recent phenomenon, but their success has inspired a huge growth in the world of education.

The MOOC craze originated as many elite universities throughout the world began making some of their courses available for distance learning. The popularity of these courses led universities to start creating courses specifically designed for distance learning while opening them to the public. In 2011, Stanford University launched 3 courses, the first of which was called Introduction to AI. Course enrolment quickly topped 160,000, and the popularity of these courses led those involved to create Udacity and Coursera, two of the biggest MOOC providers.

Those looking to save money during the holidays are in luck as there are many free online learning platforms available. Major MOOC providers tend to operate off of a freemium model – for most courses, the content is accessible for free. Some providers then charge a fee for premium services, such as getting an official certification or statement of distinction. Others offer free introductory or "gateway" courses with the more advanced, follow-up courses having a fee. There are countless free courses available, though, so budget doesn't always have to be a concern in furthering your education.

Best MOOC Providers

The mission of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is to provide free and open higher education to anyone in the world with access to the Internet. The majority of the world's top 100 elite universities are now offering MOOCs through the course platforms listed below.

This is a golden opportunity to learn from the world's leading professors. There are thousands of universities worldwide now providing free courses online. If you are looking to add to your resume, consider the accreditation options that many of these platforms offer. However, it's not all about jobs or money as these courses can help you learn new knowledge and skills that will make you a more well-rounded and intelligent person. Here are some of the top MOOC providers.

Coursera (coursera.org)



Coursera, founded in 2012 by two Stanford University professors, is the largest course platform for free MOOCs. They have the most diverse course selection of all the MOOC providers, offering courses in physics, engineering, humanities, medicine, biology, social sciences, mathematics, business, computer science, digital marketing, data science and other subjects. They currently have 133 partner universities, including Stanford, Princeton, and Oxford. Coursera is the best option for a general interest MOOC browser searching for something to catch their interest.

Udacity (udacity.com)



Udacity was founded by Sebastian Thrun, a former Stanford computer science professor and the creator of the artificial intelligence system behind Google's self-driving cars. Udacity's focus is on college-level courses for building and

applying your knowledge of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines. Udacity's freeware MOOCs work best for very self-directed learners who just want to watch the videos and try the exercises, particularly in skills based programming and computer science classes. They have mobile apps for iOS and Android.

edX (edx.org)



edX is a newer MOOC platform developed through a partnership between Harvard and MIT. They have now formed a partnership with Google to allow any teacher to create their own interactive online courses at MOOC.org. It differs from Udacity and Coursera in that it is a non-profit organisation running on open-source software. It has a particularly strong offering of science courses from elite schools.

FutureLearn (futurelearn.com)



FutureLearn is the first UK-based platform founded by the creators of The Open University. Prior to its launch, few British universities had run online courses, and part of FutureLearn's mission is to provide a space for UK institutions in the world of online learning. It is partnered with 54 UK and international universities, and unlike other platforms, it has four non-university partners: the British Museum, the British Council, the British Library, and the National Film and Television School.

Khan Academy (khanacademy.org)

Khan Academy is not strictly speaking a MOOC provider because it offers a la carte educational resources, allowing you to pick and choose lessons rather than enrol in a structured course. However, it deserves a mention as a well-established educational platform whose stated mission is to provide a world-class education to anyone, anywhere. It produces short lectures in the form of youtube videos. As well as these micro-lectures, it offers practice exercises, progress tracking, and tools for teachers. All content is free to use.

It is a great time to look into the world of online education while the winter days are short and dreary and we're spending more time indoors. MOOCs are now a widespread and established phenomenon that are becoming increasingly recognised by employers and universities. They also offer a fun and engaging way to improve your skills and broaden your horizons.



Have a happy and festive end of the year, and may 2016 bring you further wonders of science and technology!

Disclaimer: everything on this page is written in good faith and provided for general purposes only. While every effort is made to ensure the information here is accurate, technology is always changing, so please use your own discretion. Maynooth Community Council is not legally responsible for any damage or data loss you may incur through use or application of the information in these articles.

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December Diary Planner

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

History Group

Meetings every last Thursday of the month in Maynooth Community Council Office Tesco Shopping Centre at 8.00pm. All Welcome

Community Library

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

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. Contact Katherine Cooney 086 8205910

I.C.A.

Monthly 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

Arthritis Ireland

Arthritis Ireland Walking Group (Maynooth) Meeting Monday's at 12 Noon Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth For Seated Exercise & Walking New Members Welcome

University of Third Age (U3A)

Weekly meetings on Fridays at 11am in Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth New Members Welcome

Maynooth Parent & Toddler Group

Every Thursday from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth

Maynooth Tidy Towns

Volunteers required to help with this work. Contact Number 087 3153189

Men's Sheds

Weekly meetings take place every Wednesday at 11am at the Garden Centre Dublin Road Maynooth. For further details contact John Fleming 087 2041334

Maynooth Community Church

1st Floor Manor Mills (entrance next to Chill) Service times every Sunday morning from 10.30 am www.maynoothcc.org Everyone most welcome

Kildare Intercultural Action Group (KIA)

Meetings takes place 3rd Saturday of the month at 3pm. In Maynooth Community Space Tesco SC Carton Park Maynooth For further information. Contact Maeve at 0873459185 www.facebook.com/kiamaynooth



Drama News
An Nuadha Players
Community Theatre

*Happy Christmas and a peaceful
New Year to all our followers*

Funny things happen round this time of year. Fires lighting in grates. Lovely smells of cake mixture, Christmas pudding and brandy. Mmmmm! Smashing. Children writing letters to Santa. "Yes, yes, Santa I really am very very good and I'm getting better by the minute. I know there was that unfortunate incident when I took the saddle from Daddy's bike and forget to tell him. One more operation and he should be walking straight again. Hope you got that letter I sent you Santa. Daddy put it in the fire and the smoke containing my message swept up the chimney and made its way to you in the North Pole. Daddy does this with most of his post now especially the letters marked UISCE.

I will leave out the usual stuff for you, 20 cigarettes and a rasher sandwich. I will have to think of something special for the reindeer. Our teacher in school told us that reindeer have 4 stomachs. Which one will the reindeer be travelling with this Christmas? Didl sell reindeer food suitable for all stomachs.

Nearly forgot Santa I'm going to the panto in Maynooth. It's called the Snow Queen. It's put on by An Nuadha layabouts – at least I think that's what they're called. It's written by this man who lives near me called Higgins. I think he is a brother of our President. You won't know Maynooth when you get here - we have more traffic light than Christmas trees. It's great gas all together."

Somebody sort out that child. Here are the real facts on our panto 2015.

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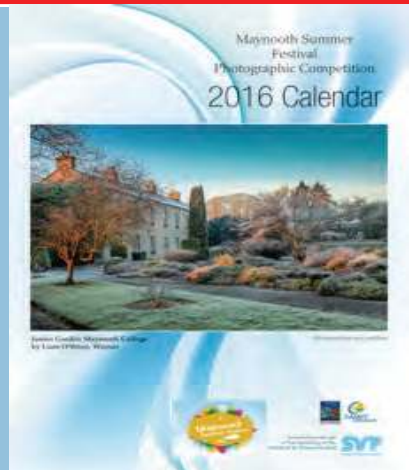
• We list your school •

Maynooth Photographic Calendar 2016

The Photography Competition held during the Summer Festival was a resounding success. So much so, it was suggested on the Maynooth Festival facebook page by a local that a calendar be created to benefit a local charity – and that is just what we did! **Maynooth Summer Festival, Photographic Competition, 2016 Calendar is now available for purchase!**

For the sum of €10, with profits going to SVP to be spent locally, you will not find a better advertisement for the town this year! We urge you all to get a copy – not only to keep yourself organised but to help other people in our community get much needed aid.

The Calendar can be bought at **MCC/Newsletter Offices**. It will also be on sale at other outlets yet to be confirmed – keep up to date with where, by visiting our facebook page - Maynooth Festival.



Maynooth Town FC Lotto Results 2015

www.maynoothtownfc.com - Join Us On Facebook

W/End	Numbers	Jackpot	3 x €35 Winners
06-Sep	3,4,23,26	€2,550	Mick & Mags - Terry Hinds - Kenneth Kenny
13-Sep	4,5,22,26	€2,600	Damien Bracken - Phillip Hynes - Sean Mahon
20-Sep	1,10,23,27	€2,650	Ann Ruane - Orla Mc Mahon - Miriam Maher
27-Sep	7,15,20,25	€2,700	Gina Folan - Tozzie - Ollie Durack
04-Oct	6,11,14,27	€2,750	Maurice Byrne - Leisa Garvey - Mary Mc Grath
11-Oct	4,7,8,16	€2,800	John Gannon - Tom Monnelly - Michael O Rourke
18-Oct	6,7,22,26	€2,850	Aidan & Siobhan O'Brien - Mick Ryan - Viv Mc Tiernan
25-Oct	7,14,23,24	€2,900	Gillian Ledwith - Noel Donovan - Conor Macken
01-Nov	1,6,7,17	€2,950	Paul Daly - Edel Stone - Nula Mc Tiernan
08-Nov	3,15,20,23	€3,000	Tim Cronin - Mary Cullen - John Daly
15-Nov	4,7,9,24	€3,050	Melia & Cotter - Tree Pin - John Saults

Maynooth GAA Club Lotto Results

E-mail Secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.com to join

Week	Numbers	Jackpot	3 x €25 winners
20-Oct	11, 13,14,18	€3,350	Clann Ui Cheallaigh, Martin O'Sullivan, Pat Power
27-Oct	1, 6, 18, 22	€3,400	Scott Wallace, M O'Corcora, Michael Lynch
04-Nov	1, 13, 20, 22	€3,450	John Bryne/Anne Finn, Patricia Sweeney & Noel McKenna
11-Nov	14, 19, 23, 24	€3,500	Mary McCourt, Antoinette Murray, Anthony Casey
18-Nov	6, 7, 10, 16	€3,550	Brendan Farrell, Barbara Jordan, Gerry Egan

Photographs taken during Maynooth Boys Camps in Kilmuckridge, Co. Wexford 1968-1972.
Can our readers identify the lads of 40 years plus ago ?





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SWITCH YOUR LOANS OR CREDIT CARD BALANCE TO US *and save*

Jane had an AIB loan of €7,500, repaying €320.61 per month, a PTSB loan of €4,250, repaying €298.32 per month and an outstanding balance of €3,000 on an AIB credit card with minimum monthly repayments at €150. She switched her total debts of €14,750 to Naas Credit Union, paying €463.93 per month over 3 years. That's a reduction in her monthly outgoings of €305!*

20 North Main Street, Naas | Monread Shopping Centre: Monday-Saturday 9.30am-5pm (Open Wednesday at 11am)

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Ballymore Eustace: Open Saturday 10am-12.30pm

www.naascu.ie | 045 879 622

Naas Credit Union is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland



Cllr. James LAWLESS

KILDARE NORTH GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATE

**Best Wishes to all in Maynooth for
Christmas 2015 & New Year 2016**

✉ james@jameslawless.ie

☎ 086 834 8869

🌐 www.jameslawless.ie



MCC Christmas Concert in aid of Kildare Refugee Centre

Maynooth Community Church
is delighted to invite you to join with us
for a special evening of Christmas music
and song on

Sun 20th Dec 2015 @ 7.00pm
in Manor Mills Centre,
Maynooth
(Entrance beside Chill)

Followed by light refreshments

Donations received on the night will be in
aid of the Kildare Refugee Centre

MCC Christmas Services

Sunday 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th Dec @ 10.30am

Christmas Day (Friday 25th Dec)

Continental Breakfast 10.00am

Christmas Day Celebration 10.30-11.15am

Everyone Welcome!

For more details please visit www.maynoothcc.org

LOCAL BUSINESS EXPANDS



Maynooth Dresses officially opened their new 1500 square ft showroom, at Unit 9, M4 Interchange park (Behind BASE) on Friday Evening the 7th of November last. Maynooth Dresses is owned and run by Local Woman Antoinette O'Brien from Parklands, Maynooth.

Antoinette is over 10 years in the Communion Dress Business originally starting in her House, Showing in Hotels and finally opened her 1st showroom 3 years ago.



Maynooth Dresses is a work in progress project, where we continue to add Debs, Bridesmaid, Christening, Flower girl, Communion Dresses to their product ranges. This year with our New Bigger Showrooms, Maynooth Dresses are now able to stock Boys Communion Suits.

Maynooth Dresses is a formal specialist Shop where all our staff are locals from Maynooth. We make the buying of that dress so special and memorable! Most of our customers come to us by word of mouth because of our excellent Customer Service.

On the night Antoinette thanked especially all her family, staff and many friends who came along to wish her well, for all their help encouragement and support over the years.

See our websites www.facebook.com/maynoothcommuniondresses and www.maynoothdresses.ie for all our information.



**Antoinette, with husband Paul,
daughter Christina and son Jamie**

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask you for this special one, (mention here). Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken Heart where your father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine. Amen

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and prayer and favour will be granted, no matter how impossible.

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. ~B.C





Maynooth Town FC Academy

Crans Montana Switzerland Training Camp 2015



Maynooth Town FC Academy is the technical development program for players in Maynooth Town FC and players from other clubs living in the area. The Academy runs every Friday night and works on the individual player development with a focus on a ball per player per session. Currently the program caters for players between the ages of 4 and 16 every Friday between 6 & 9pm.

Following the success of the 1st Academy Trip to Borussia Dortmund Academy in October 2014 the benchmark was set very high for the club Director of Coaching Ciaran Quinn to deliver an even bigger and better player experience in 2015. On the 29th October 27 players and a 4 strong coaching team backed up by one of the best schoolboy coaches & UEFA Pro Licence Coaches in the world Austin Speight 'Coerver Coaching Director'. A 50 strong group of players, parents and coaches travelled high up the Swiss Alps in Crans Montana Switzerland 4920ft above sea level for a winter training camp. Players embarked on 4 days as a Pro Player Experience, going through the daily experiences as a professional player. Rising for breakfast each morning for 7am and beginning their first session at 9 to 11 players were put through their paces by Austin.



With meals set from a structured menu to support player performance to specific rest periods during the day the Academy Players were a credit to their club, parents and teams. Each afternoon players prepared for their second session of the day following a little friendly competition around the pool table. As the Academy had the hotel booked out for themselves players had been become a familiar sight around the pool table, games of pool & table tennis began at 6.30am before breakfast. These friendly games added to a very strong group of players who built on their friendship with a lifelong experience. With 3 days of coaching players spent almost 6 hours a day on the pitch and each day they finished up with either a group game between themselves & the coaching team or competed in the inaugural Academy Football Tennis Competition.

With 6 Teams in this years competition, 4 players teams, a very competitive Dads team and a coaches team. There was some very hard fought games with some very dodgy refereeing decisions. The Coaches Team of Austin Speight, Ciaran Quinn, Marcus Bailey & Darragh Murphy came out on top unbeaten for this year with the Dads holding all the other teams with 5 defeats.



All the coaching focused on Coerver Coaching technical development for each individual player built up from 1 v 1 coaching to full 11 v 11 coerver coaching phases of play. In Austin, players had an opportunity to work with a coach who has worked with players such as Frank

Lampard, Joe Cole, Steven Gerrard & Phil Jones. However it wasn't all about the pitch work as we are helping to educate players from boys to teenagers both on and off the field. Each evening players finished up with a class tutorial going through their sessions of the day, learning about the reality of Life as a Pro, Life as a coach in a pro club and for parents they found out the different side of the word up football and see how they feature in the mind-set of the professional clubs. A reality check for many seeing the harsh hitting decisions made daily by clubs and how families take a back seat in the development of their son. Austin spoke to the Players about Showtime, the moment they need to bring their best game to the pitch and what makes some players able to play in Old Trafford when others of stronger ability can not cope playing on the big stage, working through the mental game.



The final day saw two sessions for players followed by an outing up the Valais region 7,500ft up the cable car to a restaurant called Les Violettes. Breath-taking views and photos for all as players and parents enjoyed with lunch and treats over the 2 hours. As many embarked on the 60 minute hike back down to take in the scenery, others stayed on to watch the sun go down over the Mont Blanc in the distance. A truly fantastic way to end the last bit of sunlight on the trip.

This year saw the launch of the second inaugural competition with the Pool Competition taking centre stage each evening between 8 and 9pm before curfew to rooms at 9pm. With a pairs format this year we saw a Knockout Tournament rolled out from the Thursday evening. Each evening players lined up and chalked their cue to pot the black. The final was held on the last night right after the 1st semi final of Luke Kosinski & Eoin Creighton versus Liam Folan & Darragh Murphy. Having kept the opposition waiting Eoin arrived ready to play just before Luke had to go it alone, some say he was trying to make the opposition wait in fear. With Folan & Murphy keeping their cool and coming out on top they awaited their opposition into the finals. The second semi final saw 2 coaches Ciaran Quinn &



Marcus Bailey take on the very strong and unbeaten over the few days Mark Hughes & Ben Hilliard. Mark & Ben kept to the table over the few days practicing from 6.30 am. They fought hard in a game that saw the coaches come out on top this time around. The Final immediately came up after the semis as Ciaran broke for the final game. With a tough game ahead there were some early pots heaping the pressure on across both teams. As the final balls remained, Murphy narrowly missed the black ball leaving Ciaran an opportunity to clear up. Having potted one he set up well for the second and as he played a long pot down the table the red ball ricochet off the

pocket and travelled back down the table and dropped into the pocket. Luck if there was ever anyway. Having lined up for the black, a miscued white saw the white ball potted and as Liam Folan set it back up, it was Showtime, his moment to shine to win the inaugural tournament, he steadied his nerve and cued back up the table to pot the black and win the tournament. There were cheers around the table as the youngest player on the trip won out.

The Final evening also saw the annual academy quiz with 50 questions set out, despite last years cheating by some parents, this year was a clean competition with Ben Hilliard, Mark Hughes & Donal Wade coming out on top with the help of Helen Hughes & Olwyn Hilliard. A fun end to a fantastic trip for all. As the evening came to an end, players had their final laughs and jokes before heading to bed for the 6am departure the next morning on the bus back to Geneva.

On the bus journey back questions were asked how do you better this one, where to next? Well we are delighted to say that 2016 will see two Academy Trips. One to Borussia Dortmund for a training camp for players aged 7 to 11 at the February mid term break which is now open for bookings for all Academy Players. As we start our new 10 week term on November 20th it is a great opportunity to get involved and improve your technical skills. We are also now finalising an even bigger trip for the older group to a training facility and accommodation in Spain used by clubs such as Real Madrid, Barcelona, Ajax, Borussia Dortmund, Arsenal to name a few and many top National Teams such as Spain & Germany. This will be a 5 day trip in November 2016 and we will be releasing details of this trip shortly open to players in the Academy aged 12 & up. Ciaran said building on the player experiences is important and it 'gives them life long memories, shared with friends and is all built around the local club'.

The Academy is made up of coaches who played for the



club throughout their schoolboy days and as they embark on their coaching badges they are excited to see the opportunities younger players have now that they didn't have themselves. With the Coerver Coaching Partnership in full swing, the club is seeing a strong coaching standard across the club with 22 managers having now done their Coerver Coaching Introductory Certificates. Austin Speight said after the trip in a letter to the club chairman Gerry Folan, 'Just a brief note to congratulate the club, yourself & Ciaran Quinn on the recent player's trip to Crans Montana, Switzerland. As an experienced football coach, who has travelled on many pro club trips, this was one of the best I have been on.

The planning, organisation, venue, hotel & most of all the players were superb. The players were a huge credit to the club in their behaviour on and off the pitch. On the pitch they listened, worked hard and very easy for me to coach'

To book in the Academy, check out the website www.maynoothtownfcacademy.weebly.com or call up to the college Astro on a Friday evening from 6pm & see Ciaran or Paul. We have just a few places available for the new term. .

Know Your Rights

The New Passport Card

Question

I heard there is a new passport card. Does it replace the passport book? How can I get one?

Answer

No, the new credit-card sized Irish passport card does not replace the passport book. You can use the new passport card for travel within the European Union, the European Economic Area (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Switzerland. For all other travel you must use your passport book.

To apply for the passport card you must be aged 18 or over when applying. It is not available for children. You must hold a valid Irish passport book and the personal details you provide when applying must be exactly the same as those on your passport book. The card is valid for a maximum of five years or for the time remaining on your passport book if this is less than five years.

You can apply for the passport card online on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website, dfa.ie, or you can use the Department's passport app for smartphones and tablets. The card costs €35 and there is an additional delivery charge of €5 if you are applying from outside Ireland.

When making the application you will need:

- Your valid passport book
- Your photograph in digital form (it must meet the required passport standard)
- A debit or credit card

You can track your application's progress on the Department's website using the application number issued when you apply.

Microchipping of dogs

Question

Our puppy has an identification disc on her collar. Does she need this, or should we just get her microchipped? What are the rules?

Answer

Under the Control of Dogs Acts 1986 and 1992, dogs must at all times wear a collar with the name and address of the owner inscribed on it or on a plate, badge or disc, so you are right to have an identification disc on your puppy's collar. However, you must also get her microchipped and registered on an authorised database under the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015.

Since September 2015, all newborn pups must be microchipped and registered. From 31 March 2016, the Regulations will apply to all dogs. Even if a dog has already been microchipped (for a pet passport, for instance) it will now have to be registered on an authorised database as well. The microchip can only be implanted by a vet, a

veterinary nurse or a person who has been trained by one of the authorised databases. The microchip contains a unique 15-digit number. When you register with an authorised database, this number will be recorded on it along with your name and address details. This means that, if your dog goes missing and is found, you can be identified as the owner and be reunited with your dog.

If you move house, you will need to update your contact details on the database. If you plan to buy a new dog, the seller will have to give you its certificate of registration and you should forward it to the relevant database to get the details updated.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has published a list of authorised databases, along with a set of Frequently Asked Questions on agriculture.gov.ie.

Enforcing your employment rights

Question

What are the new employment rights structures? How can I make a complaint about my employer?

Answer

Since 1 October 2015, the organisations involved in employment rights enforcement are the Workplace Relations Commission and the Labour Court.

The Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) is where all complaints are first made. All hearings are now heard by a single WRC adjudicator. The Labour Court deals with all workplace relations appeals, so you may appeal to it against the decisions of an adjudicator.

If you wish to make a complaint about breaches of employment legislation you must use the online complaint form available on workplacelrelations.ie. You use the same form to make complaints about breaches of equal status legislation. However, for equal status complaints, you must first (in writing) notify the person or organisation that you are complaining about that you plan to lodge a complaint against them.

When you fill out the form you will be asked for contact and other details for yourself and your employer. You will be asked to indicate the general area in which the complaint falls (for example, pay, hours of work and so on). Then you will be asked to select the nature of the complaint. For example, under pay it may be non-receipt of a payslip. You will be asked for some other details. You will need to set out your complaint in your own words. When you have completed the form you can submit it electronically to the Workplace Relations Commission.

You can read a list of frequently asked questions about making a complaint on workplacelrelations.ie.

If you need information about employment law and your employment rights you can contact the

Workplace Relations Commission's Information and Customer Service.

Half-rate Carer's Allowance

Question

My husband is getting a payment for me with his pension. My mother is in poor health and I have been caring for her for the last year. Can I qualify for a carer's payment and how will it affect my husband's pension?

Answer

If your husband is claiming an Increase for a Qualified Adult for you with his pension, you can apply for a half-rate Carer's Allowance. If you qualify, you can keep the Increase for a Qualified Adult in full. This will not affect your husband's pension.

You must meet the qualifying criteria for Carer's Allowance. For example, your mother must require full-time care and attention and you must satisfy a means test. You can read more about the conditions for Carer's Allowance on citizensinformation.ie.

To apply fill in an application form for Carer's Allowance (CR1). You can get this form online or from your local Intreo centre, social welfare local office or Citizens Information Centre. The form includes a medical report, which must be signed by the person receiving care and completed by their doctor.

Note that the application form for Carer's Allowance asks for a lot of detailed information from you. The Department of Social Protection has to work out your income and the income of your husband to assess the means of your household. The Department must also examine the medical condition of your mother to decide if she needs full-time care and attention. In addition, the Department must be satisfied that you, the carer, are providing full-time care and attention and are able to do so. You can get help with filling in the form from your local Citizens Information Centre. If you satisfy the conditions for Carer's Allowance it will be awarded at half of the rate that would apply if you were not getting any other payment. You will also be eligible for the Respite Care Grant and a Free Travel Pass.

Further information is available from the Citizens Information Centre below.

**Maynooth CIC
Dublin Road
Maynooth**

Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service which provides a free and confidential service to the public. Information is also available online at citizensinformation.ie and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000.

Sudoku Challenge

Difficult

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

Win a €10 book voucher if you are the first entry drawn with both puzzles correct.

Send completed puzzles to
Maynooth Newsletter
Unit 5 Tesco S/C Maynooth
 Collect prize from Newsletter Office

Super Difficult

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

**Congratulations to
November's Winner:**

Geetha Tutte
The Green
Moyglare Hall
Maynooth

Prize winners will have 30 days to claim their prize from the time the results are made public.

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____

JIM'S SHOE REPAIR

Tesco Shopping Centre

LADIES & GENTS HEELS
WHILE U WAIT
SHOES STRETCHED
HEELS LOWERED
LEATHER SOLES STITCHED ON
KEY CUTTING
ALL KEYS
HOUSE AND VEHICLE
PHONE 086 8657142



Maynooth Golf Society

Results Sheet 2015 - Knockanally Golf Club
24th October 2015
Sponsored by Brady's Bar & Lounge

1st Prize	Sean Farrelly	38pts
2nd Prize	Tommy Campbell	37pts
3rd Prize	Pat Connolly	36pts B9
4th Prize	Paul Farrelly	36pts B9
5th Prize	Terry Moore	36pts
Front 9	Jody Connolly	17pts
Back 9	Mick Fahey	18pts
Visitor	Darren Weafer	
Nearest the Pin	Johnny Murray	
Over 50's	Mick Flynn	
2's Club	Sean Farrelly - Liam Farrelly	

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask you for this special one, (mention here). Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken Heart where your father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine. Amen

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and prayer and favour will be granted, no matter how impossible.

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. -R.D.

Santa Claus

Santa Claus is on his merry way
 For each and every lucky child
 He will travel on his speedy sleigh
 Through all the snow barren and wild

Rudolph with his big red nose
 Will carry Santa Claus without fail
 For Father Christmas clearly knows
 Each and every hill and dale

Down the chimney Santa will go
 With the greatest of expertise
 Any chimney Santa can undergo
 With many gifts for all to please

All the reindeers pull the sleigh
 With much magic speed cannot go wrong
 When gifts are open on Christmas Day
 A happy child Santa so much long

From the North Pole Santa comes from
 Where his elves makes all the toys
 In Santa's kingdom nothing goes wrong
 With gifts for all the girls and boys

Like magic Santa can appear
 Once second here and one second there
 All children Santa holds so dear
 And likes all the kids toys to share

So sleep tight each one of you
 And dream and dream of Christmas day
 Santa loves you through and through
 In his very own special way.

Paddy M



Donovan's Food Store

Trading Since 1888
 Greenfield Shopping Centre
 01-6517500
 Mon-Sat 7.30am - 10.00pm
 Sun 8.00am - 10.00pm
 Breakfast Rolls, Paninis,
 Sandwiches of your Choice.
 Tea, Coffee & Soup. Private catering service
 also available.
 Offering our Promotional Range
 Flowers, Fruit & Veg., Groceries & Gourmet
 Cheese.
 Newsagents, Magazines & Lotto
 ATM Machine & Phone Credit.
 Off-Licence Stocking
 a Wide Range of Wines

Royal Canal

"Christmas Recovery" Walk

The Royal Canal Amenity Group is holding a Walk on Sunday, 27th. December starting from Maynooth Harbour at 12.45 pm. and proceeding along the canal to Pike Bridge, crossing over to Carton, and home by Carton Avenue.

3U Students Conferred with MSc in Humanitarian Logistics and Emergency Management at Maynooth University

First programme worldwide to combine disciplines of humanitarian logistics and emergency management.

Eleven students were presented with Master's degrees from the 3U Partnership's MSc in Humanitarian Logistics and Emergency Management at a conferring ceremony held at Maynooth University. 3U is a major collaboration between Maynooth University, Dublin City University (DCU) and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). The 3U MSc in Humanitarian Logistics and Emergency Management is a unique programme and is the first in the world to combine the academic disciplines of humanitarian logistics and emergency management.

The programme builds on the established strengths and reputation of Ireland and in particular, Irish Aid, in delivering humanitarian assistance to those in need. Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, said: "The 3U MSc in Humanitarian Logistics and Emergency Management programme is particularly timely in light of recent humanitarian disasters, and yet there will always be a need for workers with the skillset this programme offers. Graduates of this programme are the future managers and practitioners in public, private and voluntary sectors who will be called upon to handle large scale emergencies and disasters worldwide. I commend these graduates on their accomplishments and wish them well in the noble career paths that lay before them."

The 3U MSc in Humanitarian Logistics and Emergency Management is jointly delivered by the Business Schools in DCU and Maynooth University. Led by Dr Caroline McMullan of DCU and Dr Graham Heaslip of Maynooth University, and delivered as a one-year full-time or two-year part-time course, the programme contributes to the development needs of those involved in the field of

humanitarian relief, international co-operation and emergency management. The course material takes a broad, cross-sectoral and international approach to humanitarian emergency relief.

Through the 3U MSc in Humanitarian Logistics and Emergency Management, graduates acquire interdisciplinary expertise and a unique set of management and business skills that will significantly enhance their effectiveness in managing future humanitarian disasters and other large-scale emergencies, as well as enhancing their employability with international and national aid organisations.

Dr Ruth Davis, Director of the 3U Partnership, said: "This unique programme brings together complementary strengths of our 3U Partners and supports Ireland's long-standing international reputation in responding generously and effectively to many humanitarian crises and disasters world-wide. Graduates of the 3U MSc in Humanitarian Logistics and Emergency Management gain specific knowledge, expertise and practical skills that will equip them to meet the many challenges that are encountered in the field of humanitarian relief and emergency management."

Students of the 3U MSc in Humanitarian Logistics and Emergency Management have been selected by Irish Aid to join the Rapid Response Corps, a standby team that can be deployed at short notice to humanitarian emergencies anywhere in the world.

Formally launched in November 2013 by then Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with responsibility for Trade and Development, Mr Joe Costello TD, the 3U MSc in Humanitarian Logistics and Emergency Management is designed to meet the requirements of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Irish Aid) and the Department of the

Environment, Heritage and Local Government for practitioners in the management of humanitarian disasters and major emergencies and has been accredited by the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) and the Emergency Planning Society (EPS).

About 3U

Society and the workplace of the future need graduates with strong foundations in their disciplines combined with adaptability and critical thinking skills. Higher education must prepare students for a dynamic, globalised and digital world.

With this in mind, the 3U Partnership brings together the complementary strengths of Dublin City University, Maynooth University and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland across a broad spectrum of disciplines to deliver a number of new joint academic programmes, and to share the delivery of existing programmes.

The Partnership preserves the separate identities and missions of the three partner institutions, while providing a framework to facilitate joint activities of mutual interest across a wide range of disciplines including medicine, science, engineering, business, arts, humanities and social sciences.

The 3U Partnership was formally launched in June 2012 by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. together with then Minister for Education, Ruairi Quinn T.D. At the launch the Taoiseach noted that the 3U Partnership was "vital to Ireland's future educational success and a cornerstone of Government policy." He also noted that the 3U Partnership brought scale to the individual partner institutions' research and academic endeavours allowing them compete more effectively together on the global stage particularly in attracting competitive research awards.

Maynooth Toastmasters



Monday's meeting 9th November was buzzing big time in many ways. The word had finally got out that this was the venue in which people could achieve. It was like waiting for a train to arrive with lots of passengers, some going on short journeys and some long. Some toastmasters were beginning their

communication journey aptly termed the "Ice Breaker", while others were at an advanced level. Like train passengers, members of toastmasters choose the route they want to follow in their individual journey of communication, becoming confident of speaking before an audience, learning the skill of quickly formulating ideas, and giving a coherent response - so helpful in real life.

Guests are such an important element of meetings. They bring a new dynamic and leave enriched with new experiences. On the 14th December, we host a Kris Kingle. It's a fun time for guests, so why don't you come along and enjoy as you unwind a gift. Heaven knows what you might get - to share a secret, I'm told there may be something to attract buzzing insects to your garden next summer.

Ring out the old, Ring in the new

Maynooth Toastmasters look forward with pride to serving the community and providing the environment in which anyone can start their journey and reach their goal. 2016 is a time for remembering the past, celebrating the present, and thinking of a positive future. If you make just one resolution for the New Year, then decide to come to Maynooth or Clane Toastmasters and start the journey.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask you for this special one, (mention here). Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken Heart where your father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine. Amen
Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and prayer and favour will be granted, no matter how impossible.

Never known to fail.
Thanksgiving for favour received. ~J.D.



Job Opening: HR Generalist for SAP Maynooth

The HR Generalist will work closely with the HR Manager and Managing Director in delivering a comprehensive HR service in a fast paced environment and will actively drive continuous improvement across the business.

Main responsibilities:

- General recruitment to include creating and maintaining a data base of potential employees
- act as the main point of contact for all employees within specified business areas;
- co-ordination of new joiner and leaver processes, including induction and exit interviews;
- support and administration of annual and interim performance and salary review processes;
- monitor absenteeism and leave records and take appropriate follow-up actions;
- provide timely reports on key HR metrics such as headcount, internal movements and payroll;
- provide support to the HR Manager and Head of HR with HR initiatives and projects as they arise;
- co-ordination and management of people movements within the Firm e.g. maternity leave, leave of absence, secondments etc.

Skills and attributes:

- 2+ years HR experience operating at a HR Generalist level;
- strong knowledge of HR best practice policies and procedures;
- strong business focus and commitment to client service;
- excellent communication skills, both written and oral;
- ability to build effective relationships at all levels;
- proficient Microsoft PC skills (inc. Word, Excel and PowerPoint);
- 3rd level qualification in HR/other relevant business related discipline. CIPD qualification desirable;
- demonstrated ability to work on own initiative;
- excellent analytical skills and attention to detail;
- solid understanding of HR processes.

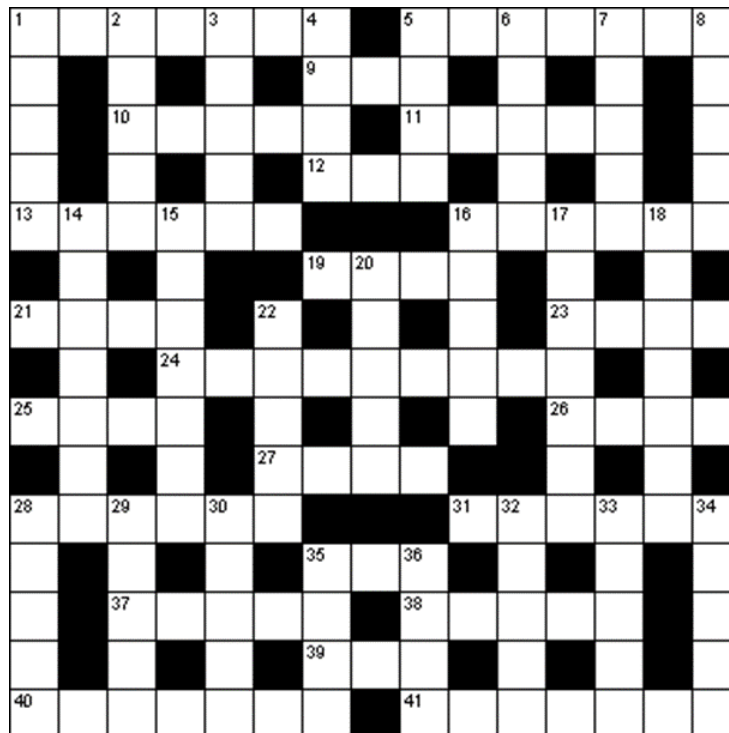
Applications:

Please email your CV to careersinsap@sapgroup.com



Clues Across

1. Sarcastic (7)
5. Appears (7)
9. Lower limb (3)
10. Middle Eastern bread (5)
11. Zest (5)
12. Used to be (3)
13. Parchment roll (6)
16. Lecture (6)
19. Egg-shaped (4)
21. Finely powdered earth (4)
23. Resist openly (4)
24. Clogged (9)
25. Capital of Peru (4)
26. South American Indian (4)
27. Skin eruption (4)
28. Put in (6)
31. Desert in N Africa (6)
35. Implore (3)
37. Hold responsible (5)
38. Cinder (5)
39. Direct a gun (3)
40. Protective helmet (4,3)
41. Person that settles (7)

**December Crossword - No: 442****Clues Down**

1. Weeps (5)
2. Higher (5)
3. Sum (5)
4. Sharp nail as on a cat (4)
5. Ova (4)
6. Result (5)
7. Dimness (5)
8. Native of Saxony (5)
14. Care (7)
15. Cake made of oatmeal (7)
16. Narrow openings (5)
17. Tinged with red (7)
18. Constable (7)
20. Scenes (5)
22. Nasal grunt (5)
28. Inhabitants of Ireland (5)
29. Not drunk (5)
30. Arrive at (5)
32. Superior of a monastery (5)
33. Fourth month (5)
34. Later (5)
35. Strike forcefully (4)
36. Precious stones (4)

**Answers to Crossword No 441****Special Prize
Book Voucher**

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

**The Maynooth
Bookshop
68 Main Street,
Maynooth**

**Entries in before:
Tuesday 19th January**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

**Winner of Crossword
No. 441 November**

**Patrick Healy
Leinster Park
Maynooth**

Prize winners will have 30 days to claim their prize
from the time the results are made public.

Collect prize from

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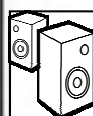
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More Clarity Required on Gaelcholaiste and Interim Solutions for North Kildare Students

Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy has welcomed the Minister's announcement today that a Gaelcholaiste for North Kildare in the long-term but cautioned that 2019 is too long to wait while youngsters in North Kildare face zero provision for education through immersion in Irish for the years 2016, 2017, & 2018. Catherine Murphy said there is no reassurance in today's announcement for those people who are looking for a place in 2016.

"The Minister needs to clarify what provision will be made for students in those intervening years and if the numbers required for 2019 would still have to be proven. How that could be achieved if Maynooth Community College is now oversubscribed – which will particularly affect students from the Gaelscoilleana in Leixlip and Kilcock."

"The demand for a Gaelcholaiste in North Kildare can only be demonstrated by students attending the Aonad so those who are forced to attend Colaiste Chois Life in Lucan are not counted in terms of demand in North Kildare therefore proving the demand for a Gaelcholaiste will be problematic."

"We also need clarity from the Minister as to whether today's announcement means a new school building for North Kildare or a re-designating of Maynooth Community College as a Gaelcholaiste."

Leas Ceann Comhairle rejects Questions from Catherine Murphy Regarding the IBRC Inquiry
Social Democrat TD Catherine Murphy has received letters from the Leas Ceann Comhairle disallowing questions she had asked in relation to the problems

stalling the Inquiry into issues surrounding IBRC including the Siteserv transaction.

In his reply the Leas Ceann Comhairle said he was disallowing the questions on the basis that the Minister has no responsibility to the Dáil on the matter.

Catherine Murphy said she was incredulous at such an assertion:

"The job of an opposition deputy is to hold the Government to account and at this moment in time that is proving impossible as we are essentially being stonewalled."

"If, as an elected parliamentarian, he is not accountable to Dáil Éireann then who is he accountable to? If elected members of the Dáil cannot hold Minister's to account then there is a fundamental flaw in the way we operate our democracy and that must be addressed."

Independent TD Catherine Murphy has raised grave concerns regarding the slashing of addiction services in the Kildare area.

Recently the services have been cut from four counsellors and very soon it will be reduced to just one, for Leixlip, Celbridge, Maynooth and Kilcock. This is a reduction that Ms. Murphy says will have 'dire' consequences for Kildare in the immediate and the long term.

"This is the ultimate example of a short-term response to a long-term problem. Clearly, when a client engages in a counselling service, a certain level of trust and confidence has to be built up and by reducing that service you leave a lot of people in a very vulnerable position."

"If we are to help people maintain or resume their role as a functioning member of society following a difficult period in their life, then we need to provide services such as those that have just reduced. Ireland has the third highest level of overdose rates per capita in Europe with an average of one person dying here every day. How, in that context, can it be justifiable to reduce such services?"

"This is another example of services being provided based on who has retired rather than what's actually needed. Things can't all be about balance sheets. Decisions like the one to reduce these services will potentially cost lives and in the long-term there will be both a financial and a social cost to such decisions."

Government Fails Accountability Test Once Again

Social Democrat TD Catherine Murphy has responded to this evening's interim report from the Cregan Inquiry as follows:

Having just had time for a preliminary overview of the 69 page Cregan report it seems clear to me that what the judge is saying is that this inquiry is essentially unworkable.

Judge Cregan has now raised further issues in addition to the already serious issues facing the likely continuation of the inquiry. The judge is saying he actually can't investigate alleged insider trading in Siteserv for example as well as other significant concerns surrounding the Siteserv transaction and a number of other transactions.

I am horrified that this issue was. In effect, kicked to touch by Government when the public debate was raging and now, 5 months later, we have no answers & very little realistic prospect of getting answers. That is wholly unacceptable.



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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask you for this special one, (mention here). Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken Heart where your father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine. Amen

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and prayer and favour will be granted, no matter how impossible.

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. ~J.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask you for this special one, (mention here). Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken Heart where your father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine. Amen

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Thanksgiving for favour received. ~R.D.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask you for this special one, (mention here). Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken Heart where your father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine. Amen

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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

From 02/10/2015 to 19/11/2015 - Information from Kildare County Council Website


App. Num	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	Application Date
151023	Kildare County Council	Anne Hoare	Catherinestown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	19/11/2015
151009	Kildare County Council	Clare Egan	Obelisk Lane, Barrogstown West, Maynooth	17/11/2015
151010	Kildare County Council	Andrew and Arlene Boland	33 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth	17/11/2015
15990	Kildare County Council	Mr. Gabriel Martin & Mrs. Clare Martin	Leinster Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	11/11/2015
15954	Kildare County Council	Rodica Turcanu	House between 346A and 345, Old Greenfield, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	27/10/2015
15947	Kildare County Council	Authorized Property Company Limited	Straffan Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/10/2015
15918	Kildare County Council	Gabriel and Clare Martin	Leinster Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	15/10/2015
15921	Kildare County Council	Fiona McEvoy	9 Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth	15/10/2015
15922	Kildare County Council	Martin J. McMahon	Ivy House, Court House Square, Maynooth	15/10/2015
15900	Kildare County Council	Authorized Property Company Limited,	Glenroyal Hotel, Straffan Road, Maynooth	09/10/2015
15899	Kildare County Council	Stephen and Deirdre Molloy	Toolestown House, Straffan Road (R406), Maynooth	08/10/2015
15886	Kildare County Council	Damien Doyle	Moyglare Nursing Home, Moyglare Road, Maynooth	06/10/2015
15877	Kildare County Council	Stephen and Deirdre Molloy	Toolestown House, Straffan Road (R406), Maynooth	02/10/2015

Kildare Enforcement Notices for Maynooth Area

From 02/10/2015 to 20/11/2015 - Information from Kildare County Council Website

Enf. ID	Authority	Location	Plan Ref.	Date Received	Name
UD6700	Kildare County Council	Hayfield, Maynooth		14/10/2015	Owner (1)N/a
UD6712	Kildare County Council	34 Woodlands, College Rd, Maynooth	15/121	05/11/2015	Owner (1) Patrick Quinn

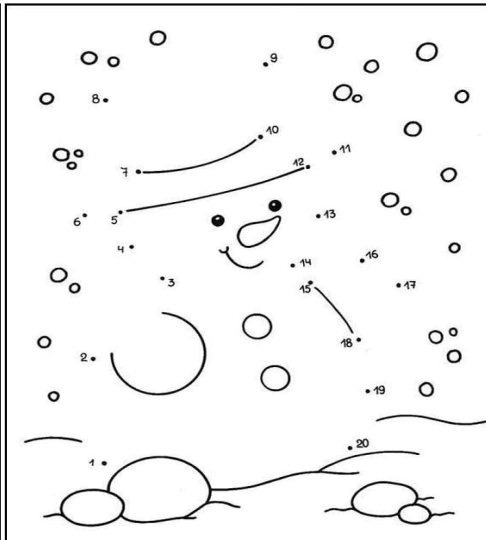
Kiddies Fun Corner

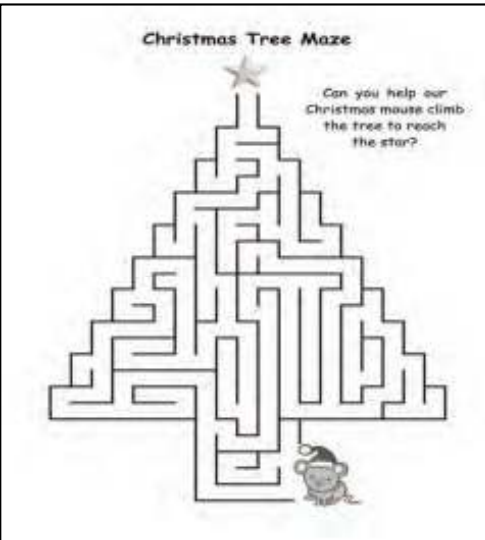


Winter Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters S N O W F L A K E. Don't guess - use logic

	A			L				N	
			O	N	E	A	F		
			L	F		W	O		
	L	K						A	S
S		A						E	K
	E	F						N	K
			W	K			N	S	
			S	O	F	L	W		
F				S				O	







BASIC SMARTPHONE GUIDE



The holidays are a major season for technology and gadgets. New phones make a great gift, but setting them up can be a hassle. It can be especially intimidating to make the switch from an older flip phone to a smartphone, but choosing a smartphone doesn't have to make you feel stupid. This guide will help you choose and set up a new smartphone.

Some people are satisfied only using their phone for talking and the occasional text message. Others, however, might like the option to do more with their phone but feel overwhelmed by the idea of switching to an unfamiliar and more complicated device. If you are contemplating making the switch (or have recently acquired a new phone), don't panic – with a little practice, you can become adept at using the many features available in a smart phone.

A smartphone is a mobile that can do a lot more than just make phone calls, and it is worth investigating how it can fit into your life. With the right smartphone, you can manage email and diary appointments, get directions, keep track of your diet, shop, share information with friends, listen to music, watch movies, and much more. If you use public transportation often or have a lot of downtime in public, a smartphone can help you pass the time. The whole world is at your fingertips.

Sometimes the amount of choice can be intimidating – how do you choose between the different platforms, carriers, models, and plans?



Budget is always a concern for people as smartphones are more expensive than regular mobiles. When you are deciding how much to spend on a smartphone, you have two costs to consider: the price of the phone and the price of the plan. The price of the phone is a one-time expense. Mobile companies also tend to offer lots of promotions and discounts, especially during the holiday season, so the phone you want may be cheaper than you think. In some cases, if you sign up for a certain plan, the phone is free.

In many cases, your plan will be a bigger expense than your phone. Many people with older phones may be on a pay-as-you-go plan, and if you are looking at the cheaper smartphone models and don't think you will use lots of minutes or data, it can be a good idea to stick to one of these plans. Check with your mobile carrier to see what kind of calling and data packages they have. If you don't want to have to worry about credit and are looking at some of the higher end models, it can be cheaper to switch to a bill-pay plan with data included.

Keep in mind that while data can be expensive, smartphones can also connect to the Internet with WiFi. You may already have WiFi in your home, and it is often available at many workplaces. Free WiFi hotspots can be found in many cafes, restaurants, and libraries. Using WiFi enables you to drastically reduce the amount of data you need (some people choose to use WiFi exclusively and not have a data allowance). However, this can limit where you can use many features of your phone, so you need to decide what suits your lifestyle.

One of the next big decisions that people face is choosing the right phone. For a lot of people, picking the right smartphone is a matter of picking the right operating system (OS). The smartphone's operating system is the platform it uses to run various programmes. While they can all pretty much connect you to the web and allow you to use email and make phone calls or text, each has its own strengths and weaknesses.

The most common operating systems for smartphones today are Apple's iOS, which runs iPhones, Google's Android system, Microsoft's Windows Mobile, and the Blackberry OS. You don't need to be a technophile to determine which of the systems is best for you. What will impact you the most is the availability of different programmes and apps across these platforms.

If you plan on using apps on your smartphone, you might want to avoid the Blackberry. The Blackberry OS is great for using email and browsing the web, but it doesn't have many apps. If you want to really explore what apps have to offer, then the Apple app store is the largest in the world. iPhones are well-designed, very user friendly, and are regularly updated. The downside is that they are expensive and your hardware choices are limited to Apple products.



Android is an open source OS originally developed by Google but which can be used by anyone. It is available on many devices from many different manufacturers, making it easier to find one that fits your budget and your lifestyle. However, updates are infrequent and can be more complicated to access. The apps are not vetted (Apple's are), so their quality is more inconsistent. A Windows Mobile is good to get if you plan on doing a lot of work on your phone. Since it runs a mobile version of Windows (which you may already have running on your computer), it can easily let you see and work on spreadsheets and documents on your phone.

Once you've decided on your phone budget, operating system, and plan, you've got one task left: deciding on a phone. Don't rush into this decision as you might end up having this phone for a couple of years, taking it everywhere with you and using it more than any other appliance (except, perhaps, the kettle). You need to make sure the actual phone suits your life.

Check out all the phones your carrier has in your price range and with the operating system that you want. Think about the tasks for which you're planning on using your phone, and try them out on the demo phones in-store. See if the keyboard is comfortable to use and how easy it is to switch between applications. Test out the touchscreen and decide if the phone will fit comfortably into your pocket or purse. Also make sure that you like the look of the phone, as it's going to be your constant accessory. You can also read reviews of a phone online to see if it has issues like getting hot after prolonged use or breaking easily.

Once you have chosen a phone, the first thing you want to do is become familiar with its main buttons and controls. Don't be afraid to just push buttons and see what happens – you won't break the phone, but you will learn a lot! The first things you'll want to learn are how to turn the phone on and off, how to raise or lower the volume, and how to get back to the home screen. These three buttons tend to be common to both Android and iPhone devices. Also check out the ports on your phone: where to plug in the charger, headphones, and any removable media. Android tends to add a set of buttons on the bottom: home, back, menu, and (sometimes) search. The back arrow takes you to the last level in an app, while the double box button shows you all of the apps you have open.



Overview of Android, Apple and Windows home screens

All smartphones are controlled through the touchscreen, meaning that all you need are taps and swipes to work it. These gestures can take some getting used to, but these are the main ones you need to know:

Single tap: open up apps, menus, etc.

Double tap: allows you to zoom in when using a browser or view maps.

Swipe left to right/vice versa: Unlock phone, switch between browser tabs, certain apps use it as a 'return' feature

Swipe top down: brings down the notifications screen alerting you to any messages or missed calls. Can be accessed on the lock screen.

Swipe bottom up: On the lock screen, it activates the camera or shortcuts like the flashlight and other settings. For Android, you can activate Google Now.

Pinch screen: zoom in, usually features in browsers or viewing maps. Doing the reverse allows you to zoom out.

Press and hold: for your main screen, this allows you to move apps around, place them into folders and delete them.

Smartphones include several built-in apps that you will want to explore straight away:

Phone and contacts: check how to add contacts, answer an incoming call, and hang up

Camera: check how to focus, take a photo, share photos, and where the photos are stored

Email: check how to send email, move emails around, and create attachments

App store: find the search function, how to download apps, and where they end up

Notification centre: see what it shows you and what functions it allows you to use

Settings: very important to managing your phone, check how you can customise your phone

Messages: test how to send and read text messages

Handy tips:

The Lock Screen: Similar to ordinary phones, the lock screen alerts you to any missed calls or texts as well as any app notifications. You can control what notifications you receive on your screen through Settings, and you also have the option to remove previews for any text messages and emails you receive. You can lock your screen with a PIN code, but depending on the phone, you can add a more complex password. Given the amount of personal information stored on a smartphone, you should definitely protect it with some kind of password.



Setting main apps and folders: You can place your most commonly used apps at the bottom of the screen. These apps will remain in the same fixed position on each screen, so you can easily access them. Press and hold down on the app you want to move and when it expands, move it down to the bottom. If you can't place an app on the bottom, you must then remove one first before you can place it there. If you want to create a folder, press and hold down the app so you can move it, but instead, place it on top of another app you want to pair it with. Doing this will create a folder which you can then name.

Switching between apps: On iPhones, pressing the home button twice brings up the list of activated apps. Either tap on one to open it or swipe upwards to turn it off. Android has a button dedicated to opening up and switching between apps, while on a Windows Phone, if you hold down the back button, it brings up the five most recent apps you were using. Swiping up or across turns off the app.

Connecting the WiFi: Connecting your smartphone up to a WiFi connection is practically the same as you would on your computer. Found in Settings, your phone will pick up any connections within range, and all you must do is click on the network you want and type the password when prompted.

Manipulating text: If you are reading or writing something, you can tap on a word and then drag the highlighted space across the word(s) you want copied. Many options will then pop up, such as cut, copy, paste, or define.





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Proud Sponsor of the Colouring Competition

HO, HO, HO!

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Christmas Jokes!

Decode each one for the answers to the jokes.

CODE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Where does a snowman
keep his money?

9 14 1

19 14 15 23 2 1 14 11

What do you call a
Kangaroo at the
North Pole?

12 15 19 20

Which of Santa's reindeer
has bad manners?

18 21 4 5 15 12 16 8

What did one snowman
say to the other snowman?

3 1 14 25 15 21

19 13 5 12 12

3 1 18 18 15 20



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Prizes: Free Family Meal
From McDonald's, Maynooth

Name: _____

Age: _____

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November Winners

Age: 3 - 5: Emilia Tully
Newtown Hall,
Maynooth

Age: 6 - 7: S. Yang
Leinster Lodge

Age: 8 & Over: Vishal Tutte
Moyglare Hall
Maynooth

Prizes for Colouring Competition can be collected at:

Maynooth Community Council Office, Unit 5, Tesco Shopping Centre.
Entries must arrive before: Tuesday 19th January 2016



Maynooth Tidy Towns received an invitation from Kildare County Council to the County Awards in the IONTAS Building in Maynooth University on Wednesday 4th November.



A wonderful evening took place culminating with a presentation of Merit Award Certificates to the Transition Year Students from Maynooth Post Primary School by the Mayor of Kildare Clr. Brendan Weld. Maynooth Tidy Towns also received a Certificate for winning a Silver Medal in the 2015 National Tidy Towns competition.

As in previous years Jim Doyle will be selling Christmas trees and wreaths at Buckley's House adjacent to the Garda Station. After Christmas please recycle your tree in Kildare County Council depot yard beside the Fire Station in Leinster St. Maynooth.

The WEEE Ireland Collection of electrical goods and batteries will take place on 19th March 2016 in the Tesco Shopping Car Park.

On behalf of Maynooth Tidy Towns we wish Staff and readers of Maynooth Newsletter and all who supported us a very Happy Christmas and litter free New Year.

Richard Farrell - PRO Maynooth Tidy Towns

Get Your Christmas Tree At Buckley's Yard Behind Garda Station



And Support Maynooth Tidy Towns

Maynooth Tidy Towns Volunteers Evening

The Maynooth Tidy Towns Annual Volunteer Evening was held in the Glenroyal Hotel on Friday 6th November 2015. The evening commenced with Music by the Junior section of Maynooth Ceoltas. A slide show of the many aspects of the volunteer work of Maynooth Tidy Towns and its volunteers was shown to the large attendance at the function throughout the evening.

Paul Croghan Vice-Chair of Maynooth Tidy Towns formally welcomed all to our celebration evening and called on Mattie Callaghan Chairman to address the large attendance. Mattie thanked all the volunteers for their hard work and dedication during the year. Our major achievement this year was the winning of a Silver Medal in the National Tidy Towns competition and also being a winner in the inaugural Value Water competition sponsored by Irish Water.

Junior volunteers Darragh Bergin and Nicole Byrne were presented with certificates and a commemorative mugs by Mattie Callaghan. Transition Year Students- LENS - Laura Monaghan, Emma Dunne, Nicola Fitzsimons and Sarah Heaslip were presented by Mary Jennings School Liaison Officer with a framed copy of photos of the Utility Boxes that they painted so beautifully during the summer. On behalf of Maynooth Tidy Towns she thanked them for their cooperation on this project. A copy will be displayed in the window on Main St. shortly.

Mary briefly spoke about how the project had evolved having met them at Maynooth Educate Together School where they had painted murals on the outside of the ASD Unit and also painted the wooden fence around the playground.

Darren Mooney of Quickstitch sponsored and presented our two Junior Volunteers with Polo Shirts, also Chairman Mattie Callaghan accepted a Polo Shirt on behalf of all the volunteers who will be getting theirs in due course.

Tina Williams was presented with a floral display planter by Richard Farrell and

Mattie Callaghan for her great work on Saturday mornings in all weathers. Sean Treacy Chairman of the Leinster Fleadh presented Mary Farrell Treasurer of Maynooth Tidy Towns with a Cheque. Sean thanked Maynooth Tidy Towns for their work before, during and after the Fleadh.

Naoise Ó Cearúil, Cathaoirleach of Maynooth Municipal District Council presented Sean Cushen, Vinny Mulready, Ray Murphy and Moira Baxter with a Certificate from Kildare County Council for winning the inaugural Bug Hotel competition.

Paul Croghan and Mattie Callaghan presented Marian Cawley with a floral display planter to congratulate her success as a National Supervalu Local Hero. A copy of her certificate will be on display in the window in Main St. shortly which she received at the National Tidy Towns Awards at the Helix in Dublin on 28th September 2015.

Richard Farrell gave background information to the nomination and thanked her for her dedication to Maynooth Tidy Towns.

The evening ended with finger food sponsored by the Glenroyal Hotel and more great music from the Ceoltas group.

Left & Below: Photos of the presentations on the night.



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FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

2015 FILM YEAR IN REVIEW



With Christmas and a new year fast approaching, it is a timely occasion to look back at the film highlights of 2015. Some of the cinematic delights of the past year might just provide ideas for that perfect Christmas present! It has certainly been an interesting year for Irish cinema-goers with many and varied screen offerings.

In early January, Clint Eastwood's hugely popular *American Sniper* hit Irish screens. It was a rather jingoistic take on the life of the late Navy SEAL Chris Kyle and his sniper activities in the Iraq War. Bradley Cooper's bulked-up performance as the most lethal sniper in US history was excellent (earning him a nod at the Oscars), but the film itself was a mixed bag and rather unsatisfactory as a whole.

The American star has had a good year in terms of exercising his acting chops. In theatre, Cooper wowed Broadway and the West End with his blistering performance as the *Elephant Man*. Cooper is currently cooking up histrionics as a troubled Michelin chef in the predictable comedy-drama, *Burnt*.



The quirky, spectacular black comedy *Birdman* saw the resurrection of Michael Keaton's career. A star of 80s cult comedies and *Batman* films, his film career has taken a nosedive in recent years. Keaton's role as a washed-up film star, making one last stand to revive his flagging career and life, ironically echoed the actor's own real-life situation. He always excelled in manic roles, and his faded *Birdman* hero is superb, energetic, moving and hilarious by turns. Not surprisingly, it earned him an Oscar nomination.



Colin Firth turned up in the entertaining *Kingsman: The Secret Service*. Based upon the acclaimed comic book, director Matthew Vaughan (*Layer Cake*, *X-Men: First Class*) had enormous fun sending up the spy genre. If you like your action-flicks stylish and subversive, then this is the film for you. Firth is surprisingly effective as a Bond-like secret agent and equally at home with the physical kick-ass stuff as he is with the witty one-liners. The young apprentice agent, played by newcomer Taron Egerton, is also an actor to watch out for.



The 2015 Oscar race saw *Birdman*, *American Sniper*, *The Theory of Everything* and *The Imitation Game* battling it out for the top honours. In the end, *Birdman* dominated with four of the top awards. Surprisingly, *American Sniper*, despite its financial clout (always a good-sign in Hollywood) was spectacularly snubbed by the Academy.

In smaller films, Julianne Moore and Eddie Redmayne

triumphed in the prestigious acting categories. *Still Alice* is elevated by Moore's portrayal of a woman experiencing the early on-set of Alzheimer's disease. The versatile actress' performance is subtle, underplayed and genuinely moving in a heartfelt drama that treats its difficult subject-matter with sensitivity. *Still Alice* also does not shy away from showing the negative and devastating consequences of the illness on the woman and her family. For this, it is to be commended. Not an easy watch though.

English actor Eddie Redmayne excelled in the role of the famous physicist Stephen Hawking in biopic *The Theory of Everything*. Based on his wife's memoir *'My Life with Stephen'*, the film is a fictionalised account of their relationship and Hawking's battle with motor neurone disease. Redmayne and Felicity Jones, as his wife Jane, make for an affecting screen couple. The former in particular is extraordinary, pulling out all the stops in a physically demanding role. The film is at its best when depicting the human drama at the heart of his personal life.



It has been a good year for the profile of Irish actors/directors worldwide. Renowned director Kenneth Branagh brought a fairy-tale classic to the big screen. Decidedly traditional and borrowing heavily from the 1950s film, *Cinderella* is a stylish, romantic and enchanting film. Lily James as the title character is a charming lead with just the right blend of sweetness and sincerity. It might just be the perfect stocking filler this Christmas!

In the most hyped film of 2015, Jamie Dornan took on the controversial role of Christian Grey in the film adaptation of EL James' *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Though wildly successful in financial terms, the film itself was too many shades of disappointing, and snarky critics had a field day. Dakota Johnson's performance as the ingénue Ana was its one saving grace. Overall, a weak rushed script, diluted carnality and an underwritten part for Dornan made *Fifty Shades* a rather dull, grey affair!



It has been the year of Michael Fassbender. The charismatic Irish actor made his mark in three distinctive films: *Slow West*, *Macbeth* and *Steve Jobs*. Fassbender is always exciting to watch. His roles in these films showcased his immense range. As the hard-bitten, amoral bounty hunter in John Maclean's offbeat western *Slow West*, Fassbender's laconic charm was put to effective use. In the visually outstanding *Macbeth*, he played the mad, bad and dangerous to know Scottish warrior. It was an electrifying performance matched only in intensity by Marion Cotillard's steely but fragile Lady Macbeth. Word of mouth is very good for *Steve Jobs*. It's Fassbender's best chance at an Oscar yet.

With a powerhouse performance from Fassbender and Aaron Sorkin's red-hot script, Danny Boyle delivers a



fascinating look at Apple's co-founder and genius. Jobs was ground-breaking in his changes to the world of technology, but his less desirable traits are highlighted in Sorkin's piercing screenplay. Fassbender brilliantly plays up the self-centred, abrasive and ruthless side to Jobs' personality. Kate Winslet lends superb support as his frustrated work colleague. *Steve Jobs* is absorbing, enjoyable, intelligently made and a sure-fire Oscar contender come 2016.

Our own Saoirse Ronan is another likely contender for an award next year. Her captivating performance as the Irish émigré in the coming-of-age tear-jerker *Brooklyn* is one of the best of 2015.



The summer of 2015 was dominated by entertaining and slick reworkings of classic spy romps like *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* and *Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation*. Part of the viewer's pleasure in these franchises is the built-in familiarity factor. Studios play to these expectations. These films easily filled cineplexes as did crowd-pleasers *Jurassic World* and *Minions*. Although the most entertaining spectacle of 2015 was undoubtedly the 40 foot giant minion making an impromptu appearance on a Dublin motorway in August!



One of the best films of the year was Thomas Vinterberg's visually sumptuous take on a Hardy classic, *Far from the Madding Crowd*. The brilliant Carey Mulligan (*Suffragettes*) and Belgian actor Matthias Schoenaertges lit up the screen as would-be lovers in this rural tale of thwarted love and passions in 19th century Wessex. Everything about Vinterberg's film is exquisite: cinematography, screenplay, music and exemplary performances all combine to magical effect. If you only see one film before the close of 2015, make it this one.



The winter months have brought the latest chapter in the age-defying Bond franchise. *Spectre* is the follow-up to the very popular *Skyfall* of 2012. As expected, there are stunning action set-pieces aplenty (with an amazing opening scene) but a rather lack-lustre script lets it all down. *Spectre* is not the rollercoaster-ride that made its predecessor so compelling. Daniel Craig has hinted that this may be his last outing as 007. On the plus side, he is still eminently watchable as Bond, and the dapper Christopher Waltz was born to play a Bond villain.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY FILM GOING IN 2016!



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Emmet Stagg TD

**Every Monday at 4.00 pm in
McMahon's**

The Last Advice Service this year will be on Monday 14th December. The Advice Service will resume in the New Year on Monday 11th January.

Happy Christmas