



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



# Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the people of Maynooth



Dec/Jan 16/17

Local News

Issue No. 453

FREE

This publication is produced by Maynooth Community Council's Community Employment Scheme, supported by the Department of Social Protection, which is funded by the Irish Government.

## *Shop Till You Drop In Maynooth This Christmas and Keep Our Town Working*

Shorter days, frosty mornings, Christmas preparations are once again well under way. The annual season of giving and receiving is upon us. This is the perfect opportunity to support our local shops in Maynooth. By doing so, people will be helping the local economy, ensuring the safety of local jobs and generating a "feel good" factor especially in the retail and hospitality sectors.

Shop 'til you drop' in Maynooth! There are plenty of boutiques, coffee shops, and gift shops to explore alongside the larger department stores. We are truly spoilt for choice and variety. Maynooth offers everything you need for the complete Christmas shopping experience on your own doorstep. You will be sure to find everything you are looking for here in Maynooth. So take the stress out of shopping and stay local this year, avoiding the cost of travel, expensive parking, overcrowded shopping centres and lengthy queues.

When your shopping is complete in Maynooth, please feel free to visit a wide selection of pubs and restaurants for a bite to eat or a beverage. With Maynooth night life thriving be sure to check out one of our many lively venues over the Christmas. In Maynooth we also have an excellent train, bus and taxi service to take you to your destination, be safe leave the car and use the services provided. The Christmas period is particularly vital, so I would urge everyone to eat, drink and shop locally this festive season to support local businesses.



## New Year's Eve 1916 Flag Ceremony



The 1916 centenary commemorations will come to a close in Maynooth on New Year's Eve with a flag ceremony in the town square at 3pm. The ceremony will include the lowering of the 'Maynooth 15' flag which has been flying in Maynooth every day for the centenary year. A guard of honour will render honours and a bugler from Maynooth band will sound the last post. Fr Liam Rigney PP who blessed the flag on its commissioning, will say prayers in memory of the Maynooth 15.

Following the ceremony Maynooth scouts will have an alter fire in the square and, on behalf of the Maynooth 1916 centenary committee, mulled wine and hot chocolate will be served free as a 'thank you' to the people of Maynooth for their support throughout the year.

**All are welcome.**



# Aonach

na

## NOLLAG

### Christmas Fair

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December - 12 - 5pm

Maynooth Education Campus  
(Post Primary School)

Arts and crafts, cakes and bakes,  
music, song, dance and much more...

*\* Bring your letters to Santa \**

Raffle tickets for an array of prizes will be on sale

Come along for a family fun festive day out!

Enquiries to [maynoothfest15@gmail.com](mailto:maynoothfest15@gmail.com)

Organised by

Maynooth Community Council's Festival & Events Committee



Maynooth Community Council, Unit 5, Tesco's S.C. Carton Park, Maynooth. Phone - 01-6285922 - Email - [office@maynoothcc.com](mailto:office@maynoothcc.com)





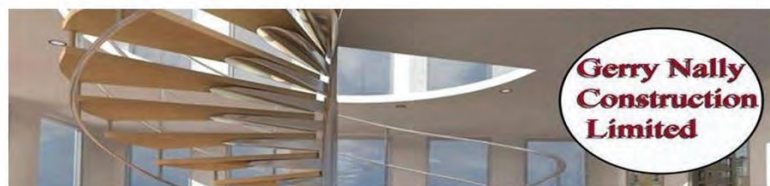
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**3 COURSE SET MENUS FROM €26PP**

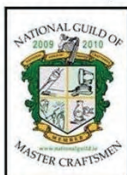
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**Professional Residential Maids Wanted**

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*To all KBC Customers,  
we wish you a Merry  
Christmas from all the  
staff in the Maynooth Hub*

## CHRISTMAS HOURS

<b>FRIDAY DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup></b>	<b>9AM - 5.30PM</b>
<b>SATURDAY DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>SUNDAY DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>MONDAY DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>TUESDAY DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>THURSDAY DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>9AM - 5.30PM</b>
<b>FRIDAY DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>9AM - 5.30PM</b>
<b>SATURDAY DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>9AM - 2PM</b>
<b>MONDAY JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

**WE WILL REOPEN FROM TUESDAY JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> BUSINESS AS USUAL**

 **Drop into Manor Mills Shopping Centre, Maynooth**

 **01 513 1040**     **kbc.ie**



## Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



Our Sale of Work was a huge success again this year. We made a clear profit of €10,359.95. Many thanks to all who supported us on the run up to the big day and all who came to help on the day of the sale. We are indebted to Johnny Nevin for the use of their hall this year at Maynooth Post Primary School. A big thank you to Caroline, Mark, Paul, Sean and Gerry for their tremendous work on our behalf.

Congratulations to all who won prizes on the day. Our Monster Hamper was won by John Kavanagh, Des Tierney won €200 and €100 was won by P. Clarke. In other draws Sheila Downey won the 32" TV and Margaret Loane won the Portable DVD player. Among other winners were Clíodhna Buckley, Margaret Nolan, Shelley O'Riordan, Patrick Behan, Jean Sweeney, John Flynn, Ita Sing, Paul Byrne and Philomena Clinton. Ticket sales for our Monster Draw were bigger than ever this year and I thank Supervalu and Manor Mills for making this happen. Thank you also to our sponsors, Frank Walsh, Gerard & Siobhan Mc Myler, Willie Kiernan, Thornton's recycling and Sean Donovan. A special word of thanks has to go to our young scouts who helped to prepare the hall, sold tickets on the day and then put the school back together again when it was all over. These are a group of wonderful young people who give of their time in the interest of our Senior Citizens. In a climate where our youth get such bad press their parents and scout leaders have reason to be proud. When you put it all together it is community spirit at its best.

Our next event is on Dec. 4th at 3pm when Casey's Supervalu Maynooth will once again host an afternoon of entertainment fine food and shopping for our Senior Citizens.

Our final event will be our Annual Dinner which will take place on Dec. 18th at 4pm in the Glenroyal Hotel. So Make sure you have your name in by Dec. 6th.

Finally may I express our deepest sympathy to the families of all our Senior Citizens who passed away this year, not least our oldest citizen Mary Holmes. Ar Deis De go raibh a Anam

*Josephine Moore - Chairperson.*



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# James Lawless TD

## Kildare North Representative

My Maynooth Constituency Office is open  
Every Monday from 9am to 4pm.  
(Just off Doctors Lane, Maynooth)  
No need for appointment  
Just drop by

Tel: 016183587

Mob: 0868348869

Email: james@jameslawless.ie

Web: www.jameslawless.ie



**A Merry Christmas  
to all my Constituents**



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Wish all our Customers a very Happy Christmas & a Prosperous New Year  
Gerry, Tom, David & Caroline

### St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band

Our annual mass for deceased members on 13<sup>th</sup> November was a lovely occasion and there was an extended round of applause from the congregation at the end of the mass which was greatly appreciated. Two other events in November at which we played were Tesco's Customer Evening on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Santa's arrival to Manor Mills on 26<sup>th</sup>.

December is shaping up to be a really busy month with our Annual Concert in the Aula Maxima in Maynooth College on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm with a nominal admission fee of €5 for Adults with free admission for children and Senior Citizens.

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> we play at the opening of Aonach Na Nollag in the Post Primary School and we expect to be once again playing a part in the Church of Ireland Carol Service in the lead up to Christmas.

As had been the tradition for many, many years the Band will be playing Christmas music in various locations in the town on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> so please watch out for us and if you have anything left after your Christmas shopping it couldn't go towards a better cause than Maynooth Band.

On Christmas morning the Band will be continuing a tradition that has survived for decades when they play some Christmas music outside the Church after 11.30 Mass. Hopefully the weather will be kinder than it was a few years ago when it was so cold that our instruments froze up.

As always we invite musicians living in the area who would like to play with the band to drop in to the Band Hall in Pound Lane between 8 and 9.30pm any Monday night (except Bank Holidays) where you will receive a very warm welcome. In recent months we have been joined by musicians from Clondalkin, Celbridge and even as far away as Italy and there is always room for more no matter where you live.

Finally we would like to extend a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year to all our friends and supporters in Maynooth.



**Happy Christmas & Prosperous New Year To All  
From The Executive & Members  
of Maynooth Community Council**



# Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

## From 20/10/16 to 25/11/16 - information from Kildare County Council Website

App. Num	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	Application Date
161223	Kildare County Council	Laura Grashorn	32 Castlepark Avenue, Dunboyne Road, Maynooth	24/11/2016
161219	Kildare County Council	Andrew Morgan	Laraghbryan West, Kilcock Road, Maynooth	23/11/2016
161162	Kildare County Council	Laura Grashorn	23 Castlepark Avenue, Dunboyne Road, Maynooth	09/11/2016
161157	Kildare County Council	Kilcawley Building and Civil Engineering (Sligo) Ltd.	Block J, Maynooth Business Camp, Maynooth	08/11/2016
161153	Kildare County Council	Kelston Properties Ltd	Greenfield, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	07/11/2016
161144	Kildare County Council	Mycete Homes Ltd	Moyglare Hall, Mariavilla, Maynooth	04/11/2016
161126	Kildare County Council	Brid-Ann & Ciaran Reilly	Smithstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	28/10/2016
161106	Kildare County Council	Padraig and Ger O'Leary,	114 Leinster Wood South, Carton Demesne, Maynooth	21/10/2016

## Editorial

As the Italian poet, Cesare Pavese wrote, “We do not remember days we remember moments”; we will all have moments that will frame our memories of 2016. For me, one of the most concerning moments was when I attended the meeting about the campaign for more community policing in the town.

I was surprised to hear our very experienced public representatives tell the meeting that the decision on the allocation of Gardai is made by the Garda Commissioner, Ms. Noreen O’Sullivan and that she did not have the control over where Gardai were allocated because the policing policy is that local Garda management would not suffer reduced numbers in their divisions so that the clear under provision of Gardai in Kildare could be addressed.

I was always of the impression that the boss made the decisions but clearly not in An Garda Síochána. The only positive thing that I heard at that meeting was that the new Policing Authority might be able to force the Garda Commissioner to provide more Gardai in Kildare. Kildare has the lowest ratio of Gardai per population numbers so well done to the group who are keeping a focus on this issue. It looks as if this one has more time to run.

Meanwhile, there are other factors that should be considered when we are thinking about public safety. For me, I have a concern about the poor quality of public lighting in Maynooth, most especially in the residential estates. There are far too few public lights in many estates and in many cases their value is diminished by the proximity of large trees blocking the lighting.

My own opinion on this is that there is a need for a comprehensive review of public lighting in estates and an urgent need to supplement it where necessary. Again we are now paying large Property Tax bills and it is time that this money was spent on something that is badly needed. Good lighting deters crime and anti-social behaviour. Maynooth is a unique town where a high proportion of the population are transient so it is not easy to know the majority of people that you come into contact with. As Michael Conrad the American character actor who appeared frequently on television and was best known for his recurring role as the desk sergeant Phil Esterhaus on “Hill Street Blues” would say – Let’s be careful out there.

While those of us able to celebrate the festive season are entitled to a time of year that is special for most of us, it is appropriate to think of those around us and elsewhere for which 2016 is a year that they would prefer to forget. I am thinking in particular for people who suffered tragedies especially when they arrive unexpectedly, as well as those who have lost a family member or are living with concerns for their own health or that of another member of their family. Also this is a time of the year to reach out to others such as your neighbours especially if they have lived close to you and you have not yet had any contact. Best Wishes to you all for the festive season and the year ahead.

*Paul Croghan - Editor*

### MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER INTERVIEW WITH JOHN KAVANAGH CHAIRMAN OF MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS

#### What Tidy Towns Volunteers do?

They generally do tidy ups- flower and bulb planting – litter picks, painting of bollards-fences-derelict buildings etc. Graffiti removal- grass cutting- anything that improves the look of our town – river cleans ups. Bird and Bat boxes etc.

#### When do they meet?

This is all done on a voluntary basis Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays meeting in the Courthouse Square, you will be notified by text or just turn up, you can come whenever suits- no roll call, some more younger Volunteers needed- grey hair not a necessity – but sense of humour is needed. Fully insured whilst on duty. For further information ring...087 3153189.

#### How do you raise your funding?

Our annual collection takes place each May at Supermarkets and Church gates Proceeds go to pay for hanging baskets, flower beds, insurance, equipment, petrol/machinery. Also we receive donations from various businesses which are used to purchase tools, gloves, Mutt Mitts (Dog bags), black bags, paint and timber and pay for the recycling of Green waste. Kildare County Council over the years have given us Grants towards projects e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Name stones, and Biodiversity. We have entered a number of competitions and won prize money which was spent on Big Belly Compactors and planters. As you walk around Maynooth you can see a number of flower beds that have been sponsored by various businesses and organisations are planted with Bee and Butterfly friendly plants. This project we hope will be taken up and extended in residential areas.

**New category for 2017 National Tidy Towns Competition?**

National Tidy Towns Competition 2017. We are in a new category this is because of increased population as per latest census (over 15,000).

It is our target to try and maintain our Gold Medal and this will need a concerted effort by Local Businesses, Kildare County Council, Litter wardens and of course the general public.

#### Is there much damage done?

It is soul destroying for our volunteers to see damage to our projects e.g. 3 barrel planters were stolen during the month of November. On occasions plants have been removed from planters or flower beds. Other damage done e.g. Graffiti around the town and wheelie bins and also flower planters, removed and thrown into the river. Signage taken from a number of our projects. We thank all from Maynooth University who help to clean up after their Colleagues social events (Christmas day party etc.), and hope more will follow their example.

#### Campaign for 7 day clean ups?

Thanks to all who contacted Kildare County Council or their Local Councillor in our campaign to get 7 day cleaning for Maynooth. We plan to meet with the some members of Maynooth Business Association, Local Councillors and other interested parties in December and to develop a Litter and environment strategy for Maynooth.

#### Projects for 2017?

We are always open to ideas/ suggestions for projects from the public. ....Ring us on 087 3153189. You can find us on Facebook or write to us care of Maynooth Community Council.

**NOBODY CAN DO EVERYTHING .....  
BUT EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING**





# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

*Citizens Information Centre, 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 [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121*

## Christmas Bonus Question

*I'm getting a social welfare payment. Will I get a Christmas Bonus?*

### Answer

The Christmas Bonus is paid to people getting a long-term social welfare payment. Long-term social welfare payments include the following:

- State Pensions and Widow's/Widower's/Surviving Civil Partner's Pensions
- Invalidity Pension, Blind Pension, Disability Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Carer's Benefit, Domiciliary Care Allowance and guardian's payments
- Jobseeker's Transitional payment, One Parent Family Payment, Farm Assist, Deserted Wife's Benefit and Allowance
- Community Employment, Rural Social Scheme, Tús, Gateway, Back to Work Enterprise Allowance and Job Initiative
- Back to Education Allowance (BTEA), VTOS and Further Education and Training (FET) training allowance (people coming from jobseeker's payments must have been on their payment and/or BTEA or VTOS or FET training allowance for 15 months)

For Jobseeker's Allowance or Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance, you must be getting the payment for 15 months to get a Christmas Bonus.

In 2016 the Christmas Bonus will be 85% of your normal weekly payment (including the Living Alone Increase, the Island Allowance and the Over-80 Increase). Fuel Allowance is not included when calculating the Christmas Bonus. The minimum Christmas Bonus payment is €20.

For Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA), which is paid monthly, the bonus is 85% of the **weekly** payment. The DCA portion of the bonus is calculated independently of other payments. So, for example, if you are getting DCA for one child, 85% of the weekly payment is €60.70.

## Holidays at Christmas Question

*I work full-time, Monday to Friday. What days off will I get at Christmas?*

### Answer

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

In 2016 Christmas Day falls on a Sunday and St Stephen's Day falls on a Monday. New Year's Day 2017 falls on a Sunday.

Where a public holiday falls on a weekend, you do not have any automatic legal entitlement to have the **next** working day off work. This means that, for example, Tuesday 27 December 2016 is not a public holiday. Your employer can require you to attend work on that day. Your public holiday entitlement for Christmas Day will be one of the following:

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

Under the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997, you may ask your employer, at least 21 days before a public holiday, which of the alternatives will apply to you. Your employer should respond to you at least 14 days before the public holiday. In practice, many employers will give employees Tuesday 27 December and Monday 2 January off in lieu of Christmas Day and New Year's Day – but it is important to remember that this is not an automatic entitlement.

You can find out more about public holidays in the **Explanatory Booklet on Holidays and Public Holidays (pdf)** which is available from the Workplace Relations Commission website, [workplacelrelations.ie](http://workplacelrelations.ie).

If you do not get your public holiday entitlement, you may make a complaint under the Organisation of Working Time Act within 6 months of the dispute or complaint occurring. You must use the online complaint form available on **workplacelrelations.ie**.

## Tenants with landlords living abroad Question

*Our landlady lives in Spain and we pay rent into her bank account. Is it true that we need to collect the tax she is liable for?*

### Answer

Yes, if you pay rent directly to a landlord (or landlady) who lives abroad, you must deduct tax from the rent and account for it to Revenue, whether by paying it to Revenue or by reducing your tax credits. You deduct the tax at the standard rate (20% at present) from the gross amount of rent that you pay. This deduction is not your tax relief – it is tax payable to Revenue from your landlady's income.

Say, for example, you pay gross monthly rent of €1,500 directly to your landlady. The amount of tax to deduct is 20% of €1,500, which is €300. Subtract this from the gross rent to get net monthly rent of €1,200. You pay this to your landlady. The amount due to Revenue is the €300 per month that you deducted.

(The situation is different for a tenant who pays rent through an agent to a landlord living abroad. In this situation, you do not deduct tax from the rent. The landlord's collection agent must account for it in an annual tax return.)

You must account to Revenue for the tax that you deduct from the gross rent. If you fail to deduct the tax and account for it, this will mean that you (not your landlady) will be liable for any tax that should have been deducted.

**If you pay tax under PAYE**, you can account for it by reducing your tax credits and Standard Rate Cut-Off Point. You can notify your local Revenue Office and ask them to arrange this. Alternatively, you can make a tax return on **Form 12 (pdf)** and pay the retained amount to Revenue.

**If you pay tax under self-assessment**, you should include the details of your rent with your annual return on **Form 11 (pdf)**. A notice of assessment will then issue to you, showing your reduced tax credits. At the end of the year you must give your landlady a completed **Certificate of Income Tax Deducted - Form R185 (pdf)**.

## Buying goods online Question

*I have ordered a few presents from a Belgian website. Can I return them if I'm not happy with them when they arrive?*

### Answer

Online purchases within the EU are covered by the EU Directive on Consumer Rights. Under this Directive you are entitled to a cooling-off period of 14 days. During the cooling-off period, you can cancel distance contracts such as online purchases without giving a reason and without incurring charges or penalties, other than possible charges incurred in returning the goods. The 14-day cooling-off period begins on the day that you receive the goods.

Upon cancellation, the distance seller is obliged to repay you within 14 days, including delivery costs. If you chose a more expensive type of delivery than the seller's cheapest standard delivery, you are only entitled to be refunded the

cost of the cheaper delivery type. The seller can withhold the repayment until the goods are returned or until you supply evidence that you have sent the goods back.

You must send the goods back within 14 days of informing the seller of the cancellation. You have to pay for the cost of returning them, unless the seller did not inform you before you ordered the goods that you would have to bear the cost.

The seller should have provided you with confirmation of the contract, as well as information on aftersales and guarantees, how to cancel the contract and a postal address for complaints. If the seller did not provide you with information on your right to cancel, the cooling-off period can be extended by 12 months.

Cancellation may not be accepted in certain cases, for example, if the goods were made especially for you.

## Flu vaccination Question

*I have been told I need to get a flu vaccine. Can I get it for free?*

### Answer

Influenza, usually known as the flu, is highly infectious and anyone can get it. However some groups are at greater risk of complications if they get the flu. This includes people over the age of 65, pregnant women and people who have a chronic medical condition.

The flu vaccine can help protect you from getting the flu. The flu virus changes every year and this is why there is a new vaccine each year. Vaccination is strongly recommended if you:

- Are aged 65 and over
- Have a long-term medical condition such as diabetes, heart, kidney, liver, lung or neurological disease
- Have an impaired immune system due to disease or treatment
- Have a body mass index (BMI) over 40
- Are pregnant
- Live in a nursing home or other long-stay institution
- Are a carer or a healthcare worker
- Have regular contact with poultry, water fowl or pigs

You can get the vaccine from your GP (family doctor) or pharmacist. Children can get the vaccine from a GP. The vaccine itself is free of charge if you are in one of the recommended groups. However, doctors and pharmacists may charge a consultation fee when they give you the vaccine.

If you have a medical card or GP visit card you can get the vaccine without being charged a consultation fee.

## 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.  
GH & TH**

# Maynooth Labour News

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

## Local Property Tax (LPT) Discretionary €645,389 Allocation to be Agreed for Maynooth Municipal District (MD)

Cllr. John McGinley has proposed that the following works be funded from the LPT Discretionary Fund of €645,389:

- Proper drainage and surfacing of the road behind house numbers 826 to 837 Old Greenfield, Maynooth. As I pointed out in my Motion to the MD meeting on 20 October this Back Lane is used by all of the residents for access to their houses. Most of these residents are Senior Citizens and the Back Lane is hazardous for them in its present state.
- Resurface the footpath from house 351 to 342 (down as far as the bollards), Old Greenfield, as it is in a very poor condition.
- The footpaths in other areas of Old Greenfield need re-surfacing
- Resurface the footpath from Beaufield to the Health Board houses on Newtown Road as it is a very poor condition. As you know this footpath is highly pedestrianised.
- Put double yellow lines in Silken Vale as per the email from the Residents' Association dated 8 November. Also, a single white line down the middle of the road to the blind corner on the way into the estate.
- Move the pedestrian lights from the existing position in Straffan Village to the Straffan Inn location as per my motion to the MD meeting on 9 November.
- Provide a bus shelter on the New Road (School Road), Straffan
- Include Maynooth as one of the two towns in MD for the Health Check Initiative/Public Realm Plan.
- Extension of the wall at the right hand side entrance to Greenfield Estate (Greenfield Shopping Centre) in order to help prevent anti-social behaviour at this location.

## Update on Cllr. John McGinley's Motion Seeking Funding for Maynooth Ring Road

The Chief Executive of Kildare County Council, Peter Carey, has applied to the Government for €67m from the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund. This includes €20m for the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road from Dublin Road to the Straffan Road.

## Cllr. McGinley Gets Safety Improvements at the Boys School, Maynooth

As a result of Cllr. John McGinley's motion to the Maynooth MD bollards have been erected on the footpath from the Boys School to the entrance to the Post Primary School. This will prevent motorists from parking on the footpath and improve safety for pedestrians.

## Cllr. McGinley Seeks Access to the New Road for the Existing Houses Rear Garden Houses in Old Greenfield

Cllr. McGinley got the following reply to his motion:

*The Planning permission is a live permission relating to a housing development at Old Greenfield, Maynooth, and is essentially an extension of duration to a previous permission, extending the planning period to 29 October 2018.*

*The applicant / developer has until this time to take up his permission. The development is to be carried out and completed in accordance with the terms of the 'original' permission. Compliance with the terms of the planning permission will be monitored and any non-compliance may result in enforcement proceedings as and when appropriate.*

Cllr. McGinley has asked the Director of Planning to take an active interest to ensure that the houses have

access to the new road as Planners gave permission for the road and the houses. It is therefore Kildare County Council Planners responsibility to overcome this serious problem.

## Cllr. McGinley Calls for Seven Day Street Cleaning for Maynooth.

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 20 October:

*"That a seven day street cleaning service be provided by the council in Maynooth."*

John got the following reply:

*"A submission has forwarded to Finance Section to include an increase in funding to provide for an extra street sweeping services in Maynooth. This can be considered in the context of Budget 2017."*

John made the point that Maynooth is unique being the only University town in Ireland and when students are included Maynooth has a population of 24,000. So, a five day street cleaning is not good enough for such a population. John also pointed out that Maynooth had a six day cleaning service up to 2012.

The Director of Services has advised Cllr. McGinley that there is an additional €54,000 allocated countywide in the Budget for street sweeping and that there are ongoing discussions between the Roads Section and the Environment Section on how much of this will be allocated for Maynooth.

## Cllr McGinley Seeks Directional Signage for Public Car Park in Maynooth

Cllr. McGinley has made the following submission to the Council:

*"Directional signage is badly needed for the public car park in Maynooth. It is especially needed for strangers to the town as they don't know that it exists and that is half empty most of the time."*

*This issue was discussed by the Director of Services in relation to Naas at the SPC meeting on 3 November."*

## Stagg Welcomes Re-Invitation of Tenders for Maynooth Education Campus

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has welcomed confirmation from the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board that Tenders were invited from pre-qualified contractors for the Maynooth Education Campus Project on Friday October 28th. Mr. Stagg said the Maynooth Education Campus Project involves the construction of two new Post Primary Schools and a Shared Sports Facility at an estimated value of €30 Million and the envisaged construction period is 24 months.

10 contractors who came through the pre-qualification process for contractors have been requested to submit tenders for the project.

In conclusion Mr. Stagg stated that we are nearly at the conclusion of the re-tendering process for the Maynooth Education Campus and expressed confidence that Construction would begin on site in the first quarter of 2017.

## Hands Off Free Travel - Stagg

Reacting to the Review compiled by the National Transport Authority and Iarnrod Eireann to examine possible solutions for the Financial Stability of Iarnrod Eireann, Labour Spokesperson on Older People Emmet Stagg has condemned the suggestion in the Review that the Free Travel Scheme should be reformed to save money.

Mr. Stagg stated that there is no doubt there is a serious funding crisis within Iarnrod Eireann, but Government Ministers Leo Vardakar T.D. and Shane Ross T.D.

should immediately move to dismiss any suggestion that the Free Travel Scheme will be reformed. They need to be clear that there will be no changes to the existing scheme and if that means stumping up an additional €6 Million per year to cover the actual cost of the scheme to Iarnrod Eireann, then so be it.

It is estimated that 4.6 Million passenger journeys in 2016 will avail of Free Travel on Rail Services and this in itself shows how popular the scheme is with Older People. It gives them the opportunity to see parts of the Country that they may not have seen before and gives them an opportunity to travel with friends for outings, an important social service in preventing isolation. Using commuter services also allows older people to get on with their daily routine. We want to encourage the use of Public Transport not put obstacles in the way of Older People stated Mr. Stagg.

In conclusion Emmet Stagg again called on Ministers Varadkar and Ross to explicitly state that there will be no changes to the Free Travel Scheme to remove the fears of Older People.

## Stagg Calls on McEntee to Publish Proposals on National Positive Ageing Strategy.

Labour Spokesperson on Older People Emmet Stagg has called on the Minister of State at the Department of Health, Helen McEntee T.D., to publish their new implementation proposal for the National Positive Ageing Strategy.

Mr. Stagg stated 'We have a Blueprint for age related policy and service delivery in Ireland, the National Positive Ageing Strategy which was published in 2013. The Strategy offers a positive view of ageing and does not limit its remit to health issues, but rather looks at how to improve quality of life, promote independent living and deliver greater opportunities for older people. Disappointingly the specific Implementation of the National Positive Ageing Strategy was not included in the 'Programme for Partnership Government', stated Mr. Stagg.

'My colleague Joan Burton T.D., at my request, questioned Minister McEntee on the Strategy recently in the Dail and Minister McEntee responded as follows: *As the Deputy may be aware my Department is developing a new implementation proposal for the National Positive Ageing Strategy. This plan proposes mechanisms to facilitate the identification by NGO stakeholders of their policy priorities, along with regular on-going structured engagement between relevant State Agencies and stakeholders on the key issues so identified. The details of the above will be finalised shortly.*

Concluding Labour Spokesperson on Older People Emmet Stagg stated that Groups advocating on behalf of Older people want to see how this implementation process will work and it was important that the proposals were published as soon as possible.

## Cllr. McGinley Asks for The Square, Maynooth to be Repaired

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 9 November:

*"When will the council replace the tarmacadam and the broken flags on the Square in Maynooth with proper flagstones?"*

John was given the following reply:

*"The municipal district office is in discussions with Gas Networks Ireland about the restoration of this section of the Square."*

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8)

### Allocation of New Gardaí perpetuates Garda Manning Shortfall in Kildare - Stagg

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has condemned the number of newly attested Gardaí assigned to the Kildare Division since the re-opening of the Garda Training College in Templemore in September 2014.

Mr. Stagg stated that since the re-opening of the College 534 recruits have been assigned to various Garda Divisions throughout the State. Of these 25 recruits, or 4.7% have been assigned to the Kildare Division. The population of Kildare makes up 4.7% of the State's population. So allocations to date of new recruits are having no impact on the fact that we have the worst ratio of Gardaí to population in the State, of 1:751.

If we are to reduce this unacceptable under manning of Garda Manpower in the Kildare Division, we have to be assigned greater numbers over and above our current percentage of the State's population. What we have here is an effective standstill situation. We may be getting a correct percentage of allocations by population now, but this ignores the historical position of under manning.

The Commissioner accepted that there was an imbalance of Garda to population when I raised this issue with her in April 2015. The Commissioner pointed out that the moratorium on recruitment was a major obstacle to deploying additional resources to the Kildare Division. We now have recruitment, yet the imbalance is not been redressed.

In conclusion Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that he will raise this serious issue again with the Garda Commissioner as we now have the opportunity to correct this wrong as the Garda Force is expected to grow to 15,000 members. If the correction is not implemented now it never will be.

Craobh Mhaigh Nuad C.C.E. are delighted to have been invited to participate in many community events leading up to the festive season. By the time this issue goes to print we will have participated in Scór, the Scouts Christmas Fair and the Enable Ireland Fundraiser. We will also be involved in Aonach na Nollag, Gaelscoil Ui Fhiaich Christmas Fair, a visit to the TLC Nursing home to entertain the residents, and the Tidy Towns gold medal celebration night.



**Craobh Mhaigh Nuad**

Add to this a branch outing to see Robin Hood presented by An Nuada Players in the Aula Maxima, and our branch Christmas Party and session in O'Neills on 14<sup>th</sup> December and you get a picture of the diverse range of activities in which our members involve themselves.

The committee wish to take this opportunity to thank our members who support the branch and help to promote our traditional music song and dance by voluntarily attending these events, and the parents of junior members who encourage their practice, attendance at classes and of course accompany them on these occasions. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

We acknowledge the assistance of our friends from the Rita Doyle School of dance and members of Push for Porter who regularly support us in our endeavours. We look forward to continued cooperation and friendship and the growth of Craobh Mhaigh Nuad and it's community involvement.

The final class for the term will be on 7<sup>th</sup> December, and classes resume on Wednesday 11th January 2017. Nollag shona daoibh go léir.

## Maynooth Town FC Lotto Results 2016

[www.maynoothtownfc.com](http://www.maynoothtownfc.com) - Join Us On Facebook

W/End	Numbers	Jackpot	3 x €35 Winners
02-Oct-16	15,16,27,28	€2,800	Declan Fitz - Mags O'Sullivan - Mary Murray
09-Oct-16	2,6,10,16	€2,850	Patrick Gilligan - Louise Mac Nevin - TJ Byrne
16-Oct-16	4,15,20,28	€2,900	Leisa Garvey - Mark Nolan - Dani/Dara/Amy
23-Oct-16	1,11,16,25	€2,950	Ellis Duffy - David Earls - Patrick Dunne
30-Oct-16	13,21,26,27	€3,000	Tina Gannon - Declan Fitzgerald - Bronagh Donovan
06-Nov-16	3,5,9,10	€3,050	Jenifer Sutton - Siobhan & Les Kellett - James Keegan
13-Nov-16	4,5,14,17	€3,100	Bernie Mooney - David Leavey - David Wright
20-Nov-16	3,18,22,27	€3,150	CHA' - Sean Mc Gowan - Joe Walsh

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## Christmas Family Event in Maynooth Community Library

**Mr. Podzo Christmas Event**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30pm**

Boys & Girls, this Christmas climb aboard The Polar Express and join in a Frozen sleigh ride of fun with entertainer Mr Podzo, as he makes one final stop before heading off to help in the North Pole!

Join Mr Podzo as he brings his Winter Wonderland Family Show to Maynooth with some cracking Christmas Surprises, Magical Activities, Sing-Along Stories and as rumour has it, to welcome a very special visit from the man himself... (but Mum's the word!)

Christmas jumpers optional but early booking is essential, as places for this event, I'm told, will go like, The Polar Express, FAST TRACK!

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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.**


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**Never known to fail.  
Thanksgiving for favour received.**



# Frank O'Rourke T.D. Kildare North

Contact Details: Dail Office: 01 6183109 - Mobile: 087 2555257 - e-mail: frank.orourke@oireachtas.ie -  /Frank O'Rourke

Clinics: Monday in the Glenroyal Hotel - Constituency Office: Main Street Celbridge.

## Extra Bus Service for Maynooth and Celbridge says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, has been informed by Dublin Bus that it will now operate a new Sunday service on their Route 67 commencing on Sunday 27th of November.

'Dublin Bus have informed me that it will now operate a new Sunday service on Route 67 commencing on Sunday 27th of November next. The new service commences at 8.15am and operates every 30 mins until 20.50 and then reverts back to an hourly service.'

'As a councillor and now as a TD, I have regular interactions with Dublin Bus, Bus Eireann, National Transport Authority and Irish Rail. I continue to raise the importance of a regular and reliable public transport service for commuters in North Kildare.' Stated Deputy O'Rourke.

'We are making progress, improved bus service for Kilcock is now in place, we have a Park and Ride for Bus commuters planned for Kilcock, improved rail services for those using the Kildare line with the opening of Phoenix Park tunnel and the Kilcock and Naas rail commuters now have a fairer fare structure, and I have received assurances from the NTA that it will seek tenders for the Naas to Blanchardstown service, serving Clane, Rathcoffey and Maynooth, in the first quarter of 2017.'

'I will continue to make further representations of behalf of our public transport users and I welcome this new service for Maynooth and Celbridge on Route 67.' Concluded Deputy O'Rourke

## Increased investment for mental health services needed says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, says his party is pushing hard for a significant increase in funding for mental health services. Deputy O'Rourke made his comments after contributing in the Dáil debate on the future of mental health services, based on a private members motion submitted by his party.

"Our arrangement with Fine Gael commits to the full implementation of the 'A Vision for Change' policy. This is regarded as a best practice approach in mental health policy terms. It remains a key priority for us to have the vision for change policies adopted. There has been significant under investment in mental health services in recent years and this practice must change." said Deputy O'Rourke.

"The July 2016 estimate from the Department of Health outlines that the required resources to fully implement 'A Vision for Change' is €77.3m, or €35.4m over five years. The funding committed by the Government for 2017 is just €15m, so a significant increase in mental health spending is needed."

"Fianna Fáil has made clear that mental health spending can't be put on the backburner, so it's time for the Government to outline their plan for mental health services.

"Apart from improving the person, improving the mental health of the population of Ireland is an essential foundation for economic and social recovery. As I said in the Dail earlier this year, over 450,000 people in Ireland experience depression at any one time and people with a mental health disability are 9 times more likely to be outside the labour force. 1 in 7 adults in Ireland will have experienced a mental health difficulty in the last year and 9% of the population aged 15 or over has a mental health problem according to the Healthy Ireland survey."

"Currently the Government allocates funding to mental health on a year to year basis, we need to see a multi

annual budget for mental health. Such a funding model would assist in putting mental health on a more solid funding foundation. Not having such a plan is preventing long term planning and development from taking place. Having a multi-annual budget and plan so that our mental health services can be developed with certainty must be a priority for Government." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

## Making progress on Broadband Coverage – further progress needed says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, has said today that he is continuing to keep the pressure on Eir in connection with the timelines for the rollout of their fibre broadband technology, in particular the fibre to the home (FTTH) technology, to many parts of North Kildare. He was speaking following a meeting with Eir's senior executives in Leinster House recently.

'Eir's relatively new FTTH (Fibre To the Home) technology is designed for rural areas where bringing copper wires from cabinets proves more difficult.' Stated Deputy O'Rourke.

'I continue to make representations to Eir in relation to securing adequate Broadband coverage for areas such as; Newtown, Broadford, Timahoe, Eadestown and Kilteel. By the end of March next, over 2,500 additional rural Kildare premises will be connected to broadband by the Fibre to the home technology (FTHH). 400 rural premises in the Maynooth area, 370 in Kilcock, 480 in Donadea, 520 in Straffan and 470 in Carbury are examples of the planned rollout for this year in rural Kildare.'

"Kilcock for example currently has 2,400 homes and businesses that have access to broadband speeds of up to 100Mb/s, with further connections planned. In Maynooth, 4,500 homes and businesses have access to speeds of up to 100Mb/s and a further 400 homes and businesses have been earmarked for fibre to the home by June 2017. Today in Celbridge, over 7,400 homes and businesses have access to speeds of up to 100Mb/s. An additional 150 premises are due to be covered by Eir's fibre to the home rollout by June 2017.' Stated Deputy O'Rourke.

Details of Eir's fibre broadband rollout plans for individual areas can be seen in more detail at [www.fibrerollout.ie](http://www.fibrerollout.ie).

## Tenders to be sought for New Bus Route linking Naas, Clane, Rathcoffey, Maynooth and Blanchardstown says Deputy O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, has been informed by the National Transport Authority (NTA) that it is hoped to seek tenders for the proposed new Bus Service linking Naas, Clane, Rathcoffey, Maynooth, Blanchardstown and Blanchardstown Hospital.

'In April of this year, the NTA confirmed to me, following my presentations, that they would consider this bus service. I am delighted now, following further representations, that the NTA will seek tenders for this new service early in 2017.'

'Linking Naas, Clane, Rathcoffey, Maynooth and Blanchardstown has been one of the missing public transport services. Naas, Maynooth and Blanchardstown are all key employment towns, all three towns are key retail centres, Maynooth has a University and all three towns have hospitals. It will also open up these towns for the rent to room schemes for students studying in NUI Maynooth. '

'Linking these towns, and their services, will provide an important service for the people in the North Kildare area, improve the commercial activity in the towns and

ensure that more services and educational opportunities are available for all.'

'Since getting elected, I have been campaigning for improved public transport services for commuters in North Kildare. We have made progress on the Bus Service for Kilcock commuters, plans are in place for a Park and Ride at Kilcock and additional services planned for Leixlip bus commuters, address the fare structure anomaly for Kilcock rail commuters and provide better public transport services for Clane and Prosperous commuters, in particular linking these towns to St Stephens Green and UCD.'

'As I outlined to the NTA, once we achieve a regular, reliable and inclusive public transport service, we will attract more people to use it and thereby make it more efficient. I intend to keep making representations until we make further progress on public transport services.' concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

## O'Rourke presses for Additional Park and Ride places for Maynooth

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has called on the Government to increase the resources to Irish Rail to provide additional park and ride places for Maynooth Bus and Rail commuters.

'One of my first meetings when I got elected in February was in relation to public transport services. I was delighted that in April, the NTA put the provision of a bus service from Naas to Blanchardstown via Clane, Rathcoffey and Maynooth on its agenda which following my representations.'

'Progress has also been made in improving the Bus Service for Kilcock commuters and now we have made significant progress on providing a Park and Ride at Kilcock on the Old Galway Road. However, Maynooth needs more park and ride places and I believe that resources should be provided to increase the number of car parking places in Maynooth for public transport users.' Stated Deputy O'Rourke.

'Maynooth is served well by both Rail and Bus from a timetable perspective, but given the low cost of money, the Government should provide capital for extra park and ride places. I will be raising this matter in the Dáil.'

## Street Sweeping For Towns In North Kildare

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, has been informed by Kildare Co. Co. that street sweeping for towns in North Kildare is to be extended into weekends and will include Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Naas.

'In recent months, weekend street sweeping has been requested by tidy town committees, local businesses and community groups for towns of Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Naas.'

'Together with these groups, I made representations to Kildare Co. Co. and asked them to consider extending the street sweeping into the weekends.'

'Groups like the tidy towns and local businesses put in considerable efforts into keeping these towns clean and deserve great credit for their work. Putting in place a weekend street sweeping programme for these towns will provide assistance to these groups and give recognition to the valuable contribution they make to our community.'

'As I understand it, the environment and transport departments of Kildare Co Co are working together to agree how this programme can be best implemented, which I hope will commence in early 2017.' Concluded Deputy O'Rourke.



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**The Copy Date for the February Edition of the  
Maynooth Newsletter is Tuesday 24th January**



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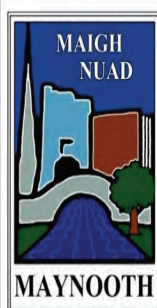
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# Maynooth

**Tidy Towns**  
Caring for our environment



We were presented with our National Tidy Towns Gold Medal and certificate by Michael Ring T.D. Minister of State for Regional Economic Development in Skerries at the Regional Awards Ceremony on 25th October, 2016. We were also presented with a National Pollinator Award at the same ceremony.

Maynooth Tidy Towns received an invitation from Kildare County Council to the County Awards in the IONTAS Building in Maynooth University on Tuesday 1st November 2016. A wonderful evening took place culminating with a certificate which was presented by the Mayor of Kildare Ivan Keatley to Tina Drury as our Local Hero. Well done Tina.

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. Also remember to recycle your bottles and cans in Glenroyal shopping centre, Tesco and Aldi after Christmas.

The WEEE Ireland Collection of electrical goods and batteries will take place on 25th March 2017 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*

*Mobile no.0873153189... Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter*

*Interview with John Kavanagh (Chairman) on page 6*



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**Drama News**  
**An Nuadha Players**  
**Community Theatre**

Hi, to all our friends in Maynooth, by the time you read this you will be preparing for the Big Day. It is hard to believe that Jesus will be celebrating his 2016th Birthday. If he lived in Ireland, he would be eligible for the medical card, free travel and more than likely have a seat in Seanad Eireann. He would probably be homeless but for a chap who was born in a stable, I am sure he could handle the situation. He might be eligible to apply for one of the new homes being built by Lego. They're very versatile, you can turn them from a home into a soup kitchen or a hostel or a eurobustar at the drop of a hat. Smyth's Toys will supply the material / plans and every house built will get a free game of Monopoly to show where you could have lived, if you had saved up the 30 grand deposit instead of blowing it on food and clothes for your kids.



**Martina Reilly**  
**Best Play, Script and**  
**best Director**

the ground running with her play "Breeding Lessons". Directed by Martina and starring (and I mean starring) Meadhb Fitzgibbon Moore and Tina O'Connor. A play that covers the stress of everyday life which at times can get out of control. It is also extremely funny. A play not to be missed when it comes round again.

So far, Martina's play has picked an Adjudicators Award – Best Script. Best Actress - Meadhb Fitzgibbon Moore. Best Director and Best Play Martina Reilly - Adjudicators Award – Design Team. 1<sup>st</sup> place – Ballina. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Manorhamilton 3<sup>rd</sup> - Goredbridge 3<sup>rd</sup> - Moate 3<sup>rd</sup> - Skerries.

Will not know until December how it all pans out. Insight Theatre Group are also on the circuit with "Love in a Glass Jar" Directed by Bill Elliffe. They so far came second in two festivals. Best Actress for Valerie Kennelly and best set design for Gayle Thompson.



**Meadhb Fitzgibbon Moore and Tina**  
**O'Connor An Nuadha Players**  
**Breeding Lessons**

2016 has proven to be a great year for An Nuadha Players. Starting with Martina Reilly's "Conquered Not We Were" following the life of Oliver Ryan and his Sister Francis from workhouse to working in Dunboyne House in Maynooth College. He and 14 men from Maynooth walked into history to the GPO Easter 1916. A great success and after a lot of hard work from Martina a plaque to Oliver was erected in his old workplace in Dunboyne House. A video, music and script of the play are now in the college library for all to see.



**Meadhb Fitzgibbon**  
**Moore Best Actress**

Another original play from Rory Griffin called Blue Water was performed in the Castle and was picked up for the Galway Fringe Festival. My own play "Echoes from a Room" was presented to a full houses in May.

The All Ireland One Act Festival beckoned and Martina hit

This will be followed in December 8th/9th/10th/ 11th of our original Pantomime written for us by Martin Higgins "Robin Hood and his Occasionally Merry Man" Tickets Maynooth Book Shop or contact 086-8068068.

With all this activity, I think its safe say that Maynooth needs an Arts Centre/Theatre.

If you would like to submit a play to the group for possible production  
[annuadhaplayers@gmail.com](mailto:annuadhaplayers@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/annuadha](http://www.facebook.com/annuadha)

**Happy Christmas from all at An Nuadha Players**  
**Terry Nealon**



**Adjudicators Award**  
**Design team - set**





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# Maynooth Newsletter

Copy date for the February edition of the Maynooth  
Newsletter will be Tuesday 24th January 2017



**International bestselling author  
Lorna Byrne  
to host Christmas fundraiser in  
Maynooth for children in desperate need.**



Photo by Elen  
Kremer

Lorna Byrne, the international bestselling author who has written extensively about raising her family in Maynooth will host a special Christmas fundraiser at the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth on Sunday 18th December 2016 from 2-5pm to raise funds for children in Ireland, Africa and Syria through the Lorna Byrne Children's Foundation.

Limited tickets are available from [www.lornabyrne.com](http://www.lornabyrne.com) priced €10 - €25.

**Christmas with Lorna** will include a mulled wine reception followed by light lunch, live music including Tony Savino (a.k.a Barry Smith), Christmas demonstrations, a Grand Raffle and for children a visit from Santa with goodie bags, face painting & art corner.

All of the proceeds from **Christmas with Lorna** will go to the Lorna Byrne Children's Foundation chosen charities for 2016. The Lorna Byrne Children's Foundation supports a diverse range of organisations who are changing the lives of vulnerable children around the world for the better. Children who are suffering due to war, devastation, poverty or illness.

Speaking about helping children Lorna said "You only have to turn on the news to see how much children, both here in Ireland and right across the world, are suffering. The time for us to reach out and help children is now and I am hoping that as many people as possible can join me for what will be a gorgeous festive afternoon out for everyone, young and old".

All of the proceeds from Christmas with Lorna will go to the Lorna Byrne Children's Foundation chosen charities for 2016.

#### **About the Lorna Byrne Children's Foundation**

In Ireland and abroad there are millions of children who, due to war, devastation, poverty, or illness are in desperate need. The foundation's aim is to give a helping hand to a number of charities who are already working tirelessly to change the lives of these children for the better.

In 2016, the Lorna Byrne Children's Foundation will support:

1. APA (A Partnership with Africa) - [www.apa.ie](http://www.apa.ie)
2. Blue Box - [www.bluebox.ie](http://www.bluebox.ie)
3. Unicef Ireland's Syria Appeal - [www.unicef.ie](http://www.unicef.ie)

All proceeds will be split equally between the three charities.

**For more information and to  
purchase tickets please visit  
[www.lornabyrne.com](http://www.lornabyrne.com)**



GLENROYAL HOTEL

# CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

**Sunday December 4th**

**12.00pm - 5.00pm**

**Don't miss Santa arriving at 1.00pm**

*Get some early Christmas shopping in with  
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**Music by Maynooth Gospel Choir**

## Pilates Classes

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New courses in Pilates catering to all levels.  
Courses will be ongoing in Maynooth

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Text 0877535296 or visit  
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### ROYAL CANAL AMENITY GROUP CHRISTMAS RECOVERY WALK

*The Royal Canal Amenity Group  
(RCAG) is holding a Christmas  
"Recovery Walk"*

*Assemble at Maynooth Harbour at  
11.30 am on Tuesday 27th December.  
We will proceed via the Main Street to  
Carton Avenue, into Carton Estate and  
over to Pike Bridge for some "R &  
R" (Rest and Recreation) and then  
proceeding along the Canal to  
Maynooth Harbour.*



## IRISH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Ireland, like most countries, has a number of Christmas traditions that are all of its own. Many of these customs have their root in the time when the Gaelic culture and religion of the country were being suppressed and it is perhaps because of that they have survived into modern times.

### THE CANDLE IN THE WINDOW



The placing of a lighted candle in the window of a house on Christmas eve is still practised today. It has a number of purposes but primarily it was a symbol of welcome to Mary and Joseph as they travelled looking for shelter.

The candle also indicated a safe place for priests to perform mass as, during Penal Times this was not allowed.

A further element of the tradition is that the candle should be lit by the youngest member of the household and only be extinguished by a girl bearing the name 'Mary'.

### THE LADEN TABLE



After evening meal on Christmas eve the kitchen table was again set and on it was placed a loaf of bread filled with caraway seeds and raisins, a pitcher of milk and a large lit candle. The door to the house was left unlatched so that

Mary and Joseph, or any wandering traveller, could avail of the welcome.

### THE WREN BOY PROCESSION



During Penal Times there was once a plot in a village against the local soldiers. They were surrounded and were about to be ambushed when a group of wrens pecked on their drums and awakened the soldiers. The plot failed and the wren became known as 'The Devil's bird'.

On St. Stephens day a procession takes place where a pole with a holly bush is carried from house to house and families dress up in old clothes and with blackened faces. In olden times an actual wren would be killed and placed on top of the pole.

This custom has to a large degree disappeared but the tradition of visiting from house to house on St. Stephens Day has survived and is very much part of Christmas.

### DECORATIONS



The placing of a ring of Holly on doors originated in Ireland as Holly was one of the main plants that flourished at Christmas time and which gave the poor ample means with which to decorate their dwellings.

All decorations are traditionally taken down on Little Christmas (January 6th.) and it is considered to be bad luck to take them down beforehand.

### TRADITIONAL GAELIC SALUTATION

The Gaelic greeting for 'Merry Christmas' is:

**'Nollaig Shona Duit'**

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**



*Irish Christmas Traditions - An article provided by The Information about Ireland Site.*

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## Tractor Run For Cancer Stops In Maynooth

The Border Counties Vintage Tractor Grassmen set off from Castleblayney with the aim of travelling through all 32 counties in their vintage tractors. They're raising funds for Cancer Support Groups in Castleblaney, Carrickmacross, Ballybay and Marie Curie Cancer Care in Newry.

15 tractors, all over 50 years old, made the journey around Ireland. The drivers have put in a serious amount of work getting their tractors ready and deserve huge credit as this is a task never been undertaken before. They are driving 15 vintage tractors ranging from 1961 - 1964, 1,200 kms around the island of Ireland.







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# Maynooth Monthly Diary Planner

Irish Girl Guides	Maynooth Multiple Births	Bridge Club
Meetings Tuesday evening in Maynooth. For further information contact Jackie on 0894298061 or visit the Irish Girl Guides website <a href="http://www.irishgirlguides.ie">www.irishgirlguides.ie</a>	Maynooth Multiple Births playgroup (twins triplets or more) meets the last Thursday of the month in Leixlip library between 10 & 12 noon. This is a Great opportunity to meet parents just like you. For further details email: <a href="mailto:maynoothmultiplebirthclub@gmail.com">maynoothmultiplebirthclub@gmail.com</a>	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 <a href="http://maynoothbridgeclub.com">maynoothbridgeclub.com</a> . Contact Katherine Cooney 086 8205910
I.C.A.	MAYNOOTH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP	Arthritis Ireland
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	Maynooth Local History Group Meets Last Thursday of each Month in the Maynooth Community Council Office (Next to the Post Office) New Members Welcome Contact: MCC Office for more details	Arthritis Ireland Walking Group (Maynooth) Meeting Monday's 12 - 2pm in the Maynooth Community Space
University of Third Age (U3A)	Maynooth Parent & Toddler Group	Maynooth Men's Sheds
Weekly meetings on Friday at 11am in Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth New Members Welcome	Every Thursday from 10.00am to 12.00pm Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth	Weekly meetings take place every Wednesday at 11.am at the Garden Centre Dublin Road Maynooth. For further details contact John Fleming - 087 2041334
Maynooth Tidy Towns	ALZHEIMER CAFÉ LEIXLIP	Maynooth Community Church
<b>Volunteers required to help with this work.</b> <b>Contact Number</b> <b>087 3153189</b>	Informal café atmosphere for people with Dementia & their partners family & friends. Free of charge. Venue Ryevale Nursing Home. Every second Wednesday of each month 7-9pm. Call 0894933533 Email: <a href="mailto:alzheimercafeleixlip@gmail.ie">alzheimercafeleixlip@gmail.ie</a> <a href="http://www.alzheimercafeleixlip.com">www.alzheimercafeleixlip.com</a>	1st Floor Manor Mills (entrance next to Chill) Service times every Sunday morning from 10.30 am <a href="http://www.maynoothcc.org">www.maynoothcc.org</a> Everyone most welcome
Maynooth Senior Citizens	Craobh Mhaigh Nuad C.C.E.	ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND
Our morning club continues on Tuesday and Thursday and new members are always welcome. Perhaps you are new to the parish or new to the age bracket, why not come along you might enjoy it. You will find us in the Geraldine Hall on Leinster St, or contact Josephine on 087 9002296.	Classes are held on Wednesday 7pm to 9.30pm in Maynooth Post Primary School, Moyglare Road. Our classes are very good value, great fun and we promise you plenty of craic also !!. Bígí linn!!!  Contact Sean at 086 2225540 or email <a href="mailto:craobhmaighnuad@gmail.com">craobhmaighnuad@gmail.com</a> .	Rehearsals are held in the Band Hall on Pound Lane each Monday night (except Bank Holidays) from 7.45pm to 9.30pm and musicians living in Maynooth and the surrounding areas are most welcome. E-mail: <a href="mailto:sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie">sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie</a> Website: <a href="http://www.stmarysbandmaynooth.ie">www.stmarysbandmaynooth.ie</a>

Diary entries are published free of charge for all Community Groups. E-mail details of your event before the copy date (2nd last Tuesday of each month) to be included in the next months edition. E-mail: [office@maynoothcc.com](mailto:office@maynoothcc.com). Phone: 01-6285922  
(The content of the Monthly Planner Diary is published in good faith. All details should be checked with groups)



**Difficult**

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

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claim their prize from the time the  
results are made public.**

**Super Difficult**

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

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

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Notes of MCC meeting held on Monday Nov 14th at Maynooth Community Space.**

Chairman Tom McMullon expressed the sympathies of those present to council member Paddy Holmes and the Holmes family on the death of their mother Mary. At the time of her passing, Mrs Holmes was Maynooth's oldest citizen.

#### **TIDY TOWNS ADDRESS ON THE GOLD MEDAL**

Richard Farrell and Mattie Callaghan addressed the meeting on the recent Tidy Towns Gold Medal win. They also won a Pollinator award this year and Tina Drury won a Local Hero award. The medal will be brought to schools and any other organisation that wishes to have the Tidy Towns speak to their group on the win and current works being carried out. Richard noted the work carried out over the past 30 years and mentioned that Maynooth Tidy Towns Committee grew out of MCC. He mentioned some people that were pivotal in the inception of the group and thanked Bob Reilly, Sean Lyons, Mattie Callaghan and Fionan Hardiman among others. Tom McMullon praised the work of MTT and noted that they are now entering a new level of competition. He said that although the group is strong, extra help is always needed and welcomed. He expressed a wish to see a Kildare National winner in the near future. Mattie thanked all the volunteers and is looking forward to future work as there is still lots to be done. He informed the meeting that litter picking had ceased for the months of Oct and Nov to highlight to KCC that the town needs a 7-day cleaning service. Planters and flower beds have benefited since the litter picking stopped as litter was usually prioritised.

Conor Dempsey requested more community involvement in order for the group to further thrive and suggested that this should begin with our young people. He suggested bringing children out on MTT mornings and showing them how to plant bulbs and tend to flower beds and encouraging children against littering. They are after all the future of the town. The Chairman also noted that the schools have green flags but the ideals don't seem to extend from the school into the community. The address was ended with a round of applause for the Tidy Towns achievement.

#### **STREET BEGGING**

The subject of begging was raised again and questions were asked about what could be done. Is there a case for involving Social Welfare? Can KCC investigate? The Chairman suggested that it might be worthwhile to contact

Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown County Council as to how they alleviated the problem in their area.

#### **MCC – WELCOME PACK AND BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE WORKINGS OF MCC**

Paul Croghan noted that there is a failure to inform new members of the Council about the workings and the mandate of the Council. A welcome pack needs to be compiled and distributed among members. This will be part of the upcoming review and facilitation. Paul gave a brief outline of the function of the Council. It is a Community Development organisation which has been in operation for almost 40 years. It has delivered initiatives such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, the summer festival, expanded the St Patrick's Day Parade, Twinning, Tidy Towns, and the provision of the Community Space which is used by many diverse groups and organisations. There was also the Canal Scheme which has since successfully amalgamated with the Community Employment scheme. The Council is there to recognise things missing in our town and to hopefully fill the gaps.

#### **SEVEN-DAY STREET CLEANING SERVICE**

Cllr Naoise Ó Cearúil informed the group that both he and John McGinley had submitted motions that a provision be made in budgetary planning for a 7-day service. The previous street cleaner had been reassigned and his replacement had resigned his post within 3 weeks which was adding to the delay in providing the service. Paul Croghan said that a town which has activities 7 days a week needs a 7-day a week cleaning service. KCC raises a lot of money through rates and suggested that a sizable portion of rates and Local Property Tax should be put back into the community. He also suggested that the outlying areas be considered as well as the town centre. Cllr Teresa Murray agreed with the 7-day cleaning proposal but also noted that businesses must shoulder some responsibility and keep the area around their own premises clean. Miriam O'Keeffe Ahern asked if any exit interviews were held to gain knowledge as to the high turnover of staff. Naoise Ó Cearúil clarified that there is not a high turnover of staff, and that the previous street cleaner had been in place for many years but his replacement had found the job tough on a personal level.

Anne Birchall asked if there was any financial input from Maynooth University towards the work of Tidy Towns and street cleaning in general. Richard Farrell said the Students Union had sponsored many different programmes including the flowers on the roundabout on the

Kilcock Road and the Mutt Mitts which are bag dispensers to aid dog owners to clean up after their pets. Niamh Halpenny (MSU rep) added that the SU sends out clean up teams after big student nights and that the University itself needs to have a greater input into the needs of the town. Richard agreed and added that the numbers of volunteers are not adequate for the population of the area. Padraig Ó Murchú said that a clean town should be a matter of civic pride for all residents and asked if a Litter Warden could be put in place with the power to fine offenders on the spot. It was agreed that a letter be sent to KCC Director of Services Joe Boland outlining concerns and requesting a solution. The attendees agreed.

#### **QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE MEETING**

Questions were raised and concerns expressed about the identity of MCC and MCC Ltd, about the accounting structure within MCC Ltd, its relationship with the Department of Social Protection and implications for fundraising. Anne Birchall expressed her support of the scheme but strongly felt these issues need to be addressed.

Apparent changes in recent weeks to the constitution was brought to the attention of the meeting. A sub-committee was established to investigate how this had come about.

Peter Garrad of Maynooth Scouts thanked Cllr Naoise Ó Cearúil for organising the tarmac for the Scout Den.

Cllr Teresa Murray was thanked for organising the public meeting with reference to policing in our town. Cllr Murray added that there would be a meeting of the Joint Policing Committee on December 5th at 7pm with registration from 6.30. The public can have their say at this meeting. Residents that cannot attend can make representation by email to [cpnkag@gmail.com](mailto:cpnkag@gmail.com) or fill out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7D7CD28>. There are also petitions in local shops.

The Senior Citizens Sale of Work will take place in Maynooth Post Primary School on Nov 20th.

Aonach na Nollag (MCC's Christmas Fair) will take place in the Post Primary School from 12-5 on Dec 10th.

At the next meeting of MCC there will be a presentation by Dillon Grace, President of the Students Union and Michael Rafter, Director of Campus and Commercial Services with specific reference to the University Christmas Day event.



# James Lawless T.D. Kildare North

Phone: 01-6183587 - e-mail: james@jameslawless.ie - Web: www.jameslawless.ie

## Ring Road for Maynooth

I am in ongoing discussion with the Kildare and Meath County Councils, National University of Ireland Maynooth and the National Transport Authority with regard to the Maynooth ring road. All of these organisations have been made aware just how important this is to the town. Residents and business have regularly raised this matter with me. I will continue to work with all stakeholders to progress this project.

## Street Cleaning in Maynooth

I have again raised the issue of additional street cleaning for Maynooth town following meetings with Kildare County Council County Manager Peter Carey and Director of Services Niall Morrissey on the matter. The issue of litter in the streets, particularly over the weekends in Maynooth has become topical recently. With the college at full capacity street cleaning services needed to be increased. I have had many locals come into my Maynooth office off the Main Street raising this very valid concern.

At my meeting with senior council officials I explained the urgent need for this service to be provided. Following this the Director of Services confirmed to me that it was being seriously considered for 2017 subject to budget approval.

We have seen Maynooth have continued success in the Tidy Towns Competition and this cleaning service will only aid and compliment the excellent work they carry out. I am delighted there is an agreement and understanding from the council and that in January the service should commence subject to budget approval by the Maynooth Municipal District meeting.

## Government Must Act on Lowering Car Insurance Costs

Kildare North TD James Lawless has condemned the Government's lack of action on tackling the anomaly whereby returning Irish emigrants are being forced out of the car insurance market due to extremely high quotations. In many cases they cannot find a company or broker who will insure them and often the figure can run into tens of thousands when they do find someone willing to take them on.

This is not the first time I have assisted a resident who has returned to Kildare, eager to start working at home again, only to be set back by soaring motor insurance

cost, all because he or she had been living out of the country and driving experience and no claims bonuses were not recognised during their time away.

It is imperative that the actions set out in a recently agreed Dáil motion on motor insurance, initiated by Fianna Fáil, are implemented without further delay.

The passing of our motion recently was the first step in a process, which will hopefully clamp down on soaring motor insurance premiums. The motion called for the introduction of practical measures such as; the re-establishment of the Motor Insurance Advisory Board on a time limited basis; greater disclosure around policy renewal notifications; action on the settlement of cases and dealing with false and exaggerated claims.

We are determined to ensure that consumers get a fair deal and the series of measures my party colleagues and I have proposed, would reduce these inflated premiums for hard working residents.

## Additional Sunday Service for 67 Route

I am delighted to say Dublin Bus have confirmed additional Sunday services to me following meetings I had held with them during the Summer on 67 route. The new timetable will mean a 67 will arrive into Celbridge & Maynooth every 30 minutes on Sunday from the 27th of this month. I am looking forward to continue working with Dublin Bus and the NTA to improve services for the commuters in Celbridge and Maynooth.

## NUIM

As part of my role as Fianna Fáil Science, Technology, and Innovation spokesperson I was delighted to pay a visit to NUIM to give a guest lector on STEM subjects and tour the site. I was very interested in seeing the MaynoothWorks incubator hub which is a testament to advanced technological work being carried out in Maynooth on a daily basis. I want to thank everyone involved for a warm welcome and fascinating insight into the workings of the college science department.

## Maynooth Purple Flag Application

Was happy to lend my support to the Maynooth Purple Flag bid launch recently. As judging gets underway there are great efforts from North Kildare Chamber, Kildare County Council, Maynooth Tidy Towns, An Gardaí and all the businesses gone into this and best of luck to them. Kildare County Council has also confirmed that street cleaning should be extended on a

weekend basis from 2017 on. This is something I raised in a meeting with senior KCC management recently and it will be another plus for the town's appearance. The purple flag is awarded based on a town's nightlife in terms of eateries, entertainment, cleanliness, security and overall ambience.

## Minister to Review Tús and Community Employment Schemes

The Minister for Social Protection Leo Varadkar TD has agreed to review the operation of the Tús and Community Employment schemes following issues raised around the schemes I brought up in the Dáil. Speaking on the Order of Business I explained to the Minister that I wish to raise an issue relating to community employment placements. Traditionally, employees would have gone onto a Tús scheme. From there they would have gone on to work with a local organisation, often a community or charitable organisation, and then they would have moved onto a community employment (CE) scheme at the same location.

This worked well for the individual and the organisations. It appears that since the advent of JobPath, operated by Turas Nua and Seetec, this path is blocked and individuals coming off the Tús scheme are placed in limbo for 12 months and are unable to return to a CE scheme.

We are losing willing and able workers, most of who would be contributing to Tidy Towns groups or local charities but are now left in uncertainty. This all stems from changes made to the scheme last August when it was outsourced to private providers

Following this the Minister has agreed to review the workings of both schemes.

## 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**

## Maynooth Toastmasters



Congratulations are the order of the day for two very vibrant and progressive voluntary organisations in Maynooth. Maynooth Tidy Towns for reaching the Gold Level Standard in the Tidy Towns Competition. Maynooth Toastmasters for completing 10 years of being a distinguished Toastmasters Club.

Both organisations while different in some respects, share core values of working for the greater good of the community, both started small and developed year by year. Possibly the most important common thread was having a vision, knowing that they were going to win. Being in the winning enclosure is a great feeling especially when you know that your efforts have contributed to making the difference for your committee members and the public.

Donal Bolger, President of Maynooth Toastmasters stated: "John Kavanagh, Chairman of Maynooth Tidy Towns we salute you and look forward to the future, it can't be far off till Maynooth wins the National Tidy Town Award and hopefully Maynooth Toastmasters can help you to win the New Pollinator Award in 2017. Both organisations are always looking for new members, it's fun, so come along and experience something different for 2017.

Check out Maynooth Toastmasters Facebook Page



## Maynooth Golf Society

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### Trim Results

1st	Joey Edwards	40pts
2nd	Mick Flynn	39pts
3rd	Gerry Mc Ternan	35pts
4th	John Saults	34ptsB9
5th	William Farrelly	34pts
6th	Eamon Murphy	33ptsB9
7th	Martin Shields	33pts
Visitors Prize	Alan Clarke	32pts
F9	Sean Farrelly	19pts
B9	Brendan Bean	19pts
Nearest Pin	Alan Clarke	
Over 50's	Tom Coffey	32pts
2's Club	Anthony Tyrell	

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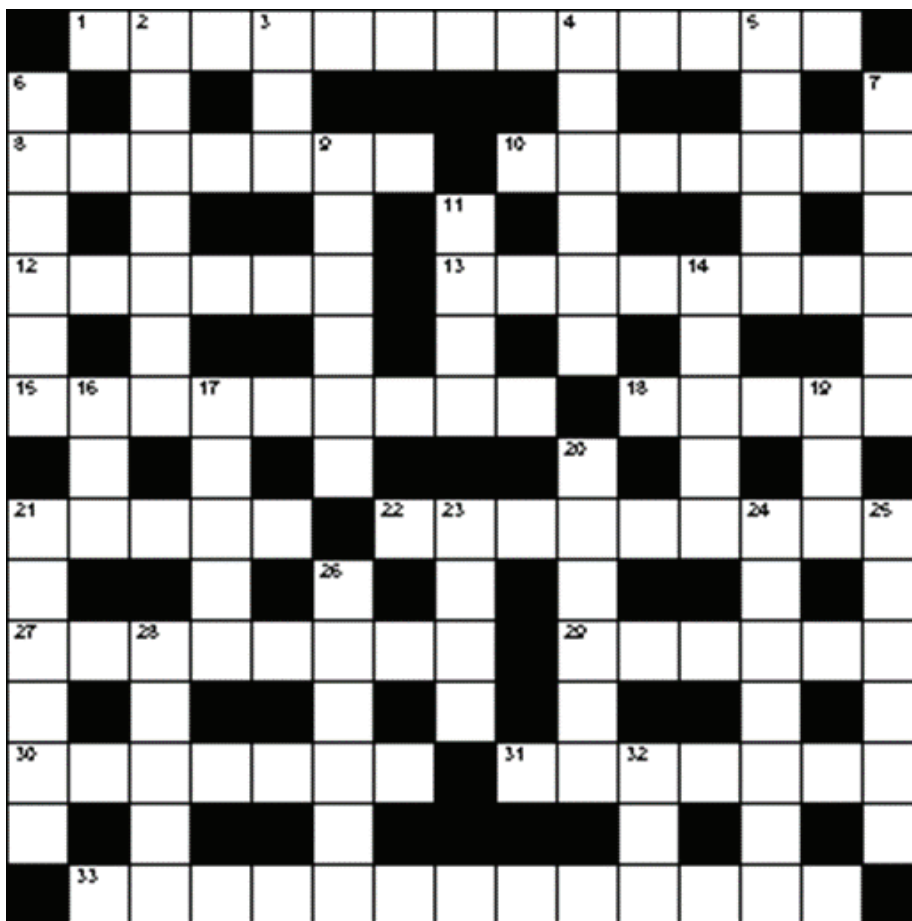


## Clues Across

1. Style of painting (13)
8. Member of a senate (7)
10. Medley (7)
12. Continent (6)
13. In good spirits (8)
15. Something that pollutes (9)
18. Bring about (5)
21. Refined iron (5)
22. Luxurious car (9)
27. Away from the shore (8)
29. Cosmetics (4-2)
30. Drape (7)
31. Companion of Aeneas (7)
33. Inhabitant of Pennsylvania (13)



## Dec/Jan Crossword - No. 453



## Clues Down

2. Dog of mixed breed (7)
3. Long-tailed rodent (3)
4. Speaks publicly (6)
5. Employees (5)
6. Dormant state (6)
7. Goalkeeper (6)
9. Salt of oleic acid (6)
11. Scrutinize (4)
14. Harvests (5)
16. Not in (3)
17. City in West Yorkshire (5)
19. Transgression (3)
20. Vast (6)
21. Caress (6)
23. Notion (4)
24. Sluggishness (7)
25. Uncover (6)
26. Mimics (6)
28. Physical power (5)
32. Female fowl (3)



### Answers to Crossword No 452



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\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Ruth Mc Dermott &  
Matthew Diamond**  
Woodlands  
Maynooth

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# Writers Corner

If you would like to see your story or poem published email us and share your talent on the Writers Corner



## Cuimhní na Nollag

Tháinig an Nollaig go luath sa bhaile. Bhíodh boladh choimhthíochach comhábhar mearóg na Nollag sa chistin san fhómhair. Bheadh flosc ar mo mháthair ag coiméad súil ghéar ar na potaí ar bheireadh le na mearóg is an chistin lán le ghall. Bheadh na mearóg sin le dul ar fud na tíre chuig gaolta is chairde. Corr uair d'fhág cuairteoir a bhí ag freastal ar an ospidéal le mearóg toisc go rabhamar lonnaithe díreach treasna ón ospidéal is go raibh cairde ag

glaoch isteach chugainn go rialta.

Bheadh uirthi bronntanais nollag na bpáistí a fhagáil le chairde sa bhaile mar le naonúr sa líon tí ní raibh áit ar bith ann chun iad a chur i bhfolach. Baileodh sí na bronntanais oíche nollag gan tuairim da laghad againn cén sochrú a bhí déanta aici le Daidí na Nollag.

Sula roghnaigh muid chrann na Nollag bheadh orainn an teach a mhaisiú. Amach linn go choill Daire Cholmchille trí mhíle ó thuaidh den Tulach Mhóir. Is ansin a bhailigh muid cuileann is eidhneán. Deirim leat go raibh an halla ar nós tír dhraíochtúil is an réalt timpeall an solas mar buach phóinte den iontas. Is sa seomra suite a rachach an chrann nollag is an mainséar. Nuair a raibh an tine lasta le meascán de mhóin, gual is adhmaid ba deas teolaí is sona an té a raibh sa seomra suite is ní riabh áit níos deise ar domhain.

Ábhar leitheidreacht is mó a chruinneoidh m'athair don Nollaig. Leabhair an Club Leabhair, Feasta, The Cork Hollybough agus An Timire. Bhí chuireadh faighte againn chuig chóisir na Nollag sa Ghairm Scoil gach bhliain. Feidhmeoidh m'athair mar fear an tí don cheiliú ach is ag súil le teacht daidí na nollag is na bronntanais a

bhí ár n-aire dhírithe.

Seachtain na nollag chuig mo rang timpeall an baile ag canadh cearúl na nollag ar son Cumann Naomh Uinseann de Phóil. Is muid a chan na cearúl ag aifreann na nollag sa seipéal, feasta. Sula d'fhág éinne an teach Oíche Nollag, bhailigh an chlann le haghaidh an Choróin Mhuire. Las an té is óige sa chlann trí choinnle na Nollag, ceann amháin i ngach fuinneog a bhí dhírithe ar an mbóthar.

Lá Nollag bhí orainn buachaillí an luachair a bhailigh is na tinte a lasadh don lae. Tar éis an Aifreann bhí spórt is spraoi againn ag dul timpeall an ospidéal leis an fear mhór arís. Is i gcapaill is chairt a thainig sé ar an ócáid seo. Is iad ritheadóirí na Tullaí Mhóra a d'eagraigh a chuairt don county home is an ospidéal. Bhain gach éinne taitneamh as an chuairt agus ar ndóigh bhí orainn na cearúl a chanadh do na seanóirí is na n-othair.

Bhí féasta ullmhaithe ag Mham nuair a shroicheamar an bhaile. Bhí a ghóthan de turcaí, bagúin, prátaí is trataí le nithe ag gach éinne. Ansin, le searmanas, roinn sí an mhearóg is deise a rinne sí an bhliain sin, lena chlann féin.

Ba shaol difriúil é ag fás aníos in Éirinn sna seascaidí. Thar na blianta, rinneamar ár ndícheall nósanna is oidhreacht na nollag a choiméad beo lenár gclann féin.

Líonann mo chroí le háthas nuair a chuimním ar aimsear na nollag sna laethanta a bhí san am atá thart. Is é breithe ár t-Slánaitheora sa stábla i mBeithil príomh chúis leis an bhféile is an ghrá a thóg sé leis dúinn. Níl orainn afách ach an ghrá is an meas sinn a chothú ionainn féin is é a roinnt lenár chomh dhuine. Chuige sin, tá draíocht faoi leith ag baint leis an Nollaig.

**Nollaig shona is gach rath don ath bhliain.  
Colm Ó Cearúil.**



## Community Policing for North Kildare Action Group Public Meeting 8th November Glenroyal Hotel

At their public meeting on November 8th the committee's chairperson Teresa Murray outlined the function of the Action Group, their liaison with An Garda Síochana and the group's objectives:

- (1) The reinstatement of Community policing.
- (2) Designated opening times for local Garda stations.

Presentations were made by

Josie Moore - **Elderly and Security.**

Dillon Grace President of MSU - **Students and Gardaí**

Patsai ui Chatain – **Text Alert**

Kevin Larkin – **Business and Gardaí**

Denis McCarthy – **Joint policing committee**

Speaking from the floor, Catherine Murphy TD, Frank O'Rourke TD, Bernard Durkan TD, Cllr Joe Neville, Cllr Readha Cronion and Emmett Stagg agreed that more Gardaí are needed and that public engagement with the Garda Authorities and the JPC is the way forward.

Issues raised by the general public included; more Garda presence, anti social behaviour, speeding, careless parking and Garda station opening hours.

Concluding the meeting Teresa Murray thanked people for their presentations and comments and said that the action group will be meeting with the Assistant Commissioner (Eastern Region) to discuss Garda presence in north Kildare. She also encouraged the public to attend the JPC meeting on Dec 5th in the Glenroyal Hotel.

**Once a year the public is invited to a Joint Policing Committee meeting. This years meeting will be held on December 5th in the Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth.**

## Tríocha bliain ag siúl

Agus mé ag cur síos ar mo shaol mar shiúlaí (Samhain 2016) theip orm trácht ar na séasúir féin, an sioc is an sneachta, an ghile is an dorchadas, na duilleoga ag fás agus ag titim, a gcuid oibre déanta. Agus cé go bhfuil a dhraíocht féin ag an dorchadas bhíodh gliondar ar leith im' chroí gach céad lá Feabhra nuair a d'fhógraíodh Naomh Bríd tús an earraigh.

Theip orm freisin tagairt a dhéanamh don spéir agus don réaltra seo againne, Bealach na Bó Finne, a bhíodh go mórthaibhseach fiú i mbreacdhorchadas Maigh Nuad, lena réaltbhuíonta Óiríon, An Camchéachta, Cassiopeia, srl. Agus na plainéid! Cairde liom ar fad agus iad ag leanúint a gcúrsaí éagsúla ar a rogha luas. Fiú amháin Mearcair! Agus chonaic mé go minic é. Dúradh fadó nach bhfaca Galileo Mearcair riamh ach is cosúil nach raibh ansin ach clúmhillleadh, de bhrí nár éirigh sé go ró mhoch ar maidin. Chun seans a bheith agat Mearcair a fheiceáil ó Mhaigh Nuad ní foláir duit bheith i do shuí timpeall leath uair roimh éirí na gréine lá éicint i rith tréimhse gearr, cúpla seachtain, uair nó dhó sa bhliain. Is féidir é a fheiceáil sa tráthnóna freisin ach dár liomsa is é an mhaidin an t-am is fearr. Go n-éirí leat!

**Gabriel Martin**



## Community Policing for North Kildare Action Group

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## Christmas Gift Suggestions

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To all, charity.  
To every child,  
a good example.  
To yourself, respect.**

**Oren Arnold**



# MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES

## Royal Canal Greenway

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is disappointed at the lack of conditions attached to the approval of the Part 8 Report for Royal Canal Greenway between Maynooth and Dublin. This was a lost opportunity of providing a good quality greenway as opposed to a mediocre one – one which will compare unfavourably with the Waterford Greenway now under construction. The area engineer reportedly gave an undertaking to councillors that he would fully address the concerns of Maynooth Cycling Campaign. He hasn't.



There were five pro-cycling submissions – one was an internal submission, one was from a prescribed body and three were from the general public. A number of secondary issues were raised but there were two primary issues which were common to all five submissions – surfacing and width.

In response to surfacing, the Kildare County Council's consultant is alleged to have come out against the use of a bituminous surface. It is noted that the Consultant is employed by the officials and future work is dependent on his relationship with the same officials but in an earlier report on surfacing options, the same consultant concluded:

*It is recommended to provide a bituminous surface on the full length of the Galway to Dublin Greenway for reasons of quality, comfort, safety, reduced maintenance and better whole life costs.*

The consultant also pointed out that a dust surface would not attract foreign visitors. Waterways Ireland claims to require a dust surface in rural areas for environmental and ecological reasons. However Waterways Ireland is happy to provide a bituminous surface for motorised traffic on some rural parts of the canal – it only develops environmental and ecological concerns where cyclists are involved.

The reasons for rejecting widening of the path are equally disingenuous. Maynooth Cycling Campaign accepts that it is not feasible to widen the greenway everywhere but it does not accept the starting point of Kildare County Council which is that it cannot be widened anywhere. Kildare County Council proposes a greenway 2.5m wide in parts - one to be shared with pedestrians. Conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians are common on such towpaths across the UK. The way to eliminate such conflicts is to follow international best practice (in so far as is feasible) such as from Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark where inter urban routes for cyclists are 4m wide.

We had also raised the following issues with councillors which we considered pertinent to any decision on the project

- Why a (50%) more expensive dust surface should be preferred rather than a cheaper and maintenance-free blacktopped surface?
- Who pays for the additional maintenance?
- Why was there no cost benefit analysis of the scheme on the Royal Canal?

None of these points were addressed in the Part 8 report.

Kildare County Council has been 'promoting' cycling for nearly twenty years and over most of that time the level of cycling has declined. A recent report into the outcome for cycling of the Smarter Travel Towns by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport found that the level of cycling increased by 0.2% per year. With the proposed low quality greenway, the level of cycling in Kildare is unlikely to increase.

A more comprehensive report on the proposals for Royal Canal is available on our website.

## EPA Consultation on Air Pollution Monitoring

The EPA recently released a report on the Ireland's Environment: An Assessment 2016 which estimates that there are 1200 premature deaths annually resulting from air pollution and follows the UK government losing a case in the courts over its failure to tackle air pollution. While the concern is mainly in relation to Irish cities, the EPA proposes to introduce a national air pollution monitoring programme which includes Celbridge, Leixlip, Naas and Newbridge. Maynooth Cycling Campaign has proposed that monitoring should also include Maynooth because of the high levels of traffic congestion here.

## Netflix - Bikes vs Cars

One of the films currently on offer to Netflix subscribers is Bikes vs Cars. This is a documentary film about the struggle to provide cycle facilities in the Americas and while the situation in North and South America is different from that in Europe, there are many similarities. Well worth a watch!

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political cycling advocacy group. Further information on meetings and activities is available on our website. We are affiliated to Cyclist.ie, the Irish Cyclist Advocacy Network and through it to the European Cycling Federation.

# Life Coaching One to One

## If you answer yes to any of the following questions Coaching can really help you

- Are you at a crossroads in your life and need help identifying the direction you need to take?
- Need help facing your inner fears, building your confidence, eliminating stress and reaching goals?
- Are you facing examinations but feel that stress and anxiety may impact you from reaching success?
- Changing career, need help creating your CV or improving your interview skills?
- Are you facing retirement and ready to explore your options for this next chapter in life?

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## Christmas Jokes

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

*Claustrophobia!*

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?

*Because he had a low elf-esteem!*

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

*Holly Davidson*

What do you call a cat in the desert?

*Sandy Claws!*

Who delivers presents to cats?

*Santa Paws!*

What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck?

*A Christmas Quacker!*

Why does Santa go down the chimney on Christmas Eve?

*Because it 'soots' him!*





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## Colouring Competition

## Puzzle Corner



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

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

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

### Last Month's Winners:

Age: 3-5: Ellen Dempsey  
Meadowbrook Court  
Maynooth

Age: 6-7: Laura Killian  
Ballygoran  
Maynooth

Age: 8 & Over: Bláthnaid Brennan  
Loughnamona Crescent  
Leixlip

Prizes for Colouring Competition can be collected at:

Maynooth Community Council Office, Unit 5, Tesco Shopping Centre.  
Entries must arrive before Tuesday : 24 January 2017





# A Winter Garden

With the arrival of December, colder winter weather becomes the new norm, marking the start of a prolonged period of calm and quiet in the garden. Often ground conditions limit the opportunities to do any gardening but the occasional clear bright dry day offers some chance to doing some important garden chores where necessary.

Clear lawn areas of any fallen leaves before they block out light and moisture to the grass and use to spread around the base of trees or shrubs. Lawns can look a little off, a light clip on top and along edges will make a big difference. Now is an ideal time to plant new bare root hedging and trees (but avoid any planting when the ground is very wet). Protect the newly planted trees, hedges and shrubs from cold winds and frosts. Thick dry mulches will protect the roots from cold and branches can be covered with fleece but for older plants wait until the ground freezes before adding the mulch as this will prevent rodents from nesting in the soil. Winter storms and winds are very strong and can easily damage young trees, so check all tree ties and stakes to ensure trees are firmly secured in the ground. Prune any overhanging branches from trees or shrubs.

While bedding plants for spring colour should have been planted by now, wallflowers and pansies can still be planted, especially if they are available in pots. Perennial flowers can be divided in the ground. It is not too late to lift dahlias, begonias and gladiolus in cold localities to prevent damage, or cover them with soil in milder areas. Tulip bulbs, can be planted right up to Christmas and will flower well in the following spring. Add some fertiliser to encourage bulb root development. Watch out for pale blotches and fuzzy grey mould on leaves of winter flowering pansies, this is called downy mildew. Remove infected leaves as soon as possible and dispose of them. Give your roses a final check for mildew and if infected, spray them immediately. Tuck 1 - 2 slug pellets around your more precious plants, as slugs and snails are busy for most of the winter.

For additional splash of winter colour plant (in groups or containers) cyclamens, winter pansies, ornamental grasses. Spruce up the planted borders with a fresh topdressing of bark mulch



## Tips on the Care of The Poinsetta Plant

Place it near a sunny window. South, east or west facing windows are preferable to a north facing window. Poinsettias are tropicals and will appreciate as much direct sunlight as you can provide.

**Heat** - To keep the poinsettia in bloom as long as possible, maintain a temperature of 65 - 75 degrees F. during the day.

Dropping the temperature to about 60 degrees F. at night will not hurt the plant. However, cold drafts or allowing the leaves to touch a cold window can injure the leaves and cause premature leaf drop. If you've ever seen a gangly poinsettia in bloom, with only a couple of sad looking leaves hanging on, it was probably exposed to temperatures that were too cool or extreme shifts in temperature.

**Water** - Water the plant whenever the surface feels dry to the touch. Water until it drains out the bottom, but don't let the plant sit in water.

## Christmas Ideas from the Garden

**Decorative Candle Display:** Collect pine cones and add a couple of drops of essential oils onto them, hang them from the Christmas tree using ribbon or simply lay them around a candle.



**Christmas Pot Pourri:** Use dried garden herbs and cupboard ingredients. Mix juniper sprigs, dried rosebuds, bay leaves, rosemary sprigs, cinnamon chips, cloves, and assorted pine cones together until it smells great and looks interesting. You can also add essential oils for extra scent to help retain the aroma.



## Cooking with Christmas Leftovers



### Turkey Satay Vegetables Noodles

#### Ingredients:

275g/10oz of fine egg noodles  
1 tblsp of sunflower oil  
1 large red pepper, halved, seeded and thinly sliced  
225g/8oz of fine green beans, trimmed and halved  
175g/6oz of baby corn, halved lengthways  
2 garlic cloves, crushed  
400g/14oz can of coconut milk  
350g/12oz leftover turkey meat, cut into bite-sized pieces  
100g/4oz of crunchy peanut butter  
2 tblsp of dark soy sauce  
2 tblsp of sweet chilli sauce  
1 tsp of muscovado sugar  
Juice of ½ lime  
50g/2oz of cashew nuts, toasted and finely chopped  
Handful of fresh coriander to garnish



#### Method:

Place the fine egg noodles in a pan of boiling water and cook for 3 to 4 minutes, until tender or according to the packet instructions.

Heat a wok until very hot. Add the oil and swirl it around the edges, then tip in the red pepper, green beans, baby corn and garlic and stir-fry for 3 to 4 minutes, until the vegetables are tender, sprinkling over one tablespoon of water if the mixture is getting too dry.

Drain the noodles and add to the wok with the coconut milk, turkey, peanut butter, soy sauce, chilli sauce, sugar and lime juice. Stir-fry for another 2 to 3 minutes, until all the ingredients are piping hot.

To serve, divide among warm serving bowls and scatter over the cashew nuts and coriander.

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### Christmas Cake Trifle

#### Ingredients:

1 small mango  
1 small pineapple  
½ pomegranate  
100ml dark rum  
4 tblsp flaked almonds  
½ tblsp granulated sugar  
1 splash of golden rum  
250g Christmas cake or pudding  
250ml thick custard  
120g cherry jam  
2 clementines  
230ml double cream  
15g dark chocolate (70%)



#### Method:

Prepare the mango and pineapple, roughly chopping all the flesh. Place in a bowl along with the pomegranate seeds. Mix in 20ml of the dark rum and set aside.

Heat a pan over a medium heat, add the almonds and sugar and cook for 2 to 3 minutes or until golden brown. Add the golden rum and cook for a few minutes. Transfer to a bowl and leave to cool.

Roughly chop the Christmas cake or pudding, then place in a 1.5-litre glass bowl and press firmly into the base. Drizzle over the remaining 80ml dark rum then pour over the custard. Cover the bowl with cling film and refrigerate for at least 3 hours so the custard can set a little.

Remove the trifle from the fridge and spoon the cherry jam over the custard. Finely grate the clementine zest and put aside, then break up into segments. Add the chopped fruit to the trifle, then layer over the clementine segments. Whip the cream to soft peaks, then use it to top the trifle. Decorate with the toasted almonds, scatter over the reserved clementine zest, then shave over the chocolate and serve.

This is a great way to use leftover cake or pudding. The amounts here are just a guide - adjust it according to how much leftover cake you have and whatever fruits you have to hand.





## FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON DVD CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



It's that time of year when the lights are twinkling in shop windows and decorations are being pulled down from the attic. Freezing temperatures, Mulled wine, mince pies, Christmas markets and carol singing is the order of the day. The countdown to Christmas 2016 is well and truly underway!

As Christmas draws ever nearer, there's the small matter of some shopping to attend to. Festive shopping is the most important part of our pre-Christmas experience. However, battling fellow shoppers to stock up on presents, food and decorations can cause undue stress during this busy period. Wading through crowded city centre streets and shops with presents bought in a panic is never a pleasant experience.

DVDs are always an excellent choice on the gift front. With this in mind, I have compiled a list of the best DVDs and pricing on offer this festive season. Hopefully, this will take some of the stress factor out of your festive spending!

### Blockbuster Film DVD/ Collections

For the Blockbuster fans in your life, there is no shortage of action and fun in these spectacular movie highlights of 2016:

**Independence Day: Resurgence** (dir. Roland Emmerich) Golden Discs: (€15)

**Star Trek Beyond** (dir. Justin Linn) Golden Discs: (€13)

**Ghostbusters 2016** (dir. Paul Feig) Golden Discs: (€16)

**X-Men Apocalypse** (dir. Bryan Singer) Golden Discs: (€15)

**Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice** (dir. Zach Snyder) Golden Discs: (€10)

The following Boxsets are also worth checking out:

**Batman Anthology 1989-1997** Golden Discs (€18) Heaton's: (€10)

**The Bourne Collection** Golden Discs: (€16) Heaton's: (€10)

**Mission Impossible (5 movie collection)** Golden Discs: (€25)

**Tom Hanks Collection** Golden Discs: (€14)

**Cohen Brothers Collection** Golden Discs: (€16)

### Golden Oldies

For fans of the golden age of Hollywood there is plenty of variety and great value on offer. You can purchase Bette Davis, Humphrey Bogart, Tracy & Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor and Fred Astaire film Collections in Boxsets format for as little as €13 each. Other options available include:

#### **The Chaplin Collection**

Golden Discs: (€60)

#### **Hitchcock Collection**

Golden Discs: (€14)

#### **Billy Wilder Collection**

Golden Discs: (€13)

#### **Audrey Hepburn Collection**

Golden Discs (€22)

#### **Shirley Temple Collection**

Golden Discs: (€8)

### TV Boxsets

Boxsets of series made for TV are always a great gift idea and stocking-filler at Christmas. There have been some exceptional and very successful TV series produced in recent years. The following Boxsets are certainly worth investing in:

#### **The Rebellion** (Mini Series)

Golden Discs: (€16)

#### **The Fall** (Series 1,2,3)

Golden Discs: €30

#### **Love Hate** (Collector's edition)

Golden Discs: (€25)

#### **Game of Thrones** (Complete Series)

Golden Discs: (€100)

#### **Game of Thrones** (Season 6)

Golden Discs: (€40)

#### **Game of Thrones** (Season 5)

Golden Discs: (€35)

#### **Peaky Blinders** (Series 1,2,3)

Golden Discs: (€40)

#### **Peaky Blinders** (Series 3)

Golden Discs: (€16)

#### **Sherlock** (Series 1,2,3)

Golden Discs: €30

#### **Poldark** (Season 1 & 2)

Golden Discs: (€40)

#### **Poldark** (Series 2)

Golden Discs (€25)

#### **Poldark** (1975 TV Series)

Golden Discs: (€22)

#### **The Night Manager** (Mini-Series)

Golden Discs: (€20)

#### **Downton Abbey** (Limited

Deluxe Collection edit.)

Golden Discs: (€100)

#### **Outlander** (Series 1)

Golden Discs (€20)

#### **Outlander** (Series 2)

Golden Discs (€26)

#### **Outlander** (Series 1,2)

Golden Discs (€55)

### The Sopranos

Golden Discs: €65

#### **Gotham** (Series 1,2)

Golden Discs (€35)

### Children's DVDs

There are some really great offers and inexpensive festive DVDs and boxsets for the younger members of your family. You can avail of 2 for €12 or 2 for €10 special offers in the children's section of stores. Certain DVDs are also reduced if you purchase something with it.

### Disney DVDs

Golden Discs: (3 for €25)

#### **Willie Wonka & The Chocolate**

**Factory** (1971) Golden Discs:

(€6)

#### **BFG** Golden Discs: (€15)

#### **Secret Life of Pets**

Golden Discs: €13

#### **Mathilda** (Special Edit.)

Golden Discs: (€6)

#### **Muppets Christmas : Letter to Santa/**

#### **Muppets Christmas Carol/ Elf**

- Golden Discs: (2 for €12)

#### **Wizard of Oz**

Golden Discs: (€7)

#### **Annie & Oliver** Boxset

Golden Discs: (€8)

#### **Annie/Oliver/Mathilda/**

**Madeline** Boxset

Golden Discs: (€12)

### Comedy DVDs/Boxsets

Comedy boxsets are always plentiful at this time of year and specifically targeted for the Christmas market. They make the ideal Christmas present for a fun-filled festive season.

#### **Mrs Brown's Boys: Cracking**

**Big Box** Golden Discs (€22)

#### **Mrs Brown's Boys: Christmas**

**Cracker'd** Golden Discs (€20)

#### **Dad's Army** (Complete TV

Series) Golden Discs (€30)

#### **Only Fools & Horses**

(Collector's Edit.) Golden Discs

(€60)

#### **Best of Morecambe & Wise**

Golden Discs (€7 or 2 for €12)

#### **Bridget Jones** (1&2)

Golden Discs (€11)

**Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!!**



## Moulin Rouge

**Moulin Rouge Boutique**

**Dunboyne Road**

**Maynooth**

**Phone: 01 6286618**

**Stockists of:**

**Bianca -Frank Lyman**

**Oui - Olsen-Taifun**

**Thank you for your custom in 2016**

**Happy Christmas and New Year**

**Looking forward to seeing  
you in 2017**

**MON/FRI - 10AM - 6PM**

**SAT - 10AM - 5.30PM**



**Moulin Rouge Boutique, Dunboyne Rd.,  
Maynooth opened November 1976 is  
celebrating 40 years in business, we  
wish to thank most sincerely all our  
customers for their loyalty and support  
over the years**



**Congratulations to Sean Durack BA (Hons) Film  
and Teighlor Corcoran BA in Social Studies  
who recently graduated from  
Dublin Business School.**





**Maynooth Community Church**  
Eaglais Phreispitéireach in Éirinn

*Following Jesus, Enjoying God's Presence Together, Sharing His Love with Others*

01 5054990  
[www.maynoothcc.org](http://www.maynoothcc.org)  
[office@maynoothcc.org](mailto:office@maynoothcc.org)

## Advent & Christmas Services

**Sunday Services @ 10.30am**  
**Everyone Welcome!**

### Advent Service of Longing

Sun 27th November at 7.00pm

### Ecumenical Carol Service

Sun 11th Dec at 8.00pm in Manor Mills

### Christmas Concert in aid of Syrian Refugees

Sun 18th Dec at 7.00pm in Manor Mills

### Christmas Morning Celebration

Sun 25th Dec at 10.30pm in Manor Mills  
(begins with breakfast at 10.00am.)

*'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.'* Isa 9:6



## Frank O'Rourke TD

Your Local Fianna Fáil T.D. for Kildare North

Spokesperson on Financial Services, eGovernment and Procurement

**Dáil Éireann, Leinster House,  
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.**



**01 618 3109**



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**/Frank O'Rourke**



**Happy Christmas to  
all my Constituents**

**Advice Clinic held in Maynooth every Monday at 3pm, in Glenroyal Hotel**

