



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



# Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the people of Maynooth



**Local News**

**Dec/Jan 2017/18**

**Issue No. 464**

**FREE**

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## Shop Local, Eat Local, Spend Local & Enjoy Local in Maynooth this Christmas



Christmas, the season of giving and receiving is upon us once again. This is the perfect opportunity to support our local shops in Maynooth. Lets buy our Christmas presents from our local businesses and self-employed people. Be honest, who are we supporting with our spending? If the goal is for money to flow back into the local economy, we must commit to choosing wisely. Driving an hour out of our town or shopping online does not contribute to the community we live in.

**Maynooth** is the “**Gastronomic Capital of Kildare**” There is a vast amount of establishments in town that offer the most sophisticated cuisine and the most appealing food and beverages. Maynooth also hosts the “**Purple Flag**” - “destination for a good night out, vibrant and well managed”.

There is ample free car parking in Maynooth, customers can park **free while shopping** in **Carton Retail Park, Manor Mills, Glenroyal, Greenfield and Beaufield Shopping Centres**. There is also ample customer car parking in the Aldi and Lidl stores. Pay Parking is also available within the Town enabling customers to enjoy the many retail shops, Jewellers, Book Shops, Boutiques, Gift Shops, Hairdressers & Beauty, Pubs and Restaurants in and around the Main Street. Stay local this year and take the stress out of shopping, avoid the cost of travel and expensive parking fees. When all the shopping is done relax in a multitude of restaurants, bars and coffee shops to visit and enjoy the gastronomic atmosphere of Maynooth.

Christmas Shopping is important to small-town retailers. It's a great opportunity to focus on your own business and give your customers a pleasant experience. Retailers need to say, “Stay in Maynooth”, we have lots to offer. Support our community, our businesses, our schools, our organizations. Everyone working together will make Maynooth a great place to live in.

*Spend where you live, support what you love, choose local!!*

## Maynooth Residents Re-live the Horror of the November 2000 Flooding

Maynooth residents living in close proximity to the Meadowbrook Stream re-lived the horror of the November 2000 flooding during the recent heavy rainfall. A resident of Meadowbrook stated: Residents became very concerned as they watched the level of the Meadowbrook Stream raise above the culverts from the M4 Motorway through Brookfield, Meadowbrook and parts of Old Greenfield estates down to Parsons Street. While the main issue appears to be the size of the culvert under Parsons Street creating a choke point and this cannot be remedied in the short-term. An emergency plan needs to be put in place to ensure the stream is clear of minor blockages between the M4 motorway and the culvert in Parsons Street. It would also be prudent for the local Kildare County Council office to have a plan to deliver a large amount of sand bags to residents in the affected area to stem any future flooding as best as possible.

While the local KCC staff delivered some sand bags to concerned residents in the area there was nowhere near enough to protect every house that could have been affected had the heavy rain seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November continued for a longer period of time. It would take several hundred sand bags at each road that crosses the stream for the residents to have any chance of avoiding the devastation seen in 2000.

Local County Councillor John Mc Ginley, who visited the scene on the day of the flooding, has committed to having the issue raised at the next meeting of the Maynooth Municipal District meeting on the 13th December. Councillor Mc Ginley commented “The surprisingly fast increase in water levels in the Meadowbrook Stream and flooding of the M4 motorway (which caused massive traffic congestion through Maynooth and surrounding areas) needs to be addressed urgently”. “In the short-term Kildare County Council must work in partnership with affected residents to alleviate their fears every time we get a “Yellow rainfall warning” stated Councillor Mc Ginley.



**Photo: Meadowbrook Stream covers the culverts following recent heavy rainfall.**





Oak Alley

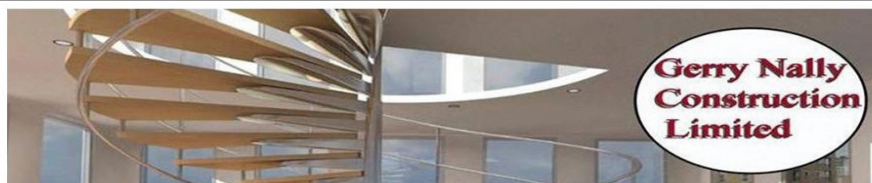
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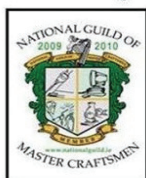
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## Emmet Stagg Maynooth Advice Service

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[www.labour.ie/emmetstagg](http://www.labour.ie/emmetstagg)

**Every Friday @ 4.00pm**

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The Last Advice Service this year will be on

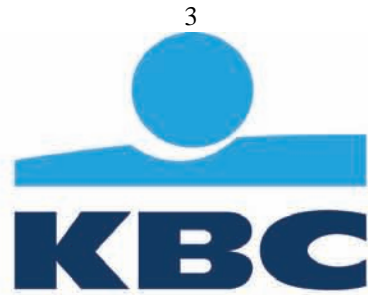
Friday 15th December 2017

The Advice Service will resume in the New Year on

Friday 12th January 2018

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& A Peaceful New Year**





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## St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band



It has been quite some time since the Band has featured in the Newsletter but it is very much alive and flourishing as we come to the end of another year. Our recitals during the year have taken us to Farmleigh House, Maynooth Girls' School, Dunboyne Primary School and Scoil Uí Rhiada in Kilcock as a part of the Family Days in each school. We also participated in the Tesco Open Day and were delighted to be a part of the Leinster Fleadh held in Maynooth for the first time and by the time these notes appear we will have taken part in our Annual Mass for Deceased Members on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

We had a change of Musical Director during the year and were very happy to secure the services of Karen Ní Bhroin who is an extremely experienced Conductor who has worked with a number of Bands, Choirs and Orchestras, including the RTE Concert Orchestra so hopefully the Band will make further progress under her baton. December tends to be a busy time for the Band and we have been busy rehearsing for our Christmas Concert which is again being held in the **Glenroyal Hotel on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm**. This promises to be a most entertaining event with a mixture of popular and Christmas numbers and we hope to have a number of guests joining us on the day. Although the date has not yet been set we expect to

again join our Friends in the Church of Ireland for their Christmas Carol Service. You will also meet the groups from the band when they appear in the usual locations in the town in the lead up to Christmas shaking boxes to help fund the high cost of keeping the Band going throughout the year.

Finally we are delighted to report that Junior Classes are still being held to keep the flow of musicians coming through and if you are interested in joining please mail your details to [sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie](mailto:sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie) and we will let you know when the next term of classes begin. Of course proficient musicians are indeed welcome at all times and already this year we have had a number come to join us for which we are indeed grateful. If you can play a brass, reed or even percussion instrument please don't hesitate to drop in to the Band Hall at Pound Lane any Monday night (except Bank Holidays) between 7.45 and 9.45pm and we would be delighted to see you.



Presentation to Michael D. Higgins at the Aras last July



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# Maynooth Labour News

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

## **A Car Park at the Harbour Field, Maynooth, Raises its Ugly Head Again**

At the Maynooth MD meeting on 8 November a Councillor proposed “that the Council start the design process for an underground car park at the Harbour Field, Maynooth.”

Cllr. John McGinley stated that he was completely against the proposal as apart from wrecking the amenity of the Harbour Field it would cost a fortune and a waste of Council money. Cllr. McGinley said that the existing Council car park between McMahons and SuperValu is never full, the Long Term Permit Parking just costs €2 per day/5 days per week and it is only 5 minutes from the train station.

Council Officials want to put a 60 bay car park on the west side of the field, where the hard stand is at present (where the fun fair parks). Cllr. McGinley stated that he was also against this proposal as it would create a dangerous precedent of a reduction in the amenity of the Harbour Field

## **Update on the Meadowbrook Link Road/ Straffan Road Junction**

Cllr. John McGinley was advised on 8 November by the Council’s Director of Service that the Council might have to take Legal action to get the developer to provide the traffic lights at the Meadowbrook Link/ Straffan Road junction.

## **Update on the 66 Bus route Extension to Newtown and the 67 to Moyglare Hall**

Cllr. John McGinley was advised on 8 November by the Council’s Director of Service that the National Transport Authority (NTA) have no plans to extend the 66 bus to Newtown, Maynooth. John stated that this was very disappointing news as Councillors understood that all were in favour of the 66 extension and that the only stumbling block was finding a turning point.

## **Cllr. McGinley again Calls for Action on the High Noise levels from the M4**

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following Motion for the consideration of Maynooth MD meeting on 8 November:

*“That Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) be written to in relation to the M4 between Leixlip and Kilcock asking:*

*- why re-surfacing of the M4 is of such a low priority with the TII, bearing in mind that the surface is over twenty three years old and no other motorway in the country has the same surface for such a length of time?*

*- why has the M4 not got quiet surfacing as part of noise reduction measures?*

*- why have noise reduction barriers not been erected at nearby residential properties? “*

Cllr. McGinley pointed out that the Council’s Senior Engineer had put similar question to TII on 29 May 2017 and TII replied on 23 June last stating that re-surfacing the M4 was not a priority for them. John further stated that it beggars belief that the M4 with a surface 23 years old is not a priority. It is the only Motorway in the country that does not have low noise tarmacadam. The Council’s Director of Services agreed to again write to the TII. The Director also acknowledged that the installation of noise reduction barriers at nearby residential properties is a matter for Kildare County Council.

## **Cllr. McGinley asks for the Ramps at Old Greenfield to be repaired**

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following Motion for the consideration of Maynooth MD meeting on 8 November:

John got the following reply:

*“Irish Water has plans to lay a new water main the*

*length of Old Greenfield, the ramps will not be repaired until this work is completed.”*

The Municipal MD Manager advised John that Irish Water intend laying the pipes in 2018.

## **Cllr. McGinley Calls for Public Lighting at Carton Wood Estate, Old Dublin Road, Blacklion Road and at Castle Park;**

Cllr. McGinley made the following proposal at the Maynooth MD Meeting on 8 November;

*“That public lighting be completed at Carton Wood on the Old Dublin Road and that it be extended down the Blacklion Road to the roundabout and back in towards Maynooth on the Dunboyne Road to include Castlepark housing estate.”*

The following reply was given by Council Officials:

*“The Public Lighting Engineer will survey the location and it will be assessed using a priority system within Kildare Lighting Priority Schedule (KLIPS). When funding becomes available and depending on the volume of requests within KLIPS, the installation of the lights can be considered.”*

## **Cllr. McGinley asks if Kildare County Council will Construct the Easter Ring Road in Maynooth**

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following Motion for the consideration of Maynooth MD meeting on 8 November:

*“Will the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund Programme (LIHAF) of €10,875,000 plus the council borrowing of €3,625,000 agreed at the Kildare County Council meeting on 23 October, be enough to construct the bridge and road from Blacklion to Celbridge Road, and if not, will development levies be used or developers asked to come up with the shortfall?”*

John got the following unsatisfactory reply:

*“All costings being used at present are estimated and until tenders are sought for the works involved, exact costings will not be known. Kildare County Council has a responsibility to contribute 25% matching funding against the amount provided by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government”*

Cllr. McGinley asked bluntly if the Council would fund and construct the bridge and all of the road and the Director of Services stated that YES they would.

## **Cllr. McGinley Calls for the Boreen to be Opened to Pedestrians and Cyclists and for the Lands adjacent to it to be Landscaped:**

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following Motion for the consideration of Maynooth MD meeting on 13 December

*“That whatever arrangements necessary be put in place to open The Boreen (opposite TESCO), Maynooth, to pedestrians and cyclists and that the Council land between The Boreen and Carton Avenue be landscaped generally in line with the Carton Avenue Action Area Plan of July 2006, over the next two years.”*

## **Cllr. McGinley Calls for Safety Measures to be Provided for Carton Wood and Carton Grove Estates, Opposite Tesco:**

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following Motion for the consideration of Maynooth MD meeting on 13 December

*“That recognition be given to the new housing estates, Carton Wood and Carton Grove, on the Old Dublin Road, Maynooth, by introducing Traffic Calming and/or Crosswalk between the estates and Tesco/McDonalds entrance and by asking Dublin Bus to provide stops to*

*service the estates.”*

## **Update on Ring Roads and Other Projects in Maynooth**

Cllr. John McGinley was given the following report from the Council’s Director of Services on 6 November:

### **“Maynooth Northern Orbital Route**

*This section will link the Moyglare Road with the Dunboyne Road. The Rathoath MD members approved the Part 8 for this section of the Outer Orbital Route, however subsequently a Judicial Review of this decision was lodged in the Courts. No date set yet for the hearing. Representatives for the owners/developers of the land on the Meath side of the boundary have always maintained that they will build the entire section from the Moyglare Road to the Dunboyne Road if the Judicial Review is heard in Court and the Part 8 planning approval is not overturned. Mycette Homes have already lodged their contribution to the cost of the Kildare section of this route with KCC.*

### **Maynooth Eastern Orbital Route and Bridge (Section 1)**

*This section will link the Leixlip Road with the Celbridge Road and includes a bridge crossing the Royal Canal and the rail line. The Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government has informed us that he is agreeable to signing a funding agreement with KCC under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund, (LIHAF). I am awaiting receipt of the funding agreement. This will be a difficult project to deliver in parallel with a review of the Maynooth LAP, within the timeframe set by the Minister i.e. that the 800 residential units which are a central condition of the funding must be completed by the end of 2021.*

### **Maynooth Eastern Orbital Route and Bridge (Section 2)**

*This section will link the Celbridge Road with the Straffan Road. The owner/developer of the lands which contain this link received planning approval for a residential development including the road earlier this year. However it is my understanding that the owner/developer intends seeking planning approval for a revised layout on site and therefore the timeframe for delivery of the road is unclear at this time.*

### **Maynooth South Western Orbital Route and Bridge**

*This section links the Straffan Road with the Kilcock Road and includes a bridge over the Royal Canal and rail line. No funds have been identified for this section of the Outer Orbital Route.*

### **Maynooth North Western Orbital Route**

*This section links the Kilcock Road with the Moyglare Road. I have had discussions with a land owner/developer and a representative from St Patrick’s in regard to planning how this section of the Orbital Route could be delivered. Agreement has been reached between the land owner/developer and St Patrick’s in regard to the crossing of lands owned by St. Patrick’s. The review of the Maynooth LAP is now awaited.*

### **Moyglare Road to Dunboyne Road Inner Relief Street**

*This street will form part of a planning application which is due to be lodged in the near future. A number of pre-planning meetings have taken place including a pre-planning meeting with An Bord Pleanala as this planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanala.*

### **Second Interchange on the M4**

*(Continued on page 7)*



# Maynooth Labour News (Cont.)

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

*(Continued from page 6)*

*Discussions between KCC and TII are at a very early stage in regard to the possibility of securing a second interchange on the M4.*

## **Maynooth North South Corridor Project**

*Phase 4 which covers the section from the Traffic Lights at the Glenroyal Hotel through the Harbour Field and up to the Garda Station in Leinster Street commenced 6th November and is due to be completed in late February 2018.*

*Phase 6 which covers the section from the traffic lights on the Moyglare Road at the Kilcock Road junction out to the new school will commence detailed design within the next few weeks. The commencement of construction of Phase 6 is dependent on NTA funding.*

*Phase 5 which covers the section from the traffic lights on the Moyglare Road at the Kilcock Road junction to Mill Street is dependent on NTA funding."*

## **Funding to Be Sought in 2018 for Additional Car Parking at Maynooth Train Station**

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg contacted the Chief Executive of Irish Rail, David Franks, in relation to the delay in providing additional car parking at Maynooth Train Station given that planning permission for an additional 38 car parking spaces has been in place since 2011.

In his correspondence to the Chief Executive Mr. Stagg stated that planning permission for the 38 car parking spaces had originally been granted in 2011 and the permission was extended for a further 5 years on 23rd September, 2016. Mr. Stagg pointed out that there was an urgent need for additional parking.

In his response Mr. Franks advised Emmet Stagg that unfortunately he could not advise when the car parking scheme is likely to go ahead as it was subject to funding from the National Transport Authority. Mr. Franks further added that he was acutely aware of the excess parking demand at the Maynooth Train Station and that it was his intention to seek funding in 2018 to address same.

Welcoming the commitment to seek funding for the project in 2018 Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that at present the existing car park

is full at 7-30 am. He concluded by stating that he would also contact the National Transport Authority in 2018 to support Irish Rails funding request.

## **Time to Decide on Accommodation for North Kildare Gaelcholaiste**

Emmet Stagg has again raised with the Minister for Education the issue of the securing of accommodation for the North Kildare Gaelcholaiste in Maynooth, which is due to open in 2019.

The Minister advised Mr. Stagg that Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board are continuing to examine options for accommodation for the school which will involve consideration of the timing and availability of appropriate infrastructure in the area. The Minister reiterated to Mr. Stagg that his Department would continue to work closely with KWETB and An Foras Patrúnachta in relation to the provision of appropriate accommodation for the establishment of the school.

The Maynooth Education Campus, stated Mr. Stagg, is due for completion in May, 2019, so the old Maynooth Post Primary School is an obvious choice for the Gaelcholaiste. Mr. Stagg further stated that it was time the KWETB and An Foras Patrúnachta decided on the Accommodation for the North Kildare Gaelcholaiste to give certainty to pupils and parents who want to use the facility in 2019.

In conclusion Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that he would continue to press the Minister on this issue to ensure that the Gaelcholaiste opens on time in 2019.

## **Stagg Presses Minister on Tenders for New Maynooth Boys' National School**

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has again been in contact with the Minister for Education in relation to progressing the Tender Documents for the new St. Mary's Boys' National School on the Moyglare Road, Maynooth

Mr. Stagg stated that planning permission for The New Maynooth Boys' NS was granted by Kildare Co. Council on August 1st last and it comprises the replacement of the existing school and the construction of a new 3 storey national school with 24 classrooms including a Special Needs Unit and Multipurpose Hall. 3 Ballcourts

and a Junior Play area will also be provided as part of the project.

The school currently has 530 pupils and when completed the new school will cater for just under 700 pupils.

The Minister has advised Mr. Stagg that the project is currently at Detailed Design of Architectural Planning including the preparation of Tender Documents and seeking consent for Disability Access Certificates and Fire Safety Certificates. The Design Team are working on these issues and when completed they will be submitted to the Department for review.

In conclusion Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that he would continue to press the Minister for Education and Skills to progress the project to Tender Stage.

## **Future Funding of Public Swimming Pools Dependent on National Sports Policy**

Emmet Stagg was in contact with the Minister for Sport in relation to plans to reintroduce the Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme given the continuing unacceptable absence of a Public Swimming Pool in North Kildare.

The Minister advised Mr. Stagg that in relation to future funding of swimming pools the Department are currently finalising a review of National Sports Policy. The review includes a specific focus on how the Government should fund sports facilities including swimming pools in the years ahead and it is expected that the new sports policy will be published before the end of the year.

Mr. Stagg stated that there was a limited reopening of the Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme in early 2016, where 4 new swimming pools were approved. At the time Kildare Co. Council did indicate an expression of interest in a pool for Maynooth in partnership with Maynooth University. That application was deemed invalid because the council would not have had a chargeable title to the proposed facility.

In conclusion Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that the New National Sports Policy must recognise the benefits of having Public Swimming Pools and he hoped that a new Local Authority Grant Scheme would be recommended so we could set about the task of securing funding for a Public Swimming Pool for North Kildare.

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

### Minister to deliver road map for Maynooth Gaelcholáiste

I am calling on the Minister to provide a programme of implementation for the structure of the proposed Maynooth Gaelcholáiste and urging all stakeholders involved to work together to progress the project. The call comes following a motion by the Maynooth Old Carton Fianna Fáil Cumman supporting the delivery of the school that was passed during the Education segment of the Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis.

Like the local Fianna Fáil members in attendance from Maynooth, including Cllr Naoise Ó Cearúil and Colm Ó Cearúil, I was delighted to support the proposed Maynooth Gaelcholáiste motion passed at our party's Ard Fheis.

The motion calls for the Minister for Education to publish a programme of implementation, which would include Board composition, school policies, and management structure for Maynooth Gaelcholáiste from all the stakeholders involved.

The motion reads in full "This Ard-Fheis calls on the Minister for Education and Skills to publish a programme of implementation including Board composition, school policies and management structure for the Maynooth Gaelcholáiste from An Foras Pátrúntachta and Kildare and Wicklow E.T.B., joint patrons of the Gaelcholáiste".

I am aware of the demand for this Gaelcholáiste from parents visiting my office in Maynooth and from meetings with local groups. The town has seen considerable growth in recent years and continues to grow. This Gaelcholáiste will facilitate this growth and allow students who have been educated through Irish continue their schooling into second level, as Gaeilge.

### Children lose out as Government fails to deliver high speed broadband to schools

Children are being unfairly marginalised as a result of poor broadband access in schools and the Minister for Education needs to make his voice heard in Government regarding the need to progress the National Broadband Plan.

There is a growing digital divide in schools right across the country. The Government hasn't taken this problem seriously in recent years and the result is that many schools that fall outside of high speed broadband areas are left with substandard internet services.

This means many students in rural districts are losing out on learning opportunities as they grow up. Meanwhile their peers in towns and urban centres are enjoying speedy access to modern broadband and benefiting from a huge variety of online educational resources.

Schools in communities where broadband is being rolled out are not even benefiting from such advances because

these schools are in areas not deemed commercially viable for broadband operators. They must therefore wait for enhanced broadband in the years to come, as part of the Government's delayed National Broadband Plan. Many schools are adjacent to where Eir are currently connecting homes to fibre broadband, but they are unable to avail of such services.

The responsibility for the National Broadband Plan falls under Minister for Communications Denis Naughten. His performance to date has left a lot to be desired. The rollout of the plan has been plagued by long running delays and we are still unsure when areas earmarked for State intervention will actually get access to high speed broadband.

The delay in rolling out high speed broadband to all schools is having a detrimental impact on pupils across the country. Minister Bruton needs to speak up and make his voice heard. He needs to ensure that this Government meets its commitments on the rollout of the National Broadband Plan.

### Two New Bus Shelters for Maynooth on Kilcock Road

I have had confirmed two bus shelter will be provided on the Kilcock Road close to the University roundabout following my meetings with the National Transport Authority. I am delighted to secure a bus shelters for these stops in Maynooth. Many residents and students in the area had contacted me requesting the shelters and I brought their concerns to the NTA who have confirmed a shelter will be provided. The NTA have now communicated with Kildare County Council to recommend the installation of the two new shelters.

### Hundreds of hospital beds out of action due to staff shortages and refurbishment

At a time of major overcrowding crisis in our Emergency Departments, it is simply mind boggling that there are hundreds of hospital beds closed in the health service. 172 beds were lost to the health system for a variety of reasons. Worryingly 33% of the bed closures were as a direct result of staff shortages.

Despite a lot of hot hair from successive Fine Gael Health Ministers, little or no progress has been made in stemming the flow of nursing and medical graduates out of the Irish health system, and even less progress made on attracting those professionals who emigrated from Ireland.

We have on average 400-500 people lying on trolleys every night of the year in our EDs across the country; yet there are nearly 200 beds out of action, and not being used to allow patients be admitted to the hospitals.

There are a large number of beds taken out of use regularly to allow for refurbishment and repair. I don't understand why beds are not transferred to the many unopened hospital wards to ensure that there is no reduction in bed capacity.

89 beds lost because of refurbishment is a scandal. There are elderly people lying on trolleys for hours on end, sometimes days, and there health and wellbeing is being damaged. Minister Harris must finalise and publish the Bed Capacity Review, and outline his plans to reduce the number of closed beds.

For as long as there are sick people lying on trolleys in our Emergency Departments, there can be no acceptance for unnecessary bed closures. It's immoral, in my view, and it must be dealt with as a priority.

### Calling for tougher response to repeat offenders in communities nationwide

I can confirm a motion is being brought forward by my party in response to the growing intolerance of repeated criminal activity including burglary which is taking place in communities across Ireland.

Much emphasis is placed on the level of criminality that is taking place in rural communities but it's also important to recognise that urban areas are affected too. Constituents in my own area are in touch all too regularly about robberies and attempted burglaries on their homes.

This Government's failure to address the need for more Gardaí on the ground has undoubtedly increased fear in many communities and is leaving those, particularly in rural areas unprotected. Restoring a strong Garda presence in rural Ireland needs to be an urgent priority for this Government.

The re-opening of rural Garda stations which were closed by Fine Gael in 2013 is an essential component of the response that is needed to deliver greater public confidence in the effective policing of our communities.

Mechanisms such as Garda controlled CCTV and GPS tracking also play an important role in detecting and deterring criminal activity. Tougher amendments to current legislation are required to tackle the level of organised crime that is so damaging to communities up and down the country.

Fianna Fáil believes that electronic monitoring should be made a condition of bail for anyone convicted of a serious offence in the previous 10 years, while measures should be taken to allow the State to recoup the cost of legal aid from a person subsequently convicted of an offence.

Fine Gael has always claimed to be the party of law and order but their record since 2011 shows that when it comes to being tough on crime, they have clearly lost their way.

I am hopeful that this motion to combat and protect against the rise in rural crime will receive full, cross-party support.

## Polish Christmas Carols/Polskie Koledy

### Polish Carols Concert

on Sunday 17th December at 3pm in St. Mary's Church Maynooth.

Selection of the most beautiful traditional Polish Carols.

All welcome!

W programie najpiękniejsze polskie koledy.  
Serdecznie zapraszamy.



### A little anecdote from Greek philosophy

*Bhí Diogenes, ina fhear déirce san Ataen, 4ú aois R. Ch., mar shéan sé maoín uile an tsaoil. Ní raibh meas aige ach ar an tsuáilce. Bhí a chlú i mbéal na ndaoine agus chuala Alastair Mór faoi. Thug sé cuairt air. 'An bhfuil aon rud gur mhaith leat go ndéanfainn duit', arsa Alastair.*

*'Cinnté', arsa Diogenes, 'tá tú ag seasamh sa solas orm!'*

**Gabriel Martin**







# Small Adverts/Local Services



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## Catherine Murphy T.D. Social Democrats, Kildare North.

Constituency Office ph: 01-6156625 Dáil Office ph: 01-6183099 - e-mail: [catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie](mailto:catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie)

### Ministerial direction overrules local voices.

Catherine Murphy TD has said the recent decision by Minister Damien English to overrule local councillors in respect of the Celbridge Plan will be met by huge anger locally.

The Ministerial direction effectively rezones part of Donaghcumper Demesne for a town centre extension, it includes 150 residential units linked by a pedestrian bridge. The proposal had been opposed by thousands of Celbridge residents at each stage of the Local Area Plan process. The majority of Councillors in the Municipal District had agreed the zoning as amenity but the Minister has overruled all of that.

Kildare North TD Catherine Murphy, who has personally spoken to the Minister regarding the issues with Donaghcumper Demesne, said:

"The Minister has completely failed to appreciate the unique value of the linked demesnes of Castletown, Donaghcumper and St Wolstan's and the fact that they were specifically designed in tandem.

"An additional direction by the Minister has removed the residential zoning on the site beyond Crodaun where in excess of 200 houses were proposed. Back in the year 2001 lands at Donaghcumper were originally zoned as residential and provision for a town centre extension. Subsequent to this, two major planning applications were lodged in 2008 and 2009 with both being heavily opposed by the local community who

appealed them to An Bord Pleanála. After a lengthy oral hearing An Bord Pleanála sided with the community stating it was 'unfortunate' the lands were zoned in the first place.

"The Ministerial decision will pose the obvious question about the point of the Local Area Plan process which invites submissions from local people. Elected Councillors then use the information submitted from local people to inform the decisions made at Council level only for the Minister to overrule them. It's ludicrous and completely undemocratic."

### Consumer Protection (Gift Vouchers) Bill 2017

Social Democrats co-leader, Catherine Murphy TD., introduced the Consumer Protection (Gift Vouchers) Bill 2017, to the Dáil on 21st November, which would tilt the balance in favour of consumers by banning many of the sneaky charges associated with gift vouchers.

The Bill would ensure gift vouchers are valid for at least five years, would ban charges for issuing gift vouchers and would ban the practice of applying charges to unused or inactive balances. It would also ban any charging for the repayment of credit balances on gift vouchers.

Deputy Murphy said:

"The whole area of gift vouchers and gift cards is largely unregulated in Ireland with everything stacked against the consumer.

"Retailers are free to put any expiry period on gift

vouchers with many opting for just 12 months. This amounts to an unfair 'use it or lose it policy' and is just not acceptable. These are not gifts or money-off from the retailer – they are actually money, paid for by customers. Our Bill would mean all gift vouchers have an expiry period of at least 5 years."

"One of the worst anti-consumer practices we found while preparing this Bill is the practice of charging 'administration fees' after a certain period. Quite a number of high profile shopping centres and gift card providers operate in this fashion. This results in the credit on the card being run down until the value of the card drops to zero. Such terms and conditions would be banned under this Bill. At up to €3 per month on some gift cards, these are exorbitant charges that rip-off consumers."

"We are entering the busy pre-Christmas Shopping period, and the peak sales period for gift vouchers. Many of us will give and receive gift vouchers for Christmas for everything from food, books, clothes and sporting goods to meals out or hotel stays. It's important that legislation is in place to ensure that neither those giving nor those receiving gift vouchers are ripped off by sneaky charges."

*Season's Greetings to all of the residents and businesses in Maynooth. Many thanks for your support in 2017 and I look forward to working for you again in 2018..*

### THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention favour).

Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart, where your

Father sees it, then it will become your favour not mine. Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and favour will be granted no matter how impossible.

Thanksgiving for favour received.

**Never known to fail**

### THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention favour).

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 favour will be granted no matter how impossible.

**Never known to fail**

Thanksgiving for favour received. **RD**

*Merry  
Christmas*

**Happy Christmas & Prosperous New  
Year To All From The Members,  
Directors & Staff  
of Maynooth Community Council CLG**



## 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.

### Nearly 20% Increase in Number of Older People Acting as Carers – O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has again highlighted the need to provide supports for older people, as CSO figures show a significant increase in the number of older people acting as carers for their loved ones and relatives.

"Between 2011 and 2016, there has been nearly a 20% increase, from 24,746 to 29,311, in the number of people, aged 65 years or older, providing care for their loved ones."

"Since being elected, I have highlighted the need to prepare for the change in demographics. In 2006, there were 468,000 people aged 65 or older in Ireland, but by 2041, the number of people in this country aged 65 or older will be 1.4 million."

"I have highlighted the need for increased resources for Housing Adaption Grants, Fair Deal Scheme, Phone Allowance, Pension, Home Care Packages and Carers. The recent figures show that older people are now fulfilling, in many cases, the role of the State in providing care to those living with illness or disability," stated Deputy O'Rourke.

"We must also ask who is looking after the Carers? These carers also have needs and they also need supports. Those aged over 65 years of age are, on average, providing 1.43 million hours of care per week. This is an increase of 12% in just five years, which is placing an unfair burden on our older people."

"I know from my constituency clinics that older people are not receiving the supports they need. As I have said in the Dáil, there is not enough home help hours, respite support, and limited access to the Fair Deal Scheme. This means that the responsibility of providing care is being passed to spouses and older relatives," concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

### Government should provide Legal Aid to all those affected by Tracker Mortgage scandal says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, says the Government must do more to secure a better deal for mortgage holders from banks operating in Ireland and should provide legal aid to those who are currently in dispute with the Banks in relation to the tracker mortgage scandal.

"The latest examples of bank customers caught up in the tracker mortgage scandal, reports that profits in Banks here are three times the EU norm and the interest rates that the banks charge their customers in Ireland are the highest in the EU which are examples of the how the Banks operating here are not giving their customers fair play."

As I said earlier this year, for example, "the interest rate on all new mortgages, fixed and variable, stood at 3.3% in June compared to a euro area rate of 1.83%. This means that a borrower with a mortgage of €200,000 is paying €250 per month more than they would be paying in the average Euro area country."

"It appears that those that are affected by the mortgage scandal may have to go to the courts to secure fair play. If they do, then the Government should provide legal aid to them to ensure that legal fees are not an obstacle to securing what they are entitled to" stated Deputy O'Rourke after speaking on the issue in the Dáil.

"I welcome the initiative from MEP Brian Hayes to ask the EU to investigate Irish banks over tracker scandal, having made a complaint to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Competition."

"We have been campaigning for mortgage holders, and particularly those in mortgage arrears, for some time now. Since I got elected last year, I have worked with our

Finance Spokesperson, Michael McGrath T.D, to keep a focus on their concerns. All of the instruments available to the Government and the Central Bank must now be used to address the latest bank scandals" concluded Deputy O'Rourke who spoke on the issue in Dáil Éireann this week.

### FF expects progress to be made on ending pension inequality – O'Rourke

The Government is expected to make progress on reversing the 2012 pension contribution changes that resulted in nearly 35,000 people, including 25,000 women receiving reduced pension payments stated local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, at Fianna Fáil's Constituency meeting in Maynooth last night.

"The Minister for Employment and Social Affairs, Regina Doherty TD, stated that she expects the Government to move on this matter, and outline a roadmap to ending this blatant discrimination. I welcome this move by Minister Doherty and the Government as I have raised this matter with the Government through our party's spokesperson and the Government have listened."

"We have been consistent that this discrimination has to end. I have raised it after the budget and I know that it has caused hardship for thousands of people across the country and people living in Kildare."

"We have stated that if additional funding becomes available through either day to day savings in the Department of Social Protection through further reduced unemployment or from an increased surplus in the Social Insurance Fund that priority should be given to reversing the 2012 changes."

"This is a complex issue, and may unearth other anomalies in the pension system. However, it is an example of discrimination, and one which a fair and equal republic cannot support or sustain. Many constituents have raised the matter with me and it was raised with me at our Fianna Fáil meeting in Maynooth last night" concluded O'Rourke.

### Extra Capacity needed on 67 Route says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has called on Dublin Bus to increase the capacity of the outbound Route 67, as the numbers using the link between Celbridge and Maynooth increases.

"We need to increase the morning capacity of Route 67 outbound, as the number of passengers using the service between Celbridge and Maynooth increases. Route 67 provides a valuable public transport link for people living in Celbridge that are working or studying in Maynooth. I have also requested additional 67X services later in the evening from the City."

"Last week, I received confirmation that a service that I have worked and campaigned for, namely the Orbital Route linking Naas to Blanchardstown, via Clane, Rathcoffey and Maynooth will commence early next year. We have made minor improvements on Route 115 servicing Kilcock, with more improvements on the way" stated Deputy O'Rourke.

"Since the Grand Canal Dock line opened in 2016, the number of passengers, using the Kildare line is increasing. The Kildare line has now opened up commuters to the heart of the city centre and I have called for more capacity on this line."

"While we need to improve the services linking North Kildare Towns and the city centre as travelling by car is becoming almost impossible into the city centre, we must also improve the connectivity between the towns in North Kildare. Route 67 capacity needs increasing and I will be meeting Dublin Bus again shortly to raise this issue" concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

### Government's Broadband Plan needs more focus says O'Rourke

Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has said that broadband must be delivered to rural parts of Kildare as soon as possible, as he criticised the Government's lazy approach to the Broadband Rollout Plan.

"There are many locations throughout North Kildare, even within a few Kilometres of one of the world's best known IT companies, where access to Broadband is limited or even non-existent."

"High quality broadband is crucial for small businesses, and for many families and young people where there is an increasing opportunity to work from home or a requirement to access the internet for educational needs" stated Deputy O'Rourke.

"The Government's National Broadband Plan, which was designed to assist areas that were not commercially viable, should have been in place by now. However, the National Broadband Plan will not now take place until 2019 at the earliest. This delay is indicative of this Government's dismissive attitude to the roll out of Broadband."

"Considering the original deadline for completion of the National Broadband Plan was 2018, it's a farce that many areas across Kildare will not even see preliminary work carried out until 2019."

"As I have said before, Broadband is not a luxury commodity – it's an essential service. Kildare County Council has a senior official appointed as a Broadband officer which I am liaising with on this important issue. This is bringing focus to the roll out of high speed broadband across the county. However, the Government needs to act on the National Roll Plan to address the gaps in the service" concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

### Route 139 Operator Selected for Orbital Route from Naas to Blanchardstown says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has said the campaign, which he led, to secure the new bus service from Naas to Blanchardstown via Clane, Rathcoffey and Maynooth, has been successful. The preferred bidder for Orbital Route from Naas to Blanchardstown, route 139, has been decided.

"The NTA have considered the tenders for the Orbital Bus Route 139, from Naas to Blanchardstown linking, Clane, Rathcoffey and Maynooth, and have decided on a preferred bidder, namely JJ Kavanagh Limited."

"Since getting elected, I have campaigned to secure an orbital bus route linking the towns of Naas, Clane, Rathcoffey, Maynooth and Blanchardstown to link colleges and hospitals providing a valuable transport link for all along the route."

"It is intended to provide nine daily return services which will be fully operational from early next year" stated Deputy O'Rourke.

"Since getting elected, I have been campaigning for an improved public transport services for commuters in North Kildare and we are making progress.

"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 and Blanchardstown have colleges 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. " concluded Deputy O'Rourke who thanked all those who campaigned with him for this service.



# Cllr Naoise Ó Cearúil - Maynooth Fianna Fáil Notes

**Mobile: 086-728 0050 e-mail: [cllrnaoise@gmail.com](mailto:cllrnaoise@gmail.com) - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/naoiseocearuil](http://www.facebook.com/naoiseocearuil)**

## Jake's Law in Maynooth

Kildare County Council advises that it will commence the installation of Slow Zone signage in residential areas in accordance with Jake's Law. The programme will commence on November 23rd. With regard to other residential areas, the Council will continue this programme in 2018 following the assessment of areas, currently underway as part of the County Speed Limit Review. Funding to support this programme is being provided by the Department of Transport to enable the reduction of speed limits in residential areas from 50kph to 30kph.

The first estates in Maynooth to receive signage are; **Maynooth Park, Railpark, Carton Court, Straffan Woods**

## Update: Ring Roads around Maynooth

### Maynooth Northern Orbital Route

This section will link the Moyglare Road with the Dunboyne Road.

The Rathoath MD members approved the Part 8 for this section of the Outer Orbital Route, however subsequently a Judicial Review of this decision was lodged in the Courts. No date set yet for the hearing.

Representatives for the owners/developers of the land on the Meath side of the boundary have always maintained that they will build the entire section from the Moyglare Road to the Dunboyne Road if the Judicial Review is heard in Court and the Part 8 planning approval is not overturned.

Mycette Homes have already lodged their contribution to the cost of the Kildare section of this route with KCC.

### Maynooth Eastern Orbital Route and Bridge (Section 1)

This section will link the Leixlip Road with the Celbridge Road and includes a bridge crossing the Royal

Canal and the rail line.

The Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government has informed us that he is agreeable to signing a funding agreement with KCC under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund, (LIHAF). The council is awaiting receipt of the funding agreement.

### Maynooth Eastern Orbital Route and Bridge (Section 2)

This section will link the Celbridge Road with the Straffan Road.

The owner/developer of the lands which contain this link received planning approval for a residential development including the road earlier this year.

### Maynooth South Western Orbital Route and Bridge

This section links the Straffan Road with the Kilcock Road and includes a bridge over the Royal Canal and rail line. No funds have been identified for this section of the Outer Orbital Route.

### Second Interchange on the M4

Discussions between KCC and TII are at a very early stage in regard to the possibility of securing a second interchange on the M4.

### Maynooth North South Corridor Project

Phase 4 which covers the section from the Traffic Lights at the Glenroyal Hotel through the Harbour Field and up to the Garda Station in Leinster Street commenced 6th November and is due to be completed in late February 2018.

Phase 6 which covers the section from the traffic lights on the Moyglare Road at the Kilcock Road junction out to the new school will commence detailed design within the next few weeks. The commencement of construction of Phase 6 is dependent on NTA funding.

Phase 5 which covers the section from the traffic lights on the Moyglare Road at the Kilcock Road junction to Mill Street is dependent on NTA funding.

## Local works Update

- Draining works have started in Old Greenfield.
- Three ramps have been put into College Green.
- Works on upgrades to Beaufield Footpaths have commenced.
- Benches will be placed outside the Castle in the near future.
- Speed detection signs will be erected in Newtown (Rathcoffey Road) & Parklands.

## Refunds from Irish Water - Information

Irish Water has launched a dedicated refunds website [page.water.ie/refunds](http://page.water.ie/refunds)

If your address has changed you must contact Irish Water on 1850 448 448 to update your details. Refunds will be made via cheque to the account holder at the address they provided to Irish Water, there's no need to contact IW.

## Representations

As always if you require any personal assistance or advise, please feel free to get in touch on (086) 728 0050 or [cllrnaoise@gmail.com](mailto:cllrnaoise@gmail.com).

## Nollaig Shona

I'd like to wish everybody in the area a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Thank you for all your support in 2017!

Please remember older members of our community this Christmas time.

*Le meas,*  
*Naoise*



# MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN



## Review of Year

For the last Newsletter of the year, we look at two of the major challenges to Government for the past year and for future years - climate change and community health.

Both impact on people directly affected but also impose a financial burden on the wider community. Increased cycling will not solve these problems but will reduce their detrimental effect. Before that though, we look at the issue which concerns all cyclists and the families of cyclists – road safety. While the risks of an accident are small, the effects of an accident can be appalling.

## Fatalities

2017 has been a horrendous year for cyclist fatalities – the worst for more than a decade and a 50% increase on the number in 2016. With eleven months of the year gone, there has been 14 (15) fatalities including a young woman in a collision just a few kilometres from Maynooth. The official statistics say 14 - the 15th was pushing his bike at the time of a collision with a car. In November a coalition of cyclist groups staged a major demonstration in front of Leinster House to protest at (1) lack of investment in safe cycling facilities by Government, (2) lack of enforcement of traffic regulations by the gardaí and (3) lack of support for Minimum Passing Distance Legislation. There is a lot of anger at indifference by the Government and by Shane Ross, the Minister for Transport.

## Climate Change & the Citizens' Assembly

Maynooth was well represented among observers at the recent meeting of the Citizens' Assembly in Malahide which was debating Climate Change. Maynooth Cycling

Campaign was there along with representatives from Trócaire who are part of Stop Climate Chaos campaign as well as Prof John Sweeney.

On Saturday, the Assembly heard experts and discussed the issues while on Sunday the Assembly voted on thirteen motions related to climate change including three on transport :

- Sustainable transport
- Electric vehicles
- Public transport

The vote on sustainable transport was for greatly increased bus and bike lanes. The second was for increased charging points for electric vehicles. The third was for a reallocation of funding from roads to public transport.

All of the votes were carried overwhelmingly so we shall have to wait and see the response of Government.

Ireland has now become the worst performing country in Europe on the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI). The journalist Eoin Burke Kennedy described the situation very well when he wrote:

*The Government's decade of inaction is, however, finally beginning to overtake its rhetoric. In nearly every metric by which a country can be vetted on climate change, Ireland is failing.*

*Emissions are on the rise across all sectors; renewable-energy targets have not been met, water quality is plummeting, while cities are clogged with cars and public transport infrastructures starved of investment.*

## Community Health

The second major challenge to the Government is health. The Department of Health recently published the results of the 2017 Healthy Ireland Survey. Its findings include

- 36% have a normal weight, 39% are overweight and 23% are obese.
- Men are more likely to be overweight than women, with 70% of men overweight or obese, compared with 53% of women.
- The proportion that is obese rises from 9% of 15 to 24 year olds, to 32% of those aged 65 and older.
- Over a third (36%) indicate that they are trying to lose weight, 28% are trying to maintain their weight and 5% are trying to gain weight.
- The most common action taken to lose weight is doing more exercise (68%).
- Almost two-thirds (65%) of those travelling to work or education mainly travel by car.
- 73% of those whose usual journey is less than one kilometre mainly use an active form of travel (by foot or cycle). This falls to 37% for those travelling between 1 and 3 kilometres.

**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 Cycling Advocacy Network and through it to the European Cycling Federation. Membership is FREE. If you want to support our work, just email your contact details to [maynoothcycling@gmail.com](mailto:maynoothcycling@gmail.com).**



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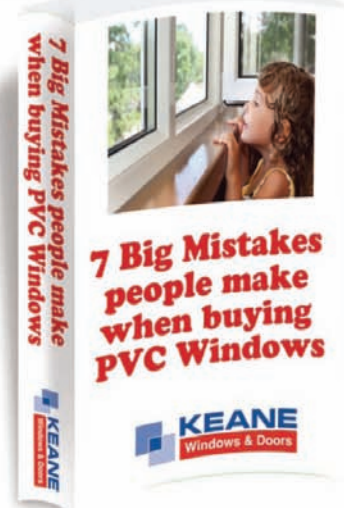
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SAT - 10AM - 5.30PM**



**Maynooth  
Newsletter**

Copy date for the February edition of the Maynooth  
Newsletter will be Tuesday 23rd January 2018



Maynooth Tidy Towns received an invitation from Kildare County Council to the County Awards in the IONTAS Building in Maynooth University on Wednesday 1st November 2017. A wonderful evening took place culminating with a certificate being presented to John Kavanagh by the Deputy Mayor of Kildare Darragh Fitzpatrick for winning our second Gold Medal.



**Maynooth**  
**Tidy Towns**  
Caring for our environment



Mattie Callaghan received recognition for over 30 years volunteering with Maynooth Tidy Towns.



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 24th March 2018 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

## Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



Our annual "Sale of Work" which took place on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> was a huge success.

We hit the €1,000 mark which is very gratifying. All of this money will be spent in totality on our older people, in terms of winter fuel, transport, social occasions, safety and security. Many thanks to Johnny Nevin, school principal for such a great venue, to Mark Leamy, for his trojan work erecting the stage, to Sean, Paul and Jim the school caretakers for their co-operation and patience and to Frank Walsh who does all our collection and delivery. Thank you to our sponsors, Thornton's, Donovan's, Supervalu, Manor Mills, Barton's Transport and to all who helped in any way to make this day worthwhile.

Congratulations to the many people who won prizes on the day. Among the winners were: Ray Leavy, our "Monster Hamper", Claire Brannigan €200, and Theresa Hurley €100. Well done to Mary Molloy who won the 32" TV [well deserved Mary]. There were lots of winners too numerous to mention here. However, if you were not lucky on this occasion take comfort in the knowledge that you supported a great cause and that we will spend your money wisely.

Our next event is our Christmas Shopping / Party afternoon courtesy of Supervalu, which takes place on Sunday Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3pm. Our Christmas Dinner will take place on Sunday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the Glenroyal Hotel. All names should be in by Dec, 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our Morning Club will close for Christmas on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and will reopen on Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

May I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and Peace throughout 2018.

Finally, may I extend our sincere sympathy to the family of Maureen Lenehan who passed away recently. Ar Dheis De go Raibh a Anam.

**Josephine Moore.**

**Chairperson**



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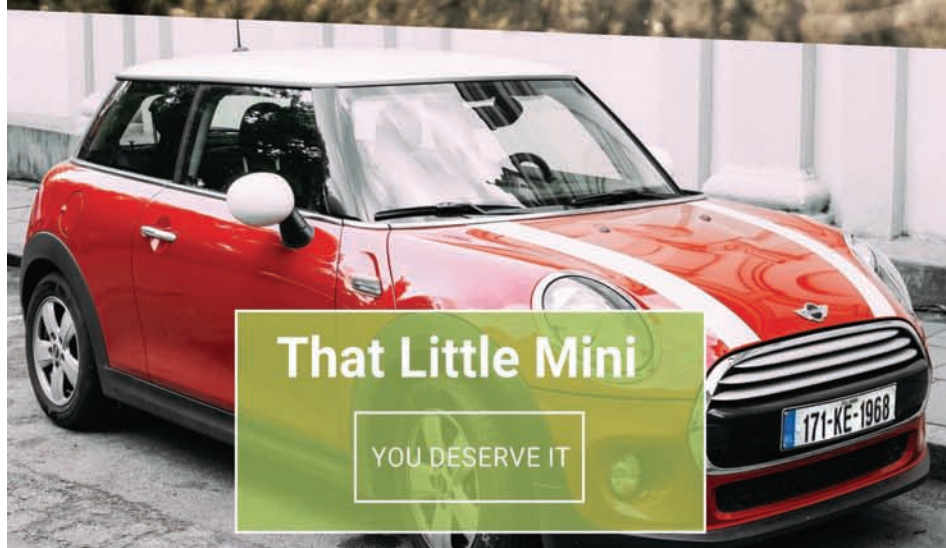




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**ZERO WASTE  
MAYNOOTH**

### Zero Waste Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful time of year but it can also be a wasteful time. By adopting a Zero Waste attitude to the festive season you could save yourself stress and money. One of the most stressful parts of Christmas can be finding a present for everyone. Often in the panic of needing something to wrap we buy products that have little use or longevity. George Monbiot wrote an article called "The Gift of Death" in which he highlights the true environmental cost of the novelty gifts that get bought as stocking fillers but quickly become bin fillers.

Many advocates of Zero Waste living suggest that the focus of gifts should be put on experiences, rather than actual physical goods. Building memories and spending time together will be more special than unwrapping the latest "must have" toy or gadget. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Check out Groupon and similar sites for discounts on family day trips/sightseeing tours/spa breaks/etc. You could go race car driving, hot air ballooning, learn to fly or some falconry – all much more exciting than another jumper!
  - Does the person have an interest in craft? Look up online lessons on Craftsby.
  - Give a voucher for a nights babysitting!
  - Hire a cleaner for an hour or two to give busy parents a hand with the chores. Or make a coupon book full of chores you will do for them.
  - If you have special skills, offer them as the present – a skilled photographer can take a family portrait, a baker could supply personalised cookies and cakes, a gardener could supply cuttings and instructions to help someone start their own garden.
- Wrapping gifts shouldn't cost you much either with a little ingenuity! Use what you have already in the house.
- Gifts wrapped in newspaper with a pretty ribbon or string. Decorate with paper flowers or a piece of evergreen. You could use paper bags turned inside out instead of newspaper.
  - Print on the newspaper/paper bag. Cut the design into a potato and print away. You don't have to be a kid!
  - Use fabric – make simple drawstring bags out of old sheets or clothes. Or google "Furoshiki" to learn a new and beautiful way to simply wrap gifts with fabric.
  - Search your house (or the charity shop) for pretty tins and boxes. The wrapping can become part of the gift.



Hopefully these ideas will help make Christmas less stressful and more special for you!!

### Conscious Cup Campaign Update

ZWM, together with Tidy Towns, have been working on promoting the Conscious Cup Campaign to cafes in Maynooth. This topic has become even more relevant since Minister Naughten's announcement of a levy on disposable cups. It is estimated that we dispose of over 200 million of these non-recyclable cups annually. The goal of the CCC is to promote the use of reusable cups by cafes offering an incentive to those who bring their own cups. We are delighted to announce that the following cafes have jumped on board and are proudly supporting the Campaign.

**Willow and Wild, L'Art du Chocolat, Emma's Place, Café Bon Bon**

### First Meeting Update

Many thanks to all that came to ZWM's first meeting which was held in the Community Library on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November. The meeting started off with an interesting and inspirational talk given by Timi Nicholson about starting to live a zero waste life. Timi highlighted the role of the five "R"s in living a zero waste life – refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, rot (compost). The order of the "R"s is important – if we refuse junk mail, then we do not need to recycle. If we reduce the amount of food we waste, then we do not need to rot. For many this is a new, more conscious way of thinking about how we consume.



A display of simple zero waste swaps highlighted how easy it can be to reduce the amount of plastic that you use in your life. There was a lively discussion after the talk. It was great to see people being aware of the problem with plastic pollution and looking for ways individually and collectively that we can tackle it.



We would like to say a special thanks to Timi (simplenowastelife.com) for a wonderful talk and to the staff of the library for being such great hosts. Zero Waste Maynooth will be holding meetings and events throughout 2018.

Find us on facebook to stay informed.



Timi Nicholson who gave the talk





# Comhaltas Craobh Mhaigh Nuad



Hello again, for your monthly instalment of trad-related news from your local Comhaltas Craobh Mhaigh Nuad.

October & November are a great time of year for playing music. The evenings are long, the weather is unappealing and the term lessons are in full swing, so there is lots of stuff to be practicing on.

We had a fantastic night at a gala concert to celebrate 50 years of Comhaltas Chill Dara. Each of the Craobhs around the country were represented with a mix of musicians from 5 up to (and possibly beyond;-) 50. First up were Clane, followed by Eadestown, then Leixlip, Kilcock and proceedings were wrapped up by our crew, who were joined at the end of our performance by young musicians from across the county. The branches each performed a medley of music, song and dance for 30 mins each or so, and we followed up with a roaring session afterwards.



Craobh Mhaigh Nuad performing in Kilcock GAA on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Thanks to Kilcock GAA for their support of the hosting and to the Cill Dara Committee members for the organisation.

“Trad for Trocaire” took place again in Gaeilscoil Uí Fhiaich and branch members were very much to the fore in a splendid evening’s music. 5th & 6th class played a variety of tunes and they were augmented by a very able performance from Neil & the teaching staff. A lovely night of culture along with money raised for great causes worldwide. Maith sibh!

A number of Branch members were involved in the first round of Scór in Allenwood on 3rd December. For those who qualify, the Leinster Final is in Oulart, Wexford on 10th December. The results will be published by next month, so more to follow on this.

For our “Cúinne an Cheoltóra” this week, we’re chatting with Riobard “The-Squeeze” Ó Murchú, who joined the branch 3 years ago, and is already somewhat of a Laoch.

## Cúinne an Cheoltóra

**Name.** Riobard Ó Murchú

**Age.** 11

### Instruments & how long have you been playing?

I started with the feadóg stáin in rang 1 in Gael Scoil Uí Fhiaich. I began to play the bosca ceoil when my teacher Dónal Ó Gradaigh a box player, introduced us to the box in 2nd class. I continued to attend classes with Dónal in 3rd class at which time he left the school.

I started with Sean Óg Tracey in CCE Maigh Nuad in 4th class. I’m still at classes with Sean Óg up to present time.

### Who is the biggest influence on your musical career?

I enjoy listening to Séamus Ó Beaglaioch and Tony McMahon, my Dad plays their CDs in the car. I have also attended a Ceardlann given by Breandán Ó Beaglaioch both at Ceardlann Ceoil in Léim and Bhradáin and Ceolscoil an Earraigh in Kerry.

### Who is the best musician you know?

Sean Óg Tracey in CCE Maigh Nuad and Breandán Ó Beaglaioch from West Kerry.

### What do you like best about playing music?

Playing the box is great and I really enjoy performing for people, especially for dancers. The gang at Comhaltas are all really good craic and we get lots of chances for playing in sessions and in performances – like last week in Kilcock

We’d love to take on new members after the New Year, so what a nice Christmas present an instrument and some lessons would be – drop us a line if you’d like any info or advice!

Note that this year, thanks to support from KBC, our sponsor, we’ve built a decent instrument bank for those who’d like to try an instrument without a big up-front investment. In it are concertinas, accordions, fiddles, guitars and more but it’s first come, first served, so the early bird...and all that.

We’ll be popping up in all sorts of places in the run up to Christmas and our kids and adult sessions will be also running, so watch our Facebook or Twitter feeds for more information on upcoming workshops, pop-up sessions and performances. We’re usually in Maynooth GAA the last Sunday of the month, and our adult slow session runs every 2 weeks, so get in touch if you’d like to participate in these even if you’re not a branch member.

<http://www.ccemhaighnuad.com/> - <http://www.facebook.com/ccemaighnuad>  
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*Derek Carroll, PRO, Craobh Mhaigh Nuad CCE*



Oisín Quigley

## 5K FUNDRAISER IN MAYNOOTH FOR

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## Run for Oisín - Sunday April 20th 2018

ANAM CARA CEO Sharon Vard “One of the most intense and devastating losses is the death of a child. Whether a baby or adult child, the death of a precious son or daughter goes against the natural order of life. Sadly in Ireland over 2,000 families experience the death of a child each year.

The cause of death could be stillbirth, SIDS, an unexpected illness, suicide, SADS, road traffic collisions, drowning, or an accident in the home or farm. The intense grief resulting from such a loss is something that can only be understood by people who have experienced it. Anam Cara provides safe and comfortable settings where bereaved parents can be among others who understand and care because they know what it is like.”

ANAM CARA has ten active groups meeting regularly throughout the four provinces, hosts over 100 events annually, and in 2017 has given direct support to over 1,500 parents. All services are provided free of charge for parents following the death of a child. Anam Cara is very grateful to Gordana Quigley and our fundraisers in Maynooth for this latest initiative to raise funds for our work with bereaved mothers and fathers. Full details of how to participate in this fundraising event will appear in the February edition of the Maynooth Newsletter

**THE DEATH OF A CHILD IS DEVASTATING**

*Anam Cara is an all-island organisation that supports bereaved parents.*

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



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
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## The Alzheimer Café

**Christmas Party,  
Wed. December 13th 7-9pm  
Leixlip Co. Kildare**

Put on your glad rags or your favourite Christmas jumper and join us to celebrate the holiday season on Wednesday December 13th in "The Conservatory", Ryevalle Nursing Home, Leixlip from 7-9. Come along for the evening or drop by to learn more about the Cafe. Attendance is free of charge and there is plenty of parking available.  
([www.alzheimercafeleixlip.ie](http://www.alzheimercafeleixlip.ie) - phone 089 4933533).



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**Wishing all our Customers a very Happy  
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**Gerry, Caroline, Tommy, Dave & Aaron**

**Quality is a Family Tradition!**



## Maynooth Golf Society

**Trevor Cassidy Memorial Scramble  
In Aid of Maynooth Senior Citizens  
Knockanally Golf Club 11.11.2017**

Please see the results from our charity scramble in Knockanally Golf Club sponsored by The Cassidy Family, Supervalu Maynooth, McMahon's and John Gillick.

We had a great turnout of 16 teams in the end and we would have had more only for the heavy rain the night before and there were no buggies allowed so we lost a couple of teams. The course was wet underfoot but the greens were in very good condition and our winning team had 7 birdies and an eagle which would be very hard to beat in any conditions.

Thank you to all the sponsors and everyone who took part on the day.

### Niall Murphy PRO - Maynooth Golf Society

1st	J. Carroll, B. Desmond, J. Thompson	66.6
2nd	L. Farrelly, P. Farrelly, N. Farrell	69.5
3rd	E. Murphy, P. Lafferty, T. Teahan	69.6
1st Ladies Team	U. Murphy, D. Glynn, Y. Murphy	
Nearest Pin	Shane Mc Bride	
Longest Drive	Derek Murray	
Ladies Longest Drive	Miriam Malone	



## North Kildare Rugby - Remember Pat Geraghty at Business Lunch



Rob Casey and Ted Robinson at the NKR Lunch



Ray Feally, Stephen Rust, John Reilly (Rugby Coaches)



Denis Heneghan (president NKR) presenting Lee Mallaghan with the North Kildare Rugby Lifetime Achievement Award.



Cathy Geraghty with her daughters Sarah & Mary Kate Geraghty at the NKR Business lunch, in memory of the late Pat Geraghty



Jeff Smyth, former President of IRFU Charitable Trust and Michael (Mick) Cuddy, former president of IRFU, present 1950s cricket team photo and broken stump, to Tom Satchwell of North Kildare. Photo contains Mick Cuddy, Jeff Smyth's father and Tom Satchwell's grandfather and great grandfather.



Guests of Honour at NKR Business Lunch: Rob Casey, Gordon Darcy, Jeff Smyth, Liam Toland, Malcolm O'Kelly, Michael (Mick) Cuddy





## Writers' Corner - Short Stories from Our Readers

### *Miss Maria*

#### A True Story By: Patrick Dunne

Tuesday evening at about 10:30 pm I recalled the instruction as the car took me through the dark and winding back roads of North Kildare. 'Visit somewhere that you are not familiar with and record a scenic description, write a story inspired by it'... It sounded like a fun assignment but I could feel the challenge. The Pusher in my head trying to get his usual spoke in to make things more difficult. I pushed him back. I could surrender myself to the solitude of a seaside setting or maybe do a tourist thing in town, the Guinness storehouse or a museum time-out perhaps. I could get a nice story going there. "That would make the assignment too easy" The Pusher whispered a bit louder. "Take the train in the other direction like you've always wanted to do on those rush hour mornings". I turned up the volume on the Sigur Ros cd hoping he'd go away. He didn't.

"Think of the towns on that route... Kilcock, Enfield, Mullingar, Edgeworthstown. There you go! Never been to Edgeworthstown have you?" he pushed. "Oh I wonder why" I replied with a scoff. "I could write it now."

I'm standing in the rain on a street in Edgeworthstown, Co Longford, the only street in the town as far as I can see; I could be in almost any small midland town in Ireland, no character to speak of, no story to tell. It's cold, dull and the clouds are even greyer than the cracked concrete underfoot. Drab, uninspiring two-storey flat faced buildings yawn at each other across a narrow litter strewn street. Sour faced locals trudge along with heads down, sad that their bypassed town is dying. That's hardly fair now is it? And besides, it's cheating, you haven't been there". The pusher was being bossy. 'If you would study and admire her as she deserves, you must see her at home' (Sir William Hamilton)

At 10 am on Wednesday morning I googled Edgeworthstown. The first line from Longford tourism read:- A small but spirited community town located on the N4 and therefore within easy reach of many of the larger towns and counties. Hardly inspiring! The best thing about Edgeworthstown is its proximity to other places! "Read on." The Pusher ordered. Hang on What's this?...

The town is most famous for its association to the celebrated author Maria Edgeworth and her family. Amongst the eminent members of the Edgeworth family who first made their home here in 1583, was Richard Lovell Edgeworth, ingenious inventor and surveyor and father of 22 children, one of whom was Maria. At this point I was interested and more than a little ashamed by my earlier ignorance. I had never before associated the town with the author, there was bound to be a story attached to your man with the 22 kids and besides, after reading a brief history of her life and work, I was strangely attracted to Maria. She seemed smart, mischievous and mysterious but mindful and caring. Her written work had been admired in the past by acclaimed authors such as Jane Austen, Lord Byron and Walter Scott amongst others. She was a huge commercial success in her life time and there was a suggestion that Austen may have been a little jealous or at least influenced by and in awe of Maria. As to why things later changed may be due to Victorian attitudes at the time or a discomfort with Maria's satirical style and strong political commentary. Or perhaps it was because Maria lived in a quiet midland town in Ireland. I clicked on a link to the dedicated and professionally presented website of the Edgeworth's Society. I spent the next two hours reading about Edgeworthstown, the fascinating Edgeworth family history and about Maria and her writings; intriguing, varied and much more extensive than her famed novel '**Castle Rackrent**'. The annual literary festival and historical town walking tour notes

caught my attention. There were also references of associations with the town to Oliver Goldsmith, Oscar Wilde and others.

Wilde's sister Isola died from meningitis just 2 weeks short of her 10th birthday while on an extended stay with her aunt and uncle in the town. Her aunt was her father's sister and was married to Rev. William Noble. They lived in the rectory in the town and Isola often visited with them. Wilde, deeply saddened by his sister's passing, later wrote the beautiful poem, **Requisat**, in her memory.

To prepare him for college, Goldsmith was sent to school in Edgeworthstown under the supervision of Rev. Patrick Hughes. Although not factually confirmed, it is likely that he resided in the rectory during that time. Reports suggest that Oliver was not a brilliant student, even a little careless at times.

Maria lived from 1768 until 1849 at a time when it was not considered appropriate to educate women in the same way or to the same level as men. Not only did she overcome that barrier but she sought, helped to fund and worked towards the development of children's education both locally and further afield through her writings. Her early work '**Practical Education**' written with support from Richard is an innovative and progressive theory of education for young children.

I spotted a phone number for further information. I rang without stopping to think... To the friendly female voice that answered I must have sounded like an excited child asking for Christmas. In one breath I mentioned; Creative writing course, scenic description, railway line, Maria Edgeworth, Edgeworthstown, History, Goldsmith, Wilde, walking tour and festival. The two seconds of silence before I got a reply was long enough for me to question my own sanity. "Are you interested in the town or Maria Edgeworth's work?" the response was welcome but I didn't know the answer. "Both" I said and I made - a chancing my arm face. "We'll ring you back" said the friendly voice...

Ten minutes later the phone rang "Matt Farrell works full time but he would be delighted to meet you for an hour some morning this week. Just let us know when you are coming." She said enthusiastically.

My short walk around by Maynooth college seminary campus and on to the train station the following morning was interrupted as The Pusher popped in again. "Well isn't that working out grand now. Your prejudice and ignorance are fixed, you'll go down, meet the locals, see the town and rewrite that horrible paragraph of putrid perception you had of the town" Well yes, that's the plan... I thought. "And they all lived happily ever after" he scorned. "These people were protestant English landlords, at a time of poverty and famine. She may have been a talented author who supposedly loved her tenants and indeed she wrote a satirical novel or two about English land holders. As for her father, he may have been a kind-hearted inventor who encouraged the peasants to improve themselves. But they both made sure that the rent was coughed up and they watched as thousands took to coffin ships on the Atlantic. I'm sure the locals would have liked to have had time and the ability to write stuff and your man with the 22 kids probably never tended to a child in his life"... The Pusher was being really annoying.

"Coming back today?" The ticket seller in Maynooth train station asked. "Yes, unless I get a better offer" I joked. "That'll be €9.70 for a day return to Edgeworthstown. Try the Goldsmith Inn" he smiled. It was 9 a.m. and one degree Celsius in a damp haze. The near platform was crowded with coated commuters cupping Costa coffees and heading to the city. Even though my dodgy knees had to carry me up the slippery steps and across the bridge, I was happy to be heading the other way. 'Iarmoid Eireann Platform 2 Westbound Trains', the sign said.

I was met at Edgeworthstown train station by Mary, a community development worker and the friendly voice from the phone. Petite, friendly and with short dark hair, I wondered if Mary was a distant relative of Maria. She had taken personal time from her day to collect me and bring me to the community office which is also the location of the old school house. She told me that it was originally funded and developed by Maria Edgeworth and her family and dates from 1840; it is one of the oldest school buildings in the country. I noticed that she called her Maria with the I sounding like an I and not an E. I didn't argue, I just corrected my pronunciation and fell even more deeply for Maria. Matt Farrell, a local historian, greeted me with a smile and a warm handshake. Matt is the proud and deserved holder of the prestigious title '**Ireland's Heritage Hero**'. He is also responsible for the establishment of the Edgeworthstown district development association and the Edgeworth Society. We took a walk and commenced an historical tour of the town.

We started, strangely I thought, at the Catholic Church; but it is the proximity of the church to the gate lodge of Edgeworthstown house and the residence of the sitting Landlords across the road that is significant. That closeness was most unusual in Irish country towns. The fact that the Edgeworth's donated land and helped fund the original building on the same site is also noteworthy.

The main house itself, now a care home, is still in place and the gate lodge with its fancy open cast iron front porch has been carefully preserved and is close to its original state. It was also heart-warming to see the old garden, which Maria had tended and loved throughout her lifetime, still fully intact, loved and ready for spring. All these sights and the slow stroll in between brought questions from me and answers from Matt. His words flowed with ease, his pride, love and knowledge of the town's unique history were infectious. We sauntered on through the garden, the wooden archway and towards the Rectory. The old Rectory is a three storey, three bay building and dates from 1735. It is now a mini museum to the Edgeworth family and the town's other connections to literary and cultural history. There are portraits, artefacts and furniture from the old house, Matt proudly read aloud Maria's two page hand written note of her father's will as dictated to her from his death bed. Upstairs is Isola Wilde's bedroom, preserved as it would have been at the time of her death.

I chatted with Matt about Maria and her father Richard Lovell. Their works and creativity, their connection with local people, their charity and local care, their role in local education, the relationship between the two all came up for discussion. We spoke about Maria's endless efforts in 1847 to relieve the stress and seek relief for the starving victims of the Great Hunger. I heard the story about the aid package from America that found its way to Maria addressed simply; Miss Maria, Ireland.

I still had a niggling question: Was the love between the Edgeworth's and the local tenants a true and mutual thing or is it a sort of fudged up nice history story? Matt's answer came naturally.

In 1798 during the rebellion against British rule in Ireland the Edgeworth's had fled the country for fear of their lives. A band of rebels supported by French soldiers arrived one night with intention to destroy their home and property. They were met at the gate of the house by locals and other Irish workers from the estate. The house was left unharmed and the rebels retreated.

"And the town name, has there ever been any attempt or pressure to change it?" I asked. Officially the town name was changed to Mostrim in 1949 but nobody knew where that was. There were stories of parcels and post remaining in the GPO for weeks undelivered, of confused train passengers wondering where this new

(Continued on page 23)





## Writers' Corner - Short Stories from Our Readers (Cont.)

(Continued from page 22)

town came from.

There was obviously no great desire or intention from the local people to change it, so it went back to being Edgeworthstown. We visited the old graveyard at St. Johns Church of Ireland. An iron railing guards the grey stone vault of the Edgeworth family, old faded grave stones stand in solemn support around it and the old church building. Inscribed on Isola Wilde's restructured and preserved stone are lines from Oscar's famous poem. We talked about the church spire and Richard's innovation regarding it's build on the ground and subsequent elevation to position. This and other work of his, including the first installation of central heating in a private house in Ireland, his extensive survey of the local bog land, used by Bord Na Mona 100 years later, and his work as an M.P in Grattan's government must have kept him busy. Hardly much time to tend to his children, I thought.

In her lifetime Maria had a mother and 3 stepmothers, one step mother was the first step mother's sister and 2 of them were younger than her. With 21 siblings and half siblings it was a busy home and Maria was central to it. She also helped manage her father's affairs, regarded herself as his secretary and had a firm but fair

relationship with the tenants. She dealt with them directly for the most part and she encouraged them to help themselves through self- development and innovation. Like her father she was supportive of Catholic emancipation and also of the Union but only when the majority of Irish people were in favour of it. Maria was a sensitive woman with a caring and charitable nature. She was regarded as Anglo-Irish, a sort of betwixt and between, resident in Ireland but from Britain.

She had no barriers to race or religious beliefs and did not hold the stereotypical 'muck savage' view of many of her peers towards the local Irish tenant. As a landholder she had access to and conversed equally with upper-class aristocracy and the Irish, so called, peasants. She invited and hosted many visitors, both local and from abroad to her home. She believed in and supported the equal rights of all the Crown subjects. The bronze figure of Maria Edgeworth welcomes all visitors at the entrance to the town that bears her family name. Petite and pensive and with book in hand she strolls from her library, her long flowing dress gently brushes the grass outside. She guards the new growth of yellow daffodils and white snow drop spring flowers in

her little garden. The traffic island that bears her name feeds passing motorists away from the town's main street. It's a street that is unusually broad, open and unhindered. It curves it's way gently around to the original gate lodge residence of her family home and the neighbouring Gothic style Catholic church.

The pathways are quiet and the road is free from fuming exhausts, a farmer has parked his tractor outside one of the pubs. A mix of old and new buildings, of crafted brickwork and colours, yellow, purple, blue, red, black and white face each other across a tidy street. Young mixed flowers gently wave from hanging baskets along the way. 'The Maria Edgeworth Café' and 'The Goldsmith Inn' remind visitors of the unique history of this small sleepy town in Midland Ireland.

As I took to the train back home I reflected on Maria's vision without impairment, her love without barriers, her drive without obstacles, her wonderful written work and her caring hospitable nature.

Almost 250 years after she was born her spiritual invitation to visit her home town, learn of its history and meet its wonderful people had repaired the prejudiced views and misconceptions of an uninformed visitor.

**Thank you Maria.**

### Swimming at The Great Barrier Reef By Patrick G. Nerney

It was 7.20am when my wife, Iris, and I arrived at the Cairns Reef Terminal Building to check-in for our trip to The Great Barrier Reef, roughly 40 miles out from the coast of Queensland, but at least twice that distance if a ship doesn't sail directly east. There is an Inner Reef also, composed of separate coral ridges and islands, but the outer one is more spectacular and has a greater variety of fish. Unusually for the Australian autumn, the weather was showery and we feared that the voyage might be cancelled, but we needn't have worried. When we walked to the harbour where the white, twin-hulled catamaran, the Silverswift, was berthed there was already a crowd waiting on the pier, most of them young and fit looking, some of the men with attractive Asian girlfriends. Possibly because I looked to be well past the snorkelling age, a young man whose family came from Rome chatted with us and introduced us to his Chinese girlfriend. All the passengers seemed eager to get started.

Finally, we were allowed to board. A man took our photos on the upper deck, for later sale - or, possibly, for identification purposes should we go missing - then we handed over our receipt and were given an information leaflet. Next, we descended to a lower level. This was divided into two sections, a dressing area at the back that had metal racks for scuba diving and snorkeling paraphernalia, as well as a toilet, and a forward area furnished with fixed benches and tables, a video screen, food counter and a galley. There was also a downstairs area with more seating, a toilet and changing room. One of the crew distributed lycra suits according to our size - these were meant to protect us from jellyfish and sunburn - and we folded them together with compact lifejackets, flippers, a mask and snorkel into a bundle, which we placed on the metal rack for later use. Many of the fellows were now in bathing shorts, their svelte girlfriends in bikinis. We found a seat at a table in the forward area, which we shared with some Chinese people, and at 8.35 a.m. set sail. Before long the motion of the ship ploughing headlong through the rough sea was making Iris seasick and I even felt a little queasy myself.

A bearded man, probably the captain, counted us, and this procedure was repeated later. While Iris kept her gaze fixed firmly ahead, I looked out the window at the occasional wooded islands we passed or concentrated on the video screen showing colourful, exotic fish

swimming about the reef. Ryan, a sturdy, middle-aged member of the crew, now gave a talk to passengers planning to scuba dive. He kept emphasizing safety, pointing out that by swimming fast they would quickly use up the oxygen in their tanks, and if they surfaced too rapidly they would get the bends. He would accompany them in their dives. At one point, he told Iris and me that his ancestors were 'pig stealers from Meath', though his father's people came from Tyrone! He also humorously described a colleague as speaking 'Chinglish'! There was obviously a good rapport between crewmembers, many of them Asian.

By this time I was wondering how I would fare with the snorkeling, having, unlike Iris, neglected to practice in our local swimming pool. At eighty years of age I was the oldest person on board and hadn't ventured into the water for a few summers. Nevertheless, I was determined to have a go. Eventually, the Silverswift halted and was moored by tying two cables to floats anchored on the sea bottom. After a short wait we headed to the back section to don our lycra suits, which were damp from previous use. Now a problem arose when Iris got seasick and vomited into one of the paper bags provided for such occurrences, but ever the sportswoman, she decided to carry on.

Getting into the lycra suits and donning the lifejackets, masks and snorkels was awkward but eventually we succeeded. The stern was now open, with a large, hydraulic platform lowered to facilitate entry into the water. Directly ahead, a line of white surf showed where the sea was washing over the partially submerged reef. Making our way to wide, metal steps just above the water surface, we sat down, pulled on the heavy flippers and closed our teeth on the snorkel ends, remembering to breathe through our mouths. I lowered myself into the pleasantly cool waves and struck out from the ship. Kai, a young crewmember from Taiwan, seeing me floundering around, told Iris that because of the direction I had taken I would end up in Papua New Guinea! He swam out and helped me back to the ship. Now Iris was ready to join me.

When we were both in the water, Kai gave us bright, spongy buoyancy tubes to place around our chests, the ends projecting above our backs. We mustn't have appeared too competent, however, because he swam out to us with a rectangular, plastic float, which he pulled by an attached rope. We held onto the float with our hands, while looking through our masks at the underwater scene. There's no doubt the experience lived up to expectations, shoals of exotic, brightly coloured fish

swimming above the flat, sandy bottom or venturing to the surface to investigate the strange, two-legged intruders. There were no reef sharks, stingrays or conger eels to be seen.

Breathing through my mouth was proving more awkward than anticipated and before long I had swallowed two mouthfuls of water. Since Iris was feeling unwell, we both indicated to Kai that we had enough and he steered us back to the ship, where, upon getting to the dressing area, Iris vomited again. I was now faced with the dilemma of staying on board with her or venturing once more into the water. On impulse, I stripped off my flippers, goggles, lifejacket and lycra suit, then clad only in an ancient, brief swimsuit and ignoring the possibility of jellyfish encounters, I struck out from the ship. What an experience that was! Here I was doing the breast stroke in The Coral Sea, watching another white ship moored further out, hardly a cloud in the vast sky. This was freedom, the rediscovery of my youthful days at Salthill, Rockaway and Jones Beach! Gradually, it dawned on me that I was some distance from the Silverswift and it might be dangerous to overtax myself. On heading back, however, I found that I was making little progress. Was the tide carrying me further away from safety? While my arms seemed strong enough, my legs had lost their power. Forcing myself to remain calm, I kept swimming towards the ship. Would I make it or would I join the shoals of exotic fish down beneath me? Now and then I half-swallowed a mouthful of water. After what seemed an eternity, I drew near the metal steps and Kai helped me to clamber onto them. I was safe!

Drying myself and dressing in my street clothes, I sought out Iris in the inner area. She was still feeling sick and had no desire to join me in partaking of the self-service lunch provided. The Asian cook, no doubt noting the leather elbow patches on my well-worn jacket and my somewhat disheveled appearance, asked if I was a professor. I assured him I wasn't and carried my tasty meal back to the table. It was, I felt, a treat I had earned. Meanwhile, outside our window a turtle was swimming laboriously on the surface, almost as if replicating my own less-than-Olympian exploit. On the video screen the colourful denizens of the reef were still swimming in never-ending, leisurely curves, as if reminding me of what the scuba divers and snorkellers were now enjoying. There would be stops at two other reef sites before we headed back to Cairns but I felt that I had accomplished what we had set out to do, I had actually swum at that threatened natural wonder, The Great Barrier Reef.



# 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*

## Online shopping and import charges

### Question

I want to do some of my Christmas shopping on American websites. What are the rules about VAT and customs duties when shopping outside the EU?

### Answer

You are importing goods if you buy goods from abroad online or from a mail order catalogue, or if you get goods that are sent as a gift from abroad. In general, when goods are imported into Ireland from a country outside of the EU, they become liable to import charges. These include VAT, customs duty and excise or other duties where relevant. In some cases, you can get relief from import charges.

If someone sends you a gift from outside the EU, and it is valued at under €45, you do not have to pay customs duty or VAT. To qualify for this relief, the gift must be of an occasional nature and sent from one private individual to another.

You can buy some goods from outside the EU up to a value of €22 without paying VAT. The value is calculated on the full value of the item, plus postage and duties. This is also the value that is used to calculate VAT, if it is payable.

If you buy goods from outside the EU valued at more than €150, you will have to pay customs duty as well. Customs duty is normally calculated as a percentage of the full value of the goods including the cost of postage, packaging and insurance. VAT, customs duty and excise duty are always charged on excisable products (such as alcohol, tobacco and perfume) from outside the EU, whatever their value.

All packages received from outside of the EU require a customs declaration, which is usually completed by the sender. The declaration should include a description of the goods, the value and whether they are gifts or commercial items. Some websites offer to undervalue your goods to avoid import charges. This is illegal. You, as the importer of the goods, are responsible for ensuring that the information provided is accurate and that all duties and taxes are paid. Some websites may also promise delivery from within the EU, which would eliminate any import charges, but are in fact shipping their products from outside the EU. If this is the case, you are liable to duties and VAT.

## Opening a bank account

### Question

My bank is insisting I must prove my identity to open a new account, even though I already have an account with them. What is required to open a bank account?

### Answer

Under laws to prevent money laundering, there are minimum requirements you must meet to prove your identity when opening a bank account. These apply even if you already have an account with the same bank. You cannot use the same document to prove both your identity and your address.

You can prove your identity by producing one of the following:

- Valid photographic identification in the form of a passport or driving licence.
- A National Age Card (issued by An Garda Síochána).
- An identification form with a photograph signed by a member of An Garda Síochána.
- A document issued by a Government department showing your name. This must be verified by a person in a position of responsibility who will come to the bank with you and bring proof of their own identity. Check with the bank who they will accept as a person in a position of responsibility.

In addition, you will need one of the following as proof of address:

- A current utility bill (such as a bill for gas, electricity, phone or TV).

- A current car or home insurance policy with your address.
- A document issued by a Government department that shows your address.
- A list of your tax credits or a current balancing statement (P21) or a C2 certificate from the Revenue Commissioners.
- A social insurance document that shows your address.
- A letter from your employer or licensed employment agency to say that you have recently arrived in Ireland and started work but cannot provide evidence of your address here yet. This evidence will have to be submitted later.

If you have a problem opening an account and you cannot resolve it with the bank, you can make a complaint. If you are not happy with the bank's response to your formal complaint, you can complain to the Financial Services Ombudsman.

## Better Energy Homes Scheme

### Question

Our heating bills are quite high because our house is difficult to heat. Is there a grant available to improve the insulation?

### Answer

The Better Energy Homes Scheme provides grants to homeowners to improve energy efficiency in their homes. It is also available to landlords and owners of more than one property. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) administers the scheme.

You can use the Home Energy Self Survey on the SEAI website to identify areas in your home that could be improved to increase energy efficiency. You can also get a Building Energy Rating (BER) done if you are uncertain about your energy-saving options or what work to get done first.

Grants are available for roof insulation, wall insulation, upgrade of heating controls, high-efficiency boiler installation and solar heating. You can also get a grant to have a BER done after the energy-saving work is carried out.

To qualify for a grant, you must: own a dwelling built before 2006; use a contractor from SEAI's registered list; use newly fitted materials and products; have work done that complies with the required standards; have a BER carried out **after** the works are done and use a BER assessor from SEAI's National Register. You must have grant approval before you buy materials or start work.

Grants for qualifying measures range from a maximum of €300 for attic or cavity wall insulation to a maximum of €4,500 for external wall insulation on a detached house. Grants are paid after the work is completed and you have paid your contractor.

If you get three qualifying measures done, a bonus of €300 is payable on top of the grants. (A BER doesn't count as a measure for this bonus.) A further €100 is payable on completion of a fourth measure. See [seai.ie](http://seai.ie) for full details of grants and bonuses.

If you are also claiming a tax credit under the Home Renovation Incentive, the amount of expenditure that qualifies for the credit will be reduced. You can contact SEAI at 1850 927 000 or [info@betterenergyhomes.ie](mailto:info@betterenergyhomes.ie).

## Complaints about health and social care professionals

### Question

How can I find out whether a particular health and social care professional is regulated? I'm not happy with my treatment and I would like to make a complaint.

### Answer

CORU is the regulator for health and social care professionals. It sets standards that practitioners must meet and maintains and publishes a register of practitioners who meet those standards. This register is currently under development.

The system of statutory registration will eventually apply to 15 professions, regardless of whether the practitioner works in the public or private sector or is self-employed. CORU also handles complaints about the fitness to practise of registered practitioners – for example, complaints of professional misconduct or poor professional performance.

Currently, the registers for the following professions are in effect:

- Dietitians
- Dispensing opticians
- Occupational therapists
- Optometrists
- Physiotherapists
- Radiographers and radiation therapists
- Social workers
- Speech and language therapists

You can make a complaint to CORU about a practitioner registered in one of these areas. You can check the registers at [coru.ie](http://coru.ie). Once all registers are open they will also include clinical biochemists, medical scientists, orthoptists, podiatrists, psychologists and social care workers.

You can get further information about the fitness to practise complaints process on the website [coru.ie](http://coru.ie). To make a complaint about a registered practitioner, you need to download and complete the Fitness to Practise Complaint Form. For information about how to make a complaint about practitioners of health and social care professions that are not regulated by CORU, see the website, [healthcomplaints.ie](http://healthcomplaints.ie).

## Christmas Bonus December 2017

### Question

I am getting a social welfare payment. Will I get a Christmas Bonus this year?

### 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 (JA) or Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance (BSWA), you must be getting the payment for 15 months to get a Christmas Bonus. However, if you were getting another payment eligible for the Christmas Bonus immediately before claiming JA or BSWA, and your combined time on the eligible payments is 15 months, you will get the Christmas Bonus.

In 2017, 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 full-rate DCA for one child, 85% of the weekly payment is €60.70.



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**The Copy Date for the February Edition of the Maynooth  
Newsletter is Tuesday 23rd January 2018**



# Maynooth Monthly Diary Planner

Community Library	Maynooth Multiple Births	Bridge Club
<p><b>Opening Times</b>  <b>Mondays &amp; Fridays 2pm to 5pm</b>  <b>Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays 1pm to 8pm</b>  <b>Wednesday 9.30am to 1pm</b>  <b>&amp; 2pm to 5pm</b>  <b>Sat 9.30am to 1pm</b></p>	<p>Maynooth Multiple Births playgroup (twins triplets or more) meets the last Thursday of the month in Leixlip library between 10 &amp; 12 noon. This is a great opportunity to meet parents just like you.  For further details email:  maynoothmultiplebirthclub@gmail.com</p>	<p>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</p>
I.C.A.	MAYNOOTH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP	Arthritis Ireland
<p>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</p>	<p>Maynooth Local History Group Meets Last Thursday of each Month in the Maynooth Community Space (Tesco Shopping Centre)  New Members Welcome  Contact: MCC Office for more details</p>	<p>Arthritis Ireland Walking Group (Maynooth)  <b>Meeting Mondays</b>  <b>12 - 2pm in the Maynooth Community Space</b></p>
University of Third Age (U3A)	Maynooth Parent & Toddler Group	Maynooth Men's Sheds
<p>Weekly meetings on Friday at 11am in Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth  New Members Welcome  Contact Ger : 0874133505</p>	<p>Every Thursday from 9.30am to 11.30pm  Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth</p>	<p>Weekly meetings take place every Wednesday at 11am at the Maynooth Lodge Fisheries Dunboyne Road Maynooth.  For further details contact John Fleming - 087 2041334</p>
Maynooth Tidy Towns	ALZHEIMER CAFÉ LEIXLIP	Maynooth Community Church
<p>Volunteers required to help with this work.  <b>Contact Number</b>  <b>087 3153189</b>  <b>Meet every Saturday</b>  <b>at 10.00am in the Square</b></p>	<p>Informal café atmosphere for people with Dementia &amp; their partners family &amp; 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></p>	<p>1st Floor Manor Mills (entrance next to Chill)  Service times every Sunday morning from 10.30am  <a href="http://www.maynoothcc.org">www.maynoothcc.org</a>  Everyone most welcome</p>
Maynooth Senior Citizens	Craobh Mhaigh Nuad C.C.E.	ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND
<p>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.</p>	<p>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!!!    <b>Contact Sean at</b>  <b>086 2225540 or email</b>  <b><a href="mailto:craobhmaighnuad@gmail.com">craobhmaighnuad@gmail.com</a></b></p>	<p>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></p>

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)*

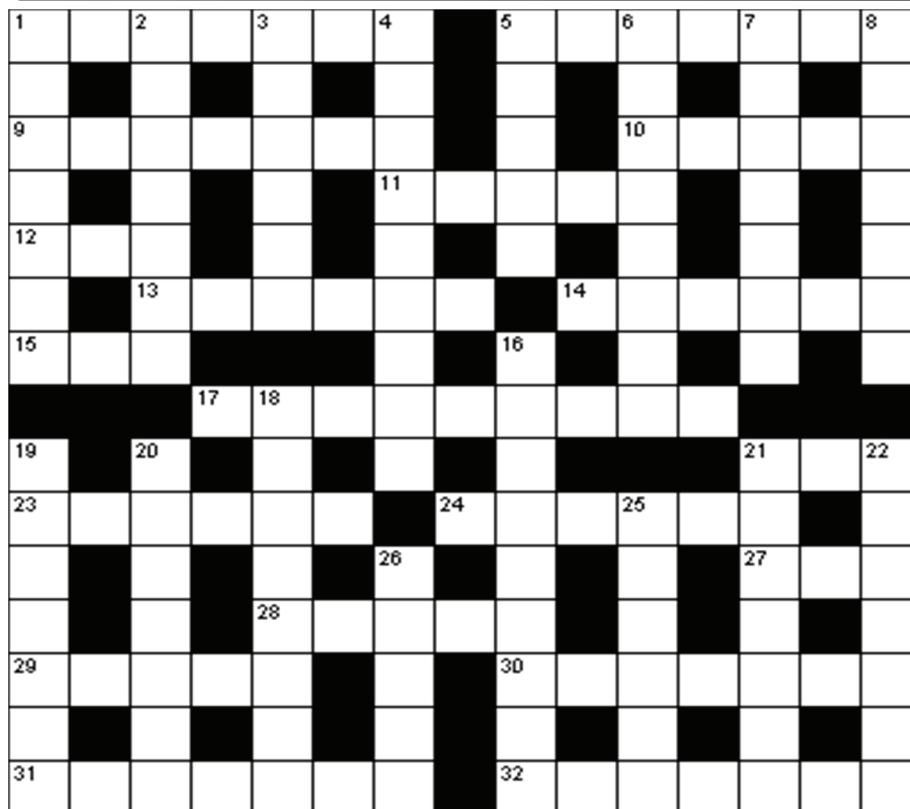


## Clues Across

1. Provide with new housing (7)
5. Ambitious (7)
9. Rather tall (7)
10. Become liable for (5)
11. Choose (5)
12. Uncooked (3)
13. Spain and Portugal (6)
14. Become sad (6)
15. Container used for cooking (3)
17. Water fallen as rain (9)
21. Nevertheless (3)
23. Flowering shrub of the genus Rhododendron (6)
24. Small stone (6)
27. Meadow (3)
28. Keyboard instrument (5)
29. First prime minister of India (5)
30. Personal view (7)
31. Strategic withdrawal (7)
32. Systematically arranged body of facts (7)



## December /Jan 18 Crossword - No. 464



## Clues Down

1. Device for catching rats (3,4)
2. Fool (4-3)
3. Incomparable (6)
4. Book of the New Testament (9)
5. Card game (5)
6. Piece of luggage (8)
7. Enclose (7)
8. Republic in central Europe (7)
16. Resembling a cavern (9)
18. Tavern (8)
19. Person who drives a wagon (7)
20. Hearing distance (7)
21. Inhabitant of Belgium (7)
22. Learner (7)
25. Two-piece bathing suit (6)
26. Heron (5)



### Answers to Crossword No 463

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

### Special Prize Book Voucher

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

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

### Entries in before: Tuesday 23rd January 2018

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

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

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

### Winner of Crossword No. 463 November Phyllis Stewart Rockfield Green

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

Collect prize from  
**The Maynooth Bookshop**  
68 Main Street, Maynooth

### Difficult

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

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

Send completed puzzles to  
**Maynooth Newsletter**  
Unit 5 Tesco S/C Maynooth

## Sudoku Challenge DEC/JAN 2018

Entries must arrive before:  
23rd January

**Congratulations to  
November Winner:**  
**Michael Bowie**  
**Parklands Square**

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

### Super Difficult

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

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

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

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





# McDonald's Maynooth Proud Sponsor of the Colouring Competition

Competition Open to Children 3-6 years



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

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

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

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

**Last Month's Winner:**

**Tess Liffey  
The Drive  
Straffan Wood**

Prize of a Free Family Meal for Colouring Competition can be collected at:  
Maynooth Community Council Office, Unit  
5, Tesco Shopping Centre.

Entries must arrive before:  
Tuesday 23rd January 2018

## Junior Puzzle Corner

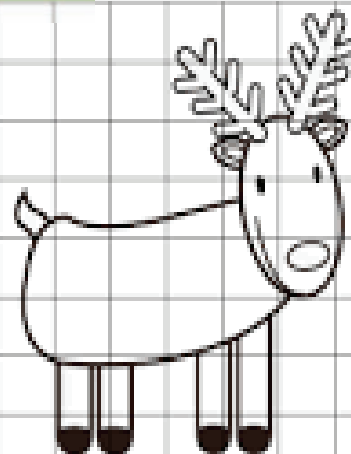
### Christmas Word Search

P	H	O	H	O	H	O
Q	S	T	R	E	E	W
G	A	S	C	W	W	B
U	N	T	O	Y	F	O
L	T	A	L	J	U	W
C	A	R	D	Y	N	F
N	G	N	L	E	L	F

HOHOHO COLD  
SANTA ELF  
STAR BOW  
TREE FUN  
CARD TOY



*Copy the Reindeer-then Colour In*





# Editorial

Being the December/January edition we are tempted to both look backward on 2017 and forward to 2018 at the same time. Also thinking about all our readers who will have your own thoughts on the year going out and your hopes for 2018. For those that have suffered a personal loss in 2017, particularly the loss of a loved one, we hope that you will have the support of this community at this time of year. Maynooth has grown to be a relatively large town but in neighbourhoods there is still a great sense of community and support for each other. For those looking forward to a happy event in 2018, we hope that your expectations are met and if it is a new baby that both your family and the wider community share in your joy.

I think that it is now safe to say that as a community we have evidence that there are more people at work and the majority of families are finally in a position to put the decade of recession behind them. The evidence in Maynooth is certainly the large increase in traffic volumes. It doesn't seem to matter what time of day that you choose to travel across Maynooth but you will be in a long traffic queue. We need to push forward and look

for the delivery of the planned ring road systems around the town. One obvious problem is the turning right lane from the Straffan Road to Main Street. Have you noticed that the turning left lane is often clear of traffic but the turning right lane is backed up past the entrance to the Glenroyal Centre? Where is this traffic going to and is there a better route that could be developed. Still on traffic the Moyglare Road has queues coming to the junction at the church of over a kilometre for much of the day. I witness it from just after 7am on a weekday morning to 7pm in the evening. Yes, there is a plan for a ring-road, but when will it be delivered?

Of course the progress being made on the building of the two new Post-Primary schools also in Moyglare is very welcome. This project is well behind the original expected delivery but now it is planned that these buildings will be occupied by early 2019. Let's hope that the two new buildings for the Primary schools will start in 2018. There was great news in 2017 with Maynooth Educate Together and St. Mary's Boys schools getting planning approval for replacement school buildings. While St. Mary's Boys school is getting a building to replace the existing one, Maynooth Educate Together has been approved to double their number of

school places so will be able help to offer places to meet the demand from the new housing being built in Maynooth.

It is likely that the future development needs of Maynooth will be reviewed by Kildare County Council in 2018. While many checks and balances exist in the process there is no substitute for feedback from the community. The rezoning stage is where the key decisions are made and it is difficult to influence developments at the planning application stage. Good developments are very self-evident and should be supported but it is legitimate to raise concerns about proposals that need serious consideration. Elsewhere in this publication there is evidence that the risk of flooding cannot be ignored.

Of course this time of the year there is a chance of snow to add to the Christmas atmosphere. Regardless of a white Christmas or not, can I wish you on behalf of the staff of the Maynooth Newsletter a very happy Christmas and new year. Remember to take care of each other at this time of year.

**Paul Croghan - Editor**

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

### By Board of Maynooth Community Council clg.

The Board of Maynooth Community Council clg finds it necessary, at this time, to clarify the company's position in relation to the community forum that is Maynooth Community Council in order to address the confusion which exists within the general community of Maynooth on this subject.

In late 2000, regulation changes introduced by FÁS compelled CE Scheme sponsors to form Limited Companies in order to continue operating such Schemes. Maynooth Community Council, which had been operating a Scheme since 1985, felt that, as a community forum, this was not something they felt comfortable engaging with.

When eight community activists then came together to form Maynooth Community Council Limited, the Council made over control of their Scheme to the new company in order to ensure the continued publication of the Maynooth Newsletter and staging of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Summer Festival events.

In the intervening years Maynooth Community Council

Ltd (now designated a clg) extended the scope of the Community Employment Scheme to provide training and employment experience for the unemployed in other spheres of activity. These additional operations include Canal and Harbour area maintenance, grounds maintenance for Maynooth Town Football Club and management of the Maynooth Community Space.

Maynooth Community Council clg co-existed seamlessly with Maynooth Community Council until, at the end of last year, divisions arose within the membership of that forum relating to its role in the running of the Community Employment Scheme. The polarisation of views and opinions, and lack of understanding of the legal standing of the Company, led to confusion and damaging comments and actions, by some members of that forum.

Legal opinion was sought by the company to bring clarity to the situation for all involved.

That Legal Opinion states clearly, that the forum, Maynooth Community Council, and the company, Maynooth Community Council clg, are two distinct and separate entities.

Maynooth Community Council clg has managed one of the most successful Community Employment Schemes in Ireland. It is lauded by the Department of Social Protection as the model to be followed.

Over 400 participants have been employed to date on this Scheme with 16 people currently employed.

The current board, which was appointed in July 2017, is committed to building on the success of past administrations and to driving the Company forward towards new goals.

The Board outlined the details of their plans to the members of the Company at their AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The aims include; increasing the number of Scheme participants to facilitate the expansion of the Company's activities, and the attaining of charitable status from the Charities Regulator.

Maynooth Community Council clg strives at all times to meet its responsibilities to its employees, and to protect, maintain and manage, the services delivered by it, for the benefit of the community of Maynooth.

**The Board - Maynooth Community Council clg**

My name is Daniela Roze Kutischev. I am a ballroom and Latin-American dancer from Maynooth. I have been dancing since I was 5 and representing Ireland at international dance sport competitions since the age of 10. As I am nearly 19 now I have been fortunate to bring back home some important achievements throughout the years including the International Juvenile Latin-American champion's title and British Open Juvenile Latin-American champion's, British Open Junior Latin-American silver medalist's and Jive champion's titles among others. (British Open Championships is the World's most prestigious ballroom and Latin-American Dance competition.)

With my current dance partner who is a former Russian and World Latin-American Champion we have been representing Ireland in the Youth category for two years. We won the All Ireland Youth and Amateur Latin-American Championships 2016 & 2017, came third in Autumn Moscow Cup 2015, third in the Dutch Open 2015, runners up in the Naples Open 2015, bronze medalists in the World Championships 2015, fourth in the New York Dance Festival 2016 and recently we brought a bronze medal back from the New York Dance Festival 2017. We are organising a fundraiser and a social dance event in Barberstown Castle on the 10th of February and we would be very obliged to you if you could feature some information about it in your newspaper. Tickets can be purchased online at [besteventsie.cwid.com](http://besteventsie.cwid.com). What is the fundraiser for? Like all other athletes we train relentlessly and achieve results for Ireland but receive absolutely no funding from the government. Dancing at a high level is very costly and puts great pressure on young dancers.

We are organising this event so we can raise funds to represent Ireland at the European Championships 2017 and the Blackpool Dance Festival 2017. In return we promise a great evening filled with fantastic performances from the world's best ballroom, Latin-American and Salsa dancers, a performance by a live orchestra and a singer, fantastic food and fabulous raffle prizes. The objective of our event is also to show that Ireland has many strong and talented dancers representing it but they receive little to no recognition for their abilities and hard work. Hopefully this will help to promote our art and sport.



**Strictly Come Dancing**

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISING NIGHT

### AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING

Filled with performances by the **WORLD'S BEST salsa & ballroom dancers, a top class LIVE ORCHESTRA & SINGER, fantastic food, prizes to be won & social dancing for everyone!**

Saturday the 10th of February at the historic Barberstown Castle Hotel, Straffan, Co. Kildare.

**TICKETS: €40 Online €50 At The Door**

**CONTACT: 0894957028 [rozedaniela@gmail.com](mailto:rozedaniela@gmail.com)**



## Christmas Party Bites

### Lettuce cups with prawn and mango

#### Ingredients:

1 small cos lettuce  
300g cooked peeled Dublin Bay prawns  
1 large firm ripe mango, peeled and cut into small dices  
Finely grated rind of 1 lime and lime separated into segments  
2 tbsp rapeseed oil  
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper  
Salad cress, to garnish

Serves 20



#### Method:

Divide the cos lettuce into individual leaves, trimming down the large outside leaves so that they are all roughly the same size - you will need 20 in total. Place in a large bowl and cover with cling film. Chill until ready to use. Chop the Dublin Bay prawns if large and place in a bowl with the mango, lime rind and segments. Dress with the rapeseed oil, mixing well to combine and season to taste. Cover with cling film and chill until ready to use. You can prepare this up to four hours in advance.

To serve arrange the little lettuce leaves on a serving platter, spoon in a little of the prawn and mango mixture and finish each one with a few sprigs of salad cress to serve.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Toasted cheese bites

#### Ingredients:

150g (5oz) cheddar cheese, grated  
200ml tub crème fraîche  
1 tsp mild mustard  
10 thick slices of white or brown bread  
225g (8oz) cooked wafer-thin ham (or use leftover Christmas ham)  
3 tbsp softened butter  
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Serves 20



#### Method:

Mix together the cheese with the crème fraîche and mustard. Season with salt and pepper and spread over 5 slices of the bread. Cover with a layer of the cooked ham and finish each one with another slice of the bread. Heat a large frying pan over a medium heat. Thinly spread the butter on the outside of each sandwich and then cook in batches for a couple of minutes on each side until golden brown. Cut off the crusts if and then cut into bite-sized pieces. Arrange on a platter, then pierce each one with a cocktail stick and serve immediately.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Feta-style Sheep's cheese and artichoke stuffed peppadews

#### Ingredients:

3 chargrilled artichokes, drained (from a jar)  
Handful of rocket or flat-leaf parsley  
50g (2oz) sheep's cheese  
20 peppadews, drained (from a jar)  
Freshly ground black pepper

Serves 20



#### Method:

Finely chop the artichokes and rocket or parsley and put in a bowl. Crumble in the cheese and season with pepper. Use a teaspoon to spoon the mixture into the peppadews and arrange on a platter to serve.

Peppadews are available in most supermarkets.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Chorizo with Celeriac Remoulade

#### Ingredients:

1 small celeriac  
Juice of 1 lemon  
1 tbsp mild mustard  
2-3 tbsp mayonnaise or crème fraîche  
40 thin slices chorizo (rind removed)  
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Serves 40



#### Method:

Peel the celeriac and then coarsely grate in a food processor or shred into matchsticks on a mandolin. Place in a bowl and add the lemon juice and mustard with enough of the mayonnaise or crème fraîche to bind. Season with salt and pepper.

To serve, spoon a teaspoon of the celeriac remoulade on to each slice of chorizo, then fold over to encase the remoulade and secure with a cocktail stick. The remoulade can be made a day in advance and kept covered in the fridge.

## Gardening & Tips for December 2017

### Caring for your Christmas Tree

When you buy your tree, recut the base – otherwise your tree will not take up water. Cut about an inch off the base and immediately place the tree in a stand that can hold at least 1 gallon of water. You should expect your tree to take up extra water. Water the new tree until the uptake stops.

Always keep the base of the tree in water. If the base dries out, resin will form over the end of the tree, preventing it from absorbing water again. Add a few spoons of sugar and it will help hugely!



**Leave the faded flower heads** on your **hydrangeas** until the spring, as they will provide frost protection to the swelling buds further down the stems.

If you still haven't planted your **tulip bulbs** there is still time, provided the ground isn't frozen.

Now is the perfect time to prune fruit trees to maintain an open, balanced structure and encourage quality fruit production. Plums, cherries and other stone fruits should not be pruned until the summer as winter pruning will make them susceptible to silver leaf fungus. Make sure you use clean, sharp **secateurs** to avoid damaging your trees.

Avoid walking on your lawn when it is blanketed by heavy frost or snow, as this will damage the grass beneath.

If it's a mild winter, continue to cut the lawn if it's growing, but raise the height of the mower blades.

Choose a dry day to clear out the garden shed in preparation for the spring.

Group potted plants together in a sheltered spot in the garden to give them some protection from the winter weather.

Keep **fleece** to hand to protect hardy salad crops such as Lettuce 'Winter Gem', winter land cress, purslane, and corn salad on cold nights. Protect any remaining celery plants left in the soil by covering with **straw or fleece**. Cover heavy clay soil with polythene to keep it drier and allow winter digging.

### If you are not quite ready to say goodbye to your Christmas Tree in January

why not use it as a natural framework for other plants. A Christmas tree's beautiful conical shape makes it a perfect host for climbing plants such as the **Nasturtium** and **Sweet Peas**. To turn your old tree into a frame for climbers is a really simple task. Simply place your tree in the garden with a stake for support and plant your seeds indoors to grow for a couple of weeks. The seedlings can be then transplanted outdoors at the end of February or early March. They should be planted around the base of your old tree allowing them to use the tree as a support while growing. Your old Christmas tree provides a natural looking and attractive frame for these colourful plants. You can expect them to flower in June right through until November, and with a choice of many different colours in both plants they are a welcome addition to any garden. As well as this, **Sweet Peas** are perfect for cutting and bringing indoors for the summer months to add to your indoor display. You can expect the tree to last at least one and possibly two seasons before it deteriorates.



### Layered Holiday Centrepiece

#### Materials Needed:

One large oval-shaped tray (larger than 14", widest point).  
One 14" grape vine wreath.  
One pedestal based candle holder and candle.  
One cup faux berries.  
5/6 evergreen and pinecone floral picks.  
Three Faux flower stems

#### Position Wreath on tray - Position Candleholder

Add Evergreen and pinecones inside the wreath, around the base of the candleholder. Place a candle inside the candleholder. Place a cup of faux berries around the candle. Randomly tuck a few faux flowers into the evergreen sprigs around the base of the candleholder.



**Prepare** your planting beds now, with **compost and manure**, for planting in early spring. **Fruit Trees:** Gather and dispose of any remaining fruits or nuts on trees or the ground beneath them. This reduces pests and diseases next year.

**The best fertilizer is the shadow of the gardener.**

**Wishing you a warm, merry flower-brightened Christmas Day with family and friends...and the promise of good things to come in 2018**



# FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON



## CHRISTMAS 2017



Christmas may come once a year, but it seems to arrive earlier and earlier with each passing year. Festive spirit is in evidence everywhere from decorated stores, to Christmas lights and carol singers on our streets. 'Tis the season to be jolly and indulge in mince pies, mugs of steaming hot chocolate, mulled wine, roasted chestnuts and, of course, Christmas movies. *The Lighthouse Cinema* is showing its annual *Naughty or Nice* season of films in Smithfield for the month of December.

*Romantic-comedy Love Actually (2003) has become a standard Christmas favourite. The film was the runaway hit of last year's Naughty or Nice season at the Lighthouse Cinema. It's the perfect film to get you in the mood for the festive cheer. Set in London five weeks before Christmas, love in all its varied forms is the common thread connecting several people's lives. First time director, Richard Curtis was noteworthy as a comedy writer of considerable talent when he took on the film project of Love Actually.*



*Love Actually* is a sentimental celebration of all aspects of love, and portrays happiness and heartbreak in equal measure. In Curtis's film, 'love is all around us'. The writer/director assembles a glittering all-star cast in *Love Actually* to enact a somewhat complex and, at times, emotional plot. Ten different love stories play out and eventually interlink as the film goes on. The performances are uniformly excellent. Both Hugh Grant and Colin Firth utilise their likeable, stiff-upper-lip Englishmen personas to comic effect in *Love Actually*. Grant is particularly engaging as a Tony Blair-like Prime Minister, crushing hard and inappropriately on his attractive, bubbly assistant (Martine McCutcheon of *EastEnders* fame). Their scenes together are sweet and touching. The relationship between Neeson's widowed father and his cute lovelorn son is also a highlight of the film. Bill Nighy steals the film though as an aging rocker. He is spectacularly funny and worth the price of admission alone. *Love Actually* is a charming, life-affirming, upbeat delight!

### Naughty Or Nice Christmas Films Season

December 2017

Light House Cinema, Smithfield, Dublin.

*Die Hard* - 1st, 16th, 22nd December  
*Love Actually* - (2nd, 7th, 10th, 19th, 21st December)  
*Elf* - (2nd, 16th, 21st, 23rd December) *It's A Wonderful Life* - (3rd, 12th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd December) *Sleepless in Seattle* - (3rd, 28th December) *Home Alone* - (3rd, 17th, 20th, 21st December) *The Muppets Christmas Carol* - (4th, 9th, 10th, 17th 23rd December) *The Snowman* - (9th December) *White Christmas* - (10th, 16th December) *National Lampoons Christmas Vacation* - (11th, 16th, 23rd December) *Gremlins* - (15th, 19th December) *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* - (17th December)



## Christmas Film Quiz

1. Which 1998 Bill Murray film is an adaptation of Charles Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol'?
2. Who played the burglars in the 'Home Alone' films?
3. In the 1946 film 'It's A Wonderful Life', what was the name of George Bailey's guardian angel?
4. Name the two films that Bing Crosby sang 'White Christmas' in.
5. Who directed the 1946 classic Christmas film, 'It's A Wonderful Life'?
6. In the 2003 film, 'Elf' what was the name given to the human child Santa accidentally carried to the North Pole?
7. In what city did the 1947 classic film, 'Miracle on 34th Street', take place?
8. Which actor played 'Bad Santa' in the 2003 Christmas comedy?
9. What is written on the jumper of the dead terrorist in 'Die Hard' (2008)?
10. Name the child actor who was left 'Home Alone' both in 1990 and 1992?
11. Who plays Buddy in the 2003 comedy fantasy film 'Elf'?
12. Which veteran English actor played Scrooge in 'The Muppets' Christmas Carol' (1992)?
13. In 'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation' (1989), what happens when Chevy Chase switches on the house lights?
14. What was the name of the famous song from the animation film 'The Snowman'?
15. Which Christmas song opened the movie 'Lethal Weapon'?
16. What role does Gonzo The Great play in The 'Muppet Christmas Carol'?

Quiz Answers will be available in the February 2018 edition of the Newsletter

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!





# Frank O'Rourke TD

## KILDARE NORTH

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



01 618 3109



Dáil  
Éireann

Main Street, Celbridge, Co Kildare.



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087 255 5257



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FIANNA FÁIL  
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Wishing a very  
Happy Christmas  
and a Peaceful New  
Year to you all !!



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

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