

Maynooth Newsletter



Serving the people of Maynooth



July 2017

Local News

Issue No. 459

FREE

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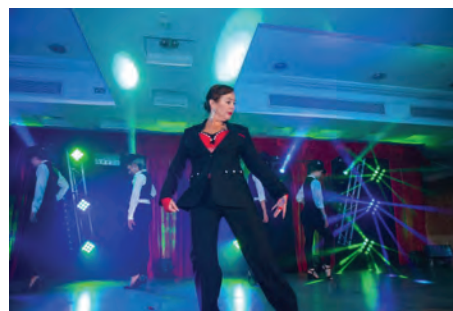
St Mary's B.N.S held a Lip Sync fundraiser last Friday 16th June in The Glenroyal Hotel. The event was organised by the school's 'Parent Teachers Association', to raise some much needed for funds for the school's entirely new building, which is due to commence next September.

The fundraiser involved 34 amazing volunteers, made up of teachers, parents and local business people. On the night contestants took to the stage as a famous act. Acts included Little Mix, Tina Turner, Gene Kelly, Backstreet Boys, Weather Girls and the winner Bonnie Tyler who was performed by the very talented Ciara Houlihan! Ciara lip sync to Bonnie's classic 'Total Eclipse of the Heart' and was accompanied by her band which was made up by Ted Robinson, John O' Sullivan and Gavin Lyons. Ciara wasn't the only one who had everyone on their feet as Fr. Liam also got involved on the night and starred in his own Lip Sync video. Fr Liam lip sync to Bon Jovi's 'Living on A Prayer', accompanied by the school's principal Peter Coakley.

The night was a huge success and raised a huge profit of over €35,000. The school would like to thank everyone who donated or sponsored their event, in particular their main sponsor 'The Glenroyal Hotel'. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause you can make a donation online through their 'ifundraise' account @Maynooth Lip Sync. You can also check out more pictures and news from the night on their facebook page @maynoothlipsync.



*Winner on the Night
Bonnie Tyler a.k.a. Ciara Houlihan*



*2nd Place Madonna a.k.a.
Elaine Kelly Finn*



*3rd Place Back Street Boys a.k.a.
Niall Delaney, Shane Delaney, Ryan
Clancy, Brian Cushen & Conor Coyle*





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Before You Think About Getting A Dog

Please ask yourself the following 10 questions?



1. Are you, and all those who live with you, committed to spend 15+ years providing health care, food, grooming, training and attention to a dog? Do the people who live with you also want a dog?
2. Do you have the time and/or resources available to take your dog for walks and to the vet? To bath, brush, clip, and, otherwise, groom your dog as often as necessary? To Hoover the floors daily and to wash the dogs bedding at least once a week? Will you want to play and work on training your dog on a daily basis? Are you willing to take your dog to puppy socialisation and obedience classes? Where will you walk your dog? Does your local park allow dogs off the lead or will you have to travel further a field to allow your dog to run and play with the ball?
3. Are there lifestyle-altering events that could occur in your foreseeable future? - A baby, caring for an elderly family member, a house move, job uncertainty or promotion, etc. How would you deal with these changes as they impacted your ability and time available to care for a dog?
4. Is your personality conducive to dog ownership? Do you often feel 'stressed out'? Do you like to have total control over your environment or 'space'? Are you a 'neat freak' enjoying a clean house and car? Are you flexible and patient? Answer honestly - nobody but you will know AND, more importantly, nobody but you will have to live with the results of you trying to 'fit' your personality to a dog.
5. Are you physically able to care for a dog? Will you be able to exercise the dog adequately and are you physically able to bend to pick up the dogs poo? Do you have any medical conditions that would make it difficult now or in the near future that will make it difficult to care for the dog? Are you economically able to provide care for a dog? Have you estimated the minimum cost of dog ownership covering food, vet bills and boarding costs?
6. Is your environment prepared for a dog and/or are you willing to make the investment of time and money necessary to insure that it does? Is your garden or a portion of it, fenced to a height of at least 5 ft? If your dog will be outside in the garden for any period of time, will you provide a secure and comfortable shelter for your dog? Have you thought about where the dog will be going to the toilet and how often you will have to collect the poo? If the dog is male, where will it cock its leg to wee?
7. Do you travel frequently? Will it be difficult for you to find quality care for your dog when you are away? How much does boarding cost on a daily basis and how much notice do they need to take your dog?
8. Will your dog be alone for long periods of time, daily or at weekends or evenings? Can you arrange for the dog to be let out in the garden for a romp, given fresh water, medication and playtime, as necessary, during the day? Will you be prepared to spend time with your dog immediately upon arrival home or will you be committed to cooking dinner for the family, etc.? Or, will you become angered and frustrated by behavioural issues that may arise due to the fact that your dog is alone for long periods of time or is ignored due to other commitments? i.e., relieves him or herself indoors, chews up a blanket, your shoes, your favourite chair cushion; barks incessantly, causing your neighbours to become angry or, perhaps, even call the dog warden on you; etc. If digging, chewing, etc. are likely to result in you packing your dog off to a shelter, please reconsider your decision to get a dog.
9. If this is in your plans, we suggest you revisit the question "Why do I/We want a dog?"
10. Do you really LOVE dogs? If you are truly motivated by your love of dogs, or a particular dog, you most likely don't need this page. You've done your homework and are ready for a lifelong commitment. You will train and play with your dog, provide appropriate veterinary care and nutrition, you will bath and groom him or her, happily, and the occasional behavioural problem won't throw you for a loop.



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Real artificial intelligence is still in its early stages of development

20 years ago, the defeat of the reigning chess world champion Garry Kasparov by a computer, IBM's Deep Blue, in 1997 is an interesting side-note on the development of computing. Rather than being a break-through in artificial intelligence, it perhaps shows something more prosaic about people's attitude to computers and how they work.

Kasparov did not know much about how Deep Blue worked. An earlier version had beaten him in one game in a challenge match the previous year but had then lost three-times to him in the overall 4-2 result. He had also played against simpler chess programs but knew that Deep Blue was much more powerful and impressive. During the first game of the 1997 tournament, initially computer and grandmaster seemed well matched, trading pieces and apparently understanding strategies. Out of the blue, at move 44, the computer made a seemingly naive error, giving up a piece for little advantage. This rattled Kasparov – had this powerful intelligence come up with some clever strategy he could not see?



IBM's Deep Blue was a fast, massively parallel machine that used reference data from 700,000 chess games provided by grandmasters. Kasparov asked to see the details of these games and the test games Deep Blue had already played but was refused. Deep Blue used a brute force trial-and-error method that looked ahead up to 20 moves in the game, evaluating every possible outcome so as to choose the best strategy to adopt. Under chess rules, this was time-limited so, depending on the state of the game, some of its moves looked ahead further and were better than others. In some cases this resulted in odd moves that no experienced chess player would make.

So while Kasparov worried about Deep Blue's strategy, the simple answer was that, in the time available, the best move the computer could find was a rather poor one. However, Kasparov thought he saw creativity and intelligence in Deep Blue's move. Drawn after game 5, he himself made an error early in game 6 on which Deep Blue capitalised to win the match. The media announced that a machine had out-thought the human brain in this most complicated game. A new era of artificial intelligence was here.

Deep Blue was a powerful computer dedicated to one task, using its speed to search through many possible outcomes and choosing the best. We use similar parallel computers today to forecast the weather, sequence DNA and analyse so-called big data. We use similar algorithms to recognise faces, recommend items in online shopping or drive autonomous cars. But this is not the creative, adaptable, general intelligence that humans exhibit. We really have only a superficial idea of how the human brain works. Real artificial intelligence is still in its early stages of development. Systems that can replicate human intelligence could be centuries away, at best.

After he realised what had happened, Kasparov requested a re-match but was denied and Deep Blue never played again. Its different parts are now un-functioning museum displays. Present-day computers can perform complicated tasks and solve complex problems like driving a car but real artificial intelligence is still only science fiction.

Prof Adam Winstanley is Head of the Department of Computer Science at Maynooth University. The Department is host to the BSc in Computational Thinking, which unites Computer Science, Mathematics and Philosophy, combining human creativity with the power of computers to find solutions in the presence of uncertainty.



Exploring how the digital games industry leads the way in the age of free-content

The story of how our phones became infiltrated with Angry Birds and our social networks by pleas for help down on the farm, is also the story of a creative and cultural industry successfully navigating some of the challenges raised by social media and the advent of free content, according to a new book by Maynooth University researcher Dr Aphra Kerr. *Global Games* documents the last decade in the industry, which has seen business models that have existed for decades undermined by free online content.

Up until ten years ago, the dominant market strategy of the games industry resembled that of books, music, and films. Independent development companies wanted to secure a publishing deal with a major international publisher and produce a final, physical product on CD. The publisher promoted and distributed the work and the developer would receive royalties once expenses had been recouped.

The highly networked and connected world which has developed in the last decade saw the decline in this model, as consumers became reticent to pay for content. The challenges created by the decline have been well documented with the global music industry seeing a 25% drop in revenues between 2005 – 2015 as a result of a 68% drop in physical sales over that period. However, the games industry responded to the growth and spread of the internet by developing a highly effective free-to-play model, which has not only shown that free content can be sustainable, but can lead to significant growth. The industry was reported to be worth more than €90 billion globally in 2016.

The general characteristics of this model is a reliance on indirect revenue streams, including advertising, product placement, and the use of player data. To this extent the model mirrors that of social media; however, the combination of indirect with direct revenues, mostly from micro-transactions, constitute a novelty that has emerged in the games industry. The facility to gather player data to both inform targeted advertising and, significantly, customise game content to improve monetisation is another novel slant.

Dr. Kerr observes: "Revenue and content development strategies based on player generated data were developed for casual games linked into social networks and later for mobile games downloaded as applications or run in a browser. Player generated data provides a partial understanding of the game player, and its use to influence game-playing experience, while not universally welcomed, is increasingly common in content development."

While the old models were built around restricting content, regulating quality, and maintaining barriers to access, the emergent logic in the industry is now based on an increased emphasis on games as a platform for transnational communities, which increases data flow and adds social and cultural value to the game.

As tools for games production become cheaper and more accessible, we are seeing an increased level of amateur games production, and some games, such as Minecraft, are being designed to encourage player generated content. Broadcast channels like Twitch and YouTube gaming also encourage player development of content, and have afforded game players the opportunity to perform gameplay online as a source of revenue, while also promoting the games.

As Dr. Kerr notes, maintaining these communities demands significant investment from games companies: "Successful online games require extensive community support, not only to drive user engagement but also to monitor problematic behaviour. Player-generated content may infringe on intellectual property rights and their behaviour may cause offense or harm to other players."

As part of their research, Dr Kerr and her fellow researchers immersed themselves in these transnational communities. Discussing her experience, she said: "We observed many examples of very positive community engagement, including online protests on political issues and community tributes to players who had died. However, we also observed some negative examples of interaction, and, if the games industry is to continue to grow at its current rate, then it needs to ensure that its communities are not allowed to become spaces of abuse and harassment."

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 and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121

Long-term illness and the State Pension

Question

I've been on Illness Benefit for over a year. I don't ever expect to be fit to return to work. As I'm now nearing pension age, will I be entitled to a full State Pension (Contributory)?

Answer

The State Pension (Contributory) is paid to people from the age of 66 who have enough social insurance contributions. To qualify, you will need to have paid at least 520 full-rate contributions, which is equivalent to 10 years. The amount of the pension will depend on your average number of contributions per year. Illness Benefit is paid for a maximum of two years. It will end before that if you turn 66, when you may be eligible for a State Pension. You should apply for the State Pension three months before your 66th birthday.

If your entitlement to Illness Benefit ends before you reach pension age at 66 and you are likely to be permanently incapable of work, you may qualify for Invalidity Pension. To get Invalidity Pension you must have at least 260 (or five years) paid PRSI contributions and 48 contributions paid or credited in the last complete tax year before the date of your claim. The last complete tax year is the year before your claim. For example, if you claim Invalidity Pension in 2017, the last complete tax year is 2016. Note that only PRSI paid in classes A, E and H currently count.

If you get Invalidity Pension, you will automatically transfer to the State Pension (Contributory) at the full rate when you turn 66.

You will be contacted by the Department of Social Protection before your Illness Benefit is due to stop and you will be given information about your options. If at that stage, you don't qualify for Invalidity Pension and have a disability that is expected to last for a year or more, you may qualify for a means-tested Disability Allowance.

You can get detailed information about the State Pension and payments for people with long-term illnesses from the website of the Department of Social Protection.

Retirement age

Question

My employer says that I have to retire when I reach the age of 65. Can an employer make you retire at a certain age?

Answer

There is no single fixed retirement age for employees. If you are employed, your retirement age should be set out in your contract of employment. The usual retirement age in contracts of employment is 65.

Many contracts have provisions for early retirement from age 60 (or in some cases from age 55) and most have provision for early retirement on health grounds. Some occupations – for example, Firefighters, An Garda Síochána and the Defence Forces – have provisions for earlier retirement.

While employment equality legislation prohibits discrimination on the grounds of age, employers are still allowed to set retirement ages in employment contracts. Since 1 January 2016, under the Equality (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015 an employer may set a compulsory retirement age if the employer can objectively justify the retirement age of an employee. This could be for health and safety reasons, for example, the physical demands and requirements of the job.

If an employee has reached the employer's mandatory age of retirement, this legislation provides that they may still be legitimately offered fixed-term contracts, provided that it is objectively justified. The provisions of the Protection of Employees (Fixed-Term Work) Act 2003 would still apply.

The Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) provides information on your rights and entitlements under employment legislation. For further information about your contract of employment and retirement age you can contact the WRC's Information and Customer Service at Lo-call 1890 80 80 90 or through the website, workplacelrelations.ie.

Medical card and Domiciliary Care Allowance

Question

I'm getting Domiciliary Care Allowance for my daughter so I was happy to hear that medical card cover was being extended to children who qualify for the payment. The medical card application form seems to require a lot of information that doesn't appear relevant in this situation. Is there another way to apply?

Answer

You don't need to complete the medical card application form to get the medical card for your daughter. The medical card for children who qualify for Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) isn't subject to a means test so information about your income is not required.

Instead, you can register your child online by going to the website medicalcard.ie and clicking on 'Medical Cards (DCA)'. The site also has a form you can download if you prefer to apply by post.

- You will need to provide the following information:
- Your Personal Public Service (PPS) Number and contact details
- Your child's PPS Number and date of birth
- The name and address of your child's GP

The website includes a list of GPs who are participating in the scheme. If your GP of choice is accepting applications electronically, your child's details will be sent to them. If not, you will be emailed a copy of the relevant details, which you can print out and bring to the GP.

Once the GP accepts your child to their GMS patient list, the registration will be finalised by the National Medical Card Unit and a medical card in your child's name will be sent to you.

If you have questions about the medical card, you can call the information line on Lo-call 1890 252 919. Further information is also available from the Citizens Information Service.

Disabled Person's Parking Permit

Question

Can I use my mother's Disabled Person's Parking Permit if I'm doing an errand for her?

Answer

The Disabled Person's Parking Permit can only be used by the person to whom it is issued. The permit shows the name and photograph of the person it has been issued to and you cannot use it unless that person is with you.

The permit allows the holder of the permit to use the public parking spaces that are specifically assigned for vehicles being used by a person with a disability.

These spaces or parking bays have the wheelchair

symbol painted on the ground or have a sign with the wheelchair symbol displayed. Most accessible parking bays are located near amenities such as shops and schools.

Car parking spaces with the wheelchair symbol are usually wider than most other car parking spaces to enable drivers or passengers with a disability to get from their car seat to their wheelchair.

A Disabled Person's Parking Permit is only issued to a person with a disability. The parking permit can be used by the person with the disability for any vehicle they are travelling in. This means that a person with a disability being driven at different times by different people can bring the parking permit and display it in whichever vehicle they are using.

The Disabled Person's Parking Permit is administered by the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland (DDAI) and the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA).

Both organisations provide detailed information on using the Disabled Person's Parking Permit.

St Jude Thaddeus relative of Jesus & Mary patron of hopeless cases. Thanks for many favours.
Jacko

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. **Jacko**

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. **Never known to fail. M**

Coimhlint

Dawkins, Fry is Harris, iad ar strae?
Ní fios dóibh bun nó barr de scéal ár ré,
Leis an pota fós leathbhruite,
Is annamh béile ite,
Ach an Críost a stair dea-fhite, sin an t-É!

Dawkins, Fry and Harris are they daft?
They fail to see the line 'twixt fore and aft;
While the kettle's not yet boiling,
To make tea in vain one's toiling,
And Christ their view is foiling, that's His craft!

Gabriel Martin

Maynooth Labour News

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

Maynooth Traffic Management Plan on Display

The Proposed Maynooth Traffic Management Plan is now available on the Council's website at

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/RoadsandTransportation/TrafficManagementPlans/>

Comments on the Proposed Traffic Management Plan can be submitted to roadssubmissions@kildarecoco.ie

Cllr. John McGinley gave a summary of the Plan in the June edition of the Maynooth Newsletter.

There will be a public information meeting in the Glenroyal on Wednesday evening 28th June and after that the Traffic Management Plan will be published. While it is not a Statutory process the public are free to make comments.

Cllr. McGinley Supports Silken Vale Residents' Association Demand for Yellow Lines

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 12th June:

"When will the yellow lines requested by Silken Vale Residents' Association on 08 November 2016 be put in place?"

John was given the following reply by the Municipal District Engineer:

"The Council received a submission requesting yellow lines in Silken Vale, Maynooth. The Municipal District Engineer has considered the proposal and recommended that double yellow lines in Silken Vale should ensure that parked cars do not interfere with the working of the junction in terms of sight lines and available road space. He has concerns on the proposed layout as it will clear the central spine road of cars and open it up to speeding. Therefore, he recommends a revised layout in respect of the proposed yellow lines at the location. A map of the revised layout proposed will be produced by the council's technical team and will be made available to the members."

Cllr. McGinley Seeks Information on the Next Phase of the Maynooth North/South Corridor

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 12 June:

"That the design for Part 4 of the Maynooth North South Corridor (The Glenroyal - across the Harbour Field - Leinster Street - The Roost) be circulated to the Maynooth Municipal District members prior to the contract being awarded."

John was given the following reply by the Municipal District Engineer:

"Phase 4 of this scheme, which has gone through all the planning stages, is currently going through the detailed stage. The next stage will be to get this detailed design passed by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the full package out to tender. Post tender, it automatically proceeds to tender award and construction, provided the returned tender amount is less than the funding allocation. Out of courtesy to the members, we can organise to circulate the drawings prior to the approval of Works package by the NTA in late June/early July."

Cllr. McGinley Supports Meadowbrook Residents' Association Demands for Improvements

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 12th June:

"That the wooden slatted gate at the Council site at Meadowbrook Lawns (behind the Health Board houses) be replaced with a solid one so that the residents of Meadowbrook Lawns would not see the eyesore every time they pass it."

John was given the following reply by Council Officials: *"The site in question is divided into three plots and involves three separate owners including Kildare County Council. The Gate referred to is on land owned by a private developer. However, as the gate and land are unsightly in their current state, steps will be made to contact the owner and repair the gate as requested."*

Cllr. McGinley Seeks Information on Celbridge Road Re-surfacing:

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 12th June:

"Where does the re-surfacing of the Celbridge Road, Maynooth, which is scheduled for late summer, start and finish?"

John was given the following reply by the Municipal District Engineer:

"As reported in recent correspondence to the Councillor, these works are scheduled for late summer 2017 and will commence at the ramp at the gaelscoil and finish just before the bridge over the M4."

Cllr. McGinley pointed out that residents were looking for the re-surfacing of the section of the road from Maxol to the Gael Scoil. The MD engineer stated that this section of the road is in a reasonable condition and does not need re-surfacing.

Update on the Proposed New Bus Terminus for the 66 Bus at Crinstown, Maynooth

Cllr McGinley was given the following update at the Maynooth MD Meeting on 12th July:

"The Roads Department met with the current owner of the Maynooth Lodge Nursing Home on 30 May to discuss the proposed bus turning bay on his lands adjacent to the Nursing Home."

A key issue is the transfer / lease lands to Kildare County Council to enable the bus bay to be constructed. Further discussions are scheduled to take place in June."

Update on Taking in Charge of Meadowbrook and Castle Dawson Estates

Cllr. McGinley was given the following update at the Maynooth MD meeting on 14th June:

Meadowbrook: The Council are hopeful that their discussions with Irish Water on the condition of the water and waste water pipes will result in the estate being taken in charge fairly soon.

In the meantime, Cllr. McGinley asked the Development Control Section of the Council to get repairs carried out to the very bad pothole on the corner of Meadowbrook Avenue, opposite house number 28.

Castle Dawson: The Council met with the developer of Newtown Hall (he has a pumping station in Castle Dawson) last week and they are hopeful that the outstanding issue can be resolved. The Council hope to be in a position to start the taking in charge process on Newtown Hall in October/November

Government Not Interested in Phase 2 Restoration Works to Maynooth Castle

Emmet Stagg again raised with Minister of State Sean Canney the need for Phase 2 Restoration Works to Maynooth Castle, in the context of the current Capital Review by the Government, with a view to promoting Maynooth Castle as a tourist attraction in view of the Ancient East Campaign.

Maynooth Castle was founded in the 13th Century and remodelled in the 17th Century. It was the home of the Kildare Branch of the Geraldines.

Just under €2 Million stated Mr. Stagg was spent in 2,000/2001 on the Phase 1 Restoration Works which involved the development of the ground vaulted areas for exhibition purposes together with access to the first floor and the provision of small-scale guide and visitor

facilities. Phase 2 of the Restoration works would have seen the provision of a roof on the Keep of the Castle and an Auditorium.

The Minister has now advised Mr. Stagg that the Office of Public Works has in the last 2 years, in the context of the development of a Tourism Capital Development Programme which will be co-funded by Fáilte Ireland, engaged in an appraisal of the heritage estate in their care with a view to identifying those possibilities which best meet the criteria for enhancing tourism assets within the Ireland's Ancient East Brand area. This Programme forms a significant part of the recent Capital Review carried out by the OPW and the early development targets are included in the spending targets for the Office over the period immediately ahead. The Minister further advised Mr. Stagg that while all of the current visitor locations in the relevant parts of the country, including Co. Kildare sites, were considered for investment, it is clear that certain properties have a better short and medium-term tourism development potential because of factors such as an identified visitor need, site availability, existing tourism traffic etc. It is felt that a targeted capital investment in these locations in particular would best meet the needs of the Tourism Programme and would yield exponentially better outcomes in terms of generating visitor footfall at these locations. The Maynooth site, while it is performing relatively well as a local and a seasonal tourism site, is not considered, in this early phase of the Programme, to offer as significant a potential for tourism generation. The Tourism Capital Development Programme is intended to progress over a 5 year period and will involve the continuing reappraisal of all investment options on an ongoing basis. Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has criticised the short sightedness of the Government and the Minister for not including the Phase 2 Restoration Works to Maynooth Castle in the Capital Programme. Mr. Stagg concluded by stating that the Government have no interest in developing the true potential of the Castle for the people of Maynooth and visitors to the area and indicated that he would continue to press this matter.

Further Information Requested on Planning for Two New Maynooth National Schools

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has noted that Kildare Co. Council have requested further information in relation to planning applications for two new Maynooth National Schools, a new Maynooth Boy's National School on the Moyglare Road and a new Maynooth Educate Together School on the Celbridge Road.

Mr. Stagg who lodged submissions in support of both new Schools stated that the new Maynooth Boy's National School consisted of a replacement of the existing school and the construction of a new 3 storey National School with 24 classrooms including Special Needs Unit, whilst the new Maynooth Educate Together School consisted of the replacement of the existing temporary school and the construction of a new 2 Storey 16 classroom school in two phases.

Mr. Stagg stated that the Further Information request in relation to the New Maynooth Boys National School covered revised design calculations for attenuation storage and pipework, additional lands required to accommodate the upgrading of the Kilcock Road/Moyglare Road Junction in line with the Maynooth Town North-South Corridor Part 8 and Maynooth Traffic Management Plan, internal drop off arrangements within the new school, cycle parking facilities and landscaping. The Further Information request in relation to the New Maynooth Educate Together School covered revised

(Continued on page 9)

Maynooth Labour News (Cont.)

(Continued from page 8)

design calculations for pipe network, flood risk assessment, landscaping, increasing width of Toucan Crossing, cycle parking, provision of construction management plan, provision of periodic warning signs and consideration of controlled pedestrian crossing outside the school instead of the existing uncontrolled crossing.

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that all of the issues raised by the Council in their Further Information Requests could be dealt with without any difficulty and he looked forward to the Design Teams for both schools responding to the Council so permission can be secured and we can progress both projects for the benefit of the pupils and staff of both schools.

Stagg Disappointed at Appeal of Planning Granted to Intel

Emmet Stagg has expressed his disappointment that two Third Party Appeals have been lodged with An Bord Pleanala against the decision by Kildare Co. Council on Tuesday May 2nd to grant planning permission to Intel for their Modified New Chip Manufacturing Facility at its headquarters in Leixlip.

Mr. Stagg stated that he would study both appeals lodged and would be submitting observations to An Bord Pleanala in support of the Council's original decision to grant planning permission.

Mr. Stagg stated that the development proposed comprises revised design of a previously permitted Manufacturing Facility and utility support buildings to ensure that the Intel Site has the capacity to manufacture the latest Semiconductor Technology in its bid to secure an estimated \$4 Billion new Chip Manufacturing facility at Leixlip. Intel's corporate parent has yet to decide to proceed with the proposed new plant and Intel in Leixlip

are competing with other locations, most notably Israel to land the investment.

Mr. Stagg stated that the need for the revised planning permission stemmed from a change in the standard design of Intel's manufacturing plants, known as Fabs. The permission granted on May 2nd is for a smaller facility than for the one which received planning permission in 2013. That permission was also appealed to An Bord Pleanala and the Bord granted permission. Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that it was critical that An Bord Pleanala rejected the appeals and confirmed the permission granted by Kildare Co. Council to reinforce Intel Leixlip as a Centre of World Excellence in the Knowledge Based economy.

Stagg Welcomes 5% Increase in Housing Adaptation Grants to Kildare Co. Council

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has welcomed the announcement of an Increase of 5% in the level of Grants to Kildare Co. Council for Housing Grants for people with a disability, people with mobility issues and housing aid for the Elderly.

Mr. Stagg stated that the sum allocated to Kildare Co. Council was €2,900,440 which included a block grant from the Department of Environment of €2,320,352 and €580,088 from the Council's own resources.

The additional funding provided stated Mr. Stagg will allow more elderly people and people with a disability to stay in their own Community. It will give people the opportunity to continue independent living in their own homes for as long as possible, which is their preferred option.

The Grants for people with a disability cover a range of measures such as downstairs extensions for bedroom/toilet facilities, access ramps, stair lifts, walk in showers, grab-rails, and in relation to the elderly cover structural

repairs or improvements such as roofs/windows and rewiring.

Stagg Welcomes Signing Into Law of Bill Securing Rights of Freelance Workers

Emmet Stagg has welcomed the official signing into Law by President Michael D. Higgins on June 7th of Labour's Competition (Amendment) Bill 2016 which secures the rights of freelance workers.

The Act is based on a former Bill published by Emmet Stagg in 2012, the Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2012, and a Bill published by our current President, Michael D Higgins in 2006, the Competition (Trade Union Membership) Bill, 2006.

Mr. Stagg stated that the Act stemmed from a longstanding Labour Party commitment to ensure protection of the right to collectively bargain for freelance workers, including journalists, actors, musicians and others who perform their work on a self-employed or contract for services basis.

Under previous competition Law, self-employed persons who combined with others to set prices for their services could have been accused of an illegal anti-competitive practice. That has now all changed with the signing into Law of the Bill by the President on June 7th.

The Act allows self-employed workers such as actors and journalists, who personally provide work or perform services, to collectively bargain with their employers. The end result will be better pay and conditions and living standards for such workers.

In conclusion Emmet Stagg congratulated his Labour colleagues in the Oireachtas on successfully bringing the Bill through both the Seanad and the Dail, the first opposition Bill to be signed into Law by the President in this do-nothing Dail since the last General Election.

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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask 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.

Never known to fail. M



Maynooth Golf Society

Joe "Do Do" Murray Cup

Sponsored by Sam Feeney

Castlewarden Golf Club 16.06.2017

1st	Pat Connolly	38 pts
2nd	Paul Farrelly	37pts B9
3rd	Dave Weafer	37 pts
4th	Johnny Murray	36pts B9
5th	Sam Feeney	36 pts
6th	John Byrne	34pts
7th	Marty Maguire	30pts B9
F9	Sean Lennon	19pts
B9	Brendan Bean	17pts
Over 50	Gerry McTernan	30pts
NP	Sam Feeney	
2s Club	Brian Shields	
Visitor	Pat Comeford	34pts

We had 37 golfers take part on a beautiful summer Friday afternoon. Castlewarden was in great condition and a great challenge for our players. Pat Connolly won the day and said in his speech afterwards that he was proud to win the DoDo Murray Cup as he used to play football with him in years gone by.

Our next outing is to Glasson in Athlone on the 22nd of July for our Captains Day.

I.C.A Maynooth Guild



We are preparing crafts that we will be selling at our stall at the July festival, so do come along and see what we have to offer.

Not a lot is happening with classes, while we are all helping to make sure our stall has plenty of goods because the money raised will be going towards new windows in our hall.

Many members are busy preparing for their holidays but we are always open for new memberships and you are allowed to come for two Monday evenings before you join to make sure you enjoy it first. Our hall is free for letting at a very reasonable fee all days except Mondays and Thursdays. It is ideal for small meetings, yoga and talks.

We wish everyone a great Summer holiday and we will be back in full swing for new crafts in September.

Heather M^c Weeney

James Lawless T.D. Kildare North

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

Maynooth Office Open On Mondays & Fridays

Due to demand my Maynooth office, located just off the Main Street, will be open on Fridays by appointment. I was delighted to open the office following my election and have welcomed many residents through the doors to offer them advice and assistance. The office will be open Monday 10am to 4pm and Friday by appointment. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Public Swimming Pool Maynooth

I am aware from working with my colleagues in Kildare County Council that they have met recently with the management of Maynooth University to discuss the potential of a public swimming pool being built as a joint venture between the Council and the University. Both parties have agreed to progress the idea and carry out and prepare a business case to see how such a joint pool venture could operate. This is good news and the potential of a public pool located here would be most welcome and needed. I will keep you posted.

Time for Government to deliver on commercial rates Bill says Lawless

I am calling on the Government to accelerate its plan for a new commercial rates Bill. Fianna Fáil has made this legislation a priority and has put forward its own Bill to help resolve the matter. Previously I had assisted businesses in Maynooth and the wider areas with dedicated rates meetings for traders following significant increases in rates for some traders in the town.

Fianna Fáil has formulated a Bill that will reduce the impact of rates valuations on businesses by putting a cap on the rate increases themselves, and allowing businesses to spread their increased payments over a five year period, rather than frontloading it. This will help give businesses a chance to adjust to their new valuation levels. Local Authorities will not lose out as they don't benefit from valuation increases.

We will use this Bill to put pressure on the Government to come forward with its own long awaited legislation. The Government has been promising a new rates Bill for a number of months but it has yet to be published. I am calling the Minister to prioritise this issue, which is affecting businesses across the country. We will use our legislation to help strengthen the Government's proposed Bill.

This is an issue that impacts directly on thousands of jobs in every region of the country. It needs to get the attention it deserves. Businesses are currently undergoing a re-evaluation process and are facing increased rates of between 50 -100%. This is clearly unsustainable for a small business. It also risks penalising bricks and mortar shops on main streets in town's right across the country. This is the opposite of what we need.

Rather than hitting shops and businesses with additional costs we should be encouraging more businesses into towns. I will ensure that the

forthcoming Bill does just that by using the Fianna Fáil Bill to put pressure on the Government. Now it's time for the Minister to come up with the goods.

Lawless encourages students to use support services during State Examinations

Following the hectic exam period I am encouraging students to avail of support services as they expect their results and plan the next step in their education or working lives.

Having talked with parents and students, I am acutely aware of the toll that the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate can have on young people. These exams have a profound impact on students health and some can feel overwhelmed by the experience.

It's important to recognise the emotional strain on student's mental health in the run up to the examinations. I encourage students to talk with their parents, friends and teachers if they feel overwhelmed by the exams. It's particularly important that schools highlight the availability of support services over the examination period. Young people need encouragement as they sit through these exams. Even if exams do not lead to instant success, there are always other means to pursue interests in life. The Leaving Certificate in particular is not the be all and end all that many young people think it is. There are a range of options to pursue further education and third level education has never been more accessible.

It's important that young people know that, while exams are important, they do not define who you are. There are alternative pathways to any chosen career. This is the message that needs to be delivered to students in the weeks ahead.

Lawless calls for improved digital facilities in Kildare schools

I am calling on the Government to use a €200 million budget from the Department of Education to promote digital technology in schools. This promotion would also include guidance for boards of management and technical support for stakeholders in schools.

The programme for Government refers to a digital strategy for schools and commits to introducing new technology into classrooms. Last year, the Minister for Education and Skills, Deputy Bruton, announced a €200 million spend over five years within schools. While this money is very welcome, without guidance, follow-through and professional implementation, I fear the money may not be utilised in the optimum way.

We know that school boards of management and management teams struggle with the challenges of new technology in the classroom, including cyberbullying, inappropriate images and digital usage across the schools. I am concerned that while the money has been committed, we are not seeing the appropriate support system in place, including technical guidance for boards of management to

deal with difficult situations and making the right decisions on how to utilise technology within their schools.

Garda Numbers and Stations Must Increase

It is well known that Kildare has the lowest number of Gardaí per head of population in the country. This is a scandal which I have raised repeatedly in the Dáil. While I have consistently called for improvements in Garda numbers. In Kildare we have seen some additional resources. I welcome the restoration of community Gardaí in some areas of Kildare. From recent parliamentary questions I raised directly with the Minister for Justice she has told me the division has been assigned some new recruits.

However we are so low down the table in terms of Garda numbers as compared to other counties. This means we need more than average resources assigned to the division to catch up. Kildare is a special case. I am calling for it to be designated as such. We have a historical deficit of low Garda numbers in Kildare and serious increases in these numbers need to be made.

It is not surprising that Garda management are doing their best with the scarce resources at their disposal. You would have to question the significant overtime spend in multiplies of hundreds of thousands yearly compared with assigning recruits to the division. The Minister for Justice and the Government must address this issue immediately to strengthen numbers and morale in the force.

Our Garda do a fantastic job in Kildare. Despite suffering from pay and conditions which need to be improved, including the situation whereby overtime is incorporated into a basic pay package just to survive needs to be changed. This must be addressed in the Government talks regarding public sector pay. Being a Garda is a tough job and requires more support from management practices, the Minister for Justice and the Government regarding pay and conditions. I will continue to fight for better and improved Garda resources in Kildare.

NOVENA

Novena Prayer to the Virgin Mary (Never known to fail):

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. O Star of the Sea help me and show me here you are my mother, O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity, there are none that can withstand your power, O show here you are my mother, O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3times), Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands, (3times), Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands, (3 times), O thank you for your mercy to me and mine, Amen.

This prayer must be said for 3 days, and after that the request will be granted. M

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.

Car Insurance Credit needs to be considered for low income earners says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, has called on the Government to introduce a car insurance credit for low income earners, to assist in dealing with the high car insurance costs. Deputy O'Rourke raised the matter following a meeting with a constituent who showed him the insurance premium for a modest car which had increased by 30% over the last few years.

"The Government has failed to deal with the motor insurance crisis. While I appreciate that the Government is implementing the action plan to deal with the high cost of car insurance, progress is too slow and it does not seem to be a priority for the Government high."

"Over the past three years, premiums have risen by over 50% and the government has failed to take decisive action to stem the rises that are placing families in severe financial difficulty." "Earlier in the year, I called on the Government to publish a Quarterly update on the implementation of the action plan on the Cost of Motor Insurance. This has been done. The first report was published recently which showed that very little progress has been made in implementing the action plan."

"It is not enough to say that the level rate of the rise in car insurance is reducing, we simply have to reduce the cost of motor insurance. I believe that the Government should consider a car insurance credit, either by way of a tax credit or by way of a voucher for low income earners and families. This could be introduced on a temporary basis, say for a 12 month period, until car insurance is reduced. It will also incentivise the Government to implement the action plan designed to reduce the level of car insurance."

"As I have said in the Dail, there is little point in reducing the Universal Social Charge, if a multiple of the reduction in USC, is being taken back by increased Insurance costs. I believe that a measure to assist low income earners secure car insurance is essential. It is a pity that the Minister responsible, Minister Eoghan Murphy, was not as successful at reducing Car Insurance costs as he was as Leo Varadkar's campaign manager." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

NTA's BusConnect Proposals

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, has welcomed the inclusion of a proposed Park and Ride Bus facility adjacent to Celbridge and Junction 5 on the M4 as part of the BusConnections proposal to make Bus Transport more attractive to commuters and launched by the National Transport Authority (NTA). Deputy O'Rourke welcomed the news, who had raised the matter at a recent meeting with Dublin Bus.

"The National Transport Authority (NTA) outlined this proposal in its BusConnects Plans, which includes a suite of initiatives designed to transform bus services in the Dublin region. A Park and Ride for Bus commuters in Celbridge is included as part of its proposals."

"I have been calling for a number of bus park and ride facilities in North Kildare for some time. Funding was provided to select a park and ride facility in Kilcock and I continue to press the council to finalise its plans for this facility. We need a park and ride for Bus Commuters in Clane."

"However, the proposals set out in BusConnect does not capture North Kildare Bus commuters specifically. While the overall proposals will provide some advantages for Kildare Bus Commuters, their specific concerns, such as greater frequency for Kilcock, Maynooth and Clane are not set out in their plan. I have written to the National Transport Authority this evening to seek a meeting with them to ensure that our concerns are considered."

"Included in the plan is; More effective Bus Routes ; eleven radial bus corridors planned in addition to the Bus Rapid Transit routes, three orbital bus corridors, better ticketing options and the rolling out of new bus stops with better signage and information." stated Deputy O'Rourke

"We are making progress on our public transport; we now have a fairer fare structure for Kilcock and Naas rail commuters following the inclusion of both locations in the Short Hop Zone, with Leap card enabled for Kilcock from 1st June. I have also been campaigning for an orbital bus service linking Naas, Clane, Rathcoffey, Maynooth and Blanchardstown and this will hopefully go out to tender this month, Improved Bus services for Kilcock, Celbridge and Leixlip are also either delivered or planned.

"However, the commuter towns need to benefit from this €1bn investment announced by the NTA for Bus commuters and I intend raising this with the NTA at my meeting." concluded

Deputy O'Rourke.

New Secondary School Campus in Maynooth – construction commences– as O'Rourke presses for long term planning for school places.

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, has confirmed that the new secondary school campus, comprising two secondary schools, will be completed by May of 2019. Deputy O'Rourke was speaking after meeting with the contractor who secured the contract, Sammon Construction, and the CEO of Kildare Wicklow ETB last week.

"The community of Maynooth and surrounding area have been waiting a long time for the commencement of the construction of the new secondary school campus comprising two secondary schools. I visited the site last week with the CEO of Kildare Wicklow ETB and received an overview of the project from Miceál Sammon Managing Director of the Sammon Group, which is based in Kilcock."

"There will 250 people employed in the construction phase of the project, many of whom are local people, providing a valuable contribution to the local economy. The Sammon Group have developed a very strong reputation in the provision of high quality school infrastructure and I was very impressed with the professional approach adopted by the Group. It is a local company, supporting the local economy, and providing first class service."

"This is the largest project of its type and includes 2 No 10,000m2 Post Primary Schools, 2,000m2 Sports Hall, roadways and carparks, playing pitch and ball courts. It will be an excellent facility once it is completed in May 2019, giving a fresh start to the first year students in September of 2019."

"Recently, I put a question down to the Minister for Education in relation to the planning for future school place requirements – given the increased demand due to the rise in the number of people living in North Kildare. The Minister confirmed to me that his Department's 6 Year Capital Programme prioritises building projects for areas where there is increased demography including Co Kildare. The Capital Programme also provides for devolved funding for additional classrooms for schools where an immediate enrolment need has been identified or where an additional teacher has been appointed." "As of now, there are 29 major capital projects that are being progressed in Co Kildare, with Maynooth being one of them. However, we need further investment in schools and I will continue to press the Minister to ensure that we allocate funds for capital projects to build schools in Kildare to meet the demand."

"I want to congratulate all those involved in bringing the project to this stage; including both Principals of the Schools; the boards of management, KWETB and its CEO, the officials in the Department of Education, the parents who have campaigned so hard for this project and indeed all public representatives who have worked on this project." Concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

HSE Confirms Lack of Psychology Services in North Kildare – O

Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North, Frank O'Rourke says he is disappointed with the lack of progress being made in appointing a new primary care psychologist to North Kildare. Deputy O'Rourke made the comments after raising the issue with Minister for Health Simon Harris. The HSE subsequently contacted Deputy O'Rourke to confirm that North Kildare has been left without a psychologist.

Deputy O'Rourke said, "The lack of progress being made in assigning a primary care psychologist to Kildare is deeply disappointing. I have raised this issue with Minister Harris on a number of occasions but the reply I have received from the HSE indicates that little progress has been made on this issue. "The presence of a primary care psychologist is important for ensuring we have a proper functioning mental health service in Kildare. The HSE have confirmed to me that there is a significant gap in existing services in Kildare and this has been the case for many months now. The HSE has committed to implementing a revised model of care for psychological services but it doesn't seem as if much progress is being made in relation to this on the ground in communities.

"The need for properly staffed mental health services has never been greater. How can we expect to encourage people to use our mental health services when they are unable to properly meet the needs of patients? It's simply not acceptable for the Government to just pay lip service to the problems facing our mental health services.

Appointing a new primary care psychologist to North Kildare should be a relatively straight forward process once the will is

there to deliver on this commitment.

"I'll continue to raise this issue with the Government until it's satisfactorily resolved. North Kildare urgently needs a primary care psychologist to help improve our mental health services," concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

O'Rourke meets with Kildare Garda management to discuss resources

Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North Frank O'Rourke says more resources are needed to support the roll-out of An Garda Síochána's renewal and modernisation programme.

Deputy O'Rourke made the comments after meeting with senior Garda management for the Kildare division in which he expressed support for the efforts being taken to promote community policing in the region.

Deputy O'Rourke said, "Last week I met with senior Gardaí to discuss the rollout of a number of community policing initiatives in the county. I was encouraged by the information which I received, including confirmation that 10 probationary Gardaí will be assigned to Kildare from July this year. Further Gardaí are expected to be transferred to the Kildare Division as the year progresses. Fianna Fáil pushed for increased Garda recruitment under the Confidence and Supply arrangement and it's positive to see that this is beginning to have a positive impact on the ground in communities right across Kildare.

"At the meeting I emphasised the importance of tackling the scourge of burglaries in the county alongside the occurrence of anti-social behaviour. I also pointed out the importance of maintaining a strong and adequately staffed Garda Drugs Unit in the region. The meeting also discussed road safety measures and I highlighted the need for additional resources for the Garda Traffic Corps in Kildare, especially when you consider some of the busiest roads in the entire country pass through the county.

"I was particularly impressed by the proposals brought forward by Chief Superintendent Roche and his team in regards to enhancing community policing in Kildare. I have been assured that there will be increased Garda visibility in towns such as Celbridge, Maynooth, Leixlip and Kilcock in the months ahead. People will also be given a constant point of contact within the service who will take ownership of community policing in particular areas. I'm also encouraged by the measures being taken to enhance community policing in and around Maynooth University.

"It's important to recognise that An Garda Síochána's renewal and modernisation programme, which is leading to new community policing practices, can only be successful if it is backed up by adequate resources. The service has been subject to severe cutbacks in recent years and it's clear that targeted investment is needed to ensure Gardaí on the ground are given the tools they need to carry out their duties," concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

€3m allocated to Kildare for Housing Adaption Grants for older people or people with disabilities.

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, has welcomed the allocation of €3m, to Kildare Co. Co, by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, Simon Coveney TD, for Housing Adaptations Grants for Older People and People with a Disability living in private houses.

"Last year, I raised the requirement for increased funding for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with Disabilities. Given the projected increase in the number of older people in Ireland, it is important that we put in place polices and supports to deal with this reality. 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."

"Under the Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes, Grants of up to €30,000 are available for an adaptation, up to €8,000 for housing aid for older people and up to €6,000 for mobility aids." Stated Deputy O'Rourke.

"Apart from improving the quality of life for people and facilitating people to continue the independent occupancy of their own homes, there are other benefits from the Government's expenditure on Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes. These include; a stimulus package for small local construction companies, more local employment and increased business for local building material suppliers, all either improve the Government's tax take or reduce social welfare payments. In addition, it is clear that it costs the state less to facilitate older people living in their home rather than in residential care." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

WING TSUN - IEWTO

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Fax No: + 353 1 628 6848.

Email: maynoothcastle@opw.ie

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Please note: The Castle will close for the winter at 4pm 27th September.

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Maynooth Newsletter

Copy date for the August edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be Tuesday 18th July 2017

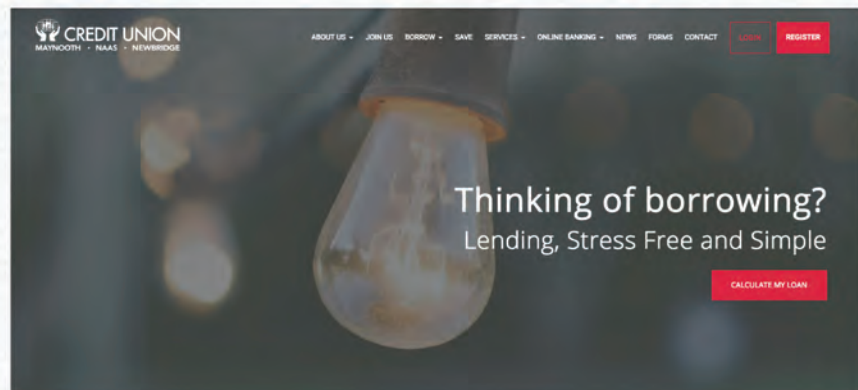


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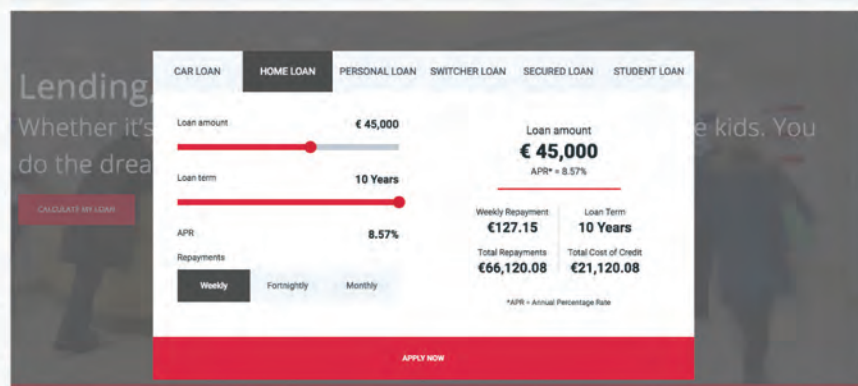
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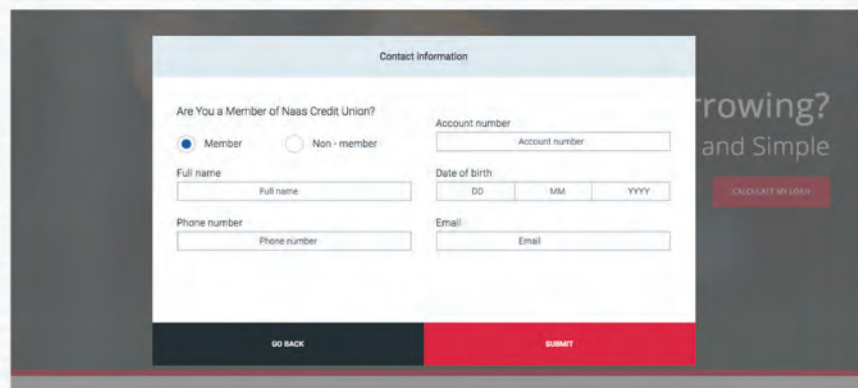
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Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

Our June Tea-Dance was a very enjoyable event. There was a big attendance given that it was more sea-side weather than a dancing occasion. Not even the Sun stops our dancers it seems, and it was great to see PJ Daly tripping the light fantastic again with "Footsteps" keeping the momentum going. Congratulations to George Fennel who celebrated his 86th birthday with us and he did it all again at the club. He is like the Queen with two birthdays. Our next Tea-Dance will be on July 16th and this will be the last before the summer break.



For many years we held a summer outing every July, but we postponed this and other events about seven years ago. This action was prudent at the time because of the economic downturn. However this year we are rebooting this event, thanks to Barton's Transport who have supported us for over forty years. This trip will take place on Sunday July 30th and if you wish to be included, make sure you have your names with us in good time. You can do this through the committee rep in your area or at the club any Tuesday or Thursday morning. Can I also remind all our senior citizens that we provide transport to Mass on Saturday evenings. If you wish to be included do let us know.

Our club will close for August while we recharge our batteries and will reopen on September 5th. May I wish you all a very happy and safe holiday wherever you are.

Finally, may I extend our sympathy to the family of Anne Donnelly who passed away in June. Anne spent the last few years in Elm Hall Nursing Home, but when she lived on the Moyglare Road she attended our events and loved to dance. Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam.

Josephine Moore.
Chairperson.

Home Security Tips During The Holidays



It is that time of year when there is a mass exodus of people heading off on their summer holidays. Whether they plan to go home or abroad, the issue is the same: their house/apartment will be unoccupied and is therefore a target for opportunistic thieves. Heading on your summer holiday is a happy time, and so the idea of coming home to a home that has been burgled is an unsettling thought but there are ways you can prevent this from happening.

Here are some helpful tips to ensure your home is kept secure whilst you enjoy your summer holiday.

Tips for Securing your Unoccupied Home

- A home that looks obviously unoccupied is an easy target. Fully drawn curtains are one usual give away of this so best to either leave them open or get a neighbour to pull them occasionally while you are away. Timer lighting will also help to put off potential break-ins and they are relatively inexpensive to install too.
- With the advent of social media and the popularity of updating your profile to alert your friends that you are in sunnier climes, the danger is that an alert burglar will pick up on your social media updates and use this knowledge to know that your home is a good target. No matter how tempting it is, don't 'advertise' your holiday plans. Wait until you get home to post the pictures!
- It sounds obvious but double check that all windows and doors are securely locked. Research shows that unlocked doors and windows are the primary way thieves access homes.
- If labelling luggage, include your name, telephone number, email address and destination but leave your home address off. If your luggage goes astray and into the wrong hands, then they won't have your home address details so there will be no burglary fears.

If you manage to cover all the tips above, you should be able to travel and enjoy your holiday, safe in the knowledge that your home is secure until you return.

Children's Summer Activity Page

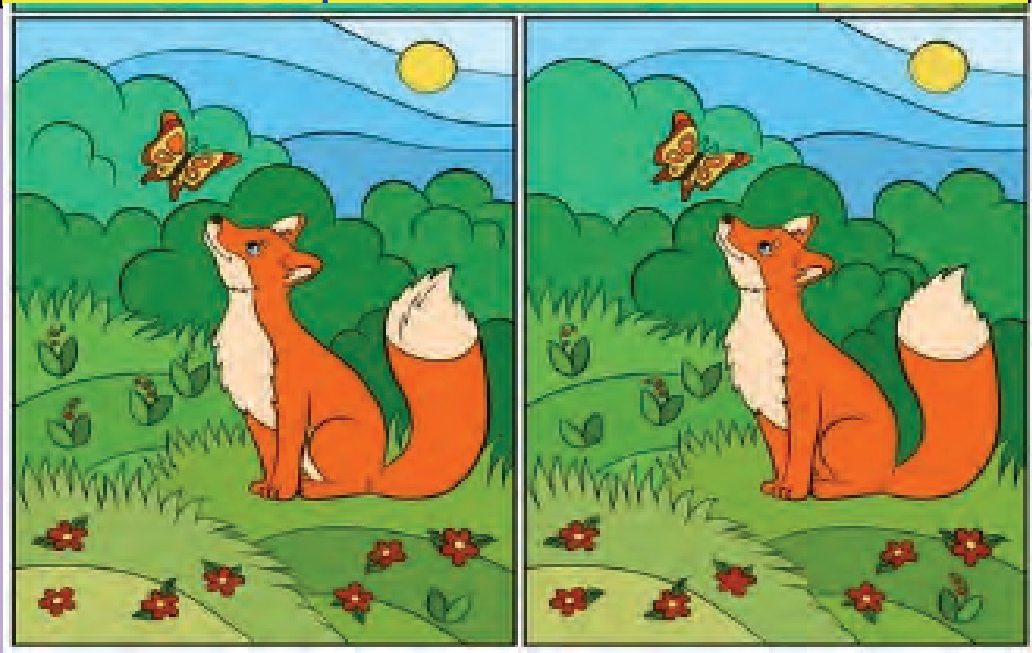
2017



True or False

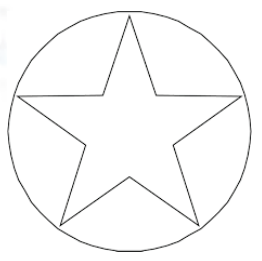
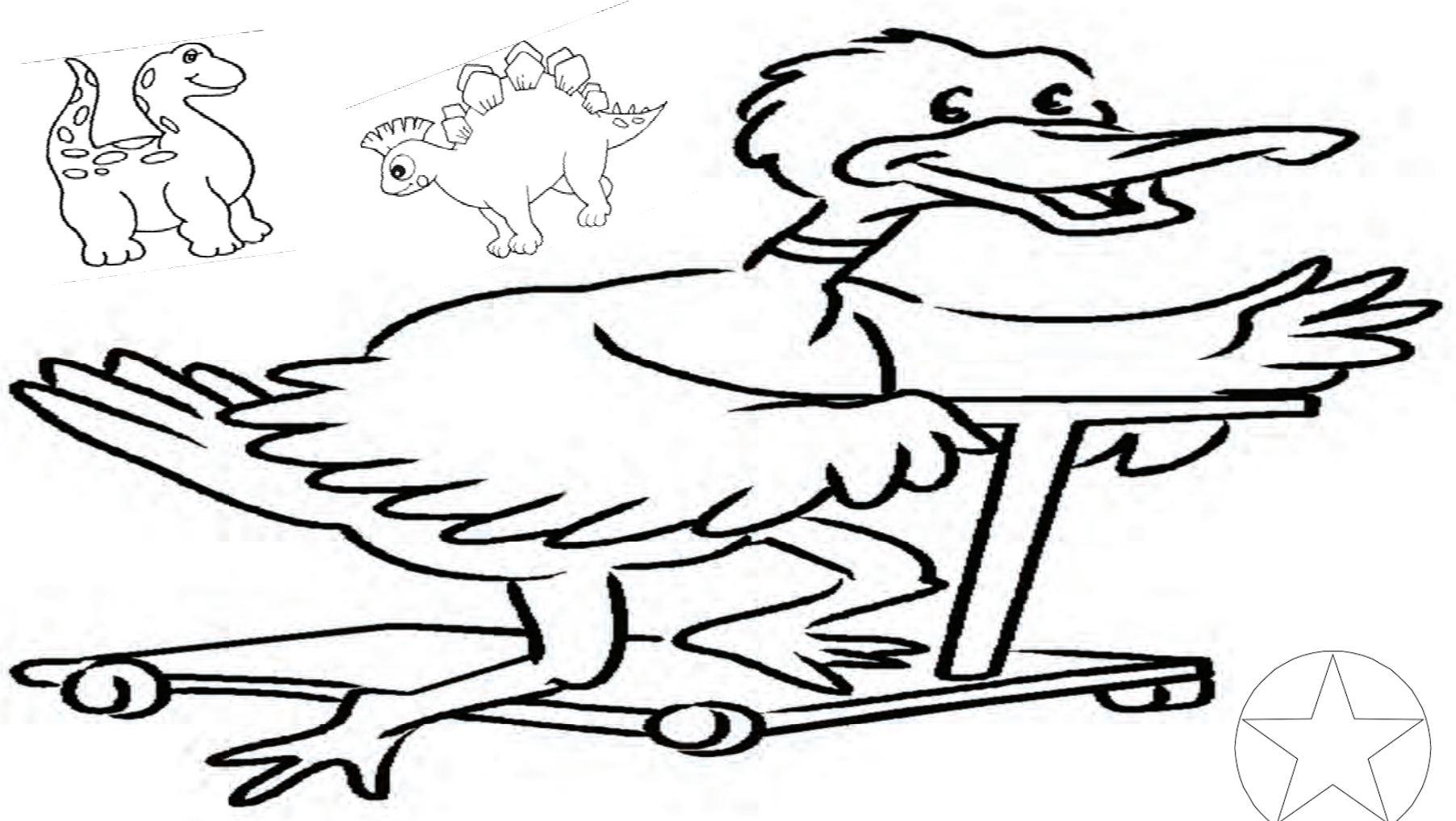
- 1. True or false? You see with your eyes. _____
- 2. True or false? Dogs have 10 legs. _____
- 3. True or false? $3 + 4 = 8$. _____
- 4. True or false? Sheep can't fly. _____
- 5. True or false? Yellow is a colour. _____
- 6. True or false? 'B' is the first letter of the alphabet. _____
- 7. True or false? Shoes are worn on your hands. _____
- 8. True or false? Up is the opposite of down. _____
- 9. True or false? You hear with your nose. _____
- 10. True or false? The Sun is very hot. _____

Spot the Difference



Q: Where do pencils go for vacation?
A: Pencil-vania.

Grab some colouring pencils and get adding colour to the scene



1. True 2. False 3. False 4. True 5. True 6. False 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True



Comhaltas Craobh Mhaigh Nuad



The Branch lashing out the tunes in Manor Mills

The centrepiece of July's activities will be Fleadh Laighean, which this year will be held in Ballymahon, Co Longford. The local committee there are working hard to organise a countywide week long programme of events for the Fleadh. These will include a wide selection of outdoor and indoor events, Workshops, Trad sessions in the pubs, Singing, Dancing, Aifreann Tradisiunta, Tours, promotion of Irish Language events, Open air Gig – Rig and most importantly the Leinster Fleadh competitions where competitors from the 12 counties of Leinster will compete for the All-Ireland Fleadh in Ennis 2017.

We look forward to seeing you in Ballymahon from 10th – 16th July for what promises to be a most memorable Fleadh Cheoil Laighean 2017. We have great representation from across Kildare – but we're especially proud of our branch qualifiers, so we'd be delighted to introduce you to two of them.

Name: "Concertina" Caoimhe Howley
Age: 10

Instruments & how long have you been playing:
Concertina, playing for 4 years.

How did you get on in the Fleadh:
This year I came second in under 12 concertina, I got a gold medal in a trio with Kirsten Farrell and Sean Keane and I got a bronze medal for U12 duets with Kirsten Farrell.

Who is the biggest influence on your musical career?

I love all music, I have been to the burden backroom series for three concerts and I really enjoyed these.

Who is the best musician you know?

The teachers in Craobh Mhaigh Nuad are fantastic! Sean Tracey Jason Kathy and Jimmy are all really good.

What do you like best about playing music?

All of the gang in the Craobh get to play in lots of sessions and I love playing for my Granny Nora.

The best of luck in Longford – go n-éiri an cheoil libh!

Registration for the 2017/2018 Comhaltas year will take place in early September.

As always, we'd love to see new members trying their hand at an instrument from September, you are never too old to start out on a musical journey, we can promise you lots of fulfilment along the way. Keep an eagle eye on our Facebook or Twitter feeds for more information on upcoming workshops, pop-up sessions and performances.



Name: James "The Bosca" McEntire
Age: 13 years old

Instruments & how long have you been playing:
Accordion and violin, for 5 years

How did you get on in the Fleadh Chill Dara:
Came first in Accordion under 15.

Who is the biggest influence on your musical career?

John Redmond, my music teacher at the Irish House in Woodlawn New York,

What do you like best about playing music?

I enjoy the atmosphere which music brings personally and as a group, I also like meeting other musicians from all walks of life and hearing about their journey through music.

We have a great lineup headed to Ballymahon to the Fleadh – keep an eye on this corner for next months, and we'll introduce you to more of them.

Our placed competitors in the Kildare Fleadh, most of whom are going on to the Leinsters are as follows:

Róisín Howley	Fidil 12-15
Josefine Grimm-Blenk	Fidil O18
James McEntire	Bosca Ceoil/ Button Accordion (12-15)
Shane McNerney	Bosca Ceoil/Button Accordion (12-15)
Olivia Cannon	Feadóg Mhór / Flute 12-15
Caoimhe Howley	Consairtín / Concertina (Faoi 12)
Aoife McNerney	Consairtín / Concertina (Faoi 12)
Conor McNerney	Pianó / Piano (Faoi 12)
Shane McNerney	Pianó / Piano (12-15)
Keelin Ní Mhuireasáin	Bodhrán (Faoi 12)
Matthew Meehan	Bodhrán (12-15)

Kirsten Ní Fhearaíl, Caoimhe Howley - Ceol Beirte / Duets (Faoi 12)
Kirsten Ní Fhearaíl, Caoimhe Howley, Sean Keane - Ceol Trí / Trios (Faoi 12)
Tom Ó Catháin, Róisín Howley, Paddy Merrick - Ceol Trí / Trios (12-15)

Róisín Howley - Amhránaíocht ar an Sean Nós (Mná) / Irish Singing (Ladies) (12-15)

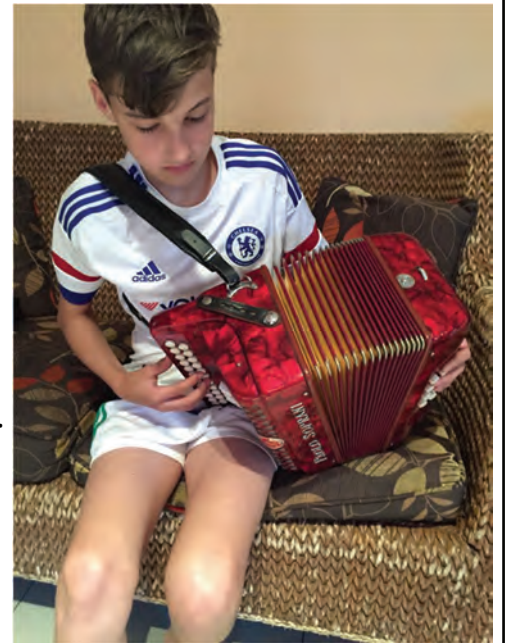
Seán Ó Catháin Comhrá Gaeilge (9-11)
Keelin Ní Mhuireasáin Comhrá Gaeilge (11-13)
Emma Ní Chatháin Comhrá Gaeilge (15-18)
Déaglán Ó Conchúbhair Storytelling (O18)

We also have a number of Rita's dancers going forward as always, so the best of luck too to Aoibhe Garvey, Aimée Halcoombe, Áine McGivern, Lucia Connaughton, Niamh Farrell, Ciara Ó'Regan, Dara Doherty, Maeve Flood, Barbara Wright, Una Philips, Andrea O'Connell, Mary Windrum, Margaret Greene, Debbie Chamberlain, Margaret Chamberlain, Ger Cantrell, Olivia Carton, Rachel Wright, Sinead Crowley and Sarah O'Connor

<http://www.facebook.com/ccemaighnuad>

<http://twitter.com/CCemaighNuad>

Derek Carroll, PRO, Committee Craobh Mhaigh Nuad CCE





Maynooth
Tidy Towns
 Caring for our environment

Regular walkers and visitors to Carton Avenue will have noticed that this year the Grass is being cut differently, this is to allow wild flowers to develop and to feed the bees and butterflies and this part of our biodiversity programme. Once again we thank Carton House for cutting the grass on this wonderful amenity for Maynooth

Speaking of Bio Diversity our own Mary Jennings was one of the speakers at a recent seminar held in Maynooth University, Mary spoke about our experiences and plans for Maynooth in relation to this subject.

Over the past number of weeks our teams on Saturday Mornings and Wednesday Evenings have been clearing and cleaning out the planting areas in various locations around Maynooth in preparation for new season planting.



This planting happened on Wednesday the 14th of June when up to a dozen volunteers of Maynooth Tidy Towns planted and watered hundreds of flowers the majority of which are bee and butterfly friendly.

Once again this year Maynooth Flower club have sponsored and planted flowers opposite the Glenroyal Hotel.

Earlier this year we met Joe Boland Environmental Director of Services for Kildare County Council and Jonathan Deane the Local Engineer who agreed to have Chewing Gum removed from the Main St., and this has been completed this month.

Best wishes to all involved with the Maynooth Summer Festival.

Please keep Maynooth clean and tidy as judging commenced mid- June and will continue until the end of August.

If you wish to volunteer please contact us on 087-3153189 or on Facebook/Twitter

Richard Farrell

PRO Maynooth Tidy Towns



SUNFLOWER COLLECTION 2017 THANK YOU



The Friends of St. Brigid's Hospice and Homecare Services

Want to say a big THANK YOU to the people of Maynooth who donated so generously to the Sunflower Collection, which took place on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th June, when a grand total of 7,229.58 Euro was raised.

A big THANK YOU too to all the volunteers who gave their time to fundraising at the five collection points.

And finally, a big THANK YOU to the five stores who facilitated our collections on their premises, and they are:

Aldi, Donovan's, Greenfield Shopping Centre, Dunnes, SuperValu & Tesco

BASKETBALL SUMMER CAMP

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
MAYNOOTH POST PRIMARY SCHOOL
Tuesday 8th August-Friday 11th August

TWO AGE-GRADED CAMPS
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Maynooth Basketball Academy @Maynoothbasketballacademy
 Email: Maynoothbasketball@outlook.com Mob: 087 2979285

Maynooth Post Primary School hosts Basketball Summer Camp

A four day basketball summer camp will take place in Maynooth Post Primary School from 8th to 11th August. The camp caters for all basketball abilities, with younger children in the morning and older children in the afternoon.

The camp is organised by the Maynooth Basketball Academy, a community initiative to promote under-age basketball in Maynooth and surrounding areas. All the camp coaches are qualified with Basketball Ireland.

Jim Walsh, one of the organisers of the camp, said: 'The summer camp is a great way to introduce children to the skills and thrills of basketball. Last year, 80 children attended the camp, over half of them were new to basketball.'

The cost of the camp is set at an affordable €60. This includes a camp t-shirt. Bookings can be made online at eventmaster.ie

Jim Walsh said 'Basketball is really taking off in Maynooth. We had three under-age teams in the Kildare community games, with our under 11 team coming second in the county. The team of five boys and five girls just lost out on score difference to Sallins (see photo).



There has also been success in schools basketball, with the first years in Maynooth Education Campus reaching a final and the second years a semi-final.'

We've also got a good attendance at the weekly skills development programme during the year with over 20 children attending. Recently, the academy moved to Rathcoffey GAA sports hall and has seen its numbers double with the extra space.

Further information on the summer camp and the academy can be found on Facebook @MaynoothBasketballAcademy.



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ROYAL CANAL AMMENITY GROUP

THE BI-CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS AT CLOONDARA, CO. LONGFORD

The president Michael D. Higgins attended the Bi-Celebrations on the 27th May 2017. RCAG erected a Commorative Plaque. The Garda Band entertained.

MID- SUMMER SOLSTICE WALK

This annual walk was very well attended starting at the 10th Lock in Ashtown and finishing at the 12th Lock in Blanchardstown, a distance of 2.5kms. Refreshments and live music were on offer.

HERITAGE WEEK 2017

RCAG have organised a number of private walking tours. Please check out "Events" on rcag.ie

MAYNOOTH FESTIVAL 2017

RCAG will participate in the festival with kayak demonstration, a Heritage Boat, a Steam Boat and a display stand.

NO MORE "ROYAL" IN THE ROYAL CANAL

There has been no response yet, two letters have been sent to Mr. Gerry Adams TD requesting clarification of Sinn Fein Policy about decommissioning the word "Royal" in the Royal Canal name.

Come on the Lillywhites



Kildare are through to the Leinster SFC final for the first time since 2009!!!! Time to paint the town white and get the flags and bunting flying!

TIPS TO AVOID A SWOLLEN BATTERY

Sometimes a battery just fails and there's nothing you can do to prevent swelling, but here are some best practices to help not only prevent a swollen battery, but to maximize its normal life as well.

ALWAYS USE THE APPROPRIATE POWER CHARGER:- Do not buy cheap third-party knock-off chargers, and do not use chargers that are not rated for the power of your device, even if the charging plugs are interchangeable.

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR DEVICE PLUGGED IN ALL THE TIME:- This is particularly an issue for laptop users who primarily use their laptop at home. The device sits plugged in to the wall all the time, and the battery is not given the opportunity to exercise its capacity. You should take the battery out and leave laptop plugged in if you are going to use it for long periods.

Keep your device (or battery) stored in a cool, dry environment. Occasional use in the sun is fine, but don't store your laptop or smartphone in a hot car or humid environment.

REPLACE YOUR BATTERY IF IT BECOMES EXHAUSTED OR DAMAGED:- Batteries are consumable products, they are meant to slowly degrade in performance over time. So if your battery is no longer holding a charge, or if it becomes damaged due to a drop or impact, make sure to replace it.

WHAT IS A SWOLLEN BATTERY?

Although we'll be talking primarily about laptops in this article, swollen batteries can be found in many devices that use lithium batteries, such as mobile phones. There's also no single cause for a swollen battery. Some are due to manufacturing defects, others are caused by the age of the battery, and still other cases can be caused by misuse, such as not properly exercising the battery over time, or by using the wrong power charger.

In general a swollen battery occurs when the battery's cells are overcharged as lithium-ion batteries "react unfavourably to overcharging."

"There are strict limits on how much current can be put through a lithium-ion cell. During normal charging you never see metallic lithium, which is inherently unstable. But during overcharging the lithium builds up faster than it can dissipate. The result is that metallic lithium plates up on the anode. At the same time, the cathode becomes an oxidizing agent and loses stability."



This reaction produces heat, which warms the gasses inside the battery, causing them to expand. Without any avenue for ventilation, the battery's casing expands with the gasses, distorting and warping its appearance into that familiar swollen look.

Battery designers and manufacturers understand the possibility of this reaction, and design their batteries to withstand quite a bit of expansion. Circuitry built into the battery is also often included in order to regulate the battery's charge, and shut off the power if it detects charging levels beyond the battery's limit.

But these safeguards can occasionally fail, and some consumers end up with a swollen battery nonetheless. Next we'll talk about what you should do if you find yourself facing a swollen battery.

HOW TO DEAL WITH A SWOLLEN BATTERY:-

If you suspect that your device has a swollen battery, the first step is to exercise caution. Puncturing a battery in any state is incredibly dangerous, but swollen batteries are especially vulnerable to compromise as their casing is already under stress from the built up gasses within, in short, handle any device with a suspected swollen battery with care.

Next if your device has a user removable battery you can try to carefully remove it. Note that the battery's swollen casing may make removal difficult. If you encounter any unusual resistance to removing the battery, stop and follow the advice below for those with devices containing non-user-removable batteries. If, however, you are able to successfully remove the swollen battery, place it in a safe, cool container so that it won't be vulnerable to puncturing.



DO NOT DISCARD THE BATTERY IN THE TRASH OR ELSEWHERE:- Doing so can severely injure the health of sanitation workers who may come into contact with the battery, as well as the environment. Instead, always dispose of batteries – swollen or not – at an authorised battery disposal facility. Many computer repair locations have the equipment and procedures to safely handle swollen batteries. For example, if you have an Apple Product, take the battery to your nearest Apple Store. Other electronic retailers also offer recycling and disposal services. Just make sure that you inform the employees that you are recycling a swollen battery so that they can take the proper precautions (don't just drop the battery in a recycling kiosk). If you cannot find a suitable location contact your local government for instructions.



If your device does not have a user-replacement battery, such as some recent laptops and smartphones, do not try to remove it yourself. Simply take the entire device to one of the locations mentioned above for assistance. Note, however, that until your swollen battery is replaced, you should not connect your device to power or use it. Swollen batteries can explode if not properly dealt with, so you do not want to take any actions that may hasten the arrival of this unpleasant event.

Above all else, be safe. Do not try to puncture the battery, do not leave it in a hot car or a location where it could be picked up by children or pets, and do not ignore it. Your laptop or smartphone will likely continue to work for a little while. But ignoring the problem and continuing to use the battery will only increase the risk of a puncture or explosion, which could result in devastating injuries. Battery leaks and explosions are rare, but you do not want to take recycling kiosk). If you cannot find a suitable location contact your local government for instructions.

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St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band

The Band paid its annual visit to the South of Ireland Band Championships in Clonakilty over the first week-end in July. Sixteen bands from all over Ireland competed in our Intermediate Section and results are not available at the time of writing. Apart from the competitive aspect of the trip it offers an opportunity to meet with members of other bands and there is a great social element to the event.

Clonakilty is quite different from other competitions in that it is based on own choice pieces rather than specific test pieces which makes it more entertaining for the large local audiences that usually attend this event. The Band has been prize winners in the past and hopefully we might bring back an award this year. Because the Competition is held on the same week-end every year we will unfortunately be missing out on playing at the Maynooth Festival but we hope to make up for it at some stage during the Summer.

The highlight of the year happens the week after Clonakilty when we have been invited to play at one of the Summer Garden Parties held in Aras an Uachtarain on Saturday July 8th. This is a first for Maynooth Band and is a very special occasion for all members and while we have played in Farmleigh House across the road this indeed is something to remember.

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

A Night of Musical Delight



Tony Savino
Mc on the night

There was a charity music night held in the GAA Clubhouse on Friday the 19th of May by local music group "The Company." This group have held similar charity nights over the last couple of years with all proceeds going to Pieta House. This year, however, all proceeds were in aid of the Kym Owens Recovery Fund. As many of you will know, Kym was the young student from Monaghan that was severely injured here in Maynooth shortly before Christmas. Kym is making a steady recovery at home with her family at the moment, but she also has a long road to recovery ahead of her. In light of this The Company members decided to lend a helping hand and ran a night of music, raffles and an auction. They were wonderfully

supported by local businesses who were very generous in their sponsorship for what is a very worthy cause. There was a great affirmation of community spirit with many people attending on the night, which further re-enforced that sense of communal vitality. Overall the night was a great success and raised 3140 euro for Kym, which it is hoped will help with some of the expenses ahead of her. There was a full house on the night with music supplied by The Company, Sidewinder and Tony Savino (MC). There was complementary food supplied by Mizzoni's and Maximus. All in all, it was a great night, with many people commenting on how much fun they were having, but yet never losing sight of the reason for the event. On behalf of Kym and her family, the members of "The Company" would like to thank all those who sponsored a wonderful night of music and to further extend their appreciation to all of the public who bought tickets and to those that attended and made it such a memorable and enjoyable occasion.



Company B: Liam Moore, Brian O'Neill, Pat Dunne & Simon Morrison



Company A: Dave McCormack, Rossa Ward, Gerry Carroll & Anna Stempei

Maynooth Monthly Diary Planner

Community Library	Maynooth Multiple Births	Bridge Club
<p>Opening Times Mondays & Fridays 2pm to 5pm Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm to 8pm Wednesday 9.30am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm Sat 9.30am to 1pm</p>	<p>On Summer Holidays until the first week in September</p> <p>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 maynoothbridgeclub.com. 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 Council Office (Next to the Post Office) New Members Welcome Contact: MCC Office for more details</p>	<p>Arthritis Ireland Walking Group (Maynooth) Meeting Monday's 12 - 2pm in the Maynooth Community Space</p>
University of Third Age (U3A)	Maynooth Parent & Toddler Group	Maynooth Men's Sheds
<p>On Summer holidays until First week in September Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth New Members Welcome</p>	<p>Closed for Summer Holidays. Will resume in September Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth</p>	<p>Weekly meetings take place every Wednesday at 11.am C/O 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. Contact Number 087 3153189 Meet every Saturday at 10.00am in the Square</p>	<p>Informal café atmosphere for people with Dementia & their partners family & friends. Free of charge. Venue Ryevale Nursing Home. Every second Wednesday of each month 7-9pm. Call 0894933533 Email: alzheimercafeleixlip@gmail.ie www.alzheimercafeleixlip.com</p>	<p>1st Floor Manor Mills (entrance next to Chill) Service times every Sunday morning from 10.30 am www.maynoothcc.org 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 will resume in early September in Maynooth Post Primary School, Moyglare Road. Our classes are very good value, great fun and we promise you plenty of craic also !! Bígí linn!!! Contact Sean at 086 2225540 or email craobhmaighnuad@gmail.com.</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: sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie Website: www.stmarysbandmaynooth.ie</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. Phone: 01-6285922
(The content of the Monthly Planner Diary is published in good faith. All details should be checked with groups)



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

200

Bikeweek 2017

After 6 years of organising Bikeweek events, Maynooth Cycling Campaign was not invited to participate in Bikeweek 2017 and consequently received no funding for advertising events. (For the first time too, schools in Maynooth and Celbridge received no funding either.) Nevertheless, we decided to go ahead with our two events as scheduled. For the Heritage Tour, we travelled to Leixlip for a trail developed by Leixlip Tidy Towns. The second event was a cycle along the Royal Canal exploring the biodiversity of the canal and towpath. Due to lack of advertising, attendances were significantly down on previous years.

14 Year Old Cyclist Seriously Injured near Monasterevin

There was more bad news for cycling with the collision of a 14 year old boy and a jeep outside Monasterevin. Maynooth Cycling Campaign is appalled at several reports in the media including “Kildare Now” which described the incident as the cyclist being *knocked from his bike when he collided with a jeep on the road*. We have no information on who or what was at fault but the report in “Kildare Now” implied that the cyclist was at fault and follows a familiar pattern where vulnerable road users – be they cyclists or pedestrians – are scapegoated for ‘accidents’ with motorised vehicles. Other reports even included the fact that the driver of the jeep was unhurt, which – considering that the incident involved a jeep and a child - was hardly news!

Census 2016 and Commuting

The results of Census 2016 on commuting patterns were published recently and revealed a 4.5% annual increase in cycling between 2011 and 2016. This was a lot more modest than the spin of 42% increase between 2011 and 2016 which appeared in some media reports and contrasts with figures released by the UK government which showed a 70% increase in six months in usage of the high quality London Superhighways.

The 4.5% increase reflects not only the failure of the political establishment to provide for cycling in terms of quality of infrastructure but also low funding. To impact on

cycling levels, funding must be at a minimum level of €10 per person per year whereas the actual level of funding is closer to €1.50 per person.

A succession of questions in the Dáil by TDs, in particular by Catherine Murphy, has attempted to uncover the level of funding but the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has continually refused to answer the questions and instead has fobbed off deputies with a confusing stream of irrelevant figures.

Velo-City Conference 2017

Some good news at last! The Velo-City Conference 2017 recently took place in Arnhem-Nejmegen in the Netherlands and brought together 1500 delegates from over 80 countries to discuss all matters related to the everyday cycling. Topics included health, happiness, medical research, infrastructure, tourism and Bikonomics. The theme of the conference was the Freedom of Cycling and referred in particular to the freedom of mobility by children in the Netherlands. This is in stark contrast to the situation in Ireland where children are denied the option of cycling due to lack of high quality infrastructure with the result that the majority are chauffeured to school, to sports and to after school activities which impacts on their health and results in traffic congestion. In 2019, Velo-City will be in Dublin.

Kildare Cycle Forum

The Kildare Cycle Forum (perhaps it should be called the Non-Cycling Forum) held its second meeting again without any representatives from cycling advocacy groups. The meetings are in secret so it is not known if the Forum discusses one big secret or a number of little secrets.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political cycling advocacy group.

Further information on meetings and activities is available on our website.

We are affiliated to Cyclist.ie, the Irish Cyclist Advocacy Network and through it to the European Cycling Federation.

Editorial

I recently had an experience of witnessing a cyclist being knocked from his bicycle in the centre of Dublin in a simple accident where a driver turned into a side street without any warning. It happened so simply and needless to say the cyclist came off worst.

Thankfully the traffic was moving slowly so the person was not seriously injured. In the same week, I became aware of a child cycling to school for the first time in Maynooth who came off his bike due to the rim height between the cycle lane and footpath on the Straffan Road and broke his wrist.

There are great plans to improve cycle routes in Maynooth but there will be no option at pinch points on routes in the town for the car/truck and cyclist to meet and these points will be more dangerous for the cyclist. The North/South Corridor in Maynooth has been talked about for several years but why is it taking so long to deliver. Let us trust that when delivered it will be completed to a high standard. For example, I think that cycle routes should have traffic controls on them so that the cyclists will have to abide by cycling lights to remind them of safety. This is particularly important for children to develop good cycling habits. I also wonder if cycle route surfaces are designed to cater for the younger cyclist with the smaller size wheels so that accidents like the one that happened to the child cycling to school becomes a rare event rather than a regular incident.

With changes to the Government on the retirement of former Taoiseach Enda Kenny, I noted that the Kilkenny Deputy John Paul Phelan TD had been appointed a Minister for State. His responsibilities includes Local Government with the suggestion of

a review of the decision taken by his former constituency Minister Phil Hogan to remove Town Councils. Under the previous legislation the 2001 Local Government Act, settlements like Maynooth with populations of greater than 7,500 were to be granted Town Council Status. However, Minister Hogan’s Local Government Reform Act 2014 put an end to the chance of new town councils being established and also dissolved all existing ones. My personal opinion is that communities of the size of Maynooth need more locally based services and structured representation. It would also ensure that these areas would get more targeted funding much of which is already raised locally in charges by Kildare County Council.

In July, we welcome many foreign visitors to the town and surrounding area as Maynooth has many attractions especially for day trips. Remember that Maynooth is twinned with the French town Canet-en-Roussillon so if you meet people from there give them a special welcome. Of course, with the fact that Maynooth is accessible by rail to Croke Park will mean that we have thousands of visitors from all over Ireland as their counties progress in the GAA Football and Hurling Championship competitions. Everyone is welcome and hopefully they will spend their money in our many eating places. I will particularly welcome people from Roscommon as it could be our year to progress in the football !!!!!!!

Paul Croghan
Editor

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**The Copy Date for the August Edition of the
Maynooth Newsletter is Tuesday 18th July 2017**

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

Constituency Office, ph. 01 6156625 - e-mail: catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie

Private Health Insurance Waiver forms

Catherine Murphy TD has continued to highlight the plight of a woman who found herself harassed to sign private health insurance forms while lying on a trolley in the hospital department of St. James Hospital. The woman actually suffered a deterioration in her condition as a result of the stress placed on her by the insistence to waive her right to public health care.

Deputy Murphy says the individual case is just one example of what appears to be a practice of this behaviour by staff in A&E Departments around the country and it appears the HSE has no central policy on it. When Catherine Murphy appeared on NewstalkFm on Friday morning to discuss the issue, numerous callers to the show spoke of similar stressful experiences while at their most vulnerable.

Catherine Murphy said that it is vital that people are made aware that every person, whether they have private health insurance or not, is entitled to present at an A&E department and be treated as a public patient. She has passed details of this case onto the HSE and they have agreed to review the case. Catherine Murphy says it is important that they consider the wider operation of these practices in A&E departments and the unsustainable and unrealistic targets which are driving this behaviour.

Ireland's teen suicide has been reported as the fourth highest of the world's 41 wealthiest nations in the EU/OECD region.

UNICEF has launched its annual report on child wellbeing today which found one in 10,000 of 15 to 19-year-olds in this country will die by suicide.

UNICEF has said that Ireland is above the international average of teen suicides for adolescents aged 15 to 19, in the developed world.

Their new report assess the status of children's well-being in 41 high-income countries. Their report indicates that more than 22% of 11 to 15-year-olds experienced such feelings up to twice a week.

That is why the Social Democrats have called for an extra €45million to be allocated to the area of mental health services to extend counselling hours and support staff.

The Social Democrats' Catherine Murphy has raised the issue of youth mental health in the Dáil. "In the years that I have been a public representative, there have been several incidents of clusters of teen suicides in my area which has a disproportionately young age profile. It causes huge long-term irreparable damage to the families involved and to their communities."

Speaking during a debate on a Private Member's Mental Health Bill, she said there is a very good, albeit flawed, strategy called Connecting for Life. "A mother came to me and showed me some elements of the report she would like to see changed," she said. "She was concerned about the discussions that could happen with a trusted adult, for example, in schools. The parent mentioned that page 115 of that strategy encourages - I underline the word "encourages" - schools to deliver but that does not make this mandatory. She wanted to get across the point that we need to have in-service training for teachers in addition to a module within the teacher training programme. That is not something that needs legislation but which could be done very easily."

Deputy Murphy said the mother made the point that the problem with suicide clusters was that youngsters were talking to each other in language of emotional immaturity and that we need a wider engagement.

"We need a structured coping mechanism in schools to provide that kind of engagement," she said. "She wants that kind of initiative to be made mandatory as opposed to being encouraged. She made the point that when such an initiative was taken with issues such as teen pregnancy, the HSE made a strong argument that the strategy had worked and there was evidence that the strategy had worked. That mother was someone who had been touched by this because her son unfortunately had taken his own life as a teenager. That was very raw for her when she came to me. She wanted to make sure, as far as she could, that this would not happen to another family and where there were things that could be done, they should be done. It was a simple request for it to be taken up at both in-service training and in the teacher training module."

Details on how to get Advice

If you or someone you know is at risk of suicide or self-harm, you should make contact immediately with one of the following:

- **Phone or go to your local doctor**
- **Go to the Accident & Emergency department of the nearest hospital**
- **Call 999**

Most helplines will provide a listening service, give information and advice, provide emotional support and point you in the direction of other services. They are often free-phone services which are staffed by trained volunteers or employees.

National Suicide Helpline (Pieta House)

1800 247 247

Pieta House (Suicide & Self-harm) (Offer a specialised service to teenagers)

www.pieta.ie

Tel: 01 623 5606

Teenline Ireland Helpline – Listen when no one else will

www.teenireland.ie

1800 833 634 (7pm-10pm)

TeenLine

www.teenline.ie

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www.bodywhys.ie

1890 200 444

Irish Advocacy Network (Peer advocacy in mental health)

www.irishadvocacynetwork.com

Tel: 01 872 8684

IACP (Counselling & Psychotherapy)

www.iacp.ie

Tel: 01 230 3536

Shine (Supporting people effected by mental ill health)

www.shine.ie

Accessibility for Irish Rail mobility Impaired Users

Catherine raised the following Parliamentary Question asked in respect of accessible rail stations and the provision of services to customers requiring Irish rail staff to assist them in getting on and off the train with ramp access.

There had been a reported issue with a customer using the Maynooth commuter line. The PQ arose as there was an issue where a station had been unmanned and where the customer was subsequently unable to disembark the train. Since that PQ was raised (copied below), Irish Rail have been working on a comprehensive whole system approach to streamlining the accessibility and mobility impaired access for customers in order to deliver service improvements to those mobility impaired customers across the Irish Rail Network. Catherine welcomes this comprehensive body of work and is delighted with the response received today from the CEO of Irish Rail David Franks who details that they are currently seeking to implement significant customer service improvements which will see a significant increase in the number of employees working on board Intercity services. This will ensure that assistance is far more easily available to mobility-impaired customers using Intercity services. That response is attached.

Rail Services Provision

Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the rail stations at which wheelchair users can independently access train services; the rail stations at which wheelchair users are required to give advance notice in order to access the train service; the number in each of the cases of hours that the station is unmanned; his plans to upgrade stations in order that rail services are fully accessible by wheelchair users without having to give advance notice; his estimate of the cost; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport (Deputy Shane Ross):

Accessibility is a fundamental consideration when developing the public transport network. Accessibility features are built into all new infrastructure projects and vehicles from the design stage and newer systems such as the Luas are fully accessible. With regard to existing infrastructure, my Department funds an on-going programme of accessibility improvement grants to upgrade existing public transport infrastructure and facilities. This programme is being managed by the National Transport Authority (NTA) on behalf of my Department.

I understand that at present at least 84 out of the 143 railway stations on the Iarnród Éireann network have received accessibility upgrades or were constructed new to accessibility standards. Accessibility upgrades are planned for several stations in 2017 and recently construction works commenced at Rathdrum, Mullingar and Leixlip Louisa Bridge stations. Some lightly used stations may not be fully upgraded and instead, passengers with mobility impairments within the catchment area of these stations will continue to be facilitated by Iarnród Éireann through the provision of a taxi or hackney to the nearest accessible station; this is arranged at a local level.

Details regarding rail stations at which wheelchair users can access train services, the amount of advance notice required to access the train service and the hours during which certain stations are unmanned are operational matters for Iarnród Éireann. Future plans and allocation of funding for upgrade to rail stations are matters for the NTA who, as mentioned above, administer the accessibility grants programme.

I have therefore forwarded the Deputy's question to both Iarnród Éireann and the NTA for direct reply in relation to the matters raised within their respective spheres of responsibility. Please advise my private office if you do not receive replies within ten working days.

7th April 2017

Dear Deputy Murphy,

Thank you for your response of 22nd February, in relation to PQ 39738 DN 619 and I apologise for the delay in replying to you. I regret also that you were disappointed with my previous reply to you. I have endeavoured below to reply to each specific point you have raised.

Details regarding rail stations at which wheelchair users can access train services.

I have attached a full schedule of our stations, categorised as Accessible (all platforms can be accessed by mobility impaired customers) or Partially Accessible (at least one platform, but not all platforms, are accessible).

I would advise that in the case of Partially Accessible stations, we can arrange for trains to call to the accessible platform in any situation where a mobility impaired customer seeks to board or alight.

As clearance is required between train and platform for the safe operation of services, a mobile ramp is used by staff members at stations to facilitate train access. The amount of advance notice required to access the train station.

While we endeavour to assist customers at all times, we currently guarantee assistance when 24 hours notice is provided. We plan to shortly confirm details of a pilot programme on the DART network which will see the advised notice period significantly reduced and the hours during which stations are unmanned.

The schedule I have attached also details staffing hours at all stations.

We are currently implementing customer service improvements which will see a significant increase in the number of employees working on board Intercity services. This will ensure that assistance is far more easily available to mobility-impaired customers using Intercity services. Additionally, we are reviewing station staffing to provide a greater focus on customer assistance rather than ticket sales. This reflects the need to enhanced service and assistance, and trends in ticket sales which are now far more automated via Leap Card, season tickets and online booking.

I know my colleague Ronan Murphy, Customer Relationship Manager has been in contact with your office, and with Corporate Communications Manager Barry Kenny. He would be happy to meet with you to discuss these plans.

Yours sincerely,

David Franks,

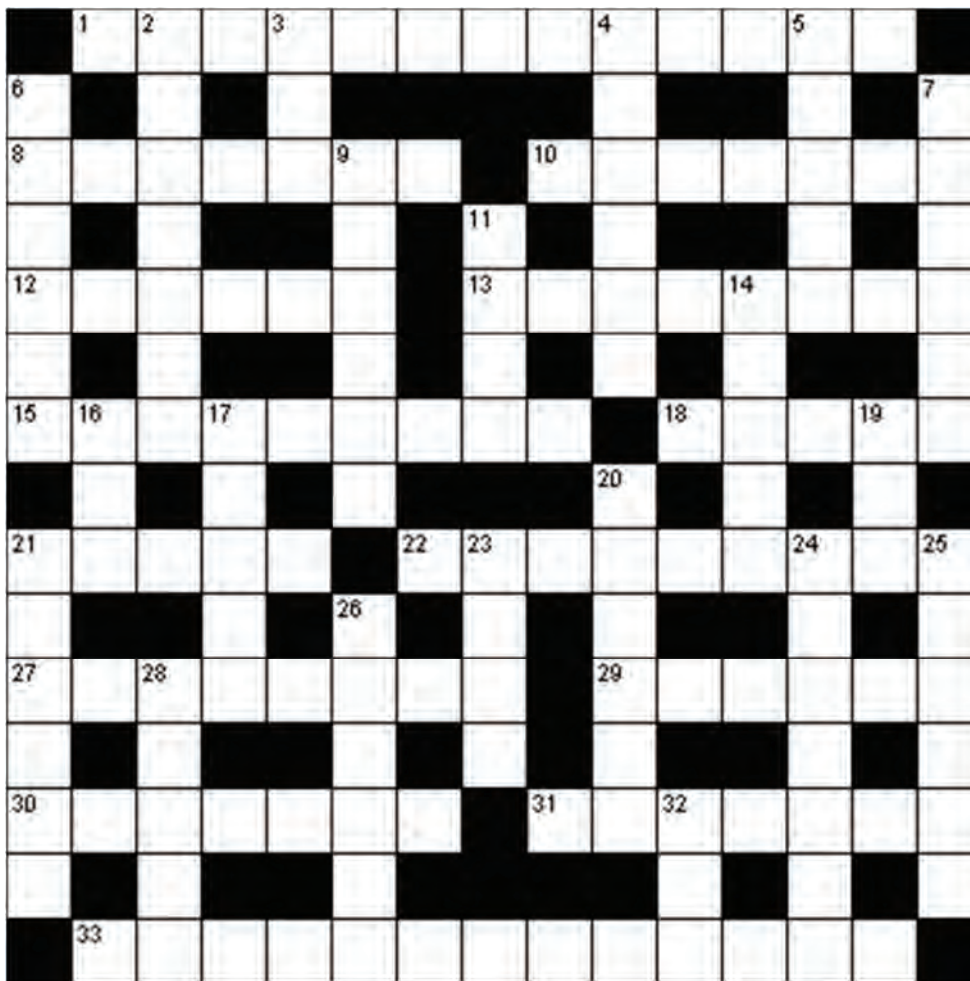
Chief Executive Officer.

Clues Across

July Crossword - No. 459

Clues Down

1. Treat by psychoanalysis (13)
8. Capital of Georgia (7)
10. Cavalry soldier (7)
12. Remember (6)
13. Rain containing industrial pollution (4,4)
15. Something obscene (9)
18. Burning gas (5)
21. Domesticates (5)
22. Loss of a ship (9)
27. Uneasy (8)
29. Experts (6)
30. Adhesive label (7)
31. Protection (7)
33. Donkey (5,2,6)



2. Chooses (7)
3. Study carefully (3)
4. Apprehensive (6)
5. Above (5)
6. Coiffure (6)
7. Son of the sovereign (6)
9. Tiles collectively (6)
11. Diplomacy (4)
14. Sovereign (5)
16. Fur scarf (3)
17. Defraud (5)
19. Family name prefix (3)
20. Bring up to date (6)
21. Shove (6)
23. Silence (4)
24. Expenditure (7)
25. Person who kisses (6)
26. Respectable (6)
28. Steeple (5)
32. In place of (3)



Answers to Crossword No 458



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No. 458 June**

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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

From 22/5/17 to 23/6/17 - information from Kildare County Council Website

App. Num	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	Application Date
17716	Kildare County Council	Kieran Kelly	5 Rockfield Rise, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	19/06/2017
17693	Kildare County Council	Adam Lyons	Greenfield Shopping Centre, Straffan Road, Maynooth	14/06/2017
17696	Kildare County Council	Eamon O' Flaherty	Unit 4 Maynooth Mall, Main Street, Maynooth	14/06/2017
17680	Kildare County Council	Rodisca Turcanu	House between 345-346a, Old Greenfield, Maynooth	12/06/2017
17677	Kildare County Council	Shaun & Orla Doherty	18 Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth	09/06/2017
17673	Kildare County Council	Michael & Olivia Duggan	"Jaro", Maynooth Road, Celbridge	08/06/2017
17671	Kildare County Council	Moldovan Estates	Bistro 53 Restaurant, Main Street & Pound La, Maynooth	08/06/2017
17662	Kildare County Council	Sean & Mary Tuohy	No. 38 Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	07/06/2017
17656	Kildare County Council	Deirdre Ward & Feargal Ward	Barrogstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	06/06/2017
17649	Kildare County Council	Eamon O'Flaherty	Unit 4, Maynooth Mall, Main Street	02/06/2017
17639	Kildare County Council	Ian Barrett,	Straffan Road (R406), Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 D90H3.	01/06/2017
17630	Kildare County Council	John Hoare,	Catherinestown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	31/05/2017
17616	Kildare County Council	Roisin O'Flaherty,	Kilmacredock Upper, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	29/05/2017
17618	Kildare County Council	Pauline Dunne,	Clonfert South, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	29/05/2017

Difficult

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

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Sudoku Challenge

July 2017

Entries must arrive before:
20th June

Super Difficult

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

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Avril Fennessy
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Maynooth

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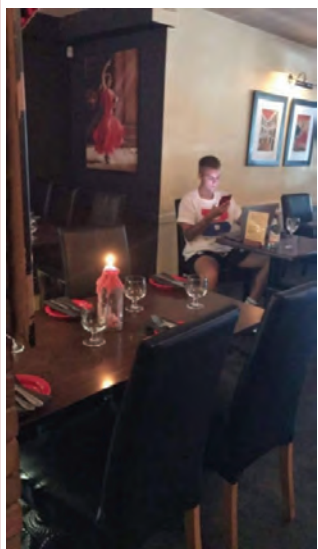
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Bieber Fever As Justin Comes To Picaderos



Justin made a surprise visit to Picaderos Restaurant in Maynooth on Tuesday evening the 20th of June. Justin visited the Argentinean and Spanish eatery not once not twice but 3 times! The international popstar was with his body guard. Justin enjoyed a chicken tequila wrap with nachos and an Americano.

The Canadian singer has been renting out a luxurious House in the K Club Straffan for €20,000 per night. Justin preformed in the RDS Dublin on Wednesday the 21st of June as part of his Purpose World Tour. The singer again visited the Argentinean Grill and Spanish Restaurant in Maynooth the following day hours before his concert.

Justin then made one last visit to Picaderos on Thursday afternoon 22nd of June for a takeaway, before jetting off. Justin said "I love the food here and I will definitely be back the next time I visit Ireland".

How exciting!!!



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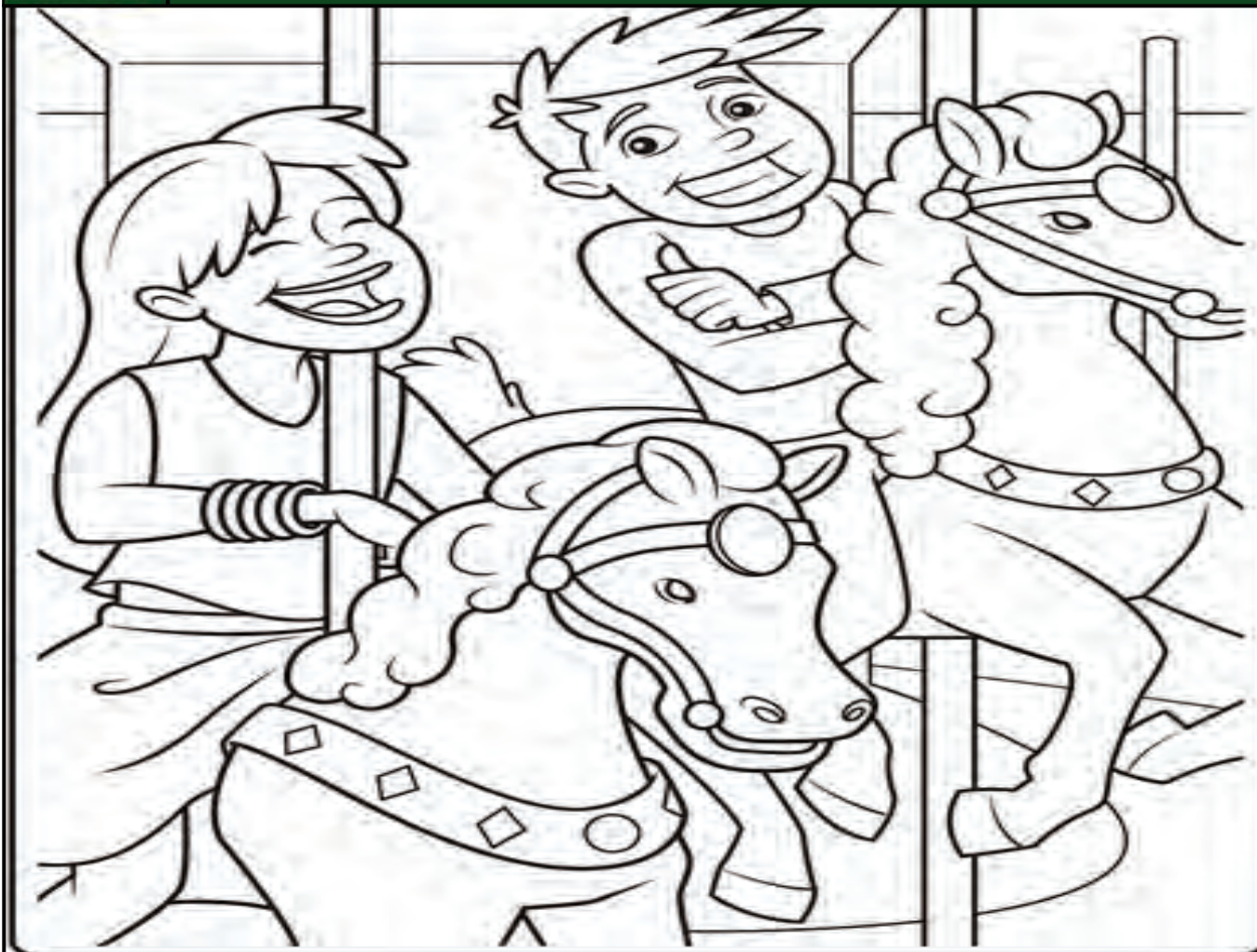
Size 4 Colour: W24.9cm x H16.3cm - €120.00 (Half Page)/Monochrome - €90.00

Size 5 Colour: W25cm x H33cm - €225.00 (Full Page)/Monochrome - €170.00

Discounts Available



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:

Aisling Webb
18 The Greene
Moyglare Hall
Maynooth

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 18 April 2017

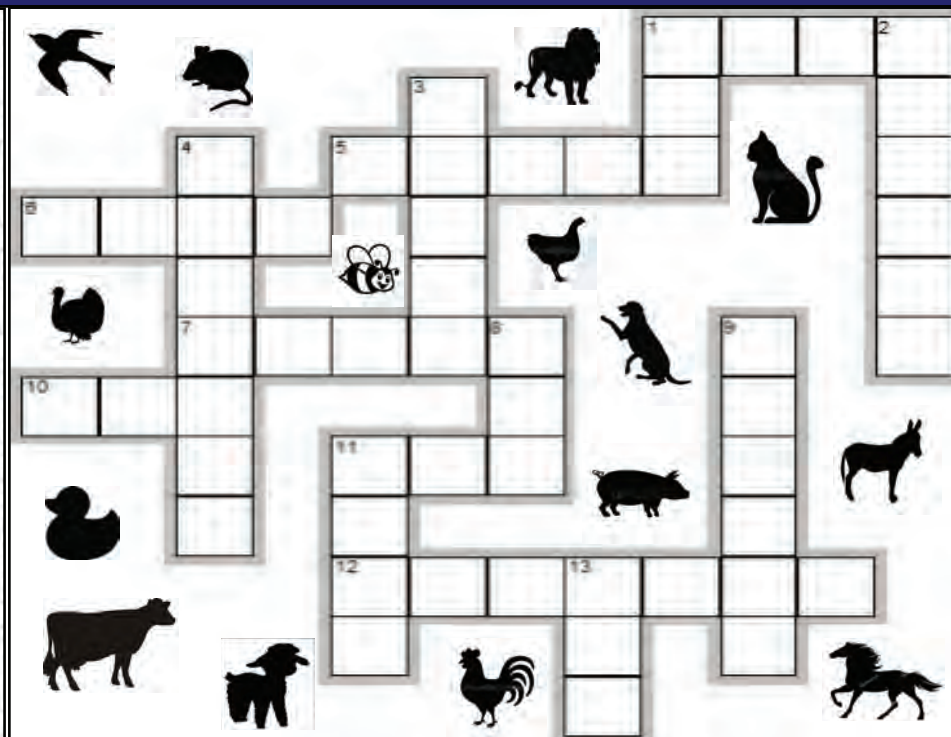
Junior Puzzle Corner

NAME THE SHAPE

Word Scrambles

DIRECTIONS: Write the name for each shape on the dotted line using the scrambled letters.

		
rcgeenatl	pengtano	brumohs
		
ecricl	sreuqa	airtnle
		
hnoaexg	piumeartz	gcotano



Across

- 1 Chirp, Chirp
- 5 Squeak, Squeak
- 6 Roar!!!!
- 7 Baa, Baaa
- 10 Meow, Meow
- 11 Woof, Woof
- 12 Cluck, Cluck

Down

- 1 Buzz, buzz
- 2 Hee-haw, Hee-haw
- 3 Neigh!
- 4 Cock-a-doodle-doo
- 8 Oink, oink
- 9 Gobble, gobble
- 11 Quack, quack
- 13 Moo, moo

Super Healthy Summer Recipes

Low Carb Turkey Lasagne

This is easy to make and is a guilt free delicious dish.

Ingredients:

2 courgettes
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
Coconut or rapeseed oil, for frying
1 large onion, chopped
4 garlic cloves, minced
20g fresh basil leaves, roughly torn
1½ tbsp dried oregano
600ml passata
1kg minced turkey breast
250g Greek Yoghurt
75g freshly grated Parmesan



Method:

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Slice the courgettes lengthways as thinly as you can, sprinkle them with some salt and set aside. Heat a little oil in a deep saucepan over a medium heat. Sauté the onion and garlic for about 10 minutes, until thickened slightly. Season with salt and pepper, then blend into a smooth sauce.

In a separate pan, heat a little more oil over a medium heat and add the minced turkey, using a spatula to break the mince into smaller pieces. Cook for 6 to 8 minutes, until browned. Transfer the cooked turkey mince to the tomato sauce with a slotted spoon and stir to combine. Pour the tomato sauce into a medium-sized rectangular baking dish. Prepare the cheese sauce by mixing the yoghurt and 50g of the grated Parmesan together in a small bowl.

To assemble the lasagne, put a layer of sliced courgettes on top of the tomato sauce in the base of the dish, then cover this layer with some of the cheese sauce. Sprinkle the remaining 25g of Parmesan on top. Bake for 30 minutes, until the lasagne is bubbling and the cheese on top is melted and golden brown. Remove from the oven and let the lasagne stand for 10-15 minutes before cutting.

Crispy Spinach and Feta Filo Pastry

This is a very tasty vegetarian option that makes a lovely lunch served with rocket salad.

Ingredients:

4 tbsp olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
4 spring onions, finely chopped
300g baby spinach
225g feta cheese
2 large eggs
25g freshly grated Parmesan cheese
2 tbsp chopped fresh mint
Good pinch of freshly grated nutmeg
6 sheets of filo pastry, thawed if frozen
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
Cherry tomato, red onion and basil salad, to serve

Serves 4 - 6



Method:

Preheat the oven to 180°C. Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a pan over medium heat and add the onion. Sauté for a couple of minutes, until softened but not browned. Stir in the spring onions and cook for another minute. Add the spinach a handful at a time until it has all wilted down. Tip into a colander and press out any excess liquid, then cool. Crumble the feta cheese into a large bowl and lightly mash with a fork. Mix in the cooled spinach mixture, eggs, parmesan, mint and nutmeg. Season to taste. Unroll the filo pastry and brush a 20cm clip-sided or loose-based tin with a little of the oil. Lightly brush each sheet with a little of the oil and place in the tin, oiled side down, leaving the excess hanging over the edge. Rotate the tin a quarter turn after putting in each sheet.

Tip the filling into the tin and fold the excess pastry over the top, one sheet at a time, to give a ruffled effect. Brush any remaining oil on top. Bake for about 45 minutes, until crisp and golden brown. Remove from the oven and leave to settle for 5 minutes. Take the spinach and feta pie out of the tin and cut into slices. Arrange on plates with the cherry tomato, red onion and basil salad to serve.

July Gardening



If the weather is dry, there is no need to spray for blackspot disease of roses, but if it turns out wet, it is necessary to spray rose bushes, well into summer especially in the damper parts of the country. Early flowering shrub roses and ramblers that have now finished could be pruned. Water young trees and shrubs if they look like they need it, applying about twenty litres per plant at a time, if there is a dry spell of more than a week. Take cuttings of the soft growth of shrubs such as cistus, lavender, weigela and tree mallow. Layering can be used to raise a small number of plants - pin down a low-hanging shoot in good compost with a wire pin or a rock. It is time to clip hedges of all kinds before the wood gets tough. Any heavy cutting back of a hedge should be left until the start of the growing season next year. Take cuttings of shrubs, using soft shoots of the current year's new growth.

Pots and baskets need regular watering and feeding with liquid feed every two weeks or even every week to keep the plants going after the first flush of flowers. Remove seed heads of flowers that self-sow, such as foxgloves, aquilegia and libertia if this is not wanted as these can self-sow around the garden. Seeds of perennial flowers such as lupins, tickseed, mallows and foxgloves could be sown now for flowering next year. Perennial flowers are approaching their best time and many can be used as cut flowers for the house.



Keep up regular mowing, as growth has been good, but feed the grass if growth is poor or the colour is light. Use high-nitrogen lawn fertilizer during a wet spell but make sure more rain is on the way. If weeds have built up in the last few years, apply a lawn weedkiller during a fine spell when growth is

active. Most lawns need weed control every three years or so as weeds re-establish from seeds in the ground. Do not water a lawn in dry weather - it is a waste of time and of water. If a lawn is pale or yellowish, it probably could do with feeding - lawns need to be fed at least twice each year. Taking the spring feeding in March/April as the first, most need a second one now. Feeding at this time is always a bit tricky because it will be counter-productive if the weather turns dry. Watch for rain on the way to make sure the fertilizer gets washed in.

Sow a batch of the salad vegetables that mature quickly, Chinese vegetables and some chard for next spring. Don't let weeds go to seed. Plant out winter cabbage varieties, if not already done. Continue to spray apple trees for apple scab, and pears for pear scab if it has appeared. Harvest herbs for winter use as they come ready by drying or freezing. The early varieties of potatoes will generally be used up before potato blight disease harms the tubers, later crops will need spraying in blight weather. Remove vegetables that have gone over and, to avoid gluts, try to use vegetables as soon as they are large enough. Make some late sowings of Chinese leaves, lettuce and radishes. If the soil is dry, some vegetables, notably peas, cauliflower and broccoli as well as cabbage might need watering. Sow spring cabbage seeds for planting out in September.



Where Flowers Bloom So Does Hope

FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2017



The Cannes Film Festival (*Festival de Cannes*) is 70 years old this year. The playground of the rich and famous, Cannes is situated in the French Riviera and has played host to film festivals since 1946. Second only in importance to the Oscars, it is a glittering star-filled event held in the month of May every year. The festival is an excellent opportunity to showcase mainstream and independent cinema.

During the early 1950s the film festival attracted a lot of press attention and notoriety with showbiz scandals and high-profile celebrity love affairs. However, Cannes increasingly became very important on the world stage for what it could do for a film's critical and commercial success.



The **Palme d'Or** is the highest prize awarded at the Cannes Film Festival. Classic films like **Brief Encounter**, **The Third Man**, **Taxi Driver**, **The Mission** and **Pulp Fiction** have all scooped the prestigious award. International Films and documentaries are given a preview either in or out of competition. The recent Cannes Film Festival was the most competitive yet with new work by Sofia Coppola, Todd Haynes, and festival regular Michael Haneke vying for the top prizes.

New Zealand director Jane Campion, (**The Piano**) the only woman to have won the **Palme d'Or**, presented all six episodes of her television series **Top of the Lake: China Girl**. David Lynch, a past winner of the top prize for **Wild at Heart**, was also at Cannes for the premiere of his follow-up to the 1990s cult TV series **Twin Peaks**. Clint Eastwood, president of the jury in 1994, presented a restored edition of his classic film **Unforgiven** and took part in a "70th Anniversary Masterclass" with the distinguished critic Kenneth Turan.



Irish talent has been highlighted at previous festivals. Lenny Abrahamson's 2007 rural Irish drama **Garage** won the *CICA E Art and Essai Cinema Prize* at Cannes. The WW2 Resistance drama **Anthropoid**, starring Cillian Murphy and Jamie Dornan, had its debut at the festival last year. Our own Catriona Balfe (of **Outlander** fame) graced the red carpet alongside George Clooney and Julia Roberts at the world premiere of **Money Monster** in 2016.

This year was no exception. There was very good news for the Irish film industry with Yorgos Lanthimos and

Efthymis Filippou winning best screenplay for the highly anticipated, disturbing psychological thriller, **The Killing of a Sacred Deer**. The film reunites director Yorgos Lanthimos with **The Lobster** star Colin Farrell. Element Pictures financed the film in Dublin with backing from the Irish Film Board. Colin Farrell stars as a surgeon forced to make an unthinkable sacrifice after his life starts to fall apart and the behaviour of a teenage boy he has taken under his wing turns sinister.

Nicole Kidman co-stars with Farrell in **The Killing of a Sacred Deer**. The film was received very well at Cannes and considered a frontrunner for the **Palme d'Or**.



The renowned Austrian director Michael Haneke's last two films at Cannes both won the **Palme d'Or**: **The White Ribbon** in 2009 and **Amour** in 2012. His first new film in five years, **Happy End** was expected to be just as successful. However, Sophia Coppola's feminist drama, **The Beguiled** (whose quirky **Marie Antoinette** was very popular at Cannes in 2006) pipped the great Michael Haneke to the post with the best director prize.

Colin Farrell again co-stars with Kidman and Kirsten Dunst in **The Beguiled**. A steamy emotional drama set during the American Civil War which director Don Siegel previously filmed in decidedly more masculine terms in the 1970s. Farrell takes on the role of a stranger in a house of women originally played by Clint Eastwood in Siegel's film.



It has some very melodramatic moments and great comic flourishes and it is a highly entertaining, watchable Hollywood picture – the single mainstream Hollywood film in competition, Ms Coppola is the first woman to take the director gong since the Soviet director Yuliya Solntseva back in 1961.

Some of the other Irish films seeking international recognition were Aoife McArdle's **Kissing Candice**, Stephen Burke's **Maze** and Tom Ryan's attractive romantic comedy **Twice Shy**.

On closing night, the **Palme d'Or** went to Ruben Östlund's stylish Swedish satire **The Square**. It beat 18 other competitors to claim the main prize. It is a rather long film at 140 minutes with striking set-pieces about

an ambitious art gallery director who suffers a kind of suppressed breakdown when his phone is stolen and subtly displaces his angst out into the "community" of the gallery itself.

The Square is a quirky, poignant film with moments of black comedy and its easy to see the appeal to a jury comprised of many languages, backgrounds. Something for everyone. Östlund is the first Swedish director to win the top prize since Alf Sjöberg back in 1951.

Lynne Ramsay's **You Were Never Really Here** is a



stunning, violent crime drama delving into the nightmarish world and mental torment of its central character. The film has distinct echoes of De Niro's Travis Bickle in **Taxi Driver** Many were hoping that Ramsay would get the **Palme d'Or** and become only the second woman director to do so. As it was, her film garnered best actor for Joaquin Phoenix, and shared the screenplay prize with **The Killing of a Sacred Deer**.



Phoenix plays a troubled ex-Gulf War soldier employed by an ambitious politician to rescue his teenage daughter from a trafficking ring, when things go terribly wrong. It is a very powerful performance from the always watchable Joaquin, displaying a haggard, exhausted, bearded exterior to the world he barely inhabits. He was a deserving winner of the Best Actor prize.

The actor seemed genuinely surprised at his win and apologised to the assembled audience for wearing Converse sneakers with his tuxedo to the ceremony! One of Phoenix's next projects will be the role of Jesus in Garth Davis' **Mary Magdalene**.

Other performances of note at the 70th Cannes Film Festival included Robert Pattinson's very charismatic performance in bank-heist film **Good Time**. Ben Stiller was also excellent in Noah Baumbach's comedy **The Meyerowitz Stories**, which itself had a shot at best screenplay. Other winners at the ceremony included Nicole Kidman, who picked up Cannes' 70th anniversary award after she had three films and one TV series premiere at this year's festival.





Frank O'Rourke TD

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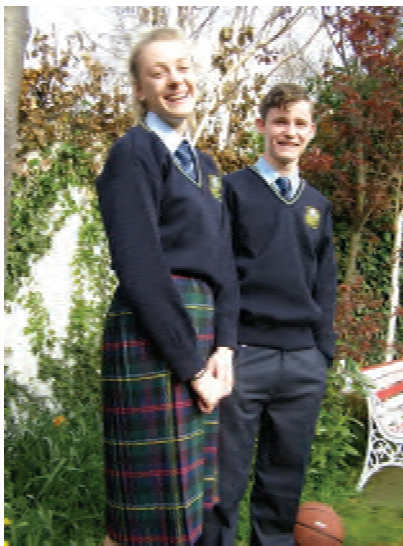
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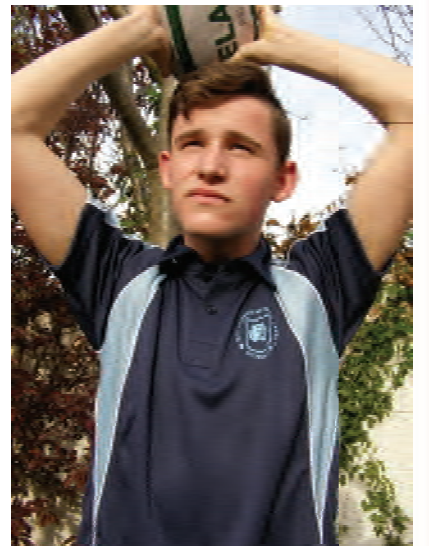
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