



Maynooth newsletter

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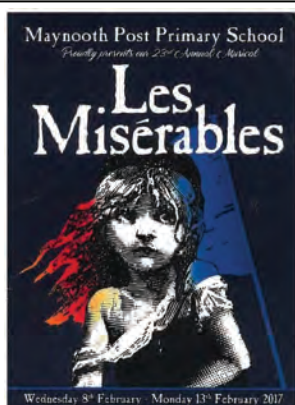
March 2017

Local News

Issue No. 455

FREE

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



Maynooth Post Primary School proudly presented *Les Misérables* 23rd Annual Musical

It was with great anticipation and excitement that we in Maynooth looked forward to this year's Maynooth Post Primary's production of *Les Misérables*. It did not disappoint.

Set in post-revolutionary France, *Les Misérables* tells the story of Valjean, known as Prisoner 24601, who is released from prison and breaks parole to create a new life for himself while evading the grip of the persistent Inspector Javert.

The wealth of talent displayed by the transition year students of 2017 was very apparent throughout the performance. The whole production was a tribute and testament to the talent, energy, enthusiasm and commitment of all involved.

The leading roles were beautifully realised. There was the haunting rendition of "Bring him home" by Fionn O'Dwyer in the lead role as Valjean. It was a truly emotional experience for the audience. Seamus Milner's beautiful baritone voice gave credence to the relentless and unbending character of Javert. Colm Tracey confidently portrayed the Bishop through his wonderfully sounding baritone voice. Brendan Nolan as Marius performed with accomplishment displaying revolutionary and romantic aspects of the character with flair. Tom Fagan as Enjolras made for a persuasive student leader with his rendition of "Do you hear the people sing". Eoin Richardson as Gavroche was a delight and convincing in representing right, unity and sacrifice. He elicited an emotional response from the audience.

The female roles were superb all round. Ash Doherty Madrigal revealed the depth of her character Fantine with a pure and lyrical voice. Abbie Doyle's voice was beautifully sweet and assured which suited the role of the genteel Cosette. Elena Giardini performance as Eponine was excellent in particular her solo piece "On my own". Both voices gave each character individuality and at the same time complemented each other when they sang together.

Light comic relief was there as well in the wonderful performances of Ciara Fitzpatrick as Madam Thenardier and Donal Wade as Thenardier. They were funny, energetic and colourful. Their delivery of "Master of the House" was performed with merriment and joy.

The musical offered the opportunity for all students to be involved through the

Factory Workers, Thenardier's Gang, the ABC Society, Townspeople, Army Officers and Students, the Red, White and Blue Choruses which they all carried out with great aplomb. Not forgetting the dedicated work of the construction crew, art and production teams without whom the show could not go on. The set design was second to none. Scene changes were superbly handled and the building of the barricade made for compelling viewing in itself. The front of house team was excellent in selling tickets, providing programmes and ice-cream. Everything was delivered to our laps.

A special word of thanks must go to the teachers who produced, directed and choreographed the show and who give their time and commitment to bring out the talents of all the transition year students involved - Mary Murphy (Producer), Aisling Dunne (Director), Grainne O'Rourke (Choreographer) and Mark Leamy (Stage Construction) and who were supported by their colleagues. Pulling it all together in six weeks was an achievement in itself. To quote the principal Johnny Nevin in his address to the students "this is an experience that will stand to you for the rest of your lives", I think that the audience experience can be included in that sentiment as well. We heard it said several times as we exited the hall.

"It is as good a performance as one would see in the West End". Awe inspiring and magnificent. Well done to all.



We in the community are mindful of the sadness experienced in the school on passing of Alice Flanagan and Darragh Nolan during this time. We extend our sympathies to their families and friends.



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL 17th MARCH 2017
FÉILE LÁ FHÉILEPHÁDRAIG MHAIGH NUAD 17Ú MÁRTA 2017
APPLICATION FORM ON PAGE 28



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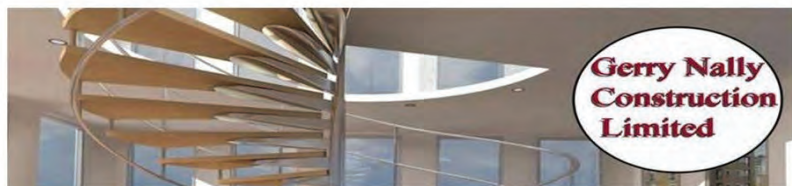
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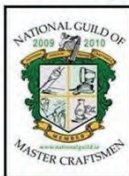
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James Lawless TD

Kildare North Representative

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Web: www.jameslawless.ie



FIANNA Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Editorial

The decision of the “Maynooth Youth Café” committee last month to dissolve the group was the end of another option for young people in the town to have a safe social outlet and follows on from a similar decision by the “Teen Space” Group which also closed down. In addition efforts by a third group supported by Foroige to get a club up and running in Maynooth has not happened. The Maynooth Youth Café committee has passed their remaining funds to Maynooth Community Council Ltd to be used for future youth initiatives. Maynooth Community Council Ltd has been very supportive of the work of youth groups in the town by providing a place for them to meet in the Maynooth Community Space centre and such support will be available to other youth initiatives.

Maynooth has a large population of young people and there are many organisations providing outlets with a range of activities so there are plenty of choices available to young people. Nonetheless, Maynooth Youth Café and Teen Space groups did offer alternatives. My own opinion is that Maynooth Community Council Ltd should look at carrying out a survey of young people to see if there are other choices that should be available for our young people. Also I believe that we should consider employing a dedicated youth worker in the town. Failure to support any of our young people should not be an option.

At the other end of the life cycle I see that the Maynooth Men’s Shed Group are also looking for support to find a new home.

Again Maynooth Community Council Ltd supported this group when they were setting up. However, the membership numbers grew rapidly and they needed a place to work on their range of projects. I have great regard for this group as they have become a resource for many other groups in the town. I would encourage anybody who can make a shed available to this group to come forward and make the offer. You would not just be supporting the Men’s Shed Group but your entire community.

Other people that are on our minds are the staff of HP whose jobs will be lost over the next year and indeed the many other jobs who are dependent on the HP operations affected by the recent decision to cease production in the Leixlip plant. Decisions like this are never welcome but people affected will have the full support of their local community. Maynooth Community Council Ltd will provide any support that we can to assist people affected to get over this setback.

On a positive note the news that Maynooth will have six day a week street cleaning from Kildare County Council is very welcome. I am not sure who to thank but I think that the people who should be thanked are the householders in the town who have paid their Property Tax as these funds should provide almost two million euro to Kildare County Council this year. We need to ensure that our Property Taxes are spent locally to enhance our local environment and increase the services provided by Kildare County Council.

Paul Croghan
Editor

MAYNOOTH TAEKWON-DO SCHOOL



Maynooth Taekwon-Do

School offers classes for children, teens and adults starting in March. We have special classes for younger children (5+) that gives them an introduction to the Martial Arts in a fun way. We offer special rates for families wishing to join together.





Tuesday: 6.30-7.30pm in The Presentation Girls School, Maynooth
Friday: 6.30-7.30pm in St. Marys Boys National School, Maynooth

Contact: Stephen on 0876986491 or email info@maynoothaekwondo.com.
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Maynooth A Town In Transition

Long live change seems to be the anthem in Maynooth, onwards and upwards, proclaim progress and innovation. Certainly there seems to be a growing confidence in Maynooth and its environs. The traffic jams are getting more frequent and longer on the inadequate road systems through and surrounding Maynooth. Parking still remains a significant issue especially for rail commuters. I must say that Pay Parking in the town has helped. New houses are being constructed again in various locations, giving prospective buyers choice. Maynooth has gained its Purple Flag, a sign of excellence.

Many of those reading this article will know me from Maynooth Toastmasters whose aim is to foster communication skills at our bi-monthly meetings on the 2nd / 4th Monday at the Glenroyal Hotel. Another core expertise is Ecology and how it impacts on the environs of an area. It's fair to say that the environment of Maynooth is facing challenges some good and some bad.

Having worked for a lifetime in tree preservation on development sites it pains one to see the needless damage which is taking place to mature trees especially when criteria for preservation per recognised standards are readily available.

One heartening piece of news at the recent Heritage Seminar held by Maynooth Tidy Towns was to be told that there is a land corridor held along the Historic Lime Walk, if this is the case why not implement a replacement planting of Lime trees for the centuries to come rather than wait till the existing trees begin to decline?

As the pace of development quickens up and more green areas with historic hedgerows and mature trees disappear, one can ask will any compensatory habit be provided? Or at the very least might one hope that the importance of replacing with native species will be required as so ably outlined in recent free publications from National Biodiversity Data Centre County Waterford.

Peter W Cuthbert BSc Agr (Hort)

Maynooth Flower and Garden Club

March is usually the month when we think of getting back to work in the garden and with this in mind The Maynooth Flower and Garden Club have organised a very special event on March 21st at 8pm in Glenroyal Hotel when one of Irelands best Gardeners and Landscape Designers is giving an illustrated talk.

Angela Jupe will talk of "Gardens that have inspired me and plants I love".

Admission only €5 and refreshments served.

Everyone welcome!



Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



We had a most enjoyable Valentine's Tea-Dance on Feb 19th. Our competition to find the most romantic couple was won by Pat Bruton and Norah Halpin. Congratulations to them and indeed to all the couples who entered into the spirit of the occasion. It was great to see Ellie Leavy and Una Murphy back with us after their stay in hospital and congratulations to Ellie who celebrated her 91st birthday on Feb. 24th. Many thanks to all those young talented people who gave us a wonderful night at the Post Primary School Musical. Well done to all concerned, you just get better with every passing year. Thank you to all who turned out for the Tony Smith Memorial walk. This event is run by the Labour Party each year and we thank them and the Smith family for their continued support. The weather also played it's part with the rain remaining up in the clouds... like the rest of us.

Our AGM will take place on Tuesday March 7th at 8pm in the Geraldine Hall. This is an open meeting to which all are welcome. Our annual collection will take place on March 11th and 12th and we thank Fr. Liam for facilitating our collectors in the Church grounds. Our next Tea-Dance will be on Sun. March 19th when we will celebrate St. Patrick with all things green. In the meantime I hope everyone is designing their Easter Bonnets in preparation for April 23rd, but more about that anon.

Josephine Moore.
Chairperson.

MAYNOOTH'S GOT TALENT!

Maynooth Festival and
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Maynooth Youth Cafe Windup

The Maynooth Youth Café committee has agreed to windup after operating in the community continuously since 2010. Over these years the Youth Café served different age groups with fun evenings of chat, games, karaoke, and generally chilling. The funds from the Youth Café are being held in trust by the Maynooth Community Council for use by a future youth group in Maynooth.

The committee would like to express thanks :

- * For all the support over the years from Kildare Youth Services especially Maura Littlewood & Deidre Gleeson for their commitment, advice & training.
- * To all past & present committee members who have worked tirelessly and Teresa Murray who has been a great support to the committee.

Finally I would like to say thank you to our current committee for all their hard work & commitment over the years.

Nick Byrne Ex Chairman - Maynooth Youth Cafe



St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band

February is usually a “waiting” month for the Band looking forward to taking part in a number of St. Patrick's Day Parades which we will report on in next month's Newsletter.

The Junior Band is making good progress and we are delighted to report that they participated in a Regional Wind Festival in Ballymore Eustace at the end of February while the Senior Band are busy rehearsing for the National Band Championships in Navan on 8th April and the South of Ireland Band Championships in Clonakilty on 1st July. In addition to those events we hope to be involved in the Maynooth Festival as well as doing some outdoor recitals in the town during the Summer months.

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

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

Carers and free travel

Question

I care full-time for a relative with a disability and I have applied for Carer's Allowance. Although I am not yet aged 66 would I be entitled to a free travel pass, if I qualify for this allowance?

Answer

Everyone aged 66 and over living permanently in the State is entitled to the Free Travel Scheme. If you are under age 66 and registered for a Public Services Card, you will be awarded free travel with your Carer's Allowance. You will be issued with a new Public Services Card which will also be your Free Travel Card. The card will have "F-T" printed in a yellow octagon in the top left-hand corner.

If you have not yet registered for the Public Services Card, you will be asked to register before your Free Travel Card issues to you.

The Public Services Card allows people to access a range of government services and payments and it will eventually replace the Free Travel Pass. In order to keep your entitlement to Free Travel, you must register for the Public Services Card when requested to do so by the Department of Social Protection. Your entitlement to Free Travel will be disallowed or withdrawn if you don't register.

You must show your Public Services Card to the travel operator when you are travelling on public transport. (In some cases you may be asked to scan your Public Services Card. However, not all transport operators have this facility.)

Note that people under 66 getting PRSI-based Carer's Benefit are not entitled to a Free Travel Card.

If you are living with the person you care for, you may also be entitled to the Household Benefits Package, which includes an electricity or gas allowance as well as a free TV licence. Only one person in a household can qualify for the package at any time.

Family Income Supplement and student grants

Question

My wife and I are applying for the Family Income Supplement (FIS) for our family of two children. We are unsure about what income is included in the means test for this payment. For example, will my wife's student grant be included?

Answer

Family Income Supplement (FIS) is a weekly tax-free payment for families, including one-parent families, at work on low pay. The combined income of a couple (married, in a civil partnership or cohabiting) is taken into account when your means are assessed for FIS. Income from any source, including a student grant, is assessed in the means test. However, the following payments are not counted as family income:

- Child Benefit or any income your children may have
- Guardian's payments

- Supplementary Welfare Allowance
- Domiciliary Care Allowance
- Foster Child Allowance
- Rent Allowance for tenants affected by the
- de-control of rents
- Income from a charitable organisation
- Income from providing accommodation to students studying Irish in Gaeltacht areas

Capital is not assessed. This includes property you own, bank accounts and cars. However, bank accounts may be checked for other income sources and income derived from the use of a car that you own may be assessed (for example as a taxi). The main items counted as income are a couple's assessable earnings, any extra earned in employment (such as pay for overtime, bonuses, allowances or commission), income from self-employment, occupational pensions, social welfare payments (apart from those listed above), income from carer's payments or rental income from the letting of property or land.

Importing a car into Ireland

Question

What are the rules about buying a car in the UK and bringing it back to Ireland?

Answer

In general, all vehicles brought into Ireland are subject to Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT) and must be registered. If you have imported a vehicle, you must pay VRT and receive the vehicle's registration certificate showing that you have paid VRT.

If you live abroad and are moving to live in Ireland, you may be eligible for a VRT exemption. Even if you are not required to pay VRT, you must still register your vehicle when you move to Ireland. In certain cases, foreign-registered vehicles may be imported into Ireland temporarily by a non-resident without the requirement to pay VRT or register the vehicle.

You register the car and pay the VRT at a National Car Testing Service (NCTS) centre. You can get an estimate of the VRT due from the Revenue Vehicle Registration Online Enquiry System.

When you register and pay the VRT, a registration number will be assigned to your car. You can obtain vehicle registration plates from the NCTS centre or from any motor factor.

If you are importing a new car from another EU state, you have to pay VAT (Value Added Tax), usually when registering the car. If you are importing a new or second-hand car from outside the EU, VAT (and customs duty) is payable.

If your vehicle is 4 years old or more, it will have to go through the National Car Test (NCT) immediately.

Further information is available in the Revenue guide to VRT and on revenue.ie.

Domestic violence

Question

My partner has been violent towards me and my children. What can I do to stop this and protect my family?

Answer

If you are concerned about violence in your home, you can contact the Gardaí, who are specially trained to deal with these situations and can offer advice and information. Under the Domestic Violence Act 1996, where there is an order in place, Gardaí have the power to arrest and prosecute a violent family member. There are two main kinds of protection available – a safety order and a barring order.

A safety order is an order of the court which prohibits the violent person with whom you are living from further violence or threats of violence. It does not oblige the person to leave the family home. You can also get a safety order against a person with whom you have had a child, even if you are no longer living with or have never lived with the person. It prohibits them from watching or being near your home. A safety order can last up to 5 years.

A barring order is an order which requires the person to leave the family home. If you are not married or in a civil partnership, you can get a barring order against a violent partner if you have been living together in an intimate and committed relationship for 6 out of the previous 9 months and if your partner does not own most or all of the house you are living in. A barring order can last up to 3 years.

Both types of order can be renewed by applying for a further order before the previous one has expired.

Others living together can also apply for protection. For example, a parent can apply for protection against domestic violence by their own child, if the child is over 18.

To get a barring order or a safety order, you must apply to the District Court. While you are waiting for the court to hear your application, the court can give you an immediate order, called a protection order. The protection order has the same effect as a safety order. In exceptional circumstances the court can grant an interim barring order. This is an immediate order, requiring the violent person to leave the family home.

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. Thanksgiving for favour received. Jacko**

Maynooth Labour News

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

Update on the Taking in Charge of Meadowbrook and Castle Dawson

Cllr. John McGinley got the following reply from Kildare County Council on 16 February:

"We are going to push ahead with the Meadowbrook Estate. The next stage is to forward any available documentation to IW and formally request their approval. We probably have no As Constructed Drawings etc. from the developer but we will have to double check the old files to confirm that this is the case. We are still awaiting wayleaves etc. for the pump station that serves Castledawson and the adjacent Newtown Hall and will contact the developer about this again."

Cllr. John McGinley responded saying that this issue has dragged on for far too long and that the Council need to bring it to a conclusion without any further delay.

Update on Meadowbrook Link Road/Straffan Road Junction

The Director of Services has advised Cllr. McGinley that the developer of Hayfield now wants to install the traffic lights at the junction himself.

The Council have asked for full details on what he proposes to do to ensure it is up to specification.

Cllr. McGinley Calls for a new Footpath on the Northern side of Newtown Road, Maynooth

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

"That a new footpath be constructed on the northern side of the Newtown Road, Maynooth, from Castle Dawson to Bond Bridge, in the interest of public safety."

Cllr. McGinley Calls for Full Re-instatement of Carton Avenue

As residents will be aware the footpath and green area on Carton Avenue was dug up recently by a building contractor who was laying pipes. Cllr. John McGinley has asked the Council to make sure that full re-instatement of the Avenue is carried out.

Cllr. McGinley has asked the Council to provide a Full Yellow Box at the Exit from Parklands/Castlebridge

John has written as follows to the Roads Section of the Council:

"A yellow box needs to be painted on the full width of the road at the Parklands/Straffan Road junction in order to allow traffic to turn right from Parklands. Since the pedestrian lights were put in here cars on Straffan Road are driving up to the lights and preventing cars from turning right from Parklands. This in turn prevents cars from turning left from Parklands as the exit has been made much narrower."

John has also asked for a yellow box at the Silken Vale exit.

Cllr. McGinley Calls for a Proper Pedestrian Crossing near the Gaelscoil Entrance on the Celbridge Road, Maynooth

As a result of numerous representations from parents Cllr. McGinley has again asked the Council to consider providing a proper pedestrian crossing near the Gael Scoil on the Celbridge. It would also of course facilitate the Educate Together schoolchildren.

Residents' Associations Should now apply for Grants from Kildare Council

The Closing date for Residents' Association to apply for Grants from the Council for maintaining their open spaces is 14 March. Application Forms are available on

the Council website: www.kildarecoco.ie or by e-mailing grants@kildarecoco.ie

Tender Report for Maynooth Education Campus with Department - Stagg

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has been advised that the Tender Report for the Maynooth Education Campus is now with the Department of Education and Skills.

The Tender Report stated Mr. Stagg recommends the Preferred Contractor to carry out the construction of the Maynooth Education Campus. The Department's Professional and Technical Staff are currently carrying out their analysis of the Report. It is important that this analysis is carried out expeditiously to enable approval of the Tender to issue to the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board so they can then issue a Letter of Intent to the Preferred Contractor.

Mr. Stagg said the Maynooth Education Campus Project involves the construction of two new Post Primary Schools and a Shared Sports Facility at an estimated cost of €30 Million and the envisaged construction period is 24 months.

In conclusion Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that we are nearly at the conclusion of the re-tendering process for the Maynooth Education Campus and expressed confidence that Construction would begin on site in the near future.

Rent Position in Maynooth should be Reviewed in Next Quarter - Stagg

Following the release of Information from the Housing Agency about the exclusion of Maynooth from Rent Caps by Minister Coveney on Thursday 26th January, Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that the Rental position in Maynooth should be reviewed following the next quarter.

Mr. Stagg stated that Maynooth qualified as a Rent Pressure Zone as the average rent is above the national average, but did not qualify as annual rent inflation for four out of the last six quarters was not 7% or more.

The Rent Zone Report from the Residential Tenancies Board, based on their findings, led to the exclusion of Maynooth.

Mr. Stagg stated that he remained unhappy with the exclusion of Maynooth and other Towns in North Kildare from Rent Cap's and stated that the data used by the Residential Tenancies Board to arrive at their decision needs to be looked at again and a review of the position in Maynooth should follow when the first quarter of 2017 has passed.

Stagg Blasts Harris' Indifference towards Women on Gynaecological Waiting List at Coombe

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has blasted the response he has received from the Minister for Health Simon Harris T.D., in relation to the 1 year waiting time for women to receive outpatient gynaecological appointments at the Coombe Hospital, describing Minister Harris as indifferent to the plight of those on the waiting list.

Mr. Stagg stated that he had been contacted by a number of constituents in relation to the delays being encountered. Waiting for up to a year for routine appointments that can potentially detect cancer is a disgrace. In many instances women are often left waiting in pain but it is also the case that benign conditions may actually represent undiagnosed cancers.

The Minister responding to Mr. Stagg stated that he had granted approval to the National Treatment Purchase Fund to dedicate €5 Million to a daycase waiting list initiative with the aim of ensuring that no patient will be

waiting more than 18 months for a day case procedure, including those on the gynaecology waiting list, by 30th June, 2017.

Criticising Minister Harris, Mr. Stagg stated that given the importance of detecting cancers as early as possible it was simply not acceptable that gynaecological appointment waiting lists of up to a year at the Coombe were not going to be tackled by the Minister. He stated that it was a dis-service to women.

In conclusion Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that he would raise this issue further with the Minister as the Minister's response was simply not acceptable.

Further 10 Additional Gardai Assigned to Kildare Division

The Executive Director of Human Resources in Garda Headquarters has advised Emmet Stagg that a further 10 Probationer Gardaí have been assigned to the Kildare Division in February.

This stated Mr. Stagg brings the total number of Gardaí assigned to the Kildare Division from new recruits since April 2015 to 35. In addition to this the Kildare Division received 4 transfers at Garda Rank. The total number of Gardaí in the Kildare Division now stands at 327.

The Executive Director was responding to Mr. Stagg on behalf of the Garda Commissioner Noírin O'Sullivan following correspondence issued by Mr. Stagg to the Commissioner about the serious under manning of Gardaí in the Division.

With this additional allocation there is now 1 garda for every 643 people in Kildare. This is an improvement in the ratio of 1 garda for every 697 people at 31st December, 2014, but Mr. Stagg stated that we had to keep pressing for further major allocations of Gardaí to the Kildare Division to improve the policing service in the County.

In conclusion Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that he would continue the campaign to end the under manning of Garda Resources in the Kildare Division.

Stagg Call's on Ross to Include Electrification of Maynooth and Kildare Rail Lines in New Capital Plan

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has called on the Minister for Transport Shane Ross T.D. to include the Electrification of both the Maynooth Rail Line and Kildare Rail Line in the New Capital Plan which will be drawn up in the first half of 2017.

Mr. Stagg stated that both projects which are included in the DART Expansion Programme are recommended in the National Transport Authority's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, and the Maynooth Rail Line Electrification is included in the National Transport Integrated Implementation Plan 2013-2018. The Electrification of the Rail Lines would also involve the removal of level crossings and re-signalling and would provide fast high-frequency electrified services to Maynooth and Hazelhatch in Celbridge.

Given that Minister Ross has stated that the Review of the Capital Plan is about to commence Mr. Stagg stated that he would press Minister Ross to include the Maynooth and Kildare Lines Electrification in the New Plan given the enhancement it would provide to commuters in North Kildare.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

Never known to fail. EB

James Lawless T.D. Kildare North

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

Staff at HP Must be Provided with Adequate Supports Following Job Losses

I met with staff of HP in recent weeks following the announcement 500 jobs are to go in the next 12 months. This is extremely disappointing news and I have offered my assistance to those hit hardest by these job losses. Following a visit to the site I spoke directly with the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise, and Trade to make sure she provides support for staff over the next year. I have also called on the Minister to actively commence seeking a new tenant for the Lexlip Plant. The following are some of the points I raised in the Dáil on the day of the job losses;

I come to the Chamber today directly from Leixlip where I was at Hewlett Packard for most of the morning talking to workers, talking to staff and talking to the various management who were available on site. I was disappointed to note, I was the only Oireachtas Member on site. There were no Government representatives present. There is a scrum to get into job announcements and I was disappointed to see the same approach is not taken to job cuts.

As the Minister should be aware, this is a devastating blow to Kildare, to the local economy of north Kildare and to the areas of Leixlip, Maynooth, Celbridge, Naas and the wider hinterland. This is one of the key employers in north Kildare along with Intel, Pfizer, Kerry Foods and others and 500 job losses is a huge hammer blow to those workers and their families and to the wider local economy. As the House will be aware, for every ten jobs generated by FDI another seven are generated as a spin-off. No doubt the local economy will begin to suffer as well. Everything that can be done has to be done to support those workers to begin that process of retraining and re-skilling, if that is required, to support them and put the facilities of the State at their disposal. I would be interested in knowing what package is on the table in terms of supports for those workers, everything from social protection through to retraining through such support services.

The writing was on the wall for this one for some time. The restructuring - it was at HP at global level - was announced in November 2015 of HP Inc. and HP Enterprise. It was well understood globally that 3,000 to 4,000 jobs would be cut. If that was not enough of a signal, the CEO of Hewlett Packard globally, Ms Meg Whitman, speaking at the Davos forum last month, made an announcement, which made world headlines but, perhaps, not the Minister's attention, that jobs and humans would be put out of business by robots and automation. Advanced manufacturing is heading in this direction. That was a fairly strong signal and I would have thought the Department and the Minister would have engaged, even at that late stage, given the amount of signals that had been given, given the presence of HP in Ireland and given its critical importance not only to the local Kildare economy and those workers but to the wider national economy and our economic model.

I want to ask the Minister what engagement she had with HP management. Did the Minister meet them in Ireland? Did she meet them elsewhere, for example, in the United States? If not, why? What contacts had the Minister or her office this week, this month and over the past 12 months, in light of the announcement of November 2015? Given HP's significant footprint in Ireland, did the Minister take immediate steps to engage with the company? If so, could the Minister elaborate on those? What steps are now being taken, in terms of mitigation?

There are no specifics about the support package. There is no commitment to a support package and I do not know what is available in terms of social protection, training and reskilling. We need contact points and dedicated personnel assigned to that. There is no mitigation plan in place. HP Inc. is unfortunate to be the receiver of bad news today. The Minister has mentioned other factors, such as President Trump and Brexit, which do not affect HP Inc. but they might affect other firms. What mitigation or crisis management plan is in place for the future? We had the issue with Intel a year ago, the announcement about HP Inc. today and it might be some other company this year or next year. Is any kind of plan being put together? We need this fast.

I hate to say this but the last time the Minister visited County Kildare she invited members of the council to a photograph opportunity. The time for photograph opportunities is gone. It is time for action.

One Million Trees in a Day

Huge congrats go to Maynooth Tidy Towns for their work on the national 'One Million Trees in a Day' participation. Up to 250 native Woodland Whips and 250 Native Hedgerow Whips were planted in Maynooth on the day. This is another shining example of the excellent work carried out by Maynooth Tidy Towns and they are to be commended on their efforts.

Staff shortages ensuring disability complaints not being dealt with says Lawless

Local T.D. James Lawless has said that unless there is an urgent intervention by the Minister for Disability, with additional resources, complaints relating to Assessment

of Needs applications will continue to be put on the long finger.

The HSE informed Fianna Fáil that there are 445 complaints currently outstanding as of February 2nd.

"This is a shocking number of complaints, and is being made worse as a result of only one HSE staff member working on dealing with these complaints.

"If no new complaints are made, based on the HSE's average of 14 complaint investigations being completed per week, it will be over 30 weeks before the back log is cleared.

"That's simply not going to happen. More and more applications are rightly being made for an Assessment of Need, and this will result in increased complaints.

An Assessment of Needs is a formal assessment of a child's needs associated with having a disability. Any child born after June 1st 2002 is eligible for an assessment under the Disability Act 2005.

"The act ensures that not only must an assessment be carried out, and a report is drawn up, but that the parents have a right to complain if they are unhappy with any part of the process.

"Delays in investigating complaints are slowing down the potential delivery of services to children with disabilities. This is a completely unacceptable situation. The response from the HSE doesn't fill me with much confidence to be frank.

"Hoping to increase the staffing levels is not something parents of children with disabilities want to hear. Minister McGrath must, if not able to secure staff externally, allocate staff from other sections of the HSE, and provide funding for the complaints process to be sped up," summarised Deputy Lawless.

KBC Jobs Secure in Naas & Maynooth says Lawless

Kildare North T.D. James Lawless has welcomed the decision by KBC Bank to commit to providing banking services in the Irish market into the future.

Speaking on the decision Deputy Lawless said "Not only does the news come as a relief to around 1,000 employees of KBC Bank, it is also very positive news for Irish consumers. In particular this is welcome news for the staff and customers of both the Naas and Maynooth branches.

"The Irish banking market could have ill afforded the loss of another market player. KBC Bank provides vital competition to the pillar banks of AIB and Bank of Ireland, and also to Ulster Bank and Permanent TSB. Hopefully KBC's renewed commitment to Ireland will actually help to stiffen competition in the marketplace for the benefit of consumers.

"The CEO's commitment to continue to invest in Ireland is especially welcome. KBC's recent financial reports suggest that their Irish operation is significantly profitable, and that they continue to increase their number of customers. The announcement of mortgage rate cuts by KBC last October, means the bank is well placed to benefit from the increasing number of mortgage applications in Ireland and the bank's commitment to SMEs is welcome news.

"I note that the bank's CEO has confirmed that the bank has some customers affected by the tracker mortgage scandal. KBC needs to ensure that all customers who were wrongly denied a tracker mortgage rate or who were put on the wrong rate are looked after as a priority. My party colleagues and I will be revisiting this issue very shortly to see what progress has been made by KBC and all the other banks".

Maynooth Purple Flag Launched

I was delighted to attend the Purple Flag Launch in the Glenroyal last Thursday 16th February. The award highlights Maynooths thriving nightlife, restaurants, cafes, and shops. Well done to the Chamber of Commerce, Kildare County Council, Maynooth Tidy Towns, and all other stakeholders involved. I look forward to working with them on future projects in Maynooth.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. RD

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.

Taskforce needed to deal with HP job losses - O'Rourke

Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North Frank O'Rourke has said the loss of 500 jobs at HP in Leixlip comes as a major blow to the local community.

Deputy O'Rourke further added that the Government needs to put in place a multi-agency taskforce in order to assist workers in finding alternative employment as quickly as possible.

"Today's news is a devastating blow for workers, their families and the wider community in Leixlip. HP is an iconic employer in Kildare and has been operating in the county since 1995. The company employs thousands of workers and it has played a major role in supporting the local economy down through the years. These job losses are worrying and demonstrate the fragility of our economic recovery," said Deputy O'Rourke.

"The Government needs to put in place a multi-agency taskforce to assist workers in finding alternative employment. The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Mary Mitchell O'Connor needs to step up to the mark and ensure the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and other key agencies work together to secure alternative employment for the workers affected by this announcement.

"Minister Mitchell O'Connor also needs to explore the possibility of securing funding from the European Union to help limit the impact of these job losses. The Government can make an application for emergency funding to help retrain workers who lose their job due to the negative effects of globalisation. A similar approach was taken in Limerick in 2009 when Dell announced substantial job losses.

"Many of the workers affected by these job losses are highly skilled and need to be assisted in finding employment in expanding companies. If workers feel that they need to upskill then they should be given the opportunity to do so. Some of the workers have been employed at HP for many years and may be entitled to generous redundancy packages. Enterprise Ireland should assist these workers if any of them decide to setup their own businesses.

"These job losses are a major blow to Kildare, but the damage can be limited if the Government is pro-active," concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

O'Rourke demands answers over dental delays - Patients trapped on waiting lists for over 4 years -

Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North Frank O'Rourke has called on the Health Minister to explain what measures will be taken to alleviate unacceptably long waiting lists for orthodontic treatment in Kildare.

Deputy O'Rourke raised the matter in the Dáil yesterday after securing a Dáil debate on the issue. The Kildare TD highlighted that some patients have been waiting for over four years to receive orthodontic treatment.

"The waiting lists for orthodontic treatment are growing out of control. There are people who were seen by a consultant back in 2013 who are still

waiting for their treatment. This is despite the fact that their consultant has indicated that they urgently need treatment to correct problems which are causing them serious pain," said Deputy O'Rourke.

He raised this matter with the Government in the Dáil and asked just what exactly is being done to address the waiting list crisis. People's lives have been put on hold while they wait for orthodontic treatment. These people are afraid to make travel arrangements in fear that they will be offered an appointment at short notice and ultimately end up being put to the back of the waiting list. The medical conditions of a number of people have also deteriorated while they await treatment. The delays are simply unacceptable.

"There seems to be a lack of joined up thinking when it comes to addressing the waiting list crisis. For example, an orthodontic consultant resigned from his post nearly three years ago but the HSE are yet to appoint a replacement. This is at a time when the HSE should arguably be appointing more orthodontic specialists to help clear the growing waiting lists".

"The reply I received in the Dáil from Deputy Marcella Corcoran Kennedy on behalf of the Health Minister does not inspire confidence. The Government cannot give any definite timeline or commitments as to when these waiting lists will be cleared. This just isn't good enough," said Deputy O'Rourke.

O'Rourke welcomes Dawn Farm Foods contract with Subway – as he again calls for a Food Hub Designation

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has welcomed the announcement by Dawn Farm Foods that it has secured a contract to supply its food products to Subway, and has again called on the Government to designate Naas and surrounding area of North Kildare a Food Hub.

"In 2010, Dawn Farm Foods secured a €700m contract with Subway. This is effectively, as I understand it, a renewal or extension of that contract. However, the success of Dawn Farm Foods in securing this contract reflects the success of the company in these challenging and changing economic times."

"This is great news for the company, its management, the employees and the wider area of North Kildare. It will give the industry here a vote of confidence in the midst of much international uncertainty."

"Since getting elected, I have campaigned for the area of North Kildare to be designated as a Food Hub. Naas and surrounding areas are home to many Food related companies, which have strong brands. Examples include, Kerry Food, Dawn Farm Food, and Queally Group, who has secured this contract, Tara Vale Foods, Green Isle, Brady Farm Food located in Timahoe, and Ballymooney Foods located in Clane." Stated Deputy O'Rourke.

"I have seen at first hand the investment that these companies have made, and continue to make, in terms of product development, technology, human resources and infrastructure and I know from talking to people in this sector, they see a value to the area being

designated as a Food Sector hub."

"This announcement by Dawn Farm Foods, is very welcome and shows how strong the company is. I understand that it secured the contract with Subway against strong competition from the UK, Italy and Germany. Dawn Farm Foods will be the chosen partner supplier for Subway until 2024."

"The agri-food sector is Ireland's largest indigenous industry which employs over 175,000 people with a yearly turnover of €11bn highlighting its importance to the economy." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

FF Bill will enable Irish companies to compete for State tenders

- State spends €12 Billion each year on goods, services and works -

Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Financial Services, eGovernment and Procurement Frank O'Rourke TD says a new Bill put forward by his party will reform the manner in which State tenders are awarded. The 'Public Services and Procurement (Social Value) Bill 2017' will be debated in the Dáil this evening. The Bill aims to increase competition in the public procurement tendering process by enhancing the ability for Small and Medium Sized Businesses to compete for State tenders.

Deputy O'Rourke explained, "SME's play a vital role in our economy. They act as the engine of economic growth and employ some 900,000 people right across Ireland. However in recent years many SME's have found it more difficult to effectively compete for State tenders due to significant administrative and legal barriers. The Bill we have brought forward aims to tackle this problem.

"The Bill will introduce a specific social value clause in our procurement guidelines. This clause will require any State body, local authority or Department issuing a tender to take into account the impact of awarding a contract on the local and national economy. Other European countries such as Denmark, France, Austria and Belgium have already introduced such a social value clause. It's time for Ireland to follow suit.

"The State currently spends approximately €12 Billion each year on procuring goods, services and works. Ireland ranks high in comparison to other European countries regarding the proportion of public goods and services procured outside of the State. The objective of our Bill is to achieve a level playing field. "Irish companies deserve an opportunity to access State tenders, but all too often the large multinational companies undercut their bid. Accordingly most of the money ends up outside the State. Introducing a social value clause will address this problem by forcing the State to take into account the knock on social benefits of awarding a tender to an Irish SME," concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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Comhaltas Craobh Mhaigh Nuad



2017 looks like being another tuneful year for the branch, which continues to go from strength to strength. We had our much loved class session on 25th January. This was followed up by our Sunday sesúin, which has now switched to the Maynooth GAA club on the last Sunday of the month at 6 o'clock.

The adult slow session is growing strongly and takes place every other Sunday at 7 upstairs in Brady's – There was a session on 19th Feb – next ones are 5th March & 19th March.

Keep an eye on the Tweet machine or Facebook for updates & spontaneous updates though.

Further west, everyone in CCE Mhaigh Nuad, was delighted to see our fiddle teacher Jason McGuinness take first prize in the Fiddler of Dooney competition in Sligo. Jason joins such fiddling superstars as Matt Cranitch, Cathal Hayden, Liz Kane, Paddy Glacken, Bird Harper and Antoin MacGabhann, who are all ex winners. We're very lucky to have Jason teaching fiddle Shligo Shtyle in the branch!

On 22nd January, Leixlip Comhaltas hosted a number of branches from Kildare in a County Session. A great night was had by all & the kids got to mingle and swap tunes with other kids from around the County. Go raibh maith agaibh Léim an Bhradáin, hope to repeat the event soon.

Maynooth G.A.A participated in Scór on November 25th which was held in Allenwood, and a number of the junior members of the branch contributed to the event.



*With 'Here is the fiddler of Dooney!'
And dance like a wave of the sea.*

Well done to Paddy, Tom, Caoimhe, Kirsten and Keelin, who picked up first prize in the U12 division, but were pipped by Borris Kilcotton Laois at the Leinsters. Great show also from Rita Doyle and her School of Dance also – the indefatigable Rita is at the heart of cultural endeavour at Maynooth GAA. Crom Abú!

The branch had their annual slot at the Tidy Towns Presentation Night again at the Glenroyal Hotel. This night was enjoyed by all concerned, and the branch will be forever grateful to the sterling work done by the Tidy Towns organisation around the time of the Leinster Fleadh in 2014, so we're delighted to be invited to contribute.

The run in to St. Patrick's Day will be super-busy for the branch, and the day itself is likely to be hectic as usual, with a performance on our float from 11:00am.



Because all work and no play would be a million miles from Kildare Comhaltas philosophy we're taking the opportunity to celebrate 50 years of Kildare County Board. Kildare County Board was formed in Lawlor's Hotel Naas in January 1967 and I am delighted to say that members who were present in 1967 are still involved to this day and we are always glad to draw on their knowledge and experience. To mark this great occasion, we will be having a celebratory night in the Westgrove Hotel Clane on the 25th March 2017. There are still a number of tickets left - if you'd like to join the remainder of the contingent from Maynooth – drop us a line on Facebook. Keep an eye out on Social Media for news of branch events and session. Slán go fóilín!



www.facebook.com/ccemhaighnuad

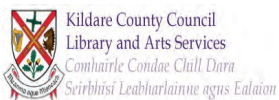


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Committee Craobh Mhaigh Nuad CCE

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Work Matters at the Library:

Maynooth Citizens Information Board Session on 'Social Welfare Entitlements'

Thursday 30th March, 10am – 12pm

The Information Morning will focus on 'Social Welfare Entitlements'.

Part One:

Social Welfare payments and returning to education: What are my options? Can I keep my payment? What about my secondary payments?

Part Two:

Social Welfare payments and returning to work: What are my options if I am on low pay? What if I can only find part time work? Can I retain any level of payments? What about my secondary payments? Can I start my own business, can I get any help?

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Maynooth Newsletter

Copy date for the April edition of the Maynooth
Newsletter will be Tuesday 21st March 2017

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An Nuadha Players

March 2017 about to come in like a lion. Who knows, it might arrive like a summer's day with a cool breeze or enter with four feet of snow. The joys of climate change.

I am writing this on Monday 20th Feb. Stretched out in front of me is the Sunday paper and on the radio, I hear that something happened in Sweden Saturday night. I am sure that many things happened in Sweden Saturday night.

The main thing is everything is good on our little island. The main topic between the chattering classes is: will Enda still be our leader on Paddy's day and if so should he wear green braces and die his hair yellow like Donald as he presents the bowl of shamrock to a sham president.

As all the coverage is about Enda this must mean that the housing crisis is over and thousands of houses are being built as we speak. The drug gangs must have decided to help the people of the inner city by giving scholarships to young students to allow them to go to College. Vulture capitalists and the Banks must have decided that Irish people are too nice and cuddly to be evicting them.

Theresa May must have decided that Brexit is just not worth the agro and anyway people in the UK know they are the greatest nation on earth.

I have an uncontrollable urge to pick up my ukulele and play the

coke song I'd like to teach the world to sing.

The man upstairs is complaining about the noise. I apologise.

He says he is busy being evicted. What a downer!

An Nuadha had its AGM for 2017 with a good turn out. The new Committee was elected and Catriona Higgins is our new Chairperson and we wish her the best of luck. An Nuadha had an exceptional 2016. Blue Wine by Rory Griffin made it to the Galway Festival. Martina Reilly's *Conquered Not We Were*, remembering the 15 men who walked from Maynooth and into History, a great success. Martina followed through with *Breathing Lessons* and took her great play on to the One Act Festival and raised the profile of the group with wins in best script and a best actress award. *Echoes From a Room* ran for a week in Maynooth with full houses. We then finished the year with *Robin Hood* our annual Panto, All original works from members of An Nuadha.

I would like to thank Maynooth Town Soccer Club and the Maynooth Community Space to allow us to rehearse our productions, and the Presentation School and the College to allow us to perform them.

Do something different for 2017, come, and join us.

Check An Nuadha on Facebook or contact 086-8068068

Mind yourselves.
Terry Nealon



Drama News
An Nuadha Players
Community Theatre



Maynooth

Tidy Towns
Caring for our environment

Maynooth Tidy Towns have commenced work on their 2017 campaign to keep the Gold Medal. Volunteers started back with a clean up on Saturday 4th February.

The second bio-diversity workshop was held on Wednesday 8th February in the Glenroyal Hotel, we thank all who attended and hope it was informative and beneficial. Our thanks to Deborah Darcy and Mary Jennings who gave a huge effort on both evenings. The development of a bio-diversity plan was discussed at our tidy towns committee meeting on Wednesday 15th February 2017

following which it was decided to hold an information night on 28th March in the Glenroyal Hotel at 7.30pm. This meeting is open to all Residents and Resident Associations in Maynooth. Items covered will include: Planting for Pollinators, Tree Pruning Demonstration and Composting. And More! Hope to see you there.

We took part in a campaign to plant one million trees nationally on Saturday 11th February. Our trees were planted in the Green with more to be planted in other locations on Saturday 18th February.

The official handover and hoisting of the Purple Flag took place on Thursday 16th February in the Glenroyal Hotel, congratulations to all concerned.



WEEE Ireland will be in Maynooth on Saturday 25th March from 10am to 4pm in the Tesco Carpark for recycling of any item with a plug or battery.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Many thanks to Rory O'Connor of Maynooth Community Council Office who over the years has taken photos for Maynooth Tidy Towns, we wish him well in his career change.

Anyone who wishes to help Maynooth Tidy Towns, we meet in the Courthouse Square every Saturday at 10 am.
Sunday morning clean ups will commence shortly.

You can contact us on 087 3153189 or see us on Facebook or Twitter.

Richard Farrell - PRO Maynooth Tidy Towns



Maynooth
Tidy Towns
Caring for our environment



Maynooth Tidy Towns invites all Residents and Resident Associations in Maynooth to an Information Evening On Tuesday 28th March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Glenroyal Hotel

Items covered will include:

Planting for Pollinators

Tree Pruning

Demonstration

Composting

And More! Hope to see you there.





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Au Revoir Rory

Maynooth Community Council office & the Maynooth Newsletter said goodbye to a long serving member of staff with the departure of Rory O'Connor in February. Rory was well known throughout the Town and to many groups as the photographer for the Newsletter over the last number of years.

Covering many Community events such as the St Patrick's Day Parade, the Summer Festivals and many others. Rory's helpful nature and sense of humour will be sadly missed. All at Maynooth Community Council and the Maynooth Newsletter would like to thank Rory for all his hard work and wish him all the best in his new career.



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TIPS FOR CLEANING MICROWAVE

Put a cup of water and slices of lemon in a bowl and heat in microwave for 3 minutes. Do not open microwave door but let the steam soften the stains approximately 3 minutes then wipe clean with some kitchen paper or a clean cloth.



Half fill a bowl with water add 2 tablespoons of vinegar drop a toothpick into the bowl to keep the water from boiling over. Put the bowl in the microwave and turn on for 3 minutes. When done leave door closed for 2 -3 minutes to let steam continue to work. Take care removing bowl as it will be very hot. Use some kitchen towel to wipe your microwave clean.

Put 2 tablespoons of baking soda in a microwave safe bowl and add a cup of water. Put bowl in microwave for 3 minutes. The baking soda will kill the smells and the water will steam clean the spots and stains. Give it a good wipe down afterward. Hey presto!

TIPS FOR CLEANING IRONS



To clean dirt off the plate of your iron put some salt on a paper towel or a cotton towel and run the iron over it while it is on the highest setting with steam turned off.



If plastic gets stuck on the sole plate of your iron, sprinkle some salt on a piece of aluminium foil

and iron it. This should help loosen the plastic from the plate.

If you need to remove something waxy place newspaper or brown paper over the stain, turn iron to the hottest setting and iron over the stain.



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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>Maynooth Multiple Births playgroup (twins triplets or more) meets the last Thursday of the month in Leixlip library between 10 & 12 noon. This is a Great opportunity to meet parents just like you. For further details email: 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>Weekly meetings on Friday at 11am in Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth New Members Welcome</p>	<p>Every Thursday from 10.00am to 12.00pm Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth</p>	<p>Weekly meetings take place every Wednesday at 11.am at the Garden Centre Dublin 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 are held on Wednesday 7pm to 9.30pm in Maynooth Post Primary School, Moyglare Road. Our classes are very good value, great fun and we promise you plenty of craic also !!. Bígí linn!!! Contact Sean at 086 2225540 or email 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 NOTES



How much does Ireland spend on Cycling?

Maynooth Cycling Campaign and Cyclist.ie, the Irish Cycle Advocacy Network are looking for 10% of the transport budget to be allocated to cycling which is in line with the government targets for cycling. So how much does the Irish government currently spend on cycling.? In 2014, in response to a Dáil question from Deputy Catherine Murphy, the Minister for Transport reported that a total of €1.1 Million was allocated by his Department and gave a breakdown of the allocation to individual local authorities. However, this was only the direct budget allocation from the Department.

The National Transport Authority also provided funding of €8.2 Million to local authorities in the Greater Dublin Area and in May the government announced a Stimulus Programme which included funding of €10 million for greenway developments. Then, in November, a supplementary budget was passed which included a further allocation of funding for greenways. Overall it is estimated that funding of €21.2 million was directly and indirectly provided for cycling by central government. With a population of 4.66 million, this equates to an expenditure of €4.55 per person for 2014. How do we compare internationally? Well pretty badly - the Netherlands spends approximately €30 per person and in several other countries politicians have committed to spending multiples of this.

Butterfly Conservation Ireland

In an article in last month's Maynooth Newsletter, Jesmond Harding of Butterfly Conservation Ireland referred to the greenway "... being wide enough to facilitate a truck" and "the width of the path from the 15th lock to Allen Bridge being unnecessary". While we disagree with a number of his comments and want to see a wider greenway than was approved by Kildare County Council under the Part 8 Public Consultation, we are equally appalled at the unnecessary width of much of what has been constructed to date.

However, what appears to have been forgotten by many is that the canal towpath as well as being important from the point of view of biodiversity, is an important part of the National Cycle Network which was devised to encourage everyday as well as recreational cycling. A poor quality cycling environment suppresses the demand for cycling and results in the increased use of cars and increased greenhouse gases. The emotive use of the term 'Boy Racers' is also objectionable as in this instance it is being applied to cyclists but what is not generally known is that the design speed for rural cycle facilities is 30 kph. Pedestrians are unhappy with cyclists travelling at high speeds in close proximity to them so inadequate space leads to conflict between the two groups.

It is indisputable that the development of a greenway will impact negatively on biodiversity but the same development will impact positively with regards to environment and climate change. The abject failure of successive governments to treat climate change seriously was reflected in recent findings by the Environmental Protection Agency that Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions, which fell during the recession, are rising again with emissions from the transport sector increasing by 4.2%

in 2015. Unless Irish dependency on the private car is reduced and greater use of bicycles will contribute to this, the impact of climate change will negatively affect not just the biodiversity of the towpaths but the entire country. We will all be poorer for that.

Kildare Cycle Forum

The Cycle Forum was discussed at the February meeting of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). However, reports suggest that little progress was made. Apparently, Cllr. Darren Scully, chair of the SPC, proposed that a representative of the Society of the Irish Motor Trade (SIMI) should be on the Cycle Forum. It is not known if this was a joke or not. It is suggested that a political representative be selected by each of the five Municipal Districts. Maynooth Cycling Campaign is opposed to this as we want a representative from all of the political groupings so that all have an input into Forum business.

Naas Cycle Schemes

In February, there was a meeting of Naas town centre traders who complained about proposals to remove car parking spaces to provide space for cycling. Cycle tracks were blamed for small shops closing their doors even though there are currently no cycle tracks anywhere near the centre. The same Cllr. Darren Scully proposed that the development of all cycle routes be postponed. Maynooth Cycling Campaign strongly opposed this proposal and urged support for a cross-party coalition of Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Sinn Féin councillors who wanted the cycle schemes to progress without delay.

It is normal experience across Europe that the provision of cycle facilities creates a backlash or 'bikelash' especially where it involves the removal of car parking. If there wasn't a backlash, it would indicate that the scheme is not ambitious enough. For politicians with the vision of a healthy and active community, it is worth pointing out that practically no cycle schemes have been removed after they have been introduced.

Maynooth Community Council

At last month's meeting, Cllr. Reada Cronin is reported as saying that "...until the work is finished ...people cannot say that it doesn't work." While that statement is true, people are entitled to express the likelihood of a scheme working or not. A number of our group have experience of cycle facilities at home and abroad and are very familiar with the quality of infrastructure that attracts mass cycling and the quality which does not. We do not know why some cyclists said that they would not use cycle paths provided. The main reason for not using a cycle path is because cyclists consider it safer to be on the road. Regardless of the reason, Maynooth Cycling Campaign supports their right not to do so and there is no legal obligation for cyclists to use cycle paths under the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 332 of 2012).

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.

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**The Copy Date for the April Edition of the
Maynooth Newsletter is Tuesday 21st March**

Maynooth Community Council Notes

Notes for the meeting of MCC held on Monday February 13th CO-OPTION

Conor O'Dwyer representing Maynooth Safety Group. Proposed by Mary Murphy. Seconded by Naoise O'Cearuil

AMENDMENT TO LAST MONTHS NOTES

In answer to Don Foley's questions re a sub-committee, Miriam O'Keeffe Ahern answered that the need had come from the membership present.

MATTERS ARISING

John McGinley addressed an item mentioned in last months notes and a subsequent article in The Liffey Champion. He said that a number of incorrect statements had been made and wished to correct the situation. He said that the conditions of sale of land to Maynooth Community Church included that the facilities would be available to the general public. Rev Keith McCrory of Maynooth Community Church had outlined in the plans that the facilities would include a 240 seater auditorium, 3 large meeting rooms, a youth room and a cafe with a kitchen. It was also stated that these facilities would be available to the community for the majority of the week, other than when the church would need them for themselves.

Sean Tracey asked Keith McCrory to clarify that this development was not a Community Centre. Keith confirmed that was the case. He added that the facilities would be available in the same way as the Geraldine Hall or the old parish hall, but was conscious of not promising more than could be delivered.

Keith McCrory said that he hoped to build as outlined in the concept drawings, which were currently at the final stages of consultation with the architects. He hoped that the land was not sold to Maynooth Community Church on the promise of what was wished for in the concept drawings. With costs soaring, he hoped the finished building would be as originally planned but could not guarantee to deliver as outlined. He said that this development was first and foremost a church facility and hoped that the facilities could also be of service to the local community.

Angie Tracey thanked Keith for the clarification and said that the idea that the Church Centre was a Community Centre could now finally be put to bed. MCCP would continue to lobby for a dedicated Community Centre.

The TESCO planning permission was also raised and the following clarification was offered. Permission was granted on 3/1/07 for the TESCO development. As a result of pressure from John McGinley, KCC made it a condition of planning that MCC be given 485 sq m for community use. Construction did not take place due to the recession. An extension of planning was granted on 6/1/12 and this permission expires on 5/8/17. It is essential that MCC ensures that the Community aspect is retained at that stage.

Paul Croghan said that MCC would keep an eye on the expiration date and would make representation at that stage. He hoped that upon completion of any further development that MCC would move to the new premises.

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

It was mentioned that a representative from Maynooth's twin town Canet would attend this years Parade. Naoise O'Cearuil, Chairman of the Parade Committee said the theme would be 'Purple and Gold' in reference to the Gold medal won by Tidy Towns and the recent awarding of the Purple Flag to Maynooth. He also called for volunteers to help with the stewarding of the event.

ST PATRICK FOUNDATION

Keith McCrory said that due to the large event held last year which cost a lot of money, there were insufficient funds to hold an event this year. They had not received funding from KCC and felt let down by the 12 month application process for grants.

ICA

The local guild are currently preparing 'Dignity Bags' for the homeless in Dublin. These contain basic toiletry items. Tin whistle classes continue on Wednesday evenings and craft evenings happen every Monday. They will be collecting on March 24th as part of National Daffodil Day. Bowling has commenced on Tuesdays at 11am. New members welcome.

SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Josie Moore congratulated Maynooth Post Primary School on their recent production of Les Misérables. She said that the senior citizens that attended had a wonderful night. The Senior Citizens club continues every Tuesday and Thursday in the Geraldine Hall. St Patrick's weekend would see their Tea Dance with a green theme. Their annual collection will take place on the weekend of March 11/12.

TIDY TOWNS

Richard Farrell advised the meeting that MTT have commenced work on their 2017

campaign to keep the Gold medal. Volunteers started back with a clean up on Feb 4th. This was followed by the second bio-diversity workshop on Feb 8th in the Glenroyal Hotel, and he thanked all who attended and hoped that it was informative and beneficial. The group took part in a campaign to plant one million trees nationally on Feb 11th. The trees were planted in The Green with more to be planted on Feb 18th. He expressed congratulations and best wishes to all concerned for the hoisting of the Purple Flag on Feb 16th. Anyone wishing to help the group are advised that MTT meet every Saturday at 10am in the Square. Sunday clean ups will commence shortly.

MAYNOOTH SAFETY GROUP

Teresa Murray informed those present that a successful meeting had taken place with Chief Superintendent Roche and Superintendent Wall. They commended Maynooth Safety Group on their recent campaign which gathered over 4000 signatures. Teresa thanked everyone that had signed and said that all information had been passed on to the relevant authorities. The allocation of the Community Gardai is being devised by the Sergeant in Naas. The definite opening times for local Garda stations will be posted in the coming weeks. These times will guarantee a Garda will be present to sign forms and perform other clerical duties. Teresa hoped to have more details of these events at the March meeting.

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Donna Clinch informed the meeting that the group meet every Thursday in Maynooth Community Space from 9.30 - 12pm. They currently have 40 parents and toddlers and the numbers are growing to such an extent that they are outgrowing the current location. The group caters for children up to 3 years of age. There is nominal fee of €4 to cover refreshments. They also provide occasional information mornings with guest speakers including District Nurses and nutritionists.

CCE CRAOBH MHAIGH NUAD

The group are currently preparing for the Fleadh and the Parade. Classes continue on Wednesdays and adult sessions take place on the second Sunday of each month upstairs in Brady's pub. All are welcome.

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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and prayer and favour will be granted.,

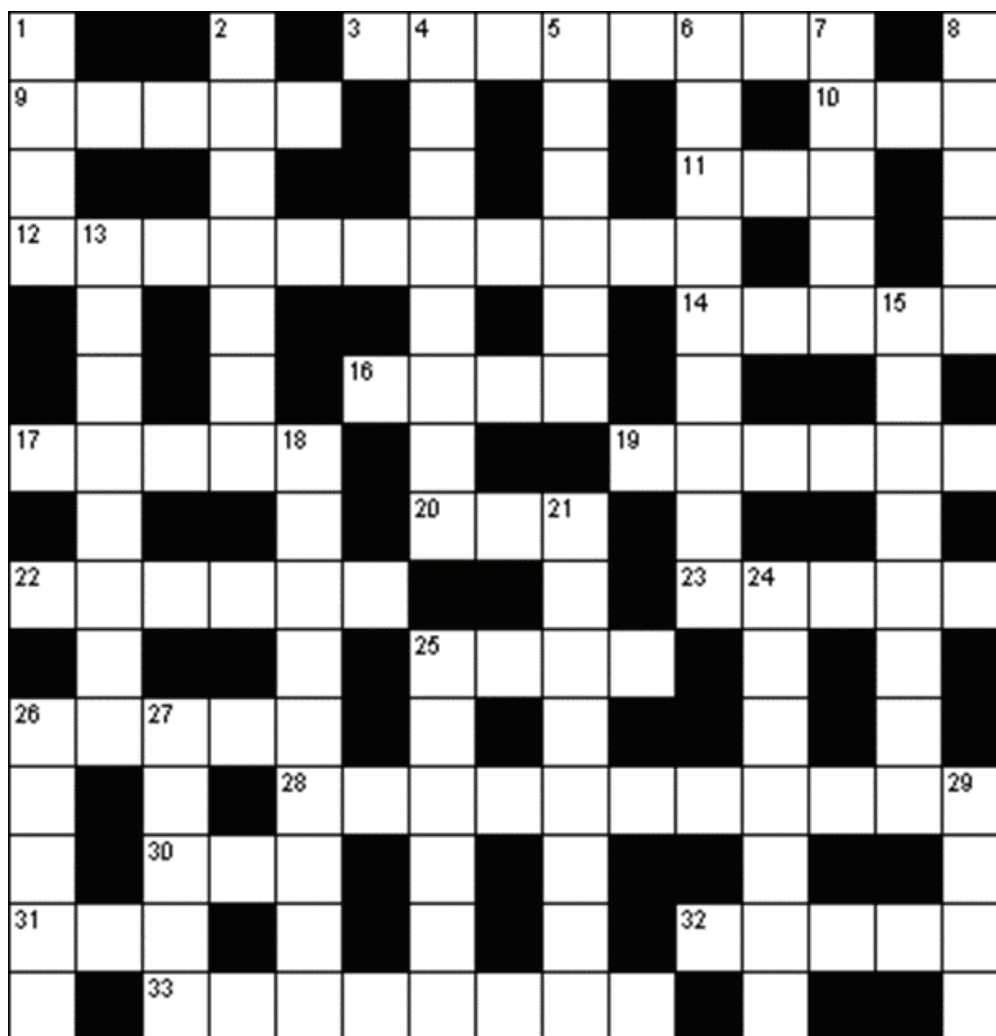
Never known to fail. Rose

Clues Across

March Crossword - No. 455

Clues Down

3. Statue support (8)
9. Snake (5)
10. Even (poet.) (3)
11. Admiration (3)
12. Republic in central Europe (11)
14. Coyly (5)
16. Drill a hole (4)
17. Flat paving stones (5)
19. Halogen element (6)
20. Total (3)
22. Thing that attracts (6)
23. Misplaces (5)
25. Small children (4)
26. Suit (5)
28. Large self-service retail store (11)
30. Powdery residue (3)
31. Colourful form of the common carp (3)
32. Covered with scales (5)
33. Made known (8)



1. Cushions (4)
2. Necking (7)
4. Immense (8)
5. Breathe out (6)
6. Poisonous mushroom (9)
7. Wary (5)
8. Unite (5)
13. Skilfully built (4-4)
15. Underwear (8)
18. Sweetmeat store (5,4)
21. Furnish with a motor (8)
24. Flightless bird (7)
25. Top hat (6)
26. Penniless (5)
27. Natural talent (5)
29. Playthings (4)



Answers to Crossword No 454



Special Prize

Book Voucher

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

The Maynooth Bookshop
68 Main Street,
Maynooth

Entries in before: Tuesday 21st March 2017

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Winner of Crossword No. 454 February

Rosaleen Flanagan
Greenfield
Maynooth

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

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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

From 12/1/17 to 23/2/17 - information from Kildare County Council Website

App. Num	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	Application Date
17175	Kildare County Council	Maynooth GAA Club,	Maynooth GAA Sports Club, Moyglare Road, Maynooth	21/02/2017
17160	Kildare County Council	Eoin Murray,	33 Newtown Court, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	17/02/2017
17158	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University,	North Campus of the National University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	16/02/2017
1783	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University, National University of Ireland	National University of Ireland Maynooth, Co. Kildare	27/01/2017
1771	Kildare County Council	Kilcawley Building and Civil Engineering (Sligo) Ltd.,	Block J, Maynooth Business Camp, Maynooth	26/01/2017
1742	Kildare County Council	Steven and Eithne Fox,	44 Castlebridge, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	19/01/2017
1730	Kildare County Council	David and Katie O'Connor	Cherrybrook, Clonfert South, Maynooth	18/01/2017
1716	Kildare County Council	Andrew Morgan,	Laraghbryan West, Kilcock Road, Maynooth	12/01/2017

Difficult

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

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

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

Sudoku Challenge

March 2017

Entries must arrive before:
21st March



**Congratulations to
February Winner:**

Eileen Darcy
23 Castlepark Drive
Maynooth

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

Super Difficult

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL
17TH MARCH 2017
FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PHÁDRAIG MHAIGH NUAD
17Ú MÁRTA 2017



This year's St Patrick's Day Parade will start from Greenfield Shopping Centre at 11am. The Parade will follow its traditional route down the Straffan Road turning right at Main Street to Tesco's Shopping Centre. There will be a Family Fun Day in Manor Mills Shopping Centre after the Parade, the award giving ceremony will take place here as well.

The Organising Committee have asked for volunteer Stewards to assist on the day. Anyone interested in helping out should send contact details by e-mail to the Maynooth Community Council office

at office@maynoothcc.com

or call Naoise Ó Cearúil on (086) 728 0050.



Above photos of the large crowd at last year's Parade. Anyone planning to watch this year's Parade is advised to get there early.

Men's Shed Dilemma

Men's Shed was introduced to Maynooth in September 2012. Since then we've had to relocate four times to temporary premises. Our most recent location at the Bungalow, Maynooth Garden Centre is now required by the landlord. We are truly grateful to Vincent Flood for facilitating us for the past 2 1/2 years.

However, today we are in urgent need of a new premises to enable us to meet and continue to provide and construct items requested by local community groups.

Since setting up we have been engaged in several projects including the following:

- **Cerebral Palsy, Motor Neuron and Wheel Chair Association:** Constructing Boccia Ramps to enable members to participate in sport (Bowls)
- **Maynooth Community Council:** Producing a Tourist Brochure for the town
- **Maynooth Tidy Towns:** Building bird and bat boxes to assist Tidy Towns Committee in their efforts to enhance our environment.
- **An Nuadha Players:** Constructing replica rifles for their re-enactment of the march of the Maynooth 15 to Dublin in 1916
- **Irish Countrywomen's Association:** Refurbish damaged benches



~ Have Fun While Advertising Your Organisation ~



Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade

Application Form 2017

This Year's Theme: Purple & Gold

To celebrate Maynooth being awarded Purple Flag Status & Tidy Towns Gold Medal Winners

Name of Business/Group:

Address:

Contact e-mail:

Telephone:

Contact Person:

♦ All vehicles entering **must have a float**, preferably a **live band** with **traditional, rock or pop music**.

♦ HGVs, lorries or cars **without a float will not be accepted**.

Do you wish to do a demo (2-3 mins) at Reviewing Stand? Yes ☐ No ☐

Entrance Fee (Cheques should be made payable to Maynooth Community Council)

Commercial Float ~ €50 Club/Organisation ~ €20

First Time Entry ~ €10 Bands ~ Free

Please submit two paragraphs about your club/organisation or business with this application

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

1	Best Commercial Float	Trophy	2	Best Club Float	Trophy
3	Best Band	Perpetual Cup	4	Best School Float	Trophy
5	Best Portrayal of Irish Culture (Dr Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin Perpetual Trophy)	Perpetual Trophy	6	Best Portrayal of Environmental Awareness	Trophy

Applications with entry fee to be sent to Community Council Office

Unit 5, Tesco Shopping Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

or Naoise Ó Cearúil – Mobile - 086-7280050

- **GAA Maynooth:** Refurbishing of gate-keepers hut for weather protection
- **Kilcock/Maynooth Lions Club:** Construction and erection of signage boards for their many fundraising events.
- **Parish Pastoral Council:** Provision and construction of a stable for a live crib at St Mary's Church on Christmas Eve, in conjunction with Maynooth Scouts.

The principle reason for the formation of Men's Shed is to enhance the social health and welfare of our members. The loss of these premises will have a huge negative effect on the 20 or so men who currently attend on a weekly basis. As one shedder put it, "it will be a shame to lose this facility where we can fraternize with one another". The group consists of men who are retired, some living alone, some widowed and really needing and appreciating the companionship of each other.

We appeal to you all as a community, and, in particular, property owners, industrialists, public representatives and private citizens, to please look at premises you have control of, or premises you are aware of, that might be obtained for Maynooth Men's Shed. We would gladly look at premises that we could renovate, to accommodate our needs.

Please contact: John Fleming at 087 2041334 email johnpfleming44@gmail.com

or Barry Williams at 089 4980988 email jmarbar@aol.com



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:

Leah Senna Connolly
1 The Rise,
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 21 March 2017

Junior Puzzle Corner



Word Search



See how many of these newspaper related words you can find in the puzzle.
The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1. HOLIDAY | 5. GREEN | 9. CLOVER | 13. LEPRECHAUN |
| 2. SAINT | 6. SHAMROCK | 10. LUCK | 14. RAINBOW |
| 3. PATRICK | 7. FOUR | 11. POT | 15. MARCH |
| 4. IRISH | 8. LEAF | 12. GOLD | 16. SEVENTEEN |

St. Patrick's Day Dot-To-Dot

Directions: Starting with number 1, join all the dots in the right order to reveal a picture. Can you guess what it is before you finish?





St Patrick's Day Recipes



Multi-Seed Guinness Brown Bread

Ingredients:

50g plain flour
350g wholemeal flour
75g porridge (rolled) oats
50g pinhead oatmeal
2tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 large egg
100ml Guinness
400ml buttermilk
2tbsp treacle (optional)
3 tbsp mixed seeds (e.g. pumpkin, sesame, poppy, sunflower)
Butter for greasing
Pinch of salt



Method:

Preheat the oven to 160°C/325°F/Gas Mark 3. Grease a 900g (9 x 5 x 3 inch) loaf tin. Place the flours, oats and salt in a large bowl. Sift in the bicarbonate of soda and stir together. Beat the egg in a separate bowl, add to the dry mixture and stir again. Add the Guinness, buttermilk and treacle (if using) and mix to a sloppy consistency. Finally, stir in two tablespoons of the seed mixture. Pour into the prepared tin and spoon the top with a wet spoon. Sprinkle the remaining seeds over the surface and bake for 1 hour. Turn the loaf out, then pop it back inside the tin upside down and bake for a further 15-20 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Bread & Butter Pudding

Ingredients:



8 slices of white bread
50g butter (more if required)
50g sultanas
Ground nutmeg or cinnamon
2 eggs
450ml of full-fat milk
50g granulated sugar

Method:

Remove the crusts from the bread. Butter each slice on one side only and cut into triangles. Use some of the butter to grease an oven-proof dish. Cover the base of the dish with one layer of bread triangles keeping the buttered side down. Sprinkle some of the sultanas on the bread with a little nutmeg or cinnamon. Repeat with another layer of bread, sultanas and spice, finishing with a layer of bread with the buttered side up. Beat the eggs with the milk and sugar and pour over the bread layers. Let it sit for half an hour so that the bread soaks up the liquid. Bake at 180°C/350°F/Gas 4 for about half an hour or until golden and puffy. Eat on its own straight from the oven.

Irish Oaty Apple Crumble

Ingredients:

For the Crumble:

150g plain flour
150g jumbo oat flakes
175g light brown sugar
200g cold butter, cut into pieces
Single cream, to serve

For the Filling:

600g apples, cut into chunks
1 tbsp plain flour
60g brown sugar
Juice of ½ lemon



Method:

Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/Gas Mark 5. Place the flour, oat flakes, brown sugar and butter into a large bowl. Using your fingertips, rub all the ingredients together until it resembles chunky breadcrumbs. In a large baking tin, toss the apples with the flour, sugar and lemon juice until combined. Add the crumble mix on top of the filling and spread over the top until everything is evenly covered. Bake in the oven for 35 - 40 minutes or until crumble topping is golden brown and the fruit is soft and bubbling beneath. Serve in generous portions with a drizzle of fresh cream.

You can vary the ingredients for the crumble mix itself by using wholemeal flour and nuts.



March Gardening



Now that there is a stretch in the evenings there is a little more time in the day to get into the garden. Here are some 'March Gardening Tips' to guide you on what needs doing in the garden!



In case there wasn't an opportune time in February to mow your lawn, March might look to be a better bet. The lawn may be looking a little tatty after the worst of the weather has passed and may be littered with fallen twigs and the last of last year's leaves. On a dry day start by picking up the larger debris by hand and then run the mower over the lawn on a high setting. Edges of the lawn on pathways and borders may also need a trim and you'll

be amazed at how this improves the entire appearance of your garden. Use edging shears to cut any tufty edges around beds, borders, paths or patios. When mowing at this time of year the ground may be very soft and the grass can be very uneven and tufty. Therefore, adjust your mower to a high setting and just cut the top of the grass. Cutting too low can cause the grass to be ripped out of the ground leaving you with bare patches. Sometimes it just takes a few fallen leaves to accumulate on the lawn to smother the grass eventually killing it off, leaving a bare patch visible. Once you've managed to run the mower over the lawn and tidy up any debris it is the perfect time to tackle this problem. Use a rake to 'fluff-up' the surface of the bare patch to give a tilth in which to sow your seed. Then throw on a generous handful of good quality lawn seed and rake it into the soil. Finally, give your seed a can-full of water and cover with fleece or polythene to accelerate germination (and also to reduce the amount that will be eaten by birds).

Roses need plenty of feed to give maximum display through the summer and applying a good layer of mulch to your rose beds is a great way of giving them all the nutrients they'll need. You can either put a layer of mulch over the entire bed or just apply a smaller amount around the base of each rose. Once you have applied your mulch, give your roses a generous helping of water so they can start absorbing some of the nutrients straight away.

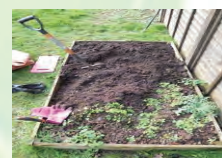
As soon as the flowers on your daffodils start to look past their best, pull them off by hand. The energy the plant saves by not having to 'die-back' and produce a seed head will be put to good use in the bulb, giving you a bigger display next year.



Boost shrubs and perennials in containers by top dressing, gently scrape off the top 2-4cm of old compost, replace with fresh potting compost with an added sprinkle of slow release fertiliser to enhance growth throughout the summer.

Keep an eye on containers especially ones close to the house with spring bedding – "unbelievably" they often dry out at this time of the year as the walls and roof overhang shelter the pots from the rain and although the plants may not actually die, they'll end up looking tatty and not flower as well. Top dress with garden compost, spent mushroom compost or rotted farm yard manure to help improve the soil quality and structure while helping lock in moisture. Shrubs like mop-headed Hydrangea, Buddleia davidii and Perovskia need to be pruned back to encourage the growth of new flowering stems. Check over variegated shrubs and remove stems that are no longer variegated, tidy and trim hedges.

There is still time to prepare a plot to grow veg this year. Fork or rake over existing beds, breaking up large clods of earth. Cover new seedlings with fleece if a frost is due. Start your daily slug patrols and lay beer traps. Don't let new-season weeds take over – get on top of them with weekly hoeing.



Indoors: lettuce, aubergine, peppers, cucumbers, celery, celeriac, sweet corn, basil, leeks, summer cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, parsley, courgette, French beans.

Sow outdoors or under cover: broad beans, red cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, spinach, kale, Brussels sprouts, onions, leeks, turnip, peas, radishes, early lettuce, asparagus. Plant your first early seed potatoes, as soon as weather conditions allow.



House plants will react to longer days and brighter light at this time by putting out new growth. The end of this month is a good time to pinch them back to generate new growth and to thicken them. You can then begin fertilizing again with a dilute solution of soluble house plant food. Turn your houseplants a quarter turn each week to make sure all sides of the plant receive adequate light, and to keep the shape of the plant balanced. Mist or spray your houseplants to clean away the winters dust, prevent Spider Mites and add a little humidity.



Gardening is medicine that does not need a prescription and has no limit on dosage





FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

OSCARS 2017



Film mogul Louis B Mayer famously stated there were 'more stars in MGM than in the heavens'. Well the City of Angels, Los Angeles, played host to several award parties and stars in the lead up to the 89th Oscars recently. Of particular interest to people this side of the pond was the **Oscar Wilde Awards** – an annual event which showcases and honours Irish talent in the entertainment industry.

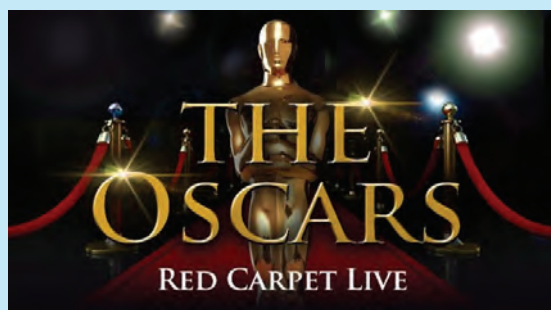
Irish Oscar nominee Ruth Negga was the toast of the evening at the glittering Wilde evening. Her role in the interracial drama **Loving** has earned the young actress much praise and a raft of nominations. Also in attendance was the stunning Irish ex-model Caitriona Balfe.

Caitriona, who hails from Monaghan originally, has starred as the leading character Claire Fraser in the hugely successful series **Outlander** since 2014. US-Ireland Alliance founder Trina Vargo stated 'It's been a great year for Irish actresses and we're delighted to honour one who is receiving well-deserved recognition for her success in Outlander'



The first Oscars ceremony in 1929 took place in front of a group of 270 industry members. Nearly 90 years on, the show has an estimated audience of 70 million+ in 200 countries worldwide. It is the most important event in the film world calendar.

The Hollywood glitterati put on their glad rags and strut their stuff on the red carpet for the annual show business lovey-fest that is the Oscars. Amongst the display of peacock feathers, long-winded speeches and general star egos on show, the race to win an Oscar does actually matter. The iconic 13.5 inches tall gold statuette can make or break a film or career. It can mean the difference between the films that get financed or don't and the pay scale an artist can attain.



So bearing in mind the potential for surprises, shocks, long speeches etc., here are some of my predictions for Oscar Night 2017....

Best Picture

Arrival
Fences
Hacksaw Ridge
Hell or High Water
Hidden Figures
La La Land
Lion
Manchester by the Sea
Moonlight



The Favourite/ Should Win : La La Land

There is a strong line up of small-budget films in the running for Oscar this year. With its 14 Oscar nominations, the romantic musical **La La Land** looks like the film everyone else must beat. It has been the horse to back for months now, scooping up several awards including a slew of trophies at the recent Golden Globes and BAFTAs. **La La Land** is tied with both **Titanic** and **All About Eve** as the film with the most nominations in Oscar history. However, the film has suffered a backlash against its popularity in recent weeks. Will this affect its chances of Oscar glory?



La La Land is a love-letter to the Golden Age of Hollywood musicals and ticks all the right boxes. Its nostalgic charm will surely appeal to older Oscar voters and is a shoo-in for the Best Picture Oscar. Competition in this category will come from the excellent **Moonlight** and **Hidden Fences**. In a Trump universe, the complex political messages these films deliver could provide an upset and pip **La La Land** at the post.

Best Director

Denis Villeneuve, *Arrival*
 Mel Gibson, *Hacksaw Ridge*
 Damien Chazelle, *La La Land*
 Kenneth Lonergan, *Manchester By the Sea*
 Barry Jenkins, *Moonlight*



The Favourite: Damien Chazelle
Should Win: Damien Chazelle

La La Land director Damien Chazelle has already picked up Best Director Gongs at the Golden Globes, Directors' Guild Awards and BAFTAs. So it's probably a foregone conclusion that he will take home the Oscar in this category. His modern musical love story has breathed glorious new life into an old genre for the present generation of cinema goers. If Chazelle steps up to the podium, he will be the youngest Best Director winner in Oscar history.

Best Actor

Casey Affleck
 Andrew Garfield
 Ryan Gosling
 Viggo Mortensen
 Denzel Washington



The Favourite: Casey Affleck
Should Win: Casey Affleck

The Best Actor Award is essentially a two-horse race between Affleck and Washington. Casey Affleck was the frontrunner to take the Best Actor Oscar until Washington stopped him in his tracks with the Screen Actors Guild Award in January. Affleck gives a devastating career-defining performance as a handyman raising his nephew in the powerful **Manchester by the Sea**.



Washington is still a force to be reckoned with though as he both directs and stars in **Fences**. He plays a working-class man struggling to raise his family in 1950s America. The veteran black actor is very well respected and liked in Hollywood, and this could swing votes away from Affleck's less showy and downbeat performance

Best Actress

Isabelle Huppert
 Ruth Negga
 Natalie Portman
 Emma Stone
 Meryl Streep



The Favourite: Emma Stone
Should Win: Emma Stone

Irish hopes of Oscar glory are with our own Ruth Negga. Her moving performance in **Loving** is worthy of recognition but all eyes will be on Emma Stone. The American actress effortlessly sang and danced her way through **La La Land**. Her dazzling performance as the aspiring actress Mia made us laugh and cry. Stone is the heart of director Chazelle's bitter-sweet romance. French actress Isabelle Huppert's riveting performance as a rape survivor is Stone's only possible competition for the big prize. However with several awards under her belt already, it's hard not to envisage Stone dancing to Oscar success.



Best Supporting Actor and Actress

The Favourites/Should Win:

Mahershala Ali, Moonlight

Viola Davis, Fences

Best Original Song



The Favourite/Should Win: City of Stars,
La La Land



Frank O'Rourke TD

KILDARE NORTH

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Kildare Street, Dublin 2.**



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**Dáil
Éireann**



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

PART TIME ADMINISTRATOR JOB ADVERTISEMENT

SAP Landscapes has been landscaping and maintaining Irish landscapes for 40 years. Our current customer list includes the most prestigious Business Parks, Pharmaceutical Grounds, Educational Institutes, Local Authorities, Hotels as well as Private Gardens. We offer a comprehensive construction service covering all aspects of landscape installation through our close working relationship with main contractors, landscape architects and specifiers. We have an unparalleled award winning history, winning awards across many categories consistently since 1998.

Due to a growth in our business we are recruiting for the position of Part Time Administrator based in our head office in Maynooth. This role is in the Maintenance Department of SAP Landscapes. This role will initially be 20 – 30 hours per week, with the view to extending this to a full time post within the next 12 – 18 months.

Responsibilities:

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- Maintaining maintenance management system E-forms and Tablets.
- Provide information to internal colleagues or external enquirers.
- Handling sensitive information in a confidential manner.
- Replying to email, telephone or face to face enquiries.
- Develop and update administrative systems to make them more efficient.
- Ensuring First Aid boxes & Fire Extinguishers are maintained in line with H&S regulations.
- Answering incoming calls / forwarding on email queries, taking messages & directing calls / emails to the relevant departments.
- Other ad hoc admin duties.

Desired Experience & Skills

- Knowledge of office administration procedures.
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- Good typing and keyboard skills.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Good working knowledge of Word, Excel and other office software systems, as well as being generally IT savvy to assist with Tablets & Phones.

Visit- www.sapgroup.com



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RECYCLING DAYS**

Maynooth

Sat 25th March, 10am – 4pm

Tesco Car Park

Celbridge

Sat 25th March, 10am – 4pm

Tesco Car Park



Any household waste electrical items, batteries or energy saving lightbulbs accepted, large or small! From Fridges to Phones, Laptops to Lawnmowers, Toys to Power Tools, and everything in-between, **WEEE recycle anything with a plug or battery!** weeeireland.ie

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