



Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the people of Maynooth



May 2017 Local News Issue No. 457 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 Castle Keep Art Group Annual Art Exhibition enjoys a weekend of celebration!

Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group celebrated the opening of its 19th Annual Exhibition on Friday 21 April in the Maynooth Education Campus.

Dr. Bríd Connolly of Maynooth Adult Education Department opened the exhibition and gave a wonderful summation of the works on display from each artist. She acknowledged the number of years the group has been in existence and noted the support of Mr. Thomas Ashe, Patron of the Art Group and the Maynooth Education Campus down through the years.

Sixty five paintings were on display and ranged in a variety of media and subject matter. Local scenes included *The Duke's Harbour* by Emma Boyce. Other landscapes included *Storm over Lahinch* by Paul Byrne and *Going Home, Achill Island* by Pete McCluskey. Floral subjects included *Des Fleurs* by Geraldine Murray and *Geranium* by Roberta Hines. Nature's birds and animals were observed by Holly Delaney with her

colourful *Rook, Swan and Blackbird* studies; Thomas Manning's *Buck and Boar*; Anne McCluskey's *Harry Hedgehog* and Brenda Smyth's horse portrait *Whiskey* also attracted attention.

The exhibition continued on Saturday and Sunday and received a significant number of visitors during the day. The members were delighted



Dr. Bríd Connolly opening the Annual Art Exhibition.



L to R: Trish Nyland, Eithne Bean, Melanie Oliver, Elaine Bean & Mary Dros at the Art Exhibition

to chat with people about the works on display.

Congratulations to Martina McGuinness who was the winner of the free draw for a watercolour painting which was kindly donated by Roberta Hines.

We express our thanks to Kildare and Wicklow Education Training Board, to Johnny Nevin and Siobhan McCauley principals of Maynooth Education Campus, to our patron Mr. Thomas Ashe whose support is testament to our 19 years in existence.

A special word of thanks to Dr. Bríd Smyth for opening the exhibition and for her heartfelt and eloquent opening speech. Finally we would like to thank all who came to the exhibition over the weekend and for the loyal support that people continue to give to this annual event. Photocopying of our exhibition catalogue was sponsored by Inkjet World, Maynooth.



L to R: Regina Richardson & Nicola Kelly enjoying the Exhibition.

Photos by John Boyd

Maynooth Community Council Festival and Events Committee Easter Egg Hunt

A huge thanks to all the families who came out to support our Easter Fundraiser. It was a great success and funds raised will help to provide family fun at our Summer Festival. We can only put on events like this through the generosity of the local business who support us and we hope everyone who attended had fun and left with smiles and a few treats. Sponsors of the Easter Egg Hunt were: An Siopa Milsean, L'Art Du Chocolate, SuperValu Maynooth & Tesco Maynooth.

Thanks again everyone.



BANK HOLIDAYS JUST GOT BUBBLY! BOTTOMLESS PROSECCO



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Tel: 01-505 4725

Whether dropping by for a friendly drink, food or settling in to watch the match, we are sure you will find a warm welcome with great service and a comfortable setting to ensure your stay is a pleasant and memorable one.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Great Food Served 7 Days

WELCOME ALL SMART-THINKING,
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James Lawless TD

Kildare North Representative

**My Maynooth Constituency
Office is open
Every Monday from 9am to 4pm.
(Just off Doctors Lane,
Maynooth)**

**No need for appointment
Just drop by
Tel: 01-6183587**

Mob: 0868348869

Email: james@jameslawless.ie

Web: www.jameslawless.ie



FIANNA Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

FRIDAY 5TH MAY
CINCO DE MAYO

Live Latin American Music

Competition for Best Dressed

FREE Glass of Margarita for anyone who dresses up!

Bottomless jug of Margarita from 3 - 7pm

SPECIAL MEXICAN SET MENU: 2 Course €25 | 3 Course €30

PICADEROS

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P: 01 6292806 | WWW.PICADEROS.IE | INFO@PICADEROS.IE



Maynooth
Tidy Towns
 Caring for our environment

Annual Collection Will take place in Various Locations in Maynooth

**From: Thursday 18th May 2017
 To: Sunday 21st May 2017**



**Please Support
 & Give Generously**



Curves

Food Drive
 in aid of
Maynooth Senior Citizens



The
**Curves Maynooth
 Food Drive**
 will take place from
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Join Curves by bringing in a bag
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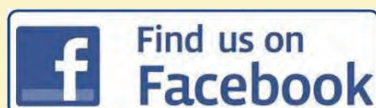
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**Light Entertainment Every Weekend**  
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**Open Mic every Tuesday night**  
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**Friday night Music in Bar 9pm**  
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**Saturday night Music in Lounge 9pm**  
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**Sunday
 Evening
 Session
 6.00 - 8.30pm**



**Food
 Served
 All Day**



Coláiste Naomh Eoin An Ghaeltacht sa Bhaile

Winner of the Memorex Culture Award

Gaeltacht Summer Courses 2017

Maynooth University, Maynooth

Cúrsa A: 05/06/17 - 16/06/17

Please Note: Cúrsa A starts on Bank Holiday Monday.

Lucan Community College, Lucan

Cúrsa A: 26/06/17 - 07/07/17

Castleknock Community College

Cúrsa F: 03/07/17 - 14/07/17

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Maynooth Golf Society

Eddie Kavanagh Cup
Sponsored by Ollie Bright
St. Margarets Golf Club 08.04.2017

1st	Jody Connolly	42pts
2nd	Anthony Tyrell	41pts
3rd	Martin Devaney	38pts
4th	Derek Murray	37pts
5th	Tommy Campbell	36pts
F9	Pat Connolly	17pts
B9	Niall Murphy	21pts
Over 50	Gerry Mc Ternan	32pts
NP	William Farrelly	
2s Club	Tommy Campbell, Derek Murray	

Maynooth Golf Society's most recent outing was to St. Margaret's Golf Club near Dublin Airport. It was the Eddie Kavanagh cup which was sponsored by our Captain this year "Ollie Bright". We had 31 players out on the day and we had probably the best weather of the year so far. The course was in great condition and Jody Connolly was the winner with a great score of 42pts.

Our next outing is to Portarlinton Golf Club on the 6th May.

MAYNOOTH'S GOT TALENT!

Maynooth Festival and
Events Committee present an
open call talent competition
in conjunction with our
Summer Festival.

Entries accepted from all ages, individuals and
groups.

If you have a talent we want to hear from you.

Check our Facebook page for details.

@MaynoothCCFestivalsandeventsCommittee

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

Farm Assist means test

Question

How is income from different sources assessed for Farm Assist? I do some contracting as well as farming and my spouse works part-time. We have two children.

Answer

The means test for Farm Assist takes into account virtually every type of income you may have but it assesses different income in different ways.

Your income from farming and other self-employment (like contracting) is assessed as the gross income that you or your spouse may be expected to receive, less any expenses you incur to earn that income. From 8 March 2017, €254 of the income each year is disregarded for each of your two children (it would be €381 for a third or subsequent child). 70% of the balance is assessed (it was 100% up to March 2017).

Payments under rural environmental schemes such as GLAS and SAC are assessed separately from other farm income. €2,540 is deducted from the total amount of all these payments each year and 50% of the remainder is disregarded. Expenses incurred in complying with these environmental measures are then deducted and the balance is assessed as means. Income from an occupational pension or leasing of land or milk quotas is assessed in full. Capital (including any property that you do not live in) is assessed using the formula applied to means-tested social welfare payments.

If you have an off-farm job, €20 per day (up to a maximum of €60 per week) is deducted from your assessable weekly earnings and then 60% of the remainder is assessed as weekly means. Your spouse's income from employment is assessed in the same way. If you have seasonal work, you are assessed on your earnings only during the period you are actually working.

When you apply for Farm Assist, a social welfare inspector will visit you and ask to see various documents. The inspector will then assess the costs incurred in running the farm. You are entitled to receive a copy of this farm income calculation. You can get detailed information on how farm income is assessed at welfare.ie.

Prescription charges

Question

I have a medical card but I seem to be paying more than the monthly cap for prescription charges for my family. Why would this happen and how can I get a refund?

Answer

If you have a medical card, there is a charge for each prescription item you receive. The prescription charge is €2.50, up to a maximum of €25 per month per person or family. For medical card holders over the age of 70 there is a reduced prescription charge, from 1 March 2017, of €2 per item up to a maximum of €20 per month.

Usually your pharmacy keeps records of how much you have paid in prescription charges and makes sure that you do not pay more than the limit each month. However, you may use different pharmacies

in the same month, or your family members may not be set up as a family group, and you may end up paying more than the maximum.

If this happens, the Health Service Executive (HSE) will issue a refund without the need for you to apply for it. This is done on the basis of the information received from pharmacies. Refunds are issued every six months for amounts over €10. Amounts that are less than €10 are carried over to the next refund date.

You can set up your family as a family group on medicalcard.ie and print off a family certificate to give to your pharmacist. This will show all of the members of your family so that your pharmacy will not collect charges above the monthly limit. Your family is defined as you, your spouse or partner, any children under 16 years of age and any children between 16 and 21 years of age who are in full-time education.

If you do not have access to the internet you can ask your Local Health Office to help with setting up a family group. You can also call the HSE on 1890 252 919 or ask your local pharmacist who may be able to help you.

Bringing a dog into Ireland

Question

I am moving back to Ireland after living in Greece for some years. Am I allowed to bring my dog with me?

Answer

There are strict controls about importing pets into Ireland to ensure that diseases such as rabies are not introduced. The EU system of passports for pets allows cats, dogs and ferrets to travel between EU member states.

You may bring your dog with you if you are moving to Ireland or coming on holiday (or any other movement that is not commercial and doesn't involve the sale or change of ownership of the pet). Your dog must have an EU Pet Passport. This is available from private veterinary practices.

The Passport certifies that the pet is travelling from an eligible country, is identified by an implanted microchip and has been vaccinated against rabies at least 21 days before travel.

Dogs coming from countries other than the UK, Finland or Malta must be treated against tapeworm between 24 and 120 hours before travel. The time and date of treatment are entered on the passport. Treatment for ticks is not compulsory but it is advisable to get it at the same time as the tapeworm treatment.

The operator of the airline or ferry company is legally obliged to send notice of the arrival of the animal to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine by email at least 24 hours before the journey to petmove@agriculture.gov.ie.

Further information is available from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (agriculture.gov.ie/pets) and from the Citizens Information Centre below.

Public petitions

Question

There is an important issue that I feel isn't being considered by the Oireachtas but should be. I've heard that it is possible to make a petition directly to a parliamentary petitions committee. How does this work?

Answer

The Joint Committee on Public Petitions considers petitions from members of the public on matters in which the Houses of the Oireachtas have the power to act. Anyone except for members of the Oireachtas can submit a petition.

To make a petition, you fill out a form which is available on the Oireachtas website oireachtas.ie. The form can be submitted by post, by email or online and only one signature is required. The committee secretariat can assist you in completing the form and can also give advice on the type of petitions which can be accepted.

You should be able to show that you have already taken steps to resolve the issue, for example, through raising it with the Ombudsman or directly with the relevant government department.

The Joint Committee will not consider a complaint which has been the subject of a decision by an Ombudsman, a regulatory public body or a body set up for the purpose of redress.

If the petition is accepted, the Committee may respond to it in a number of ways. It may:

- Refer the petition to another appropriate committee, Ombudsman, regulatory public body or redress body
- Report to the Dáil and Seanad with recommendations
- Request the petitioner to attend a meeting and address the committee

The parliamentary petitions system is a way that you can take your concerns directly to Parliament and seek to influence the parliamentary agenda. Further information on the Joint Committee on Public Petitions is available on oireachtas.ie or from the Citizens Information Centre below.

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. MG

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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Never known to fail. MF

Maynooth Labour News

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

Draft Maynooth Traffic Management Plan

The Draft of the Plan was not ready for discussion at the MD meeting on 5 April. It is scheduled for discussion at the next MD meeting on 10 May.

Update on the Provision of Traffic Lights at the Straffan Road/Meadowbrook Link Road Junction

The Roads Engineer of the Council gave the following update to Cllr. John McGinley on 18 April:

“The design of the signal works at this junction have now been substantially agreed between KCC Roads Section and the Engineers for the Developer. However, the Engineers for the Developer have raised an issue on offset of levies that I have to discuss with the Senior Engineer and the Director of Services.”

Update on Cllr. McGinley’s Proposal for the Provision of a Footpath on the Northern side of Newtown Road, Maynooth

Cllr. McGinley was advised as follows at the MD meeting on 5 April:

“The District Manager and the Municipal District Engineer have examined this proposal and have decided not to proceed with the project. There is not adequate space to install a footpath on the existing road and there is no justification to Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) lands for a new footpath. The pedestrian crossing connection between the existing footpath and the footpath on the opposite side of the road is deemed adequate.”

Funding Secured for the Ring Road from Straffan Road to Blacklion on the Dublin Road, Maynooth.

As residents will be aware Cllr. John McGinley has been pressing Kildare County Council to Seek Government Funding for the Completion of the ring road from Straffan Road to Blacklion on the Dublin Road for some time now.

When the Minister announced last September that he was making €200 million available to Councils for the construction of infrastructure to enable new houses to be built, Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 14 September:

“That Kildare County Council look for Infrastructural Funding from the Government for the ring road from Blacklion to the Celbridge Road and from the Celbridge Road to the Straffan Road, Maynooth, in order to allow the development of sites at Dunboyne Road and Old Greenfield “(Dublin City Council has already sought €80m for such Infrastructural Funding).

The Council made an application for the funding and it was successful. €14.5m is now available for the construction of the much needed ring road. The Director of Services told Cllr. McGinley that he expected construction to begin in 18 months time. He said that 18 months is needed for design, planning and consultation with landowners, Iarnrod Eireann and Waterways Ireland.

Maynooth Playground to Get Re-furbished

The Council’s Parks Department have confirmed to Cllr. John McGinley that €30,000 has been allocated for replacing the Wetpour on the ground of the Children’s Playground and for cleaning the towers.

Cllr. McGinley Calls for the Repair of the Straffan Road Between the Traffic Lights at The Glenroyal.

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 10 May:

“That repairs be carried out on the Straffan Road to the trench between the traffic lights at the Glenroyal Junction.”

KWETB Examining Accommodation Options for North Kildare Gaelcholaiste - Stagg

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

The Minister advised Mr. Stagg that Maynooth Community College opened in 2014 with an Irish-medium Aonad and it was stated that should the Aonad demonstrate sufficient viability after four years from its date of establishment, a Gaelcholáiste would be established, in a partnership patronage model between Kildare and Wicklow ETB and An Foras Pátrúnachta.

The Minister further advised Mr. Stagg that in the interim, the Department will continue to work closely with the Education and Training Board and An Foras Pátrúnachta in relation to the provision of appropriate accommodation for the establishment of the Gaelcholáiste. Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board is currently examining the options for accommodation for the Gaelcholáiste which will involve consideration of the timing and availability of appropriate infrastructure in the Maynooth area.

Welcoming the response from the Minister that the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board were finally examining the options for accommodation of the North Kildare Gaelcholaiste, Kildare North Labour Party Representative Emmet Stagg stated that he would continue to press the Minister on this issue to ensure that the Gaelcholaiste opens on time in 2019.

Maynooth Education Campus On Final Furlong

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has been in further contact with the Minister for Education in relation to getting the Maynooth Education Campus to construction stage.

The Minister has advised Mr. Stagg that the successful contractor responded to the Letter of Intent issued by the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board on 21st March last.

The Letter of Intent is the final step before the award of the Contract and requires the successful contractor to confirm tax clearance details, details of Professional Indemnity Insurance, Public Liability Insurance, Employers Liability Insurance and a Health and Safety Declaration.

The Design Team for the project are now examining the response and the Minister further advised Mr. Stagg that assuming the contractor has complied with the requirements of the Letter of Intent, it is envisaged that construction will commence on site shortly.

Welcoming this further progress Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that we are now on the final furlong in relation to getting the Maynooth Education Campus construction commenced and he looked forward to the KWETB being in a position to issue a Letter of Acceptance to the successful contractor in the near future.

Maynooth, Clane and Kilcock Finally Included as Rent Pressure Zones

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has welcomed the decision by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to designate the Towns of Maynooth, Clane and Kilcock as Rent Pressure Zones.

In fact Mr. Stagg stated that the whole of the Maynooth Local Electoral Area is included in the designation. Welcoming the move which will give Rent Certainty over the next three years and restrict rent increases to 4% per annum, Mr. Stagg stated that the designation came about today from findings of the Residential Tenancies Board Quarter 4 2016 Rent Review.

In conclusion Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that he was disappointed when Maynooth, Clane and Kilcock were excluded from the designation last January, but was pleased that this anomaly had now been corrected.

Stagg Presses Harris on New Endoscopy Unit for Naas General Hospital

Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg has again raised the provision of capital funding for the new Endoscopy Unit at Naas General Hospital with the Minister for Health in view of the fact that 8% of all persons awaiting an Endoscopy in the State are on the waiting list at Naas which numbered 1,380 patients as of 28th February, 2017.

The Minister advised Mr. Stagg that €5 Million was dedicated to a waiting list initiative in December last with the aim of ensuring no patient would be waiting more than 18 months for a daycase procedure by 30th June, 2017. The Minister further advised Mr. Stagg that a separate Waiting List Action Plan aims to reduce the number of patients waiting more than 15 months by the end of October, 2017, with €10 Million in funding.

Specifically in relation to Naas the Minister stated that the Department of Health is working with the HSE and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to conduct a mid-term review of the capital programme.

While the review will consider capacity requirements over the next decade or so, it will also have a short-term focus and determine how capital investment over the coming years can be best targeted, given the current pressures being experienced within our hospital services. Funding for the Endoscopy development in Naas will be considered in this context.

Commenting on the Ministers response Kildare North Labour Representative Emmet Stagg stated that the numbers on the waiting list at Naas for an Endoscopy were scandalous when compared with other comparable hospitals in Mullingar, Portlaoise and Tullamore, and nothing short of a new state of the art Endoscopy Unit is acceptable for Naas General Hospital and he vowed to continue to press the Minister for Capital Funding.

James Lawless T.D. Kildare North

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

Traders Meeting Held in the Glenroyal

Deputy James Lawless has hosted a traders meeting in Maynooth following increases in rates as set out by the Valuations Office. The meeting was addressed by James Lawless TD, Declan Lavelle of the Valuations Office and chaired by Declan Kennedy of the Maynooth Business Association.

Speaking after the meeting Deputy Lawless said "It was extremely important I organised this meeting to allow traders the opportunity to speak directly with the Valuations Office. In some cases businesses have seen their rates rise by 300%. This is clearly unmanageable for many businesses who I represent in Maynooth, Leixlip, and Celbridge." When this matter first broke I hosted 30 traders in my office to discuss their immediate concerns. Following on from this I decided to invite Declan Lavelle to Maynooth to engage with them.

"The recent meeting consisted of Lavelle explaining the rationale behind how the valuations office came to these decisions and most importantly, how to appeal. I would urge businesses who feel their valuation is off to appeal before the April 18th deadline. I also want to thank the contribution of Declan Kennedy of the Maynooth Business Association for hosting the meeting" concluded Deputy Lawless.

Irish Science Teachers Association conference held in Maynooth

Local TD and Fianna Fáil Science spokesperson James Lawless spoke at the opening of the annual Irish Science Teachers Association (ISTA) conference in Maynooth this past week. The annual meeting of Irish Science Teachers took place in the Glenroyal Hotel. The theme of the conference was 'effective science communication'.

Speaking after the conference Deputy Lawless said "It is vitally important we support our teachers and in particular sciences teachers and those who focus on STEM subjects. We have evidence to support the fact that there is a growing need for graduates educated to the highest level in this area. The only way they gain that knowledge is from the excellent teachers providing them with this material. I was delighted to attend tonight's conference to lend my support and let the organisation know Fianna Fáil will also support them".

New Road Funding for Maynooth

Local Fianna Fáil TD James Lawless has welcomed the announcement of €14.5 million for part of the Maynooth ring road. Deputy Lawless, who had raised these issues consistently with Transport Minister Shane Ross and Planning Minister Simon Coveney, he said Maynooth will also now see progress on the Ring Road, that part from the Leixlip Road behind Parklands back onto the Celbridge Road. Maynooth badly needs its Ring Road too and this is very welcome for the town to see it move forward, in part at least. I have met Cairn homes separately to discuss the other section from the "old Dunboyne" road to the Moyglare road and that is progressing also.

Ce & Tús Schemes Need Revival

In the Dáil recently I raised the matter of community employment schemes and the urgent need for revival of these schemes. Community employment schemes

place a willing worker with a local, usually not-for-profit organisation. The individual gets to contribute productively in their local community and the host organisation gets a willing pair of extra hands.

Many Tidy Towns groups, sports clubs and centres are examples of this. However Minister Varadkar changed the rules last summer to make it more difficult to access these schemes - for what I believe are ideological reasons, as he sees them as only a means to an end - his view that everyone should be shoe horned into commercial activity. This is neither realistic nor desirable in many cases. I believe community activity is a worthwhile goal in itself and often a good match for the people seeking it.

When I queried this in the Dáil last November I was told a report on the scheme was imminent yet it has still not issued. I again called on the Taoiseach this month to publish and implement that report.

Fianna Fáil secures restoration of postgraduate grants Announces Lawless

Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North James Lawless has welcomed the restoration of postgraduate grants and says his party will fight for increased investment in education in Budget 2018.

Deputy Lawless made the comments after SUSI re-opened its application process for third level grants. Fianna Fáil insisted on the restoration of postgraduate grants as part of the Confidence and Supply Arrangement to facilitate a minority Government.

Deputy Cowen said, "The previous Fine Gael - Labour Government abolished almost all postgraduate grants when Budget 2012 was unveiled. The removal of the postgraduate grant was a cruel cutback which only made a miniscule saving for the State. It had a profoundly negative effect on third level education and made it virtually impossible for mature students on low incomes, or those with young children, to return to third level-education."

Fianna Fáil was vocal in its opposition to the removal of postgraduate grants. This criticism has proven well-based as there has been a reduction of 5% in overall new postgraduate entrants since 2013. The removal of grants for postgraduate education was inconsistent with the Government's stated policy of building a high skilled 'smart' economy. This is why we made the restoration of postgraduate grants a key demand in the Confidence and Supply Arrangement to facilitate a minority Government.

"It's encouraging to see the restoration of postgraduate grants. This is the beginning of the process of undoing the damaging third level cutbacks introduced by the previous Fine Gael led Government. The Government needs to continue investing in third level education to ensure Ireland remains competitive on the global stage. Fianna Fáil will be pushing for increased investment in postgraduate grants in Budget 2018" concluded Deputy Lawless.

On 10th Anniversary of UNCPRD Signing Government Must Act

Kildare North TD James Lawless has called on the Government to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Deputy Lawless was commenting as the 10th anniversary of Ireland

signing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007 took place this month.

Deputy Lawless said "It is now 10 years since Ireland signed up to the UN Convention, yet it is still to be formally ratified by the Oireachtas. The Programme for Government makes an explicit commit to facilitate the ratification of the Convention by the Oireachtas."

"In an effort to keep this commitment, Minister McGrath published what can best be described as half a bill, the Disability (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016. This piece of legislation, which the Government has by its own admission described as insufficient, is simply not comprehensive enough to allow the Oireachtas ratify the UN Convention."

"Across the disability sector, there was significant disappointment that the bill comprehensive enough from the start. Waiting till the Committee Stage to add in entire sections is not an appropriate way to pass national legislation."

"As we head for the Easter break there is still no sign of the outstanding sections being published. This is hardly the best way to honour the ratification of this important United Nations Convention or to mark the tenth anniversary of Ireland signing it."

"The ongoing delays are not acceptable and I hope that the recurrent crises in the justice sector are not diverting attention from this crucial legislation. Fianna Fáil has previously committed to transferring disability policy to an enhanced department of Social Protection. The delays in the passage of this bill make such a change more imperative than ever."

"We need to ensure that people with disabilities are given equality of opportunity so they can participate in society to the best of their abilities. The current half measures and delays coming from the Minister will not help deliver that type of society."

"I had the pleasure of meeting a most amazing, passionate and articulate young woman, Niamh Herbert from Sallins, who attended the House with me to request Members of the House to advance the passing of this Bill as expeditiously as possible and, indeed, to ratify the convention. Niamh is a student in Trinity College Dublin and she represents herself, the students' union in the college and a group called Disability and I."

"The Government ought to act now to give the dignity and pride of seeing this convention ratified for those who have campaigned for so long to see it passed" concluded Deputy Lawless.

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. Thanks to Padre Pio for all favours received.

Never known to fail. M.C.

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.

O'Rourke - Maynooth Ring Road welcomed – but only a first step

Kildare North Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has welcomed the announcement today by Minister for Housing Simon Coveney TD, that €14m will be provided for the construction of the Maynooth Ring Road linking the Leixlip Road to the Celbridge road.

"Since I got elected, I have made repeated representations to secure funding for the construction a number of ring roads, including the construction of the Maynooth Ring Road. Funding of €14m, will now be provided to enable the construction of a section of the Maynooth Ring Road linking the old Dublin Road to the Celbridge Road." said Deputy O'Rourke, who went on to say that he will continue to work to ensure that funding will be provided to enable the linking of the Dunboyne Road with the Moyglare Road.

"The funding announced today is secured from the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) and I proposed this approach in my Dáil contribution last year. It is vitally important that we provide infrastructure at least in line with development rather than playing catch up after housing units have been developed."

"I met with Kildare County Council last year and requested that a comprehensive proposal be put to the Department of Housing to secure funding for North Kildare Towns, from this €200m Infrastructural fund, to fund ring roads and other projects. I also met with the Department officials to press the need for this investment"

"As I said in the Dáil last year, to the Department Officials and in a press statement last year, the traffic trying to negotiate its way through the town of Maynooth is reaching standstill at many times during the day. The traffic challenge is being raised with me by local businesses and by residents in Maynooth on a constant basis and at my weekly clinics."

"We are seeing residential units being developed on the Old Dublin Road, the Straffan Road and the Dunboyne Road. All this is going to lead to further traffic congestion." said Deputy O'Rourke, who has tabled a question to the Minister for Education in relation to the policies his department is pursuing to cater for increased demand for school places in North Kildare, another key requirement in areas that are increasing in size.

"We must learn from the mistakes of the past. We must provide adequate infrastructure in line with development, rather than trying to retrofit the infrastructure subsequent to the development, as happened in the past" continued Deputy O'Rourke who has raised the requirement for funding for the completion of the Ring Road in Clane linking Capdoo with the Kilcock Road.

"Having a proper ring road around Maynooth will reduce the number of vehicles travelling through the town and allow the town to breathe. I continue to raise the requirement for infrastructure of this nature with the Department and Kildare County Council, for other projects in Maynooth and surrounding towns." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

O'Rourke raises need to reform Tús and Community Employment Schemes - Varadkar admits State 'needs to do better'

Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North has called on the Government to urgently address shortcomings with Community Employment Schemes, and in particular the Tús scheme. Deputy O'Rourke made the comments after raising the issue in the Dáil with Minister for Social Protection Leo Varadkar.

The Tús initiative is a community work placement

scheme which provides working opportunities for unemployed people.

Deputy O'Rourke said, "The Tús initiative is an important scheme which allows unemployed people to get work experience in a community based setting. The aim of the scheme is to ease people back into employment. Participants in the scheme are assigned to community and voluntary organisations in both urban and rural areas. They carry out a wide range of tasks ranging from maintenance and upkeep works to childcare and caring for older people."

"People who participate in Tús schemes generally speak highly of their work placement, as do the community and voluntary organisations that they are assigned to. However outstanding problems have emerged with the scheme in recent times. Currently a person is only allowed participate on the scheme for a period of one year before they are asked to move to a different scheme. This has given rise to a shortage of people participating in the scheme. In turn this has led to a situation where there is a lack of continuity of work under the scheme.

"For example, if a participant is working on a long-term project then there is a high chance that they will have to vacate the scheme within a year before they complete their project. Meanwhile the lack of participants in the scheme means that a community or voluntary organisation might have to wait months before they are assigned another person under the scheme. The end result is that the long-term project usually ends up being mothballed."

"The current situation is unsatisfactory for many participants in the scheme as they feel they are being pushed out of the scheme too quickly, often before they have had a chance to gain the skills they need to secure permanent employment. The community and voluntary organisations are also being put off the scheme due to the lack of continuity of placements. This is a problem which needs to be addressed. One option available to the Government is to lift the mandatory restriction in place which prevents people from participating in the scheme for more than one year."

"I raised this matter in the Dáil with Minister Varadkar and he admitted that there are problems with the scheme which need to be addressed. He has given me an assurance that he will take on board my concerns and this is something which I will continue to monitor in the weeks ahead."

Full time Youth Officer will assist in delivering services for Kildare Youths says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD has welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Children, Dr. Katherine Zappone TD, that her Department has given approval to Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) to appoint a full time youth officer for County Kildare.

"Up to now, County Kildare was one of the few counties that did not have a dedicated Youth Officer. Currently, we share one with County Wicklow. Given the rise in our population in Kildare and the fact that we have a higher proportion of young people aged 17 and under than the average having a dedicated Youth Officer, in my view, is essential to assist in developing services for our young people." stated Deputy O'Rourke.

"In 2016, over €500,000 was allocated for the projects and services under Kildare Youth Services. The Department of Children provides funding to Kildare Youth Services, under the Special Projects for Youth Scheme, for six Kildare youth projects; in Athy, Naas, Leixlip, Newbridge, the Curragh, Kildare town and a Youth Information Centre in Naas."

"Funding from the Department is used for programmes that target disadvantaged young people and to assist national youth organisations in their work to support local voluntary youth services."

"Given the high proportion of young people in Kildare, we must ensure that we highlight the need for increased resources for our Youth Service in Kildare." concluded Deputy O'Rourke who urged Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board to fill this post as soon as possible and assist the youth organisations throughout the county.

O'Rourke - Construction of New Maynooth Community College to commence shortly

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke has been informed by the Minister for Education, Richard Bruton TD, that Construction is due to begin shortly on the new Maynooth Education Campus, following a Parliamentary Question tabled by Deputy O'Rourke in recent weeks.

"The Minister for Education informed me that the contractor responded to the Letter of Intent on the 21st March last. The response is currently being examined by the Education and Training Board's Design Team." stated Deputy O'Rourke.

"The Minister has stated that assuming that the contractor has complied with the requirements of the Letter of Intent, it is envisaged that construction of the new school will commence on site shortly."

"This is the final step before the formal award of the Contract and I want to compliment all those involved, from the Board of Management, Principal and parents who have fought hard to secure this project for Maynooth and surrounding areas." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

DÁIL QUESTION addressed to the Minister for Education and Skills (Deputy Richard Bruton)

by Deputy Frank O'Rourke for WRITTEN ANSWER on 04/04/2017

To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the status of a letter of intent; if it's been issued to the preferred bidder for the contracts for tender in respect of a school (details supplied); when construction is scheduled to begin; the anticipated completion date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. (Details Supplied) New Community School, Maynooth, Co Kildare

REPLY

I am pleased to inform the Deputy that the contractor responded to the Letter of Intent on the 21st March last. The response is currently being examined by the ETB's Design Team.

Assuming that the contractor has complied with the requirements of the Letter of Intent, it is envisaged that construction will commence on site shortly.

Rent Pressure Zones

Kildare North Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has welcomed the signing of an order, by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Simon Coveney TD, to designate Maynooth as a rent pressure zone.

"When the rent pressure zones were announced last year, I highlighted the need for Maynooth and local areas to be added to the list of rent pressure zones.

Continued on Page 11

Frank O'Rourke T.D. Kildare North (Cont.)

Continued from Page 10

The Minister’s order takes effect from 30 March 2017 and I am delighted that Maynooth, Clane and Kilcock have now been added to the list, following a quarterly report from the Residential Tenancies Board” said Deputy O’Rourke

“Kildare towns already included in the rent pressure zones include, Naas, Sallins, Celbridge, Leixlip, Kildare, Rathangan and Newbridge.”

“The inclusion of Maynooth, and extending also to Clane and Kilcock, in the rent pressure zones means that rent cannot rise by more than 4 percent a year.”

“Nationally, rents rose by almost 8 percent in the last quarter of 2016, compared to the previous year and the national average rent of €986 per month is almost the same as it was at the peak in 2006/7 period.”

“ I know from my weekly clinics the pressure tenants are under when rents rise and we must ensure that political

pressure is maintained to secure sustainable and affordable rents,” concluded Deputy O’Rourke

Extra Bus Service for Maynooth and Celbridge says O’Rourke

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O Rourke, is set to meet with senior executives from Dublin Bus shortly to press for increased Bus service for Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth.

“Over the last year or so, we have made improvements to the Bus Service provided by Dublin Bus to the towns of Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip.”

“A new Sunday service on Route 67 commenced on Sunday 27th of November last at 8.15am. Dublin Bus now operate a service every 30 minutes on a Sunday until 20.50.”

“However, we need an improved service for Gleneaston in Leixlip and extra capacity all round in the morning. I intend to press for improved services when I met with the CEO of Dublin Bus, while acknowledging the

progress we are making todote.”

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

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

“At my meeting with Dublin Bus, I will make further representations of behalf of our public transport users.” Concluded Deputy O’Rourke.

**MAYNOOTH FILM FOR ALL:
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Iontas Theatre | Maynooth University

What happened?

A Date For Mad Mary is THE WINNER of our audience choice slot on **Wednesday 03 May!**

Directed by Darren Thornton and starring Seana Kerslake and Tara Lee 'Mad Mary' follows 'Mad' Mary

McArdle on her return to Drogheda after a short spell in prison - for something she'd rather forget. Back home, everything and everyone has changed. Her best friend, Charlene, is about to get married and Mary is to be her maid of honour. When Charlene refuses Mary a 'plus one' on the grounds that she probably couldn't find a date, Mary becomes determined to prove her wrong. 'A date for Mad Mary' is a tough and tender story about friendship, first love, and letting go of the glory days



BIG THANK YOU! to everyone who voted!

“Darren and Colin Thornton have done a really nice job adapting Yasmine Akram's play 10 Dates for Mad Mary, giving it a strong sense of place and time, and creating full, rich, rounded and almost exclusively female characters” *****

Aine O'Connor Sunday Independent

“A Date for Mad Mary is an exquisitely written, delicately made and superbly acted gem that will only get better with age and reflection” ***** Laura Delaney RTE

"Mad Mary is a delight, especially for its rounded supporting characters, its skewering use of language, and the pinpoint accuracy of its observations of life in this specific time and place" Jessica Kiang VARIETY

Admission: €6.00, *€4.00 concessions.
FREE admission for students | Tickets on sale from 7.15pm.
(*Over 65's, unwaged, Maynooth University staff & employees)

CONTACT:

Brenda T: 045 448328 E: bbrady@kildarecoco.ie with any queries / questions OR if you need more detailed directions to the venue.
Kildare County Council Library & Arts Service | MEDIA STUDIES at Maynooth University

Editorial

In the closing days of March there were two announcements made by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government that will have significant impacts on the future of housing developments in Maynooth.

On March 28th there was very welcome news that the Government had included the “Maynooth Eastern Relief Road and bridge” as one of the projects approved under the “Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund” allocating €14.5m to the project. The allocation of this funding directly from Government is expected to provide access to land to deliver an additional eight hundred houses by 2021 and ultimately an additional seventeen hundred housing units in Maynooth.

The success by Kildare County Council in making the application for the funding for this project is a new departure in terms of how major road infrastructure is funded in Maynooth as the majority of local roads are usually paid for by charging development levies which get passed onto the person buying the house so increasing the price subject of course to market conditions that allow the builder to get the price for the house. At present there are open sites elsewhere in the town that will yield another seven hundred houses and the new roads in these areas will be funded by levies.

The second announcement made by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government on March 29th was the inclusion of Maynooth in the areas covered by the maximum rents increase of 4% regulation. The areas covered by this rent increase cap are towns and city areas where there is evidence

determined by the “Residential Tenancies Board” that there is pressure for higher rent increases. Maynooth has a large stock of rented housing somewhat driven by the presence of Maynooth University, but also by the proximity and accessibility of Maynooth to Dublin City.

The impact on the supply of rented properties available in Maynooth by the rent increase cap is still too early to assess. Many of the rented properties in Maynooth are owned by professional property rental businesses who are in the market for the long-term but no doubt there will be some people who will get out of the market because of this change so some houses may be available to buy in the more mature older areas of the town.

Of course aside from new housing developments there are planning applications currently with Kildare County Council to replace two of Maynooth’s primary schools. Maynooth Educate Together NS, a co-educational school is to get a new permanent building with expanded capacity on their site at Railpark on the Celbridge Road.

St. Mary’s Boys School is to get a replacement school building on the Moyglare Road. Both new school buildings will greatly improve the educational space for primary school pupils in Maynooth. It is great that new schools are being built so that there is a greater chance that there will be primary school places for families that will occupy all this additional housing in the town.

Paul Croghan
Editor

WING TSUN - IEWTO

Ladies & Gents

Self – Defence Class

Beginners Welcome

Venue: Maynooth Community Space
Unit 11 Carton Park
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Maynooth



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E-Mail: barrysmith265@gmail.com

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Maynooth

(opposite the girl's school)

Maynooth Newsletter

**Copy date for the June edition of the Maynooth
Newsletter will be Tuesday 23rd May 2017**

1 S T & 2 N D J U L Y 2 0 1 7



Fun For All The Family

This Year Maynooth Festival and Events team are working on 2 days and nights of fun for all ages. An eclectic mix of Music, Performing Arts, Children's Activities, Food, Crafts, Colour, Art and History will provide a full program of events for the first weekend in July.

KEEPING COSTS LOW

Our main aim is to keep the costs of the events low to the public and encourage people to take part in the events organised and turn out in numbers to enjoy

the festival and what our beautiful town has to offer.

The team working on the festival are currently fundraising and rely on the

generosity of local businesses and members of our community.



If any person or any business wants to support or sponsor an event we would be more than happy to talk to them about how they can help to

bring yet another successful summer festival to the town, not to mention smiles to the faces of those who come out in July to enjoy the fun.



Maynooth's Got Talent!

Have you? If you have a talent whatever that may be enter our festival talent competition.

Details are on our Maynooth's Got Talent Facebook page
@maynoothsgottalent

Volunteer Support

*If you want to get in on the action and lend the Festival and Events Committee a hand during the festival weekend please get in touch via Facebook or to our email address
maynoothfest15@gmail.com*

Skills Skills Skills

We are looking for help in a few areas for anyone who would like to add another item to their CV. If you have experience in Social Media or Photography Facebook message us or email us maynoothfest15@gmail.com

Events Planned

*Performing Arts
Silverarm Sessions; Live Music
Food Fair
Family Funfair
Craft Market
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Taste of Maynooth Raffle
Square Sessions; Live Music
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Maynooth Town FC Lotto Results 2017

www.maynoothtownfc.com - Join Us On Facebook

W/End	Numbers	Jackpot	3 x €35 Winners
05-Feb-17	6,7,9,26	€1,200	Declan Fitz - Dara Mc Hale - Mary Cullen
12-Feb-17	1,3,4,9	€1,250	Gillian Ledwith - Maeve Byrne - Mark & Lisa Thompson
19-Feb-17	1,16,17,27	€1,300	Dan Casey Snr - Fiona Flanagan - 'Cha'
26-Feb-17	6,8,10,13	€1,350	Sheila Ganley - David Leavey - Leslie Kellett
05-Mar-17	6,13,15,24	€1,400	Ann Monaghan - Packie Carroll - Margaret Gannon
12-Mar-17	10,18,23,25	€1,450	Yvonne Crotty - Kevin Donovan - Ciaran Flanagan
19-Mar-17			No Draw
26-Mar-17	3,9,11,25	€1,500	Deirdre Shelly - Marie Gleeson - Marie Miles
02-Apr-17	4,8,14,21	€1,550	John Saults - Michael Murphy - Ger O'Sullivan
09-Apr-17	5,21,27,28	€1,600	Ella Murphy - Gillian Ledwith - Aisling & Liam
16-Apr-17		€1,650	No Draw



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A queen bee bumblebee will need to visit up to 6,000 flowers a day to get enough energy to maintain the heat needed to brood her first batch of eggs.



Bumblebees play a vitally important role which we shouldn't take for granted. They pollinate many crops that provide us with food to eat and the colourful flowers in our landscape.

Wildflower-rich grasslands are the most important habitat for bumblebees as they provide plants throughout the summer and contain many nectar and pollen-rich plant species, which are favoured by bumblebees.

This meadow will be cut in autumn and all grass cuttings will be removed to lower fertility levels in the soil, which will in turn, encourage the growth of wildflowers.





Maynooth

 Caring for our environment

Thanks to all who recycled electrical goods and batteries on Saturday 25th March in the Tesco Car Park and the amount collected was 23244 Kg.

A big thank you the Maynooth Tidy Towns volunteers who helped on the day.



On the Tuesday 28th March an Information Evening for all residents was held in the Glenroyal Hotel by Maynooth Tidy Towns highlighting their work to date. A very informative presentation on Pollination and endangered Bees was given by Mary Jennings. Mary also spoke about the need for residents to plant bee-friendly flowers and shrubs.

David Duff of Thorntons Recycling spoke about the need for proper recycling and the process that takes place in Thorntons in relation to Brown, Green and Black bins. One interesting statistic that was that in Ireland 28% of product is contaminated and cannot be recycled. We should try and ensure that our recycled products are cleaned before



putting in the recycle Bin. Sean Cushen gave useful information on the reasons and need to compost. Sean Lyons gave a demonstration on how to prune trees properly.

Maynooth Tidy Towns thank all our speakers for their presentation on

the night.

We had a Tidy Towns planning meeting Wednesday 5th April to discuss this year's application and in relation to tidiness on estates. We would ask if all residents and residents associations could consider adopting a space to keep tidy near their estate. Also that resident associations would keep Maynooth Tidy Towns informed any new features on their estates.



Maynooth Tidy Towns had their annual spring clean-up on Saturday 22nd April meeting at the Courthouse Square @ 10am.

Good luck to the organisers and participants in the Annual Maynooth 10K/5K which takes place on 14th May @ 10.30am.

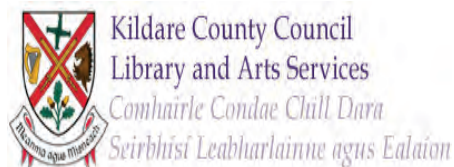
Maynooth Tidy Towns annual collection will take place from Thursday 18th May to Sunday 21st May. Please give generously.

At this time our National Tidy Towns application is due for submission.

Maynooth Tidy Towns has resumed their Wednesday Evenings @ 7pm, Saturday mornings @ 10am and Sunday mornings @ 7.45am meeting at the Courthouse Square.

We need your help to hold the GOLD MEDAL which we won last year.

Richard Farrell
PRO Maynooth Tidy Towns
087 3153189 and See us on Facebook or Twitter



Work Matters at the Library Support for Business & Employment

Maynooth Community Library provide support to agencies, small business, entrepreneurs, students and job seekers. As a core service we provide the following;

- Meeting Space [pre-booking essential]
- Free Wifi and access to PCs
- Free access to VisionNet and Mintel online resources
- Access to our library catalogue at www.kildare.ie/library
- Books, periodicals and business newspapers (including the Financial Times and the Economist)
- Elearning: Free online continuing education courses
- Elanguage: Free online language courses

Upcoming Workshops for Business and Career Support

Decision Making Tools Workshop Presented by Deirdre O'Shea & Gustavo Bernstein (Life and Business Coaching and Training)
Tuesday 2nd May, 7pm

This workshop will focus on 6 key decision making tools that enable more effective decision making. Assist participants to consider their decision making style – what helps and hinders you in making decisions. How to deal with uncertainty and other obstacles. Booking Required.

Effective Communication Workshop Presented by Deirdre O'Shea & Gustavo Bernstein (Life and Business Coaching and Training)
Friday 2nd June, 11am

This workshop will focus on core elements to crucial conversations. Strategies that can enhance your communication skills. Becoming aware of helpful and unhelpful assumptions we make in conversations. The art of influencing others. **Booking Required.**

All of our events are free of charge and open to everyone

For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/library - e-mail: maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie - Ph: 01 6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService - twitter.com/kildarelibrary



Comhaltas Craobh Mhaigh Nuad



After a hectic March, with the St. Patrick's festival dominating the program for the previous weeks. April's classes were a little disrupted with the Easter holidays, but once they've finished we've a busy couple of weeks pulling together out Fleadh competitors' programs building toward this year's county fleadh to be held in Clane. We are also hosting a Table Quiz to raise further funds for our Instrument Bank on 19th May – all are welcome for what should be a great night.

Kildare Comhaltas 50 years

This year we celebrated 50 years of Kildare County Board having been formed in Lawlor's Hotel Naas in January 1967 and a fantastic night was organised in the Westgrove Hotel Clane on the 25th March 2017 which was a great occasion for all involved with traditional music in Kildare to come together in a social context and enjoy a tune or two. A mighty session it was in Clane that night, with all Kildare's branches well represented.



SCT Exams

There's more to Irish traditional music than just playing tunes and having an absolute blast. The SCT (Scrúdu Ceol Tíre) programme is a graded series of exams designed to take you as a musician from basic proficiency in tune-playing through to a mastery of the tradition. Comhaltas and the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) established the Traditional Irish Music Examination as a joint project to meet the goal of offering formal recognition to traditional musicians while at the same time strengthening the tradition itself through more intensive study.

The SCT programme includes 12 levels of competence, and the exam season is in progress now from March to June:

- Elementary (3 Levels)
- Grade (8 Levels)
- Advanced Performance Certificate

Along the way our students learn about music theory, improve their ear and research the history of musical pieces, styles and players, so we're supportive of anyone who wants to progress along this route. Oh, and play tunes, of course!

The Kildare County Fleadh

Since the founding of Comhaltas in 1951, traditional musicians have achieved recognition through our Fleadh Cheoil competitions at county, provincial, and All-Ireland levels. Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann is the most important event in the traditional music calendar. For many, it is the culmination of months of hard work and practice as they compete against fellow musicians, singers and dancers to achieve the recognition of being an All-Ireland champion. The County Fleadh is the first stepping stone along this journey followed by the provincial competitions, then culminating in the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann to be held once again in Ennis. This year Clane is the destination for Fleadh Chill Dara, which is being held in the slightly later slot of 17th – 21st May, so there should be nice weather and sessions in the streets and pubs of Claonadh – can't wait!

Cear dlann Earraigh

The Cear dlann Earraigh event which takes place between Celbridge and Maynooth returned this year on 8th April to North Kildare. The lessons and the subsequent gala concert were a great success and once again, there was a great array of talent assembled and this remains one of the jewels in the crown of Comhaltas sponsored events anywhere in the world. Looking forward to next year already!

The Gala Concert in the Glenroyal Hotel in Maynooth on the Saturday evening of the Cear dlann event.



April and Easter

Our regular sessions are still running from 6pm on Sunday evenings regular Twitter / Facebook feeds for details of these impromptu, pop-up sessions. Again, all are welcome to our session upstairs in Brady's and our kids session in Maynooth GAA and whether branch members or not. May sessions are planned as follows.

Adult Session, Brady's bar, Sunday 19:00 – 7th May, 21st May
Junior Session, Maynooth GAA Club Sunday 18:00 - 30th April
Table Quiz, O'Neill's Bar, Maynooth Friday 19th May.

Go n-éirí an cheoil linn!

Lots more information on www.ccmhaighnuad.com and Facebook & Twitter (CCMhaighNuad).

Slán go fóillín Derek Carroll, PRO Craobh Mhaigh Nuad

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Annual Community Award 2017 to Maynooth ICA Guild

"The Spirit of St Patrick Award is an annual community award scheme sponsored by the Saint Patrick Foundation. The Maynooth Award has been running for eight years now and honours those who have contributed to the building of healthy and inclusive community in our local area. Having come very close in the nominations last year, Saint Patrick Foundation was delighted to announce that this year's winners - in recognition of many years of help and service to women in our area - were the Maynooth ICA Guild."

The Award was presented on the night by Dr Keith McCrory, the Chairman of the St Patrick Foundation.



Left to Right: Catherine O'Reilly, Dr Keith McCrory, Mary Dunne, Norah McDermott (President Maynooth Guild) Mary MacNamara (National Treasurer ICA)



Mary Dunne, Norah McDermott (President Maynooth Guild)



Left to Right: Eilis O'Malley, Mary MacNamara (National Treasurer ICA), Mary Dunne, Norah McDermott (President Maynooth Guild) & Catherine O'Reilly.

Maynooth Guild ICA have weekly craft nights with over 30 participants on any night. Annually they provide tea/coffee and homemade cakes, strawberries and cream during the Community Festival, members attend craft weekends/weeks for crafts in An Grianán, they participate at Federation (County) and Nationally in ICA competitions and regularly win.



This is a selection of crafts made by members at Handcraft week recently in An Grianán (ICA College)

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Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



Our Easter Tea-Dance, which we held on April 23rd, was a huge success and a most enjoyable event with about seventy in attendance. The spectacular display of Easter Bonnets earned everyone a prize with Lima Higgins being the overall winner. Of course the whole day was enhanced by the excellent music from our own Brian Mc Dermott. Many thanks to Martin and all his colleagues in the GAA club for this facility. Our next Tea-Dance will take place on Sunday May 21st when we will celebrate "Bealtaine". This Celtic Festival heralds the beginning of Summer and the name derives from the old Irish words "Bel Taine" meaning "Bright Fire".

It is steeped in tradition and folklore some of which have pagan origins. As the name of the festival suggests, bonfires played an important part in the activities and were often lit on local landmarks such as the hill of "Uisneach" in Westmeath. In the ancient Celtic calendar "Bealtaine" was a cross quarter day which was half way between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice. The festival was marked with the lighting of these fires and the movement of animals to summer pastures.

In more recent times the "Bealtaine Festival" encourages us to exploit our artistic side, which is why we have all manner of art displayed on the day. So out with the needles, paint brushes, cameras, etc. and we will light our own fires, so to speak.

Many thanks to Maynooth Golf Society for their generous donation of €1,000 again this year. They remember Trevor Cassidy with this tournament each year and they also remember our Senior Citizens.

Our club mornings continue every Tuesday and Thursday in the Geraldine hall. In the past we included arts and crafts as well as bingo and with all the space we have now we are considering restoring these activities. So if bingo isn't your "bag" why not come along and tell us what is, we would love to hear from you.

Finally, April saw the passing of a vibrant icon of fashion, a friend and a shoulder to lean on. She was all these things to those who knew Mary Mc Ternan. Despite her own battle she always had time to listen to others and was renowned for her advice which she imparted with good humour. Our sincere sympathy to Gerry and all the Mc.Ternan and Barry families on their very sad loss.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a Anam.

Josephine Moore, Chairperson.



Senior Citizens Easter Parade



*Lima Higgins Overall
Winner Of The Easter
Bonnnet Competition*

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	Irish Girl Guides
<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 of School Term 10am-12pm Maynooth Community Space From the 26th Of April Every Wednesday of School Term Playball for children aged 2-3. 9:30am-12pm Maynooth Community Space Carton Park S.C</p>	<p>Meetings Tuesday evening in Maynooth. For further information contact Jackie on 0894298061 or visit the Irish Girl Guides website www.irishgirlguides.ie</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

200

Compulsory Hi Viz for Cyclists and Pedestrians

At the recent annual conference of the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors, there was debate on a motion for high visibility clothing to be made compulsory for pedestrians and cyclists. Although the actual vote did not include pedestrians (as it was considered unenforceable), the motion gave rise to a frenzy of discussion in the media about cyclists and hi viz. As vulnerable road users, many cyclists choose to wear Hi-Viz but Hi-Viz has no magical powers to protect and was found in the UK courts to contribute to a fatality in low sun conditions. Furthermore, in countries with the greatest number of cyclists, responsibility for safety is placed on those who pose the greatest risk ie on people who drive rather than on people who cycle.

Minimum Passing Distance Law

Of greater importance to cyclists is the Minimum Passing Distance Law proposed by Ciaran Cannon and Regina Doherty. The law proposes a 1.5m minimum passing distance for vehicles travelling at speeds greater than 50kph and 1m for speeds of 50kph or less. It is similar to legislation in several other countries including France, Belgium, Portugal and Australia, as well as several US states and provinces in Canada. Here in Kildare we are acutely aware of the effects of the risks of cycling with the death of Tonya McEvoy at Rathcoffey in February while on a club run. Although the two TDs are members of the government party, the law is being introduced as a private members bill so we would urge all North Kildare TDs to support it and hopefully it will be passed by the Dáil before the summer recess.

The Barrow Motorway

Last night I dreamt of a motorway beside the Barrow greenway..... and it's wasn't a nightmare. Just imagine it - two lanes of traffic in one direction, two lanes of traffic in the opposite direction, a central reservation and two verges one on either side. Right, now imagine it again, this time without any traffic and with no traffic lanes. Then imagine it without a central reservation and with a verge on only one side. Finally imagine the motorway with the remaining verge reduced in width. Wouldn't that be an amazing sight from Kildare all the way to St. Mullins?

It is important that it is a motorway verge. There are grass verges on many roads and in many housing estates but those are ordinary verges. They are only about 1m wide and the grass is (generally) cut by the householder. No for the Barrow we are talking about a motorway verge and what is special about them? Well for starters they are a lot wider and the grass isn't normally cut

except close to the road. Secondly, people don't stop and spend time on motorway verges so they are not disturbed by human beings. When motorways were first planned in the UK in the 1950s, it was all about transport and moving people and goods. Road engineers were not concerned with the environment or biodiversity so nobody foresaw that motorway verges would become important linear pathways across the countryside for flora and fauna. Admittedly, motorways are not so good for animals which travel at ground level but the 'motorway' along the Barrow wouldn't have that problem as animals would only have to deal with people on bikes or walkers and not thundering HGVs and cars.

Why did Waterways Ireland not think of this when they were planning their Blueway? Well one reason is that they do not own the adjoining land and therein lies the problem. Waterways Ireland does not have funds to purchase adjoining lands for a project which in itself may or may not get planning permission. We don't do long term planning in Ireland as the housing crisis and water quality problems attest so the idea of purchasing or investing in something intangible like biodiversity is alien to us. The government launched its public consultation on the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017- 2021 earlier this year. I doubt though that they will be recommending a motorway along the Barrow (even without the bad bits) but what's the harm in dreaming?

Politicians and Cycling

While announcements of the setting up of the Kildare Cycle Forum have again proved to be premature, there was better news in the Dáil where the All Party Cycling group was set up as a non-party forum for TD's and senators with an interest in cycling. Maynooth Cycling Campaign wishes it well and hopes that it will prove to be as successful as the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group at Westminster. Hopefully too some of the TDs for North Kildare will consider joining!

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.

New ASD preschool to open in The Mill Celbridge September 2017

Clever Clogs is a preschool for kids with an ASD diagnosis aged from 3-6 years. It opens in The Mill in Celbridge in September 2017 and is now inviting parents to register their children as soon as possible as demand is high. There will be one class from 9am-1pm and when that class is full another from 1.10pm -5.10pm. This school is funded by Home Tuition Grant from the Department of Education.

Clever Clogs ASD Preschool has been established by Joan Mitchell who is a Special Needs Teacher who has over ten years' experience with kids with additional needs. She is fully registered with the Teaching Council, is Garda vetted. She has a MA in Writing and Literacy and is studying (part time) for her MA in Special Needs. Joan has taught non-verbal, ADHD, Autism and Aspergers children. She has seen huge success working with a visual learning techniques pioneered by University of Queensland and has made huge progress with non-verbal children on a 1:1 basis.

On a personal level Joan Mitchell has experienced how critical it is to have the right start in life for a special needs child and this has created a passion in

her to champion kids with special needs. She lives in Celbridge with her husband and two children.

There is an Occupational Therapist involved to set up 'movement breaks' to aid learning and also to help with any sensory issues the children will have. Each child will have their own IEP (Individual Education Plan) which will maximise their strengths, while also focusing on areas where they need more help – social skills, understanding non-verbal cues, sharing, transitioning from one activity to another, using a visual schedule.

Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in Clever Clogs on an ongoing basis and are viewed as partners in their child's learning.

We put the child at the centre of learning, at the centre of fitting in and at the centre of having fun. We value differences and are wholly accepting of all individuals and will go above and beyond to let your child's true self shine, while developing their self-esteem and self-confidence.

✉ celverclogs2017@gmail.com

☎ 085-7486297 Joan Mitchell

📘 On Facebook search Clever Clogs ASD preschool

Title -The Grey Knight Author - Patrick Devaney



There is one definitive test which confirms me in my opinion of any book I begin to read and the Grey Knight scores an A++ in this regard. It is how quickly I complete the reading. That I do not start another while this one is unfinished and the newspaper article is left unread until I get to the end.

There is a quality about this novel which whisks the reader along from one chapter to the next to find out what happens and how does the whole story tie together in the end. It must be the many characters and "substories" which constitute the novel that make it such a gripping read. Be prepared to be shocked by the ending which is set in that now happily distant summer when emaciated bodies of young men were, one by one, carried out of the horror that was Long Kesh.

Michael O'Donnell

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**The Copy Date for the June Edition of the
Maynooth Newsletter is Tuesday 23rd May**

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

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

Maynooth included in Rent Pressure Zones.

On 30th March 2017, Maynooth was finally added to the list of Rent Pressure Zones across the Country. Catherine Murphy TD welcomes the inclusion of Maynooth electoral area within the control measure and had been urging the Minister to reassess the original exclusion of Maynooth since the inclusion of 29 other Local Electoral Areas in January 2017. Now in these specific local electoral areas, called Rent Pressure Zones (“RPZ”), rents will only be able to rise up to a maximum of 4% per annum, protecting tenancies in Maynooth where some 20% increases had been reported.

In December 2016, Minister Simon Coveney, the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, introduced Rent Pressure Zones for Dublin and Cork cities. In December 2016 during a debate in the Dáil, The Social Democrats’ TD Catherine Murphy said commuter towns in Counties Kildare and Wicklow must be included in any rent control solution. Ms. Murphy had said areas including Leixlip, Celbridge and Maynooth in Kildare and Bray and Greystones in Wicklow are on a par with Dublin City and County rents. She said: “I would hope that Minister Coveney has taken a thorough review of the rental markets across the country and will therefore recognise the need to implement more nuanced measures than simply targeting two big cities. Those measures must tackle the problem of exorbitant rental prices in the areas which are most affected.”

Further referrals to the Housing agencies for assessment of areas where rents were increasing at double digit numbers in some cases, were made. The analysis of rental data collated by the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) was used and further Local Electoral Areas (LEA’s) were identified as Rent Pressure Zones with effect from Friday, 27 January 2017. The addition of the 12 LEA’s meant that approximately 55% of the population in rental accommodation are now renting within a Rent Pressure Zone.

Maynooth had still not been included in that list. Maynooth was now the only University town in Ireland that is not covered by the 4% rent caps. In Kildare, the following electoral districts had been included; Celbridge, Leixlip, Naas, Kildare & Newbridge. Maynooth had been excluded from that latest tranche of areas designated as rent pressure zones as the rent inflation was not assessed as being above 7% rise in rental prices in four consecutive quarters out of the last six quarters. Under assessment of the data utilised by the RTB, Catherine Murphy had highlighted Maynooth had lost out on inclusion by a mere 1% in the January cohort. Initially there were 29 areas designated as a rent pressure zone in January 2017.

Kildare North Social Democrat TD, Catherine Murphy had raised this again with the Minister stating “The fact that a small anomaly in extra criteria laid down by the Residential Tenancies Board meant Maynooth was excluded was a serious error in judgement by the Minister and his Department and has had a detrimental impact on many families in Maynooth struggling under the weight of ever increasing rental prices.”

The following questions were laid down to question the data used by the RTB

149. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government his plans to publish all reports and related documentation received by him from the Residential Tenancies Board and the Housing Agency relating to the extension of rent pressure zones; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [5082/17]
153. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government the cost of all contracted work in the analysis of data or any other work associated with the designation of rent pressure zones; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [5110/17]

Simon Coveney (Cork South Central, Fine Gael) I propose to take Questions Nos. 149 and 153 together.

The Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 amends the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 to provide that the Housing Agency, in consultation with housing authorities, may make a proposal to the Minister that an area should be considered as a Rent Pressure Zone. Following receipt of such a proposal, the Minister requests the Director of the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) to conduct an assessment of the area to establish whether or not it meets the criteria for designation and to report to the Minister on whether the area should be designated as a Rent Pressure Zone. The reports received from the RTB and the Housing Agency in relation to the designation of further rent pressure zones are available on the websites of the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) and the Housing Agency.

The cost to the Housing Agency and to the RTB of performing their functions under the Act is a matter for the agencies involved and my Department does not collate such information. The Clerk of the Dáil has requested that arrangements be put in place to facilitate the provision of information by State Bodies to members of the Oireachtas. Following the issue of Circular LG (P) 05/16 on 20 September 2016 from my Department, the RTB and the Housing Agency have set up dedicated email addresses for this purpose at OireachtasMembersQueries@rtb.ie and publicreps@housingagency.ie, respectively.

On 23rd February 2017, Catherine again raised the issue in the Dáil,

“The new arrangements are having the effect I would have predicted. The process used to select specific areas is flawed. My party argued that rent increases should be linked to the consumer price index. Under section 139 of the Residential Tenancies Act 2004, landlords are supposed to give notification of rent increases. There is no evidence that this is being universally done. In fact, a reply I received from the RTB suggested that updates are not provided in many cases.

As Maynooth is a university town, large cohorts of renters come on stream in particular cycles. The Maynooth electoral area is quite large and has a significant rural hinterland and this has an impact on the profile of the town for these purposes. I am sure this is also the case in other areas.

I do not think Maynooth is the same as some of the other towns because it is a university town. As it is the only town with a university in it, a one-size-fits-all approach should not apply.”

Catherine Murphy maintained that there must be new thinking about the issue stating that it made perfect sense to link rents to the CPI rather than encouraging rent increases at a time when we have zero inflation. The two main factors driving the cost of living are rents or mortgages and child care. They are also driving demands for wage increases. Criteria for inclusion as a Rent Pressure Zone. To qualify as a Rent Pressure Zone, the average rent of an area must be above the national rent of €973 and have demonstrated high levels of rent inflation in accordance with the legislation.

The criteria for designating an area as a Rent Pressure Zone are:

The annual rate of rent inflation in the area must have been 7% or more in four of the last six quarters, and the average rent for tenancies registered with the RTB in the previous quarter must be above the average national rent in the quarter (the National Standard Rent in the RTB’s Rent Index Report). This was €973 in the last published quarter of the Rent Index, Q3 2016. Not all rental properties in Rent Pressure Zones are covered by the 4% annual rental restriction. Properties that have not been let at any time in the previous two years, and properties which have been substantially refurbished, can be exempted from the measure. However, the pre-existing requirement that the rent set for a

property must be in line with local market rents for similar properties in the area still applies.

A ‘substantial refurbishment’ must be a significant change to the dwelling resulting in increased market value of the tenancy. This would involve significant alterations or improvements which add to the letting value of the property; repainting or replacement of white goods would not be sufficient.

Where does this come from & What does it mean for families in Maynooth?

Rent Predictability Measures are provisions enacted under the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 (the “2016 Act”) that are intended to moderate the rise in rents in the parts of the country where rents are highest and rising, and in areas where households have the greatest difficulty finding accommodation they can afford.

Rent can be reviewed every 24 months.

A 90 day notice must be issued to the tenant in respect of a rent increase for an existing tenancy. Under the new rent pressure zone review rules the rent would not be open to a 4% per annum increase retrospectively. Going forward the landlord may increase rental prices by 4% per annum. Any tenancies currently in existence that have also not been reviewed in the last 2 year period are subject to a formula devised by the Residential Tenancies Board. It will not be a 4% increase for each retrospective year, there is room for slightly more than 4% depending on how the calculations work out once the formula is used.

If a rent has not been increased in the 24 month period the landlord will use the 24 month calculation and this is where it will allow for slightly more than 4% so for most tenants who have not had an increase in their tenancy in the last 2 years this is the calculation being used by the landlord. Going forward as the rent would be reviewable 12 monthly; the calculation will be devised using 12 months. This can be quite difficult for a tenant or landlord to grasp as it is certainly not straight forward in its explanation. There is however a calculator available in the RTB website to aid with the calculations.

Where can I get more help and assistance?

Threshold Tenancy Protection Service
1800 454 454 tps@threshold.ie www.threshold.ie
<http://www.threshold.ie/advice/dealing-with-problems-during-your-tenancy/how-to-deal-with-rent-increases/Residential-Tenancies-Board>
Phone the RTB: 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday - 01-702 8100 or 0818 30 30 37. There is a full description of the impact of the change in all circumstances and a calculator to assess what the increase might be in your specific case.
<https://www.rtb.ie/rent-pressure-zones/rent-pressure-zones>

Catherine Murphy TD asked the Minister for Education & Skills for an update on the new Maynooth Schools

Further to the anticipated progress on the construction of the new Maynooth Education Campus. Catherine Murphy, Social Democrat TD for Kildare North has sent a further enquiry to the Minister for Education and Skills as follows;

To ask the Minister for Education and Skills the status of a new education campus in Maynooth; if he or his officials have evaluated the tender report; if a builder has been awarded the contract; if any announcement is due in respect of the commencement of construction works; if there are any anticipated delays to the commencement of works; if any alternative tenderer is to be appointed should delays be anticipated; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

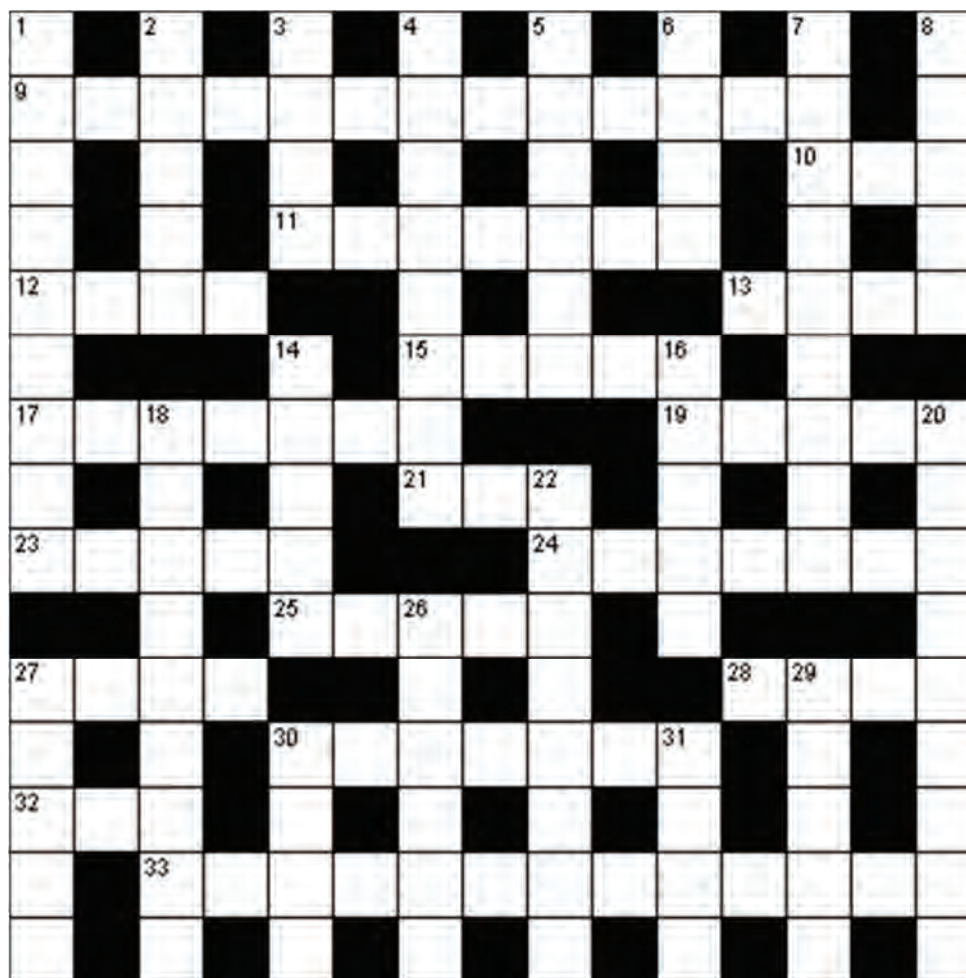
The Ministers in his last update said a Letter of Intent was issued. The intent letter is the final step before the award of the Contract. It has been a number of weeks since an announcement was expected, so I look forward to the update from the Minister.

Clues Across

9. Remove from government ownership (13)
10. Partially opened flower (3)
11. Open air fire (7)
12. Search (4)
13. Family (4)
15. Relaxes (5)
17. Sandy shores (7)
19. Tiny branches (5)
21. Bashful (3)
23. Arm joint (5)
24. Place in order (7)
25. Weapon (5)
27. Small mountain (4)
28. Duct for smoke (4)
30. Envious (7)
32. Round bread roll (3)
33. Close mental application (13)



May Crossword - No. 457



Clues Down

1. Prudent (9)
2. Pixie (5)
3. Stump (4)
4. Wife of a count (8)
5. Wirelenses (6)
6. Queue (4)
7. Armed resistance (9)
8. Broaden (5)
14. Melts (5)
16. Tale (5)
18. Vehicle for injured people (9)
20. Bony structures (9)
22. IOW town (8)
26. Rubber (6)
27. Acquired pattern of behaviour (5)
29. Enraged (5)
30. Bring bad luck (4)
31. Saturate (4)



Answers to Crossword No 456



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

The Maynooth Bookshop
68 Main Street,
Maynooth

Entries in before: Tuesday 23rd May 2017

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Winner of Crossword No. 456 April

Martin Doyle
26 Rail Park
Maynooth

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

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Newspapers & Magazines to order - Just Ask
Michael & Louise

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

From 23/3/17 to 23/4/17 - information from Kildare County Council Website

App. Num	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	Application Date
17398	Kildare County Council	Mary Murray	Lotus Lodge, Ladychapel, Maynooth	12/04/2017
17394	Kildare County Council	Kieran O'Malley	No 1, "The Green", Pound Lane, Maynooth	11/04/2017
17385	Kildare County Council	Lidl Ireland GmbH	Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co.Kildare	10/04/2017
17383	Kildare County Council	The Minnister for Education & Skills	Maynooth Educate Together, RailPark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth	10/04/2017
17379	Kildare County Council	Todd Architects on behalf St. Marys Boys National School	Moyglare Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	07/04/2017
17380	Kildare County Council	Minbay Limited	Silken Gardens, Dublin Road, Maynooth	07/04/2017
17358	Kildare County Council	Briargate Developments Maynooth,	Carton Wood, Dublin Road, Maynooth	04/04/2017
17361	Kildare County Council	Kilcawley Building & Civil Engineering Ltd.,	Unit J2, Maynooth Business, Straffan Road, Maynooth	04/04/2017
17352	Kildare County Council	Adrian and Alexandru T/A Moldovan Estates,	Bistro 53 Restaurant, Main Street and Pound , Maynooth	03/04/2017
17323	Kildare County Council	Derrinstown Stud Ltd	Ballygoran Park Stud, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	27/03/2017
17312	Kildare County Council	Wilhelm and Annetrud Franke,	The Maws Farm, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	23/03/2017

Difficult

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

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

May 2017

Entries must arrive before:
 23rd May



**Congratulations to
 April Winner:**

**Michelle Tully
 Newtown Hall
 Maynooth**

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

Super Difficult

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Maynooth

Online Entry & Timing
by Pop Up Races



10^k



+5k



FAMILY RUN

SUNDAY

14th MAY @ 10.30am

- Entry €20 or €40 for a family.
- Entries on-line or during Registration at the school on Saturday 2-4pm and Sunday 8-10am.
- Top Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Men & Ladies in each race.
- Prize-giving and Post-race Refreshments at the school.

www.maynooth10k.ie



Name: _____
Age: _____
Address: _____
Phone No: _____

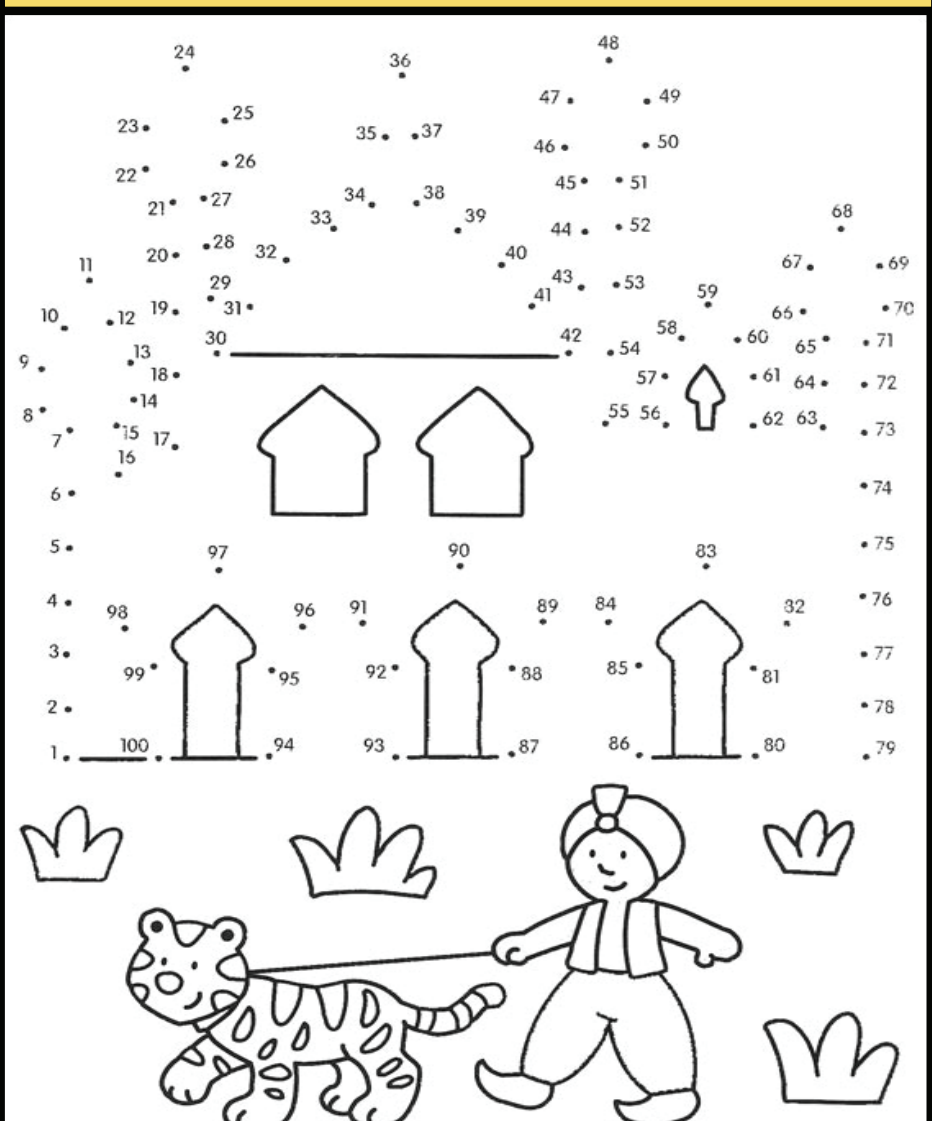
Last Month's Winner:

Saoirse Garvey
52C Maynooth Park
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 23rd May 2017

Junior Puzzle Corner

Join the dots then Colour



C				L		S		D
B		G		A				
J					G			
				B				
I						S		I
E				K				

- A Fruit of the Oak tree (5)

B Something to read (4)

B Insect (3)

C Taxi (3)

C Desert Animal (5)

D Sand Hills (5)

E The Night before (3)

G Type of Antelope (7)

G Precious stones (4)
- I Ice hut (5)

I Writing Fluid (3)

J Type of Music (4)

J Fruit Drink (5)

K Tap on a door (5)

L Jump (4)

S Unhappy (3)

S Brief periods of rain (7)

S Snow runner (3)

Solutions
Igloo, Ink, Jazz, Juice, Knock, Leap, Sad, Showers, Ski
Acorn, book, Bug, Cab, Camel, Dunes, Eve, Gazelle, Gems



May Gardening

Summer is on its way!

As bulbs fade and herbaceous borders grow in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is fast approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can now begin.



Prune spring shrubs as they go out of flower, such as forsythia, flowering currant, kerria and spring spirea, but only if necessary, if the plants are getting too big for the position in which they are growing, or if they are becoming misshapen. The pruning should remove the older shoots of shrubs and allow new wood to take their place. Water young trees and hedging if there is a dry spell. Continue to spray roses against blackspot disease, especially after wet weather. Water recently planted

trees and shrubs in dry spells to encourage rooting out in to the surrounding soil.

Dahlias and corms of gladiolus can be planted out where they are to flower. Containers and baskets of summer bedding flowers, such as petunias and verbenas, can be planted up now. With increasing temperatures, slugs and snails can very quickly cause severe damage to susceptible plants like hostas and ligularias. Dahlias can be attacked by slugs as they come through the soil and sometimes this is difficult to spot. Bedding plants should be grown on strongly to get good size, spacing the plants well to give them room to grow before planting out. There is still time to sow hardy annual flowers for a spot of colour later on. Bedding tulips and other bulbs can be lifted and moved to a place where they will be allowed to flower again in future years.



As the weather warms during this period and daylight is more intense, lawns respond with strong growth and regular mowing is necessary. If a lawn is growing well, it will not need feeding for a while but as soon as its growth slows or the colour begins to fade, it should get some lawn fertilizer or high-nitrogen fertilizer. Take care of the edging now around the margins of flower beds or borders, or where a lawn meets a driveway or wall, before the grass gets long.

Apple and pear trees often get apple or pear scab disease and check for greenflies in large numbers. Sowing of vegetables can continue if the ground is dry enough, especially french beans, summer turnips, carrots, peas and salad crops. Repeat sowings of those sown early, such as lettuce, radish and peas, can be made. Thin out vegetable seedlings that have reached suitable size. Sow cabbage and cauliflower for autumn and winter. Sweet corn and runner beans can be sown directly outdoors but, with outdoor sowing of these tender crops, a lot depends on the summer weather for success.



In May your indoor plants are in need of some extra care! The temperatures shoot up a notch this month so you can give them a little more water. Add some soluble plant food to the watering can once a week when watering. Your plants will benefit from a bit of housekeeping. As you water, you can also gently

wipe the dust off the leaves, remove dead leaves and spent blooms and pinch back leggy-looking stems to help them branch out.

The love of gardening

is a seed once sown that never dies



Drama Free Healthy Recipes for all the Family

Quick chicken stir-fry

This is an excellent stir-fry that could be on the table in less than half an hour making it a perfect mid-week meal for all the family. An even speedier version is to use a bag of frozen mixed stir-fry veg!

Ingredients:

Finely grated rind and juice of 2 oranges or 100ml (3½ floz) pure unsweetened orange juice
1 tsp light brown sugar
2 tblsp light soy sauce
2 tsp garlic paste or 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 tblsp vegetable oil
2 x 100g (4oz) skinless chicken fillets, diced
1 red chilli, finely sliced into rings, optional
2 spring onions, finely sliced
1 small head of broccoli, cut into florets
2 handfuls of bean sprouts (optional)



Method:

Mix together the orange rind, if using, and juice in a small bowl with the brown sugar, soy sauce and garlic. Heat a wok or large frying pan until very hot, then add the oil and swirl up the sides. Tip in the chicken and chilli, if using, and stir-fry for 2 to 3 minutes or until the chicken is just tender and lightly golden. Add the spring onions to the chicken mixture and stir-fry for another minute or so. Pour in the orange mixture and continue to stir-fry for another 2 to 3 minutes. Add the broccoli to the chicken and orange mixture, with the bean sprouts, if using, and cook for another minute, tossing occasionally until everything is combined. Serve the chicken stir-fry in bowls with brown rice.

Mexican fish tacos with cherry tomato salsa

Ingredients:

For the fish:

3 tsp paprika
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp ground coriander
1½ tsp garlic powder
500g (1lb 2oz) firm white fish fillets (such as hake, haddock, whiting)
1 tblsp olive oil



For the cherry tomato salsa:

225g (8oz) cherry tomatoes, halved or quartered depending on their size
1 small red onion, finely chopped
1 tsp garlic paste or 1 garlic clove, crushed
2 tsp lime (or lemon) juice or ½ lime or lemon
1 tblsp olive oil

To Serve:

4 soft wholemeal flour tortillas
Bag of crispy lettuce or little gem lettuce, trimmed and shredded
2 firm ripe avocados, halved, stoned and thinly sliced
4 heaped tblsp low fat sour cream or low fat Greek-style yoghurt
A little Tobasco sauce (optional)
Freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Heat a frying pan over a medium to high heat. Meanwhile, mix together the paprika, cumin, coriander and garlic powder in a shallow dish and use to dust the flesh side of the fish. Brush the pan with oil and cook the coated fish for 8-10 minutes until cooked through, turning once.

Place the cherry tomatoes in a bowl and add the onion, garlic, lime juice and olive oil. Season with pepper.

Transfer the cooked fish to a warmed plate. Microwave the tortillas for about 30 seconds until heated through. Scatter the lettuce down the middle of each tortilla and add some avocado. Flake the fish on top, discarding the skin and any stray bones and spoon over the cherry tomato salsa. Add a dollop of sour cream or Greek yoghurt and wrap up the tortilla.

Watermelon and raspberry ice lollies

This is a great way to increase the amount of fruit that you are eating.

Ingredients:

½ watermelon
450g (1lb) raspberries

Method:

Cut the flesh from the watermelon and remove the seeds. Place in a food processor or blender with the raspberries and blend until smooth. Pour into the lolly moulds and freeze for at least 4 hours, or overnight is best.



FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

Summer Movie Preview



ALIEN COVENANT

Director: Ridley Scott

Ridley Scott returns to the universe he created, with **Alien: Covenant**, a new chapter in his ground-breaking sci-fi **Alien** franchise. Following the events of **Prometheus**, the crew of the **Covenant**, on a mission to a remote planet on the far side of the galaxy, discovers what they think is an uncharted paradise, but is actually a dark, dangerous world. When they uncover a threat beyond their imagination, they must attempt a harrowing escape.



The cast includes Michael Fassbender, who reprises his Android role from 2012's **Prometheus**. Danny McBride, James Franco, and Katherine Waterston in a breakout role also star. If the trailer is anything to go by we can expect some horrifying encounters with acid-dripping monsters in this sci-fi sequel to **Prometheus**.

King Arthur: Legend of the Sword

Director: Guy Ritchie

The legend of King Arthur has always been a popular subject for film-makers, Countless Hollywood and British adaptations have popped up on screen over the decades. There has even been a Lerner and Loewe musical, **Camelot** with a singing Richard Harris. Director Guy Ritchie (**The Man from U.N.C.L.E.**) brings his dynamic stamp to the epic fantasy action adventure **King Arthur: Legend of the Sword**.



Starring Charlie Hunnam (**Guns of Anarchy**) in the title role, the film is the latest take on the classic Excalibur myth, tracing Arthur's journey from the streets to the throne. There is no real advance excitement around this movie and it has had several proposed release dates. It remains to be seen if Hunnam is a big enough box-office draw. Still the supporting cast is strong with Jude Law, Aiden Gillen and Eric Bana in the mix. It's the first instalment of a planned 6-film series.

Pirates of The Caribbean : Salazar's Revenge

Director: Joachim Ronning

Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge is the fifth instalment in the swashbuckling film series. The producers have stated that the original film, **The Curse of the Black Pearl** is the inspiration in script and tone for this latest outing in the **Pirates** franchise. They have promised that the supernatural and love elements that made the original film so popular will return. Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley also reprise their earlier roles for good measure.



Some will argue this franchise is past its sell-by-date. Johnny Depp is not the icon of cool that he was back in 2003 when the world was first introduced to the quirky, flamboyant Captain Jack Sparrow. Disney is hoping to recapture some of his early magic via a younger CGI incarnation of Depp. However, Oscar winner Javier Bardem is likely to steal his thunder as the supernatural, supervillain Salazar of the title.

The Mummy

Director: Alex Kurtzman

The Mummy is a reboot of **The Mummy** franchise by Universal Studios. The Studio has resurrected its classic, bandage-wrapped monster for another horror thrills-and-scares fest. The mummy is Ahmanet (played by Sofia Boutella of **Star Trek Beyond**) a long-dead princess who is disturbed from her resting place and - because what **Mummy** film would be complete without it - casts a curse over the modern world. Expect plenty of walking corpses, curses and plagues.



The Mummy is intended to be the first instalment in the Universal Monsters Cinematic Universe where classic monsters connect on screen for the first time. Tom Cruise on a break from his **Mission Impossible** gigs stars as a mysterious character while Russell Crowe makes an appearance as a certain Jekyll/Hyde. The film promises to be fun as Cruise has the roguish charm of the original **Mummy** star, Brendan Fraser. Importantly, The veteran actor is still a genuine draw in the entertainment stakes.

Wonder Woman

Director: Patty Jenkins

Wonder Woman is the most famous heroine of all time. The fictional superheroine first appeared in Comic form in 1941 and has been published by **DC Comics** ever since. She adorns magazine covers, T-shirts, has her own brand of dolls and action figures, and is a feminist icon with beauty, brains and brawn in abundance. Not surprisingly, she has proved popular in several TV and screen incarnations.



This summer, we'll see how the Amazonian princess became humanity's hope when she embarks on her first long-awaited solo big-screen adventure.

Gal Gadot stars as Diana Prince who leaves her island home in an attempt to stop the First World War and becomes **Wonder Woman**. Gadot underwent a strict diet and training regime, practiced different martial arts and gained 17 pounds of muscle for the role. **Wonder Woman** is poised to be one of the potential big hits of Summer 2017.

Best of the Rest

Other films worth taking a trip to your local Cineplex should include the following: a Daphne Du Maurier adaptation - **My Cousin Rachel** (Rachel Weisz); Tom Holland as Spidey in **Spider-Man: Homecoming**; **War for the Planet of the Apes** sequel (Andy Serkis, Woody Harrelson); Christopher Nolan's exciting all-star WW2 epic **Dunkirk** (Tom Hardy, Mark Rylance Cillian Murphy). Comedies: **Snatched** (Goldie Hawn) and **The House** (Will Ferrell).

Easter Film Quiz Answers

- 1 **The Greatest Story Ever Told**
- 2 **Mel Gibson**
- 3 **Charlton Heston**
- 4 **Fred Astaire**
- 5 **Judy Garland**
- 6 **Robert Powell**
- 7 **Clark Gable**
- 8 **Jeffrey Hunter (King of Kings)**
Max von Sydow (Greatest Story Ever Told)
Robert Powell (Jesus of Nazareth)
Willem Dafoe (The Last Temptation of Christ)
- 9 **Kathleen Turner**
- 10 **Glenn Close**



Frank O'Rourke TD

KILDARE NORTH

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Kildare Street, Dublin 2.



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Main Street, Celbridge, Co Kildare.



01 630 3736



087 255 5257



frank.orourke@oireachtas.ie



www.frankorourke.ie



/Frank O'Rourke



Dáil
Éireann



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

Breast Cancer Table Quiz

Friends of Maynooth Educate Together are hosting a charity table quiz in

O'Neill's Pub on Thursday May 11th @ 8pm
in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland

All are welcome!!

Entry per table of 4 people is €20 with 100% of funds raised going to Breast Cancer Ireland.

Breast Cancer Ireland is a charity helping to improve the treatment of breast cancer which affects 1 in 9 Irish women. Breast Cancer Ireland supports the development of world class research and improvements in patients care. Prizes to be won on the night both as quiz and raffle prizes.

Find event on Facebook. Search "Breast Cancer Table Quiz".