

# Maynooth Newsletter



Serving the people of Maynooth

**Local News April 2018 Issue No. 467 FREE**

This publication is produced by Maynooth Community Council CLG Community Employment Scheme, supported by the Department of Social Protection, which is funded by the Irish Government. The views & opinions expressed in this Publication are those of the contributors.



## MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 17th MARCH 2018 FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PHÁDRAIG MHAIGH NUAD 17Ú MÁRTA 2018



As Maynooth recovered from the Beast from the East, nobody was expecting that St. Patrick's Day would be subject to even further snow showers. As unpredictable as the Irish weather is, we were forecasted snow! Early Saturday morning didn't look too well for the upcoming parade at 11am but however cold it was, thankfully the snow and rain held off. The St. Patrick's Day Parade is the largest community event in our town and massive crowds turned out once again to witness all of our local organisations and businesses take part.



The theme of this year's parade was "Medieval Maynooth", reflecting and celebrating Maynooth's role in Medieval Ireland and how it has shaped the town we know today. So many of the participants took the theme to heart and brought so much energy on the day. We were worried that the weather would mean a lot of people would not attend the parade but the town was packed and buzzing from Greenfield Shopping Centre to Tesco.

The parade was started by local entertainer Barry Smith aka Tony Savino and with a speech by Maynooth University Lecturer Dr. Eamon Darcy on Maynooth's role in Medieval Ireland. Paul Croghan expertly carried out his role as MC once again. After the IVVC Vintage Cars flew through the town, the ONE Colour Party, comprised of former Defence Forces Veterans introduced the parade into the Square, followed closely by the St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band. There were 30 floats this year, each bringing something different and fun to entertain the crowds and as ever our local Fire Service closed off proceedings.

Large scale events like the parade require funding and we were fortunate to receive funding from Kildare County Council and sponsorship from local businesses; Thornton's Recycling, Brady's Bar and Lounge, Donatello's Restaurant, Picaderos Restaurant, Dr. John Merrick, Mulcahy Butchers, McMahons Bar and Lounge.

The parade is organised by a committee of Maynooth Community Council CLG with help from the staff on the Community Employment Scheme as part of their training. Their help and assistance was invaluable to the organising committee and a big thank you to everyone on the scheme and mostly to John Doogan, office supervisor, for his continuous support and guidance.

The day itself is extremely busy and there are numerous cogs to ensuring that the parade runs smoothly. It is the volunteers and stewards that help on the day that make life so much easier. Pat (P) Farrell prepares the town the morning of the

parade with barriers and safety precautions and his help is always appreciated. So too is that of this year's Stewards; Richard and Mary Farrell, Shay Corbally, Don Foley, Magz McDonnell, Rory O'Connor, Brian O'Neill, Daniel Keenan, Brian Crehan, Colm and Ger Uí Chearúil and Déirdre Ní Chearúil. Many thanks also to Willie Kiernan our sound man whom I'm sure any of you there on the day would have heard over the PA system, to Séamas Kennedy and Matty Callaghan for the steps, Dr. Eamon Darcy, Barry Smith, Paul Croghan, Tom McMullon, Maynooth Cycles, Inkjet World, The Gardaí, Kildare County Council and anybody who contributed to the day.



**Picaderos Restaurant serving up Street Paella on St Patrick's Day**

My thanks also to Manor Mills Shopping Centre for hosting the excellent Family Fun Day after the parade and allowing us to conduct the awards ceremony there. Finally I'd like to commend each and every person that took part in the parade from infants to older members of our community. Without you, there would be no parade and we hope that you had as much fun taking part as everybody else did seeing you all.

Until next year, Beirigí Bua!  
**Naoise Ó Cearúil - Parade Organiser**

**Community Person of the Year 2018**  
Josephine Moore (Pictured below with Naoise O' Cearúil)

**Parade Winners 2018**  
**Best Portrayal of Theme:** The Glenroyal Hotel  
**Best Commercial Float:** Dino Experience / Reptile Haven  
**Best School Float:** Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich  
**Environmental Awareness Award:** Maynooth Tidy Towns & Zero Waste Maynooth  
**Best Band:** St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band  
**Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin Perpetual Trophy:** The Glenroyal Hotel

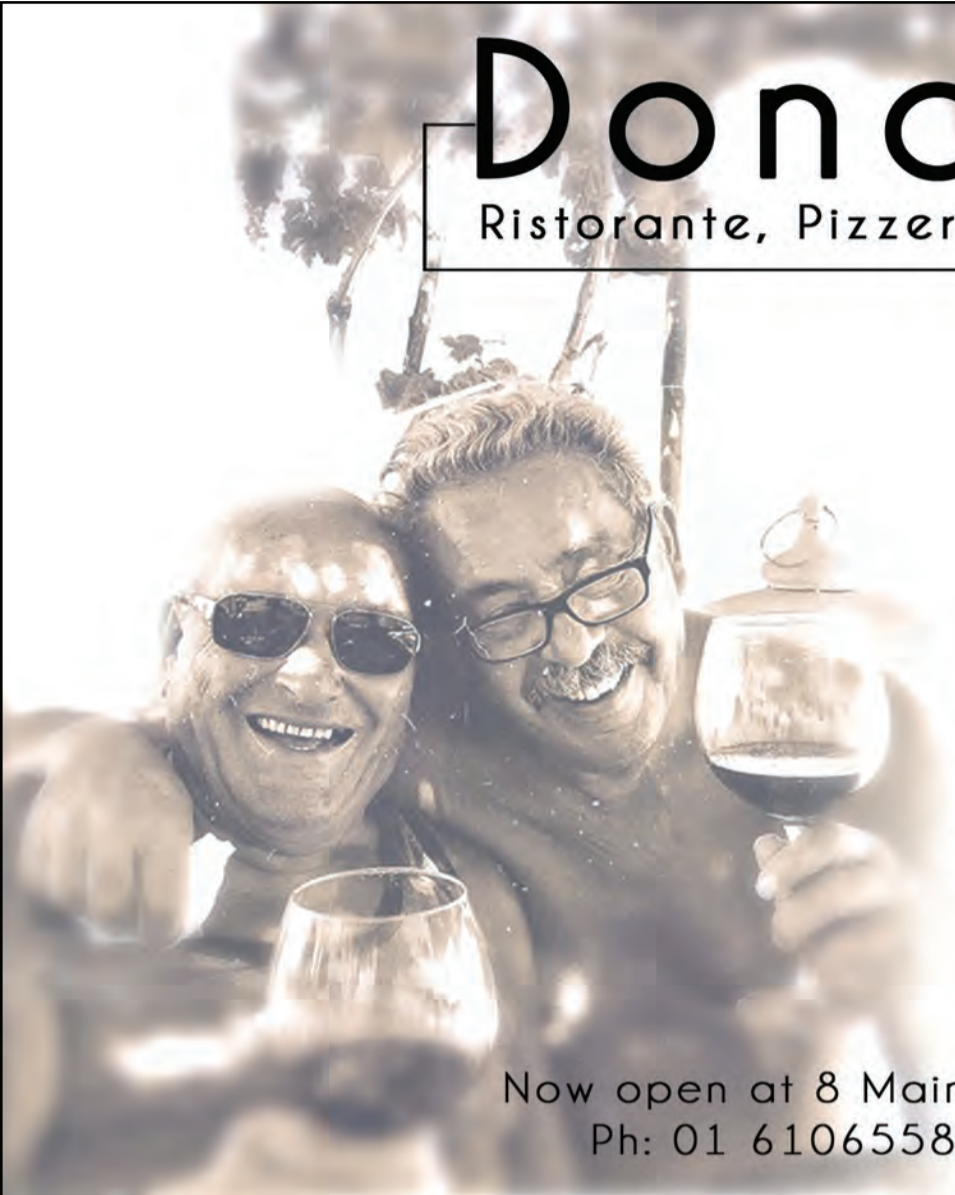


**Best Shop Front Winners 2018**  
1st Place: Maynooth Bookshop  
2nd Place: The Glassdoll  
3rd Place: NCBI Charity Shop

*(Parade Photo Gallery pages 16,17, 18 & 19)*

# Donatellos

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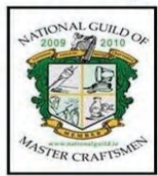
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**Congratulations to Ted Robinson & Staff of the Glenroyal Hotel winners of the Best Portrayal of Theme & Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin Perpetual Trophy in the St Patrick's Day Parade**





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# Maynooth Labour News

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

## Town Renewal Plan Preparation Process

Cathal O'Meara, Landscape Architects have been awarded the contract by the Council to prepare a Maynooth Town Renewal Plan. There will be three Public Meetings over the 18 week time frame, up to August.

It will give members of the public an opportunity to make their views known on walks, trails, parks and open space. It will also be an ideal opportunity to make your views known on what amenities you want in The Harbour Field and on what improvements you would like for The Square.

## Update on Progress on the North South Corridor from Straffan Road to Moyglare Hall in Maynooth

Residents will be aware that this major project for improvements for cyclists, pedestrians and vulnerable road users was approved over two years ago following a Public Consultation Process. The project was divided into six phases and funding was secured from the National Transport Authority (NTA) for five of the phases. The most recent being the approval of €400,000 from the NTA for Phase 5 for Mill Street, including the much needed pedestrian bridge to the west of the existing William Bridge (i.e. the Castle Side). The removal of the existing footpath from William Bridge will allow for the enhancement of the cycle lane at this location. The Mill Street/Moyglare Road/Kilcock Road junction is to be upgraded, giving a right turning lane for Moyglare Road traffic up the Kilcock Road.

The Council have allocated €1.2m for Phase 6 for the footpaths/Cycle Path from the Church up to the new schools at Moyglare Hall. The footpaths/Cycle path will be in place before the new schools open.

## Cllr. McGinley Calls for Action to be Taken on Parking on the Green Verges at Greenfield Drive:

Cllr. John McGinley's following motion was considered at the Maynooth MD Meeting on 2 March:

"That the Council examine what can be done to stop cars from parking on the green verge between the footpath and roadway at the start of Greenfield Drive, Maynooth"

John was given the following unsatisfactory response by the MD Engineer:

"The Maynooth Municipal District Engineer confirms that there are no plans to erect bollards at this section. This would be a suitable project for Local Property Tax (LPT) funding."

John has asked the MD Engineer to have another look at it to see what other steps would work rather than bollards.

## Cllr. McGinley Calls for new Public Lighting to be Installed in Maynooth Estates

Cllr. John McGinley's following motion was considered at the Maynooth MD Meeting on 2 March:

"When will the Council replace the existing inefficient sodium public lights in Rockfield Estate, Greenfield Estate and other estates in Maynooth with modern white light units?"

John was given the following reply by the Director of Services:

"Kildare County Council is awaiting the finalisation of a business case (including funding clarification) for a proposed National Public Lighting Upgrade Project, which will retrofit existing public lights to high efficiency LED lights. This project will ultimately significantly reduce

public lighting costs and reduce local authority carbon emissions."

Cllr. McGinley responded stating that he welcomed the report and as the policy of replacing all the counties existing public lights was adopted two years ago, following a Motion from Cllr. McGinley, he would welcome if a start was now made in replacing the lights.

The Director of Services stated that a National Plan was being developed for all counties and when this was finalised a proposal would go to Full Council for approval. It will cost over €9m to replace all of the public lights in County Kildare.

John asked that the lights in Rockfield and Greenfield Estates be prioritised as they have the poorest lights.

## Cllr. McGinley Calls for Noise Reduction Barriers to be Erected at the M4 Motorway

Cllr. John McGinley's following motion was considered at the Maynooth MD Meeting on 2 March:

"When will the council start installing noise reduction barriers (where they are necessary and effective) along the M4 Motorway between Leixlip and Kilcock?"

John was given the following reply by the Director of Services:

"Discussions are underway with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in relation to this issue with regard to design type, estimated costs etc"

Cllr. McGinley welcomed the report and that he was pleased to see that funding for barriers had been included in the three year Capital Programme. John asked that the pressure for the laying of low noise tarmacadum on the M4 be continued by the Director of Services

## Cllr. McGinley Calls for the Final Section of Laragh cul de sac to be Re-surfaced

Cllr. John McGinley's following motion was considered at the Maynooth MD Meeting on 2 March:

"That the forty metre potholed stretch of the Laragh cul-de-sac road be tarmacadamed."

John was given the following reply by the Director of Services:

"The Maynooth Municipal District Engineer confirms that there are no plans to resurface this section of road but it would be a suitable project for Local Property Tax (LPT) or Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) funding."

Cllr. McGinley pointed out that most of the cul de sac was tarmacadamed about two years ago using Central Council funds and that the remainder of the road should be surfaced using similar funding

## Update on the Traffic Signals for the Straffan Road/Meadowbrook Link Road Junction

The Council's Director of Services advised Cllr. John McGinley at the Maynooth MD Meeting on 2 March that the lights will be put in place, but, that the end March deadline will not be met. The target is now the end of June.

## Re-Surfacing of Back Lanes Will Now Take Place in May/June 2018

As previously advised by Cllr. John McGinley, the Council agreed to resurface the back lanes at Leinster Cottages, Maynooth following completion of the pipe laying. Unfortunately, the pipe laying took longer than expected and the re-surfacing of the Lanes could not take place last

year as planned. The Council have now re-scheduled the re-surfacing work for May/June 2018

## Further Allocation of 5 Gardaí to Kildare Division - Stagg

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg has been advised by Human Resources at Garda Headquarters that an additional 5 Probationary Gardaí were assigned to the Kildare Division following their graduation last Friday March 16th.

The probationer Gardaí will take up their posts on Tuesday 3rd April and three have been assigned to Leixlip Garda Station and two have been assigned to Naas Garda Station

Welcoming the additional gardai, Mr. Stagg stated that the allocation of 5 Probationary Gardaí will bring Garda Numbers to 363 in the Kildare Division or a ratio of 1 garda for every 612 people in Kildare. The total number of Garda Recruits allocated to the Kildare Division since April 2015 is 87.

Mr. Stagg stated that we must keep the pressure on the Commissioner and the Policing Authority to continue to reduce the unacceptable historical imbalance that existed in the Kildare Division and a concerted campaign to attract in Gardaí from other divisions must be maintained.

## New Bus Route Maynooth to Naas and Blanchardstown Commenced on Monday March 12th

Emmet Stagg has welcomed the decision by the National Transport Authority to introduce a new Bus Route, Route 139, covering Naas, Sallins, Clane, Rathcoffey, Maynooth, Leixlip, Clonee and Blanchardstown which began operating on Monday March 12th.

Mr. Stagg stated that there will be 9 services each way, 7 days a week, with departures from Naas Hospital at 7.15 am, 9 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm, and 10-35 pm. Departure times from Blanchardstown are at the same time.

Mr. Stagg stated that this new Public Bus Service will be of major benefit to public transport users and will fill a gap in public transport which has existed for some time. It will be hugely beneficial for Maynooth Commuters who will now have a direct public transport link to Blanchardstown, and will give the people of Maynooth a direct link to Naas.

## Stagg Welcomes Funding for Electrification of Maynooth Rail Line

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg has welcomed the inclusion of the Electrification of the Maynooth Rail Line in the National Development Plan 2018-2027, under the DART Expansion Programme. Mr. Stagg stated that under Budget 2018, when the 2015 Capital Plan was reviewed, progression of planning was all that was provided for the Electrification of the Maynooth Rail Line.

Now stated Mr. Stagg, the actual electrification of the Maynooth Rail Line has been included and this is to be welcomed by everybody.

In relation to the Electrification of the Maynooth Line, Mr. Stagg stated that we have a clear picture of the timeline for delivery. Design and Planning is being reactivated this year, with planning consent likely to be sought for the €300 Million project in 2020 and construction will hopefully start in 2021.

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

*Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth*

*Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service which provides a free and confidential service to the public.*

*Information is also available online at [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121*

## Part-time work and social welfare payments

### Question

I'm working part-time on a low wage. Do I qualify for any social welfare payments?

### Answer

It depends on your personal circumstances. Many people work part-time before taking up full-time employment. If you are working part-time you can, in some cases, keep or apply for a partial social welfare payment, or you may qualify for additional supports.

If you work over 38 hours in a fortnight and you have children you may be able to claim Working Family Payment (WFP), formerly known as Family Income Supplement or FIS. WFP is a weekly tax-free payment for people on low pay.

You may be able to claim a jobseeker's payment for the days you are not working. You can work part-time for up to three days a week and claim a reduced Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance payment. You may qualify for the Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme if you were getting Jobseeker's Allowance and find part-time work for less than 24 hours per week.

However, one of the main conditions for getting a jobseeker's payment is that you must be available for work and actively seeking work. This means that you must continue to look for work on the days you are unemployed. You must also be unemployed for at least four days out of seven consecutive days.

If you return to work after a period of unemployment, you may qualify for the Back to Work Family Dividend (BTWFD) which aims to help families move from social welfare into employment. The BTWFD and WFP can be paid together and the BTWFD is not taken into account in the means test for WFP.

If you are parenting alone and getting a One-Parent Family Payment, you are allowed to earn a certain amount each week and keep your payment. In some cases, people getting disability payments can do some work and keep a social welfare payment.

## Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

### Question

My partner and I have been unable to get a mortgage to buy our own home. Will we be eligible for the new Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan?

### Answer

The new Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan provides mortgages to first-time buyers at reduced interest rates (2%–2.3%) to buy new or second-hand properties or to build a home. You can choose to fix the rates for the full term of the mortgage, so you have the same repayments for the whole time you are repaying the loan.

To qualify for a loan under the scheme:

- You must be a first-time buyer aged between 18 and 70 years of age
- Your income cannot be more than €50,000 (€75,000 for joint applicants)
- You must have a deposit of at least 10% of the purchase price of the property
- You must have evidence of two insufficient offers or refusals for a mortgage loan by two banks or building societies
- You must have a satisfactory credit rating
- The main applicant must have been in continuous employment (or self-employed) for at least two years

The property must not be over 175 square metres. If you are buying in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Kildare, Louth, Meath or Wicklow, the maximum market value of the property cannot be more than €20,000; in all other parts of the country, the value cannot exceed €250,000. You also need to show that you can afford the monthly repayments, which must be less than one-third of your monthly household income.

You can use the Home Loan Calculator on [rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie](http://rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie) to work out how much you can borrow.

The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is available nationwide from local authorities. You must make an appointment with your local authority to submit your application

form and supporting documents in person. You can also call the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan help desk at (051) 349 720 for more information.

## Parental leave

### Question

What is parental leave? Can both parents take it?

### Answer

Each parent of an eligible child may take up to 18 weeks of unpaid parental leave from work. Leave can be taken no later than the child's eighth birthday. However, if your child has a disability or a long-term illness, you can take parental leave up to their 16th birthday. If you adopt a child between the ages of six and eight, you can take leave for that child up to two years after the date of the adoption order. (Your contract of employment may also provide for an extended age limit.)

You can take 18 weeks of leave per child in one continuous period or in two separate blocks of a minimum of six weeks. If taken in two separate blocks, there must be a gap of at least 10 weeks between the two periods of leave per child. However, if your employer agrees, you can separate parental leave into periods of days or even hours.

Taking parental leave does not affect your other employment rights. Apart from the loss of pay and pension contributions, your position remains as if no parental leave had been taken. This means, for example, that while on parental leave you will continue to accumulate your annual leave entitlement. While you are on parental leave, a public holiday that falls on a day when you would normally be working is added to your period of leave.

When you return to work after taking parental leave, you can ask for a change in your work pattern or working hours for a set period. Your employer must consider your request, but is not obliged to grant it.

Both parents have an equal entitlement to 18 weeks' parental leave each. Unless you and your partner work for the same employer, this leave is non-transferable; you can only claim your own parental leave entitlement of up to 18 weeks per child. However, if you both work for the same employer and your employer agrees, you may transfer up to 14 weeks of your parental leave entitlement to each other.

## Free cancer screening programmes

### Question

My friend has been offered free screening for cancer. She says it's a national free screening programme. How can I take part?

### Answer

The National Cancer Screening Service provides free screening programmes to help detect or prevent several types of cancer.

**BowelScreen** – The National Bowel Screening Programme aims to detect bowel cancer at an early stage in people who have no symptoms. It offers free screening every two years to men and women aged 60 to 69. If you are in this age group, you can ring BowelScreen on Freephone 1800 45 45 55 to check your details are on the register. If you are on the register, you will receive an invitation to take part in the BowelScreen programme.

**CervicalCheck** – The National Cervical Screening Programme tests women aged 25 to 60 for changes in the cells of the cervix. Early detection and treatment can prevent cervical cancer. If you are aged between 25 and 60 and have never had a CervicalCheck smear test, you can simply make an appointment with a GP practice or clinic registered with CervicalCheck. You can find one in your area by visiting [cervicalcheck.ie](http://cervicalcheck.ie) or by calling Freephone 1800 45 45 55. A letter of invitation is not needed to make an appointment and attend for a first test.

**BreastCheck** – The National Breast Screening Programme invites women to a free mammogram (x-ray of the breast) every two years. The screening has been available to women aged 50 to 64 but is being gradually extended over the next few years to include all women aged 50 to 69. If you have not received an invitation you can check if you are registered by visiting [breastcheck.ie](http://breastcheck.ie) or by calling Freephone 1800 45 45 55.

Screening can help prevent or detect cancer at an early stage in people who have no symptoms. If you have any specific concerns or symptoms you should visit your GP (family doctor).

## James Lawless T.D. Kildare North

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

### 139 Route Launches Connection from Maynooth to Blanchardstown

I am delighted to see the new 139 route from Naas to Blanchardstown commence its journeys in March. The route will connect those living in Maynooth with Blanchardstown IT, and all the way across to Naas hospital, Clane, and Rathcoffey. I had met the National Transport Authority on a number of occasions to push for this new route. If you would like a copy of the timetable please don't hesitate to get in touch.

### Additional measures needed to tackle teacher shortage

The Government need to increase their efforts in securing new teachers at primary and second level.

There are a number of significant hurdles which still have to be overcome. In particular, the high cost of postgraduate fees for teaching courses needs to be urgently addressed. There's little use in expanding the number of places available at postgraduate level if people simply cannot afford to pay for their degree.

I again reiterate the call for Minister Bruton to take a far more comprehensive approach to dealing with this issue. In January, Dáil Éireann endorsed a Fianna Fáil motion on the teacher shortage, which the Minister opposed. That motion listed a series of other actions that the Minister could take to tackle this issue. The piecemeal approach undertaken by Minister Bruton so far must be replaced with a more ambitious and wide-ranging strategy

### Delays in Passport Office, Check your passport

The passport office is experiencing delays of up to 5 weeks in some cases. It is recommended if you have upcoming travel to check your passport urgently. The quickest way to get a new passport is to book an appointment to attend the passport office in person if you have proof of travel. Don't hesitate to contact my office for advice or assistance in obtaining your passport.

### Extra Capacity Needed on Maynooth Trains

I have called on the Minister for Transport to deal with overcrowding on trains serving Maynooth train station. Almost daily I have met constituents who have to stand from the first stop in Grand Canal Dock until the Leixlip stops before getting a seat. It is imperative the Minister provides the funding for additional spaces on the trains serving Maynooth.

### Record trolley figures are absolutely deplorable

This past month seen the highest figures for those waiting on trollies in our Hospitals. At one stage 714 people were waiting on trollies which is far from good enough. Not only are the figures themselves completely unacceptable, but the length of time that patients are being kept on trolleys is extremely worrying. I have heard reports of a 64 year old man having spent 109 hours on a trolley in Tallaght hospital - that's over four and a half days. This is surely some breach of human rights? The Minister for Health and the

HSE have completely failed people this winter. It is now the middle of March and the situation is actually getting worse.

It is critical that the capacity review, published earlier this year, is acted on as a matter of urgency. To have 714 people awaiting admission shows the distance we need to go before our health system is able to cope with the demands that are being put on it. A population that is getting progressively older means that these problems are not likely to go away soon and the Minister must act without delay.

### Self Help Scheme Open for Applications

The self-help scheme ran by Kildare County Council is now open for applications. The objective of this scheme is to assist Local Authority tenants to carry out improvement works on their home. The Self Help grant can be used to replace defective windows and doors, defective kitchen units, heating systems, stoves or for other minor works. The closing date is April 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 to submit your application. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you require assistance.

### NTA to Examine Second Motorway Interchange

The NTA has provided funding for a comprehensive survey of the M4 motorway and its current capacity levels. The study will include examining the provision of a second interchange for Maynooth. It is very welcome news that this situation is being examined as it is much needed to improve the serious traffic problems in the town.

### Maynooth North South Corridor

As you will have seen works are progressing on the North South Corridor from the Glenroyal Hotel to the Garda Station. These works are due for completion soon and it is expected the next phase of works, from the Moyglare Road to the new school, will be completed by September 2018 in time for the new school year.

### 'Health Check' for Maynooth

Kildare County Council are to carry out a 'health check' of Maynooth. The Health Check is to provide a "stock-take" of the current economic, social, environmental and physical situation of the town in order to assess the vitality and viability of the town.

The assessment analyses the strengths and weaknesses of Maynooth and is based on a quantitative analysis of factors such as the range and quality of activities in the town, the mix of uses, accessibility to people living in the area and general amenity appearance and safety.

Key to the assessment is participation and input from the community and traders, as this essential input will inform the recommendations and actions for Maynooth.

Stakeholders are welcome to send in their queries or concerns to Kildare County Council in advance of this check

## Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area From 26/2/18 to 22/3/18 - information from Kildare County Council Website

App. Num	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	Application Date
18286	Kildare County Council	Lesley-Ann and Tom Barry also Florin Puiu and Florina Ciocan,	7 & 8 Meadowbrook Court, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	16/03/2018
18255	Kildare County Council	Adrian and Michelle Guckian	102 Leinster Wood South, Carton Demesne, Maynooth	12/03/2018
18235	Kildare County Council	Maynooth GAA	Maynooth GAA, Moyglare Road, Maynooth	08/03/2018
18209	Kildare County Council	Jerry and Carol Bradley,	7 Laurence Avenue, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	05/03/2018
18201	Kildare County Council	Elementec Limited,	Maynooth DSU, Unit F8, Maynooth Business Campus, Straffan Road, Moneycooly, Maynooth, Co Kildare	27/02/2018
18195	Kildare County Council	Eddie and Anna Mitchell,	16 Parklands Lawns, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	26/02/2018



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### THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart, where your Father sees it, then, it will become Your favour not mine.

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

Thanksgiving for favour received.  
Never known to fail MK

### THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart, where your Father sees it, then, it will become Your favour not mine.

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

Thanksgiving for favour received.  
Never known to fail C.M.M.



## ALZHEIMER CAFÉ LEIXLIP

Join us at the next Alzheimer Cafe,  
Wednesday April 11th in "The  
Conservatory", Ryevale Nursing  
Home, Leixlip from 7-9pm.

Our speaker this month will be John Healy. John is a physiotherapist and he will talk to us about simple exercise to increase mobility and to stay healthy. Attendance is free of charge and there is plenty of parking available (www.alzheimercafeleixlip.ie - phone 089 4933533).



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### THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine.

Amen

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

Never known to fail .  
Thanksgiving for favour received. RD

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## 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.**

### **Kildare County Council Self Help Grant Scheme 2018**

Kildare County Council is inviting applications from council tenants for the 2018 Self Help Grant Scheme.

The grant can assist tenants who need minor works carried out in their home, including replacement of defective windows, doors, and kitchen units, and repairs to heating systems and stoves.

Successful applicants will need an up-to-date rent account, along with the completed application form and necessary quotations.

Applications are available from Kildare County Council, or online <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/forms/housingforms/index.html>, and all applications must be submitted to the Council by 5pm on Tuesday 10th April.

### **Orbital Route from Naas to Blanchardstown via Clane, Rathcoffey, Maynooth and Leixlip starts on Monday, says O'Rourke**

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, has said he is delighted that the new bus service, which he has campaigned for, from Naas to Blanchardstown via Clane, Rathcoffey and Maynooth, commenced on Monday 12th March.

"It is going to service Blanchardstown IT and Naas Hospital, with nine services each way, seven days a week, with first departures at 07.15 and last departures at 22.35 and will be run for the NTA (National Transport Authority) by JJ Kavanagh & Sons."

"As I have said before, this service is an important public transport link, linking significant population centres such as Naas, Maynooth and Blanchardstown, connecting three hospital and two third level institutions."

"I am happy for the residents in all towns and villages along this route. Since getting elected, I have been campaigning for an improved public transport services for commuters in North Kildare and we are making progress. I will continue to make representations to have further improvements made." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

### **O'Rourke to meet Assistant Commissioner to press for Adequate Garda Resources for Celbridge and North Kildare**

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, is set to meet with Assistant Garda Commissioner to seek adequate Garda resources for Celbridge and the North Kildare area.

"This week, I will be meeting with Assistant Commissioner Fanning and Chief Superintendent Brian Sutton and Superintendent Gerry Wall, to press for extra Garda resources."

"As our population in Celbridge and North Kildare grows, we need to ensure that we are securing matching Garda resources. As with Public Transport, Education and Health facilities, we need to provide adequate Garda numbers for Celbridge and the North Kildare area."

"I am delighted that the Assistant Commissioner Fanning will be attending the meeting and I will highlight the requirement for extra Garda numbers, as the number of Gardai in Celbridge and the general area are 40% less than in other parts of the country."

"There is a clear discrepancy in the number of Gardaí stationed in different counties around Ireland. In Kildare there is one Garda on site for every 649 people. The average number of Gardaí per county overall throughout is 443. Kildare has one of the lowest proportion of Gardaí per capita."

"Celbridge and the North Kildare area Garda numbers needs to be addressed by the Government and I will press for additional resources for Celbridge and in general." concluded Deputy O'Rourke

### **Additional Resources needed for Kildare and Lessons to be learnt following Storm Emma says O'Rourke**

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, has said that lessons can be learned in the aftermath of Storm Emma, as Kildare takes the hit.

"Kildare so far have experienced the brunt of Storm Emma. Great efforts have been made to minimize the effect of the storm and extraordinary commitment has been shown by so many."

"We have seen that the Motorway network has been kept open to traffic, but the challenge for many residents in Celbridge, Maynooth, Straffan, Rathcoffey, Clane and Prosperous has been to get access to the motorway and key services."

"I understand that 18 Kildare County Council trucks, 30 tractor powered ploughs a

number of JCB's and other machines have been attempting to clear the regional roads and other strategic routes throughout Kildare and, as I have seen today, they are making progress."

"Link roads between our North Kildare towns have been badly affected. Having seen at first hand today the power of community effort, in Clane, Maynooth and Kilcock, I believe that we can learn from these events. There has been a great collective effort, between state and voluntary organisations and our community to deal with the challenge head on."

"It seems incredible only a kilometre from our motorway network, which has been kept open to traffic, we have blocked roads for a number of days. Kildare Co Council needs further supports and resources as it was so badly hit. We need to see how best we can address this issue for the future.

However, we cannot but acknowledge the great work of so many in minimising the impact of this extraordinary weather event." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

### **New Bus Route linking Maynooth, Celbridge and Tallaght to be considered says O'Rourke**

Local Fianna Fail TD, Frank O'Rourke, has received confirmation that the National Transport Authority (NTA) it is examining the provision of a Bus service linking Maynooth, Celbridge and Tallaght

"The NTA has confirmed to me that it has commenced an examination of the possibility of providing a direct bus connection between Maynooth, Celbridge and Tallaght."

"Since getting elected, I have pressed the NTA to start considering the provision of orbital bus routes. I campaigned for the Naas to Blanchardstown route, linking Clane, Rathcoffey, Maynooth and Leixlip and I am delighted this is now in place from Monday last."

"Many residents in Celbridge and Maynooth need to travel to Tallaght for work, attend hospital or go to college. I welcome the NTA's commitment to consider this Bus route and I believe it will attract support."

"I will continue to engage with the NTA and Public Transport providers to ensure that we make further progress on this route and on all public transport services." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

### **Government's failure on Apprenticeships needs to be addressed says O'Rourke**

Fianna Fail's Local TD, Frank O'Rourke, has claimed that the Government's failure in the apprenticeship sector will jeopardise progress in most construction projects and will end the Government's hope of building 25,000 houses a year.

"During the downturn, countless tradespeople found themselves without work as sites downed tools. We need to promote the importance of apprenticeships and acknowledge the contribution of construction skills to our economy and encourage more people into the sector."

"While registrations for bricklaying apprenticeships increased by 34 to 121 in 2017. Plumbing by 224, bringing the total to 1,272, painting and decorating apprenticeships now stands at 85, more apprenticeships are needed. These figures are 58% behind the targets set in the Government's Action Plan to Expand Apprenticeships for 2017. The total number of apprenticeships are less than 50% of what they were 10 years ago."

"The current low take-up of apprenticeships in trades like bricklaying, plastering and tiling, is creating a massive skills shortage. I acknowledge the work of groups like the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland, the Construction Industry Federation and Engineers Ireland who have been encouraging people to enter construction courses and to return home from abroad for work.

However the Government needs to support the sector and reach the targets that its set for itself in this area."

"The Government needs to wakes up to the problem. A lack of apprentices will jeopardise progress in most construction projects and will affect the prospect of building 25,000 houses a year." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.



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## Maynooth Castle Keep Art Exhibition

Celebrating 20 years !

*Odysseys*



The Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group is delighted to announce that its annual art exhibition, *Odysseys*, celebrating 20 years, will be held in the Maynooth Education Campus, Moyglare Road.

The launch of the Exhibition, for invited guests, will take place on Friday 6th April at 8pm. Local artist John Fitzgerald, artist in residence at the Curragh Race Course, will open the event.

The Exhibition continues on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th, 12-5pm. We warmly invite all members of the local community and beyond to come along and enjoy the works on display over the two days. It is a free event. Artists from Maynooth, Celbridge, Kilcock and Enfield will have c. 75 works on display representing local scenes, still life, seascapes, landscapes, flora and fauna and much more.

<http://www.castlekeepartgroup.com/>



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# Maynooth Newsletter

Copy date for the April edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be Tuesday 17th April 2018

## Maynooth Flower and Garden Club

### Annual Spring Show

Saturday 21st April 2018

The Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth



Entries & Staging:	8.30am to 12 noon
Judging:	12.15 to 3.00pm
Open to Public:	from 3.30pm
Presentation of Prizes:	5.00pm

Pre-Entries and Enquiries to:  
Mary Cleary (087 9441229)

### ALL WELCOME!

Admission to Non-Exhibitors: €5 (including refreshments)

Follow us on Facebook at "Maynooth Flower & Garden Club"  
Visit our website at [www.maynoothflowerandgardenclub.com](http://www.maynoothflowerandgardenclub.com)

## EARTH BABY FAIR MAYNOOTH

10am-4pm  
29th April 2018  
Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth

Talks & workshops on eco friendly family living  
Various eco and baby related vendors  
Entertainment for the little ones

Book your ticket through our website:  
[www.earthbabyfair.ie](http://www.earthbabyfair.ie)

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All the family welcome, make sure and bring your reusable cup!



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## Zero Waste Maynooth

### St.Patrick's Day Parade

Zero Waste Maynooth were delighted to work with Maynooth Tidy Towns on a float for the St.Patrick's Day Parade. We decided to focus on plastic pollution while working around the parade theme of Medieval Maynooth. A boat which told the tale of two oceans was constructed out of repurposed materials (old election boards from Eve Larine, materials from Recreate, our garages and bins were used!). One side of the float showed a medieval boat sailing in clean waters. The other side showed a modern fishing vessel sailing in oceans filled with single use plastics. Blue Planet 2 has highlighted this issue and we hope our float will continue to encourage people to look at their own consumption of plastic and consider how they can reduce it.

### The Second R – REDUCE!

Following on from our previous articles on the five Rs, which are the foundation of Zero Waste, this month the focus is on Reduce. Reducing isn't just about not buying something, it is a way of thinking about your consumption – past, present and future. It can lead to a less cluttered house, more money in your pocket and a calmer family life. So here are some steps to help you reduce:

1. Look at what you have previously purchased/obtained – do you need all those kitchen gadgets/dvds/toys? Are they adding to your quality of life or driving you mad by constantly having to search through stuffed drawers and presses to find the one thing that you actually need?
2. Pare down your belongings and keep what




you actually use! (If you are unsure or terrified to go the “cold turkey” route, place items you are unsure of in a box and put out of sight, if you don't use them within a certain time frame, you can rehome them)

3. Rehome belongings – one person's clutter is another person's gold! Donate to charity shops, check with friends – next month will focus on Reuse (use this month to sort through those belongings!!)
4. For present and future purchases, ask yourself some questions – Do I really need this? Can I borrow it instead of buying? What have I that I could use instead of buying new? Can I get this second hand? Think outside of the box!
5. If you are buying new, buy the best quality goods that you can afford. Cheap and cheerful can end up in landfill very quickly.

One very simple step in reducing your plastic consumption is to reduce your use of disposable takeaway coffee cups and water bottles. In Maynooth we are lucky to have eight wonderful cafes who are part of the **Conscious Cup Campaign**.

**They are offering a discount to people who choose reusable cups over disposable!**

**Emma's Place(20c) Willow and Wild (20c)  
The Brewery (20c) L'Art du Chocolat (20c)  
Coffee Lounge (50c) Coffee Mill (50c)  
Beetroot (20c) Café Bon Bon (20c)**

**Going green isn't just for St Patrick's day!!**







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

The theme for Maynooth Tidy Towns St Patrick's Day Parade float was Medieval and Modern, we linked up with Zero Waste Maynooth. (Our script for the St. Patrick's Day float is published below).

Many thanks to Annie Byrne, Edel Keane and Orla Matthews from Zero Waste Maynooth who designed the float, also thanks to John Kavanagh and his team for putting together the float. Haven Hire, Maynooth who supplied free of charge our trailer for the parade.

A big thank to Elizabeth Callaghan who supplied scones and tea/coffee to all volunteers before the parade. Thanks to all who walked with our float.

Later on St. Patrick's Day, Annie Byrne from Zero Waste Maynooth was



presented by Cllr. Naoise O' Cearuill with a trophy for the Environmental Awareness section of the parade.

An Taisce's National Spring clean will be held Saturday 28th April, meet at the Courthouse Square @ 10am. Our target this year is to retain the National Tidy Towns Gold Medal which we won in 2017.

We will be starting back during April cleaning up and planting on Wednesday nights @ 7pm meet at Courthouse Square, on Saturdays meet the Courthouse Square @ 10am and for Sunday morning clean ups meet at the Courthouse Square @ 7.45am. If you have an hour or two to spare we could do with your help.

**Richard Farrell PRO**  
**Maynooth Tidy Towns**  
 087 3153189 See us  
 on Facebook or  
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**Annie Byrne from Zero Waste Maynooth receives a trophy for the Environmental Awareness section of the parade from Naoise Ó Cearúil. Centre: Mary Molloy, Maynooth Tidy Towns.**



## BE THE SOLUTION TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

On St. Patrick's Day - **Maynooth Tidy Towns and Zero Waste Maynooth** teamed up to bring you

### "A Tale of Two Oceans"

Our float represented a fishing boat in two contrasting oceans, Medieval and Modern. Marine life in medieval times may have had to contend with natural predators but the ocean was not polluted, unlike our modern oceans, which are awash with plastic.

8 Million pieces of plastic are dumped in the sea each year. There are currently more than **FIVE TRILLION** pieces of plastic floating in our oceans weighing a staggering 250,000 tons – the same weight as 25,000 Dublin buses.

- ⇒ Ocean Conservancy says plastics are believed to threaten at least 600 different wildlife species.
- ⇒ One in three leatherback turtles, which often mistake plastic bags for edible jellyfish, have been found with plastic in their bellies.
- ⇒ There are concerns that more than a million birds and 100,000 sea mammals and turtles die every year from eating and getting tangled in plastic waste.
- ⇒ In February 2017, a dead whale beached on Norway's coast had 30 plastic bags in its stomach.

Our "on the go culture" and insatiable desire for bottled water and other beverages and our love affair with the ubiquitous single-use coffee cup and other single use plastics are having a detrimental effect on our environment, our marine life and the ecology of our oceans. Plastic litter is a blight on our landscape. We see it every day in our canal, rivers, hedgerows, and ditches.

We have to take action now to put a stop to this pollution. We have to reduce the amount of plastic that we use in our everyday lives.

**Make a start today AND BE THE SOLUTION TO PLASTIC POLLUTION.**

- ⇒ Get a reusable drinks bottle.
- ⇒ Support the Conscious Cup Campaign. Get a reusable cup for your takeaway coffee.
- ⇒ Minimise/Eliminate the purchase of products/vegetables wrapped in plastic.
- ⇒ Say no to the plastic straw and other plastic tableware.
- ⇒ Use a cloth bag when shopping.

**SIMPLE CHOICES THAT WILL HAVE A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR STRUGGLING ENVIRONMENT.**



**#SickofPlastics - Day of Action - Saturday 21st April.**



# SMALL CHANGES OR BIG RENOVATIONS?

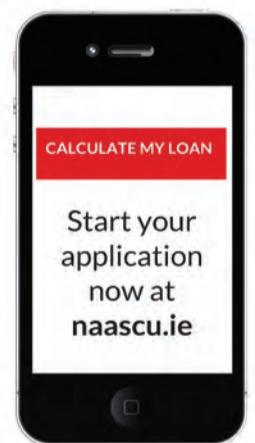
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# Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2018 Photo Gallery

Photos by John Boyd







# Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2018 Photo Gallery (cont.)





# Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2018 Photo Gallery (cont.)



**Congratulations to everyone who participated in the 2018 Maynooth Parade & those who were brave enough to endure the cold weather to support it.**



# Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2018 Photo Gallery (cont.)



## St. Patrick's Day 2018 Manor Mills Shopping Centre Family Fun Day *Sponsored by Manor Mills Shopping Centre*



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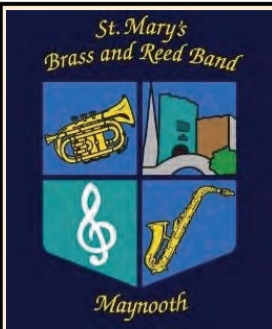
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# Maynooth Newsletter

**Copy date for the April edition of the Maynooth  
Newsletter will be Tuesday 17th April 2018**



## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

As is the usual case March was a really busy month for the Band starting off with the Dunboyne St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday 11th March. For many years Dunboyne has held their parade on the nearest Sunday before St. Patrick's Day, we assume because it is so difficult to get bands on the 17th with

so many parades happening as we know that bands make a huge difference to any parade. We were blessed with a sunny day and the tuneful marches which we played attracted many "characters" in the parade and our Staff Major Daniel had the company of a beautiful "Dame" on stilts accompanying him for much of the parade.

The parades on St. Patrick's Day was a totally different story with the Beast from the East making its appearance bringing very cold but thankfully mostly dry weather. The Band had ordered new fleece lined jackets, all paid for by the members, which arrived just in time for the parades and boy were we glad of them! Our march at the start of the Maynooth Parade was accompanied by flurries of snow which thankfully moved away as we lead the Parade off from Greenfield Shopping Centre at the usual punctual time of 11o'clock. We had intended having our very keen Junior Band members marching with us but the weather forecasted was not very inviting so unfortunately they missed out. Hopefully they will be marching in the ranks of the Senior Band next St. Patrick's Day.

After some soup and sandwiches to warm us up courtesy of Brady's in The Square we headed down to do a short stint for at the Family Day in Manor Mills Shopping Centre who so generously sponsored the Band on the day. Then it was off to Kilcock to lead their parade which started a little earlier this year due to some important rugby match happening across the water. Finally we made our way to Clane for their parade which we had not attended for a number of years but thankfully we survived but there were a lot of tired bodies at the end of a very long day.

The big event of 2018 for the Band is our trip to the Bad Orb International Music Festival near Frankfurt in Germany from the 7th to the 9th of September. We were selected to take part from over 200 applicants and we will be the only band from Ireland among the 34 participants. It is a wonderful opportunity for the band members to mix and play with so many bands of different nationalities as well as representing your town, county and country at an International event and we will be very proud indeed as our National Anthem is being played when each band is introduced to the large attendance.

The cost of the travel alone comes to over €10,000, the band members will be paying for their accommodation and meals, so we hope to arrange some fundraising activities between now and September to cover the costs but if anyone would like to contribute any amount towards the costs they can call 087 2537 906 or email [sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie](mailto:sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie) and we will be very pleased indeed to talk to you.



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## Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Best Shop Fronts

**1st: The Maynooth Book Shop - 2nd: The Glass Doll - 3rd: NCBI Charity Shop**



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

Constituency Office ph: 01-6156625 Dáil Office ph: 01-6183099 - e-mail: catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie

**For Written Answer on : 20/03/2018 - Question Number(s): 1008**

**Question Reference(s): 11790/18 - Department: Housing, Planning and Local Government**

## QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government if Fire Service resources are deemed adequate in County Kildare to cope with a major emergency; if a review will take place following the recent bad weather event; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

## REPLY

Fire Services are provided by local authorities under the provisions of the Fire Services Acts, 1981 and 2003. In 2014, all local authorities undertook an appraisal of their current fire services arising from the publication of the "Keeping Communities Safe" policy document in 2013. This appraisal involved the local authorities undertaking an Area Risk Categorisation process which resulted in the fire risk grading in each fire station area being defined, with a matching fire service response capability bench-marked against the national response standards set out for the first time in Keeping Communities Safe. This process was subject to an external validation process which was reported and published by my Department in 2016 in a report titled "Local Delivery – National Consistency".

In relation to major emergencies, each local authority has a "Major Emergency Plan" in place which describes the hazard identification and risk assessment process undertaken by the local authority and the arrangements in place to mobilise the full resources of the local authority and to co-ordinate their activities with the other principal response agencies.

Arising from the recent spell of severe weather, each local authority will be reporting in due course to their Council members on their response activities over this period. Local authority reports will also be supplied to my Department where they will be considered and relevant information included in the national review report. It is the normal practice for my Department to compile a review report following an emergency event in order to identify points of success which may be consolidated and weaknesses which can be addressed, both at local and national level.

## Recycling charges entirely counterproductive

Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy TD has said the decision by Ireland's largest waste company Panda to introduce charges for recycling is a significant retrograde step which will have far reaching consequences for Ireland's overall environmental policy.

Deputy Murphy said it was likely that other waste providers would follow Panda in charging for recycling waste and this was bound to impact on how people dispose of their waste. She said huge steps had been taken by people to get used to a recycling regime but that progress was now in danger if charges are to be applied to recycling.

"It is entirely counterproductive to charge people to recycle. One of the key elements in changing people's behaviour around the sorting of waste has been the incentive to keep their bin charges down by maximising their recycling waste which was free to dispose of. If you change that scenario then you effectively remove the financial incentive for people to recycle and I fear that will have a significantly detrimental effect on people's recycling behaviour.

"We cannot underestimate the impact such a decision will have on other aspects of environmental policy and indeed even things like transport policy. We currently only have 5 landfill sites in Ireland and that number is set to reduce in future years. The only other option is the Dublin incinerator and over-reliance on this facility brings with it significant congestion issues and an over-reliance on the already congested Dublin road network.

"If people's behaviour when disposing of their waste shifts to putting more waste in their black bins, where is that waste going to go? We will have to deal with it. That means the likelihood of waste trucks criss-crossing the country and the ensuing problems that brings.

"The Social Democrats have called for a Waste Regulator. Currently the whole area is extremely weak on regulations and there is very little onus on waste companies with regards customer pricing among other things. Waste companies are free to take decisions such as the one today without any regulatory body assessing that decision and its impacts in the wider policy context."

## Renters being priced out of Dublin into commuter counties – but services and infrastructure lag behind

Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy TD said renters are being priced out of Dublin into commuter counties – but without proper infrastructure supports being put in place.

Deputy Murphy was commenting on today's figures from the Residential Tenancies Board which show that in the four counties of Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow, the average rent now exceeds €1,000 per month.

The Kildare North TD said:

"Skyrocketing rents in Dublin are clearly driving demand in neighbouring counties in a

way that is totally chaotic and unplanned. The chronic supply shortages and high prices in the capital are the root cause of the rent increases in the commuter counties of Kildare, Meath and Wicklow. There is growing pressure on these counties in terms of provision of schools and other public facilities and services including transport links.

"The government had an opportunity, in its much-hyped National Development Plan, to commit to one key piece of infrastructure that would be a game changer for commuters from these counties who work in Dublin. Yet the Dart Underground, a fully costed and planned project, was not given the go-ahead.

"It is unforgivable that the government would overlook this electrified railway line which would link commuters from Kildare and Wicklow into Dublin city and beyond. Dart Underground is the crucial missing piece that would give commuters to Dublin the joined-up network of rail and light rail that the capital so badly needs."

## Social Democrats call for government to block sale of mortgages to vulture funds

The Social Democrats have called on the Minister for Finance to intervene to block the sale of Permanent TSB mortgages to unregulated vulture funds.

The party's co-leader Catherine Murphy TD said:

"This bank is 75 per cent owned by the State and the Minister for Finance must do what he can to protect homeowners by halting the sale of its loan book to unregulated and largely unaccountable private equity or hedge funds.

"It is wrong and unacceptable for the State as a major bank shareholder to stand by while Permanent TSB effectively outsources repossessions of people's homes. There is clearly a moral obligation to step in and prevent the sale of these 20,000 mortgages.

Deputy Murphy added:

"The devastating impact on families of having their mortgages hived off to overseas funds cannot be underestimated. If emergency legislation is needed to fix this problem, then the Minister should bring this before the Dáil without delay. In the meantime, the funds should be instructed to give mortgage-holders the right to buy their loans for the same price that is being offered to the vulture funds.

"The official pandering of government to private funds runs against the interests of ordinary borrowers. Families stand to lose their homes as a result of this move and yet the government is allowing vulture funds to continue to maximise their take on rent and also get preferential treatment under our tax laws. The overly-generous tax treatment of these funds is an issue that I will be raising this at the Public Accounts Committee. It has led to a lot of worry and distress in the Kildare Area there are a lot of families very concerned about this that have contacted me recently."



## MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN



### Straffan Road

Roadworks on the lower section of the Straffan Road, the new link with Leinster Street and the refurbishment of Leinster Street are nearing completion. The County Development Plan contains lofty sentiments of promoting cycling, reallocating road space to walking and cycling and a hierarchy of road users with pedestrians and cyclists at the top. The reality is that Kildare County Council has widened the Straffan Road to four lanes of motorised traffic but considers that cyclists do not warrant dedicated space into the town centre.

### Minimum Passing Distance Legislation

Shane Ross, the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, announced in the Dáil that the government would after all support the Minimum Passing Distance Legislation. The main opposition party Fianna Fáil had already announced their support for the measure and had tabled an amendment to the Road Traffic Act which is going through the Dáil. With the support of the two main parties, it is now virtually guaranteed to pass into legislation. The news of the announcement has been warmly welcomed by cyclist representatives and great credit is due to Phil Skelton of *Staying Alive at 1.5* who has worked tirelessly over the last number of years to see it enacted into Irish law.

### Barrow Blueway

Kildare County Council recently granted planning permission for the development of the Barrow towpath as a Blueway/Greenway between Lowtown and Athy. Laois also granted planning permission for the section in County Laois but Carlow County Council rejected the planning application on the grounds of environmental impact after a vociferous NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard) campaign led by Olivia O'Leary.

### College Green

Dublin City Council is engaging in further consultation on proposals for College Green Plaza. Due to competing demands for space in the city centre, hard decisions will be required on how to fairly allocate space between competing demands by pedestrians, cyclists, buses, taxis, trucks and cars. One thing is certain - private cars already have the lowest priority with highest priority going to space efficient modes of transport ie walking and cycling.



## Writers' Corner - Short Stories from our readers

### Smaointe – Cianbhá

Agus mé i mo mhac léinn in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe sa bhliain 1961, bhí mé ar lóistín i dteach ar Bhóthar an Chaisleáin Nua. In earrach na bliana sin bhí brionglóid agam gur fiú cuntas a thabhairt air, dar liom.

Sa bhrionglóid chonaic mé mo dheartháir sa bhaile i Roscomáin i gcró na mbó agus nathair nimhe ina sheilbh aige. Sórt peata a bhí ann agus ba chosúil go raibh an-chairdeas idir mo dheartháir agus é féin ón slí a bhí sé á láimhseáil agus á mholadh. Ba chosúil go raibh sé an-bhródúil as agus go raibh an-mhuinín aige as mar throdaí.

Agus é ag slíocadh ceann a pheata tháinig francach mór amach as poll sa chúinne agus rith ina threo le fonn troda air. Chuir mo dheartháir an nathair síos ar an urlár chun stop a chur leis an bhfrancach. Thosaigh an troid. Ar feadh tamaill cheapfá go mbeadh an bua ag an fhrancach agus an péire ag iomrascáil le chéile agus bhí sé ar tí an buille scoir a thabhairt nuair shaith an nathair a dhá ghoineog go domhain ann. Chúlaigh an francach beagáinín. Shín sé é féin go hárda mar a bheadh dealbh ann ar feadh tamaillín. Chrith sé agus thit sé síos, marbh. Thóg mo dheartháir an nathair, chuach sé faoina ascaill é agus as go brách leis!

An Domhnach ina dhiaidh sin tháinig an deartháir céanna agus a bhean ar chúirt chugam. Agus muid ag comhrá i bproinnteach éigin dúirt mo dheartháir liom go tobann go bhfuair sé sionnach cúpla oíche roimhe sin. «Conas sin», arsa mise. «Cad a tharla?» Mhínigh sé dom go raibh sé cráite leis an sionnach céanna. Bhíodh uan nó dhó imithe gach ré oíche.

An mhaidin seo chuaigh sé amach arís agus bhí uan nua-bheirthe marbh os a chomhair. Ní raibh sé chun cur suas leis a thuilleadh. Síos leis láithreach go dtí na gardaí síochána chun ceadúnas a fháil chun stricín a chur. Ní raibh éinne i láthair. Fiú amháin i 1961! Bhí sé an-tógtha agus ní raibh sé réidh chun stopadh cé go raibh a fhios aige go maith go raibh sé ag briseadh an dlí. Cheannaigh sé an stricín agus abhaile leis. Ní raibh mórán damáiste déanta don uan – greim tógtha as a chliathán agus an t-ae ag gobadh amach. Chuir sé cuid den stricín faoi an ae agus chuaigh sé abhaile.

Amach leis an mhaidin dar gcionn agus bhí an sionnach sínte slat nó dhó ón uan! «Ce'n oíche a tharla é sin», arsa mise. «Oíche Dé Chéadaoin», ar seisean. B'shin oíche mo bhrionglóide. Bhí ionadh air nuair a d'inis mé mo scéal!

*Gabriel Martin.*

## Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

As mentioned in last month's edition I should now be reporting on the wearing of the green in celebration of St. Patrick's weekend. It turned out to be more of a white weekend as the snow paid us a return visit and scuppered all our plans. In the interest of health and safety we had to cancel our tea-dance on Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup>. However between the "Beast from the East" and the arrival of its' "Offspring" we managed to hold our "Annual Collection" which raised €1,132. Many thanks to all who supported this event and indeed for all your support throughout the year.

We now look forward to our Easter Tea-Dance on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> and I hope all our people have their bonnets at the ready. Before all that we will hold our AGM on Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm in the Geraldine Hall. This is an open meeting to which all are welcome. We would also welcome new members so why not come along and hear what we do or even tell us what you think.

Meanwhile our club continues on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the Geraldine Hall and all Senior Citizens in the area are welcome. Finally, may I express our sincere sympathy to the Farrell and Morahan families on the passing of Brian and Christopher.

“Suaimhneas agus Siocháin Dóimh”

*Josephine Moore.*  
*Chairperson.*



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**Hard work these Parades!!!  
Well Done and Thank You to Naoise and the  
Organising Committee.**

## Cllr Naoise Ó Cearúil - Maynooth Fianna Fáil Notes

Mobile: 086-728 0050 e-mail: cllrnaoise@gmail.com - Facebook: www.facebook.com/naoiseoceanuil

### Future of the Harbour Field to be decided by the Public

At the March meeting of the Maynooth Municipal District Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil tabled a motion that the future of the Harbour Field go to public consultation. There has been a proposal to put a car park into the Harbour Field and this is not to be confused with the new proposal. The proposed car park will go to public consultation and Ó Cearúil has urged all residents to oppose such a measure when details of the Part 8 are publicised.

Naoise's new proposal will see residents contribute to the future of the field through an engaging process. People will be able to highlight what they think would work, for example a public park, an astro turf pitch, a skate park etc.

Cathal O'Meara Architects have been tasked by Kildare County Council to conduct the framework for town centre renewal which will have workshops where residents can attend and give their local knowledge and opinion over the future of the Harbour Field and all open spaces in the town centre environs.

Cllr. Ó Cearúil commented by saying, "This is excellent news. I've been saying all along that the Harbour Field and indeed all the open spaces in Maynooth should be rejuvenated, but more importantly that if any change is to happen, that the people of Maynooth should decide on those changes."

The workshops and consultation is due to take place in Summer 2018 and Naoise has said that he will circulate all information when it becomes available.

### New Footbridge in Maynooth gets Go-ahead and Funding

A new footbridge on Mill Street Maynooth has gotten the go ahead after years of campaigning by Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil. The matter was raised by the Maynooth based councillor once again at the March meeting of the Maynooth Municipal District.

Cllr. Ó Cearúil has long highlighted how the current bridge does not cater for the huge number of pedestrians crossing it every day. Commenting on the matter, he said "We have a situation where young children and all other pedestrians have had to walk on the road as there is not enough space on the footpath. I have seen first hand where women with

buggies have had to walk on the road and it is not good enough and I'm afraid of any accidents happening. I've been looking for this footbridge for some time and I'm delighted for our town that it has gotten the go ahead".

Kildare County Council confirmed to the councillor that they had confirmation of funding the National Transport Authority of €10,000 to proceed with Phase 5 of the Maynooth North-South Corridor. They also confirmed that a detailed design of the phase will commence in summer 2018.

Darren Smyth, General Manager of Manor Mills Shopping Centre commented that, "We have seen from the center's point of view that this is really needed. Not only for our shoppers but for the safety of all pedestrians in the town. Its been great to work with Naoise again on another project".

Ó Cearúil concluded by saying, "I only received confirmation on the day of the meeting that the funding had been secured and I will continue to press for improvements for the betterment of our town".

### Side Lanes off Main Street to be resurfaced

Cllr. Ó Cearúil tabled a motion at the Maynooth MD for the side lanes off Main Street to be resurfaced. They have become hazardous and particularly dangerous after works by Irish Water. It has been confirmed to Naoise that these lanes will now be repaired and resurfaced.

### Noise from the M4

There was considerable noise coming from the M4 a few weeks ago due to work being carried out by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). These works were to trim back trees along the motorway and to increase safety precautions. The works caused serious disruption to many living close to the motorway and Naoise contacted the TII for an answer and a solution to the problem. He was informed that these works had to occur in the evening due to safety risks but Ó Cearúil highlighted that no notice was given to residents. The TII has committed to be more informative to residents in the future. The issue of sound barriers was also raised and this is being explored along with trees off the motorway to act as sound barriers.

### Parking outside Newtown Shopping Centre

Cllr. Ó Cearúil has looked for measures to stop cars from

illegally parking outside Newtown Shopping Centre. The Council are now replacing a bollard that was missing to combat the issue and have written to the Gardaí looking for their assistance in stopping this problem.

### Speed Limit Reduction at Moneycooley

Naoise has asked that the speed limit at Moneycooley (behind the Business Campus) be reduced and this has now been referred to the Countywide Speed Limit Review Team.

### Taking in charge of Castledawson Estate

The developer submitted a CCTV Survey of the storm and foul sewer late last year. Kildare County Council reviewed the footage and provided the developer a snag list of remedial works at the end of January 2018. The developer has not yet advised the Council that these works are completed. Cllr. Ó Cearúil continues to press for Castledawson to be taken in charge.

### Ó Cearúil nominated to KCC Twinning Liaison Committee

Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil has been nominated to sit on the Council's twinning liaison committee. The committee oversees the work of local twinning committees and helps establish new links. Maynooth is twinned with Canet en Rousillon in France. Maynooth's twinning has had much success with tourism, sporting and educational links.

### St. Patrick's Day Parade 2018

Naoise was the parade organiser once again this year. This is his fourth time organising the parade and his report on the parade is available on the front of this publication.

### Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí Naoise bainteach le go leor imeachtaí i gcomhair Seachtain na Gaeilge. Mar Cathaoirleach ar Coiste na Gaeilge den Comhairle Contae, bhí sé gnóthach ar fud an Contae.

### Representations

As always if you require any personal assistance or advise, please feel free to get in touch with Naoise on (086) 728 0050 or cllrnaoise@gmail.com. All correspondence is confidential.

## Editorial

The Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade is covered elsewhere in the Newsletter but I would like to congratulate the organising committee and the Community Employment Scheme staff and thank them for their hard work in organising yet another very successful Parade this year.

In the 2016 Census over eighteen hundred people in Maynooth were recorded as being fifty-five years or older. It is a fair assumption to make that a number of them have retired from full-time work and also for other reasons have time to enjoy life and choose what they want to do every day. While my own retirement is still many years away, friends tell me that Maynooth is a great place to live when you have time to enjoy yourself. The presence of Maynooth University is part of the options available with ongoing events that are open to the wider community. In April there is a week-long series of events to celebrate the Maynooth Experience at 20. Part of the University's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the inaugural *Maynooth Week* will shine a spotlight on the staff, students, alumni and the community who embody the unique spirit of the University.

Just to mention two events. The launch of the North Kildare Biodiversity Group is open to staff, students and members of

public and will be followed by a Biodiversity Walk and Talk around the University campus grounds. The event takes place on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 11am in the Library Foyer.

On the same day "The Future of Fake News" is a collaboration between Maynooth University and RTÉ Brainstorm which is a unique partnership between RTÉ and Irish third level institutions. This event will delve feet first into one of the most complex challenges to democracy in this modern, digital age: Fake News. A panel of experts delves into questions like: Are the media giants responding adequately to reassess their technologies, their business models, and their ethical responsibilities around the potential of their platforms to be exploited, and even weaponised. The event is open to the public and will be followed by a reception on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 17:30 in the Hamilton Seminar Room, Eolas Building. So if you have the time why not stay away from the computer and get out and enjoy the opportunities that living in Maynooth offer.

With spring finally here I want to mention another event that will get you out of the house in April as well as supporting a charity doing great work with families at an unexpected time of need. The Anam Cara 5K takes place in the grounds of St. Patrick's College on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 11am. A statistic that shocked me is that in Ireland over 2,000

families experience the loss of a child each year. This event is in memory of Oisín Quigley a young person in Maynooth who lost his life in an accident. You can run, jog or walk on the day and the funds raised will support the work of Anam Cara who provide free services to families who experience bereavement following the loss of a child.

Maybe it is just my timing, but I happened to see two buses one going in each direction in Main Street Maynooth serving the new 139 bus route which started in March serving a route between Naas and the Blanchardstown Town Centre. It may take some time to develop a steady customer base but it is great that such a service has been introduced. Before this all routes pointed to Dublin and while I go there every day for those with the need of a service linking centre's in Kildare it is welcome. No doubt as the shopping and eating capital of North Kildare, Maynooth businesses will benefit from this new bus service. So if you exhaust all the options available in Maynooth to spend your free time you can always venture elsewhere on the 139 bus. Speaking about shopping can I welcome our new neighbours in Carton Park. Range opened for business at Easter bringing another reason to shop local in Maynooth. We look forward to working with them.

Paul Croghan - Editor



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KEY CUTTING SERVICE  
ALL KEYS CUT  
HOUSE AND VEHICLE  
PHONE 086 8657142**



# Maynooth Monthly Diary Planner

<p><b>Community Library</b></p>	<p><b>Maynooth Multiple Births</b></p>	<p><b>Bridge Club</b></p>
<p>Opening Times  <b>Mondays &amp; Fridays 2pm to 5pm</b>  <b>Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays 1pm to 8pm</b>  <b>Wednesday 9.30am to 1pm</b>  <b>&amp; 2pm to 5pm</b>  <b>Sat 9.30am to 1pm</b></p>	<p>Maynooth Multiple Births playgroup (twins triplets or more) meets the last Thursday of the month in Leixlip library between 10 &amp; 12 noon. This is a great opportunity to meet parents just like you.  <b>For further details email:</b>  <b>maynoothmultiplebirthclub@gmail.com</b></p>	<p>Open for new members. If you would like to play in a friendly club with purpose-built facilities in the centre of Maynooth, please see our website at <a href="http://maynoothbridgeclub.com">maynoothbridgeclub.com</a>.  <b>Contact Katherine Cooney</b>  <b>086 8205910</b></p>
<p><b>I.C.A.</b></p>	<p><b>MAYNOOTH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP</b></p>	<p><b>Arthritis Ireland</b></p>
<p>Monthly meetings take place every 1st Thursday of the month at 8.00pm in the I.C.A. Hall in the Harbour.  <b>Crafts every Monday night at 8.00pm.</b>  <b>New members welcome</b></p>	<p><b>Maynooth Local History Group Meets</b>  <b>Last Thursday of each Month in the</b>  <b>Maynooth Community Space</b>  <b>(Tesco Shopping Centre)</b>  <b>New Members Welcome</b>  <b>Contact: MCC Office for more details</b></p>	<p><b>Arthritis Ireland Walking Group</b>  <b>(Maynooth)</b>  <b>Meeting Mondays</b>  <b>12 - 2pm in the Maynooth</b>  <b>Community Space</b></p>
<p><b>University of Third Age (U3A)</b></p>	<p><b>Maynooth Parent &amp; Toddler Group</b></p>	<p><b>Maynooth Men's Sheds</b></p>
<p>Weekly meetings on Friday at 11am in <b>Maynooth Community Space</b>  <b>Unit 11/12 Tesco SC</b>  <b>Carton Park, Maynooth</b>  <b>New Members Welcome</b>  <b>Contact Ger : 0874133505</b></p>	<p><b>Every Thursday from</b>  <b>9.30am to 11.30am</b>  <b>Maynooth Community Space Unit</b>  <b>11/12 Tesco SC</b>  <b>Carton Park, Maynooth</b></p>	<p>Weekly meetings take place every <b>Wednesday at 11am</b>  <b>at the Maynooth Lodge Fisheries</b>  <b>Dunboyne Road Maynooth.</b>  <b>For further details contact</b>  <b>John Fleming - 087 2041334</b></p>
<p><b>Maynooth Tidy Towns</b></p>	<p><b>ALZHEIMER CAFÉ LEIXLIP</b></p>	<p><b>Maynooth Community Church</b></p>
<p><b>Volunteers required to help</b>  <b>with this work.</b>  <b>Contact Number</b>  <b>087 3153189</b>  <b>Meet every Saturday</b>  <b>at 10.00am in the Square</b></p>	<p>Join us at the next Alzheimer Cafe, Wednesday April 11th in "The Conservatory", Ryevale Nursing Home, Leixlip from 7-9pm.  <b>Our speaker this month will be John Healy. John is a</b>  <b>physiotherapist and he will talk to us about simple</b>  <b>exercise to increase mobility and to stay healthy.</b>  <b>Attendance is free of charge and there is plenty of</b>  <b>parking available.</b>  <b>(www.alzheimercafeleixlip.ie -phone 089 4933533).</b></p>	<p><b>1st Floor Manor Mills</b>  <b>(entrance next to Chill)</b>  <b>Service times every Sunday morning</b>  <b>from 10.30am</b>  <b><a href="http://www.maynoothcc.org">www.maynoothcc.org</a></b>  <b>Everyone most welcome</b></p>
<p><b>Maynooth Senior Citizens</b></p>	<p><b>Diary entries are published free of</b>  <b>charge for all non-fee paying</b>  <b>Community Groups.</b></p>	<p><b>ST MARY'S BRASS &amp; REED BAND</b></p>
<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><b>E-mail details of your event before the</b>  <b>copy date (2nd last Tuesday of each</b>  <b>month) to be included in the next</b>  <b>months edition.</b>  <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:office@maynoothcc.com">office@maynoothcc.com</a>.</b>  <b>Phone: 01-6285922</b></p>	<p>Rehearsals are held in the Band Hall on Pound Lane each Monday night (except Bank Holidays) from 7.45pm to 9.30pm and musicians living in Maynooth and the surrounding areas are most welcome.  <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie">sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie</a></b>  <b>Website: <a href="http://www.stmarysbandmaynooth.ie">www.stmarysbandmaynooth.ie</a></b></p>

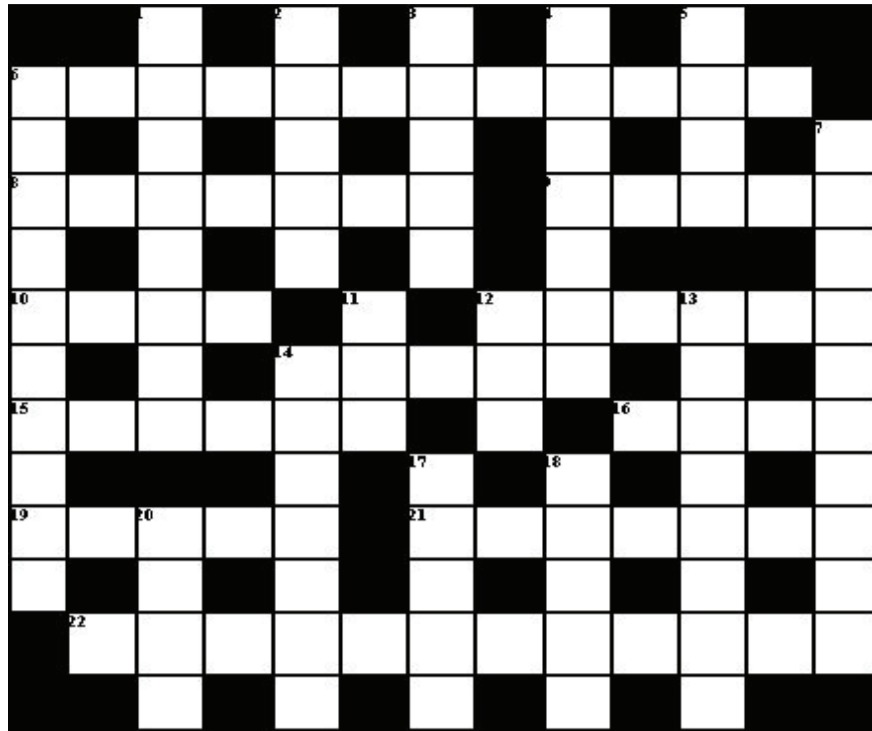
*The content of the Monthly Planner Diary is published in good faith. All details should be checked with groups in advance*

### Clues Across

- 6. Home of the Hollywood stars (7,5)
- 8. White-ant (7)
- 9. Indiscretion (5)
- 10. Seepage (4)
- 12. Be restless (6)
- 14. Presented (5)
- 15. Former tennis star, \_ \_ \_ Edberg (6)
- 16. Court order (4)
- 19. Hale \_ \_ \_ , US golfer (5)
- 21. Intoxicating drink (7)
- 22. Donation (12)



### April 2018 Crossword - No. 467



### Clues Down

- 1. Pass (8)
- 2. Plait (5)
- 3. Bonnie \_ \_ \_ , singer (5)
- 4. Scoundrel (7)
- 5. Failure (4)
- 6. Large armoured vessel (10)
- 7. Athletic contest (10)
- 11. Racket (3)
- 12. Nourished (3)
- 13. George \_ \_ \_ , famous US composer (8)
- 14. Alf \_ \_ \_ , TV bigot (7)
- 17. Saying (5)
- 18. Reconnoitre (5)
- 20. Copse (4)



#### Solutions to March Crossword No. 466

**Across:** 1. Delegation, 8. Useless, 9. Lasso, 10. Sage, 11. Lion, 12. Toe, 14. Afraid, 15. Repair, 18. Tap, 20. Greg, 21. Stan, 23. Alien, 24. Apricot, 25. Remarkable.

**Down:** 1. Dredger, 2. Leek, 3. Gossip, 4. Talented, 5. Onset, 6. Substantial, 7. Pomegranate, 13. Virginia, 16. Attache, 17. Remark, 19. Price, 22. Grub.

#### Special Prize Book Voucher

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

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

#### Entries in before: Tuesday 17th April 2018

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

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

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

#### Winner of Crossword No. 466 March

**Patrick O' Donoghue**  
**Kingsbry**  
**Maynooth**

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

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

#### Difficult

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

## Sudoku Challenge

### APRIL 2018

Entries must arrive to  
MCC CLG Office before:  
17th April 2018

**Congratulations to**  
**March Winner:**

**Ann Burns**  
**Parson Lodge**  
**Maynooth**

**Collect prize from**  
**Newsletter Office**

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

#### Super Difficult

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

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

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

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

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



**McDonald's Maynooth Proud Sponsor of the Colouring Competition  
Competition Open to Children 3-6 years**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Last Month's Winner:  
March 2018**

**Cara Cunningham  
Laurence Ave.  
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 17TH APRIL 2018**

**Junior Puzzle Corner**

**Animal Sounds Crossword Puzzle**



- Across**
- 1 Chirp, Chirp
  - 5 Squeak, Squeak
  - 6 Roar!!!!
  - 7 Baaa, baaa
  - 10 Meow, meow
  - 11 Woof, woof
  - 12 Cluck, cluck

- Down**
- 1 Buzz, buzz
  - 2 Hee-haw, hee-haw
  - 3 Neigh
  - 4 Cock-a-doodle-doo
  - 9 Hoot-hoot-scream
  - 8 Oink, oink
  - 11 Quack, quack
  - 13 Moo, moo



**My Mystery Story**



Fill in the blanks to write a mystery story.  
Write about something that is very special to you and is missing from your house

*The Case of the Missing*

One .....I was coming home from ..... when I arrived home I went to look for my ..... I love my ..... , because .....  
 ..... I went upstairs to look for my ..... , but ..... wasn't there, so I decided to look in the ..... , ..... wasn't there either. I got really worried and screamed.

“Oh my ..... is missing” So I quickly ran downstairs and thought where else should I look? Could ..... be hiding in the .....? So I went off to check but ..... wasn't there. I looked under the ..... and to my delight there was my ..... I am so happy.

**The End**





# Comhaltas Craobh Mhaigh Nuad



St. Patrick's Day in Maynooth will live on in memory for the arctic conditions it was held in, but the Craobh were busy with their program anyway – though this year it was thankfully all indoors!

To kick off proceedings, the branch joined Rita Doyle's dancers in Manor Mills for some combined tunes and playing, which was enjoyed by all spectators.

Despite tough competition from Twickenham, the branch then travelled to Maynooth Lodge who were, as every year, a fantastic audience to a memorable performance. Once this was complete, it was down to Maynooth GAA, where the program of music for this year's St Patrick's Day came to a conclusion.

Looking forward to April, the Ceardlann Earraigh event takes place as usual on the weekend before Easter. The weekend's program will kick off with a Launch Session in the Kildrough Lounge in Celbridge. Workshops will take place in Scoil na Mainistreach in Celbridge and will feature fantastic musicians such as Colm Murphy, Cormac Breatnach, Liam O'Connor, Ciarán Ó Maonaigh, Caitlín Nic Gabhann, Daithí Gormley, Conal Ó Gráda, Caoimhín Ó Fearghail & James Harvey.

As usual, the event will be rounded off by a Grand Concert in the Glenroyal on Sat 24th March from 8pm – look on the home page for details. Bígí anseo!

## Easter and April

Looking forward to April, the Kildare Fleadh is running from 19th to 22nd April and is again being hosted by our neighbouring branch in Clane. Fleadh weekend is always good for sessions and a buzz around the town, so please attend for both the sessions and to look at the up-and-coming young performers. More details and events at <http://kildarecomhaltas.ie/content/fleadh-events>

Our class sessions are still going strong – they're one lesson in 4 and offer a great change

from the classroom environment, while being a super learning platform for collaborative playing. Lots of sessions still running too, both for our younger member and those not so young, who are doing us proud playing regularly in Brady's on a Sunday evening.



Rita Doyle School of Dance at Manor Mills with tunes from Seán, Riobárd, Seán and Katie.

<http://www.ccemhaighnuad.com/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/ccemaighnuad>  
<http://twitter.com/CCEMaighNuad>

Derek Carroll, PRO, Craobh Mhaigh Nuad CCE



## Fun Facts about Easter



- The idea of the Easter Bunny originated in Germany.
- Germans believed the Easter Bunny was a white hare that would leave colourful eggs for good girls and boys on Easter Morning.
- The girls and boys would wake up Easter morning and build nests out of sticks and leaves so the Easter Bunny would leave them the eggs. This is how the first Easter Hunts started.
- Original Easter baskets were made to look like nests now children receive colourful baskets filled with eggs and sweets from the Easter Bunny.
- The first edible Easter Bunnies were made in Germany in the early 1800s. They were made of pastry and sugar.
- The first chocolate egg was made in Germany in the 19th century.
- The world's biggest Easter egg was more than 34 feet tall. According to Guinness World Records, the chocolate egg weighed 15,873 pounds. It was made in Cortenuova, Italy.
- The first story of a rabbit (later named the "Easter Bunny") hiding eggs in a garden was published in 1680.

### Why Easter is different each year?

Have you ever wondered why Easter is celebrated at different times each year? Easter is a moveable feast which can fall anywhere between March 22nd and April 25th. Easter Sunday is celebrated following the paschal full moon, which is the full moon that falls on or after the vernal (Spring) equinox, this formula was established at the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325).

We know that Easter must always occur on a Sunday, because Sunday was the day of Christ's Resurrection. The Last Supper was held on the Jewish Passover. This is traditionally held on the 15th day of Nisan, which begins on the night of a the paschal full moon.

Therefore Easter Sunday must be the Sunday after this. The church does not use the exact date of the paschal full moon but an approximation, because the paschal full moon can fall on different days in different time zones.

For calculation purposes, the full moon is always set at the 14th day of the lunar month, (the lunar month begins with the new moon). Likewise, the Church sets the date of the vernal equinox at March 21st even though it can occur on March 20th. Both approximations allow the Church to set a universal date for Easter

The Western Christian Church uses the Gregorian calendar to calculate the date of Easter while the Eastern Orthodox uses the older Julian calendar, hence the different dates Easter is celebrated in each Church.



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## Fake Away Healthy Fast Food at home

### Prawn Pad Thai

#### Ingredients:

200g rice noodles  
2 cloves smoked garlic  
Handful of coriander, leaves and stalks separated  
¼ stick of lemon grass  
1 red chilli  
Olive oil  
10 Dublin Bay Prawns shelled and de-veined  
(ask your fishmonger)  
10 baby spring onions  
Zest and juice of 2 limes  
100g bean sprouts  
Handful of salted peanuts, chopped

Serves:2



#### Method:

Place the noodles in salted boiling water and cover for 5 minutes to soften. Chop the garlic, coriander, stalks, lemon grass and chilli, then fry in some oil for a minute over a medium heat. Add the prawns and spring onions and cook for another 2 to 3 minutes. Add the lime zest, juice and bean sprouts. Now add the noodles to the pan and stir well until heated through. Season with sea salt to taste and serve sprinkled with the chopped peanuts and coriander leaves.

### Crispy Duck Noodles

#### Ingredients:

2 duck legs, fat trimmed off  
Sea salt  
1 cinnamon stick  
2 star anise  
100 ml water  
Flat-leaf parsley to garnish  
*For the noodles*  
250g rice noodles  
1 tbsp olive oil  
2 cloves garlic, chopped  
1 tsp peeled and grated fresh ginger  
1 head of bok choi, sliced into rough pieces  
3 tbsp sweet chilli sauce  
2 tbsp low-salt soy sauce

Serves:2



#### Method:

Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas 4. Place the duck legs in an oven proof tray and sprinkle with sea salt. Add the cinnamon stick and star anise to the tray and drizzle in the water. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Remove the duck from the oven, then remove the skin and pick off the meat in strips. Place the noodles in a heat proof bowl and cover them with the boiling water. Cover the bowl with cling film and allow to sit for 5 minutes. Add the oil to a frying pan over a medium to low heat and fry off the garlic, ginger and duck for 3 - 4 minutes, until crispy and golden. Add the bok choi and cook for another minute over a medium heat. Uncover the bowl of noodles and drain off the water. Toss the noodles into the pan and add the sweet chilli sauce and soy sauce. If needed add a small pinch of salt.

### Goats Cheese Pizza

#### Ingredients:

1 x 145g pizza base  
½ tsp dried oregano  
½ tbsp olive oil  
1 small sweet potato, peeled and thinly sliced  
4-5 asparagus spears, halved lengthways  
1 red pepper, deseeded and chopped  
1 small courgette, thinly sliced  
2 tbsp tomato puree  
50g goat's cheese  
Seasoning

Serves:1



#### Method:

Make up the pizza dough according to the instructions, adding the oregano to the mix for added flavour. While the pizza base is rising on a baking sheet, toss the vegetables in the remaining olive oil and cook until they are lightly browned. Spread the tomato puree over the pizza base and top with all the vegetables. Sprinkle with goat's cheese and seasoning. Cook in the oven at 200°C/Gas 6 for 10 - 12 minutes, until the dough is crisp and the cheese is melting.

## April Gardening 2018

### Benefits of having trees around you

**T**rees don't ask for much - soil, water, sunlight. Yet they provide a **wealth of benefits**: They improve the air you breathe, cut your energy bills with their shade, provide homes for wildlife, and add beauty and value to your house to boot. In fact, landscaping can add approximately 10 to 20 percent more value to a property - especially landscaping that includes mature trees. Commercial areas with trees also attract more customers (and they stay longer and spend more money). A well-chosen tree adds curb appeal and makes the home appear established within its environment.

**Guard against grazers:** As soft young growth appears, associated pests sniff it out, and rabbits and deer can destroy a crop as fast as it will grow. **Grazers** is a food-grade calcium solution which is sprayed onto the foliage and taken in by the plant. It then repels the destructive nibblers.



**Cut smoke bush:** The smoke bush, *Cotinus*, benefits from being cut back hard at this time of year. You will release a beautiful flush of colourful young foliage and shouldn't compromise the smoky aura of flowers that appear later in the year.

**Toppling tomato:** If you sowed tomatoes too early, they will be likely to topple when planted out. But all is not lost: when next potting on, plant them deeply, burying their stems into the fresh compost. They will put out extra roots straight from this stem, which shores them up.



**Support work:** Perennials look better if they are staked as they emerge, rather than trussed up later. Hazel twigs pushed into the ground and then bent over and tied together make a good structure, or buy pre-made ones I like *Plant Belles* domes.

**Forget-me-nots** do a wonderful job of covering all sorts of ills. But the wise thing to do is to pull up at least some once they have finished flowering and before they set seed. If left unchecked they will shade out other growth.

As soon as your soil reaches 6C you can start to sow direct outside. Salad leaves are a good candidate, and I fancy chard 'Pink Flamingo' this year. Its bright pink stalks will live up salad if picked as baby leaves

If you have flowering bulbs in your lawn this is the time for patience: don't cut until their leaves have died down. Plant pots of little bulbs such as crocus into lawns as soon as they have died down for prettily bejewelled grass next spring. **Give acid-loving shrubs a generous feed with acidic (ericaceous) fertiliser**

#### What to do in the Vegetable Garden in April:

Sow cucumbers, pumpkins, sweetcorn, aubergines, tomatoes & peppers under glass. Sow Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, carrots, peas, beetroot, red and summer cabbage, leeks and turnips, outside. Mid April: April can be an exciting month in the garden. Temperatures should start to rise and light levels will increase as the days lengthen. All vegetable plants need light and warmth to grow well and for photosynthesis to take place. Photosynthesis is the process where the plant makes its own food, usually in the leaves. So all the levels increase, and aided by a regular supply of water. The plants will feed and grow stronger and faster. April is therefore the month of sowing and planting, but care should still be taken to protect crops from frost, either by putting up cloches or covering beds with horticultural fleece or newspaper. Early April is not too late to start an asparagus bed. Make sure the ground is prepared ready for the arrival of the asparagus crowns as you will need to plant them shortly after they arrive. The crowns must not be allowed to dry out. Earth up first early potatoes and plant out second early and main crop varieties. Protect first early potato shoots against frost by earthing up as they break through the soil. Second earlies and main crop seed potatoes can now be planted. Chitting the seed potatoes beforehand may improve yields, but is not essential. You will also need to feed your hungry strawberries with a weak solution of tomato fertiliser which is high in potassium. Remember that feeding with a nitrogen rich feed will only encourage leaf growth.



#### The glory of gardening:

*Hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with the nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.*



## FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

# CLASSIC EASTER MOVIES



Recently, the genre of religious dramas has been revisited by filmmakers. A new screen adaptation of the familiar *Mary Magdalene* story is doing the rounds in Irish cinemas. The well-trodden story of the woman of ill repute and her relationship with Jesus Christ has been given a new revisionist slant by director, which ties in nicely with the recent #TimesUp climate in Hollywood. Despite mixed reviews for the film, Rooney Mara is compelling in the central role of the most famous 'fallen woman' in biblical history.

In the 1950's, Hollywood specialised in grandiose panoramic, widescreen epics. This was the golden era of the big epic film in glorious technicolour. Huge sets, thousands of extras and no expense spared was the norm of the day. This contrasts sharply with the modern era where massive crowds or set pieces in movies are largely the result of CGI sleight of hand or technical wizardry. Some of the magic has inevitably been lost.



### Ben Hur (1959)

The 1950's biblical epic, *Ben Hur* was one of the most costly films ever made for its time. Directed by William Wyler, the 1959 movie was a remake of the 1926 silent film. It was the first movie to be crowned with 11 Oscars and its success ultimately saved MGM Studios from bankruptcy. Charlton Heston was not the first choice for the title role. Hollywood favourites Kirk Douglas, Burt Lancaster and Rock Hudson were also considered. However, with his brawn and athletic physique, Heston seemed tailor made for the role of the avenging Jew, Judah Ben Hur. Five years in the planning, it contained one of the most expensive action sequences ever committed to celluloid; the riveting chariot race sequence involving Heston's character and Roman baddie Messala, played by Irish actor, Stephen Boyd. There was a more recent screen adaptation of *Ben Hur* in 2016. Forget that inferior imitation and stick with the original classic.



### The Greatest Story Ever Told (1965)

Numerous films and TV productions have recounted the most famous story of them all; the story of Jesus Christ. Jeffrey Hunter played the role of Jesus in the 1961 religious epic, *King of Kings*. In 1965 Swedish actor, Max Von Sydow took on the mantle of the most iconic figure in history. From the birth of Christ in a Bethlehem stable to his death and triumphant resurrection, the life of the Christ is given the all-star treatment. Producer and director, George Stevens had wanted to cast an unknown in the role of Jesus, to create authenticity. Many famous stars appeared in cameo roles. This wasn't a wholly successful idea as the 'spot the star' device serves to detract from the story being told. Even John Wayne pops up as a very un-Roman like centurion at the Crucifixion. The few lines he utters, 'Surely this was the son of Christ', raises some unintentional laughs.

Still *The Greatest Story Ever Told* is a handsome epic and worth watching for Von Sydow's magnetic central performance.



### The Ten Commandments (1956)

*The Ten Commandments* was blockbuster maestro Cecil B DeMille's final film, in the directorial seat. He was one of the few directors to make the successful transition from the silent film era to the talkies. Blockbusters were his forte. De Mille's classic sweeping and stunning epic depicts the life of the Hebrew liberator, Moses. Filmed on location in Egypt, it was a part remake of DeMille's 1923 silent film of the same name. The go-to actor for biblical epics, Charlton Heston is in towering form as the man who leads his people into Exodus, away from their Egyptian oppressors. Yul Brynner co-stars as Moses' half-brother and antagonist, Rameses. DeMille's film is a visual delight. It fairly bursts with colour, spectacle and amazing set pieces. This is epic on a grand scale. Despite its lengthy running time, *The Ten Commandments* is never boring. A special effects sequence showing the parting of the Red Sea

is one of the greatest ever filmed and is literally jaw-dropping. *The Ten Commandments* is amongst the most financially successful films ever made and consistently on the list of top-ten films in the epic genre. It remains the yardstick by which all biblical movies are measured.



## EASTER MUSICALS

### Easter Parade (1948)

A classic MGM musical, *Easter Parade* pairs two Hollywood legends together. Dancing genius Fred Astaire and singing sensation Judy Garland co-starred for the first and only time ever on screen. It proved a magical combination. They were compared to two thoroughbreds in their prime. Both actors were royalty in musical-comedy terms. *Easter Parade* displays their exceptional talents both individually and as a charismatic screen partnership. Irving Berlin (*White Christmas*, *Annie Get Your Gun*) was the most successful songwriter in American history. His score for *Easter Parade* is especially memorable. There are many show-stoppers with Astaire excelling in numbers like 'A Couple of Swells' and 'Steppin' Out with My Baby'. An older Astaire still proves capable of nimble footwork. Judy Garland provides emotional resonance and vulnerability in songs like 'It Only Happens When I Dance with You' and 'Better Luck Next Time'. The closing sequence at the *Easter Parade* is the undoubted highlight of the film. This evergreen classic is a delight from beginning to end. They certainly don't make them like this anymore. Treat yourself to a viewing this Easter season.

### Jesus Christ Music Superstar (1973)


This Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice rock-opera collaboration was adapted for the big screen in 1973. The film included most of the original Broadway cast members. *Jesus Christ Superstar* portrays the last days of Jesus Christ (Tim Neely) from an embittered Judas Iscariot's (Carl Anderson) point of view. Despite some controversial alterations of the Christ story, director Norman Jewison draws a likeable lead performance from Tim Neely. Spectacular wide-screen photography and memorable, exuberant songs combine to make this biblical screen musical a thing of beauty, passion and dignity. Definitely worth checking out.





# Frank O'Rourke TD

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

 /Frank O'Rourke



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



Oisín Quigley

**Anam Cara 5K Sunday April 22nd**  
**St Patrick's College Maynooth 11am**  
**Enter on the Day or at [runforoisin.com](http://runforoisin.com)**



### THE DEATH OF A CHILD IS DEVASTATING

*Whether a baby or adult child, the death of a precious son or daughter goes against the natural order of life. Sadly in Ireland over 2,000 families experience the death of a child each year. The cause of death could be stillbirth, SIDS, an unexpected illness, suicide, SADS, road traffic collisions, drowning, or an accident in the home or farm. The intense grief resulting from such a loss is something that can only be understood by people who have experienced it. Anam Cara provides safe and comfortable settings where bereaved parents can be among others who understand and care because they know what it is like."*

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

**Runners, Joggers, Walkers please join us for this family fun morning and support our cause.**

**Refreshments, Prizes, Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Music & Song**  
**T-shirts for the first 100 entries - Family entry €15 - Single entry €10**

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

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