

Maynooth newsletter



Serving the people of Maynooth

Local News March 2018 Issue No. 466 FREE

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The views & opinions expressed in this Publication are those of the contributors.



Tony Smith Memorial Walk Raises €2,216

The Tony Smith Memorial Walk has raised €2,216 for Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.

The Walk was held on Sunday 18th February at 3 pm and departed from Maynooth GAA Club. The Sponsored Walkers were led off by Emmet Stagg and Cllr. John McGinley and proceeded down the Moyglare Road, up the Main Street into Carton Avenue and then through Carton Estate.

The walk which is organised by Maynooth Labour Branch has been an annual event since 1979. The Walk was named in honour of Tony Smith who was treasurer of Maynooth Labour Branch and whose idea it was to hold an annual event for our Senior Citizens when he passed away tragically at the young age of 33 in 1982.

We would like to thank everybody who took part, all those who sponsored our walkers and the Management of Carton House for allowing us to use Carton Estate for the Walk.

All funds raised are handed over directly to Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee and the handover of the proceeds will be held on Sunday April 15th at the Senior Citizens Easter Tea Dance.



Sponsored walkers with Emmet Stagg and Cllr. John McGinley

Maynooth Town's u16A team partner with Maynooth Tidy Towns for Clean-up of Carton Avenue

Maynooth Town's u16 A team, under the guidance of their manager George Kellett, recently made a huge effort in clearing Carton Avenue of illegally dumped refuse. Items such as building materials, household waste and more unsavoury items were removed with the assistance of John Kavanagh from Maynooth Tidy Towns.



Maynooth Town's U16 team after clean-up in Carton Avenue

The initiative is part of a fundraising effort by the teenagers, to raise funds to buy team kit and equipment. The team is looking for a locally based sponsor who will obviously benefit publicly from sponsoring such a committed group of young lads.

More of these type of initiatives are planned to help the community, in which these young people live and go to school.

Quotes from the lads;

"We couldn't believe what some people dump - bag after bag of rubbish all dumped on purpose in an area used by lots of people, especially children."

"It was cold and hard work but well worth it"

"The lads did themselves and their parents proud. Not many 15 / 16 year olds will get up on a Sunday morning to clear up other people's rubbish, especially when you consider the peer pressure factors too, a great bunch of lads - and thanks to John Kavanagh of Maynooth Tidy Towns for all his help in supporting this initiative"

George Kellett - Team Manager.



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

17th MARCH 2018

STARTING @ 11AM

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17Ú MÁRTA 2018

SEE APPLICATION FORM

ON PAGE 14



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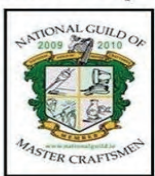
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Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

With the arrival of March can Spring be far behind, but before all that, let’s look back at February, “the love month.” We celebrated St. Valentine’s day with the usual aplomb and a most enjoyable afternoon was had by all who attended, especially Bernie Ryan and John Brady who won the “Most Romantic Couple” competition. You could certainly feel the love.

The music was provided by Brian Mc.Dermott with his special guest, his son James. Well done James, a chip of the old block.

The Tony Smith memorial Walk also took place on the day. A big thank you to Emmet, John and Dave who organise this event on behalf of the Labour Party each year, the proceeds of which will be presented to our organisation in April.



Our next event will be all about the wearing of the green as we celebrate yet another Saint. This time of course it’s Patrick, which will take place on Sunday March 18th. Now who said our “Saints and Scholars” had left us.

Our Annual Church gate collection will take place on March 10th / 11th and once again we ask for your support. Then on April 15th we will celebrate Easter, but more about that anon.

Meanwhile our morning club continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Geraldine Hall. Negotiating Leinster Street can be a bit tricky at the moment so we advise caution. Thank you to all the men working there and of course Tony and Johnny who ensure that our older people arrive and leave safely.

Finally, may we extend our sympathy to the families of Hilda Dunne and Anthony Malone who passed away recently.
Suaimhneas agus Siochain Doibh.

Josephine Moore.
Chairperson.



Maynooth Golf Society



Outings 2018



Castleknock Golf Club	March 10th
Athy Golf Club	April 7th
New Forest Golf Club	May 12th
Kilkea Castle GC \ Kilkenny GC	May 25/26th Weekend Away
Millicent Golf Club	June 22nd
The Heritage Golf Club	July 28th
Moyvalley Golf Club	August 25th
Carton House	TBC

New Members are welcome. Please contact any society committee member or phone 089-4906510 for more information.

Stagg Vows to Fight Council Proposal for Car Park in Harbour Field

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg has vowed to fight Kildare Co. Council's proposal to provide a 60 space car park in The Harbour Field in Maynooth.

The proposal which will have to go on Public Display was agreed to by Maynooth Municipal District Councillors at their January meeting and Labour Councillor John McGinley sought to overturn that decision at the Municipal meeting on Friday February 2nd but the Council are proceeding with the Proposal.

Emmet Stagg stated that the decision to provide the car park is scandalous and wrong for so many reasons.

ILLEGAL

When the Harbour Field was transferred to the Council by David Naul Cain in 2000, a Legal Covenant was attached stating that the Harbour Field could only be used for Community, Amenity, Sporting and Recreational Purposes and to provide accommodation for sporting clubs or other clubs engaged in leisure activities. Using the Harbour Field for a 60 space car park does not fall into any of the categories listed in the Covenant. Therefore, in Emmet’s view, the Council are acting illegally.

NO NEED FOR CAR PARK

There is no need whatsoever for a car park in the Harbour Field. The existing Public Car Park on Doctor’s Lane beside the Glenroyal Shopping Centre/Larine House is never full and a survey of the area in November showed 16 empty spaces every day.

The Private Car Park at Leinster Street, opposite Reilly's Funeral Home, is never full and there is ample space for parking there every day. Half of this Private Car Park is surfaced and of the 70 car park spaces, 44 were vacant at 12 noon on Thursday 8th February.

A car Park at the back of Oak Alley, at



Emmet at the Leinster Street Car Park with plenty of spaces available.

Doctor’s Lane, has been developed with 103 car parking spaces. Of these 35 were required to be provided for the Pub/Restaurant. The Council have failed to take enforcement action to ensure that a minimum 35 parking spaces are made available to the public.

Irish Rail will be seeking funding in 2018 from the National Transport Authority to develop a 38 space car park south of the rail line.

Taking all of this into account there is no need for a car park in The Harbour Field and it is simply a land grab by the Council.

ZONING

The Harbour Field is zoned Open Space and Amenity under the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019. This seeks to protect the wonderful Amenity that is the Harbour Field for the Community of Maynooth.

Under the Land Use zoning matrix of the Maynooth LAP, for lands zoned Open Space and Amenity, car parks are not permitted. Therefore the Council are acting against their own Maynooth Local Area Plan, with no good cause to do so.

The Harbour Field is a great amenity for the people of Maynooth as it is central and people are free to avail of the excellent playground facilities or the large green area. Field Days, Carnivals, Maynooth Festival Events and Fairs are also held in the Harbour Field during the year. It is a Green Lung in the Heart of the Town.

PRECEDENT

If we allow the Council to construct the Car Park in the Harbour Field it would set a dangerous precedent, and Emmet feels this land grab by the Council is only the tip of the iceberg in relation to the Council’s plans to destroy the Harbour Field.

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg vows that he will along with his colleague Cllr. John McGinley, Local Area Representative Angela Feeney and members of Maynooth Labour Branch, launch a campaign against this State Sponsored Vandalism of the Harbour Field in Maynooth once the Public Consultation period commences.

We will keep the Community of Maynooth posted on this.



Emmet at the Harbour Field.

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Maynooth Labour News

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

Campaign to Save The Harbour Field

As residents will be aware Maynooth Municipal District Councillors decided to put the proposal for a car park on the Harbour Field on Public Display at their meeting on 12 January. Cllr. John McGinley was not at the meeting as he was visiting his family in New Zealand. John tried to reverse the decision at the Maynooth MD meeting on 2 February but, the Councillors decided to proceed with this crazy proposal.

The proposal will go on public display for a period of 6 weeks when the public can object. At the time of writing it has not yet gone on public display. The nine Maynooth Municipal District Councillors will make the final decision and if they agree to the car park on the field a very dangerous precedent will be created. The Council will then be able to make the car park as big as they wish and do whatever they want with what will be left of the field.

Again, for your information, Cllr. John McGinley made the following points at the meeting on 2 February: “It is very difficult to understand why the MD engineer and some Councillors want to spend money on a car park in the amenity of the Harbour Field especially when the car park is not needed. The existing public car park behind McMahons is never full and there were on average 16 empty spaces each day in November. Also, the private car park at Leinster Street, beside the Council Offices, is never full. Indeed, two thirds of the spaces are vacant, with room for 60 cars.

A Car Park at the back of Oak Alley, at Doctors Lane, has been developed with 103 car parking spaces. Of these 35 were required to be provided for the Pub/Restaurant itself. The Council have failed to take enforcement action to ensure that at a minimum 35 parking spaces are made available to the Public.

In addition, Irish Rail will be seeking funding in 2018 from the NTA to develop a car park with 38 car parking spaces south of the Rail Line.

When the National Transport Authority granted funding for the North South Corridor to make Leinster Street as much pedestrianized as possible, with a shared surface arrangement, it is highly unlikely that they would have made the funding available if they knew that the Council were going to put a car park at the start of Leinster Street.

The Council Part 8 report on the North South Corridor states in relation to Leinster Street that: “It is proposed to redesign this street as a shared space whilst also reducing the carriage way width and improving public lighting. This will reduce the dominance of the motor vehicle and improve pedestrian movement and comfort.”

Proposing to put a car park at the start of Leinster Street totally contradicts what the Council said in the Part 8 Report. The Harbour Field is a great amenity for the people of Maynooth as it is central and people are free to avail of the excellent playground facilities or the large green area. The previous owner, the Hon. David Naul Cain, was well aware of its amenity value to the people of Maynooth when he transferred ownership to Kildare County Council some 18 years ago. He insisted on there being a legal covenant which restricts the type of development that can be permitted at the Harbour Field.

That legal covenant prohibits the field from being used for housing or a car park. In the light of this legal covenant and bearing in mind that Leinster Street is the most pedestrianized street in Maynooth and completely unsuited for a car park at the end of it, I’m asking that the proposal for the car park be dropped. Councillors did not have all of the information when they made the decision to proceed at the January meeting.”

Council Confirms that Traffic Lights for Meadowbrook Link Road/Straffan Road Junction

The Council’s Director of Services again advised Cllr. John McGinley at the Maynooth MD meeting on 2 February that the much need traffic lights at the Meadowbrook Link Road/ Straffan Road junction will be in place no later than the end of March.

Proposed Amendment to Maynooth Local Area Plan (LAP)

The proposed amendment to the Maynooth LAP to facilitate the construction of the ring road from Blacklion to the Celbridge Road will go on Public Display at the end of March.

Cllr. McGinley Allocates Funding for the Re-surfacing of the Footpath from Cluain Aoibhinn to Bond Bridge

Cllr. John McGinley has allocated funding from the Local Property Tax to re-surface the footpath from Cluain Aoibhinn to Newtown Grove at Bond Bridge.

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

Cllr. John McGinley has submitted the following Motion for the consideration of 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 Estate, Maynooth.”

Cllr. McGinley Calls for new Public Lights to be Installed in Maynooth Estates:

Cllr. John McGinley has submitted the following Motion for the consideration of 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?”

Cllr. McGinley Calls for Noise Reduction Barriers to be Put at M4 Motorway

Cllr. John McGinley has submitted the following Motion for the consideration of 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?”

North Kildare Gaelcholaiste to Open in September 2019 - Stagg

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg has been in contact with the Department of Education in relation to the Opening of the North Kildare Gaelcholaiste in Maynooth and the appointment of a Principal for the Gaelcholaiste.

Officials have confirmed to Mr. Stagg that the North Kildare Gaelcholaiste will open in September 2019 and have also confirmed that the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board have been authorised to appoint a Principal for the Gaelcholaiste by September 1st 2018.

Welcoming the progress Mr. Stagg stated that the confirmation was great news for the many parents who have actively campaigned for the North Kildare Gaelcholaiste over the years once it became clear that Colaiste Cois Life in Lucan could not accommodate those wishing to continue their secondary education fully immersed in Irish.

Mr. Stagg stated that his colleague and former Education Minister Jan O’Sullivan TD approved the opening of a North Kildare Gaelcholaiste on 17th November, 2015, for opening in September 2019, once the Aonad opened in Maynooth Community College demonstrated sufficient viability for a Gaelcholaiste, and he was pleased that the viability has been proven.

The accommodation for the North Kildare Gaelcholaiste is likely to be the old Maynooth Post Primary School when they move to the Maynooth Education Campus in September, 2019.

Kildare North General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg welcomed the continuing progress in the establishment of the North Kildare Gaelcholaiste and he looked forward to continuing progress in the appointment of a principal for the school and the confirmation of the accommodation arrangements in the future.

Tenders for Construction of New Maynooth Educate Together School to Be Invited by March - Stagg

Emmet Stagg has been in contact with the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to progressing the Tender Stage of the New Maynooth Educate Together School on the Celbridge Road, Maynooth, and the commencement of construction of the New School.

The Minister has advised Mr. Stagg that a new Design and Build Contractor Framework is currently being established and is expected to be in place shortly. Tenders will be invited for the project in Quarter 1 of this year and it is anticipated that construction will commence in Quarter 2 of 2018.

Welcoming this continuing progress with the school Mr. Stagg stated that the project remained in place to commence construction in the first half of 2018 and he again congratulated the Board of Management of the school on progressing the project to this stage.

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg stated that he looked forward to work commencing on the new 2 storey 16 classroom school.

Maynooth Castle to Open to Public 7 Days a Week from Mid-May - Stagg

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg was in contact with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform about the number of visitors to Maynooth Castle in the past 4 years and the numbers who availed of guided tours.

Minister of State Kevin Boxer Moran has advised that the Total Numbers who visited and availed of Guided Tours were as follows:

YEAR	TOTAL VISITORS	GUIDED TOURS
2014	25,268	15,384
2015	21,843	10,819
2016	21,892	10,091
2017	22,786	11,508

2017 - (Provisional & Subject to change)

Mr. Stagg stated that the 2017 figures, whilst subject to change, showed an increase on the 2016 figures. The Castle is open to the Public every year from Mid-May to late September and there were over 1,000 visitors to the Castle each week in 2017, and nearly 600 people weekly availed of guided tours.

Mr. Stagg was also advised that for the 2018 Visitor Season Maynooth Castle would be open seven days a week rather than the normal opening of Wednesday to Sunday every week.

Concluding Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg stated that he welcomed the extension of the opening of the Castle to the public for seven days a week but he reiterated that he would continue to press for the Phase 2 Restoration Works to the Castle, which would have seen the provision of a roof on the Keep of the Castle and an Auditorium.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service which provides a free and confidential service to the public. Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121

Treatment Abroad Scheme

Question

I know that medical treatments available in Ireland can be accessed in other EU countries instead. What if I need a treatment that is not available in Ireland?

Answer

If you are entitled to public health services that **are** available in Ireland, you can access these services in the European Economic Area (EEA) and be repaid the cost under the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive.

If you are a public patient and need treatment that is **not** available to you in Ireland, you may be able to use the Treatment Abroad Scheme to get the treatment in another country in the EEA, or in Switzerland. The Scheme may provide help with your travel fare and, in some cases, the fare for a travelling companion.

You must be referred for treatment abroad by an Irish-based consultant who is treating you as a public patient. You cannot refer yourself or be referred by a GP.

You and the consultant complete an application form and include a copy of your referral letter. Your application must be approved by the Health Service Executive (HSE) before you travel or start treatment abroad. You usually get a decision on your application within 15 to 20 working days.

If your application is approved, the HSE will issue a form called E112. This authorises treatment abroad so that you do not have to make any payment to the healthcare provider. The treatment you have abroad must be in public healthcare under a registered medical practitioner.

It must be in a recognised hospital or other institution that accepts the form E112. If you don't have the form when you attend at your appointment, you may be charged and not be refunded. Any treatments or consultations that are not pre-approved will not be covered.

The Ombudsman has produced a report that suggests improvements to the application and appeals process. It recommends that, by the end of February 2018, the HSE produce a plan and schedule for making the suggested changes.

To apply for the scheme, contact the Treatment Abroad Scheme Office for an application form. You can get the contact details for your area by calling the HSE Infoline on the Callsave number 1850 24 1850 or online at [hse.ie/treatment abroad](http://hse.ie/treatment%20abroad).

Online Dispute Resolution

Question

What can I do if I have a problem with an item I've bought online?

Answer

If you are not happy with an item you have bought online, you should always contact the trader first to make a complaint. If you are not satisfied with their response, you may be able to get help.

If your complaint is against a trader here in Ireland, you can contact the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission for advice.

If the trader is in another EU member state, you can contact the European Consumer Centre Ireland (ECC Ireland). ECC Ireland may contact the trader and try to resolve your dispute. If this is not successful, ECC Ireland can advise you on other options.

You can also use the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform. The ODR platform is operated by the European Commission for use by consumers living in the EU. It aims to help consumers and traders settle online disputes without the need to go to court. You use the platform to find a neutral third party (called a *dispute resolution body*) to handle your dispute.

You don't have to pay when you submit a complaint using the ODR platform. However, a dispute resolution body may ask you to pay a fee if it agrees to handle your case. When a dispute resolution body agrees to handle your case it will tell you what the rules are, including how much you have to pay.

The outcome can depend on the type of dispute resolution body and their rules and procedures. Some decisions may not be binding on the trader. If you disagree with the

outcome you might be able to appeal the outcome or take your case to court.

Maternity Leave

Question

I recently started working in a new job on a part-time basis. I have just learned that I am pregnant – will I be entitled to maternity leave?

Answer

If you are pregnant while in employment, you are entitled to take maternity leave. The entitlement to a basic period of maternity leave from employment applies to all female employees (including casual workers), regardless of how long you have been working for the organisation or the number of hours you work per week. You are also entitled to additional unpaid maternity leave. The Maternity Protection Acts 1994 and 2004 provide your statutory minimum entitlements in relation to maternity at work, including maternity leave.

You are entitled to 26 weeks' maternity leave together with 16 weeks additional unpaid maternity leave, which begins immediately after the end of maternity leave.

Your entitlement to pay and superannuation (pension payments) during maternity leave depends on the terms of your contract of employment. Employers are not obliged to pay women who are on maternity leave. You may qualify for Maternity Benefit from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) if you have enough PRSI contributions. However an employee's contract could provide for additional rights to payment during the leave period, so that, for example, the employee could receive full pay less the amount of Maternity Benefit payable.

If you have a dispute with your employer about maternity leave or if you have been dismissed due to a matter connected with your pregnancy or for claiming your rights under maternity leave legislation, you may make a complaint within six months of the dispute or complaint occurring. You must use the online complaint form available on workplacereactions.ie. The time limit may be extended for up to a further six months, but only where there is a reasonable cause which prevented the complaint being brought within the normal time limit.

You should apply for Maternity Benefit at least six weeks before your baby's due date. Apply to the Maternity Benefit Section of the DEASP.

Cohabiting and social welfare payments

Question

I applied for a means-tested Jobseeker's Allowance, but I was told that I'm not eligible because of my partner's earnings. Why is this? We live together but we are not married and we split our expenses equally.

Answer

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) treats married and unmarried couples in the same way when assessing entitlement to a means-tested social welfare payment. It assesses the total income of the household, rather than the circumstances of the individual claimant.

If you are married or are cohabiting, the means of your spouse or partner are also taken into account. This is the case even if only one of you is actually claiming a payment. The DEASP uses detailed definitions and criteria to assess whether a couple are cohabiting and you can read these online at welfare.ie.

The way the means of a couple is assessed can differ slightly, depending on the payment being applied for. For Blind Pension, State Pension (Non-Contributory) and Carer's Allowance, the DEASP adds all of your means together and then halves the total to get the assessable means for each of you. For Jobseeker's Allowance, Disability Allowance, and Farm Assist, the DEASP adds all your combined means together and then assesses the total against the maximum household payment for your circumstances.

If your partner is getting a social welfare payment in their own right, then your means are taken to be half of the total means of yourself and your partner.

Sometimes a certain amount of income, or income from particular sources, is not taken into account. This is called an income disregard. For example, a certain amount of income from employment can be disregarded.

James Lawless T.D. Kildare North

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

Maynooth Train Station

Again in the Dáil I have raised the need to extend the parking facilities at the train station. The car park of the train station requires an urgent extension as currently it is reaching and surpassing its capacity. It is very disappointing that the Minister has stated that the National Transport Authority will be examining the situation regarding the car park next year having raised this in the Dáil with him. However, I will continue to press the Minister on this topic and work to have a resolution sooner.

Rural Road Maintenance

I was keen to speak on my party's motion to call on the Minister for Transport to improve rural roads across Ireland. This motion involves the deplorable state of rural roads throughout the country. I fully support this motion which aims to greatly improve the condition of Ireland's primary transport infrastructure. I am well aware of concerns regarding some of the rural roads providing entry to Maynooth. I have brought these roads to the councils attention for immediate work.

Waste Reduction Bill

I recently had the opportunity to speak in favour of the Waste Reduction Bill at Committee Stage. Not long ago, I met with Margaret Brady of Zeus Packaging and learned of their new product, the first compostable coffee cups. These cups are biodegradable and can be disposed of in a brown bin with other compostable waste. The technology and products are already there and all that remains is to support them in the marketplace. This is just one measure taken to alleviate the high levels of waste that are attained. This will help to keep Maynooth Town free of litter with the continued efforts of Maynooth Tidy Towns and Maynooth University students who organise clean-up groups. I would like to acknowledge their efforts.

Temporary Closing of Roads

There will be a temporary closing of Leinster Street as Kildare County Council continues to work on the area. Leinster Street, Maynooth from the Main Street traffic lights to as far as the Harbour field on working days (8 a.m. until 6 p.m.) during the period between Tuesday the 20th February until Saturday the 3 March.

The closure is necessary in order to facilitate the completion of the final surface course on Leinster Street as part of the full Leinster Street renewal project. Pedestrian access to the train station and harbour area will remain available. However, the carpark on Leinster Street will be inaccessible during this period. Access to the Fire Station and Primary Care HSE facility will be maintained.

National Broadband Plan in Tatters

There remains only one tender in for the National Broadband Plan, which was intended to bring broadband to rural homes in the constituency. The Government has complicated the process so much that it has become next to impossible for potential bidders to respond in a commercially viable way. The question that Government need to answer is are they serious about rolling out broadband to rural communities, and are they prepared to pay for it?

This represents an unmitigated failure on the part of Government, and leaves over 540,000 households in serious limbo. I do not believe that the current tender process can continue with just one bidder involved. Minister Naughten has presided 20 months of failure in terms of the National Broadband Plan since he became Minister. The Government must act now to ensure that those without broadband or have little coverage are catered for in the coming months.

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area From 26/1/18 to 26/2/18 - information from Kildare County Council Website

App. Num	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	Application Date
18169	Kildare County Council	Glenveagh Homes Limited,	Unit K8, Maynooth Business Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	20/02/2018
18161	Kildare County Council	Ciaran Hyland and Alison Sheridan,	16 Parklands Close, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	16/02/2018
18157	Kildare County Council	Ronan Anglin,	19 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	15/02/2018
18148	Kildare County Council	Michael Power	74 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth	14/02/2018
18143	Kildare County Council	Fergal and Carol Anne Campion	84 Leinster Wood South, Carton Demesne, Maynooth	13/02/2018
18120	Kildare County Council	Patrick Fallon	Ballycurraghan, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	07/02/2018
1897	Kildare County Council	Bart Glebe Holdings Unlimited Company,	Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	01/02/2018
1888	Kildare County Council	Zhi Wen Chen	10 Main Street and Buckley's Lane, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	30/01/2018
1878	Kildare County Council	Padhraic and Claire Corcoran	1 Castlepark View, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	26/01/2018

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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 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.

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

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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

BUS ESCORT REQUIRED FOR MAYNOOTH EDUCATE TOGETHER NS

Bus escort required to accompany 3 children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder to and from school daily.

The route is approximately 1 hour each morning and afternoon. Terms and conditions as per Department of Education and Skills. Please send a CV and cover letter to Chairperson Board of Management, Maynooth Educate Together NS, Celbridge Rd, Maynooth, Co. Kildare by 1st April 2018.

**Size: 8cm x 5cm
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**Easter Greetings From all the
Staff at Maynooth Community
Council CLG & The Maynooth
Newsletter**


DON'T FORGET ...

**Clocks
go
forward + 1hr**

1am - Sunday 25th March

The Copy Date for the April Edition of the Maynooth Newsletter is Tuesday 20th March 2018

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.

Improved Bus Services for Kilcock now set for March says O'Rourke.

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has been informed that Bus Éireann will provide additional services for Kilcock Bus commuters, on Route 115, in late March. Deputy O'Rourke has campaigned for this improved service over the last year.

"The core Bus Éireann frequency to/from Kilcock will increase to every 30mins throughout the day with lower frequencies after 7pm. We have seen the numbers using public transport from Kilcock increasing in recent years."

"The implementation date is now planned for late March. I had hoped that this would have been provided before now, but at last Bus Éireann have confirmed an implementation date."

"We have seen improvements in the frequency on Route 115 over the last year or so. However additional services are needed and I am delighted that these additional services will now be provided. We also need to improve the rail service to Kilcock and I intend to continue to make representations to have this service improved."

"We now have a fairer fare structure for Kilcock rail commuters following the inclusion of Kilcock location in the Short Hop Zone, an orbital Bus Route linking Naas to Blanchardstown, via Clane, Rathcoffey, Maynooth will be put in place by the end of March, and a park and ride location is now agreed for Kilcock. Once we have a regular and reliable public transport service, we will attract more public transport users." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

Loan sales to unaccountable vulture funds should not go ahead – O'Rourke

Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North Frank O'Rourke says the proposed sale of a vast swathe of loans by Irish banks to unregulated and unaccountable vulture funds should not proceed.

Deputy O'Rourke said, "It is evident that banks have shown very little willingness to work through their non-performing loan book. Instead of selling their loan book and outsourcing their dirty work to vulture funds, the banks should be providing sustainable and reasonable solutions for customers willing to cooperate with them.

"It is clear now that vulture funds are lining up to buy portfolios of loans from the main banks in Ireland. It is expected that these portfolios will involve SME loans and buy-to-let investment properties. However, the Government has allowed these funds to go completely unregulated in Ireland.

"Recently it has emerged that both AIB and Permanent TSB are taking steps to sell large swathes of their mortgage loan books to unregulated vulture funds. The Government has the power to stop this from occurring considering the Irish State has a majority stake holding in both banks.

"These vulture funds are accountable to nobody and are completely beyond the reach of the Central Bank. There are many families who are in distress with their mortgages who are living in fear of losing their homes as they find it impossible to engage with these firms. Their sole interest is in the property, they take no account of social concerns.

"Fianna Fáil is opposed to the banks selling their loans to unregulated vulture funds. The banks should not be selling Irish loans to unregulated vulture funds. We will be bringing forward legislation to ensure these sales do not take place," concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

Commitment to Additional Rail Fleet which is Needed to Improve Rail Service says O'Rourke.

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has been informed that the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Irish Rail have agreed to review their Rail Fleet capacity in light of the increased demand on our rail services at peak times.

"Since being elected, I have made repeated representations to have the level of service improved on both our rail and bus routes for commuters in North Kildare."

"While we have received a commitment that there will be an increase off peak services on both the Maynooth and Kildare Lines, we need increased capacity at peak times. However Irish Rail's fleet is now at maximum capacity at peak times."

"Following my representations, I have been informed that the NTA and Irish Rail will review their fleet capacity with a view to seeking investment in additional new fleet. I am hopeful that the procurement of the new fleet, which will increase the train capacity at peak times, will commence this year."

"We are making progress in relation to our public transport; better bus services are on the way, a Park & Ride is to be provided in Kilcock and an orbital bus route from Naas to Blanchardstown servicing Clane, Rathcoffey and Maynooth will be in place by the end of March."

"As travelling to Dublin City Centre is becoming more challenging by car, we need to provide additional public transport services. I will continue to make representations to have further improvements put in place," concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

More Government focus on roll out of Broadband needed says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has said that it's time for the Government to intervene and bring clarity to the roll out of the National Broadband Plan as delays persist in the roll out of broadband connections in rural areas in County Kildare. Deputy O'Rourke recently met with residents in rural parts of Kildare to discuss the problems associated with lack of Broadband service.

"More than 13,000 homes and businesses, or 15% of the total, across the County of Kildare fall under "State led intervention" category for roll out of Broadband. Some of these homes and businesses are within a few kilometres of major IT Multinational companies and could face waits for another 3 to 5 years to secure high speed broadband."

"The Government's record on broadband provision is disgraceful. The National Broadband Plan was launched in 2012 and it was due to be completed by 2016. We now hear from the Minister that it could be 2023 before it is fully rolled out nationally."

"High quality broadband is crucial for small businesses, and for many families and young people where there is an increasing opportunity to work from home or a requirement to access the internet for educational needs. It is no longer a luxury commodity, it is as essential as water or electricity."

"Locally, Kildare Co Co has appointed a senior official as its Broadband officer. This is bringing focus to the roll out of high speed broadband across the county. However nationally the Government's action is at best lazy and is negligent. Government focus is needed on this issue to shorten the proposed timeline for the roll out of the plan." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

Lifesaving equipment should be extended to all Type 1 Diabetes sufferers - O'Rourke

Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North Frank O'Rourke has called on the Minister for Health Simon Harris to make lifesaving monitoring equipment available to all Type 1 Diabetes sufferers.

Type 1 Diabetes sufferers have to monitor their blood glucose levels on a regular basis and currently need to perform invasive finger-prick blood testing up to 10 times a day.

A new device called the FreeSyle Libre allows Type 1 diabetes sufferers to carry out easier and more effective testing.

Deputy O'Rourke said, "Last month I called on Minister Harris to include this important lifesaving equipment under the Long-Term Illness Scheme. This scheme provides financial assistance to patients in covering the cost of the equipment that they need to monitor their illness. Following my request Minister Harris included the FreeStyle Libre

equipment for children and young adults, although he has failed to indicate who exactly falls into this category.

"Earlier this week I raised this matter again in the Dáil with the Government. I pressed them to extend the scheme to all Type 1 Diabetes sufferers. At the moment, there are 20,000 adults suffering from Type 1 Diabetes. None of these adults are covered under the scheme as it is currently restricted to children and young adults. This does not make sense when you consider Type 1 Diabetes is not restricted by age - adults continue to suffer from it throughout their lives.

"FreeStyle Libre costs approximately €120 a month. This is a significant cost for patients and means that many people who would benefit from using the equipment simply cannot do so due to the high cost associated with it. Minister Harris needs to recognise that the equipment should be covered for all sufferers of Type 1 Diabetes, including adults. It should not just be restricted to children and young adults.

"There is also an issue with the criteria for the scheme for children and young adults. Only those who are currently using the prick-finger test are included in the scheme. Those who are using insulin pumps are unable to access the scheme, despite the fact that the HSE has indicated a preference for insulin pumps down through the year. There is no joined-up thinking with the current policy. People who follow the advice of the HSE should not be penalised.

"This is something which I will continue to raise with Minister Harris and his Government colleagues. This equipment is revolutionary and lifesaving. It should be included in the Long-Term Illness Scheme for all Type 1 Diabetes sufferers without delay. 13,000 people have signed a petition calling for this and I believe Minister Harris should meet with representatives of this campaign without delay. He needs to hear first-hand the concerns that they have," concluded Deputy O'Rourke

Grants of €10k available to employers to hire over 50s says O'Rourke but scheme needs co-ordination

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has welcomed the government's move to provide an incentive to employers to hire people over 50, but said that the revised Jobs Plus scheme needs better marketing and co-ordination.

"Under the Jobs Plus Scheme, from the 1st of January 2018, grants of €10k will be available to employers if they employ people who are over 50 years of age, that have been on the live register, and unemployed for at least 312 days in the previous 18 months."

"There are barriers for older people returning to work and we must reduce these barriers. The Jobs Plus scheme has been refocussed, and now employers are entitled to a subsidy of €10,000 who hire people over 50 years of age."

"Jobs Plus is a cash incentive to employers who offer full-time jobs to the long-term unemployed. We must incentivise employers to hire people who are over 50. Older people can be discriminated against.. However, the skills and knowledge that they possess can be very beneficial for businesses and younger generations that are working."

"We must start to promote a positive image of older people in the workforce. This change to the Jobs Plus Scheme is a step in the right direction. However, I believe that the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection needs to bring more co-ordination to the scheme and match those looking for work to employers who are seeking employees."

"As our population ages, we must start to refocus our benefits and supports to ensure that older people are valued in both the work environment and in our community. I will continue to raise the importance of these types of supports for older people" concluded Deputy O'Rourke.



ROYAL CANAL AMENITY GROUP (RCAG)

ROYAL CANAL GREENWAY FESTIVAL - MAY 2018

The Royal Canal Greenway Festival will be held on Sunday 27th May 2018. We are currently putting a program together. If you, or any friend, is interested in hiring a "Selling Table" in the Scouts Hall for the day, it will cost you a very reasonable €40. You will need to contact us as soon as you can on 086-8636249.

If you, or a friend, would like to showcase your singing/musical skills for that Sunday afternoon, again please contact us as soon as you can on 086-8636249,

THE HARBOUR FIELD

RCAG will certainly oppose the proposal by Kildare County Council to build "temporary" car parking in a section of the Harbour Field. We all know that "temporary" is a misuse of language, and if the proposal succeeds, it can only go one way in the future and that is certainly not in the reverse direction.

Kildare Animal Foundation (KAF) will hold a Dog Show in the Harbour Field during the Royal Canal Greenway Festival. KAF points out that the grass field is the ideal venue as a hard surface hurts the dogs' paws.

THE ROYAL CANAL GREENWAY

Work is progressing well. Please keep up to date with developments by logging on to our site: royalcanal.ie and royalcanalgreenway.ie.



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

February 18th was a Red Letter Day in the history of St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band when we performed in the Chapel of St. Patrick's College Maynooth for the very first time.

Joined by Maynooth Parish Choir under their Conductor Sarah Darlington the concert included a selection of well known religious and semi classical music which was greatly appreciated by the large audience. Pieces included were Cavalleria Rusticana, Gabriel's Oboe and The Holy City among others. The Band and Choir came together at the end of the concert with two beautiful pieces, Hymn to the Fallen with A Gaelic Blessing as an encore to end a really memorable evening of music.

March is one of the busiest months of the year for the band and it begins with a parade in Dunboyne on Sunday 11th while our marathon marching session on St. Patrick's Day begins with the Maynooth Parade at 11am followed by the Kilcock Parade at 1.30 and finishing up with the Clane Parade, which we have not done for a number of years, at 3pm. In between all of that we will be stopping off at Manor Mills, who again have kindly sponsored the Band for the Maynooth Parade, at 12.15 to help get the presentation of prizes and other Festival Fun events under way.

The Band has a very busy programme lined up for this year the details of which will be unfolded through the Newsletter on a monthly basis.

As always we welcome musicians living in Maynooth and the surrounding areas to join us in the Band Hall any Monday night (except Bank Holidays) between 7.45 and 9.45 and you will indeed be made welcome. We hope to start beginner's classes on all instruments next September so watch this space for the starting date.



Comhaltas Craobh Mhaigh Nuad



Hello again, from Craobh Mhaigh Nuad and readers of our monthly journal.

Lessons are in full swing, the blip around the school musical notwithstanding and preparations are building towards the fleadh, which represents the culmination of this year's efforts.

Bhí paráid mhór' BEO, GAEILGE AGUS BRÓDÚIL' ar siúl sa chathair Dé Sathairn ar an 3ú Márta chun 2018 - Bliain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh, Tosaigh sé ar Sraid Parnell ag 12pm agus táthar ag tnúth le 4000 daoine. Ba mhór le Bliain na Gaeilge 2018 go ghlacfaidh na craobhanna go léir páirt sa paráid seo. Bhí an lá go h-iontach le cúpla mar bhí na h-uirlísí cheoil linn chun cúpla phort a sheinnt.

Looking forward to 2018 and a wider program of cultural events around Gaeilge.

For our Cúinne an Cheoltóra this week, we're chatting with Síle Flood, a long time branch member and one of our finest flute players.

Name: Síle Flood - Age: 16

Instruments & how long have you been playing?

I have been playing Tin Whistle for 8 years and I took up the flute 6 years ago, while I've been playing , guitar for the last 2 yrs.

Best memory of playing music:

My favourite memory was playing for Radio na Gaeltachta in Gaelscoil Ui Fhiaich

Biggest influence on my music career

My Nana

Best musician you know:

My Nana , Phyl Lawless

What do you like best about playing music?

It's fun and I like learning new tunes
Looking forward to March, we have one of the centrepieces of the year with the upcoming St. Patrick's Day festival – expect some foot tapping, musical excellence again this year and give us a wave and a Hup! if you see us!

We're usually in Maynooth GAA the last Sunday of the month, and our adult slow session runs every 2 weeks, so get in touch if you'd like to participate in these even if you're not a branch member. All are welcome!

<http://www.ccemhaighnuad.com/>
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Derek Carroll, PRO,
Craobh Mhaigh Nuad CCÉ

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Maynooth Newsletter

Copy date for the April edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be Tuesday 20th March 2018

Zero Waste Maynooth




There are five Rs that are the foundation to Zero Waste – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot (Compost). Last month's article looked at Refuse. This month we are going to skip to the fourth R – Recycle!

The Community Space was a Zero Waste hotspot at the end of January when Zero Waste Maynooth and Tidy Towns organised an event which included a workshop on recycling by VOICE. During the event people could buy loose dried goods in their own containers from Bare Necessities, chat about modern cloth nappies with the Kildare Cloth Nappy Library, discuss simple swaps that could be made to reduce plastic consumption in their everyday lives and see what cafes are participating in the Conscious Cup Campaign. Some organised their weekly shop around the event as Coyne's Butchers and Masterson's Fruit and Veg are happy for customers to use their own containers and bags.

The workshop was given by Triona, a recycling ambassador with VOICE. The new recycling rules can be confusing so the workshop focused on items that can be put in the bin, rather than creating a long list of non-acceptable items. Here are some of the main points of the workshop:

1. Anything that goes into your recycling bin needs to be **clean, dry and loose**.
 - Items in your green bin should be clean enough that you would be happy to empty them onto your kitchen table.
 - It is important to put the items in loose or the machines are unable to sort items into the different recycling categories. So no more need to buy bin liners to hold your recycling!
2. **Paper, cardboard, tins and cans and rigid plastics** are all that can be put in your recycling bin. The website recyclinglistireland.ie gives a good explanation of allowed items.
 - Soft plastics can't be put in the bin – so be sure to remove the soft plastic labels from milk bottles before putting in recycling!
3. Different bin companies say that they take different items. However, just because they take an item doesn't mean that they can recycle it. There is a big difference between "recyclable" and "recycled". Recyclinglistireland.ie gives a good explanation of why we have a new list.

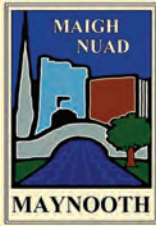
Our next event will be run in conjunction with Tidy Towns WEEE collection on Saturday 24th March. Once you have dropped off your electrical goods for recycling, come up to the Community Space from 1.30 to buy some loose dried goods, learn about cloth nappies, attend a workshop on making your own cleaning supplies and, of course, enjoy some tea and coffee (and some yummy homemade cookies!!)



Follow us on Facebook to hear about our events!



Sunday 11th March 2018



Maynooth

Tidy Towns
Caring for our environment



We took part in a campaign to plant thousands of trees (Trees of our Land) nationally on Saturday 10th February at 8.30 am. We planted approx. 500 whips, which are small trees about 2 to 3 feet tall and are suitable for hedge planting. Trees for the Land and are propagated from native Irish stock, which is important in the context of the Irish ecosystem. We had fifteen volunteers helping out and it took two and a half hours to complete the task. "Many hands make light work". Some hedging was also planted in Kingsbry and Castledawson by residents of those estates.

We planted both sides of the wooden fence opposite Spar in Beaufield. The varieties planted were, Hawthorn, also known as Whitethorn, Blackthorn, Birch, Rowan, Hazel, Alder and Holly. It will be maintained as a hedgerow in the future and will benefit the whole ecosystem, providing nesting habitats and food for birds and shelter for small animals.

We started hedgerow planting in Maynooth last year and we hope to continue in the future creating corridors for all wildlife. The long term aim is to replace much of the hedges we have lost over the years to building, road construction and other developments. We wish to thank Spar in Beaufield Shopping Centre for refreshments and all who helped us on the day. More trees were planted on Saturday 18th February along the banks of the Royal Canal.



WEEE Ireland will be in Maynooth on Saturday 24th March from 10am to 4pm in the Tesco Carpark for recycling of any item with a plug or battery. Looking forward to seeing you all on St. Patrick's Day in the Parade.



Maynooth Town Soccer Club U16 boys were very busy Sunday morning 11th February helping to make Carton Avenue a better recreational area for all our residents to walk. Thanks to George Kellett for getting in touch and supervising the boys. With some help from our Chairman John Kavanagh. Tidy Towns Volunteers in the making. In their picture you can see some of the proceeds from the clean up. A lot more than just litter. We really appreciate the hard work and effort.

Zero Waste Maynooth had a very successful Information programme held in January in the Community Space at which some of our Volunteers attended.

Some of Maynooth Tidy Towns Volunteers recently went to see Thornton's recycling plant in action. Volunteers will start back in late March with their clean up on Saturday mornings starting time is 10am. Also Sunday morning clean ups will commence on March 18th @ 7.45am.

Anyone who wishes to help Maynooth Tidy Towns can contact us on 087 3153189 or see us on Facebook or Twitter.

Richard Farrell
PRO Maynooth Tidy Towns



Drama News
An Nuadha Players
Community Theatre

As I am sure you are aware, An Nuadha Players is proudly presenting **The Importance of Being Earnest** this coming April.

We are looking for some volunteers for set building, stage crew and front of house. If you feel you are in a position to give us some of your time to help us out in any way, it would be greatly appreciated. We will be set building from the 31st March for that weekend in the Presentation girls school Maynooth. All welcome! We will also need people to do stage crew and front of house for the nights of the show (4th – 7th April)

If you are free for any of the above please email me back or text/call on 085-7830942 with your availability

Thanking you in advance and Kind Regards
Amy Douglas, Secretary,
An Nuadha Players.

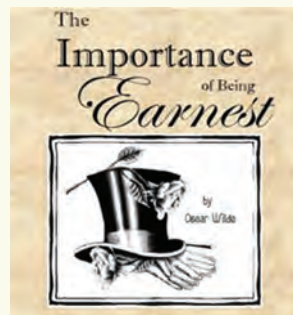
As Amy says An Nuadha Players are pushing out the boat to get the best from Wilde's greatest play. We will meet in the drawing room for cigars and brandy to discuss it. Wilde and Bosey may turn up but I believe they are in Paris for the weekend.

If you were thinking of treading the boards, this is a great opportunity to start. You meet like-minded people – have lots of fun - remember fun?

I had fun once – it was the last summer before the war. I was a wing commander in the RAF. I met this beautiful English rose, a lovely woman who had these amazing ---- no no this is none of your business, what goes on in the spitfire stays in the spitfire.

The good news for Maynooth is we are getting another set of traffic lights. We now have as many red lights as Amsterdam.

Mind the Trams – March 2018
Terry Nealon



Tidy Towns Maynooth and Zero Waste Maynooth

Zero Waste Event

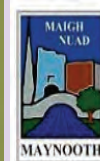
Saturday 24th March
Community Space
1.30 pm - 3.30 pm

**Natural Products Cleaning
Workshop @2.30pm**

**Bare Necessities
plastic free shopping**

Kildare Cloth Nappy Library

WEEE Public Collection Day
Household Electrical Goods
10am - 4pm
Tesco carpark
Maynooth



Maynooth
Tidy Towns
Caring for our environment

Maynooth Local History Group

Maynooth Local History Group held its monthly meeting on the 25 January last. Those present spent a few moments remembering the late Hilda Dunne with great affection and the trojan work she did on behalf of the Group, and Maynooth, in raising awareness of our rich local and national history and heritage.

In order to honour her and the work she undertook in ensuring that the Presentation Sisters' burial ground in Maynooth remained undisturbed, it was suggested that the committee would organise an event during Heritage Week in 2018 to acknowledge her work in this regard. It was also agreed that Rita Edwards (Secretary) would write to Mr Loughlin Dunne and family in order to express the Group's sincere condolences on Hilda's death. Then members of the committee stood for a minute's silence in her memory. May she rest in peace.

Rita Edwards
Secretary



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 17th MARCH 2018

FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PHÁDRAIG MHAIGH NUAD 17Ú MÁRTA 2018



As we enter into a new season, we can now look forward to one of the biggest events in the Maynooth Calendar – the St. Patrick's Day Parade. This is the **33rd annual parade** to take place in Maynooth and we are continuing with the tradition of having a theme.

This year's theme is – **Medieval Maynooth.**

The town that we all know and love was once the capital of Ireland during Medieval times under the Fitzgerald Clann on behalf of the British Crown. What's most interesting about the Fitzgeralds was that they were apparently “*more Irish than the Irish themselves*”.

The biggest landmark in our town is Maynooth Castle and over recent years it has become more of a focal point for the local community with our Summer Festival and free tours provided by the OPW.

In preparing for this year's parade, we ask that all groups consider dressing up in Medieval costumes and really taking the theme to heart. There is an award for the best portrayal of the theme along with other awards, such as Best Commercial Float and Environmental Awareness.

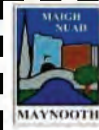
The organisation of the parade is done by a committee of Maynooth Community Council CLG and by the office staff as part of their training on a Community Employment Scheme. While the preparation for the event takes months of behind the scenes work, we always need some extra hands on the day. The average attendance at our annual parade is approx **5,000 people** and with this we need people to volunteer as stewards. If you are available for two hours on the day, please get in touch with the office.

Events such as this cost money and we are very lucky to have sponsorship from Kildare County Council and our local businesses, without which we could not operate. We are thankful for every donation we receive and we encourage people to support these local businesses.

As always, the parade starts at Greenfield Shopping Centre at **11am**, making its way towards the Main Street and finishing in Tesco car park. The awards ceremony takes place afterwards at **1pm** in Manor Mills Shopping Centre where there is a Family Fun Day organised by the centre with dancing, face painting and music.

I look forward to seeing you on the day.

Beir Bua, - Naoise Ó Cearúil - Parade Organiser



~ Have Fun While Advertising Your Organisation ~



Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade

Application Form 2018

This Year's Theme: **Medieval Maynooth**

Closing Date for Entries: 5pm Friday 9th March 2018

Name of Business/Group:

Address:

Contact e-mail:

Telephone:

Contact Person:

- ♦ All vehicles entering **must have a float**, preferably a **live band** with **traditional, rock or pop music**.
- ♦ HGVs, lorries or cars **without a float will not be accepted**.

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

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

Commercial Float ~ €50 Club/Organisation ~ €20

First Time Entry ~ €10 Bands ~ Free

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

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

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

Applications with entry fee to be sent to Community Council Office

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

or Naoise Ó Cearúil – Mobile - 086-7280050

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St Patrick's Day Maynooth Co. Kildare



**Invitation to all
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**This is an open invitation for Military Veterans to join and
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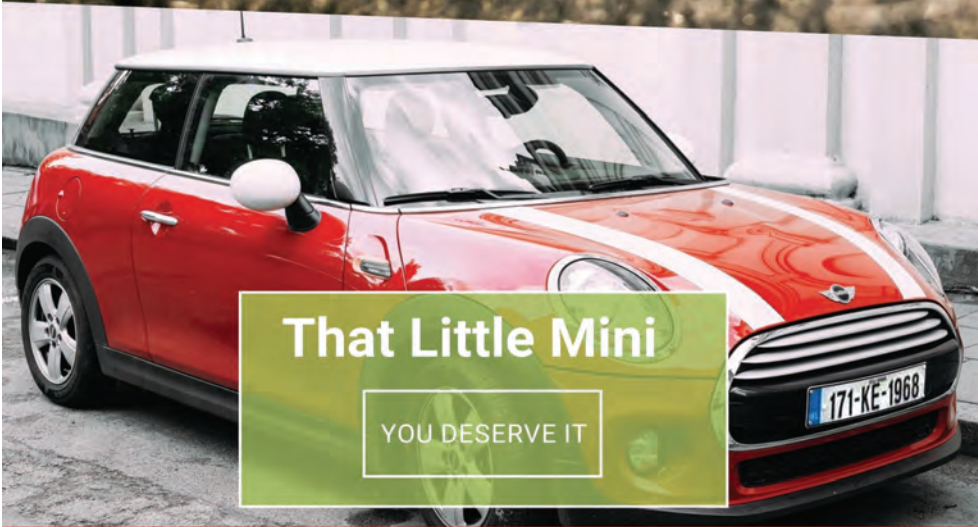
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English as a Second Language –Level 4



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Maynooth Boys proud to represent Ireland in Olympic Handball European Championships

Maynooth will be well represented in the upcoming M18 EHF European Championships which take place in Austria in August this year. Olympic Handball is a growing sport internationally and has been growing steadily in Ireland in recent years. Thanks to the passion, skill and hard work of one Maynooth resident, Olena Karpenko, Olympic Handball is now a well-established sport in the town.

Olena introduced Olympic Handball to our national schools back in 2001 and the sport has been active in the local schools ever since, with school tournaments for North Kildare Primary schools taking place every year in ConfeY. A number of players who started with Olena in primary school are now members of the National Senior Men's Team who recently competed in the Emerging Nations Trophy in Bulgaria.

Olena currently coaches the girls' senior team in Maynooth, many of whom will no doubt take their place on the women's National team which is soon to be established by the IOHA (Irish Olympic Handball Association).

Olympic Handball faces many challenges however as it tries to fight its corner as a real alternative to the existing popular sports. There are currently few youth teams in Ireland for competitive tournaments at home. However, both boys and girls teams have enjoyed trips abroad to various Handball tournaments.

Many Maynooth boys attended the Irish U18/U16 camp in Warrington last November (Photo: Below Left).

The Maynooth girl's team is just back from their trip to Liverpool and Chester where they won in a tournament (Photo: Below Right).

Olympic Handball is a fast and exciting game which requires speed, strength and agility. Its great advantage in the Irish climate is that it is an indoor sport so there is never a need to check the weather before toggling out for a game and no fear that a match may be cancelled due to pitch conditions.

The next big event for Irish Olympic Handball is the Under 18s EHF European Championships in Austria. No less than six members of the MEC (Maynooth Education Campus) boys' team will take part in this event. Local resident, Hartmut Krahn, who coaches the MEC boys' team also manages the M18 national team.

As with many sports funding is a key element to make it happen, and a Handball fundraiser has been started by the Maynooth players. Any contributions to help send our boys to Austria are very welcome. Please email fundingolympichandball@gmail.com for more information.

For further information on Handball in Maynooth please contact Olena Karpenko (olena.karpenko@gmail.com) or Hartmut Krahn (hartmut@mgx.ie).



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Maynooth Castle Keep Art Exhibition Celebrating 20 years !

Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group is delighted to announce that their annual Art Exhibition will be held in the Maynooth Education Campus on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th of April from 12-5pm. The exhibition is open to the public and is free.

All welcome.



Referendum – Repeal of the 8th Amendment to the Constitution

The Editorial Board of this publication has made the decision that the “Maynooth Newsletter” will not carry any material in connection with the referendum on the repeal of the 8th Amendment. It is a requirement that all publications ensure that they provide equal opportunity and balance in their coverage of all opinions, in this important decision, which is likely to be put to the people of Ireland in a referendum in May.

Therefore, the decision has been taken that this publication will not carry any articles, letters, advertisements or notice of events associated with the referendum. In addition, we request that all regular contributors do not include any references to the 8th amendment. If material is received it will be amended accordingly.

This policy will ensure that we do not unintentionally breach the reporting standards necessary in these circumstances. Giving this clear guidance means that all contributions received for publication will be easily assessed and that all contributors have advance notice of our policy in this matter.

Paul Croghan
Editor

Safe Online Shopping Campaign

An Garda Síochána in association with the Banking & Payments Federation of Ireland and Retail Excellence are launching the S.O.S. (Safe Online Shopping) campaign.

Online Shopping & Fraud Statistics

(Sources: Banking & Payments Federation Ireland, CSO quarterly household survey July 2017, PWC, Total Retail Survey 2017, Visa Consumer Index, January 2017; Retail Ireland/ IBEC survey 2017.)

- €41 billion spent worldwide on Credit & Debit Cards issued in Ireland in 2016
- €13.2 billion or 32% spent on line in 2016
- Downward trend in card fraud. €20.8 million in card fraud in Ireland first half 2016 compared to €16.6m gross in card fraud in Ireland first half 2017
- 79% of people shopping online did not experience any problems
- 2% cited problems with fraudulent activity
- 30% of Consumers will use their mobile phones as their main shopping tool
- 15.4% increase in online purchases December 2016
- Over 50% of Irish people shopping online

Advice for Online Consumers

Detective Superintendent Michael Gubbins, Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau, said "An Garda Síochána and its partners in Europol are actively targeting cybercrimes such as online fraud. The public need to be aware that the proceeds from these fraudulent activities go to fund organised criminal gangs."

He advised online consumers to follow the 12 Golden Rules of Safe Online Shopping -

The DO's

- Only buy from trusted sources, shops or brands that you are familiar with.
- Use credit cards when purchasing things online.
- Make sure the data transfer is appropriately protected. Look for the padlock symbol .
- Think twice before allowing e-merchant stores to store your payment details.
- Be aware how to control the recurring charge if paying for a continuous service online.
- Always save all documents related to your online purchases.

The DON'Ts

- If you are not buying a specific product or service, don't submit your card details.
- Avoid doing your online shopping at sites that don't use full authentication.
- Never send your Card number, PIN or any other card information to anyone by email.
- When purchasing something online from another person, do not send money up front.
- Never send your card details in an unencrypted email.
- Don't send money to anyone you don't know online

REMEMBER

Regularly check statements and transactions for any frauds or suspicious activity. If you have a suspicion about an online transaction check your account online to ascertain if the payment was made to the genuine retailer. Report suspicious transactions to your local Garda station and to your bank or card processor.

Online Card Fraud

The Internet provides a safe and convenient forum for people to shop and communicate with friends and family. A recent CSO household survey found that 79% of people who made purchases on line did not experience any problems, while just 2% reported fraudulent activity.

Market research suggests that more and more people are conducting their shopping online with 30% of consumers expecting to use their mobile phone as their main shopping tool in the future. December 2016 saw an increase of 15.4% in online purchases with over 50% of Irish people shopping online, most of whom purchased or sold goods and services with no difficulty. However, in a small number of cases, difficulties do arise and fraud results in users losing money or having their credit/debit card details being compromised. Overall fraud on card payments is relatively low, but of the fraud that occurs, since the introduction of Chip and PIN, *card not present fraud* has accounted for the bulk of card fraud. The most common methods for criminals to steal card data are by skimming, email (phishing) scams or phone (vishing or smishing) scams. (see notes below)

In 2016, €41 billion was spent on debit and credit cards issued in Ireland. €13.2 billion or 32% of this was spent online. There is a clear downward trend in card fraud, when the first six months of 2016 and 2017 are compared, with €20.8 million in card fraud in 2016 versus €16.6 million gross card fraud in 2017.

Detective Garda Jim O'Meara of the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau, said: "We had noticed a sharp rise in the level of Card Not Present fraud activity from 2015 to 2016, thankfully a downward trend in this type of fraud is noticeable for the first six months of last year. We would caution people to protect their personal and financial details online. If purchasing online only trust your own Wi-Fi networks as opposed to public Wi-Fi where you could be vulnerable to having your payment card details compromised and then sold on the dark web. Here, they can be accessed by criminals who go on to use the compromised payment card details either online, over the phone, or even through mail order transactions." Niamh Davenport, Fraud Awareness and Payments Manager, Banking & Payments Federation Ireland, advised consumers and businesses, "that it is often a simple or easy measure that people can take to protect against fraud and it is important that consumers know

these to avoid being vulnerable to fraudsters. FraudSMART.ie top tips include - Never give your personal details or banking security details such as full banking password, codes /logon details, or PIN to anyone. - Be wary of unexpected emails, calls or texts. Always independently check the person is who they say they are before engaging with them and as always - If it looks too good to be true, it probably is."

Further advice/information

www.europol.europa.eu for advice on crime and golden rules of safe online shopping
www.garda.ie for crime prevention advice and contact details of local Garda Stations
www.FraudSMART.ie for advice of fraud prevention
www.retail.excellence.ie for advice for retailers
https://thecai.ie/your-rights Consumer Association of Ireland

*Notes on email (phishing) scams or phone (vishing or smishing) scams.
The following are the most common by which criminals can obtain payment card details. Skimming usually occurs at ATM machines and happens when criminals place a device on or into the card slot of the ATM machine. This device has been made to read the details contained on the magnetic strip on the rear of the payment card. In addition to this a covert camera is concealed on the outside of the ATM and is positioned to record the ATM user inputting their PIN number on the PIN pad of the ATM. Although this is the most common method of skimming it should be noted that skimming can occur anywhere there is a device to read a payment card, i.e. ticket vending machines, and petrol pumps. In addition, payment cards can also be skimmed using small handheld card readers.
Phishing is where criminals send unsolicited emails to individuals which purport to have been sent from genuine businesses or individuals. The purpose of these emails is to induce the individuals to reveal personal information such as payment card details, bank account numbers and personal security data. Phishing emails usually appear to have been sent from financial institutions and instruct the recipient to follow a link to a fraudulent website which requests personal and financial information be inputted.
Vishing or Voice Phishing is the criminal practice of using social engineering techniques over the phone in order to obtain the personal, financial or security data from individuals. Social engineering can be described as human to human interaction which attempts to exploit vulnerabilities in human nature in an attempt to obtain personal information.
Smishing or SMS Phishing is a phishing attack whereby a mobile phone user receives an SMS (text) message which purports to have been sent from a genuine business or individual. This message attempts to induce the recipient to follow a link to a website which appears to be legitimate but is under the control of the criminal organisation. This website then requests personal and financial information to be inputted.

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Maynooth Newsletter

**Copy date for the April edition of the Maynooth
Newsletter will be Tuesday 20th March 2018**



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An Garda Síochána

Crime Prevention Information Sheet

Home Security Doors

Door Security

Most intruders entering your property will either enter through a door or a window. It is not uncommon for people to leave doors and windows open, un-locked or not properly secured. Most external domestic doors come in one of the following types -

- Solid hardwood
- Hardwood incorporating glass panelling
- Aluminium
- uPVC
- Composite doors
- Timber-faced steel-reinforced doors



The strength and security of any door is primarily governed by the quality of the material used in its construction and the standard of the locks and fittings used. Whether an intruder will gain access to your home through your external doors may depend on -

- the strength of the construction material,
- the quality of the locks,
- proper fitting and installation

We can reduce their attraction as an entry point for the burglar by trying to minimize these risk features.

Hardwood Doors

Hardwood doors should be a minimum of 44mm in thickness and capable of supporting both rim and mortice locks and hung on at least three 100mm hinges. Glass panelling, where fitted, should be laminated to at least 6.4mm in thickness. The frame of the door should be securely bolted to the wall at no less than 600mm intervals around the frame.

uPVC and Aluminium and Composite Doors

These types of doors are generally unsuitable to retro-fit with security devices and may, where this is done, compromise any installation warranty. In these circumstances, you should always consult with the fabricator or installer as appropriate. Most are commonly fitted with a multi-point locking system and when certified to the standards outlined below generally offer a high degree of security protection.

Timber-faced steel-reinforced doors

This type of door is the strongest residential door available and when certified to European Security Standard IS EN 1627:2011 offers a higher degree of security protection.

Door Security Features

The front access door to any home should be fitted, where possible and appropriate, with the following additional security features -

- **Door Viewer**, which should be wide-angled, that will allow the occupant to identify callers before the door is opened.
- **Door Chain or Limiter** which allows the occupant to restrict the complete opening of the door until desired.
- **Hinge Bolts** which will strengthen the door against forced entry.
- **Letter Tray/Restrictor** to prevent car key fishing.

Door Security & Standards

It is recommended that all external entry/exit doors are designed to withstand forced intrusion to an acceptable level. Doors manufactured to comply with the European standard I.S. EN 1627:2011 or the British security standard for doors & windows PAS 24 -2016 or equivalent are recommended as these will have been subjected to specific security and burglar resistance tests.

Currently, most doors fitted to houses will not conform to these standards. The ideal domestic secure door will incorporate most or all of the following security features:

- 5 lever mortice deadlock lock to BS 3621, or EN 12209 or equivalent - top and bottom.
- Cylinder lock - EN 1303 or equivalent.
- Rim-latch lock with dead lock facility.
- Hinge bolts to reinforce the hinge side of the door.
- Door chain and wide angle viewer.

There are a wide variety of locks and locking devices available on the market today. It should be remembered, however that fitting a quality security lock to an inherently weak door, or fitting a poor lock to a quality door will not in any real way improve your security. Domestic locks are generally rim-latch, mortice (deadlock or sash lock), or may have a multi-locking bolt mechanism. All should comply with an appropriate security standard e.g. BS 3621, EN 12209 or equivalent. This will ensure that the locks have been security tested to withstand forced hacking, drilling and sawing for a defined period. All security devices should be fitted with strong screws or bolts. Deadlocks, when fitted and used, will also deny burglars removing property from your home via the doors.

When employing a locksmith to alter, repair or change locks in your home. they must be licensed by the Private Security Authority.

Glass panels on or around doors are particularly vulnerable and should be avoided where possible. Alternatively they should be replaced with laminated glass to a minimum of 6.4mm thickness.

Letterboxes

Where letterboxes are fitted to a door they should be at least 400mm or 16 inches from any locking mechanism. A letterbox cage or restrictor will also help prevent a thief from accessing the locks manually or fishing for car keys.

Patio Doors

Patio doors are generally either sliding or double leaf "French Doors" - sometimes known as "French Windows".

The most common security weakness with sliding patio doors is to be found in their fitting along the running rails. In some instances it is possible to lift the door completely out of the running rail. Approved anti-lift devices should be fitted. Security bars fitted internally, which will prevent the doors being parted even if the locking mechanism is forced, are also strongly recommended.

Secondary security can be applied to two-handled French Doors by installing a keyless device that cuffs the two handles together and there is also a similar device available for securing one-handled French Doors. A reputable locksmith will advise accordingly.

Internal Doors

Most internal domestic doors are hollow core and fitted with two-lever mortice locks. They should not be regarded as providing good security but rather as an additional time delay measure. It is generally considered prudent to leave these doors unlocked, when the house is vacant, as they will seldom restrict the determined intruder and will likely further add to any vandalism that is committed.

Keys

A common custom is to leave keys inserted in their locking mechanism. This is a foolhardy practice as it can assist the burglar in two ways. Firstly, they can be used by a trespasser to deny you entry to your home and secondly; they can be stolen or removed and copied. In the case of doors where entry or exit is solely key-controlled it is imperative that the location and safe storage of these keys is known to all the occupants in the event of a fire or emergency evacuation. Keys should generally be colour coded or numbered rather than named as this will hinder their identification to the intruder.

Garages, Sheds & Side Gates

Garages and sheds used for storing valuable property should be properly secured. Padlocks with an EN 12320 or equivalent standard are recommended. Consider connecting your garage or shed to your house alarm. Side Gates should be flush with the front of the house and ideally not easily scalable.

Fire Precautions

Any physical changes or alterations made to doors in your home should not needlessly impede or restrict your exit in the event of a fire alert or evacuation. Keys should always be kept accessible to occupants but out of reach of potential trespassers or burglars.

Remember!

When the home is occupied, fire safety is your priority; however, when the home is unoccupied, security is your main concern.

The advice contained in this information sheet is not intended to be exhaustive or absolute. At all times it is wise to seek appropriate professional advice where physical or structural changes are made to your property to improve security.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS OR OTHER CRIME PREVENTION ISSUES, PLEASE CONTACT your local GARDA CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER or visit the Garda website at www.garda.ie

Issued by the Garda Crime Prevention National Centre of Excellence

Useful Contacts and Links

**Garda Crime Prevention
National Centre of Excellence,
Garda Bureau of Community Engagement,
Harcourt Square, Dublin 2.
Tel: (01) 6663822
Email: GCPNCE@garda.ie**

An Garda Síochána - www.garda.ie

The Private Security Authority - www.PSA.ie

The National Standards Authority of Ireland - www.nsai.ie

Secured by Design - www.securedbydesign.com

The Associated Locksmiths of Ireland - www.aloi.net

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

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

National Development Plan

Last week the Government went ahead and launched the new National Development Plan to a lot of bells and whistles. The launch took place in Sligo which was yet another way for Government to try and convince rural Ireland that they are on their side. Government has failed to recognise that this plan has neglected what are termed commuter belt towns where most of the development has focused in recent years, leaving inadequate services for these areas. The fact that the new development plan has not made any link with the previous National Spatial Strategy means that areas such as ours or other areas where there have been large scale developments or where huge tracts of land have been zoned for development, will lose out because there will not be the funding or the focus to provide the necessary services.

For example, we already see how much our commuter services are struggling to deal with the capacity – just last month I received replies from the Minister for Transport telling me that there will be no funding for extra carriages or trains on the commuter route despite many people telling me that the rail commute from parts of Kildare into Dublin is like being a sardine in a tin. I have made significant submissions to the Local Area Development Plans as well as to the National Plan and the main thrust of these submissions is always to try and make authorities aware of how increased development will impact on the existing areas and why associated services must be delivered if extra population capacity is to be sustainable. There is no evidence now that will be the case. There has been no knitting together of ideas from the previous National Spatial Strategy and the most current National Development Plan and as a result schools, health services and transport routes in the main urban growth areas, will always be under pressure and it will be a case of crisis management rather than strategic planning.

Jobpath Scheme

JobPath is an employment activation service provided by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection which is supposed to assist jobseekers on the live register in finding employment.

Under Jobpath, private recruitment companies are paid a fee once they secure employment for a long-term unemployed person, defined as someone who has spent

a year or longer on the Live Register. Turas Nua & Seetec are the private companies with the contract to provide the service.

The cost of the scheme to the taxpayer has risen from €1.2m in 2015 to €54m in 2017. In total €84 million has been spent on the scheme with just an 18% success rate. When vast amounts of public money is being spent on private companies I believe we have to be assured that we are getting the best possible value for money and I am not confident that is the case at the moment when it comes to JobPath.

I have previously raised some concerns in the Dáil regarding JobPath, and in particular, Seetec Ltd, one of the companies contracted to run the programme. I raised these concerns as a number of people had come forward to me with negative experiences of JobPath and in particular some cases where the person sourced their own employment but Seetec claimed credit for it.

While I am sure that many people have had positive experiences of JobPath it would be useful for me to have an understanding of people's experiences, both good and bad on JobPath so if you have participated on the scheme I would be very happy to hear from you.

Pensions:

Last month in this Newsletter I wrote about the numbers of people who had approached me regarding their reduced pension payments as a result of time spent out of work whilst having children. Many people only became aware of their reduced entitlement when they received their pension for the first time and are shocked to realise they are not entitled to the full pension amount. I have raised this issue consistently over the years and recently Minister Doherty replied to me in the Dáil to inform me that a recent Government decision has been taken to recalculate a person's pensions entitlements in a way that will give a credit for their time spent 'HomeCaring'. It is hoped that this model will make it easier for pensioners to qualify for a higher rate of the Contributory State Pension. This new scheme will be available to all people who reached pension age after 1st September 2012 and the scheme will come into effect on the 30th March 2018. However the Department has said there will be a delay in putting the new systems in place so new payments won't be made until the start of 2019 but the amounts will only be backdated to March 30th 2018. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN



Euro - Velo Route2: From Maynooth to Kilcock (Royal Canal)

Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the opening of the Royal Canal Greenway between Maynooth and Kilcock. This forms part of Euro-Velo 2, the 5500km transcontinental European cycle route which links Maynooth to six European capitals - Dublin, London, Berlin, Warsaw, Minsk and Moscow. So what is the betting for when the first Russian visitors reach Maynooth?

1.5m Minimum Passing Distance Legislation (MPDL)

The campaign for 1.5m Minimum Passing Distance Legislation continues to gather support. Originally proposed as a private members bill by the Fine Gael government ministers Ciarán Cannon and Regina Doherty, the measures were taken up and proposed as an amendment to Road Traffic Bill by Fianna Fail. Cyclist groups support the MPDL and also the higher penalties for driving offences proposed in the Bill. The measures are designed in part to address cyclist fatalities which has seen year on year increases since 2010.

What People Want - Food for Thought

The following piece was tweeted last year by Ian Walker, a psychologist at the University of Bath with an interest in transportation. There's that famous Henry Ford quote about selling cars, "If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses". Somebody recently said that the problem is we focus on the noun - 'horses' - when we should focus on the adjective - 'faster'. That is, people only really want to go faster. They only mention horses because it's the sole model of transport they know. So let's update this. When asked what they want, people reply "easier driving", "faster driving". Governments therefore build more roads. But the situation is the same isn't it? Policy-makers focus on the noun 'driving' when they should focus on 'easier' and 'faster'. We know that

most urban journeys are faster by bike, but we don't build for this because we've focused on the noun. For longer journeys, we know the time spent driving is dead. But we don't make trains affordable because we've focused on the noun. But 'driving' is a red herring; it's a word used for convenience, or because people have not known other forms of mobility. So my suggestion to policy makers is: question the noun. Are communities "crying out for bypasses" or are they crying out for clean air? Are people "crying out for bypasses" or are they crying out for journeys through their local communities to be quicker and easier? Find out what higher-level outcome people desire and seek the optimum way to provide it. Don't take what people ask for at face value. And remember: everybody today has only known a world where driving is the main form of transport - just as with horses 100 years ago.

False News Hits Westport

A recent headline in the Irish Independent read "70pc Of School Kids In This (Irish) Town Cycle Or Walk To School". The article went on to claim that the town was "similar to Dutch towns in terms of cycling rates". And where is this little piece of Amsterdam in Ireland? Westport, Co. Mayo no less. I thought "this is unbelievable". I do not mean that this is not unbelievable as in incredible - I mean that this is unbelievable as it is untrue.

Cycling rates in Dutch towns and cities vary from 15% - to over 50% and 49% of primary school children cycle to school. In Westport the 2016 Census found that only 2% of commuters and 4% of primary school children cycle.

A Department of Transport evaluation report found that despite having been selected as one of Ireland's Smarter Travel towns, the absence of cycling facilities in the town centre and the failure to reallocate space from traffic was responsible for a miniscule increase in cycling and walking. It is therefore important that Irish towns do not take the message that copying Westport will achieve high levels of active travel. If Ireland wants to emulate the Dutch, it needs to start investing in high quality infrastructure and not by spinning false news. Westport is ahead of many Irish towns but the reality is that it still has a long way to go to reach Dutch levels of cycling.





Writers’ Corner - Short Stories from Our Readers

Near Tragedy in the Alps

Poised between elation and terror, I sat on the top of Rocchetta. Almost five thousand feet below, Italy’s largest lake, Lago di Garda, lay blue and distinct in the evening sun, with, on its near shore, the roofs of Riva showing like tiny ochre rectangles surrounded by the green blobs of trees. Beyond the lake the massive Dolomites, hazy with distance, towered up into the cloudless July sky. The scene was awe-inspiring but I spent very few moments contemplating it. Anxiously I scanned the nearby slopes that, where rock didn’t jut through, were sparsely covered with sedge and shrubs. There was no sign of the taller of the two Germans with whom I had undertaken the climb. I was alone, perched like an eagle on top of the world. On the way up the tall German had repeatedly tapped his wristwatch and pointed to the sun, indicating that it would soon sink below the peaks. It was now 5.00pm. Would night fall suddenly on the eastern side of the mountain, the side I would have to negotiate? Because I had not planned to go higher than the Grotto of Santa Barbara, I had left my jacket at the hotel and was wearing only an open-necked shirt and slacks, with my jersey tied about my waist. There was a cable lift from Riva across a gorge to the Bastione, an open-air restaurant overlooking the town and lake. From there a zigzag path led to the grotto, about halfway up the mountain. On reaching that point, parched after the hot, tiring walk, two suntanned young Germans who were stripped to the waist had pointed out a well, cut deep into the rock. The cool water was delicious. Beside the grotto there was a sheer cliff that had a rusty iron ladder fixed permanently to it. When the Germans started to climb the ladder I decided to follow.

Gradually I had passed out the shorter German but his friend was bounding ahead like an ibex. After a while the leading fellow halted, waiting for his companion and me to catch up. When we had done so, he indicated by signs that they were both heading in a westerly direction. Assuming this was the best route, I followed. Before long, what with twists in the path and projecting banks, my two companions were out of sight. When I halloooed there was no response. Nevertheless, I decided to press on to the peak. Now I wondered if I would be able to return to the grotto since at one point there was a rounded shoulder of rock that I had barely managed to climb. It would be impossible to see toe holes when descending. In a forlorn hope I shouted again to the Germans but, since sound was deflected outward by the slopes, they mustn’t have heard. A thought struck me. Swiftly I set up my camera on an adjacent rock and depressed the delayed release button.

Then I resumed my seat and waited for the click. If the worst happened, my family back home would at least have a memento.

Giving one last halloo, I started down from the peak. Soon the mountain hid the sun so that the air had a hint of coolness. Better put on my jersey. It was then I discovered it was missing. Don’t panic, I told myself before heading back. Precious minutes were lost before I was again heading downhill, this time wearing the jersey. Gradually I realised that the rocks and shrubs seemed unfamiliar. I had lost my way! The worst part was that the contours of the terrain prevented me from seeing what lay below. The gradient got steeper, increasing the risk of slipping. Moving cautiously, I came to the brow of a slope and froze. Below me there was a sheer precipice. Controlling an impulse to cry out in terror, I retraced my steps and swung further south. It was cooler now and the possibility that darkness might suddenly fall gnawed at my mind. Time and again it became necessary to clamber backwards down a rock on all fours. Luckily the over two-hour climb to the peak had not used up all my energy. Stepping gingerly on a rugged incline I came upon a sight that chilled my blood, another drop. Now I was trapped. Then I noticed a young ash tree growing on the slope below whose branches almost reached the cliff top. If I could just get down the first few yards I could swing one leg outward and brace myself between an upright branch and the cliff face. The only trouble was that once down I would be unable to get back up. Acting before I lost my nerve, I lowered my legs over the edge and felt for a niche with my toes. In a few minutes I was safely on the ground and ready to resume my descent. Before doing so I broke off an ash sapling about seven feet long: the gradient was littered with loose shifting stones and a staff would give extra stability. Taking a southerly direction, I picked my way across the uneven ground, aware that a turned ankle could prove fatal. Even if that didn’t happen, the next moment might reveal another precipice. What a fool I’d been to climb the peak on my own! Now there was nothing between me and death but my own nerve and alertness. These thoughts were erased by a new danger. Before me lay the dried-up bed of a torrent that must have been fed by winter snows. I would have to walk across upright because the slightest outward thrust might cause a landslide. As if to illustrate this danger, the first step I attempted dislodged a small boulder that went bounding downhill, loosing pebbles and gravel until suddenly it plunged into silence. Another inch and that boulder might have been myself.

Jabbing with the staff on the lower side until it was firmly lodged, I kicked a foothold in the gravel with my right heel then with my heart in my mouth I again stepped away from firm ground. The gravel yielded slightly but did not collapse. Moving in this fashion, one step at a time, I ventured out into the middle. Sweat trickled into my eyes and my nerves were stretched to breaking point. Testing every foothold, I pressed ahead. After what seemed an eternity I finally reached the far bank and leaned on the staff to regain my composure. My legs were tiring and I was still probably no more than one-third way down the mountain. Changing course slightly, I proceeded in a southeasterly direction. Above me high-tension wires stretched in long arcs across the dangers of rock and precipice. If I could scale a pylon might I be able to slide beneath a wire to the next pylon? No, such a move would mean certain electrocution. Better to short-circuit the wires by throwing something across them? No, that too could have unforeseen consequences. There was one other way to alert the people of Riva to my predicament: dislodge a boulder. But suppose it crashed onto the road to Brescia that wormed its way along the mountain’s base? Mightn’t it cause a fatal collision?

A great distance below white-sailed yachts moved like paper boats on the lake as unaware of my distress as if they belonged to another world. I was totally isolated and the least slip could send me toppling into eternity. Even if I escaped death by falling I could die of exposure. Already a night chill was penetrating my clothes. After what seemed an eternity I came at last to a small plateau. Should I turn north or south? Some inner voice suggested north and I obeyed. A further period of trudging and stumbling brought me back to the torrent bed I had crossed further up. Beyond it, an unpaved path winding among sedge, rocks and shrubs was just discernible.

Hope reawakened, I crossed painstakingly to the path and after what seemed hours – but was probably only minutes – of stumbling and sliding arrived at the Bastione. The few remaining tourists at the Formica-topped outdoor tables looked up in amazement when a wild-looking fellow with a staff strode in among them. I was safe, having climbed down about four thousand feet in an hour and a half without even losing my camera. Next day on looking up at the mountain I found that if I had turned south I would have ended up on a cliff high above the Brescia road.

Patrick G Nerney

Smaointe

Bhíos i gcomhlúadar daoine le déanaí agus iad ag gearán faoin tír seo agus faoinár míchumas i leith ár gcoisbhirt. Mar is eol dúinn go maith níl tada againn le cur ar ár gcosaí atá oiriúnach don bháisteach agus don ghnáth chaitheamh. Sea, tá na buataisí rubair againn, (ina measc na «Hunters»!) agus ní foláir nó tá na bróga tairní, nó b'fhéidir iad siúd leis na bairbíní cruach, á gcaitheamh go forleathan ag daoine faoin tuath go fóill.

Ach níl a leithéid ró oiriúnach don chairpéad Peirseach ná do na leacáin ghleote, snasta, nuair nach n-éiríonn leat iad a chur uait! Dá bharr sin bíonn muid ag dul thart sna tuilte i mbrógaí ísil a bheadh níos oiriúnaigh don halla damhsa nó don sagart i mbun a ghnó ag an altóir nó an ministir i mbun a sheanmóra. Tá sé in am dúinn ciall a bheith againn agus coisbheart a cheapadh a choimeádfadh

ár gcosaí tirim agus compórdach agus a bheadh eascaí a chaitheamh uainn agus muid ag dul faoi theach mar a dheánann na Seapánaigh agus a lán daoine eile nach iad. B'fhéidir gur cheart dúinn comórtas a eagrú chun brógaí a fheilfeadh don aimsir seo againne a chumadh? D'fhéadfaimís € a thairiscint mar dhuais agus sa tslí sin bheadh an-suim ag a lán ann! Céard faoi?

Dála an scéil, tá an ceart ag na daoine sin a dhéanann gearán faoinár leisciúlacht i leith ár mbrógaí ach is beag daoine atá ag gearán faoinár neamhshuim i leith bunúis and domhain seo abhus! Tá na heolaithe anois thar a bheith cinnte de gur thosaigh an domhan, gach atá ann, leis an Ollphléasc timpeall cúig bhilliún déag de bhlianta ó shin. Ag 'am' na pléisce bhí an cosmas go léir thar a bheith bídeach, gan de leithead ann mar mheall ach 10⁻³³ cm. Seachtó bliain ó shin féin, dar le mórán daoine, ní raibh ach raiméis idir lámha ag an

mBíobla agus a lucht leanúna agus iad ag rá gur chruthaigh Dia an domhan «ex nihilo», ach anois tá gach éinne lán-sásta gur chruthaigh an domhan é féin as meall nach féidir a fheiscint trén míocrascóp is láidre dá bhféadfaí a shamhlú. Agus rud eile! Um an deichiú cuid de shoicind tar éis na pléisce bhí leithead ceithre sholasbhliain aige, agus é ag méadú de shíor.

Sin 37,540,454,400,000 ciliméadar ar leithead tar éis an deichiú cuid de shoicind! B'shin luas i ndáiríre! Ach de réir cosúlachtaí tá beagnach gach éinne ar nós is cuma liom faoi na rudaí iontacha seo! Ní fheadar an iad na heolaithe nó muidne, na gnáth daoine, atá ar strae!

(Fíricí, Ciste Cúrsaí Reatha: O'Donnell agus De Fréine) (Meascán mearaí, Gabriel Martin)

Gabriel Martin

Cllr Naoise Ó Cearúil - Maynooth Fianna Fáil Notes

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

Future Development of the Harbour Field

Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil stated at last month's Municipal District meeting that he was opposed to a car park in the Harbour Field. Only Naoise and Cllr. McGinley set out their objections with other Maynooth councillors either supporting the idea or sitting on the fence.

At March's municipal district meeting Naoise is setting out an alternative view to the field. "I'm proposing that a plan is drawn up with the input from local residents into the future of the field. The Harbour Field is owned by the people of Maynooth and therefore any decision on its future must be made by the people of Maynooth. I've received many suggestions about what should be done with it, including creating a public park, a skate park, an Astroturf pitch among other ideas. In putting this proposal forward, I'm looking for the support of my fellow councillors and handing this decision to our community. In doing so, I am also looking for anybody who is against the public car park in the harbour to object to it. I will put all the details on my facebook page when they are made available".

Preparations underway for the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade

Naoise is organising the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day parade for the fourth year in a row. The Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade starts at 11am from Greenfield Shopping Centre and goes down the Straffan Road and through Main Street to Tesco. This year's theme is "Medieval Maynooth". Organisations and groups can get an application form to take part in the Maynooth Newsletter or on the website www.maynoothcc.com

Proposed Footbridge on Mill Street

Naoise has called for the proposed footbridge on Mill Street to be realised as the footfall increases dramatically. With the increase in students in Maynooth and the larger population in the town, Mill Street has become extremely busy and the current bridge does not have the capacity to deal with the high volume of pedestrians. People have to walk on the road as there is no room on the footpath. Naoise said "the footbridge was envisaged nearly ten years ago and there has been no movement on it. We have school students and children having to walk on the road as there is no space on the footpath. I'll be pushing the Council to start working on the bridge as soon as possible."

Irish Water Stalls new housing in Maynooth

Plans by developer Cairn Homes to build 400 homes in Maynooth could be in real danger due to Irish Water's lack of supply capacity. It has been reported that Irish Water only has the ability to cater for 40 homes rather than the anticipated 400. Cllr Naoise Ó Cearúil (FF) has expressed his outrage at these current developments, "This shows complete ineptitude on behalf of Irish Water and the Government. Powers over water were removed from the County Councils and given to Irish Water and this shows their inability to deal with those functions. We are crying out for more housing in Maynooth and the entire future development of the town, including the ring roads is based on these future developments. Minister Donohoe needs to step in here if he is serious about the Government's Rebuilding Ireland programme."

He continued, "The people of Maynooth and surrounding areas are crying out for more

housing and the lack of supply has increased rent levels to those on par with Dublin. The situation is going from bad to worse and Irish Water needs to up its game in helping solve this country's housing crisis"

Ó Cearúil looks for side lanes to be re-surfaced

Cllr. Ó Cearúil has called on Kildare County Council to re-surface all of the side lanes off Main Street. The roads and footpaths have become hazardous to pedestrians and vehicles . "These are some of the busiest roads and footpaths in the town and need to be upgraded as a matter of urgency before there is an accident".

University Student Completes Internship with Cllr. Ó Cearúil

A 20 year old Maynooth University Student, Awwal Oloko from Celbridge recently finished an internship with Fianna Fáil Councillor, Naoise Ó Cearúil. Mr. Oloko is in his second year at the University studying a BA in Politics and History. Awwal who went to Confey College before attending MU has always had an interest in politics and active citizenship, which originally stemmed from his father, "My dad has always done a lot of work with the St. Vincent de Paul and I always found that really interesting. He is always commenting as well on Irish and Nigerian politics and this sparked my interest in it".

As part of his university course he was required to undertake a political internship and reached out to Cllr. Ó Cearúil to see if it was possible, "Naoise is very visible locally and the fact that he is young and really engaged with things such as the St. Patrick's Day Parade and helping old and young people is really cool".

The internship took place over a number of weeks where he got the opportunity to attend Municipal District meetings in Naas and the opening of the new social housing units in Kilcock among other events. Asked how he found spending time with the Maynooth councillor, he said "I don't know how he does it! He has to be in nearly three places at the same time and his phone never stops ringing. Last Friday we went to a really interesting event where people were receiving their keys to their new homes and that was such a happy thing to see. After that we went to three different meetings, met the Fire Brigade, the Community Council staff and then dropped leaflets into an estate, and this was all before 5pm."

Cllr. Ó Cearúil said, "I was delighted to have Awwal spend some time with me and see what the work of a local councillor entails. How people imagine life in politics and what it is actually like in practical terms are two very different things. Awwal was very interested in how everything works and it was interesting to hear his thoughts on how meetings went, his views on society and how we can improve things in Kildare. His was such a help as well and I really hope that he took something out of spending that time with me."

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.

depending on your own perspective, I am not going to state an opinion here. However, as a person who has had the pleasure of meeting Mr. David Naul Cain the person who donated the field to Kildare County Council for the use of by the people of Maynooth, I know that he had intended this land to be an amenity for the town. Whatever does that mean?

Going back to impressions of Maynooth, I congratulate the Maynooth Town Soccer Club under 16 boys team for undertaking the first big clean-up of Carton Avenue in 2018. Carton Avenue was also given to Kildare County Council for the use of the people of Maynooth and has been maintained by Carton House Hotel for a number of years as a contribution to the community. The Maynooth Town Soccer Club lads had to work hard on the day and while they plan other such initiatives where they live and go to school, they were shocked at the things they found in Carton Avenue. They are doing these tasks to help raise funds to buy a team kit so if you want to thank the lads why not make a donation to their fund. It is great to see such positive community activity.

Of course the big event in Maynooth in March is the St. Patrick's Day Parade which will take place on March 17th. This year the theme is *Medieval Maynooth* so why not dress up and get into the atmosphere. On your behalf, I would like to thank the organisers, particularly the staff from the Community Employment project who are working behind the scenes for many months under the leadership of Naoise O'Cearúil. There are new ideas and new bands this year – all we need is reasonable weather. So I have tried to inform you but have I also persuaded you that you should come along and enjoy the festivities.

Paul Croghan - Editor

Editorial

Can you believe everything that you read in the papers or indeed online? It is certainly a question that I ask myself when I am reading anything. Of course the answer is that everything that it written is done so from a particular perspective, so rather than to inform you (which is the reason that you are reading in the first place) almost everything you read is intended to persuade you.

I recently read a piece on the online version of "The Journal" about Maynooth in their your neighbourhood series with the headline "Your guide to Maynooth: University town with loads of pubs and an electric history" The article had the following perspective on Maynooth – "Today, however, it is the non-denominational Maynooth University that dominates the town's affairs – almost doubling the local population during term-time, and bringing an influx of shoppers, eaters and (of course) drinkers. Maynooth is the commercial heart of north Kildare, with a couple of big spaces offering lots of retail options. The main street is still lively too, helped along by a generous complement of student bars. So what's the big draw? It's a lively town with plenty of heart just outside Dublin – many would say it has more going for it than other places on the commuter belt. It's also a pretty place with family-friendly housing, canal-sidewalks, and a main street that hasn't been hollowed out by retail parks" It is interesting to read how we are viewed from outside.

The big local issue that has come up in the past month is of course the proposal to go on public display that Kildare County Council create 60 car park spaces at the Harbour Field in the centre of the town. Conscious that such a proposal will attract different responses

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Maynooth Monthly Diary Planner

Community Library	Maynooth Multiple Births	Bridge Club
<p>Opening Times Mondays & Fridays 2pm to 5pm Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm to 8pm Wednesday 9.30am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm Sat 9.30am to 1pm</p>	<p>Maynooth Multiple Births playgroup (twins triplets or more) meets the last Thursday of the month in Leixlip library between 10 & 12 noon. This is a great opportunity to meet parents just like you. For further details email: maynoothmultiplebirthclub@gmail.com</p>	<p>Open for new members. If you would like to play in a friendly club with purpose-built facilities in the centre of Maynooth, please see our website at maynoothbridgeclub.com. Contact Katherine Cooney 086 8205910</p>
I.C.A.	MAYNOOTH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP	Arthritis Ireland
<p>Monthly meetings take place every 1st Thursday of the month at 8.00pm in the I.C.A. Hall in the Harbour. Crafts every Monday night at 8.00pm. New members welcome</p>	<p>Maynooth Local History Group Meets Last Thursday of each Month in the Maynooth Community Space (Tesco Shopping Centre) New Members Welcome Contact: MCC Office for more details</p>	<p>Arthritis Ireland Walking Group (Maynooth) Meeting Mondays 12 - 2pm in the Maynooth Community Space</p>
University of Third Age (U3A)	Maynooth Parent & Toddler Group	Maynooth Men's Sheds
<p>Weekly meetings on Friday at 11am in Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth New Members Welcome Contact Ger : 0874133505</p>	<p>Every Thursday from 9.30am to 11.30pm Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth</p>	<p>Weekly meetings take place every Wednesday at 11am at the Maynooth Lodge Fisheries Dunboyne Road Maynooth. For further details contact John Fleming - 087 2041334</p>
Maynooth Tidy Towns	ALZHEIMER CAFÉ LEIXLIP	Maynooth Community Church
<p>Volunteers required to help with this work. Contact Number 087 3153189 Meet every Saturday at 10.00am in the Square</p>	<p>Informal café atmosphere for people with Dementia & their partners, family & friends. Free of charge. Venue Ryevale Nursing Home. Every second Wednesday of each month 7-9pm. Call 0894933533 Email: alzheimercafeleixlip@gmail.ie www.alzheimercafeleixlip.com</p>	<p>1st Floor Manor Mills (entrance next to Chill) Service times every Sunday morning from 10.30am www.maynoothcc.org Everyone most welcome</p>
Maynooth Senior Citizens	Craobh Mhaigh Nuad C.C.E.	ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND
<p>Our morning club continues on Tuesday and Thursday and new members are always welcome. Perhaps you are new to the parish or new to the age bracket, why not come along you might enjoy it. You will find us in the Geraldine Hall on Leinster St, or contact Josephine on 087 9002296.</p>	<p>Classes are held on Wednesday 7pm to 9.30pm in Maynooth Post Primary School, Moyglare Road. Our classes are very good value, great fun and we promise you plenty of craic also !!. Bígí linn!!! Contact Sean at 086 2225540 or email craobhmaighnuad@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Rehearsals are held in the Band Hall on Pound Lane each Monday night (except Bank Holidays) from 7.45pm to 9.30pm and musicians living in Maynooth and the surrounding areas are most welcome. E-mail: sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie Website: www.stmarysbandmaynooth.ie</p>

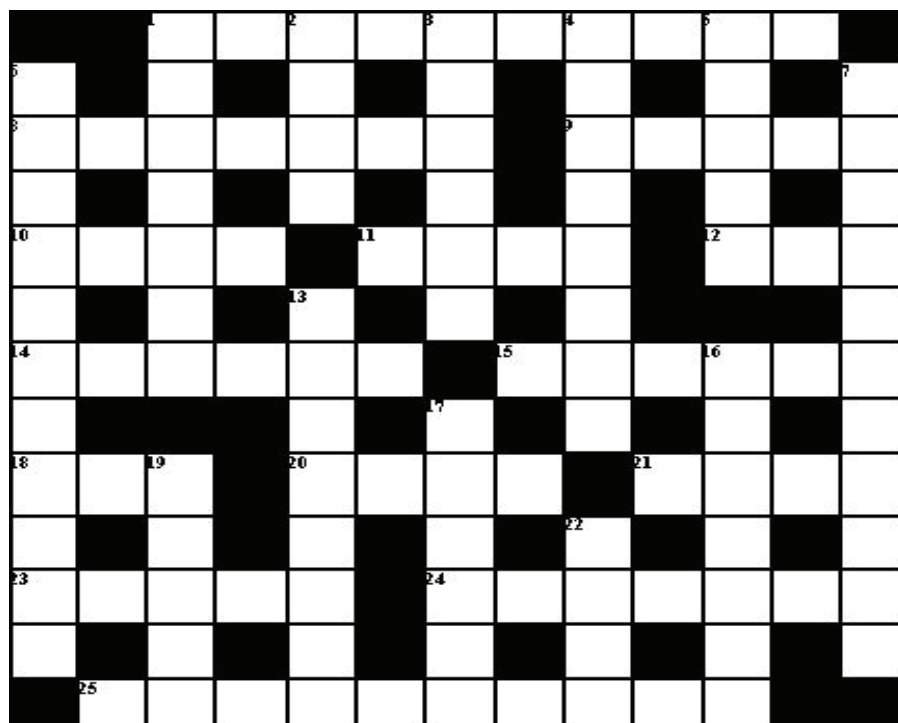
Diary entries are published free of charge for all Community Groups. E-mail details of your event before the copy date (2nd last Tuesday of each month) to be included in the next months edition. E-mail: office@maynoothcc.com. Phone: 01-6285922
(The content of the Monthly Planner Diary is published in good faith. All details should be checked with groups)

Clues Across

1. Deputation (10)
8. Ineffective (7)
9. Western Rope (5)
10. Aromatic Herb (4)
11. Large Cat (4)
12. Digit (3)
14. Frightened (6)
15. Mend (6)
18. Knock (3)
20. Golfer _ _ _, Norman (4)
21. Late Comic _ _ _,
Laurel (4)
23. Foreign (5)
24. Orange- yellow colour (7)
25. Extraordinary (10)



March 2018 Crossword - No. 466



Clues Down

1. Vessel for deepening
waterways (7)
2. Onion like vegetable (4)
3. Idle chatter (6)
4. Gifted (8)
5. Beginning (5)
6. Solidly built (11)
7. Many seeded fruit (11)
13. Former Tory MP _ _ _,
Bottomley (8)
16. Junior embassy official (7)
17. Comment (6)
19. Vincent _ _ _, US actor
(5)
22. Maggot (4)



Solutions to Feb. Crossword No. 465

Across: 1. Strauss, 5. Brad,
9. Grumpy, 10. Oasis, 12. Inner,
13. Holster, 14. Cradle, 16. Bureau,
19. Pitcher, 21. Trash, 23. Idiom,
24. Tennis, 25. Eyed, 26. Preview.

Down: 2. Turin, 3. Admiral,
4. Scythe, 5. Rosette, 6. Distracted,
7. Foal, 8. Discipline, 9. Astaire,
17. Ustinov, 18. Crater, 19. Hump,
22. Arise.

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 20th March 2018

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Winner of Crossword No. 465 February

**Margaret Houlihan
Cowanstown
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

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

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

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

Sudoku Challenge MARCH 2018

Entries must arrive to
**MCC CLG Office before:
20th March 2018**

**Congratulations to
February Winner:
Alejandra Pomerol
Kingsbry
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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____




McDonald's Maynooth
Proud Sponsor of the Colouring Competition
Competition Open to Children 3-8 years






Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Last Month's Winner:

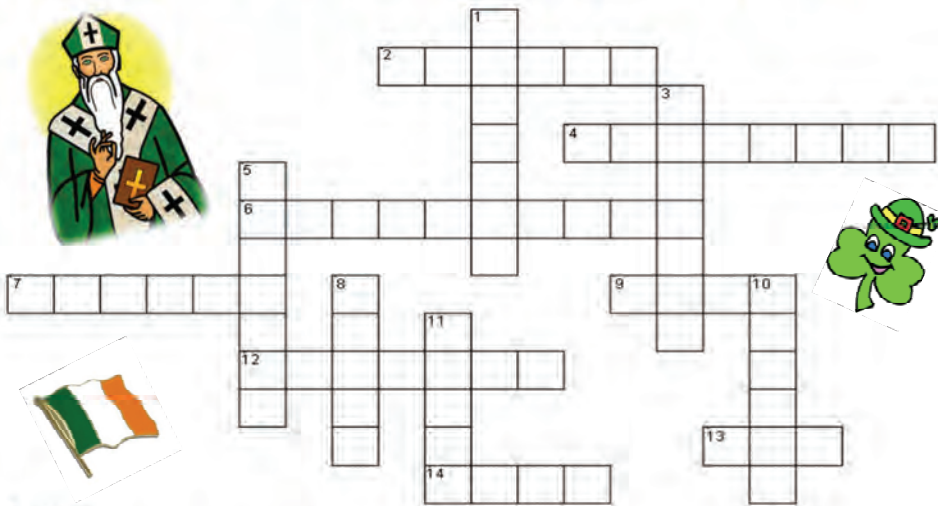
Jodie Smyth
Castle Park
Maynooth

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

Entries must arrive before:
Tuesday 20th March 2018

Junior Puzzle Corner

St. Patrick's Day Crossword



- Across**
2. Fable claims Saint Patrick drove these out of Ireland.
 4. Three leaved clover and symbol of Ireland.
 6. The Gaelic translation for this word is shoemaker.
 7. Four leaved versions of these are considered lucky.
 9. Contents of a leprechaun's pot.
 12. A colour of green and also a gemstone.
 13. Irish dance
 14. Traditional Irish musical instrument.

- Down**
1. Patron saint of Ireland.
 3. Colorful arch in the sky.
 5. People kiss this stone for luck.
 8. Saint Patrick's Day colour.
 10. Capital city of Ireland.
 11. Saint Patrick's Day month.



Answers:
 1) Patrick 3) Rainbow 5) Blarney 8) Green 10) Dublin 11) March
 2) Snakes 4) Shamrock 6) Leprechaun 7) Clover 9) Gold 12) Emerald 13) Jig 14) Harp



31st Annual Galway Cycle

300 Cyclists to take to the road to help raise €120,000 for Friends of the Coombe. The 31st Annual Galway Cycle to take place as a tribute to the compassionate care given to bereaved parents and families

Up to 300 cyclists will take to the road on **Friday 6th April 2018** to pedal from Maynooth University to Galway in a bid to raise €120,000 for the charity Friends of the Coombe to enable it to help the Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital develop hospice-style bereavement suites to create a family-friendly home away from home for bereaved parents.

Since it was first established in 1987 by a group of students at St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, the annual Galway Cycle has covered more than 12,000 kms of road and raised in excess of €1.5 million for a host of children’s charities. This year’s charity partnership was inspired by the story of baby Tom Fahey who died of an uncommon chromosomal abnormality when he was just 11 days old. And it was the compassionate care that baby Tom and his family received from the Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital that moved Maynooth-based mum and dad Sarah and Terry Fahey to nominate the charity for this year’s Galway Cycle partnership.

President of the Galway Cycle, sociology and geography student at Maynooth University, Ciara Keogh said that this year’s cycle promises to be the biggest yet. “We are delighted to partner this year with Friends of the Coombe. Theirs is a project with a national reach that really touched the hearts of past cyclists, all of whom play a part in the annual charity nomination and voting process,” she said. “This year we are hoping to recruit up to 300 cyclists, 150 collectors and 100 additional volunteers who will form a support crew.

“The Galway Cycle is completely volunteer led and managed to ensure that costs are kept to an absolute minimum. We have set ourselves an ambitious fundraising target of €120,000 and hope that with the support of cyclists, friends, corporate sponsors and members of the general public we will be able to reach that goal by the time we leave Galway on Sunday 8th April.”

Baby Tom’s parents Sarah and Terry Fahey said it was an honour to be able to support Friends of the Coombe. “We will never forget the care Tom and we, as a family, received from the staff at The Coombe. They played such an important role in Tom’s life. They cared for us and supported us. They shared our journey,” she said.

“It is wonderful that we are able to come together again to share another journey, this time as a family of cyclists, in remembrance of all bereaved parents and families, and as a tribute to the compassionate care The Coombe provides to all families who experience the loss of a baby.” Ailbhe Gilvarry, chairperson of Friends of the Coombe said that the charity is indebted to the Fahey family for nominating Friends of the Coombe for this partnership.

“This is an incredibly important project for Friends of the Coombe. The Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital was the first maternity hospital in Ireland to adopt the ‘Hospice Friendly Hospitals’ programme and we hope that the creation of a family-friendly home away from home will not only benefit bereaved families at The Coombe, but will also showcase nationally the highest possible standard of bereavement care.”

The Galway Cycle will take place between Friday 6th April and Sunday 8th April and is open to anyone who would like to take part. Full information, including a pre-Galway Cycle training schedule and online registration, is available at www.galwaycycle.ie. As well as cyclists, the Galway Cycle is also encouraging people to register to help with a street collection in Galway on Saturday 7th April and to volunteer for a variety of roles throughout the Galway Cycle weekend. Those who would like to make a donation should visit www.galwaycycle.ie for more details.



A Little Maynooth History

BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY 1913 – 1921

STATEMENT BY WITNESS

DOCUMENT NO. 1761.

Stephen J. O'Reilly
16 O'Connell Avenue,
Berkley Road,
Dublin.

*Irish Volunteer and I.R.A. activities, 1913 – 1921.
Attached to Transport Section, Dublin Brigade and G.H.Q.*

I was sent to Maynooth about the end of 1918 or the beginning of 1919 to blow up the Town Hall there. I brought 30 lbs. of gelignite with me to Maynooth. I went by train and arrived there about three o'clock. I was to go and see Dónal Ó Buachalla, but when I went to see him he was out. There was a man in the shop who evidently knew or guessed who I was and brought me in. Donal Ó Buachalla arrived home at about six o'clock and we had a chat. I was told I could get as many men as I wanted for the job.

We came out about ten o'clock that night and went over to the Town Hall and forced the door open. Paddy Colgan was on that job. We got in, and I instructed a big hefty man to bore a hole in the centre main wall and to put some gelignite into it.

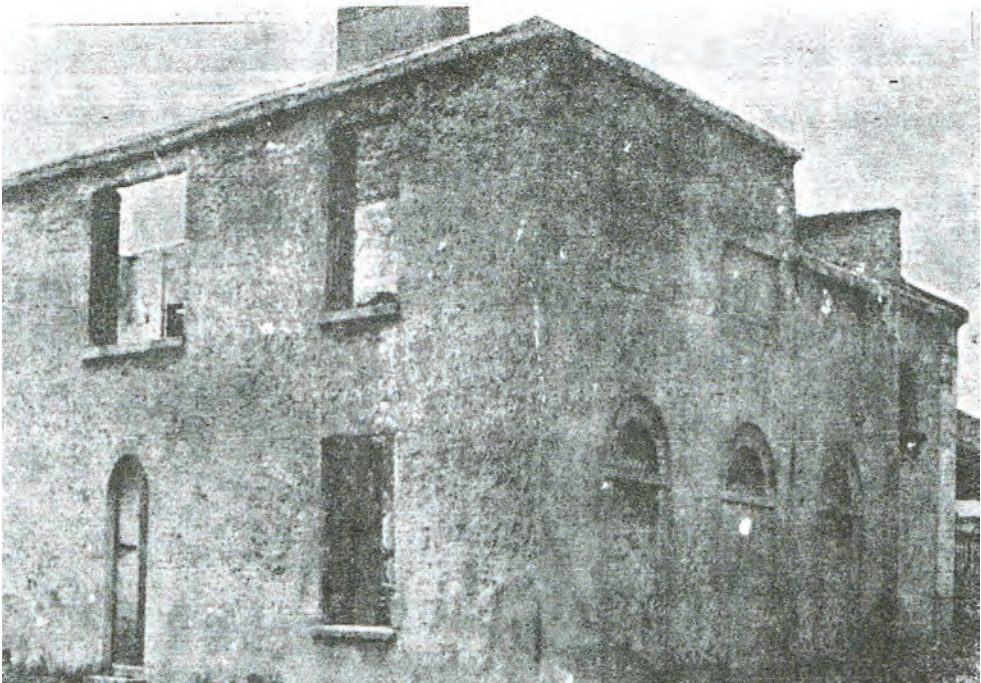
During that time a runner came in and informed me that there were two men outside having an argument. We went out and saw a post-man and some poor unfortunate civilian having an argument outside Pitt's public house, where they had come from. One of the men was just going to light his pipe; he lit a match and as soon as he did I put the revolver up in front of him, and match, pipe and all went. The two men cleared off, and I was pleased to find later on that they had been taken prisoner by our guards who were holding up the roads leading into the town.

The gelignite exploded but did very little damage to the wall. We then got some paraffin and we made short work of the building.

We came out when we found everything all right and we dismissed our men. We went over to Mr. Ó Buachalla's place where I enjoyed one of the best meals I ever had, after which I decided to go home. Mr. Ó Buachalla informed me that I would have to pass five police stations if I cycled, but that it would be dangerous to drive a motor car. He said he would provide me with either a motor car or a bicycle, and I told him I would prefer the bicycle.

I left Mr. Ó Buachalla at about three or four in the morning and I cycled straight into Dunboyne and from that into the Phoenix Park. I had a good rest in the Phoenix Park, as curfew was until six o'clock in the morning and there was no use in my trying to get through. At about a quarter to seven I came along the North Circular Road, down into Goldsmith Street and into O'Connell Avenue, which is off Goldsmith Street. I delivered the bicycle later on to O'Hanrahan's on the North Circular Road; I had arranged with Mr. Ó Buachalla to leave it there.

I went to Headquarters in the Plaza in Gardiner's Place that evening and reported that the job in Maynooth had been carried out satisfactorily.



"Ruins of the Town Hall Maynooth" following the IRA destruction.

St Patrick's Day Recipes

St Patrick's Day Warm Salad

Ingredients:

3 large potatoes, peel and dice into pieces
5 small sprigs of thyme
1 head of radicchio, separate and halve the leaves
A good handful of baby spinach, washed and trimmed
6oz/180g smoked salmon, in small strips
1 lemon, thinly sliced
A bunch of dill
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Olive oil

For the dressing:

125ml cream
2 tbsp Irish Stout
1 tsp whole grain mustard
2 tsp honey
½ tsp chopped thyme
1 tbsp chopped parsley
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/Gas 5. Heat a little oil in a roasting pan and add the potatoes and thyme. Roast for about 25 minutes or until golden tossing from time to time then season with salt and freshly ground pepper. Set aside and keep warm.

To make the dressing, pour all the ingredients except for the parsley into a small saucepan over a low heat, stir until all the ingredients has dissolved, add the parsley and check the seasoning. Keep warm.

Heat a large frying pan over a medium heat, add the olive oil followed by the radicchio leaves and toss lightly for about a minute or so until slightly wilted. Add the spinach and wilt for a further minute. Transfer to serving plates and add the roast potatoes. Spoon over some dressing and arrange the smoked salmon and lemon slices on top. Garnish with sprigs of dill and a sprinkle of freshly ground black pepper and serve immediately.



Chocolate Guinness Cake

Ingredients:

300g of butter plus extra for greasing
150ml Guinness
250g plain flour
2 tsp of baking soda
100g cocoa powder
375g caster sugar
3 large free-range eggs
1 tbsp vanilla extract
150ml sour cream

For the frostings:

200g good-quality white chocolate
125g butter, at room temperature
225g cream cheese
225g icing sugar, sifted

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Grease a 23cm /9 inch cake tin with a removable base and line with a disc of parchment paper. Melt the butter in a saucepan and then whisk in the cocoa powder and Guinness. Remove from the heat and set aside.

In a large mixing bowl combine the flour, baking soda and sugar. Make a well with the back of a spoon and pour in the melted butter mixture along with the eggs, sour cream and vanilla extract. Pour into the prepared cake tin and place in the oven for 1 hour or until a skewer inserted comes out completely clean. When the cake is baking, make the cream cheese frosting.

To make the frosting, melt the chocolate in a bowl placed on top of a saucepan filled with a little water boiling over a low heat. Remove from the heat to cool for about 10 minutes. Place the butter and cream cheese in a bowl and beat until fluffy and combined. Mix through the melted white chocolate and then gradually sift and beat in the icing sugar until you have a smooth, spreadable mixture. To assemble the cake, place it on a cake stand and spread with frosting.



Spring usually arrives by mid-**March** and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of **gardening** tasks. It's time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seed, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden.

If the soil is workable, put a 5cm (or more) layer of compost or well rotted manure into your beds to prepare for the growing season ahead. You can also work in a general purpose fertiliser such as **pelleted chicken manure or fish, blood and bone**.

If you need to **move deciduous trees** or shrubs, now is the time to do it provided the soil is not frozen or waterlogged.

Feed trees, shrubs and hedges with a **slow-release fertiliser** by lightly forking it into the soil surface.

Plant **summer-flowering bulbs** such as **Gladiolus, Lilies** and **Ranunculi's** into beds, borders and containers.

Plant out any **forced flower bulbs** in the garden, such as hyacinths and daffodils which have finished flowering indoors.

Plant **snowdrops** in the green to brighten up your winter garden next year.



Now is an ideal time to **plant herbaceous perennials**. Lift and divide established perennial plants now to improve their vigour and create new plants for your garden.

If any of your garden plants will need **supporting** this year, put the supports in now so the plants grow up through them. Adding supports afterwards is difficult and often looks unattractive.



Caring for Roses, Plant Bare Root Roses. Roses love a sunny place and a fertile, lime rich and permeable soil. For abundant flowering, they need lots of plant nutrition (and possible potash). Scatter granulated cow manure around the base of the rose in the winter and gently fork in some bone meal in the spring, or give them a good mulch of mixed organic manure. Feed them in July with special rose fertiliser. Snip off overblown roses, back to the first five fingered leaf to encourage re-flowering. Almost all roses are perfectly hardy but it can only help to give them some frost protection. Earthing up around the base of the rose bush before the winter starts is a good idea. Spread it all out again in early spring. Standard rose bushes have their grafting point high in the stem so wrap this in straw and/or bubble wrap.

In the Fruit Garden plant apple trees, cherry trees and other fruit trees now in a sunny, sheltered spot. Continue to plant **raspberry canes**. Cut autumn-fruiting **raspberry canes** to the ground to stimulate new canes, which will fruit in the autumn. Cut the tips of summer-fruiting raspberry canes that have grown beyond the top of their supports, cut just above a bud.



*"The air is like a butterfly.
With frail blue wings.
The happy earth looks at the
sky And sings."*

*You reap what you sow...
this is a good one for more than
the garden...but if you don't sow
you don't reap.*



FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

OSCARS 2018 PREDICTIONS



And the Oscar goes to....it's that time of year again folks. When the ladies and gentlemen of tinsel town don their very best frocks, suits, hairstyles to attend the biggest party of the year. The Academy Awards which rewards artistic achievement in the American film world turns 90 this year. The 2018 ceremony has been pushed forward and will take place in Hollywood in early March.



BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Nominees:

Mary J. Blige (*Mudbound*)
Allison Janney (*I, Tonya*)
 Lesley Manville (*Phantom Thread*)
 Laurie Metcalf (*Lady Bird*)
 Octavia Spencer (*The Shape of Water*)



Allison Janney's role as the mother from hell in *I, Tonya* is the favourite to take home a Best Supporting Actress prize. It is a blistering performance combining both brutality and humanity. Janney has stiff competition from Metcalf and Manville who have won rave reviews. However her chain-smoking, face-slapping character is a memorable tour-de-force.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Nominees:

Willem Dafoe (*The Florida Project*)
 Woody Harrelson (*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*)
 Richard Jenkins (*The Shape of Water*)
 Christopher Plummer (*All The Money in the World*)
Sam Rockwell (*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri*)



Sam Rockwell (a McDonagh film regular) looks the one to beat in the supporting actor category. He has already bagged awards at the Golden Globes and BAFTA for his superb performance as a racist cop in *Three Billboards*. Willem Dafoe (his third Oscar nomination) offers strong competition to Rockwell in *The Florida Project*. A riveting film, depicting people on the margins, which was inexplicably snubbed by the Academy.

Dafoe gives one of his best and most moving performances to date and could provide an upset on the night.

BEST ACTOR

Nominees:

Timothée Chalamet (*Call Me By Your Name*)
 Daniel-Day-Lewis (*Phantom Thread*)
 Daniel Kaluuya (*Get Out*)
Gary Oldman (*Darkest Hour*)
 Denzel Washington (*Roman J. Israel, Esq.*)



The clear favourite in the race for Best Actor is British actor, Gary Oldman. He turns in a career-best performance and is almost unrecognisable as Winston Churchill in *Darkest Hour*. Oldman has won all the major pre-Oscar awards so far. Last month, the 59-year old actor denied Daniel-Day-Lewis a final BAFTA before his mooted retirement. Gary Oldman has never won an Oscar. This could be his year. Although Timothée Chalamet could provide a potential upset on the night, with his breakthrough role of a love-sick teen in the brilliant *Call Me By Your Name*.

BEST ACTRESS

Nominees:

Sally Hawkins (*The Shape of Water*)
Frances McDormand (*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*)
 Margot Robbie (*I, Tonya*)
 Saoirse Ronan (*Lady Bird*)
 Meryl Streep (*The Post*)



All eyes will be on our very own Saoirse Ronan come Oscar night. It is the young Irish actress's third Oscar nomination in the acting category. Her amazing, funny performance in the coming-of-age drama *Lady Bird* has already earned Ronan a Golden Globe. However, Frances McDormand as a raging, bereaved mother in *Three Billboards* is the hot favourite to take home the gold statuette at the ceremony. Her searing performance has resonated with cinema goers and critics alike.

BEST DIRECTOR

Nominees:

Paul Thomas Anderson (*Phantom Thread*)
Guillermo del Toro (*The Shape of Water*)
 Greta Gerwig (*Lady Bird*)
 Christopher Nolan (*Dunkirk*)
 Jordan Peele (*Get Out*)



The directing category looks like a two-horse race

between Guillermo del Toro and Christopher Nolan for their respective movies. It's a mystery though how *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* earned 7 nominations (including Best Picture) but Martin McDonagh failed to get a nod for direction. First time nominee, Christopher Nolan's thrilling *Dunkirk* is pure cinema - a visual and technical feast for the eyes. Nonetheless, the momentum seems to be with the Mexican director Guillermo del Toro in the pre-Oscars award season. Most recently, he won Best Director at BAFTA for his fantasy romance film, *The Shape of Water*. Will he add an Oscar to his collection?

BEST PICTURE

Nominees:

Call Me By Your Name
Darkest Hour
Dunkirk
Get Out
Lady Bird
Phantom Thread
The Post
The Shape of Water
Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri



Hopefully the embarrassment of last year's Best Picture debacle will not be repeated this year! The Academy Awards is the oldest prize-giving ceremony in the entertainment world. Dating back to 1930.

Socially conscious films with a meaning are popular Best Picture contenders. Real life stories of incredible courage in the face of adversity always go down well with Academy voters. In the era of Weinstein scandals and the #TimesUp campaign, movies that are seen to empower women will be strong contenders for the Best Picture prize this year.

Director Guillermo del Toro leads the field with 13 nominations for his sumptuous homage to classic monster movies, *The Shape of Water*. Sally Hawkins's sublime performance as a mute cleaning lady is full of intelligence and energy. Frances McDormand as a mother seeking justice for her murdered child and taking on the establishment in *Three Billboards* could sway the voters in the film's favour. This is the strongest Best Picture category in years. Will the Academy reward innovation or play it safe as usual? Could there be a Best Picture surprise or upset? All will be revealed on 4th March.






Frank O'Rourke TD

KILDARE NORTH


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



Dáil
Éireann

 01 618 3109

Main Street, Celbridge, Co Kildare.

 01 630 3736  087 255 5257

 frank.orourke@oireachtas.ie

 www.frankorourke.ie

 /Frank O'Rourke



FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



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

Maynooth Community Council CLG Secretarial Services

Unit 5, Tesco Shopping Centre (Beside Post Office)
Maynooth

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Email: office@maynoothcc.com

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