



Local News

December 2019

Issue No. 486

FREE

This publication is produced by Maynooth Community Employment Project, supported by the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection, which is funded by the Irish Government.

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



Keep your Business in Maynooth to Keep Maynooth in Business

hristmas, the season of giving and receiving is upon us once again. This is the perfect opportunity to support our local shops and businesses in Maynooth. Small in size but huge in character, Maynooth comes alive with festive atmosphere for Christmas. This beautiful town is packed full of specialised shops, pretty boutiques and a variety of restaurants and cosy cafés where you can drop in for a hot chocolate to warm chilly fingers. You will find exceptional value for money is to be had in the smaller local shops where you get a more personalised service and friendly atmosphere. Lets buy our Christmas presents from our local businesses and self-employed people. If the goal is for money to flow back into the local economy, we must commit to choosing wisely. Driving an hour out of our town or shopping online does not contribute to the community we live in.

Maynooth is a lively town with plenty of heart - 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 side walks, and a main street that hasn't been hollowed out by retail small-town retailers. It's a great parks. There is ample car parking in Maynooth, customers can park (check business and give your customers a parking fees and time allocated) while pleasant experience. Retailers need to shopping in Carton Retail Park, Manor Mills, Glenroyal, Greenfield and Beaufield Shopping Centres. There is also ample customer car parking in the Aldi and Lidl stores. Pay Parking is also available within the town enabling customers to enjoy the many retail shops, pubs and restaurants in and around the Town.

Maynooth is the "Gastronomic Capital of Kildare" There are vast amounts of establishments in town that offer the most sophisticated cuisine and the most appealing food and beverages. Maynooth is also a "Purple Flag" "destination" "for a good night out, vibrant and well managed".

Stay local this year and take the stress out of shopping, avoid the cost of travel and expensive parking fees. When all the shopping is done there is a multitude of restaurants, bars and coffee shops to visit and enjoy the

gastronomic delights and Festive atmosphere of Maynooth.

Christmas Shopping is important to opportunity to focus on your own say, "Stay in Maynooth", we have lots to offer. Support our community, our businesses, our schools, our organizations. Everyone working together will continue to make Maynooth a great place to live in.

Shop Local, Eat Local, Spend Local & Enjoy Local in Maynooth this Christmas 2019

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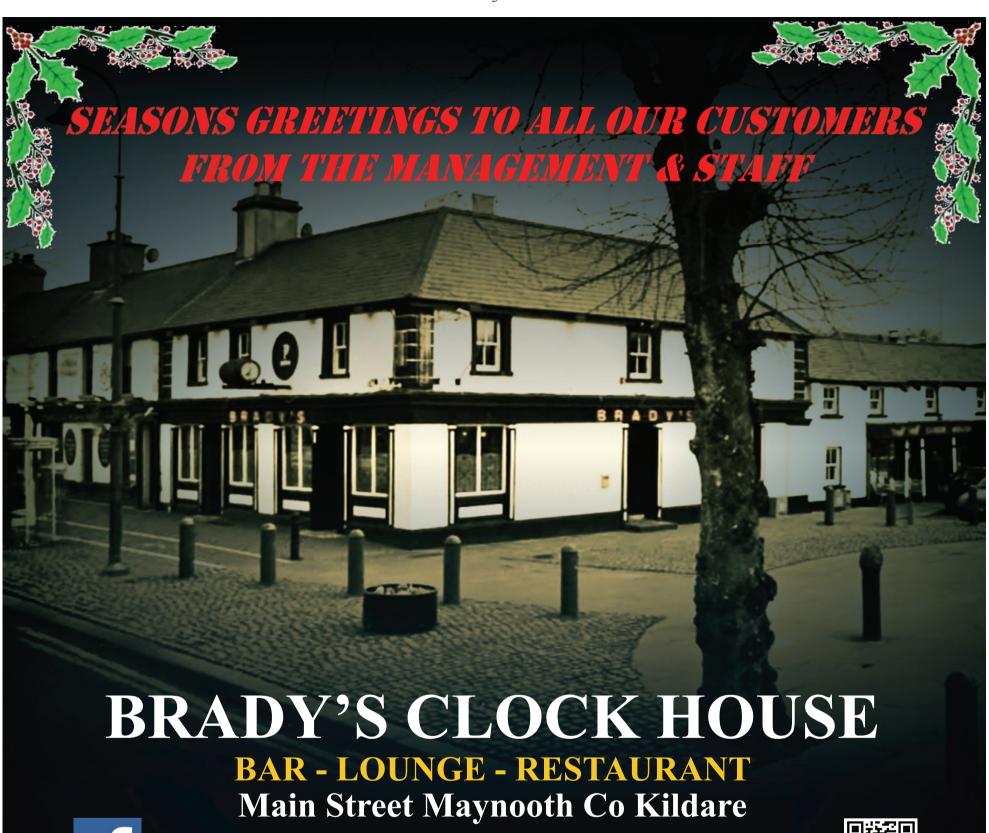




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Maynooth Newsletter

This publication is produced by Maynooth Community Employment Project, supported by the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection, which is funded by the Irish Government.

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The opinions and statements expressed in the articles are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editorial Board. All materials to be included in the next edition of the Newsletter should be sent by e-mail or addressed to:

The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter, Unit 5, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. W23 F9F7

Tel: 01-6285922

E-mail: office@maynoothcep.com - Website: www.maynoothcep.com

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor, for publication, should be sent by e-mail to: editor@maynoothcep.com

Mission Statement

The Maynooth Newsletter is a community focused publication available free to the people of Maynooth. It plays an important role in gathering together, recording and distributing community based news.

We encourage all groups and individuals in the community to submit material to let us know about their activities and any upcoming events.

The Newsletter exists for your enjoyment and we hope you continue to enjoy your monthly read and keep us informed of your activities.

The Editorial Board endeavours to ensure independence and balance in the Newsletter content and reserves the right to omit/edit or abridge material which in its opinion might render the Newsletter as a promoter of sectional interests. In addition we undertake the following:

- In the case of errors of fact we will publish corrections when we become aware of such.
- In the case of unwittingly or unfairly impugning the reputation of any person we hereby offer that person the right to reply.

Any contributor seeking further guidelines in this matter is invited to contact the Editorial Board.

Copy date for receipt of articles is published in the Newsletter. We must stress that material submitted after the copy date cannot be accepted.

Maynooth Newsletter Archives

The management and staff of the Maynooth Community Employment Project started a project in March 2011 to acquire and digitise all available issues of the Maynooth Newsletter dating back to 1975. These back issues along with current issues are available by following the archive link on our webpage -

www.maynoothcep.com.

The Newsletter Archive can be viewed and searched in pdf format. In addition, there exists the capability to be able to search an entire year. Please be aware the single files associated with the year are larger and will take a little longer to load. The Archive provides an important historical footprint of the Town and records the community profile of Maynooth from the mid-seventies to the present day. We hope you enjoy using it and that it brings back memories of people, places and times and that it equally provides an interesting insight to the development of the town and university for newly arrived members of our community.

Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter



The next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be February 2020 Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be Tuesday 21st January 2020

Editorial

In the November issue the full 2019 Maynooth Report from the National Tidy Towns Competition was published. With Maynooth within nine points of the overall winner Glaslough, Co. Monaghan, Maynooth was again presented with a Gold Medal Award the fourth received in the last four years. Surely if everyone follows the example of the tidy towns' volunteers greater rewards (such as overall winner of the competition) cannot be many years away. Maynooth Community Employment Project plays our part in this success by maintaining the Maynooth Harbour area including keeping it litter free. Well done to all.



Mattie Callaghan, John Kavanagh, Mary Molloy and Vincent Mulready from Maynooth Tidy Towns after collecting the 4th Gold Medal at a ceremony in Blackrock, Co. Louth in November 2019.

Volunteering in the community has been a significant focus for Intel Ireland employees and there are many projects around Maynooth which would not have been possible without Intel support. On November 22nd Intel celebrated 30 years in Leixlip. Through the Intel Involved and matching grants programmes staff from Intel have made very significant contributions to Maynooth and in marking the 30th anniversary of the company in Ireland we would like to thank all the Intel staff on behalf of every organisation in Maynooth that has benefitted from their support over the years.



Lastly but by no means least everyone associated with the Maynooth Newsletter and Maynooth Community Employment Project would like to thank all our advertisers for their vital support during 2019. By supporting the production of this publication you are playing your part in the provision of employment and supporting many community groups to get their information out to the wider community of Maynooth, the care of our environment in Maynooth Harbour and the youth of Maynooth using Maynooth Town Soccer Club. Many thanks also to our many regular contributors with material and notes. Everyone involved in Maynooth Community Employment Project are unpaid so give of their time and skills to the service of the community.

At this time of year please look out for each other and if you have worries or concerns talk to someone as there has never been a problem that does not have a solution. Whatever your faith or none we wish you everything that you would want for yourself at Christmas and into 2020.

Paul Croghan Editor



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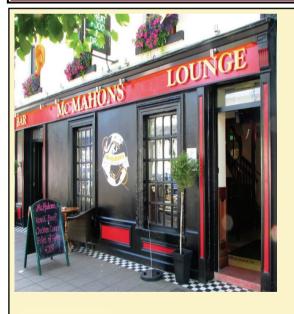
Bianca - Frank Lyman Oui - Olsen -Taifun

Thank you for your custom in 2019

Happy Christmas and New Year Looking forward to seeing you in 2020

> MON/FRI 10AM - 5.30PM SATURDAY 10AM - 5.00PM Closed Sundays



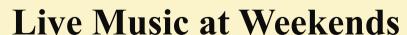


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Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News



E mail: angelaemfeeney@gmail.com - Phone: 0872381962

Dunboyne Road Bad Bend Motion to Council MD

Cllr Feeney submitted a motion to the November 1st MD meeting as follows: "That the Council now use the development contributions of €3.6 million derived from the Mariavilla Development to remove the dangerous bend on the Dunboyne Road near Pebble Hill House and provide a footpath from Castlepark housing estate to the roundabout on the Blacklion Road." The Council responded to the motion stating that the public infrastructure and facilities identified in the Capital Programme are considered to be those projects which can be progressed with the estimated funding from the Development Contribution Scheme. The Council also stated that Condition 29 of the An Bord Pleanála's decision (ref 301230-18) in relation to the Mariavilla Development outlines a Special Contribution of €300,000 towards a high quality pedestrian connection bridge over the Lyreen River from the applicant's site to Pound Park in accordance with the policies of the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 including policy AR11. The bridge will be delivered by Kildare County Council in the future, when adequate funds are in place. There was no condition for a special contribution to fund improvement works on the Dunboyne Road.

Cllr Feeney responded to the Council reiterating that not only is this a dangerous bend but that it floods everytime there is heavy rain and with no clear and visible solid white line on the road surface it is beyond acceptable for its usage. The Dunboyne Road is used as a rat run for getting to N3/ or airport and is gridlocked on school mornings and afternoons. Cllr Feeney also stated that the critical element that the Council response overlooked is that the new link road from the Moyglare Road to the Dunboyne Road will open early next year so there is an urgency to this issue given the additional traffic now predicted. Cllr Feeney stated that if the Council will not remove the bend that the following measures should be implemented before there is a serious incident:

- (A) Put in Drainage to remove constant flooding which forces cars out into the middle of the road.
- (B) Put in Public Lighting either side of the Bend.
- (C) More Advance Warning Signage is required.
- (D)Rumble Strips are required either side of the approach to the Bend.

Cllr Feeney requested that the Council come back to her on this at December MD meeting with some plan to mitigate the dangers as is the responsibility of the Council.

Cllr Feeney participates in live TV Panel on Health and Housing

Cllr Feeney participated in a live TV panel discussion at the Labour Party Conference on November 9th on the theme of Health and Housing. Cllr Feeney talked about the impact the housing and rental crisis is having on students and that when out on the canvas for the local elections she met many parents who talked of their sons and daughters feeling that they will never be able to afford to move on with their lives and get on the property ladder. Cllr Feeney emphasised that the State should be building houses again, to solve the housing crisis once and for all. Not just homes, but near zero emissions houses and apartments, which can now be built for nearly the same cost as a conventional building, but which are much cheaper to keep warm. Cllr Feeney stated that over three-quarters of a billion euro (a third of the housing budget) goes to HAP and other payments to private landlords every year which is not a solution. For 750 million euro the State could build in excess of three and a half thousand homes on public land. Instead of doing this, we have thousands of families in a temporary rental arrangement rather than in long-term homes. Check out the RTE player if you wish to see the full panel discussion.

Cllr Feeney asked to comment on Boil Water Notice on Newstalk

Councillor Feeney was contacted by Newstalk Breakfast Show on November 7th to comment on the Boil Water Notice issued by Irish Water. Cllr Feeney stated that while there was general acceptance that the precaution was driven by public health and safety, there was a lot of growing concern mixed with frustration in Maynooth. Having two Boil Water notices issued so close to each other was very alarming.

In fact, Cllr Feeney stated that a lot of trust had disappeared in the system that treats the water coming into our homes and rebuilding that trust is going to be an issue for Irish Water. Cllr Feeney commented that when the second notice, we were told, was due to the recent heavy rain, there are concerns that there will be further reoccurrences as we face into the winter months. Irish Water in its most recent statement said "It is aware of the upcoming yellow weather alert but that it's not possible to say conclusively what impact it may have on the water produced but that they will be monitoring the situation closely". So, It is really worrying the longer it goes on. Cllr Feeney also talked about the impact the Boil Water notice was having on households, on local businesses and on schools.

Request for Public Meeting with Irish Water

Cllr Feeney and the other Labour Councillors and Green Party Councillors requested a public meeting with Irish Water at Kildare County Council. The meeting was scheduled to take place on Monday November 11th but was cancelled late on the preceding Friday. The public meeting was replaced by a 'briefing' at KCC which was a closed session to the public and the press which Cllr Feeney stated was a missed opportunity to rebuild trust in Irish Water.

The 'briefing' was provided by Mr. Michael O'Leary, GM at Irish Water, who stated that a crisis management meeting would be taking place later that day to review the most recent samples and to decide on whether the boil water notice would be lifted the following day. Mr. O'Leary also stated that the filters and upgrade at the Leixlip plant would be completed by the end of 2020. Cllr Feeney also stated that communication to vulnerable users was key and that it should not be presumed that everyone has access to social media

Motion at Council Plenary on Communication by Irish Water

Cllr Feeney submitted a motion to the Council meeting on November 25th that the Council write to Irish water requesting that future urgent notices regarding water contamination should be improved and should not be made only through social media. The issue of poor communication by Irish Water was mentioned by many people to Cllr Feeney during the recent Boil Water Notices-the lateness of the notices issued at last minute and without regard for vulnerable users who may not have access to social media. Many people were still using the water before they had heard that a Boil water notice had been issued. Cllr Feeney stated that Irish water needs to review its communication to reflect this. Where there is an issue that affects people's health and of such public importance, communication is key.

Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney since last Newsletter:

- Moyglare Hall Residents Association in GAA October 21st
- Maynooth Limetree Hall Residents Association in Community Space October 23rd
- Maynooth MD Council in KCC on November 1st
- · KWETB Audit and Risk Committee in Áras Devoy on November 5th
- Briefing with Irish Water in KCC on November 11th
- County Development Plan in KCC on November 11th
- Finance Committee in KCC on November 11th
- Budget Meeting in KCC on November 11th
- · Carton Avenue Preservation Society in Community Space on November 11th
- · Maynooth Community Council in Glenroyal Hotel on November 11th
- KWETB Board Meeting in Clermont House Rathnew on November 12th
- Maynooth Post Primary BOM in MPPS on November 13th
 Budget Meeting in KCC on November 18th
- Council Plenary in KCC on November 25th

If you would like me to attend your community group or residents' association meetings please just email me.

Wishing you and your families a Happy Christmas. Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir.

CHRISTMAS

That **one** thing necessary! To believe, to accept from moment to moment, to be aware that Jesus is true man and true God and consequently the perfect intermediary. He is the President of the supreme Labour Court, negotiating a new settlement, a new Covenant. But with a difference! Only one party has to compromise. God has no further to go. He has already given all that man could possibly demand. God is the Father of the Prodigal - man!

But how can we be sure? We can be sure because Jesus has put his all into the negotiations. His life for his word, if necessary! Of course, it was necessary because through our leaders, pharisees and high priests, we drove a hard bargain. So it was. All the way to the cross. All the way and beyond, to his last gasp. Unto the consummation! So what? He wasn't the first to be crucified for his cause! No, but he was the first to be raised from the dead – raised by the Author of Life – his Loving Father.

And how do we know that? Primarily through the change in his followers. He appeared to them and they were transformed. From cowards running for their lives they became champions of his message: Compassion and mercy!

At Christmas we celebrate his Birth!

Gabriel Martin



Maynooth Golf Society Trevor Cassidy Memorial Scramble

Sponsored by The Cassidy Family Trim Golf Club 16th November



This was the last event for Maynooth Golf Society for 2019.

AGM will be held in the new year when the courses and dates for 2020 will be announced. Thank you to our Captain John Saults and all committee members for 2019. New members welcome for 2020 season.

Please contact 089-4906510 with any queries.

December Events at Maynooth Community Library All of our events are free of charge and open to everyone

For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/library maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph.: 01-6285530



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService



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Christmas Hours: Closed 24th – 27th December, Open 10am - 5pm 31st December, closed 1st January.

Exhibition to Commemorate 120th Anniversary of the 1st Local Elections in 1899 2nd – 20th December April 2019 marked the 120th anniversary of local democracy

in Ireland. This exhibition is a Department-funded mobile exhibition, compiled and curated by Local Authority Archivists and Record Managers, detailing key local government events over the past 120 years.

Dronehenge: The Story Behind the Remarkable Discovery at Newgrange with Anthony Murphy Tuesday 3rd December 6:30pm

In 2018 the discovery of new archaeological sites around Newgrange via drone photography became an internet sensation. In *Dronehenge*, Anthony Murphy tells the story of the remarkable discovery of this monument and describes the events that followed the first social media post and how he spent three weeks doing little else but taking phone calls, answering emails and engaging in Skype interviews with media all around the world.

Female Health and Wellbeing with Boyne Holistic Clinic Thursday 5th December 7pm – 8pm This talk focuses on the small changes that can empower you

to return to hormonal balance and overall great health. We will discuss the simple tools to help reduce the stress impact of everyday modern living. Booking required.

3D Printer Workshop Saturday 7th December 2:30pm - 4pm 11 - 15 years. Booking required

Moone and Sixpence Puppet Show

Saturday 14th December 2pm – 3pm "Jacqueline and the Beanstalk" is a re-telling of the classic story that upturns the gender-stereotyping of traditional fairy tales! This marionette production also tackles the issue of bullying, showing how it can be overcome with the help of friends, and how bullies can change their ways when they realise the pain they cause. As with every Moon & Sixpence marionette production, this live show, performed live with music and sound effects, is filled with humor and audience interaction.

Kids Christmas Film

Tuesday 17th December 6pm – 7:30pm

A classic Christmas film to put you in the festive mood.

Children's Christmas Art & Craft Wednesday 18th **December 3pm – 4pm** Ages 5 - 8 years. **Booking required**

Paint your own Christmas tree decorations to make your Christmas tree extra special this year.

Christmas songs with the Library Trio Friday 20th December 3pm

Get in the festive sprit with our library staff and sing along to songs you know.

Regular Events

<u>Ciorcal Comhrá</u> Tuesday 3rd December (every Tuesday) 11am

This is an informal group for adults who meet on a weekly basis to use and practice their conversational Irish. No booking required. All welcome.

Creative Writing Tuesday 3rd December (first and third Tuesday of the month) 6:15pm

A bi-monthly meeting for writers in the Maynooth area. Beginner writers always welcome.

No booking required.

Make Time: Craft Meet up Thursday 5th December 6pm

A time and space to craft and chat on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evening of each month. Get together with like-minded makers to work on your latest project and swap tips over tea. No booking required.

Fit Line

Thursday 5th December 10am - 1pm

Go for Life FitLine is a free telephone service for people over 50 giving you the information and encouragement you need to get more physically active. (In association with the National Programme for Sport and Physical Activity for Older People). Please note this is a telephone service only. For more information call 1800 303 545.

Winter time Storytime

Friday 6th December 10am – 11am

This week's stories are all about our animal friends in winter time. Join in on fun rhymes and songs. Colouring pages will be provided. All welcome.

Family Board Games Saturday 7th December 10am - 12pm

Chess, Draughts, Cluedo and Boggle will be available – or feel free to bring along a family favourite! All welcome

Maynooth Women's Group Saturday 7th December 11am – 1pm

New members welcome. Contact the library for further details.

Relocation to Ireland: Women's Meet Up Saturday 7th December 3pm – 5pm

A gathering of women who have moved to Ireland and would like to meet up with other women who have also made this country their home. All welcome.

U3A Bookclub Monday 9th December 10:30am – 11:30am

Please contact the library if you are interested in joining this book club or would like to start a book club.

Ciorcal Comhrá Tuesday 10th December (every Tuesday) 11am

This is an informal group for adults who meet on a weekly basis to use and practice their conversational Irish.

No booking required. All welcome.

Readers of the Lost Ark Science Fi Tuesday 10th December 6:30pm ence Fiction Book Club

Please contact the library if you are interested in joining this book club or would like to start a book club.

Read and Catch Up Book Club Thursday 12th December 11am – 12pm

Please contact the library if you are interested in joining this book club or would like to start a book club.

Give It A Go! Box Set Club Thursday 12th December 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Got Netflix/Now TV/Amazon Prime and don't know what to

Let Maynooth Community Library help!

A New Box-set Club meeting monthly to discuss different series. Call into the library now and collect your box set today. Items Limited so registration is required.

Children's Storytime Friday 13th December 10am – 11am Story time for 2-5 years. All welcome.

Dungeons & Dragons Saturday 14th December 2pm – 4:30pm

Monthly meet up. Please contact the library for more details.

Ciorcal Comhrá Tuesday 17th December (every Tuesday)11am

This is an informal group for adults who meet on a weekly basis to use and practice their conversational Irish.

No booking required. All welcome.

Tuesday 17th December (first and third Tuesday of the

month) 6:15pm – 7:15pm
A bi-monthly meeting for writers in the Maynooth area. Beginner writers always welcome.

No booking required.

Ex Libris Book Club Wednesday 18th December 11am – 12pm

Please contact the library if you are interested in joining this book club or would like to start a book club.

LEO Business Advice Clinic Wednesday 18th December 10am all day

For anyone seeking business advice. To book an appointment, applications are available through LEO office. Please contact 045 980838

Thursday 19th December 10am – 1pm

Go for Life FitLine is a free telephone service for people over 50 giving you the information and encouragement you need to get more physically active. (In association with the National Programme for Sport and Physical Activity for Older People). Please note this is a telephone service only. For more information call 1800 303 545.

Make Time: Craft Meet up Thursday 19th December (first and third Thursday of the

A time and space to craft and chat on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evening of each month. Get together with like-minded makers to work on your latest project and swap tips over tea. No booking required.

Jane Austen Book Club Thursday 19th December 11am – 12pm

Please contact the library if you are interested in joining this book club or would like to start a book club.

German Stammtisch at Maynooth Library: a new monthly

Thursday 19th December 6:30pm – 7:30pm

A monthly informal German conversation meet-up for anyone with an interest in the language and culture of German speaking countries.

All levels from learners to native speakers are welcome

Spanish Conversation Exchange Thursday 19th December 6:30pm – 8pm

An informal meeting where people can practice and converse in Spanish. All adults welcome from novice to expert. No booking required.

Jingle Bell Storytime Friday 20th December 10am – 11am

Hohoho! This week's stories will get you in the spirit for Santa's arrival. Join in some seasonal songs and rhymes. Colouring pages will be provided.

Family Board Games Saturday 21st December 10am - 12pm

Chess, Draughts, Cluedo and Boggle will be available – or feel free to bring along a family favourite! All welcome

Maynooth Women's Group

Saturday 21st December 11am – 1pm

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Emmet Stagg Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Phone: - 01-627 2149 - E mail: emmet.stagg@votelabour.ie - Web: www.labour.ie/emmetstagg



Contract to be Awarded this Month for Team to Deliver DART to Maynooth However this time around Kildare, stated, Mr. Stagg has received 6% of probationary - Stagg

Labour's Emmet Stagg has been in further contact with Iarnrod Eireann in relation to the process of putting in place a Multi-Disciplinary Consultancy Team to support the Expansion of DART to Maynooth.

6 Specialists expressed an interest in Tendering to be part of the Multi-Disciplinary Team to support Iarnrod Eireann in the delivery of DART to Maynooth and City Centre Enhancements and they were invited to submit Tenders on 16th July, with the closing date for receipt of Tenders being Monday September 23rd next.

Iarnród Éireann have now advised Mr. Stagg that the evaluation of Tenders has been undertaken and a contract award is expected in November following public procurement procedures.

Welcoming the progress Mr. Stagg stated that the work the Team will be involved in delivering includes:

- * Preparation of the Designs
- * Undertaking Environmental Impact Assessment
- * Preparing costings for the Works Budget and Business Case approval.
- * Manage Railway Order Process.
- * Tender Preparation and Evaluation.

Mr. Stagg stated that the successful applicant will play a pivotal role in developing the design and tender preparation for the project. In addition to providing DART to Maynooth, the project involves development and enhancements to City Centre Stations and Network, resignalling from Maynooth to Connolly/Dockland and removal of the six level crossings along the Maynooth Line and provision of necessary bridge relief infrastructure.

In conclusion Labour's Emmet Stagg stated that he looked forward to the award of the contract so that work can begin on delivering DART Expansion to Maynooth.

Garda Numbers in Kildare Reach 405

Emmet Stagg has welcomed confirmation from the Garda Authorities that a further 11 probationary Gardai will be assigned to the Kildare Garda Division following their attestation on 29th November in Templemore, which will bring Garda numbers in the Kildare Division to 405.

Mr. Stagg stated that the last assignment of probationary gardai last June was hugely disappointing as no Gardai were assigned to the Kildare Division. At that time, 78% of new probationary gardai were assigned to the Dublin Metropolitan Area and the Louth Division to deal with ongoing well documented Gangland Crime.

Gardai, which is to be welcome. We will now have 341 Gardai, 54 Sergeants, 7 Inspectors and 3 Superintendents.

Concluding Labour's Emmet Stagg stated that the campaign to increase Garda manning levels in Kildare must continue, not just probationary gardaí, but transfers into the division of experienced garda personnel, to assist in the battle against crime.

Stagg says 'About Bloody Time' as Cabinet Finally Gives Go-ahead for 41 New Rail Carriages

Labour's Emmet Stagg, whilst welcoming the Government decision on October 30th to give Iarnród Éireann the go-ahead to sign the contract for 41 additional rail carriages for use on increasing capacity at peak times on the Maynooth and Kildare Rail Lines, says its 'about bloody time' the Government addressed the serious capacity issues for commuters on the Maynooth and Kildare Rail Lines.

The expansion of the fleet stated Mr. Stagg will increase capacity at am peak times by 34% on both Rail Lines but this really is an issue which should have been addressed years ago. For far too long commuters have had to put up with the inconvenience of overcrowded trains and for many having to stand for the full journey into the City Centre. And now it will be late 2021 before the first of these new carriages will enter service.

Concluding Labour's Emmet Stagg stated that Labour has a proud record of delivering Public Transport and of supporting it, and he again criticised the FG/Independent Government for their failure to address this problem a number of years ago, which would have seen the carriages actually in place now rather than a further two year wait.

Stagg presses KWETB on North Kildare Gaelcholáiste Setting Up Emmet Stagg has been pressing Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board on two issues relating to ensuring that the North Kildare Gaelcholáiste opens next September as planned in Maynooth.

Mr. Stagg stated that a number of parents who want to send their children to the Gaelcholáiste in Maynooth next September were unhappy with the delay in holding an 'Open Night' to advise parents of the plans for the new Gaelcholaiste and to outline how pupils could be enrolled.

They were particularly critical of the fact that all the other Secondary Schools in North Kildare had their Open Nights and nothing was forthcoming in relation to the Gaelcholaiste. KWETB have now advised Mr. Stagg that the date for the 'Open Night' will be confirmed shortly and that it will be held in Maynooth Post Primary School.

Mr. Stagg also raised with KWETB the delay in appointing a replacement principal for the Gaelcholáiste. KWETB have now advised Mr. Stagg that interviews for the position of Principal of the Gaelcholáiste will be held in the week commencing 25th November.

Labour's Emmet Stagg stated that he would continue to press KWETB to ensure that the North Kildare Gaelcholáiste opens in Maynooth next September as planned.



Gold Medal *Winner 2019*



At time of writing Maynooth Tidy Towns will finish all our planting of bulbs and we plan to resume in early 2020. We thank all who volunteered and supported us during 2020.

After Christmas please recycle your Christmas tree in Kildare County Council depot yard beside the Fire Station in Leinster St. Maynooth.

Also remember to recycle your bottles and cans in Glenroyal shopping centre, Tesco and Aldi after Christmas.

The WEEE Ireland Collection of electrical goods and batteries will take place in March 2020 in the Tesco Shopping Car Park date to be advised.

On behalf of Maynooth Tidy Towns we wish Staff, Editorial Board and readers of Maynooth Newsletter and all who supported us a very Happy Christmas and litter free New Year.

Richard Farrell **PRO Maynooth Tidy Towns** Mobile no.0873153189... Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band's CD is available from Maynooth Bookshop Main Street, **Donovan's Centra Greenfield, the Parish Centre** beside the Church and the Maynooth Newsletter Office beside the Post Office in Carton Park.

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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention favour). Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then, 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.

Thanksgiving for favour received

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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Two almost impossible situations resolved by the Power of this Prayer.

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

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

Thanksgiving for favour received

Never known to fail

The Alzheimer Café Leixlip Co Kildare



Alzheimer Cafe Leixlip

Join us at our **Christmas Party** at the next Alzheimer Cafe, Wednesday December 11th in "The Conservatory", Ryevale Nursing Home, Leixlip from 7-9pm. The speaker and the cafe organisers will still be on hand to answer any questions you may have. We will also have refreshments, music and a bit of Christmas fun. This is a great night to try out the cafe for the first time!

Attendance is free of charge and there is plenty of parking available www.alzheimercafeleixlip.ie
Phone: **087 7418512**

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Frank O'Rourke T.D. Kildare North
Contact Details: Dail Office: 01 6183109 - Mobile: 087 2555257 - e-mail: frank.orourke@oireachtas.ie - **f*/Frank O'Rourke
Clinics: Monday in the Glenroyal Hotel - Constituency Office: Main Street Celbridge.



More support for SME sector needed says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has called on the Government to provide more support for the Irish SME sector given its importance to the Irish and indeed local Kildare economy.

"Two recent reports have cited rising costs as a main concern for 50% of Irish SMEs. The SME sector is the backbone of the economy. We need to support them and help them create and sustain jobs. Rising costs, such as rates and insurance, are a big problem for many SMEs and it needs to be addressed."

"The two recent reports prepared EY-DKM Economic Consultants and Bibby Financial Services, have both highlighted rising costs, cashflow management and Government regulations as key concerns for SMEs."

"Despite many Government announcements on tackling prompt payments for SMEs, two in every five respondents stated that payments collection is the principal challenge to cashflow.'

'Over recent years, I have consistently raised the cost of rates and insurance as being a key element of rising cost for businesses. The cost of both motor insurance and business insurance remains stubbornly high for households and businesses across the country. The average annual cost of motor insurance now stands at €750 compared with €450 in 2014, an increase of nearly 70%."

'We need to address the rising costs, for business and for families, if we are to protect our jobs for the future." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

O'Rourke welcomes new rules on Motor Insurance – as more action required

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has welcomed the Central Bank rules requiring insurers to give customers more information when renewing their policies which come into effect today. However, more needs to be done to reduce the cost of insurance.

'Insurance companies will now have to provide details such as the premium paid the previous year with an upfront comparison. They will also have to provide the cost of different levels of cover, a comprehensive quote, a third party fire and theft quote, and one for third party only cover.'

"Insurance companies also must now give consumers 20 days' notice of the renewal, up from 15 days, giving consumers more time to shop round."

"This is all part of the recommendations of the Working Group on the cost of insurance. It will increase transparency. However, it has taken far too long for this relatively small step to be put in place.

"The government needs to understand that failure to tackle the insurance crisis facing certain sectors is costing jobs. Motor Insurance is higher here than in other EU countries and we need the Government to bring greater focus on the implementation of recommendations from the working group on Insurance.

"I will continue to raise the issue of the high cost of insurance in Ireland. With my colleague Michael McGrath TD, we continue to raise the issue on the floor of the Dáil until we make further progress," concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

Additional Services on Orbital Route 139 says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has welcomed the recent additional services on the Naas to Blanchardstown 139 Route, as further services were needed.

'Recently, additional services were added to the 139 Bus Route servicing Naas to Blanchardstown, via Clane, Rathcoffey, Maynooth and Leixlip. One additional service at 7.00am departing Naas and one additional evening return service."

'This service is growing in popularity, students attending college, commuters linking to the train service, people going to work, hospital visits or using other public transport services are examples of the valuable contribution to the area.'

"I campaigned for this Orbital Route and it is now in service for well over a year. We need to increase the number of services on the route and more commuters will use it. I will continue to raise the issue with the National Transport Authority to have the service improved."

"As we cater for increased demand for public transport, we need to improve the Bus and Rail Services for North Kildare. The Bus and Rail Service for Kilcock needs improvement. Rail service on the Maynooth and Kildare Line need to be improved and we need a connection linking Maynooth to Tallaght via Celbridge and City West,' concluded Deputy O'Rourke

Additional Home Support Hours Welcome but more supports needed -O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has welcomed the one million additional Home Support hours which was announced in Budget 2020, but stated that more needs to be done to tackle long waiting lists for Home Care hours.

"Leading up to Budget 2020, our Fianna Fáil negotiating team pushed hard to secure additional home help hours. The additional one million hours will go some way towards easing waiting times, but more is needed."

"Families seeking home care packages contact me on a weekly basis. There has been an increase in the number of people seeking home care packages and we need extra resources to meet the demand.

"Fianna Fáil introduced the Home Care Package in 2006 and fully appreciates its value. Enabling care for people in their own home is a win-win for everyone. It is generally the preferred choice for older people and their families and it saves the Government money."

"A crisis in home care supports has escalated over the past year. The service has been unable to keep pace with the demand and while the additional hours announced in the budget is a welcome step in the right direction, we need to see more resources for home care packages," concluded Deputy O'Rourke

5,883 bed days lost in Naas hospital due to delayed discharges – O'Rourke Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North, Frank O'Rourke, said the high number of delayed discharges in Naas General Hospital is putting immense pressure on the rest of the

Deputy O'Rourke called on the Government to get serious on delivering home care supports which would alleviate the problem.

He made the comments as figures revealed to Fianna Fáil show that 5,883 bed days were lost at Naas General Hospital since the start of this year. This figure is among the highest of any hospital outside of Dublin.

Deputy O'Rourke said, "Lost bed days mean there were people eligible to be discharged from Naas hospital but had no access to an appropriate step-down care facility or home help provision.'

"They don't want to be in hospital, their families don't want them to be in hospital and the medical professionals who are battling through each day don't want to see them in the hospital when they know they are healthy enough to go home.'

"The simple fact is that there is nowhere else for them to go and this is putting huge pressure on the rest of the hospital network, which is in desperate need for the spare

"This vicious cycle will continue until decisive action is taken. We need more home support hours, home care packages and respite support for families. Only when these are in place will we see these numbers drop", he concluded.

Secondary School capacity at Scoil Dara in Kilcock needs to be addressed savs O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has called on the Department of Education & Skills to urgently address the capacity issue at Scoil Dara in Kilcock in order to alleviate the concerns of parents, as next September approaches.

"I have been in regular contact with the Minister's office on this important issue since being contacted by the parents last week. "I know from meeting with parents last week and with the School principal in Kilcock, that there are not enough places at Scoil Dara to cater for the demand from the Kilcock catchment area for next September. Parents and the Principal have expressed concern and frustration to ensure that the extra capacity is delivered."

"I am aware that the Gaelcholáiste in Maynooth will be open next September and that additional capacity will become available in Enfield, both of which will help alleviate the capacity issues at Kilcock. I have been assured that this issue will be resolved positively, well in advance of the next academic year. The Department has also confirmed to me that they will engage with the school to provide the necessary places, to ensure that no child is left without a school place."

"I, along with other public representatives, met with parents that have concerns in relation to the lack of places at Scoil Dara last week. I will continue to press the Department of Education & Skills to address the issue and I will continue to liaise and engage with the Parents and School" concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

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



Ouestion

I am an Irish citizen. Can I apply for my first Irish passport online?

Answer

From 1 November 2019, Irish citizens (adults and children) living in the following countries can apply for their first Irish passport through the Passport Online service:

- Ireland and Northern Ireland
- Great Britain
- Any country in the European Union
- Iceland
- Liechtenstein
- Norway or Switzerland

If you have not been issued with a passport in the last 15 years, you are considered a first-time applicant.

If you live outside the countries listed above or do not want to use the online service you can still apply using a paper form.

When you apply online, you must generate and print an Identity Verification Form. If you are living in Ireland, this form must be signed by a member of An Garda Síochána who must be satisfied as to your identity. If you are applying from outside Ireland, you can find a list of or appropriate witnesses on the form.

If you are applying for a child's first passport online, you need to confirm the child's identity and guardians' consent by sending your child's Passport Identity and Consent Form to the Passport Service at the end of the online process. You may need to provide additional documentation, for example, a birth certificate, or documents relating to guardianship. When you have completed the online process, you will be told if you need to provide additional documents.

You also need a digital photograph, an email address and a credit or debit card.

The application process generally takes ten working days and is the fastest way to apply for or renew your passport. Further information is available from www.citizensinformation.ie and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121

Question

I am due to have a baby in three months and have planned to take maternity leave. Am I entitled to any more paid leave to look after the baby?

Answei

Parent's leave is a new statutory entitlement for parents that allows each parent 2 weeks paid leave for a child born or adopted on or after 1 November 2019. It aims to let working parents spend more time with their baby or adopted child during the first year.

Parent's leave is different from **parental leave**. It must be taken within 52 weeks of the birth of a child or in the case of adoption, from the date of placement of the child. If you have enough PRSI contributions, you get a weekly Parent's Benefit payment of $\ensuremath{\in} 245$ from the Department of Employment and Social Protection during parent's leave. In contrast, parental leave is unpaid and can be taken up until the child's 12^{th} birthday.

You can take parent's leave in one 2-week block or in 2 one-week periods.

Parent's leave

Parent's leave is a new statutory entitlement for parents. It aims to let working parents spend more time with their baby or adopted child during the first year. Each parent is entitled to 2 weeks paid parent's leave for a child born or adopted on or after 1

Each parent is entitled to 2 weeks paid parent's leave for a child born or adopted on or after 1 November 2019. Currently parent's leave is 2 weeks but it may be increased in the future (up to a maximum of 9 weeks).

Parent's leave is available to both employees and people who are self-employed. <u>Parent's Benefit</u> is paid while you are on parent's leave from work if you have enough social insurance (PRSI) contributions. If you are self-employed you should apply directly to the Department of Employment and Social Protection (DEASP) for <u>Parent's Benefit</u> at least 6 weeks before you intend to take parent's leave.

Please note that your employer does not have to pay you while you are on parent's leave, although some employers may 'top-up' your parent's leave. If you qualify for <u>Parent's Benefit</u>, you will get €245 each week. What is the difference between parental leave and parent's leave? Parental leave entitles parents to take unpaid leave from work to spend time looking after their children. Currently both parents can take up to 22 weeks parental leave and from 1 September 2020, this will increase to 26 weeks.

You can get more information in our document on <u>parental leave</u>. Parent's leave is specifically for parents during the child's first year. <u>Paternity leave</u> is specifically for fathers in their child's first year. Other statutory entitlements available for parents are <u>maternity leave</u> and <u>adoptive leave</u>.

Passport Online service

From 1 November 2019, Irish citizens (adults and children) living in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Great Britain, the EU, the EEA or Switzerland can apply for their first Irish passport through the **Passport Online** service.

Minister Bruton Cracks Down on Plastics, Single Use Cups, Landfill and Takeaway Waste

New environmental levies proposed to encourage more sustainable behaviour The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Richard Bruton, T.D. today (Wednesday the 6th of November 2019) announced a number of proposed environmental levies to encourage more sustainable behaviour, which will now be put out to consultation.

Minister Bruton said, "How we use and dispose of our resources is crucial – in fact it accounts for 60% of our emissions. We must be more conscious of the impact we are having by the daily choices we make.

"Sustainable alternatives exist for all the items we are purposing to levy and the purpose is to shift behaviour towards the use of these alternatives."

"These changes, we hope, will make people more conscious of this and will encourage people to make small changes such as bringing their own bags shopping, or their own cup when going for a coffee, that can make a difference. All of the funds collected will go back into environmental action. Industry too will be expected to make changes and we will be designing levies on food packaging and takeaway containers."

Tusla Education Support Service or TESS

Is launching its first national, School Attendance Drive 'Every School Day Counts' to promote regular school attendance. Each school day approximately 60,000 students miss school in Ireland. TESS is running an attendance drive throughout the month of November, when attendance traditionally dips, to encourage and promote the importance of regular school attendance with children, young people, parents and schools. In addition TESS believes that attendance is everyone's business and encourages the wider community to come on board and endeavour to make 'Every School Day Count' this November and throughout the school year.

Over 1700 schools right across the country have already signed up to the drive and will be running attendance initiatives in their schools throughout the month.

During the launch, the service will also be unveiling its new name and logo as part of its brand refresh project, to highlight the integrated supports available through its three service strands — Educational Welfare Service; Home School Community Liaison Scheme; and School Completion Programme.

The three services work with children, young people, parents, schools and community family support services to improve attendance, participation and retention.

Addressing over 350 attendees, including government representatives, education professionals, children and young people, Bernard Gloster, Chief Executive of Tusla said, "Research has shown again and again that regular school attendance is vital in helping children get the best possible start in life. It lays the foundation for developing good social skills, building relationships and achieving success later in life. Children who attend school regularly are more likely to stay in school and achieve better educational outcomes."

Noel Kelly, Director of Tusla Education Support Service, added, "Access to education is a child's right. We know that investing in education is the most effective way of offsetting the impact of poverty and helps create a level playing field, which gives children from disadvantaged backgrounds a better chance to reach their potential.

Equal access to educational opportunities has the power to pull families and communities out of the cycle of poverty which in turn can help generations to come. The focus of our work in TESS is to give additional support to the most marginalised 8% of children and young people in our education system who are most likely to leave school early without any qualifications."

system who are most likely to leave school early without any qualifications."

Speaking about the rebrand, Noel said: "I'm also delighted to be here today to reveal our new name and logo. The overall aim of the process is to educate the public on the services we provide to ensure that anyone in need of support, can access the right service, at the right time. Over 150 children, young people, parents, schools and staff were engaged in this brand refresh process, to ensure the new name and look resonated with its users and reflected the supportive services it provides."

Christmas Bonus

You must have been getting Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) or basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) for 15 months to get a Christmas Bonus. However, if you were getting another payment that is eligible for the Christmas Bonus immediately before claiming JA or basic SWA, and your combined time on both eligible payments is 15 months, you get the Christmas Bonus.

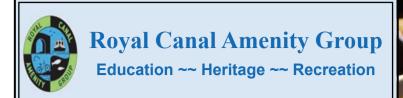
The Christmas Bonus will be paid to certain people getting a <u>Further Education and Training (FET)</u> <u>training allowance</u>, (people coming from jobseeker's payments must have been on their payment and/or training allowance for 15 months).

Note that for Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA), which is paid monthly, the bonus is 100% of the weekly payment. The DCA portion of the bonus is calculated independently of other payments. So, for example, if you are getting full-rate DCA for one child, 100% of the weekly payment is €77.38.

The Christmas Bonus is also paid to people getting Blind Welfare Allowance, Mobility Allowance, and rehabilitative training allowance from the HSE. Survivors of Thalidomide who get payments from the Department of Health also get the bonus. How much is the Christmas Bonus?

In 2019, the Christmas Bonus is 100% of your normal weekly payment (including the <u>Living Alone Increase</u>, the <u>Island Allowance</u> and the Over-80 Increase). The Christmas Bonus does not include Fuel Allowance. The minimum Christmas Bonus payment is €20.

If an Increase for a Qualified Adult is paid directly to your dependent spouse, civil partner or cohabitant, the Christmas Bonus is also paid directly to them. If you are getting 2 eligible social welfare payments (for example, a One-Parent Family Payment and the Domiciliary Care Allowance or a half-rate Carer's Allowance as well as your primary payment) you get the Christmas Bonus for both payments.



RCAG ENFIELD WALK

This walk took place on Sunday 20th October last, from Fureys Public House in Moyvalley back to Enfield Transport was laid on to bring the walkers from Enfield to Furey's Pub, where the walk started.

Walkers traversed the recently up-graded Royal Canal Towpath, making their way back to The Bridge House Bar in Enfield where light refreshments awaited them.

The Moyvalley to Enfield Walk is a distance of about 5km so walkers would have acquired an appetite while walking. Walk coordinator, and long



Walkers crossing the newly constructed bridge at Moyvalley

serving RCAG member, Mr Brian O'Donoghue Said he was very happy with the turnout, good weather and enjoyable walk.

ROYAL CANAL TOUR

Our tour to Scotland in September was a great success. An early 6.30am departure from Maynooth and to further pick ups in Dublin saw us arrive in Belfast at 10.30am after a short comfort stop earlier. Arriving at the ferry-port we were advised that the ferry was delayed. The sailing was pleasant and the food on board not as expensive as anticipated.

Having disembarked we arrived at Dumfries House some what behind schedule. On arrival we were ushered in to a side room where we viewed a recorded welcome from HRH Prince Charles. This was followed by the guided tour. Much of the furniture in the house was early commissions by Thomas Chippendale.

Arriving at our hotel, we were quickly checked in and shown our rooms Shortly afterwards weary travellers made their way to the dining room and availed of Dinner.

After Breakfast on Saturday morning, having consulted with driver Maurice Rochford, travellers were offered an added bonus of a Trip to Edinburgh. Two and a half hours after arriving in Scotland's capital we departed for the Kelpies. The tour here was conducted by tour guide Ciara who was informative, helpful, and kind. Leaving here we made it to the Falkirk Wheel with minutes to spare before the pre booked boat trip. Once again staff members were very helpful and the ship's crew told us to relax After the guided trip we returned to the hotel. Some dined in and some went out.

The guided part of the tour was bilingual and travellers could only smile when, on the Sunday morning, poet Robert Burn's house was introduced as "Teach Bob Ó Broinn"

Burns cottage is a 10 minute walk from the Burns Museum but the young and "the not so young" walked to see the cottage.



The group who travelled to Scotland pictured outside 'Burn's Cottage'



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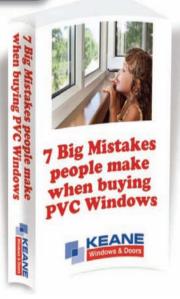
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This completed the visits and we made our way back to the ferry.

The Sea was very calm for the home sailing which was very smooth indeed. Weather wise we had one shower before arriving at Dumfries otherwise the weather was perfect throughout. After the Dublin drops we were back in Maynooth at 9pm.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER WALK

The Christmas Jumper Walk will take place on Friday 27th December commencing at 11.45am at the Harbour. The route will take walkers up the main street, Carton Ave., Carton Estate, Pike Bridge and back along the canal to the Harbour. Light refreshments will be available afterwards.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Chairman and committee take this opportunity to extend good wishes for Christmas and the New-year to our readers, Newsletter staff and all RCAG members, associate members and friends.



OCCASIONS HAIRDRESSING

Occasions Hairdressing is raising the bar with their new Salon in Carton Park Maynooth. The Maynooth Salon first opened in 2005. The salon was 689 sq feet with 9 sections and an amazing team of talented stylists that continued to grow. The proud owners knew that one day they would need to expand the business and this is now the realisation of their dreams.

The new and improved salon located next to Sports Direct is just metres away from the previous site. The new state of the art premises is significantly larger at 5560 sq feet. With 20 sections and 12 award-winning team members. Occasions Hairdressing has all the edge, sophistication and expertise you'd expect from an award winning salon. The team delivers up-to-date advice on current trends and a great customer experience every time you visit. At this unique hairdressing salon not only can you get your hair styled but you can also get your makeup, brows, tan and nails perfected in this ultra modern establishment. Occasions Hairdressing has teamed up with the very talented Makeup Artist Rebecca Sophia creating looks from Bridal to festival and everything in between, working along side Sugar Dolls.



Sugar Do/Is BAR AUTY



Sugar Dolls Nail and Beauty is definitely the coolest place to get glamorous!

Along side the talented team of award winning stylists not only can you have the most amazing cut and colour but you can avail of an all over transformation. Occasions Hairdressing is a must if your looking for that feel good factor. The talented team has a wealth of knowledge in all aspects of hairdressing and will leave you looking and feeling fantastic with every visit.

Fantastic Hairdresser Awards 2019

HUGE well done and congratulations to Jennie Smullen from Occasions Hairdressing for walking away with 1st place! ♥
The INIXIA Photographic category is hands ON! The objective of this ambitious category is to create the 'front cover look' of a hairdressing magazine that is commercial and reflects current trends in the haircare industry.

OCCAS ONS HAIRDRESSING



Award Winning Salon

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(Rear of Garda Station, across from the Castle)



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Looking forward to meeting you between the 1st - 20th December

Christmas Trees / Wreaths / Christmas Planters

Supporting The Peter McVerry Trust





Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

As 2019 draws to a close, we look forward to 2020 with enthusiasm. So why is this, you may ask, because we had one of our most successful fundraisers ever. Our "Sale of Work" this year raised €11, 845.77. So take a bow people, we couldn't have done it without your support. You are just the gift that keeps on giving. You made our collectors welcome at your homes, you gave donations and you came in your droves on the day. Many thanks to the business people for your support and rest assured we support local business.

Thank you to Johnny Nevin, school principal, for the use of the hall and to Caroline, Mark and Caretakers for all their help. A big thank you to Maynooth Scouts and other young people who did Trojan work on the day and to Johnny and Tony who harness all that energy. A special word of thanks to "Thornton's Recycling" who played a huge role in leaving the school without as much as sweet paper.

Our next event is our Christmas shopping courtesy of SuperValu Maynooth on Sunday December 1st at 3pm. All seniors welcome. Our Christmas Lunch will take place on Sunday December 15th at 3pm in the Glenroyal Hotel. Those attending should have their names with us no later than December 2nd.



Our morning club will close on December 5th and will reopen on Tuesday January 7th 2020, "Le Cuineamh De". May I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas, while acutely give that it will be a little and for those of you who lost

aware that it will be a little sad for those of you who lost loved ones during the year, especially the Tracey family who lost Kevin just recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

ne with you all.

Suaimhneas agus Síocháin Do Josephine Moore. Chairperson.





MAYNOOTH SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE



Result of Main Draw

Monster Hamper - Carmel Mulreid - Duboyne

€200 - Margaret Gillick - Maynooth

€100 - Gráinne Cusker - Enfield

32" T.V. - Dillon McBride - c/o Joe Buckley

Christmas Hamper - Marie Kiernan - Maynooth

Btl. Brandy - Tom McMullon - Maynooth

Book Hamper - Ger Sadler - Maynooth

Hi-Fi Micro System - Mary Jennings - Maynooth

Picnic Hamper - Matt Carroll - Maynooth

There were numerous other winners on the day, so congratulations to everyone.

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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Seniors in St. Ciaran's

Yesterday I was reading about the apparently peaceful relations between natives and newcomers in Ireland prior to the 1641 rebellion and while not wishing to trivialise the horrors of that period, my mind went back to the relationship between 5th and 6th Years in my old alma mater, St. Ciaran's College. As seniors we shared the same long dormitory on the 3rd Floor, and although to an outsider relations might have appeared cordial, underneath there were simmering tensions, the seeds of which were sown in our first year.

Newcomers or "Chaws" in St. Ciaran's were on the receiving end of much attention, both from older students and priests. A senior might kick a Chaw in the backside just because he felt like doing so – this never happened to me but a few of my pals were less fortunate – or demand that he surrender his place at table-tennis or on the ball alley. During our first week, Fr. Eoin, the Dean of Discipline, arranged a Chaws' Concert in the Aula Maxima in which we were all required to participate. One sang, danced, played the accordion or did whatever one could to entertain. The results were often unintentionally hilarious.

I can vividly recall Mickey Cooney reciting Brian Boru's address to his warriors before the Battle of Clontarf:

'Stand ye now for Erin's glory, Stand ye now Erin's cause...'

The contrast between Mickey's treble tones – his voice hadn't yet broken – and the heroic subject matter nearly brought the house down, ensuring that he was henceforth known as 'Standye Cooney'. Another Chaw, John McGlynn, sang a popular song about 'The Rich Maharajah', who in addition to ten thousand camels, had 'rubies and pearls and the loveliest girls' – he got no further. The moment Fr. Eoin heard mention of girls he called out in apparent horror, 'Stop!' with the result that John was thereafter nicknamed 'Maharajah McGlynn'. What my own contribution was escapes me now, but it must have passed off without trauma.

The next initiation rite was a 'Chaws versus 2nd Years' game of Gaelic football. Here the Chaws could be sure that the whole school, apart from 2nd Years, were supporting them. The 3rd Years in particular longed to see their own former rivals humiliated and if this happened, the 2nd Years had a score to settle with the victorious newcomers. Of course, Chaws who displayed exceptional talent would be placed on a pedestal from then on; the mediocre, such as myself, had to win acceptance by other means or not at all. But whatever the outcome of the game, in general, the scene was set for future rivalry, which reached a peak when prefects were chosen from among the 6th Years.]]

Chosen from 6th Years, prefects wielded considerable authority in the college. They constituted a kind of informal police force and might dole out corporal punishment using their thick leather belts, or bare hands. When in charge of a dormitory a prefect would ask every student to contribute towards the cost of a long silver torch. Consequently, fellows in the process of tipping a mattress with its sleeping occupant onto the floor or engaging in a pillow fight were often caught in a powerful beam of light they themselves had paid for. Punishment was usually swift and painful, though use of the belt diminished after our first year. Now as I said, 5th and 6th Years shared a dormitory. The prefect slept in an end bed that commanded a view of the entire room with its four rows of beds. In our first senior year the prefect in charge, Liam Browne, must have been selected for his brains - he was an honours student – rather than his physical prowess. 'Sow' Browne, as his nickname suggests, was not one of those naturalborn leaders who command respect because of innate strength of character. Nevertheless, he represented the priests and so we were expected to obey him. In the meantime, if we showed signs of overt insubordination his henchmen, Bruiser Naughton and Flint Quirke, were there as enforcers. Not that Browne ever had need of their services – at least not in his first months as prefect.

Students from both senior years engaged in high jinks in the dormitory. As well as the usual stuff of making 'apple pie beds', engaging in pillow fights and, occasionally, feasting on sweet cakes after lights-out, a few of us used attempt to walk like tight-rope performers from one end of the dormitory to the other along the metal end-rails of beds. Another stunt involved jumping up from an end-rail to grab one of the iron bars spanning the room that tied together the wooden roof trusses. The danger here was that if one missed the bar one would almost certainly land on an end-rail and risk breaking a leg. Successful jumpers such as the 6th Year student Hawkeye Flynn would, in trapeze artiste fashion, swing by their knee joints from the tie bar before dropping to the floor.

These feats were only undertaken while Browne and his henchmen visited the nearby washroom. I was quite good at rail walking but never succeeded in grabbing a tie bar, probably because I lacked the nerve to jump up straight enough – that way if I missed the bar I wouldn't land on an end-rail.

One night I was fast asleep when suddenly, as if hurled by an avalanche, my body hit the wooden floor: pranksters had tipped over the mattress. While I was remaking the bed with the help of my pal, 'Freddie the Fearless Fly' Conroy, the harsh light of Browne's torch dazzled us and his voice boomed, 'Scott and Conroy, report to the Dean after mass tomorrow morning.' Our protestations of innocence were brushed aside: we had been caught red-handed creating a disturbance.

Since reporting oneself to the Dean, Fr. Eoin, involved a major risk of unpleasant consequences, neither Freddie nor I complied with Browne's order. Later, we were called before Fr. Eoin, who, surprisingly, accepted our explanation and did not fine us. It was a victory of sorts, but victories have consequences. After that Browne resented the fact that we had flouted his authority. We would have to watch our steps.

A few nights later we were all lying quietly in our beds. The lights were out and apart from a few whispered conversations most of us were half asleep. Suddenly, Hawkeye's excited stage whisper announced, "There's an eclipse of the moon tonight!" Immediately, Freddie and I joined a stampede of twenty or more students towards the windows. Despite clambering up on the sills to peer at the sky, we could detect nothing unusual. Next minute the overhead lights were switched on and a furious Sow yelled, "Everyone back to bed! I'm reporting this in the morning."

Although Freddie and I had definitely been spotted among the moon-gazers, we assured one another that Browne wouldn't make a big deal out of the incident – after all, there were quite a number of 6th Years involved. How wrong we were. Sow duly reported every 5th Year, with special emphasis on Scott and Conroy. Not one 6th Year was included. I can't recall that Fr. Eoin imposed any great penalty, but the 5th Years were smarting at the unfairness of it all. It was in this climate that I decided to redress the balance of justice with my pen.

Prior to this I had had a piece of verse published in the Western Champion and I occasionally amused my classmates with topical ballads. Now I composed a lampoon to commemorate the eclipse incident. One verse still sticks in my mind:

"There's talk of war and action:

The Fives are feeling sore, They'll look for satisfaction, They're calling Browne a boar."

It was fairly crude stuff and only intended for private consumption. Unfortunately, one of my classmates, Gary Heenan, got hold of it and thought it the most wonderful piece of satire. Unknown to me, Gary decided to read it aloud in the Back Jacks. It was like a conspirator choosing the Roman Forum to deliver a tirade against Caesar.

The Back Jacks was the place where seniors, including prefects, congregated after teatime to smoke and chat. On this occasion, Sow, Bruiser and Flint, were present. Freddie told me afterwards that you could hear a pin drop as Gary read out the lines. When he had finished, Sow and his henchmen promptly confiscated the lampoon and demanded to know who had written it. Gary refused to tell. Since Heenan's brother was a priest in the college, Freddie was convinced that there would be no repercussions. Nevertheless, I could have murdered Heenan for putting us both at risk, especially when I heard that Sow and his henchmen had been spotted inspecting jotters and copybooks in the 5th Year classrooms. That night my foreboding proved accurate.

When we were all in bed, Sow, flanked by Bruiser and Flint, all fully clothed, entered the dormitory, approached Heenan's bed and ordered him out on the floor. Watched by the entire dormitory, Gary rose. Like a lamb facing a butcher, he stood there mutely in bare feet and pyjamas, arms hanging down; eyes full of apprehension. Sow reminded him of what had taken place in the Back Jacks, adding, "You had your fun, Heenan; now you'll pay for it."

Losing no time Sow began to carry out the punishment. First, he swung his right hand in a broad sweep and hit Gary full across the face; then he swung his left hand. Again and again he struck the unfortunate Gary, switching hands methodically, while my stomach tightened into a knot with angry fear. When blood began to trickle from Gary's nose I thought Sow would relent. After all, this was a priest's younger brother who was being 'clattered'. But Sow was determined that we should all see the consequences of ridiculing him. It wasn't until blood began to splash onto Gary's pyjamas that he stopped. Then the three avengers turned away and headed down the aisle.

Now it's my turn. Watched by countless pairs of eyes I get out of bed when ordered.

Browne faces me, while his two henchmen stand like torturer's assistants behind his back, ready to intervene if I resist.

Sow glares at me: "Scott, did you write the poem which Heenan recited?"

I look into his flushed face and beady pig's eyes. He is only slightly heavier than myself. If I swing at him the watching 5th Years will almost certainly come to my assistance. Maybe Naughton and Quirke will flatten me but there will be one hell of a battle – in which case Fr. Eoin, whose room is almost directly underneath, will hear: if he finds out that I caused it by striking a prefect, I'll be for the high road in the morning. Better take my medicine like Gary.

"Scott, I asked if you wrote the poem?" Browne's voice is shrill. I again refuse to answer.

"It doesn't matter whether or not you admit it. We checked the handwriting against the handwriting in your copybook – and do you know what? They match. So now we'll see how smart you really are."

The blows to my head are delivered with brain-rattling force while I keep my hands by my side and my eyes drilling into Sow's. With the regularity of a metronome his hands crash against the side of my face, though by some miracle my nose doesn't bleed. What hurts even more than the battering is the conviction that in a man-to-man fight I'd give this bastard just as good as I'm getting. In the meantime, I won't let him have the satisfaction of seeing me flinch. Finally it's over. My ears are buzzing and my brain is groggy, but during the entire ordeal I haven't uttered a sound.

When Naughton and Quirke had gone away and Sow was getting ready to turn out the lights I forced myself to walk half dazed down the aisle between the middle and side row of beds. The humiliation of having been beaten like an animal in front of all the seniors added coals of shame to the fire burning in my head. Somehow I had to recover my manhood. Browne looked surprised and more than a little wary when he saw me approach his bed. But at this stage I had no intention of risking expulsion.

'Liam', I addressed him by his Christian name, 'I've a favour to ask.'

'What?' He gave me a half-guilty look.

'Liam', my voice was pleading, 'will you meet me some place outside the college grounds so that we can settle this man-to-man?'

Recovering from his surprise, he said truculently: 'You know where I live. You can meet me there any time you like.'

Sure enough, I vaguely knew that he lived in some place at least forty miles from my home, but there was no point in getting into an argument.

'I'll remember that,' I promised and walked away.

Gary Heenan didn't report the incident to his brother, or, if he did, there were no obvious repercussions. In any case, Fr. Eoin would be reluctant to censure a prefect he himself or the college staff had appointed.

Over sixty years have passed since that night, but Liam and I have never met. It is clear to me now that he and I had this much in common: we were both determined not to lose face. If we do bump into each other before we die, I hope that Liam will be man enough to ask me for forgiveness. Maybe I'll ask him for forgiveness too.

After all, despite the proverb about 'sticks and stones', words can sometimes hurt even more than blows.

Note: Names of all characters have been changed, as has the name of the college.

P.G. Nerney

Clough Oughter Castle

In the tree-grown island of a tranquil lake this ruin's broken wall pains like a wound that, though it may have healed, flares now and then: Owen Roe, our last hope against the Roundheads, died here in Forty-Nine and left us ripe for conquest.

Harassed Owen O'Reilly imprisoned Planters captured during Ulster's bitter conflict in Clough Oughter's gloomy, fireless chambers; he even held learned Bedell there for weeks before Cromwellian cannon breached its wall.

But such blood-soaked tales of ancient discord are now vague memories in our cyber-busy zones, or, if more vexing, art's transforming power, as in a luminous watercolour, tempers conflict with autumnal tones.

P.G. Nerney

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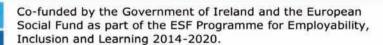


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The Last Advice Service this year will be on Friday 13th December 2019

The Advice Service will resume in the New Year on Friday 10th January 2020



Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas & A Peaceful New Year





MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Cycling without Age – the Right to Wind in your Hair Maynooth Cycling Campaign would like to thank Minister Michael Ring of the Department of Rural and Community Development for providing funding of over €8,000 for the purchase of an electric trishaw (it is similar to a rickshaw

but with three wheels). It will allow Maynooth to set up a local chapter of Cycling without Age and offer cycle rides to elderly in nursing homes who may have mobility problems and are no longer able to cycle. Ole Kassow started the movement in Copenhagen in 2012 after he noticed an elderly man sitting outside a nursing home and thought that he might enjoy a bike ride. Afterwards he was inundated with requests from other residents. Cycling without Age is now present in more than 42 countries and in Ireland there are over thirty trishaws. More details on Cycling without Age - Wind in Your Hair can be found at https://cyclingwithoutage.ie.

Public Consultation on Ireland's Sustainable Mobility Policy

The DTTAS has launched a public consultations to review Ireland's sustainable mobility policy. So if you want to make a point to the government on cycling, walking or public transport, this is the time. Details of the consultation can be found at https://www.gov.ie/en/news/d0f148-minister-ross-launches-review-of-sustainable-mobility/. The consultation ends on 24th January.

Celbridge Road Cycle Facilities

To date, Kildare County Council has still not published proposals for cycle facilities on the Celbridge Road. We hope that the delay is because they are having a radical rethink of their earlier poor proposals rather that a decision being stalled for the sake of it.

Space for Bicycles on Trains

The National Transport Authority has confirmed that the order for new rail carriages includes flexibility to allow increased spaces for bikes in accordance with EU parliamentary requirements. It is understood that the parliament has not fully confirmed that any new or refurbished rail carriage will have to provide a minimum of 8 spaces for bikes.

Cyclist.ie Council Meeting

In November, Cyclist.ie representing Maynooth Cycling Campaign among others, appeared before the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport Tourism and Sport on funding for cycling.



Review of the Year

The Good -

- Dublin hosting Velo-City 2019, the international cycling conference in Ireland. Maynooth Cycling Campaign's Chair being elected to the Kildare County Council's Transport and Public Safety Strategic Policy Committee.
- The truth about the low level of investment in cycling dragged out of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. In Budget 2020, Shane Ross allocated approximately €42 Million over €100 Million short of our benchmark of €182 Million.
- To date no cyclist road fatality in Kildare in 2019 after one dying in each of the previous two years.
- Fridays for Future protests in Maynooth with extreme floods in the UK and Italy and extreme fires and drought in New South Wales and California, climate change isn't just affecting the Third World any more.
- · Moyglare Road cycle facilities work has started.

And the Bad -

- Moyglare Road cycle facilities Kildare County Council plans offer the fifth and lowest level of service to cyclists (level of service D).
- Dublin hosting Velo-City 2019 and international delegates seeing the lack of progress since 2005.
- · No meeting of the SPC until 2020.
- No meeting of the Kildare Cycle Forum since February 2019 and no talk of when it will resume.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political cycling advocacy group. Further information on meetings and activities is available on our website.

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





ZERO WASTE MAYNOOTH

Dear Santa,

I hope everything is running smoothly with all the preparations for Christmas. It must be very hectic around the workshops getting all ready for the big day.

I have been trying really hard to be good this year — especially to the environment. The climate is getting warmer and melting ice in the North Pole and running into extreme weather around the world isn't going to make your job any easier.

I want to do my bit to help the planet and that includes thinking about the impact of my Christmas presents.

So Santa, please could you ask your elves to **get my presents second hand?** We have really good charity shops around Maynooth and you can get loads of things on adverts.ie. This would save lots of precious resources and prevent good toys going to waste. It will also help keep the house calm on Christmas morning as the toys will already be made up!

Next, could you please ask your Gift Wrap Elves **not to wrap my presents?** They do a lovely job but really I don't appreciate all their effort in my frenzy to get to the gift! A lot of the paper is not recyclable and just makes the bin overflow. If your elves really do want to wrap then maybe they could use newspaper or put things in pillowcases – that would save money and resources.

And finally Santa, I have a lot of games and toys, it can get a bit tiring to keep them neat and sorted. So instead of more things to clutter up the house, I was thinking you could **bring me an experience** – like a trip to the zoo or cinema, lunch out in my favourite café, or a winter walk with hot chocolate to finish. I could spend more time with my favourite people building memories and less time tidying!

Thanks for everything throughout the year!
Dreaming of a green Christmas,
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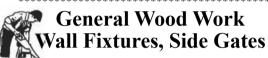
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Happy Christmas & a Prosperous New Year to All from the Members, Directors & Staff of Maynooth Community Employment Project





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

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

Catherine Murphy TD Kildare North (Social Democrats) Wishing readers a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2020

Bus Connects submissions - Have your say!

The Dublin Area Revised Bus Network redesign, Bus Connects, is open for public consultation and the closing date for submissions to Bus Connects is Tuesday December 3rd. Catherine Murphy is asking people to review the proposed changes and to make submissions

The way in which you can make a submission is as follows:

Feedback form is here: https://www.research.net/r/BusConnectsbusnetwork

Send to consultations@busconnects.ie

Alternatively send your comments in writing to:

Dublin Area Bus Network Redesign,

National Transport Authority,

Dún Scéine,

Harcourt Lane,

Dublin 2,

D02 WT20

In your submission, tell Your story, how you use the buses so that the Network Design personnel can understand how you would like to or how you see a future bus service working. It is important that your voice is heard. If you need any help at all with any aspect of the submission process, please feel free to call me on 01 615 6625 or email kildarenorth@socialdemocrats.ie

Full details of the proposed redesign are below

The north Kildare towns of Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth are currently served by both Dublin Bus and Irish Rail suburban services. Combined, the towns have a population in excess of 50,000 with the expectation that population will expand.

Current Rail Services, especially at peak times, are used to capacity. Delivery of new rolling stock has a lead in time of 2022. It is important to make a submission in respect of the proposed changes as it impacts all residents.

Orbital Service W8

A new proposed service - W8 Maynooth Moyglare to Tallaght via Celbridge-Hazelhatch – City West and is a welcome addition to the network. A direct bus between Celbridge and Maynooth has dropped from the original plan, this one appears to compensate the transport needs of the schools on Moyglare Road.

There are a number of changes to current schedules that will directly impact the Maynooth area.

Route 66 will have a name change and will be the C3 Maynooth to City, terminating in Ringsend. This service will run every 30 minutes with some extra services at peak times.

Peak time two additional services 325 and 326 will operate from Maynooth, the 325 will terminate at Customs House. The 326 will go via city centre and terminate at UCD. 66X will discontinue and the 66N will remain.

Below is a link to Network MAP of the proposed redesign

https://busconnects.ie/media/1635/celbridge-leixlip-accordian-leaflet-260919-fa-web.pdf

Details in tables below of the Peak services - issued to Catherine Murphy from the NTA:

Table 1 bellow shows the existing "X" services during the peak hours, shaded in green, and the BusConnects equivalent of the "X" services, shaded in blue. The point that I was seeking to make in our discussion is that there is a slightly higher level of these limited stop services in the new network proposal. While it is only slightly higher, this is something that can be adjusted further if necessary.

Table 1: Peak Times "X" Services

Existing route	Existing route AM Peak Services	Existing PM Peak Services	Proposed Route		Proposed PM Peak Services
66X (River Forest)	1	1	323 (River Forest)	3	3
66X (Castletown)	1	1	324 (Castletown)	2	2
66X (Maynooth)	3		325 (Maynooth)	3	3
66X (Maynooth via Easton)	2	5	326 (Maynooth via Easton)	2	2
66X (Easton)	2				
67X (Aghards)	5	4	327 (Aghards)	5	4
67X (Main St.)	4	4	328 (Main St.)	4	4
Totals	18	15		19	18

Table 2 below shows the other the all-day services which also operate during the peak commuting periods. The existing services are shaded in green and the BusConnects proposals are shaded in blue.

Table 2: Other Services in the Peak Hours

Existing Routes	Existing AM Services	Existing PM Services	Proposed Route	Proposed AM Services	Proposed PM Services			
66	7	6	C3	7	6			
66a	3	3	Replaced local connection to Main St. (258, 259) to the C3 & peak service 323					
66b	3	3		Replaced by local connection to Main St. (258) to the C3 & peak service 324				
66e	1	0	Replaced by local connection to Main St. (259) to the C3 & peak service 325					
67	8	6	C4 7 (
Totals	22	18		14	12			

While Table 2 shows C3 mirroring the level of service of existing route 66, and the 67 and C4 broadly equivalent, there is a difference in the case of the 66a, 66b and 66e. Those routes are, in the locality of Celbridge/ Leixlip/ Maynooth, replaced by the local routes - 258 and 259 - which provide connections to the train station(s), the C3 service and the other peak hour services(323, 324 or 325 if not already served by those peak hour routes).

Bus Routes in your local area

Spine and Branch Routes (all via City Centre)

Spines are very frequent routes made up of individual bus services timetabled to work together along a corridor. At the end of the corridor, the individual services branch off to serve different areas. E.g. where bus services A1, A2, A3 and A4 join together that forms the A-Spine

1.1 Spin	1.1 Spine and Branch Routes									
Route	From	Via	То	How Often						
C1	Adamstown	Griffeen Rd - Foxborough - Lucan Bypass - Chapelizod Bypass - City Centre (Quays) - Pearse St - Grand Canal Dock - Ringsend	Sandymount	Every 30 mins						
C2	Adamstown	Griffeen Ave - Foxborough - Lucan Bypass - Chapelizod Bypass - City Centre (Quays) - Pearse St - Grand Canal Dock - Ringsend	Sandymount	Every 30 mins						
С3	Maynooth	Leixlip - Lucan - N4 - Chapelizod Bypass - City Centre (Quays) - Pearse St - Grand Canal Dock	Ringsend Bus Garage	Every 30 mins						
C4	Celbridge	Lucan - N4 - Chapelizod Bypass - City Centre (Quays) - Pearse St - Grand Canal Dock	Ringsend Bus Garage	Every 30 mins						

Orbital Routes: Orbital services operate around the city. They provide connections between suburbs and town centres without having to travel into the city centre. They also provide connections to Rail, Luas or other bus routes.

1.2 Orbi	1.2 Orbital Routes									
Route	From	Via	To	How Often						
W8	Maynooth	Celbridge - Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station - Newcastle - Saggart - City West	Tallaght	Every 30 mins						

Local Routes

Local services provide important connections within local areas, linking to local retail centres and to onward transport connections (e.g. to Rail and Luas, or Spine routes).

1.3 Loca	1.3 Local Routes								
Route	From	Via	To	How Often					
251	Adamstown	Dodsborough Rd - Lucan Village - Adamstown Rd - Willsbrook Rd - St Loman's Rd	Liffey Valley	Every 60 mins					
252	Adamstown	Dodsborough Rd - Lucan Village - Laraghcon - Westmanstown Rd - Clonsilla Rd	Blanchardstow n	Every 60 mins					
258	Leixlip Confey	Leixlip - Celbridge Rd	Barnhall RFC	Every 30 mins					
259	Leixlip Confey	Leixlip - Easton - R449 - Maynooth Rd - Shackleton Rd - Celbridge	Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station	Every 30 mins					

(Continued on page 25)



Catherine Murphy T.D. Social Democrats, Kildare North. (Cont.)

(Continued from page 24)

Peak Time Routes

For clarity, Peak Only services are also illustrated on a separate map available on the BusConnects website.

Peak-time services operate during the peak travel periods, generally weekday mornings and evenings.

1.4 Peal	k Time Routes			
Route	From	Via	То	How Often
321	Adamstown	Lucan Bypass - Chapelizod Bypass - Heuston Station - Custom House	Merrion Sq	Peak Only
322	Adamstown	Lucan Village - Chapelizod Bypass - Heuston Station - Custom House - Merrion Sq - Ballsbridge - St Vincent's Hospital	UCD	Peak Only
323	Leixlip	Lucan Village - Chapelizod Bypass - Heuston Station - Custom House	Merrion Sq	Peak Only
324	Barnhall RFC	Leixlip - Lucan Village - Chapelizod Bypass - Heuston Station - Custom House	Merrion Sq	Peak Only
325	Maynooth	Leixlip - Lucan Bypass - Chapelizod Bypass - Heuston Station - Custom House	Merrion Sq	Peak Only
326	Maynooth	Leixlip - Lucan Bypass - Chapelizod Bypass - Heuston Station - Custom House - Merrion Sq - Ballsbridge - St Vincent's Hospital	UCD	Peak Only
327	Celbridge	Lucan Bypass - Chapelizod Bypass - Heuston Station - Custom House - Merrion Sq - Ballsbridge - St Vincent's Hospital	UCD	Peak Only
328	Celbridge	Lucan Bypass - Chapelizod Bypass - Heuston Station - Custom House - Merrion Sq - Ballsbridge - St Vincent's Hospital	UCD	Peak Only

Midday frequency shown in table. Services may be more frequent in peak hours. Less frequent at weekends/evenings.

Maynooth Fire Station

Kildare County Council are in the final stages of purchasing a new site for the Fire station to be sited adjacent to Lidl on the Straffan Road. The cost of the site represents a considerable investment by the local authority in the provision of fire services in the north of the county.

Fire station construction is supported by the Fire Services Capital Programme delivered via the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) located in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

With the purchase of the new site Kildare County Council are now in a position, if we were to be included in a new Capital programme, to progress a new fire station project quickly. The Fire Station in Maynooth not only provides fire cover to the town but also to a number of the adjacent population centres including Kilcock, Straffan and Celbridge as well as the rural hinterland.

The industry in the area is varied and includes commercial premises, industrial premises, hotels, nursing homes and a residential college (NUIM)

Maynooth Fire Station, like all of the Kildare stations is a retained or "on-call" station. This means that the staff live and work in their local community and respond to the station on the activation of their alerters. Firefighters are required to attend their station within 10 minutes of the activation of their alerters. The NDFEM has set a national target of 5 minutes for fire engine responses from retained stations. The current station is located at the end of Leinster Street adjacent to the Maynooth MD Area office. Leinster Street is accessed from a very busy junction in a town that is regularly heavily congested with traffic. When driving to the station firefighters are required to observe the normal rules of the road like other drivers.

The current location of the fire station is not optimal. There is only one access road to and from the station (the incorporation of an emergency access route into the recent Blueway Project has assisted with access). Deliveries at the end of Leinster Street opposite the Garda Station often reduce the roadway to one lane. The location of the train station means that there is a lot of pedestrian usage of the roadway. Planning permission for student accommodation along Leinster Street will also have a negative impact on access to the fire station once construction starts.

The station building itself is not optimal. While there have been upgrades over the years the roof level of the station is too low and will not accommodate a modern fire engine.

Maynooth is a busy station. The call numbers for the station since 2014 are detailed in the table below:

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Call Numbers	226	281	319	278	322

It is important that Maynooth is on the next Capital programme otherwise we will have to wait a further five years before we can make progress.



Maynooth University Town Football Club Results



Recent results are proving favourable with all teams holding their own against some top-class opposition.

L.S.L Senior Division: Town 4 - Crumlin Utd. 0 Reigning champions Crumlin came, saw but failed to conquer. Producing some of their best football of the season Town were always in command and dealt as severe blow to Crumlin's hopes of retaining their title. Having lost two cup semi-finals to the same opposition last season Town had a point to prove. Revenge was sweet as Town swept their fancied opponents aside with a display of sheer class. Jackson Ryan and Cillian Duffy helped themselves to two goals apiece. Duffy was unlucky not to complete his hat trick when smashing his free kick against the crossbar.

There were many stars in this five star performance.

L.S.L Lanagan Cup: Town 1 - Kilnamanagh 1 (A.E.T) The dreaded penalty shoot-out was our undoing in this closely fought cup tie. Our Saturday string performed admirably and had a number of chances to win the game in normal time. Extra time failed to produce a winner and so penalty kicks came into play.

Kilnamagh proved to be better marksmen and sealed the tie on a 4-2 score line

L.S.L Senior Division: Bangor G.G. F.C. 4 - Town 3
Town began slowly but settled down and had the better of the exchanges for long periods. In the 23rd minute Town were awarded an indirect free kick in the Bangor penalty area. Cillian Duffy cleverly rolled the ball to Daragh Deegan who smashed it to the back of the net. A defensive error in the 38th minute provided Bangor with the equaliser, Darragh Deegan was sent off moments later

following a clash with the Bangor centre half who dramatically went to ground clutching his face.' On the restart Bangor quickly took over against the ten men and swept into a 4-1 lead. Town battled manfully and Cillian Duffy reduced the deficit with a trademark free-kick. Town were inspired by this and the ten men threw everything at Bangor. Sven Briansumba gave Town great hope when scoring from close range shortly after but time ran out with Town still on the offensive.

A gallant effort in the face of great adversity.

L.S.L. Div. 3 Sat: Town 3 - Ballymun Utd. 2

Town were good value for this hard fought win in which the result was in doubt for long periods. Goals by Francis Ilunga, Dave Folan and Dean Barrett ensured that the points stayed at home.

L.S.L. Senior Division: Cherry Orchard 2 - Town 2

This was a game where Town did not produce their usual free flowing football. A heavy pitch contributed to the game being played at a slow pace. Town led at the break by a headed goal by Conor Dunne from a Cillian Duffy free-kick. At the restart, Town broke from the tip off and a superb cross by Dylan Kavanagh was slotted home by Conor Foley. Midway through the half a hotly disputed penalty was converted by Orchard. Worse was to follow when a Town defender turned the ball into his own net. Town defence had to batten down the hatched to hold out for a point.

L.S.L. Major Div. Sat: Crumlin Utd. 1 - Town 1

Town had to fight hard to share the points against a very resolute home-side. Crumlin tried to out muscle a Town side who were not for pushing over.

Crumlin took the lead in the 25th minute and looked as if they might take over. Town upped their game in the 2nd half and were rewarded in the 55th minute when Dave Folan coolly slotted home a penalty. Try as Town might they were unable to grab the winner.

L.S.L. Div. 3 Sun: Ayrfield Utd. 1 - Town 2

This was a result that can be attributed to hard work and a never say never attitude. Never flinching in the force of some strong pressure Town battled gamely to hold out for a deserved win.

FAI Intermediate Cup 3rd Round Cobh Wanders FC 1 - Town ?3

Town's love affair with the Intermediate Cup and Cork continues. The early morning trip to the seaside town of Cobh proved un-daunting for Town who had to pull out all the stops to achieve victory. Played on a pitch that was deemed un-playable the day before, this Saturday game just passed the test. In the 36th minute Cobh took the lead against the run of play. This awakened Town from their slumber.

Following a good run and cross by Cillian Duffy, Dylan Kavanagh was on hand to finish in the 42nd minute. Three minutes later good play down Town's right saw Sven Biansumba slot home from an acute angle. The tie was settled in the 80th minute. Good work by Danny Burke provided the opening for Muhannad Bhukativa.

A solid team performance which qualifies us for next season's F.A.I. Senior Cup Preliminary round for the $3^{\rm rd}$ season in a row.

Thanks to Brady's Bar & Lounge for their match sponsorship, Dave and the crew in Brady's Restaurant for a hearty pre-travel breakfast, Barton's Transport and genial driver Joe Fahy for transport and a safe return journey.

FIANNA FÁIL

Cllr Naoise Ó Cearúil - Maynooth Fianna Fáil Notes

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



Ó Cearúil calls for accountability in Irish Water

Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil has called for accountability from Irish Water after two boil water notices were declared over the past number of weeks, effecting Maynooth. Irish Water gave an in camera presentation to councillors from Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip about the issues around the Leixlip Water Treatment Plant.

At that meeting Cllr. Ó Cearúil criticised the fact that the meeting was not being held in public and that the public deserved to hear what Irish Water had to say. He continued by criticising their use of the term, "customers" when speaking about the public. He stated that, "You are serving the public, not customers. If we were customers we'd have an option, if we were customers you would be in front of the courts over the poor standard of water and the distress you have caused to so many people."

He also questioned the Council as to why water tankers were not deployed to help with the situation, particularly to the most vulnerable in our community. The Council replied by saying that the advice from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), was that water from tankers needs to be boiled as well as people might bring canisters that are not sanitised, Ó Cearúil said that this was an insult to people that they would essentially bring dirty canisters to collect water. Naoise has called on Irish Water to come before a meeting of Kildare County Council to answer questions in public and has submitted a motion to this effect.

Bus Connects - What it means for Maynooth

Please make sure to go to <u>www.busconnect.ie</u> for a full break down and to submit your feedback but below are some key points to take away.

- 2 Buses going to Dublin City Centre at Peak times (commuters)
- 1 Bus every 30 minutes to Dublin City Centre outside peak times
- 1 Bus every 30 minutes to Tallaght from Moyglare Hall outside peak times

Moyglare Road Bus W8 is not proposed to be Dublin Bus, no tender has been publicised for this route yet which could mean a long delay. We've been waiting nearly two decades for a bus to Moyglare and unless there are submissions it could take longer. This route is destined for Tallaght via Celbridge and CityWest. If you feel that this route should go to Dublin City Centre, make sure to make a submission.

Ó Cearúil pushes for public consultation on the Celbridge Road.

Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil has called for a public consultation (part 8) to take place for the Celbridge Road. There are drawings already to improve safety on the road for all of the pedestrians, particularly children attending Gaelscoil UÍ Fhiaich and Maynooth Educate Together. Naoise tried to progress the part 8 in April this year but was opposed by other councillors. He is hoping that there will be some progress on the discussions as the road is treacherous and there are constant fears over an accident there.

Calls for local co-operation between Maynooth University and the Town

Naoise has proposed that Maynooth University are invited to a meeting with local councillors to discuss ways to work together on local issues. The University works with KCC on large projects but Naoise has called for more work on local issues. This would include how to deal with traffic, anti-social behaviour, shared events and much more.

Naoise continues to push for safety checks at Meadowbrook Link Road

At last month's council meeting Naoise asked what has the council done to improve the safety of the Meadowbrook link road. The council responded that a road safety audit stage 3 is being carried out on it. There has already been a traffic sign removed to improve visibility of lights. Ó Cearúil impressed upon them that they really need to look at the use of different arrows, "There are many reckless drivers out there but I believe that the vast majority of people breaking lights at the junction are doing so unbeknownst to them. It's not normal that there are so many people breaking lights there. They're clearly not working as they should be."

Maynooth

St Patrick's Day Parade

35th Annual Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade 2020

It's time to start preparing once again for Maynooth's biggest event, the St. Patrick's Day Parade! This is the 35th Annual parade and we are extremely excited for what's in store.

The Committee have been meeting over the past few months to start preparations and we are planning on the biggest parade to date. We are very excited about 2020's parade and we hope you are too.

We can reveal that the Theme for 2019 is... "Climate & Me". The world as we know it is changing drastically due to climate change and that includes our community. We are fortunate to have climate action groups in the town and academics that are experts on the subject.

For floats please consider recycling material, using chants calling for climate action and pull inspiration from the Global Climate Strikes around the world and in Maynooth on Fridays.

Application forms can be emailed to maynoothparade@gmail.com or can be posted/dropped into the Maynooth Newsletter office beside the Post Office.

The Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade committee work on a voluntary basis and we are constantly on the lookout for new volunteers and if you have some spare time to assist, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to help or if you have any queries, please email us or call (086) 728 0050.

Le meas, Naoise Ó Cearúil (Chair) Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Committee.



~ Have Fun While Advertising Your Organisation ~

Maynooth

St Patrick's Day Parade



Trophy

Trophy



Application Form 2020

This Year's Theme: "Climate &Me"



	Address:					
	Contact e-mail:	1000				
	Contact Person:	100	Tele	phone:	304 171	
٠	All vehicles entering must have a fl	oat, preferably a liv	e ban	nd with traditional, rock	or pop music.	
٠	HGV's, lorries or cars without a floa	CONTRACTOR				
٠	Entry Fee does not include Insuran	ce cover. All partic	ipants/	/Floats should have s	uitable Insurance	cover.
Do	you wish to do a demo (2-3 mins) at F	Reviewing Stand?	Y	'es No		
E	ntrance Fees: (Cheques shoul	ld be made paya	ble to	"Maynooth St Pat	rick's Day Par	ade")
	Commercial F	loat~€60 CI	ub/O	organisation ~ €3	30	
	First Tim	e Entry ~ €10	В	Bands ~ Free		
	Please submit two paragraphs at	out your club/org	anisa	ation or business wit	h this applicatio	on on
Th	e categories for which prizes wil	l be awarded are	as fo	ollows:		
ı	1 Best Commercial Float	Trophy	2	Best Club Float	Т	rophy

Perpetual

Cup

Perpetual

Trophy

Applications with entry fee to be sent to:

Best Portrayal of Irish Culture

(Dr Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin

Perpetual Trophy)

Best Band

Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade Committee Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade Committee

c/o Unit 5, Carton Retail Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Organised by:

Environmental Awareness

Best School Float

Best Portrayal of

E-mail: maynoothparade@gmail.com

Naoise Ó Cearúil (Chair) Mobile - 086-7280050

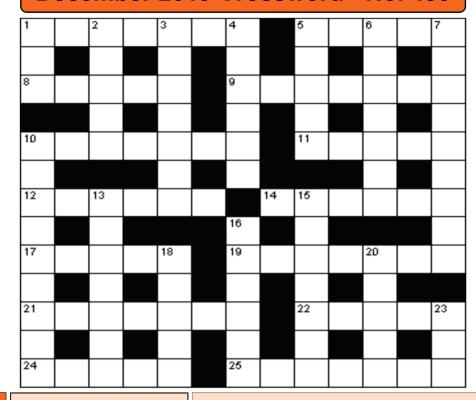
Clues Across

Across

- 1. Assortment (7)
- 5. Group of insects (5)
- 8. Large herbivorous mammal (5)
- 9. Pagan (7)
- 10. Unfeigned (7)
- 11. Ledge (5)
- 12. Lifted (6)
- 14. Appraise (6)
- 17. Notions (5)
- 19. Fruit (7)
- 21. Direction (7)
- 22. Taut or rigid (5)
- 24. Days of the month (5)
- 25. Embroiled (7)



December 2019 Crossword - No. 486



Clues Down

Down

- 1. Chart (3)
- 2. Inert gas (5)
- 3. Dissimilar (7)
- 4. Reverberated (6)
- 5. Photos (5)
- 6. Attain (7)
- 7. Public declaration (9)
- 10. Decorated food (9)
- 13. Imprecise (7)
- 15. Abridge (7)
- 16. Captured (6)
- 18. Secret agents (5)
- 20. Invalidate (5)
- 23. Conclusion (3)



Solutions to Crossword No. 485

S	Р	0	0	Ν		Т	R	Α	Ι	L		ß
Α		ν				Ш		┙		_		\vdash
1	G	Ν	0	R	Е	D		_	S	S	U	Е
L		Е		U		Ι		В		S		_
0	R	D	Е	R		\supset	Ν	-	С	0	R	Z
R				Α		Μ				М		
S	Α	М	Ρ	L	Е		O	-	Ν	Е	М	Α
		Α				Α						В
W	Α	G	Е	R	Е	D		_	Ν	F	Е	R
Α		Z		Α		0		0		Е		_
Ι	Ν	Α	Р	Т		R	Α	М	В	L	Е	
V		Т		Е		Е				0		Ø
E		Ш	Z	D	Е	D		O	Α	Ν	0	Е

Special Prize Book Voucher

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

> The Maynooth Bookshop 68 Main Street, Maynooth

Entries in before: Tuesday 21st January 2020

Name:	 	 -
Address:	 	 -

Phone:	

Winner of Crossword No. 485

Patricia Brennan Rockfield Rise Maynooth

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

<u>Collect prize from</u>

The Maynooth Bookshop 68 Main Street, Maynooth

Difficult

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

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

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

Sudoku Challenge 2019

Entries must arrive to Newsletter Office before: Tuesday 21st January 2020

Congratulations to Last Month's Winner:

Brenda Boylan Parklands Sq. Maynooth

Collect prize from Newsletter Office

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

Super Difficult

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

Name:	
Address:	
Phone: _	



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



	\Diamond
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	2>

Name:	
Age:	
Address:	
	_
Phone No:	

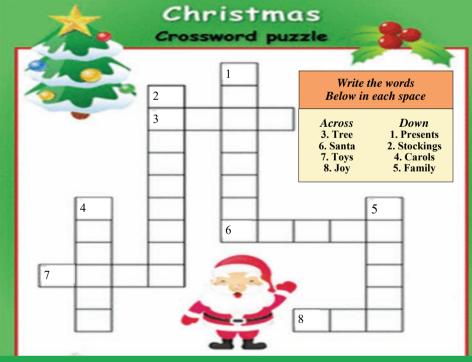
Last Month's Winner: Lauren Sheehan **Straffan Road** Maynooth

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

Entries must arrive before Tuesday 21st January 2020



Junior Puzzle Corner





Candy Cane Reindeer

You'll need:

Googly eyes Small red pom poms **Brown pipe cleaners** Candy canes Glue

Wrap the pipe cleaner around your finger and then bend them into shape.

Bend a bunch of the pipe cleaners around little fingers also. Parents give a hand with the gluing (maybe you might want to use Super Glue), children will love working with the pom poms and googly eyes.

Those googly eyes are a pain to pick up off the table! These guys are so fun, and so easy to make!

They'd make great little Christmas ornaments for the tree!

Or you can give them out as party favours or classroom gifts.



Or, if you're like us, you can just do them as a fun craft with the kids. These candy cane reindeer are so easy to make! All you need are simple craft materials and you'll be all set! Make them for the Christmas tree, or as treats to send to school, or just as a fun craft with the kids. They're really simple, and next to impossible to mess up!



Amber Tree Bistro Mill Street Maynooth

2 Course Lunch €21.50 12.30pm-3.30pm

~~~~~~~~

3 Course Dinner €30 3.30pm-7.00m



01-6291022



ambertreebistro@gmail.com



facebook.com/ambertreebistro



## McCormack's Pharmacy

Main St, Maynooth
Tel: 01-6286274 Fax: 01-6290538



## McCormack's PHARMACY



## SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

Full Range of Christmas Gifts & Fragrances

Free Customer Carpark at Rear

**Free Blood Pressure Check** 



Passport and ID Photos
Ear Piercing



"Your Medicine is our Business"



"The gardening season officially begins on January 1st, and ends on December 31st."

Go Green with your Christmas Tree the use of evergreens to decorate homes dates back to pagan times, when they were considered to be a symbol of eternal life. They were used as decoration during the winter solstice, a celebration of light and rebirth. This year, consider purchasing a

living Christmas Tree for your home. They really aren't that much more expensive than a cut tree. This is an excellent way to improve your landscape, and at the same time, save a tree. Before bringing a living tree into the house, water it thoroughly. Living Christmas Trees should not be kept in the house for any longer than 10 days. Acclimatise the tree to being outdoors again for a month.

- Start off with the tree in a sheltered area with some natural light a porch, conservatory or garage and gradually move the tree down the garden to a more exposed area.
- If you have a very large garden and want to plant your tree in a lawn, choose a location in full sun, as this will ensure an even shape to your tree.
- Then dig a square hole, one spade deep. Cultivate the soil, paying attention to creating good drainage.
- Fill the hole and plant the tree on the resulting mound, making sure that the root collar is at ground level, not below this will improve the tree's chances of survival.
- Keep an area up to 1m (3.5ft) around the tree completely weed free mulch with bark. If planted in the lawn, this area should be up to 2m (6.6ft) around the tree.

## Caring for house plants during the winter.

House plants need varying amounts of water and fertilizer at different times of the year.



They need the most during summer when light levels are high and days are long. They need the least during the short days of winter. The primary reason for this is light. Light fuels plant growth. More light allows more growth, which results in a greater demand for water and nutrients. When light is limited, the need for water and nutrients decreases dramatically. Therefore, it becomes easy to overwater and over fertilize during the winter months. Excess water and

fertilizer can kill a plant by damaging the root system.

Overwatering can suffocate roots by eliminating oxygen, and excess fertilizer can burn roots. It is never wise to water on a set schedule. Rather, allow the potting soil to tell you when watering is needed.

Check to see if the soil is a moist 1-inch deep by inserting your finger into the potting mix. Don't water unless the mix is dry. Another method of determining when to water is the weight of the pot. Use the former method to determine how light the pot should be before watering.

Another common mistake homeowners make with houseplants is fertilizing during the winter in order to perk plants up. This is the exact opposite of what should be done. Remember it is a lack of light that gives plants the doldrums, not a lack of fertilizer. Therefore, it is best not to fertilize at all during the middle of winter (December-January)

## Perennials, Annuals, and Bulbs.

If you potted up some bulbs, such as hyacinths, daffodils or tulips, last September for

winter forcing, keep an eye on them. Make sure they remain moist, and in the dark until they have established their root systems.

It is possible that they have already filled their containers with roots and that the new top growth has begun.

If this is so, bring them into the house and set them in a cool room, in indirect light.

After a week or so, move them into bright light, and watch them grow.



Remember our feathered friends during the winter

Wishing you a warm, merry flower-brightened Christmas Day with family and friends...and the promise of good things to come in 2020





## Quick Christmas Pudding

## Ingredients:

- \* 50g / 2oz Self Raising Flour
- \* 125g / 4oz Brown Sugar
- \* 125g / 4oz Margarine
- \* 2 Eggs
- 1 teaspoon Cinnamon
- \* 1 packet (375g) Fruit Mix
- \* 1 tub (100g) Cherries
- \* 125g / 4oz Breadcrumbs
- 300ml / 1/2 pint Stout

### Method:

- 1. Beat margarine and sugar together, add the eggs and mix well.
- 2. Stir in the flour and cinnamon, next add the fruit and cherries.
- 3. Finally, add the breadcrumbs and stout, stir well.
- 4. Cover and allow to stand overnight.
- 5. Next day, transfer to a greased 1 litre / 2 pint pudding bowl. Steam for 6 Hours.

## Easy Mince Pies

## Ingredients:

- 350g/12oz Plain Flour
- \* 225g/8oz Butter (room temperature)
- \* 125g/4oz Caster Sugar
- \* 1 jar Mincemeat
- \* 1 small Egg (beaten) optional for brushing
- \* Icing Sugar for dusting

## Method:

- 1. Preheat oven to 200°C/Gas 6.Lightly grease 2 bun trays.
- 2. Place flour into a large mixing bowl. Rub in the butter, then mix in the sugar.
- 3. Bring the mixture together to form a ball! Do not add any liquid, keep bringing the dough together and it will form a ball.
- 4. Press small walnut sized pieces of pastry into each section of two patty tins. Put a teaspoon of the mincemeat into the centre.
- 5. Take slightly smaller pieces of pastry than before and pat them out between your hands to make round lids, big enough to cover the pies.
- 6. Top pies with the lids, pressing the edges together to seal you do not need to seal them with milk, egg or water as they will stick on their own. If liked they may be brushed with the beaten egg.
- 7. Bake for about 20 minutes until golden. Leave to cool in tin for 5 minutes, then remove to a wire tray.

## Mulled Wine

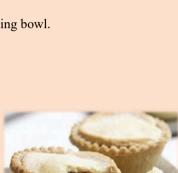
## Ingredients:

- \* 2 large oranges
- \* 3 pints of water (48 fluid ounces)
- \* 8oz granulated sugar
- \* 2-3 cinnamon sticks
- \* 10 cloves
- \* 2 bottles of good red wine
- \* 1 apple, sliced and cored
- \* 1 orange, deseeded and sliced

## Method:

- 1. Slice 2 oranges and place in a saucepan with 3 pints of water, granulated sugar, cinnamon sticks and cloves. Heat gently until the sugar is dissolved. Then bring to the boil and simmer for 30 minutes.
- 2. Strain the syrup. (The syrup can be prepared in advance and left to sit in the fridge for a day or two.) Return the syrup to the pan, bring to the boil, add 2 bottles of red wine, add the apple and the sliced orange into the mixture and serve.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas!!!







## FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON CHRISTMAS MOVIES SEASON





There are many traditions associated with the festive period. Not least among them is the annual *Naughty or Nice* Christmas Movies season at the *Light House Cinema* in Dublin. There is always cinematic gems on offer to get one in the Christmas spirit. This year is no exception with movies aplenty to look forward to, and even some classics being screened for the first time. It's an ideal opportunity to gather with family or friends for some yuletide screen fun in the weeks leading up to Christmas.



## **MEET ME IN ST LOUIS (1944)**

Judy Garland was at the height of her screen powers when she filmed this classic MGM musical in the mid 1940s. *Meet Me in St Louis* is a slice of Americana at its best, a sentimental loveletter to old-world values in the face of external threats. The film is based on author Sally Benson's series of *New Yorker* stories about a middle-class family living in St Louis and looking forward to the following year's State Fair of 1904. A possible uprooting to New York threatens the equilibrium of the tight-knit Smith family.

Meet Me in St Louis was produced during the closing years of the Second World War. As such, it reflects the uncertainty and hope of that period. The movie is ravishing to look at, as sepia, tinted hues transform into bursts of glorious technicolour. Garland's famous Trolley Song exemplifies that wonderfully, and is justly recognised as a spectacular highlight of the film.

The supporting cast for the movie is nigh on perfect. Leon Ames is fabulous as the blunt but devoted Edwardian head of family. Child star, Margaret O'Brien is simply marvellous as Judy Garland's younger sister. She vents her anger with change in various destructive ways. The young actress was indeed extraordinary for her ability to exude heartbreak so convincingly on screen. Directed with great flair by Vincente Minnelli (Garland's future husband and father of Liza), *Meet Me In St Louis* is picture-postcard perfect.



Above all, the great Judy Garland was never more poignant or dazzling on screen. She brings great emotional resonance to evergreen classics like *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. *Meet Me in St Louis* is a beautiful, heartfelt family film for all ages and the perfect Christmas movie. Don't miss the chance to see it for the first time on the big screen this holiday season.

## **LOYE ACTUALLY (2003)**

Love Actually announces its "love is all around us" theme with a montage of embraces at the arrivals area of Heathrow airport, and this classic Christmas movie will be everywhere you look this year. Apart from making up the seasonal fare at the Light House Cinema, the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre will hold a Love Actually live concert with full orchestra in early December.

Written and directed by Richard Curtis of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* fame, this crowd-pleaser and sentimental ode to love has proved more popular with audiences than critics. Love might indeed be all around us, but it's also a tad complicated as depicted by the various storylines on show.

The star-studded *Love Actually* charts the lives of several couples dealing with the vagaries of love (broken, mended or ignited hearts), in a series of loosely interconnected tales set during Christmas time in London. While most of the characters are related in some way, their storylines are self-contained. We skip from one to another with the film's popular soundtrack emphasising every emotion. Inevitably, some stories work better than others.

The acting by a strong cast positively sparkles. There are many



highlights. Grant's charming Blair-like Prime Minister getting his dance groove on through the corridors of 10 Downing Street is a real rib-tickler. While his character's romance with his secretary, played by former *EastEnders* star, Martine McCutcheon is both funny and endearing. Puppy love is represented by an 11-year old boy (adorable Thomas Sangster), who is helped through the tricky path of young love by his recently widowed father (Liam Neeson). Curtis regular, Colin Firth also turns up in *Love Actually* as a diffident writer finding consolation for his love woes with his Portuguese maid in a series of farcical exchanges.

Amongst the light-heartedness, there is also heartbreak; both Emma Thompson and Laura Linney pull at the heartstrings in their respective roles. The marvellous Bill Nighy almost steals the entire film in his hilarious turn as an aging foul-mouthed, rocker, hoping to make a comeback with a cover version of *Wet Wet Wet's* hit song *Love is All Around*. His self-deprecating brand of humour is a joy to behold.

Love Actually's schmaltz factor registers high on the



saccharine scale; for some it will feel like sugar-overload. However, a lot of the film's pleasure is in the playing. The whole cast is expert in the art of deflection. They frequently undercut Curtis's blatantly sentimental message with deadpan understatement. Ultimately, the sheer entertainment value and feel-good factor of the film will win over the most cynical of viewers. If you're looking for a movie to get you in to the festive mood, *Love Actually* is actually essential Christmas viewing!

### IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (1946)

No Christmas would be complete without *It's a Wonderful Life*. Although with its dark undertones, Frank Capra's bitter-sweet fantasy-drama *m*ight not seem, on paper, the most ideal of Christmas movies. Nonetheless, this classic has taken on legendary status for decades now. In fact, it's one of the most beloved movies ever made, frequently topping the polls of the greatest Christmas films of all time.

Screen legend James Stewart plays George Bailey. A man down

on his luck, who abandons his own hopes and dreams to help others, and is driven to the brink of suicide in the process. The distraught Bailey, on the verge of hysteria was tailor-made for Stewart. The actor had just returned from real-life service in **WW2** and was possibly dealing with some PTSD issues of his own, at the time. Stewart's previously boyish looks became edgier, and his roles increasingly reflected that change in his movies of the 40s and 50s. Playing a disillusioned, broken man who sees no point in living, Stewart gives a powerful performance that audiences implicitly understood at the time, and which continues to resonate in modern times.



Frank Capra's hugely populist cinema concerned itself with supporting the underdog, the little man fighting the system and entrenched greed. Humanity, decency, hope and redemption were his trademark themes. The term 'Capraesque' can be used to describe his style of filmmaking.

It's a Wonderful Life is shot in glorious black and white. Capra's use of light and darkness in the cinematography of the movie is remarkable. The performances of the supporting cast are uniformly excellent. Donna Reed fills the role of Stewart's wife with heart, warmth and presence. Henry Travers's iconic role as Clarence the inept angel, in search of his wings, is clever and highly amusing.

Frank Capra's enduring and inventive masterpiece is a brilliant combination of mood and tone on screen. *It's a Wonderful Life* is heart-warming, dark, funny, heart-breaking and joyful all at the same time. It is above all the triumph of the human spirit in the face of adversity. That makes it both the perfect Capra and Christmas movie.



The Light House season also includes screenings of Christmas favourites like the uproarious National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. It features a fantastic comedic turn from Chevy Chase as the permanently beleaguered husband and father facing the Christmas from hell. Home Alone will give you the chance to revisit the Macaulay Culkin classic which sees him outwitting Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern's dumb criminals. The wonderful Muppet Christmas Carol gathers all the familiar puppet characters to re-enact the classic Dickensian story, with Michael Caine at his Bah Humbug best as Scrooge. The tunes are catchy and the muppets bring plenty of zany fun to the proceedings.



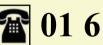


Wishing a very **Happy Christmas** and a Peaceful New Year to you all !!



## Frank O'Rourke TD KILDARE NORTH

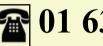
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Advice Clinic held in Maynooth every Monday at 3pm, in Glenroyal Hotel

