

Maynooth Newsletter



Serving the people of Maynooth



Local News February 2019 Issue No. 476 FREE

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



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 17th MARCH 2019

FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG MAIGH NUAD 17Ú MÁRTA 2019
Entry Form on Page 19



Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2019

This is the 34th 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 2019's parade and we hope you are too. We can reveal that the Theme for 2019 is... "The Town and The Gown".

Maynooth is unique as the only town in Ireland as a University town and is seen by many as the academic capital of the country. In celebrating our unique identity we are asking participants to think of floats and costumes that reflect the academic and student life of the town. Think gowns and books but also feel free to have fun with the Theme.

Application forms can be emailed to maynoothparade@gmail.com or can be posted/dropped into the Maynooth CEP office beside the Post Office (FAO / St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee).

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.

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

The deadline for applications is Monday the 11th of March at 5pm.
I look forward to seeing you on the day.

Beir Bua,
Naoise Ó Cearúil (Parade Organiser)
The Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee.

SAVE CARTON AVENUE CAMPAIGN

Following on from our public meeting in the Glenroyal Hotel on the 5th November, Carton Avenue Preservation Society volunteers met on 10th December and on 14th January in Maynooth Community Space. Out of the 60 volunteers who signed up at the Glenroyal hotel meeting, 57 attended one or both meetings, or sent apologies.

The meetings nominated Gerry Quinn, Mick O'Reilly, Kalis Pope, Angela Feeney, Margaret Cline and Willie Kiernan as officers.

Gerry Quinn informed the December meeting of the details of the Society's public liability insurance. The policy covers the society's meetings, public meetings, fundraising, door to door petitioning and the erection of posters.

A door to door petition was proposed and agreed. The petition to Kildare County Council requests the following:

- Replace the 5-metre-wide bridge with a smaller 2-metre-wide pedestrian access point.
- Remove the two newly constructed paths on the Avenue and replace with 1 non-intrusive pedestrian path.



- Replant the Hedgerows at the pedestrian access point.
- Retain Carton Avenue as a pedestrian walkway.

A request to meet with a deputation from Carton Avenue Preservation Society to Maynooth Municipal District Councillors was agreed at the councillors monthly meeting in December. Cllr Timmy Durkan, Cathaoirleach of Maynooth Municipal District, explained the Kildare County Council's protocols for deputations;
A deputation of not more than three people can address the councillors meeting, and a submission setting out the issues to be raised must be forwarded to the council in advance.

The meeting discussed and agreed the issues that will be raised with the Maynooth Municipal District Councillors, at their February meeting in the Kildare County Council offices in Naas. It was also agreed that the society would apply to be included on the Register of Lobbyists.

The politicians from the area who attended the volunteers' meetings, or who sent apologies, included Cllr. Timmy Durkan, Mr. Emmet Stagg, Ms. Angela Feeney, Cllr, Réada Cronin, Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil and Cllr. John McGinley.

The next meeting will be held on February 4th. New volunteers are welcome.

If you would like to get involved, please contact us on 0876485799.



Carton Avenue, painting by Emma Boyce




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MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN



Carton Avenue

The latest proposal from the Carton Avenue Preservation Society is to look for a reduction in the width of the “bridge” (which is really a gateway) from 4m to 2m. This isn’t going to happen as their proposal will endanger pedestrians and cyclists. A bridge is a link between different parts whereas a gateway marks the border between two areas.

Political Lobby Day - Rise for Climate, Jobs and Justice

On 5th December, there was a politician lobby day in Buswells Hotel organised by Stop Climate Chaos (SCC). Representatives from several Kildare groups including Kildare Environment Network, Trocáire, Laudato Si as well as Maynooth Cycling Campaign came together to lobby our political representatives in the Dáil. The North Kildare TDs, Bernard Durkan and James Lawless attended. Frank O’Rourke was occupied with a committee in the Dáil but sent his PA and Catherine Murphy was indisposed but sent her apologies. SCC asked for Deputies to sign a letter calling on Richard Bruton, the new Minister of Communications, Climate Change and Environment to take measures to address increasing carbon emissions.

Motion on Cycling

Later that month, on the 20th December, Robert Troy, the Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Transport, introduced a motion on cycling in the Dáil and cycling campaigners including Maynooth Cycling Campaign were invited to the public gallery to witness the debate. The motion was a strongly worded critique of current cycling policy and lack of action by the Minister for Transport. Shane Ross claimed that he was already carrying out most of the measures outlined in the motion but argued against it because of the criticism of government.

Cycling campaigners would beg to differ. There were also speakers in favour of the motion from Sinn Féin, the Labour Party, the Green Party and People before Profit. It was decided to put off a vote until after the recess in order to see if there could be agreement on an amended motion between government and the Fianna Fáil opposition.

On Thursday 17th January, as there had been no agreement, the motion with an amendment by the Green Party calling on the government to allocate 10% of the transport budget to cycling was carried. The vote is non-binding on the government but indicates a groundswell of support for cycling in the Dáil. We shall wait to see how the Minister reacts to it. Meanwhile the #Allocate4Cycling campaign will continue.

Growing Protest over Climate Change

Climate change protests are increasing world-wide and in Ireland.

On the 19th January, a Children’s Rally for Climate Action gathered at the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, where some of the young representatives posted a symbolic message of concern to Minister Richard Bruton.

Then on 22nd January the government was in the dock at the Four Courts over their failure of the National Mitigation Plan to meet Ireland’s commitment to reduce carbon emissions. This follows similar court cases in the Netherlands where environmentalists took the government to court and won.

Increase in Cyclist Fatalities

In January, the RSA and the government issued their customary report on road fatalities for the previous year. The report stated that the number of cyclist fatalities relative to the previous year had fallen. While this was true, the report failed to point out that the trend in cyclist fatalities has been increasing since 2011. In Kildare, there were 4 roads fatalities including 1 cyclist. Although only 3% of Kildare journeys are by bike, cycling makes up 25% of road fatalities.

Minimum Passing Distance Legislation (MPDL)

Early last year, in response to increasing cycle fatalities and pressure from cyclists, Minister Shane Ross announced that that he would introduce legislation to make illegal the close passing of cyclists by motorists. Some months later, Minister Ross disclosed that the attorney general had reservations about the enforcement of the proposed legislation although it has been introduced in a number of countries. Minister Ross has recently confirmed that he would be introducing alternative legislation to make the dangerous passing of cyclists a specific offence. Cyclists will wait to see the outcome.

MEPs Vote to Upgrade Rail Passenger Rights

Last October the European Parliament’s Transport and Tourism (TRAN) Committee voted to support a proposal to introduce a minimum of eight bicycle spaces on all new and refurbished European trains.

In November, the European Parliament backed the proposal that will entitle passengers to take bicycles on board all trains, including on high-speed, long distance, cross-border and local services. Over to you Irish Rail!

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.



The effects of climate change can be clearly seen, the most evident effect can be seen in the increased temperature. Temperatures have risen by 0.7°C between 1890 and 2008 and most significantly by 0.4°C between 1980 and 2008. These increased temperatures have had knock on effects on Ireland’s natural environment, it has changed the growing season affecting farming and has increased the number of animals suited to warmer temperatures. An increase in the frequency and impact of storms has also been recorded in the last few decades.

If the rate of global warming continues to increase and the climate continues to change there could be severe adverse effects on Ireland. As an island nation we are particularly vulnerable to increasing sea levels with coastal regions facing issues of flooding. More erratic weather conditions could lead to both increased rainfall and storms as well as water shortages in summer. Increased rainfall could lead to flooding and in turn this would have adverse effects on water quality.

Changing weather could also have devastating effects on the plants and wildlife of the country. Warming of the climate is happening and it is extremely likely that man has been the main cause of global warming since the mid-20th century. Observations show that global average temperatures have increased by 0.85°C since 1850 (IPCC, 2013). The atmosphere and oceans are warming and sea levels are rising while the amount of snow and ice is falling. The impacts can be seen on all continents.

Research at national level has shown that changes in Ireland’s climate are in line with global trends. Even if GHG emissions fall to levels required to stop the worst impacts of climate change some changes are still likely to occur. This is because the climate system is slow to react and some changes are already locked in. For Ireland, climate change impacts are expected to increase over the coming decades and could include the following;

- ◆ sea level rise;
- ◆ more intense storms and rainfall events;
- ◆ increased likelihood and magnitude of river and coastal flooding;
- ◆ water shortages in summer ;
- ◆ increased risk of new pests and diseases;
- ◆ adverse impacts on water quality;



The Irish Government is not doing enough to tackle climate change as a new report warns of climate chaos unless major changes are made in all aspects of society. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has warned “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes” are needed in all aspects of society to avoid climate chaos.



“Change only happens when individuals take action”

Maynooth Newsletter

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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:

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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



**Copy date for the next edition of the
Maynooth Newsletter will be
Tuesday 19th February 2019**

Editorial

By now we are all asking how January seemed to go so fast but also happy that it did as for most people the arrival of the January payslip is a welcome relief after the Christmas spending. There is no doubt that in 2018 the feel good factor has finally returned for people generally and there was certainly a busy shopping period in Maynooth.

As the saying goes “a rising tide rises all ships” and when you look at the facts there are definitely more people working which brings wages and spending into the area. However, while the economists say that nationally we are close to full employment again a close look at local “live register” statistics shows that we still have some way to go. The table compares the number of people by age and gender who are on the “Live Register” for Maynooth, showing the improvement from December 2016 up to the end of last year.

As at Date	Male over 25	Male under 25	Female Over 25	Female Under 25	Overall Total
Dec-16	1,755	171	1,680	123	3,729
Dec-17	1,511	166	1,577	118	3,372
Dec-18	1,089	105	1,323	73	2,590

(Live Register numbers for Maynooth District office)

It is clear that the number of people recorded as unemployed and available for work has fallen over the period which is in keeping with the trend in most places. However, we still have 2,590 people who are seeking work in the area. The numbers of people in each category are still at levels where we need to continue to provide supports and options to assist people into finding work or training. Maynooth Community Employment Project continues to provide the opportunity for local people to get valuable training and work experience on the Community Employment Project.

All of us benefit from the services provided by the Project to the community. With the numbers of people available it is imperative that the community employment project continues to provide the opportunity for those that want to take the benefit from participating and in the process getting themselves valuable training and work experience.

Being around Maynooth during the day in January has opened my eyes to some things that I was not aware of. Even with Maynooth University still closed until the end of the month the traffic levels surprised me. I had to make a number of trips from the Moyglare area to the Celbridge Road area. After a few trips I decided to avoid the town centre and travel from the Moyglare Road to the Dunboyne Road and to complete the journey I went from the Leixlip Road to the Celbridge Road via Pike Bridge.

Both of these roads are narrow and do not even have a central road marking on the entire route. I was surprised at the number of cars and trucks using these routes which made the journey reasonably hazardous. I know that there are future plans for improved local roads but these are still some years away. These roads were never intended to take the levels of traffic now using them so if you need to use these routes please drive carefully.

Elsewhere in this publication you will get lots of local information about things that will happen in Maynooth this year. The long awaited improvement for pedestrians and cyclists using the Moyglare Road is expected to start in February and continue up to the end of August. Being local to the area I both welcome the planned improvements but fear the disruption that the works will cause. I also heard that the Moyglare Road will be closed to traffic in July and August to facilitate the works. Could this be true?

Paul Croghan
Editor



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Maynooth Labour News

Cllr. John McGinley can be contacted at: - 01-6285293 or 087 9890645 - E mail jmcginley@eircom.net - Web: www.labour.ie/johnmcginley/



Cllr. McGinley Demands Action on the Provision of a North Kildare Public Swimming Pool Complex

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following Motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 7 December
 “That the council immediately set up a dedicated team to apply for funding for a North Kildare Swimming Pool Complex in partnership with Maynooth University, and that the issue of chargeable title be dealt with at an early stage, given the announcement of funding available under the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund for swimming pool complexes.”

John was given the following response by the Council’s Director:
The council is aware that the programme is open and has a closing date of 17 April 2019 and will discuss the details with Maynooth University, including the title issues and will then revert back to the members.”

The Director further advised Cllr. McGinley that a team had been set up and that they have already been in touch with Maynooth University

Update on Moyglare Road Improvement Scheme:

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following Motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 7 December:

“That the following be put in place, in advance of the Moyglare Road Improvement Scheme, to try and make it safer for motorists turning right exiting the Moyglare Hall Road, onto the Moyglare Road, Maynooth:
 (A) Extended Yellow Box Markings either side of the exit.
 (B) Provision of Mirror on Crewhill side of the road faced towards Maynooth to give a view of oncoming traffic.

Given the current serious traffic hazards for motorists exiting the Moyglare Hall Road.”
 John got the following reply to his Motion:

“The new Moyglare Road Improvement Scheme has gone to tender so no line marking works are planned in advance of this. The Council do not provide mirrors for private use.”

When Cllr. McGinley asked for details on the Moyglare Road Improvement Scheme the Council Engineer advised as follows:

“The tenders are due back on 12 December.

The work will begin in February or March and will finish on 1 September.

Cairn Homes will be doing their junction with traffic lights and 150m of the road at the same time. It is a big project that extends from the pedestrian crossing at Mill Street to the Moyglare Hall junction. There will be road closure during July and August.

The Kilcock junction at the Church will be upgraded to give a new right turning lane from Moyglare Road to the Kilcock Road. The left turning lane from Mill Street to Kilcock Road will remain (there was an earlier proposal to remove it)

There will be traffic lights at the Moyglare Hall junction.

There will be a 4m wide shared pedestrian/cycle lane on the east side of Moyglare Road and an upgraded 2m wide footpath on the west side of the road.”

Given the problems exiting the Moyglare Hall Road Cllr. McGinley has asked that the Traffic Lights at the junction of Moyglare Road and Moyglare Hall Link Road be prioritised under the Moyglare Road Improvement Scheme.

New Road from Moyglare Road to Dunboyne Road is Scheduled to open by the end of the Year

Cairn Homes have advised Cllr. John McGinley that they hope to have the new road from Moyglare Road to Dunboyne Road open to the public by the end of 2019. However, they concede that this target is ambitious as the construction of the bridge could cause delays.

Road from Moyglare Hall to Moyglare Road at Eircom Building to Open in Mid 2019

Kildare County Council have been advised by the developer of Moyglare Hall that the entrance to Moyglare Hall on the Moyglare Road was not proposed to be opened until summer 2019.

Update on the Provision of Creches in Maynooth

Cllr. John McGinley got the following update on his Motion at the December meeting of the Council:

Moyglare Hall, Mariavilla, Maynooth, Co. Kildare:

A crèche was originally approved as part of the development under PL. Ref. 02/2491 (ABP Ref. PL09.206437). This permission expired on 15 August 2012, at which time part of the housing development and crèche were not complete. A new crèche, generally in the same location as that previously approved, was subsequently approved under PL. Ref. 14/73 (ABP Ref. PL 09.243724). The crèche has not yet been constructed however the permission does not expire until 16 June 2020. There is no condition on Ref. 14/73 (ABP Ref. PL 09.243724) which requires the crèche to be constructed and/or operational prior to any specific stage or phase of development. Condition 25 relates to the provision of road infrastructure and is not explicit in respect of a timely delivery of a crèche.

Griffin Rath Hall, Celbridge Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare:

A crèche facility was approved as part of the development under PL. Ref. 04/2890. The crèche was

built and remained unoccupied for a number of years. A change of use planning permission from crèche to community day, operated by St. John of God, was granted by Kildare County Council under PL. Ref. 10/767. The justification for the change of use was based on no identified commercial demand for a crèche facility in the period since construction, with the application supported by a letter from a local estate agent to that effect. The use of the building as a community day care centre has planning permission and is therefore compliant with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Castlepark, Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare:

A crèche was approved under the parent permission PL. Ref. 06/1925 (ABP PL09.225882). This permission expired on the 03 October 2018 and the crèche has not been constructed. A more recent planning application by the same developer (PL. Ref.14/637 / ABP PL09.245305) on adjoining land to the north, sought permission for houses and also a crèche that would be big enough to serve the Castlepark Estate. Permission was refused for this development. The non-compliance with Condition 1 on PL. Ref. 06/1925 (ABP PL09.225882) - non-construction of crèche - has been referred to the Enforcement Section. It is understood from the Building Control Section that the developer intends to apply again for planning permission for a crèche on the adjoining site with an increased size crèche.

Newtown Hall, Maynooth:

The crèche has been built.”

Update on Newtown Road Footpaths

The Maynooth MD engineer advised Councillors that he intended to carry out re-surfacing work on the footpath on the Beaufield side of the Newtown Road in February and that he would do a kerb on the other side at the same time. He stated that he was going to have further discussions with residents about a footpath on the northern side.

New Outdoor Gym Equipment for Harbour Field

As a result of Cllr. John McGinley’s Motion, the Council issued a tender for the design and construction of outdoor gym in the Harbour Field. The contract will be in place in early 2019.

Fagan’s Lane to Become One-Way

It has been agreed that Fagan’s Lane will become One-Way, with traffic prevented from entering it from the Main Street. The signs will be put in place in mid-February.

Planning Application Number 18/1484, Maynooth Train Station for 34 Additional Car Parking Spaces

Cllr. John McGinley has made the following submission on this Planning Application:

“The Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 states under Clause 7.5.1. Public Transport: It is the policy of the Council:

PT 3 *To investigate the feasibility of the provision of a new vehicular access to the railway station from the Rathcoffey Road.*

As the Planning Application is for an additional 34 car parking spaces at the South-West of the train station i.e. at the Rathcoffey Road/Bond Bridge end, I believe that is incumbent on the Council to activate Policy PT 3 now and make it a condition of the Granting of Planning that a new vehicular access be provided from Bond Bridge to the new car park.

The provision of a new access road would relieve pressure on the already overstressed Straffan Road access road to the train station.”

Cllr. McGinley Demands an Explanation for Cattle Grazing on the Council Amenity Land at Carton Avenue:

Cllr. John McGinley submitted the following Motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD meeting on 11 January:

“Can the Council explain how cattle were allowed to graze on the Council owned land, between Castlepark Housing Estate and Carton Avenue for the last two months, resulting in cattle trucks driving on the walkway on Carton Avenue? “

John got the following highly unsatisfactory response:

The amenity lands along Carton Avenue have been illegally encroached on over a number of years. Last year the council allowed permission for use of the land for agricultural purposes to prevent this type of activity. The access to some of the lands is off Carton Avenue; this is why a cattle truck accessed the avenue and the amenity lands.

Cllr. McGinley then stated as follows:

“It is astonishing that the Council would see it as appropriate to lease out the amenity lands at Carton Avenue.

Worse still for the Council to see nothing wrong with cattle trucks using the walkway on the Avenue is incredible.

Council Officials will be aware that the cattle broke out of the Amenity Lands to the adjoining Lyreen Park housing estate three times and the residents did not have an easy job putting them back out of the housing estate.

Also, a new gate has been installed to access the fields from the Avenue.

I’m now demanding that none of the amenity lands at Carton Avenue be leased out for grazing and that the proposed master plan for this amenity land be produced and implemented as a matter of urgency.”

The Council Official stated that he would prefer to keep cattle grazing there until the Master Plan was implemented (rather than have cattle and horses grazing there illegally).

John said that he completely disagreed with what the Official had said.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Maynooth Labour News (cont)

Tenders for Completion of Maynooth Education Campus to Be Invited Shortly - Stagg

Labour's General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg has been in further contact with the Minister for Education in relation to the completion of the Maynooth Education Campus and specifically the invitation of Tenders from the shortlist of contractors to complete the Campus.

The Minister advised Mr. Stagg on January 15th that the pre-qualification process for contractors has been completed and that Tender Documents are expected to issue to the shortlisted contractors shortly with a view to having a contractor on site in Quarter 2, 2019. The Minister further added that it is fully expected that the buildings will be available for occupation prior to September 2020.

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg stated that he would keep the pressure on the Minister for Education and Skills so we can complete this most important Education Campus in Maynooth.

Stagg Welcomes Confirmation of September 2019 Opening for Maynooth Gaelcholaiste

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg has welcomed the announcement by the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board on Friday January 18th, that the North Kildare Gaelcholaiste will open in Maynooth this September.

The school stated Mr. Stagg will be an Irish Medium, co-educational, multi-denominational, state run, post primary Community College under the Patronage of KWETB. An Foras Patrunachta will also be a trustee partner for the school. KWETB will immediately commence the process of appointing a Principal for the school.

Commenting on the announcement Mr. Stagg stated that this was great news for pupils who wish to continue their education from Gaelscoils to Secondary Education in the Irish Medium. It has been a hard fought campaign by parents but finally we have an opening date confirmed.

In conclusion Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg stated that it was important that KWETB sourced appropriate accommodation for the new school as soon as possible in addition to appointing a Principal for the new school.

Enhanced Sunday services on Route 66 Serving Maynooth and Leixlip

Labour's Emmet Stagg has welcomed the significant enhancement in Sunday Services on Route 66 serving Maynooth and Leixlip since Sunday January 20th.

Mr. Stagg stated that the number of Sunday services from Maynooth, to the City Centre increased from the previous 17 services to 25. The number of services from the City Centre on Sundays to Maynooth increased from the previous 16 services to 25 services. (Timetables available at www.dublinbus.ie)

In addition to the enhanced Sunday service on route 66 the first departure from Maynooth, Monday to Friday is now at the earlier time of 5-45 am from the previous 6-05 am. There is also one additional inbound service on Saturdays and the first service on Saturdays is at 5-35 am instead of 5-40 am.

HSE Prioritising Securing Site for New Primary Care Centre for Maynooth - Stagg

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg has been pressing the HSE about the provision of a New State of the Art Primary Care Centre for Maynooth to replace the old Maynooth Health Centre which has seen better days.

Last October HSE Primary Care advised Mr. Stagg that HSE estates were looking for a site to locate a New Primary Care Centre in Maynooth to meet the needs of the growing population. Mr. Stagg sought an update on progress on securing a site recently and was advised that no site has been secured to date but that HSE Estates continue to work on securing a site as a priority.

Mr. Stagg stated that the existing Maynooth Health Centre was not fit for purpose and a New State of the Art Facility was required in Maynooth, similar to the excellent facilities that have been provided at both Celbridge and Kilcock. We are at the early stage of delivery of the Maynooth Primary Care Centre but it is vital that a site is secured so we can progress the project. The existing Health Centre will remain in place until the new Primary Care Centre is delivered.



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Local Election candidates selected in Maynooth Area

I am delighted to be supporting Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil in his bid to be re-elected to Kildare County Council. Cllr. Ó Cearúil was selected by party members in Maynooth to contest the forthcoming local elections. I have worked with Naoise on many projects in the area and have seen how hard he works first-hand. I will also be supporting Cllr. Paul Ward, also selected for the Maynooth district, who primarily covers Kilcock and Newtown. I am certain this team will make an excellent choice for the Maynooth Municipal District if fortunate enough to be re-elected to Kildare County Council.

Intel expansion in the works

It is very welcome news to those employed and living in Kildare North that Intel are about to begin to take the next steps to commence a possible expansion of their base in Leixlip. With two caps on, as a TD for the area and my party spokesperson on Science and Technology, I have regularly engaged with the microchip manufacturer. I am well aware of their commitment to our area and this will be another significant act of this assurance.

I believe the plans are part of a wider global manufacturing move by Intel. I am aware they see Ireland playing a significant role in this. While the details are not yet announced, and this may be a multi-year project, Intel recently announced an investment of €4.3 billion at its Israel plant last year. Something similar could be expected here in Kildare. I look forward to continuing to work with Intel to support their efforts in increasing presence in Kildare and seeing the formal plans over 2019 which can only be a benefit for our community.

Gaelcholáiste for Maynooth confirmed

I welcome confirmation from the Minister for Education that a Gaelcholáiste will be provided for Maynooth. The school will be an Irish-medium, co-educational, multi-denominational, state-run, post-primary Community College under the patronage of KWETB.

This is a project I have raised with the Minister previously on and also worked with Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil on. I will be enquiring further regarding location, enrolment etc. This is something I have campaigned for and is great news for those who wish to pursue their education through the medium of Irish.

New rail carriages not due until end of year

The allocation of funding to provide new rail carriages will do little to alleviate the overcrowding challenges faced by passengers in the short and medium term in Maynooth and further along the line following reports that Irish Rail is expected to get approval from the National Transport Authority (NTA) for the purchase of €100 million worth of new rail carriages.

I welcome this long overdue investment in Irish rail services, which is now serving a record number of passengers each year. It is vital to invest in Ireland's public transport, if we are to reduce the congestion and environmental pollution that is plaguing our country. While the funding for new carriages is to be welcomed, it is disappointing that the first contract, for 41 new carriages, is not due to be awarded until the end of the year.

We are at the end of the first/second working week of the year for many and my office has been inundated again with commuters left standing in cramped conditions on trains to and from their day job.

This end of year delivery will do little to reduce overcrowding on trains in the short to medium term as the lead-in time for the delivery of all carriages is extremely long. Irish Rail has also dropped plans to refurbish older carriages in the fleet, ruling it out on cost grounds.

Minister Ross needs to explain what he will now do in the short-term to support Irish commuters. Is he still considering hiring second-hand trains to cope with demand? Will he lease trains immediately to alleviate overcrowding and if not will alternative transport services, such as buses, be provided along busier routes? My invite to the Minister to travel from Kildare to Leinster House by train still stands.

Eircode process for new builds must be faster

I have called on the Government to instruct their providers to speed up the issuing of Eircodes to new homes. I am aware of some residents who have put effort into building a new home only to have to wait months before being active on the Eircode system. This delay has concerning consequences for the home owner.

The time it takes to be issued with a new Eircode means they are months without access to telephone lines or broadband services. More concerning is in the event an ambulance or other emergency services are needed to the home there is no identifying code to be provided. Since introduction the Eircode system has proven to be effective. However the lag in issuing codes to new builds is evident. It has to be improved and quickened.

The Minister for Communications did concede to say his Department would have the process expedited. I will continue to advocate for these new home owners to ensure the process is streamlined.

Maynooth Constituency Office

My Constituency Office in Maynooth (located on Doctor's Lane off the Main Street behind Brid Feely DNG Offices) is open all day Monday from 10am till 4pm. My colleagues Councillor Paul Ward and Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil and I are also available for appointments on Fridays from 10am to 1pm. Please call my office to organise a time. Please call in if there is anything we can assist you, your family or your organisation with.

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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 23/11/2018 to 22/01/2019 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App Num	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
1947	Kildare County Council	Andrew Brown	48 College Green, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	22/01/2019
1940	Kildare County Council	Damien Doyle	Pike Bridge, Rail Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	21/01/2019
191	Kildare County Council	Filatore Limited	Main Street, Fagan's Lane, Pound Lane, Maynooth, Co. Kildare,	02/01/2019
181542	Kildare County Council	Darragh Carr & Joanne McEvoy	No. 12 The Paddock, Moyglare Abbey, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	19/12/2018
181544	Kildare County Council	Alan Tansey	511 Newtown Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	19/12/2018
181526	Kildare County Council	Templewood No. 1 Partnership Limited	No. 22 Temple Wood, Carton Demense, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	17/12/2018
181527	Kildare County Council	Suzanne Bannon & Paul Mooney	Site no. 25 Temple Wood, Carton Demense, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	17/12/2018
181506	Kildare County Council	Colette Burns	7 Castlebridge, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	14/12/2018
181496	Kildare County Council	Briargate Developments Maynooth	Carton Wood, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	12/12/2018
181479	Kildare County Council	Kieran and Niamh Swift	13 Meadowbrook Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.,	10/12/2018
181482	Kildare County Council	Fergal O'Boy	Greenfield House, Moneycooly, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/12/2018
181483	Kildare County Council	Patrick O'Boy	Greenfield House, Moneycooly, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/12/2018
181484	Kildare County Council	Iarnród Éireann	Maynooth Train Station, I, Greenfield Townland, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/12/2018
181474	Kildare County Council	John Coakley	Oldcarton, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	07/12/2018
181471	Kildare County Council	CDS (Superstores International) Limited	The Range, Carton Retail Park, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	06/12/2018
181454	Kildare County Council	Roy & Gloria McKay	8 Rockfield Green, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	03/12/2018
181421	Kildare County Council	Southport New Homes Limited	Lyreen Lodge, Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	23/11/2018



Frank O'Rourke T.D. Kildare North

Contact Details: Dail Office: 01 6183109 - Mobile: 087 2555257 - e-mail: frank.orourke@oireachtas.ie - [Facebook](#) /Frank O'Rourke
Clinics: Monday in the Glenroyal Hotel - Constituency Office: Main Street Celbridge.



Delivery of New Rail Carriages too slow – O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has said the allocation of funding to provide new rail carriages will do little to alleviate the overcrowding challenges faced by Kildare commuters in the short and medium term.

"Irish Rail is expected to get approval from the National Transport Authority (NTA) to purchase new rail carriages worth €100 million. While this investment is welcome, it is long overdue and given the timeline for the delivery of the carriages, there will be no benefit in the short to medium term."

"It is disappointing that the first contract, for 41 new carriages, is not due to be awarded until the end of the year. The lead-in time for the delivery of the carriages is up to 2 and 3 years. As of now, there will be no space for additional passengers to travel on peak train services from Sallins / Hazelhatch or Kilcock, Maynooth / Leixlip."

"I welcome this long overdue investment in Irish rail service. It is vital to invest in Ireland's public transport. Irish Rail currently has approximately 630 carriages. We have a capacity issue now and we need to resolve it now."

"I called last year on Irish Rail to secure to refurbish the 28 rail carriages that had entered service in 1998 and are held in storage since 2012. I understand that they have ruled this option out. I am now calling on Irish Rail, with the support of the Minister for Transport, to immediately lease or hire carriages." "I will continue to press on the Government to fast-track investment for our rail services. In the meantime, we need to urgently lease rail carriages."

O'Rourke presses for additional Home Care Packages

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has pressed the Government for additional resources to be provided for Home Care Packages for the Kildare region, a region falling behind other areas in terms of the number of packages needed.

"Winter can be a very difficult time for older people and their families. It's also a period when hospitals are under pressure. As I established earlier in 2018, the Kildare/Wicklow region has a significantly higher waiting list for Home care packages than any other area. In June, we had 724 people on the waiting list, which proportionally was much higher than other areas."

"From my clinics, I come across people who are recovering from stroke, dealing with cancer and older people who need additional home supports, all requiring Home Care Packages."

"It makes little sense to delay giving home care supports to people that need them and have been approved by the HSE to get them. It goes against the Government's stated aim of ensuring people can continue living in their home if they so choose to do so. It is also leading to unnecessary overcrowding in our hospitals. There are many older people in hospitals that are ready to be discharged but are unable to return home as the necessary home care supports have not been put in place."

"Minister Harris and his Government colleagues need to ensure that the Home Care Support Scheme is properly resourced. We all know that there are limited resources, but the current situation is only leading to increased costs in the long run, due to overcrowding in hospitals and a scarcity of beds in nursing homes."

"I continue to fight for additional resources for older people. I was delighted to introduce a Bill - the Housing (Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability) Bill - last month, in the Dáil, which will reduce the time for processing the Housing Adaptation Grants. We must press for additional resources for Home Care Packages" concluded Deputy O'Rourke

Open up Mortgage market says O'Rourke as 'monopoly' exist in Irish Banking system

Local Fianna Fáil TD Frank O'Rourke has called for increased action to open up the Irish mortgage market to ensure that Ireland enjoys the same mortgage rates as other EU countries.

"Ireland's mortgage rates are entirely unjustifiable and the banks must be tackled to ensure that fairer mortgage rates are available to Irish home owners. Irish mortgages are double that of the average in the EU, 3.3% as opposed to EU average of about 1.7%."

"An Irish mortgage holder, with a 30 year term of €250,000, is paying €1085 per month. This is around €88 per month, equivalent to €2,200 per year or €68,000 over the lifetime of the mortgage, more than they would be paying in the average Euro area country."

"This massive differential is impacting negatively on the quality of life of hundreds of thousands of individuals and families around our country and depriving local economy of much needed stimulus."

"Now, according to the Head of the European Central Bank (ECB), Mario Dragi, the Irish mortgage market is an effective monopoly and this is contributing to the high mortgage rates in Ireland. AIB and Bank of Ireland have 60pc of new mortgage lending. More competition is required."

"Over the last 10 years, people's wages have increased very little and we need to focus on reducing the cost of living to ease the pressure on wage inflation. Reducing people's mortgage repayments is one mechanism to reduce the cost of living. We can do this by opening up the market to other EU Banks. I have called for this approach as well in relation to motor insurance."

"Since I got elected to the Dáil, I have worked with our Finance Spokesperson, Michael

McGrath TD, to keep a focus on the concerns of Irish mortgage holders. All of the instruments available to the Government and the Central Bank must be used to ensure that Irish mortgage holders receive fair treatment when compared to other EU countries" concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

Orbital Bus Route linking Straffan, Ardclough and Maynooth on the agenda says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has confirmed that the National Transport Authority is considering providing an orbital bus route linking Ardclough, Straffan and Maynooth. The NTA confirmed the proposal following a recent meeting I had with officials.

"I received confirmation from the NTA that it will seriously consider providing an orbital bus route linking Ardclough, Straffan and Maynooth. This orbital route would provide residents in Ardclough and Straffan a link to a regular bus and rail public transport service in Maynooth, to the Maynooth Business Park, and a link to NUI Maynooth, opening up this area to the rent a room scheme for student accommodation."

"We have seen the success of another Orbital Bus Route 139, which links Naas to Blanchardstown, via Clane, Rathcoffey, Maynooth and Leixlip. This route is attracting more commuters and we have Bus connect proposals which have some positive elements for bus commuters, including an orbital route linking Maynooth to Tallaght via Celbridge and Newcastle." "However, we need to expand the public transport services that we have and I am delighted that the NTA will now positively consider my request an orbital bus route linking Ardclough, Straffan and Maynooth," concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

Government lack of action on Insurance keeping rates high says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has criticised the government for delaying legislation which would clamp down on insurance fraud.

"Recent findings published by the insurance industry has labelled half of all personal injury claims brought to court as 'potentially fraudulent'. False and misleading claims have negative consequences for Irish policyholders and drive up the cost of insurance premiums."

"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%."

"Fianna Fail introduced the Civil Liability and Courts (Amendment) Bill 2018 last year. It passed the Second Stage in the Dáil, where it received unanimous support from all parties in the House, including government." "Our Bill is designed to combat the excessive costs of insurance for businesses and customers. It specifically gives Judges the power to pass information to the Director of Public Prosecution where a fraudulent claim has been made."

"Reducing the high cost of Insurance is a priority for Fianna Fáil and for myself, it is an issue I have regularly brought to the floor of the Dail. It is unacceptable that after two years of the publication of the Cost of Insurance Working Group report, many of its recommendations have not been implemented. I am urging the Government to allow our Bill to proceed to Committee stage so that it can be enacted by the Oireachtas without any further delay and support An Garda Síochána establish an anti-insurance fraud unit in the force."

"The government has been found wanting on insurance reform and tackling the high cost of insurance. This Government must provide greater focus on this issue and enacting our Bill would be one step towards achieving lower costs of insurance."

FF Bill to regulate 'vulture funds' signed into law – O'Rourke

Fianna Fáil Deputy Spokesperson on Finance and Kildare North TD, Frank O'Rourke, has welcomed the passage, in Seanad Éireann, of the Fianna Fáil Private Members' Bill to regulate so called 'vulture funds'. "Our Private Members' Bill has now passed through both Houses of the Oireachtas and was sent to the President to be signed into law. The bill will come into effect in January." "Now this Bill is signed into law, 'vulture funds' can be directly inspected and investigated by the Central Bank. The regulator will also, if necessary, be able to take enforcement action against these funds. Up until now, these Vulture Funds were not regulated and were untouchable."

"The Central Bank will now, for the first time, be able to have direct contact with these funds and apply strict regulation directly to them. We have seen acceleration in the trend of banks selling off their loans to 'vulture funds' in recent months. Permanent TSB, Ulster Bank and AIB – to name just a few retail banks – have progressed loan sales in recent months. Significantly, Bank of Ireland has not ruled out loan sales into the future. Mortgages, business and farm loans are now being sold on in very significant numbers."

"The passage of this Bill is an important step forward. However, Fianna Fáil believes that further reforms are needed to tackle the tens of thousands of legacy mortgage arrears cases. The current process sees nearly half of all personal insolvency arrangements failing. As a result, it has been judges who have prevented large scale reposessions rather than the government. The bank veto needs to be removed and fair and sustainable loan solutions need to be put in place. We also have the unacceptable high level of variable mortgage rates, double the EU average. There needs to be action in relation to this as well." 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



Know Your Rights: Applying to college

Question

The closing date for applying to college was 1 February. Can I still apply?

Answer

You apply for almost all full-time undergraduate courses through the Central Applications Office (CAO). This includes, for example, university, technical university and institute of technology undergraduate courses such as Higher Certificates at Level 6 and degrees at Levels 7 and 8.

The closing date for 2019 CAO applications was 1 February 2019. However, you can still apply. Late applications are allowed up to 5.15pm on 1 May 2019. There is a fee to apply for courses through the CAO and late applications are subject to an increased fee. Late online applications cost €60.

You can change the courses you picked or the order of courses on your application from 5 February to 1 March at 5:15pm for a fee of €10. Another Change of Mind facility opens on 5 May and closes on 1 July at 5:15pm and is free of charge.

You must apply to the CAO by 1 February 2019 if you want to be assessed as a mature applicant, or if you want to be considered for the HEAR and/or DARE schemes. There are also some restricted courses which you cannot apply for after 1 February 2019.

The CAO provides a handbook that lists all the courses on offer and gives information on how to apply.

Decisions on offers of places are normally made in August and September, after the results of the Leaving Certificate have come out. You can find a detailed schedule of the offer rounds in the CAO handbook.

It is important to note that there is no central applications body for Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses. Students must apply directly to the individual colleges. You should check the closing date for PLC courses with the individual college.

Further information is available from the Citizens Information Centre above.

Know Your Rights: Jobseeker's Benefit and subsidiary employment

Question

I was working full-time and was also doing a few hours with another company in the evenings. I recently lost my full-time job. Can I claim Jobseeker's Benefit and continue working a couple of hours each evening?

Answer

Jobseeker's Benefit is a weekly payment from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) to people who are out of work and are covered by social insurance (PRSI).

As a general rule, you cannot get Jobseeker's Benefit for any day you are employed or self-employed. However, it is possible to do some subsidiary work and still get Jobseeker's Benefit for the day in question.

Subsidiary employment is work that could have been done while you were in full-time employment and outside your normal working hours. For example, you may work a full-time job during the day and have a part-time job in the evening. The part-time job is known as subsidiary or secondary employment if you were able to do the part-time work without it affecting your full-time job for a period of at least 6 months.

If you have subsidiary employment, you should always check with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection to see whether or not your Jobseeker's Benefit will be affected.

If you have less than 117 paid PRSI contributions in the 3 years before becoming unemployed there is a limit on the amount you can earn from subsidiary employment while getting Jobseeker's Benefit. From 1 January 2019, the amount you can earn has increased to €144 per week (or €7,500 over 12 months). There is no earnings limit if you have more than 117 paid PRSI contributions.

If you are a farmer with other full-time employment, your farming will be your subsidiary employment.



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We were presented with our Gold medal at a ceremony in Abbeyshrule, Co Longford by Minister Sean Canney TD on the 4th of December.

Thank you all for the nice comments made concerning our big Christmas tree placed in the Courthouse Square.

Thanks to all who helped in any way with the above project.

We appreciate all who brought Christmas Trees for recycling to the KCC Maynooth yard in Leinster St. and the shredded material will be used locally.



Work on the Sensory Garden for the Community adjacent to the Pastoral Centre started on Saturday 19th January. We hope to start back in March with our usual planting, clean-ups and general maintenance.

WEEE Ireland collection will be held on Saturday 23rd March more info in next Newsletter.

A number of Caf  s in Maynooth are taking part in the Zero Waste Conscious Cup Campaign, further details on the Maynooth Tidy Towns Facebook page.



If you have an hour to spare come along and help us retain our Gold Medal for 2019.

Further information on 0873153189 or see us on Facebook or contact us on Twitter.

Richard Farrell
PRO Maynooth
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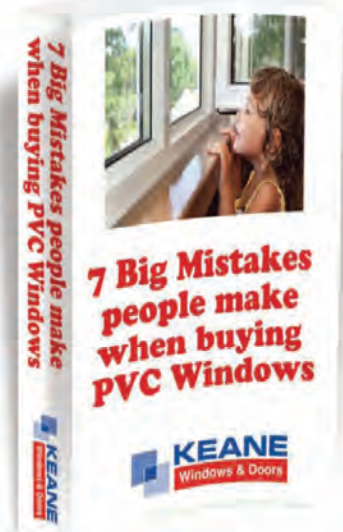
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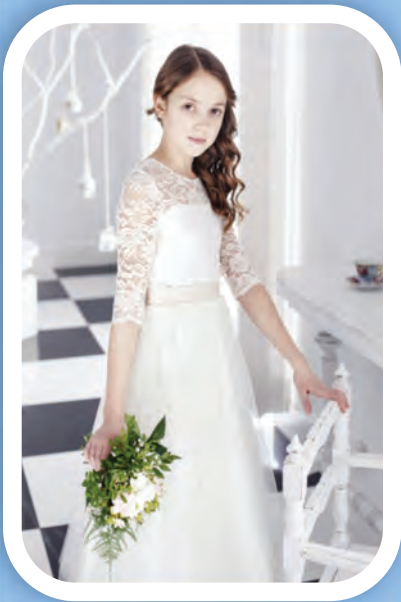
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www.maynoothcc.org/alpha-course/

Maynooth Community Church
Eaglais Phreispitiréach in Éirinn



Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

Well here we are into a brand new year with the days stretching out before us, the birds singing and the plants awakening, can spring be far away ?....ok so that might be a little optimistic but we can always hope. Our Club is well under way with all the usual faces and a few new ones as well. Remember all senior citizens in our area are welcome to join us on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Geraldine Hall on Leinster street from 10.30 – 12.30. Our next tea-dance will take place on Sunday February 17th in the GAA club, Moyglare Road. This will be our Valentine's event so come along and share the occasion of fun and romance.

Our AGM will take place on Tuesday March 5th at 8pm in the Geraldine Hall. This is an open meeting to which all are welcome. We would like to see some younger people joining our committee, so why not come along and see if you can make a difference.

Finally, our sincere sympathy to the families of Noreen Hopkins, Mary Gargan, Lil O'Rourke, Christopher Tracey and Stasia Moran who passed away recently.

Suaimehnas agus Síochain dóibh.

Josephine Moore.
Chairperson.





Comhaltas Craobh Mhaigh Nuad



Christmas 2018 was notable for its mild weather, so there was no excuse not to be out and about enjoying a few tunes.

The branch Christmas party was ably hosted by the newly refurbished GAA club, and it was a great opportunity for members new and old to come together over a beverage and enjoy the musical talent on display. We were even regaled with a song from a visitor in a red suit, which was followed by a session from all levels of players from young beginners to less-young masters of their instrument.



Santa crooning a beautiful version of Silent Night, before he dashed off on his sleigh.



Push for Porter, the hardest working session in showbusiness, grafting all through Christmas!

This session has been going for many years and is often frequented by branch members. Great friends of the Craobh, they're a fine example of how to enjoy music in a welcoming and open fashion, and there's scarcely a better way of whiling away a Thursday evening

The next term of lessons has started, at our usual slot of Wednesday 7-9 in Maynooth Post Primary. This year the fleadh is on in May and it will be the climax of the year's activities in the sense of learning and musical development. It is a great opportunity to play in a very nerve wracking

environment, and most importantly gets students to really focus in on the 2 pieces of music needed. The duos and trios are also an early opportunity to collaborate in small groups and are enjoyed by all participants. The Craobh is also planning a Grúpa Cheoil and a Céilí Band and would love to hear from any interested participants, from both within or outside the branch.

Our junior sessions recommence the last Sunday of the month by the fireside in the GAA club & all are welcome to both listen and play – there's something for all levels at these evenings.

To all our officers, members, friends and supporters, best wishes for a lively 2019! **Go n-éirí an cheoil linn i 2019!**

Lots more information on www.ccemaighnuad.com and Facebook & Twitter (CCEMAighNuad).

**Slán go fóil
Derek Carroll, PRO
Craobh Mhaigh Nuad**



Caoimhe, Kirsten, Seán and Riobáird at the Christmas Party



Katie, Niamh, Ailbhe and Fionnuala enjoying a glass of mulled wine ;-)

The Legend of St. Valentine

Every February 14, around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint, and where did these traditions come from?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome.

When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

According to another legend, an imprisoned Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement.

Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today.



During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that Valentine's Day should be a day for romance.

Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, though written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt.

In the poem, Charles uses the term "Valentine" referring to his wife, but his expression of love was more somber than the holiday greetings that we're usually accustomed to. However, given the grim circumstances under which the letter was written, that's no surprise.

My very gentle Valentine,
Since for me you were born too soon,
And I for you was born too late.
God forgives him who has estranged
Me from you for the whole year.
I am already sick of love,
My very gentle Valentine.

Having been imprisoned for 25 years, Charles was never able to see his wife's reaction to the letter. She died sometime between 1430 and 1435, before reuniting with her husband or bearing any children.



Zero Waste Maynooth

If you are considering cutting back on your waste and doing your bit for the environment this year, moving towards Zero Waste is the way to go. Here is some motivation to keep you on track!!



It Can Save You Money

Many people considering a move to zero waste think that it will end up costing an arm and a leg. However, this is not at all the case.

There are so many ways in which you can **save money on a zero waste lifestyle**, such as growing your own food, using reusable containers as opposed to disposable ones, and making your own cleaning supplies. Thinking “Zero Waste” also cuts back on unnecessary purchases and means you look at alternative options rather than buying brand new, such as second-hand shops or borrowing.

You Can Become Healthier

By moving away from un-recyclable plastics that can often be toxic, **you can become healthier** while also helping the environment. Trying to cut back on packaged food also means that you tend to eat healthier food. Many people aiming towards a zero waste life also make their own natural products rather than using generic store-bought products. This includes items such as cosmetics, cleaning products, fragrances etc., reducing your exposure to toxic and harmful chemicals.

It's Easier Than You Think

Moving towards zero waste does require you to make some slight changes in your life. However, it's important not to think of it as a process which needs to be an all or nothing decision. Taking small steps to reduce your waste will have a substantially positive effect on both the environment and yourself. Start with some minor changes such as using reusable shopping bags and refillable water bottles, before making the change to a more environmentally-conscious lifestyle.

Environmental Benefits

The benefits to the environment of going zero waste can't be stressed enough. Even the smallest of changes that you make contribute to the longevity, life and healthiness of our planet. Start small and build your way up to reach your zero waste goal. Reducing the use of plastic bags, bottles and other non-recyclable plastics will also substantially reduce the negative effects on local wildlife. Each non-recyclable product you say no to means one less in landfill – or worse, in our oceans.

Some Final Tips for Going Zero Waste

- It doesn't have to be instant – don't feel bad about taking gradual changes towards zero waste, there's no rush
- Avoid fast food – most fast food restaurants use unnecessary packaging that can't be recycled
- Use reusable containers – opt to use reusable water bottles and food containers rather than disposable plastic containers
- Consider your food waste – if you've cooked too much food, freeze it or add it to compost
- Clothes – rather than only purchasing new clothes, consider second-hand clothes from your local charity shop

(Credit to instantwaste.com.au)

Please join us at our next event on Saturday, 9th February in the Community Space for a cuppa and a chat about how we can all do our bit to help the environment.



Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community January Update

Happy New Year from Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community! The group got 2019 off to great start with our first meeting in January where we discussed exciting energy saving projects for the local community and welcomed some new members. The group has grown each month and now includes local residents, business owners, energy experts, Tidy Towns, Maynooth University, and County Council representatives.

What is a Sustainable Energy Community?

A Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) is a community in which everyone works together to develop a sustainable energy system for the benefit of the community. This is achieved by:

- Aiming to be as energy efficient as possible
- Using renewable energy where feasible
- Adopting smart energy solutions



There are many benefits to becoming an SEC, including:

- Achieving financial and energy savings
- Enhancing comfort and health from energy efficient buildings
- Boosting local employment
- Supporting community development
- Building capacity and access funding
- Accessing a range of supports from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

The SEC Network

The SEC network is made up of over 200 communities around Ireland who are interested in community energy. Some communities have been influencing local energy use for years, while others are thinking about it for the first time. The aim of the network is to encourage and support a national movement in every part of the country.

**Next Meeting - Date: Monday, 4th February
Time: 7.30pm – 9.00pm**

**Location: Maynooth University - All welcome!
Please contact Peter Hamilton
at peterham6@gmail.com for more information.**

Householders, schools, and workplaces can take part in a Sustainable Energy Community



Homes: Householders can actively take part in the SEC, either with or without a financial investment. A combination of actions will increase the amount of energy saved. Such actions may include turning down thermostats, switching off lights and electrical appliances when not required, adding extra insulation and considering alternatives to fossil fuels. By adopting simple behavioural changes in the home, we can all save energy.



Schools: SEAI has teaching resources and energy management tools for both primary and secondary schools. The annual One Good Idea Campaign receives support from schools around Ireland. This initiative provides a platform to discuss energy issues and climate change.



Workplaces: All places of work can save energy. SEAI has developed several tools and supports to help save energy in the workplace, whether energy management is being introduced for the first time or as part of business plans to upgrade existing efforts.

EST  1995

GLENROYAL

HOTEL

**Brand new bar &
restaurant coming soon**



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shoda
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Shoda open daily for food
until 9.30pm



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3pm - 9.30 pm daily**





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

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

Government shows callous indifference to plight of renters

“Renters really have their backs to the wall, with many struggling to keep roofs over their heads while living with the daily fear of unaffordable rent hikes or sudden eviction notices.”

Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy TD has accused the government of callous indifference to the threat of homelessness hanging over people and families in the private rental sector.

Deputy Murphy was commenting on a recent report by Threshold of a dramatic rise in the number of calls it has received from renters in danger of losing their homes because their tenancies are coming to an end.

Deputy Murphy said:

“Renters really have their backs to the wall, with many struggling to keep roofs over their heads while living with the daily fear of unaffordable rent hikes or sudden eviction notices.”

“They are right to feel they have been totally abandoned by this government, which has spectacularly failed to keep rents in check and to bring in protections needed to give tenants more security.

“The solutions are staring the government in the face, yet all we are seeing is more callous indifference. A nationwide rents freeze must be introduced as an emergency measure. While rents are already out of control and far beyond what many people can afford, we have to do what we can to stop them spiralling further until supply catches up with demand.”

“The government is also dragging its feet when it comes to bringing in a rental register so that people can look online to see the level of rent paid by tenants in specific areas. At the minute, even where Rent Pressure Zone rules restrict landlords from increasing rents for new tenants by more than 4 per cent, there is no way for incoming tenants to know how much the previous tenants actually paid.”

NTA Unable to extend Bus 139 service to Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown

Catherine Murphy TD has corresponded with the NTA seeking that the welcomed 139 service from Naas to Blanchardstown be extended to include Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown as its final stop.

Catherine stated that a number of constituents would have regular appointments at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown and would really welcome a direct bus service.

The NTA have responded to Catherine explaining:

“In the planning of Route 139, the NTA held discussions with Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown about the possibility of operating / terminating the bus service on the hospital grounds. However, it was not possible to come to an arrangement in the matter due in particular to the reluctance of the Hospital authorities to accommodate a bus terminus on the hospital grounds.”

As a result, the NTA examined other potential locations for the terminus of the service, including the Sport Ireland campus and IT Blanchardstown.

Following discussions with both bodies it was decided that IT Blanchardstown would be the most suitable alternative terminus for the new bus service bearing in mind that there is a dedicated terminus facility on the campus as well as significant travel demand to access the campus from areas along the catchment of route 139.

IT Blanchardstown were also particularly enthusiastic about facilitating a new service operating to their campus and they saw the huge value in having a reasonably frequent service operating directly to their campus.

It is important to point out that Route 139 operates via Blanchardstown Shopping Centre where passengers can easily transfer to routes 17a and 220 which provide frequent connections for the short onward journey to Connolly Hospital”

Women's World Day of Prayer 2019

SLOVENIA

‘Come—Everything Is Ready’



DATE: Saturday 2nd March

**TIME: Refreshments 10.30 am
Prayer Service 11.00 am**

**PLACE: Maynooth Community Church
First Floor Manor Mills (entrance next to Chill)**

EVERYONE WELCOME



Rhythmic National Group Championships

The Rhythmic National Group Championships competition was held last December 1st at the National Indoor Arena.



Our kids group **won the gold medal** and they are left to right: Amellie Wells, Isabelle Maher, Ruby O'Brien, Camille Quigley and Layla Whitston .

They did a free hands routine.

Our Hopes group are left to right: Issy Wells, Alexandra Kuling, Saoirse Kelly, Adrija Kruminaite and Hannah Jordan.

They had a routine with 5 balls and they **won the gold medal** as well.



**Coaches are Marga Salom and Irene Cabello -
Excel Gymnastics Club Celbridge**



HEALTHY TASTY BREAKFAST DRINKS

One of the best things you can do for yourself is to add healthy breakfast drinks to your morning meal. These drinks are packed with vitamins and minerals and when added to good breakfast foods, they can give you energy, stamina and clarity all day. They can also help you to lose weight. You will require a blender or juicer to make these drinks.

For weight loss a glass of water with a dash of lemon juice or slices of lemon will help stimulate your digestion and wake you up. Adding a tablespoon of apple cider vinegar to your water (240 ml) helps increase a proper balance of acids in your stomach, clears the kidneys and stimulates the liver and gallbladder. If you are not used to taking apple cider vinegar start with a teaspoon.

To make healthy drinks for energy, you want to make sure you have a good amount of vegetables and foods with healthy proteins in your shake. The simplest breakfast shake recipes are comprised of yogurt, fruits and vegetables.

Blueberry Avocado Banana Smoothie. (For glowing Skin)

- 1/2 cup Almond Breeze Almond milk Unsweetened Vanilla
- 1 cup fresh spinach
- 1 medium ripe banana — peeled
- 1/2 ripe avocado — peeled and pitted
- 2 cups frozen blueberries
- 1 tablespoon ground flaxseed meal
- 1 tablespoon almond butter
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon



Heart Healthy Drink

- 1 cup of whole, raw milk (with cream)
- 1/2 cup whole, plain yogurt
- 1 tbsp coconut oil - melted
- 1 cup of season mixed berries
- 1 tsp hawthorn berries, finely crushed

Strawberry Banana Smoothie

- 1 frozen banana, sliced
- 2 cups frozen strawberries, raspberries, and/or cherries
- 1 cup yogurt
- 1/2 cup juice
- 1 tbsp honey (optional)
- Water enough to blend properly

Healthy Strawberry Smoothie Recipe

- 1 cup strawberries
- 1 cup whole fat Greek yogurt
- 1 cup almond milk or whole, organic (raw) milk
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- Pinch of sugar or honey

Overnight Oats

Another healthy tasty option for breakfast. This is best made from the previous night. Mixed 3 to 4 tablespoons of oatflakes, low fat yogurt and mixed blueberries & raspberries or other fruits together and leave in refrigerator overnight. The berries must be frozen as the juice from the berries moistens the oats.



"The greatest wealth is Health."



Cllr Naoise Ó Cearúil - Maynooth Fianna Fáil Notes

Mobile: 086-728 0050 e-mail: cllrnaoise@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/naoiseoceanuil/www.votenaoise.ie



Update on Local Works - Leinster Street

Road users are reminded that Leinster Street is a shared surface for cyclists, pedestrians and cars. The council will lay additional markings and notices to remind people of this.

Manor Mills Footbridge

I've been working on this project for some time and a tender for the works will be issued in May of this year. This is a welcome development to help with the heavy footfall on Mill Street.

Greenway Project

This is progressing further and is an excellent facility to have locally. The section from Maynooth to Ferns Lock in Kilcock has been completed and construction is underway of Cloncurry bridge which brings the project to County Meath where Meath Co. Co. will take over. The footbridge for Cloncurry bridge is under construction in Belfast at the moment.

New Road Sweeper

The Council have acquired a new road sweeper which will mean more regular road sweeps and more effective road sweeps for our estates and roads.

Maynooth Park Resurfacing

Maynooth Park was resurfaced after calls from me at a cost of €17k from LPT funds

Jacksons Bridge

Work has been completed at Jacksons Bridge to improve sight lines and has also included road resurfacing.

Ramps in Maynooth

Ramps in Moyglare Abbey will be completed over the coming weeks.

North South Corridor Phase 6 (Moyglare Road)

The Tender has been awarded to upgrade the Moyglare Road and work is to commence in the next few weeks

New Traffic Lights at the Interchange

Many people have witnessed problems with the new traffic lights at the Meadowbrook interchange. I've asked that a review is carried out of these new lights as I have witnessed myself some near misses.

Calls for Full-Time Garda Station in Maynooth

There was a spate of burglaries in Maynooth on Monday the 21st of January. These burglaries occurred during the evening and a number of vehicles were stolen. Houses in new estates Hayfield and Carton Wood were targeted in this most recent attack. The perpetrators used the "fishing" method on some homes, where they put a fishing rod in through the letter box to pick up keys on nearby tables.

Commenting on the matter, local councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil said, "Once again, the town is being targeted by thugs who have an easy escape onto the N4. My own home has been targeted in the past and this is becoming a far too regular occurrence".

He continued, "I've been calling for a full-time station in Maynooth for years. Taking the burglaries aside, Maynooth is the only town in the country with a University. This means that the town has an additional population of 12,000 which is not accounted for in the census figures and all the additional issues that 12,000 people bring with it.

We are looking at an even bigger population with the increase in houses in the area. I am unaware of any town in Ireland with a population of over 24,000 people

without a full-time station.

Enough is enough, It is high time that the Minister for Justice and Commissioner Harris recognise the need for a full time operational station in Maynooth. I have written to Chief Superintendent Wall, Minister Charlie Flanagan and Commissioner Harris calling for a full-time station in Maynooth.

Remembering Domhnall Ua Buachalla

As the country celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the Dáil, we should remember Domhnall Ua Buachalla, a local Maynooth man elected to the first Dáil. Ua Buachalla (Buckley) was elected as a Sinn Féin TD and went on to be one of the founding TDs of Fianna Fáil.

Gaelcoláiste to start in September 2019

The Minister for Education has stated that the Gaelcoláiste will open in Maynooth in September 2019. This will mean that Maynooth Community College will no longer be taking applications to the Aonad.

A location has not been identified as of yet but I will work with the patron, Kildare and Wicklow ETB to find a suitable location and ensure the best start to the school. Any parents that require further information can contact me.

Join the Team

Are you interested in local issues or would you like to help Naoise continue his work in Kildare County Council?

We're preparing for this year's local elections. We need people to help with online communications, canvassing, leaflet dropping and strategy. Please reach out if you'd like to help.

Godderel for Beginners

What need you, who've progressed so much
To waste your time on God or Church?
To think about the Decalogue,
That ancient dance of Man and God.
To bend the knee in suppliant prayer,
With future souls your life to share!
Though recent judgements say it's gone,
Creative Ireland will live on.

You should recall those saints of old,
Whose names in reverence oft you told,
Patrick, Bríd and Colmcille,
Their deeds, they echo with you still?
Christian love should care for all
With special stress on weak and small.
The angel's message was made good,
At Mary's 'Yes' to motherhood.

Was it for this Christ fled the tomb?
To strike out babies in the womb?
So shrewd, aware who'd win the day,
The once Pro-lifer led the way.

The CV's all when comes the hour,
As raw ambition strikes for power.
It matters not who pays the price,
Another random roll of dice.

Of course, we often missed the mark,
We shunned the light, we chose the dark;
We judged, we failed to hold a hand,
We spurned Christ's gift to understand.
But that is no excuse to kill,
To block the ears to crying shrill;
Two wrongs a right can never make,
Life once endowed's not ours to take.

Yet maybe what they say is true,
That many voted for the few,
Who take the road of lesser strain,
For short-term ease and unknown pain.
Their trouble to the Lord's best known,
To judge them is his right alone.
All things he will again make new;
Let's trust Him, He will see us through.

Gabriel Martin



Work is progressing on the new 16 classroom building for Maynooth Educate Together NS on the Celbridge Road with phase one to be completed for September 2019.

Green Clean-up on the R405


The 'revamped' Green Party swung into action on Sunday, 20th January, with a clean-up of part of the R405 between Maynooth and Celbridge, inspired by the excellent RTE documentary, 'One Day: How Ireland Cleans Up'. This program was a depressing eye-opener for those of us who had begun to believe that we Irish were cleaning up our act. The clean-up of less than 0.5km of road yielded a dismaying number of plastic bottles, cans, disposable cups and dumped objects. The volunteers collected the refuse (including black plastic bags) in biodegradable green plastic bags and non-single-use containers.

'The die-back of road-side vegetation in winter exposes dumped materials that are not visible during the summer,' said Green Party local candidate for the Maynooth electoral area, Peter Hamilton. 'Plastic always floats to the top and stays in our environment for up to 400 years.' On a positive note, the volunteers noted that the roadside verges were very clean in the vicinity of three business premises in the area: Ray Crofton Motors, SAP Landscaping Group and the County Council Waterworks. So a big shout-out for them!

'Businesses are often blamed for contributing to pollution,' Peter Hamilton said, 'but our experience in North Kildare is that companies like Intel and Hewlett Packard and the three mentioned above are proof that this is not so.'

The distribution of the litter suggests that people just open their car windows and toss it out. Green thinking starts when we keep the litter in the car and recycle it at home.' Peter also said that our quality of life in North Kildare will improve significantly when we have an electrified train service at least as far as Kilcock and more orbital bus services that link the North Kildare towns with areas like Tallaght and Blanchardstown. 'If commuters had these services,' he added, 'many of them could leave their cars at home.'



So here's a shout-out to the Green volunteers who are planning further outings to keep Ireland beautiful!



~ Have Fun While Advertising Your Organisation ~

Maynooth

St Patrick's Day Parade

Application Form 2019

This Year's Theme: "The Town & The Gown"

Closing Date for Entries: 5pm Friday 11th March 2019

Name of Business/Group:

Address:

Contact e-mail:

Contact Person:

Telephone:

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

♦ HGV's, lorries or cars **without a float will not be accepted**.

♦ Entry Fee does not include Insurance cover. All participants/Floats should have suitable Insurance cover.

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

Entrance Fees: (Cheques should be made payable to "Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade")

Commercial Float ~ €50 Club/Organisation ~ €20
First Time Entry ~ €10 Bands ~ Free

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

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

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

Applications with entry fee to be sent to:

Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade Committee

c/o Unit 5, Carton Retail Park,

Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Organised by:

Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade Committee

E-mail: maynoothparade@gmail.com

Naoise Ó Cearúil (Chair) Mobile - 086-7280050



'Green Party volunteers with the litter they collected on a small stretch of the R405 between Maynooth and Celbridge.'

Oliver Reilly

Leinster Street, Maynooth,
Co. Kildare
Mobile 086 8105581 - 01 6289452
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February 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



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Work Matters at the Library: Support for Business & Employment

Maynooth Community Library provide support to agencies, small business, entrepreneurs, students and job seekers.

As a core service we provide the following:

Meeting Space [pre-booking essential]

Free Wifi and access to PCs

Free access to VisionNet and Mintel online resources

Access to our library catalogue at www.kildare.ie/library

Books, periodicals and business newspapers (including the Financial Times and the Economist)

eLearning: Free online continuing education courses

eLanguage: Free online language courses

Local Enterprise Office – Business Advice Clinic

Wednesday 20th February, all day

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

Reading for pleasure:

A series of free talks supporting and encouraging children's reading

Diversity & Inclusion in Children's Literature presented by Patricia Kennon

Tuesday 29th January 7pm

Patricia will focus on diversity and inclusion in children's literature, addressing examples in different genres and different age groups. Dr Patricia Kennon is a Lecturer in English Literature in the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, Maynooth University. She is the President of the Irish Society for the Study of Children's Literature, a former Editor in Chief and Features Editor of Inis: The Children's Books Ireland Magazine. Patricia is a former President of iBbY Ireland, the Irish national section of International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).

Library Events

All events at Maynooth Community Library are free of charge but booking may be required.

Children's Events

Family Friendly Board Game mornings

Saturday 2nd and 16th February, 10 – midday

Join Maynooth library at our family friendly board game mornings. Have a digital detox and enjoy some old fashioned fun in our newly refurbished multipurpose zone. Chess, Draughts, Cluedo and Boggle will be made available for your gaming pleasure. Feel free to bring your own treasured games along too!

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Valentine's Day Art & Craft

Wednesday 13th February 3.30 pm- 4.30pm - 8 - 10 year olds

Celebrate Valentine's Day with this Paper Heart Flower Craft. A beautiful gift to offer to a loved-one this Valentine's Day!

Booking Required Max 12 Children

Chinese New Year Art & Craft

Saturday February 16th 2.30pm – 3.30pm - 6-9 year olds

Celebrate Chinese New Year, which this year marks the year of the pig, with this Chinese lantern art and craft. The festival runs until the 19th of February.

Booking Required

Life Cycle of a Butterfly art and craft

Saturday 23rd February 2.30pm- 3.30pm - 6-9 year olds

Mark the start of spring and the start of brighter evenings with this fun Life Cycle of a Butterfly Art & Craft where children will make a colourful cube using card and paper to discover the life cycle of butterfly.

Booking required.

Story Time

Spring time Story time

Friday February 8th 10 am- 11am - 2- 5 year olds

This week's stories are all about spring time. Come and enjoy stories all about what you can see around you in the spring. Join in some fun rhymes and songs which will put a spring in your step! Colouring pages will be provided.

No booking required.

Story time for 2-5 year olds

Friday 15th February 10am – 11am

This is an opportunity to spend some quality reading time with your toddler while listening to some wonderful stories and joining in some fun rhymes and songs. Colouring pages will be provided.

No booking required.

Nursery Rhymes Story time

Friday 22nd February 10am – 11am - 2-5 year olds

This week's stories are all about Nursery Rhymes. Come and meet well-loved characters such as Humpty Dumpty, Little Bo Peep, and many more. Join in some fun songs as well. Colouring pages will be provided. No booking required.

No Booking Required.

Special Events

Make a St. Brigid's Cross, just in time for St. Brigid's Day.

Wednesday 30th January drop in any time between 11.30- 1pm

Try your hand at making your own ST Brigid's Cross with our library staff. **No booking required. All Welcome.**

Knit 2 together: Expression of interest

Thursday 7th and 21st February 4-5pm

A new inter-generational knitting group for learners and helpers.

Are you aged 8-12 and interested in learning to knit? Or are you an experienced knitter who wants to pass on your skills? Maynooth Community Library is keen to create a group where young people can learn the craft and where yarn veterans can help inspire the next generation of knitters, facilitated by a library staff member who loves wool as much as books.

We are considering meeting every 2nd Thursday from 5 to 6 but could be flexible depending on interest and availability. Some wool and needles will be made available and any donations would be gratefully received. Register your interest today, as a novice or a knitter with details of days/times that suit and we will be back in touch with more details. Teenagers or adults who want to learn to knit are also welcome to register their interest.

Contact library for more information

Sort your Waste. A recycling talk with Dara Wyer; Environment Awareness Officer, Kildare County Council

Wednesday 14th February 3pm

Many people want to know how to do the right thing when sorting out their waste at home. Learn what waste goes in each bin and why. A practical talk on sorting out your refuse, recycling and (if you have one) food waste bin.

Booking Required

Ukulele meet up for beginners of all ages

Saturday 23rd February 3:30pm

Come and share your knowledge or just get support as you learn the ukulele. This Ukulele support group will be a meeting of like minded ukulele players helping each other improve and learn new moves.

All welcome.

Smart Tech Classes

The Smart Way to Use Technology: To Connect With Loved Ones

31st Jan 2pm Android Phones (week 1 of 2)

7th Feb 2pm Android Phones (week 2 of 2)

14th Feb 2pm Android Tablet (1 week only)

Your smart phone and tablet provide an amazing way to feel connected to the people you love! You can stay in touch by text, create a shortcut to your favourite contacts so you can phone them quicker, and see photos/videos of your family/friends. So to ensure your smart phone/tablet makes your life better, come along to these easy-to-follow classes and learn through a step-by-step process.

The trainer Fiona Ashe would be delighted to answer all of your questions!

Fiona is a filmmaker and journalist, who specialises in how to communicate effectively. She is looking forward to helping you to use technology to connect and communicate.

Contact library to book.

Regular Events

FitLine

Thursday 14th and 28th February 10 am-12 noon

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.

All welcome. No booking required.

Make Time

Thursday 7th and 21st February, 6pm – 7:45pm

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.**

Maynooth Women's Group

Saturday 2nd and 16th February, 11am

New members welcome.

Contact the library for further details.

Ciorcal Comhrá / Irish Language Conversation Group

Tuesdays 11am – 12 noon

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

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

Maynooth Community Library (Cont.)

Maynooth Creative Writing Group

Tuesday 5th February, 6:15pm

Tuesday 19th February, 6.15pm

A bi-monthly meeting for writers in the Maynooth area. Beginner writers always welcome. **No booking required.**

Spanish Conversation Exchange

Thursdays, 6:30pm – 7:30pm

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

Relocation to Ireland: Women's Meet Up

Saturday 2nd and 16th February, 3 pm

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. The library would become a meeting place, to chat, make new friends and share stories – good and bad – about their transition from their native land to their present address. Returning expat women are also welcome to share their experiences. **All Welcome**

Book & Film Clubs

The following book & film clubs meet regularly at

Maynooth Community Library. Please contact us if you are interested in joining a book club or starting one.

Ex Libris book club

Wednesday 27th February 11am

Ex libris will be discussing Zadie Smith's 'Swing Time' in the groups second meeting. This book club is now fully booked but please register your interest in book clubs with library staff if interested.

Readers of the lost Ark Book Club

Tuesday 12th February 6.30pm- 7.30pm

The Readers of the Lost Ark Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club will be discussing 'Stranger in a Strange Land' by Robert A. Heinlein. New members welcome. Please contact the library to join.

Read & Catch-up

Thursday 14th February, 11.30 am

A book club for men and women of all ages, with tea and biscuits provided. February's meeting will be a chance to discuss "The Guernsey literary and potato peel pie society" by Mary Ann Shaffer There are some spaces in the group, contact the library for more information on 01-6285530 or maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie

Reel Good Film Club

Tuesday 26th February Screening 5pm Discussion 7pm

There are no DVD copies of this month's film, so all are

welcome to come watch the film on February 26th at 5pm and discuss it at 7pm. February's pick will be from 2018 and concern a World War II book club during Nazi occupation.

Jane Austen Book Club

Thursday the 28th February 11am -12 pm

This month, the Jane Austen book club will be discussing her much loved classic 'Sense and Sensibility'. New members welcome. Please contact the library for details.

Helpful Hints for Avoiding Fines at

Maynooth Community Library

Please note the ways you can avoid paying fines at your local library: Renew Online: Go to www.kildare.ie/library and enter your card number and pin to access your account.

Telephone: Ring us at (01) 6285530 with your card number and a member of staff will renew your items for you. We are available Monday to Saturday from 09.30am to 1pm & from 2pm to 5pm (until 8pm on Tuesdays & Thursdays) Email: Contact us at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie with your card number and we will renew your items for you.

Maynooth University Oceanographer Dr Gerard McCarthy leads €2 million climate change project funded by Marine Institute

The A4 project will help understand and manage Ireland's place on the edge of a changing Atlantic

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Minister Creed T.D. has welcomed the announcement of €2 million in funding from the Marine Institute and the European Regional Development Fund for a major project on Atlantic climate change led by Dr Gerard McCarthy of the ICARUS Climate Research Centre and Department of Geography at Maynooth University.

Guided by the goals of the Government's national marine strategy 'Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth' and the 'National Marine Research and Innovation Strategy 2017 – 2021', the international 'A4 Project' marks a substantial investment by the Marine Institute in physical oceanography and climate change research in Ireland, and aims to improve the understanding of the links between trends in Atlantic temperatures and climate change.

Minister Creed stated: "This funding being provided will enable Maynooth University to increase the research capacity to broaden Ireland's knowledge at a societal level, to better understand the ocean and climate change. The research will contribute to national climate adaptation as well as international climate policy, supporting enhanced forecasting capabilities and contributing to adaptation and mitigation strategies and actions. The project is an important element underpinning implementation of the Marine Institute's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 'Building Ocean Knowledge, Delivering Ocean Services', the strategy aims to provide world-leading regional and localised forecasting outputs and services that support Ireland's challenge in responding to changes in our ocean and climate."

Commenting on the Minister's announcement, Dr McCarthy said: "Over the next five years, this project will target three areas in which substantial progress can be made including: ongoing Atlantic change, sea level rise, and decadal climate prediction. As a small island on the edge of a large ocean, Atlantic changes impact Ireland more than any other country. When record global surface temperatures were reached in 2015, Ireland had below average temperatures due to a cool Atlantic. The reasons why Irish temperatures bucked the trend in 2015 requires a better understanding of Ireland's place in a changing climate, and for this, we need to understand the changing Atlantic. This important project, which I am delighted to be leading, will greatly assist in our overall understanding of this complex and fascinating area. The Atlantic's future will differ from the rest of the world in response to a changing climate. This is primarily because the Gulf Stream system of currents, which gives Ireland its mild climate, is predicted to weaken. The time is ripe to build upon the observations of Ireland's ocean made by the Marine Institute over the past decades to understand Ireland's place on the edge of the changing Atlantic."

The project will be supported by Professor Peter Thorne, Director of the ICARUS Climate Research Centre at Maynooth University, Professor Andrew Parnell, Dr Niamh

Cahill, Dr Conor Murphy, and Dr Rowan Fealy, at Maynooth University. Maynooth's lead team will utilise approximately two-thirds of a total €2 million funding with the balance utilised by co-investigators in Trinity College Dublin, led by Dr Robin Edwards.

Professor Ray O'Neill, Vice President for Innovation at Maynooth University, said: "This major funding award reflects the global significance of the climate science research being undertaken at the ICARUS Climate Research Centre at Maynooth University. Enabled by this funding, Gerard McCarthy's expertise, and that of his national and international partners, will significantly advance understanding of how Ireland and the Atlantic region more broadly will be affected by climate change in the years ahead."

Dr Peter Heffernan, CEO of the Marine Institute congratulated Dr McCarthy and his team at Maynooth University on their funding award stating that, "with climate change being one of the greatest challenges facing nations worldwide, we are reliant on the best available science and knowledge in informing decisions made now and in the future. Ireland's vast marine territory requires a cohort of researchers and scientific staff who have the resources and expertise to help further build Ireland's capacity in physical oceanography and ocean climate science research".

The project team will use advanced geological techniques to reconstruct Ireland's sea level, and combine these estimates with the modern National Tide Gauge Network managed by the Marine Institute, to better understand how sea levels have been changing around Ireland and the edges of the Atlantic.

The A4 project will bring the field of 'decadal climate prediction' to Ireland. This emerging field will lead to improved estimates of the future climate over the period of a decade by using the predictability of the ocean.

A recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change on the dangers of 1.5°C warming highlighted many risks including that of sea level rise. Dr McCarthy concluded: "Every nation needs to understand its own vulnerabilities to sea level rise as the effects are not the same everywhere."

This project is funded by the Marine Institute under the Marine Research Programme 2014-2020, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

The project name A4 stands for aigéin (oceans), aeráid (climate), agus athrú Atlantaigh (Atlantic change). The project's international partners are: National Oceanography Centre, UK; Scottish Association for Marine Science, UK; University of Bremen, Germany; BSH, Germany; University of Hamburg, Germany; National Center for Atmospheric Research, USA; Met Office, UK and Tufts University, USA.



Photo: Dr Gerard McCarthy with Dr Peter Heffernan and Minister Creed



Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Cairo's October 2011 Protest

Maybe we should have expected trouble. All the people with whom my wife and I had hoped to travel to Egypt had cancelled their bookings and when we arrived at the Ramses Hilton in downtown Cairo on the evening of Saturday October 8th we had to put our bags through a screening machine like one of those in an airport check-in. Two hotel employees supervised this procedure then waved us into the lobby.

Our room on the 18th floor had a small balcony that afforded a great view of the Nile with its lit-up, music-blaring boats and the impressive 6th of October Bridge running across to Gezira Island, where the Cairo Tower rises like a giant minaret. Just below us the Corniche El Nil road bordered the east bank of the Nile, with an arm feeding traffic up onto the bridge. What we didn't know was that the Egyptian TV building was behind houses immediately to the north of us and Tahrir Square, scene of the protests that toppled the Mubarak regime, was just a stone's throw to the south.

On Sunday morning October 9th we were driven to the pyramids through the colourful poverty of Giza, where, because there is no garbage collection, rubbish is dumped on the canal bank. Coming back, about 2pm, we saw a crowd gathered outside the Ministry of Defence. Our tour guide, K, admitted that it was a protest over someone who had been shot. There was another protest outside the Egyptian Museum, where a TV reporter was interviewing an employee before a high railing to which numerous placards had been tied. When we arrived back at the Hilton there were now two armed policemen manning the screening machine.

About 6 pm I noticed that the usual chorus of city voices seemed to be getting louder, with occasional sharp pops, so I went out on the balcony to investigate. People were milling about in the streets below. Could this be normal weekend revelry? I phoned the reception desk but nobody answered. I tried again and eventually got a man who told me that the street doors had been locked and the lifts shut down to stop protesters coming upstairs. The hotel had taken in a man who had been wounded and this might have aroused hostility. His information definitely suggested that we were under siege. We drew the curtains, turned off most of the room lights, turned on the TV, learned that the temperature in Cairo was 38 degrees, then because we couldn't go out for food, had a light snack of biscuits with bottled water.

At 6.30 pm the noise from outside was punctuated with loud bangs that sounded like gunshots so I ventured onto the balcony again. Crowds were streaming along the streets below, blocking cars, waving flags, lighting flares and shouting slogans. My wife pleaded with me to come back inside before a bullet hit me but realizing I might never again see such a spectacle, I stayed put. There was an angry tone to the clamour now that brought to mind the buzzing of bees whose hive has been knocked over. The lit-up boats had moved away but, as if unaware of the trouble erupting nearby, traffic still streamed across the 6th of October Bridge.

It would be foolish to pretend that I wasn't beginning to feel anxious. Here we were, part of a contingent of pampered tourists in a city where many people were living in poverty. The image of aristocrats enjoying the luxury of Versailles while the hungry Paris mob marched on them rose in my mind. Why the inhabitants here were rioting I didn't know but surely it must be because of their living conditions?

When I next looked out, a dense cloud of black smoke was billowing up from a spot beside the Corniche El Nil, where we learned next day the TV building is situated but from my position it wasn't possible to see what was burning. Just then, a cleaner knocked on our door. In halting English he assured us that we had nothing to worry about: the army were only firing into the air, not at people. Finally, he mentioned that the lifts were working again. After he left I went out on the balcony. The crackle of gunfire punctuated the hubbub as people surged up and down the dimly lit Corniche and adjacent streets. An emergency vehicle with lights on and siren blaring tried to make its way through the crowd blocking access to the bridge but had to turn back because of flares or petrol bombs blazing on the street. There was only the odd vehicle on the Corniche but traffic still flowed freely across the bridge.

On reentering our room I went out into the corridor and, to my relief, found that the elevators were indeed working. By now the rioting seemed to have lessened, though the outcry continued as crowds drifted about or, led by some fellow armed with a thick staff, raced up the street. A group of men still blocked access to the bridge, though occasionally a car or motorbike got through. Traffic coming across the bridge in our direction flowed smoothly but in the opposite direction it had almost stopped, with cars halted by the side railing, red taillights flashing.

Still uncertain about what was happening, we turned the TV to BBC World News and CNN but there was no mention of Cairo. Finally, about 8.50 pm, as we watched Euro News, a message was scrolled across the bottom of the screen: Cairo: at least 3 soldiers killed as Egyptian Coptic Christians clash with army. This information gave a completely different complexion to the rioting; religion, not poverty, was its root cause, something that we were only too familiar with from the Northern Ireland Troubles. Knowing that 'The first casualty of war is the truth', I resolved there and then to learn more about what lay behind the present conflict.

Our next piece of definite information came on BBC World News at 9 pm, when we learned that at least 2 people had been killed and 40 injured in the disturbance. Copts were protesting about a church burnt in Aswan – the very place we were flying to in the morning! The Christian Copts were angry because, on that occasion, the police and army did not protect them. At least 5,000 protesters had taken to the streets in Cairo.

On going to the balcony about 9.20 pm I found that the crowd seemed to have increased. They were now chanting, 'We want justice!' no doubt for the benefit of foreign reporters. Groups of young men were running down half-dark streets, throwing stones and missiles. Occasionally, one or two motorcyclists would come speeding up and halt to talk to the rioters – Were they coordinating activities?

About ten minutes later a man phoned from reception. He told me the army was trying to deal with the situation; they were around the hotel – obviously to protect tourists like us! Since the protest seemed likely to continue and we had an early start next day, we decided to go to bed. My wife heard the last gunshot at 4am.

We were down in the sumptuous self-service restaurant at 6 am. A young waiter told us that 18 people had been killed; the Christians were a minority; it was supporters of Mubarak who were behind the riot. We noticed now that the blinds were down. Occasionally a waiter would discreetly pull back a blind and peep out. Even the headwaiter did this, leading us to conclude that something was up. At the first opportunity, we peeped out ourselves and saw a group of fit-looking young men gathering across the street near the Nile. There was what looked like a yellow tank or army vehicle parked nearby. Was more rioting about to start?

Later, on our way to Cairo airport in the minivan, K explained the present situation in Egypt: 'Before Mubarak it was 25% rich, 50% middle class, 25% poor; now it is 5% rich, 15% middle class, 80% poor.'

The army council is presently in charge but there is an acting PM and elections will be held next month. It was Mubarak supporters, 'The Old Regime', who were behind the riot – Since Christians are a minority they would not have acted on their own. Anyway, they should not have rioted at this critical time. The army does not have permission to fire at civilians. A civilian, not a soldier, was driving the tank that drove through the protesters – This was the first we had heard about a tank killing people.

In the Orthodox (Coptic) Church divorce is not allowed, so many Christians are becoming Catholic or Protestant. The trouble had begun because Christians were using a building in Edfu, a town in Aswan Province, as a church without official permission. He himself had many Christian friends but when Christians decided that a house was a church it soon grew into a complex with hostels and dormitories. Anyway, since, unlike Moslems, Christians only went to church once a week, they did not need so many churches. As K is an educated Egyptian, his views surprised me but then in Ireland, after we gained independence, we were often blind to the concerns of our Protestant minority.

Two days later, we visited Edfu to see the temple dedicated to Horus and, while being driven in a horse-drawn gig through the narrow, rutted streets flanked by run-down houses, encountered a man dressed in a white turban and black gown or galabea. This sturdy individual, who was walking, stared up at us as we passed with what appeared to be undisguised hatred. Of course, we could have misinterpreted his expression. Nevertheless, this was where religious extremists had burned the church, so it is possible he was one of those involved. The man's expression stays with me because all the other Egyptians we met were invariably friendly.

It wasn't until we visited the Coptic Monastery of St Macarius in the desert of Wadi el-Natroun south of Alexandria that we got a fuller account of the underlying causes of the Sunday riot. A monk, Fr. M, declared that the Orthodox Christians are under siege and hundreds have been killed. 10% of educated Moslems, including those dealing with tourists, are ashamed or unwilling to face the truth but 90% of the Moslems are fanatical anti-Christians: 'they hate us. We're all right in here but it's our families outside we worry about.' The Christians in Edfu did have official permission to use their building as a church.

Though his monastery is thriving, one church a week is being closed down. As for the story that a civilian had been driving the tank – What would a civilian know about such things? And the 29 people who were killed; many had a bullet hole in one side of their skulls and a large exit hole on the other side, smashing them open. Only an army rifle could do that.

The 29 deaths reminded me of 29 monks Berbers had killed in a long-ago raid on this monastery and that the monks now revere as martyrs. Was it coincidence that the same number had died in the Sunday riot? Whatever the exact figure, I knew that this soft-spoken man with a deep faith in Providence was telling the truth as he saw it.

Next day our tour rep S confirmed the monk's assessment. The Moslems who burned the Edfu church were fanatics – He is a Moslem but does not approve of such actions. Was it not better that the hall should have been used as a church than, for example, a gambling place? It was the army that killed the Sunday protesters and an army man who was driving the tank. He does not have too much faith in the army's readiness to relinquish power after the election. S then told us about Mubarak, who, he believes, has billions in foreign bank accounts. Mubarak himself is in hospital, his two sons are in jail but his wife is free because she has turned over her two villas in Heliopolis and £2 million to the state.

Tourist numbers in Egypt are down by 75% and, having listened to various accounts during our brief visit, I concluded that this culturally rich country is at a stage where its future, whether as an Islamic or secular state, hangs in the balance.

P.G.Nerney

(Initials have been used for the names of some Egyptians)

Maynooth 10K / 5K Moves to Sunday April 7th

This is the 9th year of the Maynooth 10k/5k which is traditionally run in May. This year with Easter being late and in order to avoid the Leaving cert and Junior cert which start in June we have decided to move to a Spring date before Easter: Sunday April 7th.



Maynooth Post Primary school was founded in 1971 and will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2021. The 10k/5k will begin this celebration this year by organizing a 3 year lead-in set of collectable medals.

The first year design is pictured here and is kindly sponsored by Pearls Dental.



Both the 10k and 5k races are officially measured and timed. The timing and on-line entries this year will be provided by Pop-up Races. The popular scenic 10k course starts in the grounds of St Patrick's college, passes along Main St, through the grounds of Carton House Hotel and finishes on Carton avenue. The 5k follows the same route but starting at the Presentation Girls school. The 5k is particularly suited to new runners and makes a great focus for Couch-to-5k efforts. This year we'd like to encourage businesses and groups in the locality to enter teams and will offer a discounted entry.

The event is a fund-raiser for the upkeep of the multi-purpose playing fields shared with Maynooth GAA at Mariaville on the Moyglare Road. This year we will also start to raise money towards a Multi-Use Games Area to be located on the new School Campus.

We are very grateful to St Patrick's College and Carton House Hotel for allowing the use of their grounds and facilitating the change of date.

We'd like to thank all the businesses who have sponsored and supported us down the years and look forward another successful event!



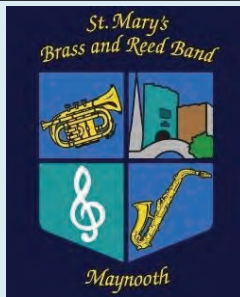
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St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Last year was one of the Band's most successful years ever and it will be a hard act to follow in 2019 but we will try. Firstly we would like to thank all of you for your support over Christmas, buying our new CD and coming to our Concert in the Glenroyal Hotel.

There were great reports about the CD and we were delighted that copies found their way to far flung places like Australia, Hong Kong, USA, Germany, Belgium, and even Cork. We were delighted with the quality of the CD and we will have them on sale again at the end of the year for those who didn't manage to get one.

We are now back to rehearsals for our first event of the year which is a joint Concert with the Parish Choir in March, the date for which will be confirmed in next month's Newsletter.



We have had some experienced musicians from Lucan, Celbridge and even Mullingar come to join us in recent times so over the next few months we will be looking for people to come to play with us at our Monday night rehearsals at the Band Hall on Pound Lane from 7.45 to 9.45.

We have been told that we are a very friendly and welcoming band so please do come and see for yourself.

You can call Paddy at 087 2537 906 if you need any further details.

Dear Editor

Another interesting contribution from P.G.Nerney in latest issue of this paper about his visit to Berlin. I also visited this great city for the first time in 1963, just one month after the late JFK had made his visit. I and my friend, teenagers at the time set off hitch hiking with our destination as Berlin. Our journey began in Newbridge and we travelled on the newly opened Naas to Kill dual carriageway all four miles of it which I think was the first of its kind in the Irish republic at the time. We travelled across to Hollyhead and on by train to London where we overnighed with my friends relatives. The next day we made the Dover to Calais crossing and ended up in Lille in the youth hostel there.

Three days later we reached Berlin having hitched through Brussels, Koln, and Hannover before crossing the East German border at Helmstedt-Marienborn. This was an arduous process that took an eternity. We were fortunate to have hitched a lift in Hannover from two young guys from West Berlin who had come there to pick up an old Mercedes. As West Berliners they had to go to a different counter to be processed which was much quicker than ours. They very kindly waited for us to be cleared and drove us all the way to a youth hostel in Berlin -Charlottenburg. I still have my an Oige youth hostel card with all the stamps on it. When we went to see the Brandenburg gate the next day we could hardly believe that we were actually looking at it, this was the iconic landmark in Berlin which we have seen on TV especially since the Berlin Wall erected in 1961 ran just across it on the west side. The East German authorities had hung large red drapes between the pillars of gate to prevent President Kennedy from looking through the gate and down the Unter den Linden. These were still in place for our visit three weeks later as was the viewing platform erected by the West Berlin authority.

We also visited East Berlin and had the same experience as Mr Nerney. When it came to leaving Berlin we encountered an unforeseen problem in that at the exit from West Berlin which was at the extreme west of the city close to the border with East Germany, there was a huge queue of hitchhikers like ourselves. There seemed to very little movement in this queue so we made a snap decision to head for Tempelhof Airport and try and get any flight that was going to West Germany. It was the first time for either of us to fly and as there was a flight shortly to Dusseldorf and we took it. Luckily we had the fare which I think was around fourteen pound in old money.

Two years later in 1965, I revisited the City for two weeks and went to every district in the City which at that time consisted of twenty, twelve in the West and eight in the East. Most of the historical places in Berlin are in the East. In the intervening years I have revisited Berlin c. ten times. Ich Liebe Berlin, it is my favourite city.

Paul Connolly

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Maynooth Monthly Diary Planner

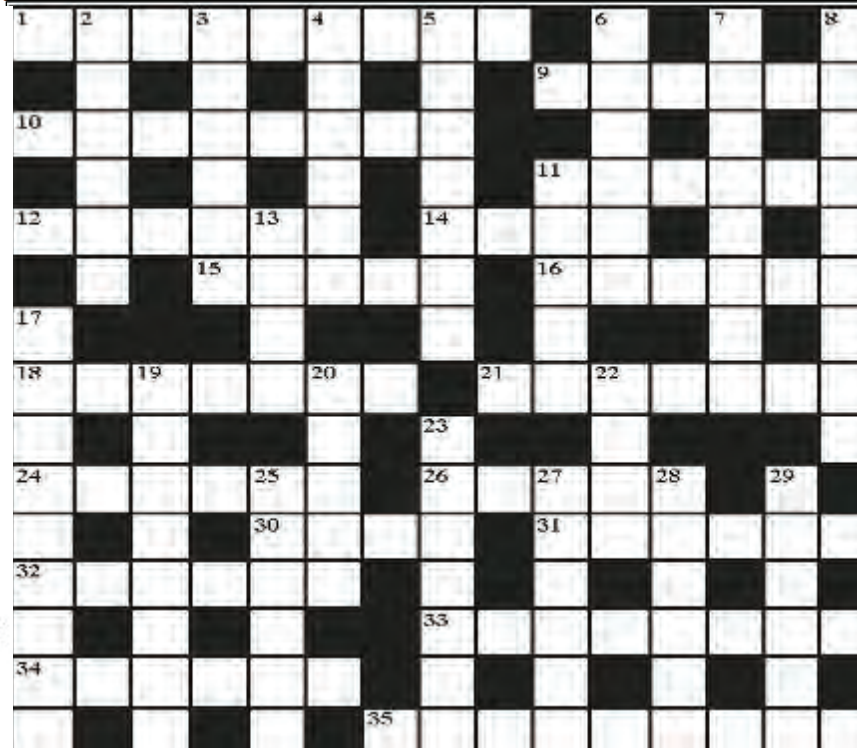
Community Library	Maynooth Multiple Births	Bridge Club
<p>Opening Times Mondays & Fridays 2pm to 5pm Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm to 8pm Wednesday 9.30am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm Sat 9.30am to 1pm</p>	<p>Maynooth Multiple Births playgroup (twins triplets or more) meets the last Thursday of the month in Leixlip library between 10 & 12 noon. This is a great opportunity to meet parents just like you. For further details email: maynoothmultiplebirthclub@gmail.com</p>	<p>Open for new members. If you would like to play in a friendly club with purpose-built facilities in the centre of Maynooth, please see our website at maynoothbridgeclub.com. Contact Katherine Cooney 086 8205910</p>
I.C.A.	MAYNOOTH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP	Arthritis Ireland
<p>Monthly meetings take place every 1st Thursday of the month at 8.00pm in the I.C.A. Hall in the Harbour. Crafts every Monday night at 8.00pm. New members welcome</p>	<p>Maynooth Local History Group Meets Last Thursday of each Month in The Glenroyal Hotel New Members Welcome Contact: MCEP Office for more details (Unit 5 Tesco's Carton Retail Park)</p>	<p>Arthritis Ireland Walking Group (Maynooth) Meeting Mondays 12-2pm in the Maynooth Community Space</p>
University of Third Age (U3A)	Maynooth Parent & Toddler Group	Maynooth Men's Sheds
<p>We meet on Fridays between 11am & 1pm in Maynooth Community Space Tesco SC</p> <p>Activities vary to include social, cultural & educational interests of group & new members. New members welcome Drop in for a cuppa & chat if interested Contact Mary: 0861662910 or Lena: 0876717062</p>	<p>Every Thursday from 9.30am to 11.30am Maynooth Community Space Unit 11/12 Tesco SC Carton Park, Maynooth</p>	<p>Weekly meetings take place every Wednesday at 11am at the Maynooth Lodge Fisheries Dunboyne Road Maynooth. For further details contact John Fleming - 087 2041334</p>
Maynooth Tidy Towns	St Joseph's young Priests Society	Maynooth Community Church
<p>Volunteers required to help with this work. Contact Number 087 3153189 Meet every Saturday at 10.00am in the Square</p>	<p>St. Joseph's young Priest's Society meet monthly on the second last Wednesday between 8pm and 9pm in Parish Centre, Maynooth. For further information contact Bernadette at 6286288 or Lena at 01 6285128.</p>	<p>1st Floor Manor Mills (entrance next to Chill) Service times every Sunday morning from 10.30am www.maynoothcc.org Everyone most welcome</p>
Maynooth Senior Citizens	DIARY ENTRIES	ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND
<p>Our morning club continues on Tuesday and Thursday and new members are always welcome. Perhaps you are new to the parish or new to the age bracket, why not come along you might enjoy it. You will find us in the Geraldine Hall on Leinster St. Contact Josephine on 087 9002296</p>	<p>E-mail details of your event before the copy date (2nd last Tuesday of each month) to be included in the next months edition. E-mail: office@maynoothcep.com Phone: 01-6285922</p>	<p>Rehearsals are held in the Band Hall on Pound Lane each Monday night (except Bank Holidays) from 7.45pm to 9.30pm and musicians living in Maynooth and the surrounding areas are most welcome. E-mail: sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie Website: www.stmarysbandmaynooth.ie</p>

*Diary entries are published free of charge for all non-fee paying Community Groups.
The content of the Monthly Planner Diary is published in good faith. All details should be checked with groups in advance*

Clues Across

1. Abode (9)
9. Recollect (6)
10. Billed oatmeal or prison sentence (8)
11. Formal, ceremonious (6)
12. Many and different (6)
14. Round trip (4)
15. Unit of liquid measure (5)
16. Person with exceptional ability (6)
18. Admiration or esteem (7)
21. Went on hands and knees (7)
24. Voracious sea fish (6)
26. Verity (5)
30. Irritating skin sensation (4)
31. Required (6)
32. Instructions for cooking (6)
33. Relating to the management of wealth (8)
34. X1 (6)
35. Substituting (9)

Feb 2019 Crossword No. 476



Clues Down

2. Foreign, strange or exciting (6)
3. Jewish republic (6)
4. Oldest (6)
5. Brings into existence (7)
6. Defy, withstand (6)
7. Tangible substance (8)
8. Next to (9)
11. Sweetener (5)
13. Move upwards (4)
17. Kept in an unaltered condition (9)
19. Sought, scoured (8)
20. Large, long-necked, wading bird (5)
22. Poker player's stake (4)
23. The tale of one who is very fit (7)
25. Smoked herring (6)
27. Unfurl (6)
28. Showing extreme courage (6)
29. Area, neighbourhood (6)

Solutions to Crossword 475



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 19th February 2019

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Winner of Crossword No. 475

Eileen D'Arcy
Castlepark Drive
Maynooth

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

Collect prize from
The Maynooth Bookshop
68 Main Street, Maynooth

Difficult

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

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 FEBRUARY 2019

Entries must arrive to
Newsletter Office before:
19th February 2019

**Congratulations to
December Winner:**

Sigita Reca
Beaufield Grove
Maynooth

Collect prize from
Maynooth Newsletter Office

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

Super Difficult

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



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



Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____

December 2018 Winner:
Isaac Johnston
Railpark
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 19th February 2019

Junior Puzzle Corner

1. Melt the candy coating in 20 second bursts in the microwave, stirring in between each heating until melted.
2. Secure the marshmallows onto the candy sticks or straws. You can skip these if you'd prefer to just dip the marshmallows with your fingers.
3. Dip the marshmallows into the candy coating, and allow any excess coating to drip off
4. Dip the candy-coated marshmallow into a bowl of assorted sprinkles, OR sprinkle a few ovetop of your marshmallow for a more minimalist effect
5. Set on a parchment paper-lined plate or tray to set



Valentines Marshmallows

Join the Dots then colour in



Word Search

CHALK DESK CRAYON
PENCIL LUNCH JUICE

Please find words and circle



L	M	R	J	U	I	C	E	D	V
F	T	N	D	E	S	K	G	U	F
U	N	B	R	A	L	I	N	W	S
C	C	O	H	I	U	Q	Y	Z	A
H	R	I	P	E	N	C	I	L	B
A	A	I	D	M	C	A	D	P	E
L	Y	O	E	N	H	I	L	M	A
K	O	P	O	D	E	L	J	E	U
A	N	R	S	M	R	D	V	F	T
N	G	E	Q	T	Z	A	I	U	W



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The days are beginning to lengthen and officially spring has arrived. Certainly our gardens are starting to show signs of life with early bulbs making an appearance.

While this is a busy month with plenty to do both indoors and outside, the rewards in the months to come will make it all worthwhile.



Baby plants including Busy Lizzies, Petunias, Begonias, Blue Lobelias, Trailing Lobelias, Marigolds and Pansies can be potted



indoors for super colour for borders and containers during summer.

For summer colour in flower borders and beds, plant up some summer flowering bulbs including Double Dahlias, Long Stemmed Gladiolas, Double Begonias and Scented Lilies. Place the potted bulbs in a bright warm location to encourage early growth and early flowering. Summer flowering bulbs can be planted out of doors in early April.



Summer flowering Lupins planted in late February will reward you with a stunning show of colour in early summer. Lupins provide long stemmed flowers from May to mid summer and are ideal for adding a splash of vibrant colour in shrub beds and borders.

Now is the time to prune your Wisteria and prune your winter flowering shrubs. Plant your Lily and Allium bulbs.

Start chitting potatoes in a bright, cool, frost-free place. Raised beds warm up quicker and drain faster on heavy soil. Continue to plant raspberry canes for the summer.

Though St Brigid's Day (Feb 1st) is considered the start of spring, it's really still winter outside in the veggie patch. Come February we should be itching to get started with seed sowing and of course you can get lots of vegetables started in seed trays on a sunny windowsill indoors.

The problem is that when they are bursting from their pots and ready to be planted out in a few weeks time, it may be still too cold to do so. The relative lack of light (due to the short days) can cause problems for seedlings at this time of the year – tiny seedlings literally strain to reach the light and can end up getting too long and “leggy” as a result. Patience is the ultimate virtue. Turn over the soil only if the weather is dry – if the soil sticks to your boots it's too early for digging! Keep off the soil to prevent soil compaction - use timber planks to



stand on for access. If you have not already done so order/buy your seeds, spuds and onion sets. “Chit” or sprout seed potatoes – put them in a container (e.g. used egg carton or empty seed tray) and leave them in a bright warm place. Check the pH of your soil – you can buy a soil pH testing kit in any garden centre. Lime your soil now if required (to reduce acidity in very acid soils), particularly important in your brassica bed. Finally, we can sow some seeds. On a sunny windowsill indoors, in a heated greenhouse or on a heating mat: sow celery, globe artichokes, celeriac, leeks, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, peas, aubergines, peppers/chilli-peppers. In polytunnel or greenhouse: beetroot, Brussels sprouts, summer and autumn cabbage, carrots, leeks, lettuce, radish. Outside: Weather permitting you can try planting out broad beans, spinach, kohlrabi, onion and shallot sets, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnip and early pea varieties.

Building Mini Tunnels

Mini tunnel kits really are incredibly versatile for all sorts of weather and pest protection. The frame kit can be knocked together in about 15 minutes to produce a very strong and long lasting structure. The beauty is you can attach any cover you like including green windbreak, insect protection mesh, fleece or polythene depending on what the tunnel is to be used for. February is a nice time to do this sort of stuff and I can guarantee you will be absolutely delighted with yourself in April when you proudly whip a ready made tunnel out of the shed.

Although February is the shortest month, it can also be the most important in the gardening calendar.

February is the month for renewal and regrowth; “February is an important month in the gardening calendar. You have 28 days to look after your wild birds, sow and grow and tackle your garden moss.”



Now is the time to begin weeding if you want to stay on top of your weeds. Tidy lawn and border edges.

There are no Gardening mistakes, only experiments!



Potato soup recipe

Portions:8

Preparation time: 5 min.

Cook time: 30 min.

Total time: 35 min.



Ingredients:

- * 2 pound potatoes (scrubbed, peeled and diced chopped)
- * Water
- * 3 cups of whole milk
- * 4 table spoons of butter
- * Salt and pepper to taste

Method:

- * Cover potatoes with water in a large soup pot.
- * Cook over medium heat until fork tender, about 20 minutes. Remove from heat and drain.
- * Add milk and butter to the potatoes. Place back on medium heat and allow milk to bubble slightly around the edges of the soup pot, about 5 to 10 minutes.
- * Remove from heat and pour into the soup bowl.
- * Serve with salt and pepper to taste.
- * Sprinkle with bacon bits.

Strawberry Chocolate Chunk Cookies

Ingredients:

- * 42 g chopped, dark chocolate
- * 3 table spoons diced strawberries
- * 1/2 cup of honey
- * 1 table spoon vanilla extract
- * 1 cup and 3 table spoons whole wheat flour
- * 2 table spoons coconut oil
- * Pinch of salt
- * Half teaspoon backing powder
- * 1 large egg

Method:

- * Preheat oven to 160°C
- * Whisk flour, baking powder and salt together.
- * In a separate bowl, whisk coconut oil, vanilla and egg. Stir in the honey and mix well.
- * Add in the flower mixture.
- * Add strawberries and chocolate.
- * Chill for a minimum of 30 minutes.
- * Scoop cookie dough and drop on baking sheet
- * Cook for 12-15 minutes.
- * Cool down for 20 minutes before transferring to avoid breakage.



Chocolate mousse

Portions:8-10

Cook time:5 min

Preparation time:15 min

Ingredients:

- * 1 1/2 cup of miniature marshmallows.
- * 226 g semi sweet chopped chocolate.
- * 1/2 cup of milk
- * 2 cups heavy whipping cream

Method:

- * Heat marshmallows, chocolate and milk in a saucepan over medium low heat, stirring constantly, until marshmallows and chocolate are melted. Cool completely
- * Beat heavy cream in a large bowl until stiff peaks form.
- * Gently fold cooled chocolate mixture in whipped cream until well mixed.
- * Spoon into dessert dishes.

Refrigerate until set for about 3 hours.





FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

JAMES BOND SPECIAL



The *James Bond* series of books focuses on a fictional British Secret Service agent created by writer and naval intelligence officer, Ian Fleming. This ruthless spy character featured in twelve of the English author's novels and two short-story collections. Bond has been immortalised in the various mediums of television, radio and film. In fact, the **James Bond** movies are the longest continuous film series of all time. Sean Connery kickstarted the franchise with the stylish **Dr No**, in 1962. The Scottish actor's charming turn as the sophisticated, deadly spy cast a very long shadow over future interpretations of the role.



There have been twenty-four films in the lucrative Bond franchise. In 2005, Daniel Craig achieved international recognition when he was chosen to replace Pierce Brosnan as the most famous spy in film history. Craig was the sixth actor to take on the iconic 007 role, and he has retained this position longer than any other actor to date.

Craig's 13-years hold on the Bond role has even eclipsed Roger Moore's previous record. Daniel Craig kicked off his stint as Bond in the dazzling, high-octane thriller, **Casino Royale** in 2006. The actor made such an impressive debut into the spy series that he scooped up a **BAFTA** nomination. Craig was declared the new Connery and the rightful heir to the Scottish's actor unchallenged throne till that point.

The English actor subsequently starred in **Quantum of Solace**, **Skyfall** and **Spectre**. **Skyfall** (2012) - with a flamboyant villain turn by Javier Bardem and the emotional exit of M (Judi Dench) - was the most successful and highest grossing film in the Bond series to date.



After much speculation, Daniel Craig recently confirmed that he would indeed return for a fifth and final time as 007 in **Bond 25**. The road to the next James Bond movie has been a twisty route to say the least. The British actor previously asserted in 2015, that he would "rather break this glass and slash my wrists" then reprise the Bond role. Craig's non-committal approach to further Bond movies has been a hot topic for journalists in the past two years. Typically the rather abrasive Craig has never been the most tactful or forthcoming of stars.

Nonetheless, Daniel Craig is undoubtedly the best Bond since Sean Connery. Pierce Brosnan was fairly effective but probably too lightweight in the role of the spy. Roger Moore played it for suave laughs, while the bland Timothy Dalton didn't leave much of a mark on the martini-shaking secret agent. Craig has made the role of Bond his own, bringing a complex edge, intensity and even vulnerability to the ruthless spy character originally envisioned by Ian Fleming.



The inevitable question arises in the modern era - has the misogynistic dinosaur that is the James Bond franchise finally run its course? Do scantily clad Bond Girls still have a place in the **#MeToo** era of Hollywood? However, with Daniel Craig supposedly sending his tuxedo to the cleaners for good after **Bond 25**, there's seemingly no shortage of actors willing to fill his shoes and have their martinis shaken if not stirred.

Henry Cavill

Henry Cavill's name has popped up as a possible candidate for James Bond several times over the years. The British actor was apparently really close to getting the Bond gig in **Casino Royale**, on the strength of his TV work in **The Tudors**. While Daniel Craig won out that round, Cavill's interest in playing the iconic spy has not wavered. His recent roles in both **The Man From U.N.C.L.E** and **Mission: Impossible - Fallout** might just be a dress-rehearsal for the spy with a licence to thrill. Certainly Cavill's brawny physique and handsome looks can't harm his case.

Benedict Cumberbatch

This British thespian is perhaps an unusual choice for the role of Bond. Benedict Cumberbatch has made a name for himself as **Sherlock Holmes** in the BBC's modern day update of Conan Doyle's famous story. He is also tied into Marvel Comics' **Doctor Strange** character on screen. It would be an interesting choice for the role of Bond, if Cumberbatch was picked for **Bond 25**. Certainly, the eccentric actor would not make for a stereotypical Bond. It would be equivalent to casting **Doctor Who** as 007. Only time will tell.



Idris Elba

Perhaps one of the most famous names attached to the next potential James Bond has been the actor Idris Elba. If he succeeds in bagging the role of 007, Elba will be the first black actor to play Bond on screen. Elba has been associated with the American series **The Wire**, front lined BBC's **Luther** and played Nelson Mandela on film. The actor has been hotly debated as next in line for a franchise martini. However, Elba has insisted that he's too old for the role, but there is strong support for him from a loyal fan contingent.

Tom Hardy

Tom Hardy is the most credible successor to Daniel Craig in the Bond franchise. His varied film and TV roles point to his level of comfort in action-orientated settings. Hardy's blistering performance in the acclaimed BBC drama, **Taboo** perfectly displays the dangerous edge and ruthless quality necessary for the killer secret agent. However, his recent

screen role as the comic book antihero **Venom** more than likely ties him up for the foreseeable future. However, should Hardy ever need the thumbs-up for the Bond role, Pierce Brosnan has given the actor his seal of approval.

Sam Heughan

Being Scottish, Sam Heughan has the best credentials for the role of Bond. The charismatic actor is best known for his role as the dashing, kilt-wearing Highlander, Jamie Fraser, in the time-travelling, historical drama, **Outlander**. His other claim to fame is his appearance in a Christmas film with former Bond, Roger Moore. More recently, Heughan co-starred with Mila Kunis and Kate McKinnon in the comedy spy-spoof, **The Spy Who Dumped Me**. Looking very Bond-like, the actor pulled off his secret agent role with debonair aplomb. He also showed he was no pushover in the fairly hard-core action sequences. Heughan trains hard offscreen, has the necessary physique, looks good in a tuxedo and is an impressive actor. His fans think he's the ideal next Bond. What's not to like?



Tom Hiddleston

There was buzz around Tom Hiddleston's suitability for the Bond role after his excellent lead performance in BBC's **The Night Manager**. The charming actor's role in this secret agent drama (penned by John Le Carre) brought him much scrutiny. It also drew attention to series director Suzanne Bier as a possible front liner for the Bond franchise. Hiddleston certainly has the acting chops and cutthroat quality required to play 007. The English actor is well known for his portrayal of the villainous character Loki in the Marvel series of films. His long-running association with this villainous character might hinder his chances as Bond though.

Richard Madden

The Scottish actor, Richard Madden is the apparent favourite in the betting world to take on Bond. He played the ill-fated Robb Stark in **Game of Thrones** and Prince Charming in Kenneth Branagh's live-action romance, **Cinderella**. Madden is currently starring in the popular BBC thriller, **Bodyguard**, playing a conflicted character. It's not too much of a stretch then to imagine him in the role of Bond. The Glaswegian actor has the looks, dynamism and action credentials to ably fill the space left by Daniel Craig's exit.

Aidan Turner

Irish actor Aidan Turner is a good contender for the role of the lethal British spy. His most visible role in the movie world has been in **The Hobbit** trilogy, as the dwarf in love with Evangeline Lily's Tauriel. However, the handsome actor is largely known for his role as Ross in BBC TV's current adaptation of Winston Graham's **Poldark**. The series is now in its fifth season. Turner has been very successful as the romantic, brooding lead. However, he could soon be hanging up his 18th century breeches for a tux.






Frank O'Rourke TD

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



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