

Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the People of Maynooth



Local News May 2019 Issue No. 479 FREE

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



Maynooth Olympic Handball goes International

This Spring, players from the Kildare Olympic Handball Club represented Ireland in two International Ladies handball tournaments. Most of the girls come from Maynooth Education Campus where they train and play Olympic Handball. They have been involved for several years in the tradition of going on annual handball trips to Europe to improve on their training and gather match experience.



The Black Arrows competition was a tri-nations competition between Belgium, Ireland and Great Britain and was held in Gormanston, Co. Meath in March earlier this year. Thirteen young female athletes from Kildare took part in this European event to represent the Irish flag.



This second event – Andebolmania - took place in Sao Joao da Madeira, Porto, Portugal and is one of the largest Handball tournaments in Europe. The objective of this trip was about improving the team's skills in many aspects of the game by understanding the skills of other countries players. The team had great fun learning the new techniques in Portugal and got to meet many new people who all shared the same passion for the sport.

The standard during this event was extremely high but the tough experience was necessary to ensure the growth of handball in Ireland. Team manager Olena Karpenko and head coach Volodymyr Khrystych would like to express their delight on how the girls performed in Portugal. They expect that the girls will take this

knowledge from their trip and utilise it in future matches in and for Ireland. This tournament is a major stepping stone towards representation at national level within Ireland. A big thank you goes to the organisers of 'Andebolmania' in Portugal for being great hosts and for having given us such a great experience and so much fun during our trip.

Team captain and top scorer Lucy Kouznetsova would like to express a huge thank you to the team sponsors "ESP Security" from Kilcock and also to the coaches, parents and supporters of the team.

Kildare Olympic Handball is currently benefitting from the Tesco Maynooth Community Fund, so if you are shopping locally in Tesco Maynooth please give your blue tokens to handball!





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National Biodiversity Week – 18th May to 26th May 2019

National Biodiversity Week is all about connecting people with nature. It's about communicating the importance of biodiversity and motivating people to play their part in protecting it.

It's also about entertaining people, showing the fun and wonder that can be found in nature, and inspiring people to learn more, see more, do more.

With that in mind Maynooth Tidy Towns is delighted to team up with Wild Kildare and Kildare Bat Group to bring you the following free events in Maynooth:

- 1. Nature Hunt for Children (of all ages!). Help us find Birds, Butterflies, Bugs, Wildflowers and more, with Paddy Sheridan, Wild Kildare.**

Date: Saturday 25th May.
Location: Carton Avenue, Maynooth.
 Meet at Ave. entrance on Main St.
Time: 1pm to 2.30pm



- 2. Bat Walk and Talk with Anna Collins, Kildare Bat Group.**

Date: Thursday 23rd May
Meet: Entrance to St. Patricks College, Maynooth (adjacent to Maynooth Castle)
Time: 9.30pm to 10.30pm



NOTE: *Children must be accompanied by an adult to both events. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear.*

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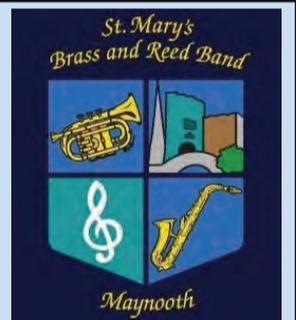
SATURDAY 11th MAY at 7:00pm
THE OSPREY HOTEL, NAAS

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Barker & Jones Bookshop
Eventbrite.ie



ADMISSION €15/€12 (over 65s & Students)

St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band



Our Prelude to Easter Concert in the Parish Church last month was a resounding success. We were joined by the Parish Choir and Soloists Rev. Eugene Griffin and Joanna Griffin. The brilliant mixture of music and song produced a most entertaining evening for the large audience who gave a standing ovation at the end of performance.

The Band are heading to the Osprey Hotel in Naas on Saturday 11th May where they will be joined by Ballymore Eustace Concert Band in a fundraising concert for McAuley Place which is located beside the Catholic Church on the Sallins Road. This again promises to be another really entertaining event and tickets are on sale in Maynooth Bookshop or Eventbrite.ie

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.except Bank Holidays.

We have been told that we are a very friendly and welcoming band so please do come and see for yourself. You can call 087 2537 906 if you need any further details.

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

Maynooth Newsletter

**Copy date for the next edition of the
Maynooth Newsletter will be
Tuesday 21st May 2019**

Editorial

“Ever since I made tomorrow my favourite day I’ve been uncomfortable looking back” these thoughts of the American Journalist Paul Harvey are worth considering. Looking back to the past can help us not to make the same mistakes but the opinion that tomorrow brings the opportunity to make better decisions suggests that we should be open-minded in our views and opinions and look forward and be willing to change our minds.

The beautiful blooms of the Cherry Blossom trees are the sign that May is here as well as being the reminder to all of those studying for exams that they are coming close.

The loss of the two beautiful trees at the junction of the Kilcock Road and the Moyglare Road is very upsetting to many in Maynooth as these trees were very healthy and attractive as well as being a reminder of this time of year. Over sixty other trees alone were felled on the Moyglare Road as part of the new north-south corridor cycle route. The Moyglare Road along with some other approach roads in the Maynooth area have maintained a semi-rural emphasis and this has added to the charm of this busy town. However do not look back instead look forward to a new cycling amenity and improved footpaths and as the work will take another eight months to complete if you use this road you will need to have good patience as the disruption has only begun.

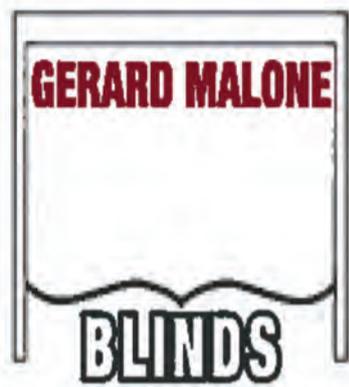
With all the new housing developments planned for Maynooth we are certainly providing our share of the housing supply for the ever expanding Dublin region. Of course with more housing should come better facilities but in the past that has not happened with much needed facilities still lacking in Maynooth. The “Maynooth Planning Alliance” survey highlights these inadequacies and we will feature the survey results in next month’s Maynooth Newsletter. But let’s not look back alone but take the opportunity to address these needs.

Issues in Maynooth are just a microcosm of the same issues in Ireland. Just last month the Government announced that they were going to tackle the issue of “Cuckoo Funds” buying up residential properties in blocks thus excluding people from buying their own homes. It has been mentioned to me by two people who tried to purchase new apartments in Maynooth recently that the entire complex where they wanted to buy had been sold to a single purchaser so no apartments would be available for sale to private purchasers. Is this good for Maynooth?

One good development in Maynooth has been the opening of a new business in that beautiful stone finished exterior building on the corner of Main Street and Convent Lane. With the awning on the front this important site brings a nostalgic image of a building from days gone by. The signage is so discreet that I had to drop in to find out what is happening there. The new business is a wine shop and wine bar opened by Maynooth resident Erik Robson and we wish him well in this new venture. This is of course another venue which adds to the choices that merit Maynooth maintaining the “Purple flag” as a location providing good quality vibrant evening time entertainment choices. So you see there are lots of things happening and looking back cannot change anything so like Paul Harvey consider making to-morrow your favourite day.

Paul Croghan
Editor





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Cllr. John McGinley Maynooth Labour News

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Route Selected for Maynooth Easter Ring Road

At the Maynooth MD meeting on 5 April Councillors were advised that Option B (the yellow route) has been selected as the preferred route for the ring road. This route will result in a junction with the Blacklion Road/Leixlip Road.

Cllr. John McGinley objected strongly to traffic signals being put at the new junction and at the Celbridge Road junction. John stated that as we are dealing with a greenfield site that roundabouts should be put at both junctions.

He also pointed out that the Maynooth Traffic Management Plan proposed roundabouts at both of these junctions.

Surprisingly, none of the other Councillors objected to the traffic lights, even though one of the Council's senior engineers said that he favoured roundabouts.

The Statutory Planning and CPO Process will begin shortly.

Cllr. McGinley's Motion on Carton Avenue Agreed

Cllr. McGinley submitted the following Motion for consideration at the Special Maynooth MD Meeting on 12 April:

"That there shall be no Code of Conduct for the Avenue

And

(Recommend to the Council Executive) that the proposed reinforced grass surface from the Limetree Hall exit to the Avenue Walk be reduced to 2m

And

(Recommend to the Council Executive) that the 4m wide bridge at the Limetree Hall exit be reduced to 2m

And

That no further work shall be carried out on the Avenue until the Master Plan goes on Statutory Public Display and approved by the Maynooth MD"

Recommend to the Council Executive in points 2 and 3 was introduced as Officials stated that Councillors do not have a vote on Planning issues.

In moving his Motion Cllr. McGinley stated:

"As I pointed out at our MD meeting on Friday 5 April, we were advised at the MD Meeting on 1st February, in the reply to Cllr. Durkan's Motion No. 31:

"That the design of the access from Lime Tree Hall to Carton Avenue is the subject of a compliance submission which is currently being accessed by the Planning Authority"

In view of the very strong opposition of all of the Councillors to what was proposed I would have thought that the issue would have come back to us Councillors for our input.

Also, we had a deputation from the Carton Avenue Preservation Society at that meeting. Yet their views are ignored by Council Officials. One has to question the value of such deputations when the Council does not even have the decency to reply.

The developer of Limetree Hall advised the residents on 4 April that he had got written approval from the Council on the revised plans for the exit onto the Avenue. Yet the MD Councillors were not advised of this development.

It is indeed extraordinary that there was nobody in Planning to tell us about that approval on Friday 5 April.

I have a proposal to make, which I think that you will all agree with.

It includes abandoning the proposed Code of Conduct. I know that people supported a Code of Conduct in good faith. But, unfortunately some in the Carton Avenue Preservation Society see it as the Council encouraging cycling on the Avenue.

So, my proposal is that there shall be no Code of Conduct as it is proving to be a distraction to the critical issue of Encroachment onto Carton Avenue."

Cllr. McGinley's Motion was agreed by the members.

Councillor John McGinley Calls for Traffic Management Measures on the Moyglare Hall Through Road

Cllr. McGinley submitted the following Motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD Meeting on 5 April:

"That the Council put in place appropriate traffic management measures to prevent cars from using the Moyglare Hall through road as a "rat run" to the new schools, prior to the opening of the new road and the schools."

Council Officials gave the following useless reply:

"The Road Design Section advises that the Moyglare Hall Road is designed to the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) specification and that no additional traffic calming measures are required. Permeability to the new school is part of the planning condition of the development."

Cllr. McGinley pointed out that the last sentence made no sense as there was no Condition of Planning on Moyglare Hall encouraging traffic to the new schools to use the Moyglare Hall through Road.

The Officials agreed to check further with Planning and report back to the next MD meeting on 3 May.

Councillor John McGinley Calls for Flood Risk Measures for Maynooth to be Implemented

Cllr. McGinley submitted the following Motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD Meeting on 5 April:

"That the council provide a timescale for the implementation of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CFRAMS) recommendations for the Meadowbrook Stream and the Joan Slade River in Maynooth."

Council Officials replied as follows:

"The progress of these schemes is dependent on the Office of Public Work's (OPW) prioritisation of schemes. A steering group has been established with Kildare County Council and the OPW to progress schemes within Kildare.

It should be noted that the OPW together with Kildare County Council, is committed to delivering all of the schemes within the Flood Risk Management Plans over the next eight/ten years."

At the request of Cllr. McGinley, Council Official's agreed to report back on the priority listing of the Maynooth Works within the county

Councillor John McGinley Calls for the Maynooth Playground to be Closed at Night

Cllr. McGinley submitted the following Motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD Meeting on 5 April:

"Can the Council confirm what progress has been made in getting someone to open and close the Maynooth Playground at night in order to deter anti-social behaviour?"

Council Officials replied as follows:

"Maynooth Planning Alliance was contacted in relation to seeking volunteers to open and close the playground. A promotion by them on social media seeking volunteers was unsuccessful.

A suggestion was made to contact the local Community Employment Scheme in relation to the opening and closing of the playground, this was done before but was unsuccessful."

Cllr. McGinley asked that the Scouts be approached to see if an arrangement could be agreed with them to open and close the Playground

Work on Newtown Road Footpaths to Begin the Week after Easter

Cllr. McGinley was advised by the Maynooth MD on 5 April that work on the footpaths on both sides of the Newtown Road would begin the week after Easter. The engineer stated that unfortunately the footpath on the canal side of the road would not be 1.8m throughout.

Cllr. McGinley Calls for Allotments on the Amenity Lands at Carton Avenue

Cllr. McGinley has submitted the following Motion for the consideration of the Maynooth MD Meeting on 3 May:

"That a suitable amount of the Amenity Land between the Boreen and Carton Avenue be allocated for allotments as the Wonderful Barn allotments are over-subscribed."



Emmet Stagg Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate

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Team Being Put in Place to Deliver DART to Maynooth - Stagg

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg has welcomed moves by Iarnrod Eireann to commence the process of putting in place a Multi-Disciplinary Consultancy Team to support the Expansion of DART to Maynooth.

Iarnrod Eireann, stated Mr. Stagg, have sought expressions of interest from specialists to support them in the delivery of DART to Maynooth and City Centre Enhancements with work to include:

- * Preparation of the Designs
- * Undertaking Environmental Impact Assessment
- * Preparing costings for the works budget and Business Case approval.
- * Manage Railway Order Process.
- * Tender preparation and evaluation.

Mr. Stagg stated that Expressions of Interest in the project work have to be returned to Iarnrod Eireann by the 13th May and that the successful applicant will play a pivotal role in developing the design and tender preparation for the project. In addition to providing DART to Maynooth, the project involves development and enhancements to City Centre Stations and Network, resignalling from Maynooth to Connolly/Dockland and removal of the six level crossings along the Maynooth Line and provision of necessary bridge relief infrastructure.

Following the Expressions of Interest process, stated Mr. Stagg, actual tenders for the work will be sought in June and the contract for the work will be awarded in November.

In conclusion Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg welcomed the putting together of the Team that will deliver DART Expansion to Maynooth.

Further Information Sought on Intel Application - Stagg

Kildare Co. Council have sought Further Information in relation to Intel's Planning Application for an extension and revision to the existing planning permission for its Manufacturing Facility at its Headquarters in Leixlip. Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg, who has lodged a submission in support of Intel's Planning Application, stated that the Council requested the Further Information on Thursday 28th March last with issues on Screening Report, Natura Impact Statement, Eirgrid Connection, Signalisation of Junction 6 on the M4, In-combination visual effects of Solar Farm granted planning permission 300 metres North East of the Intel Campus and clarification of maximum depth of excavation proposed being the matters raised by the Council.

The Council stated Mr. Stagg noted that the New Eirgrid 220kV substation, which will supply future energy usage for the proposed development, was considered under the Environmental Impact Assessment Report in terms of Interactions and Cumulative Effects, but the AA Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement do not make specific reference to the new substation. A

revised Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement is required to cover the potential for in-combination effects with the proposed Eirgrid project, and a detailed consideration of the potential impacts of the overhead and underground connection from the Eirgrid project into the Intel Site.

In relation to the proposed signalisation of Junction 6 on the M4, the applicant has been requested to demonstrate that the permanent signalisation safeguards the strategic function, capacity and safety of the national road network and to explore other means of traffic management and submit a justification for the current proposals. Concerning the Solar farm to the North East of the Intel Campus which has planning permission, the applicant has been requested to submit revised photomontages for the proposed development having regard to the potential in-combination visual effects from relevant viewpoints. Finally the applicant has been requested to clarify the maximum depth of excavation proposed and submit revised drawings.

Mr. Stagg stated that he was confident that Intel would be able to address all of the concerns raised by the Council and looked forward to their response in due course to ensure that the Leixlip Plant can be expanded for the manufacture of integrated circuits.

Closing Date of May 22nd for Return of Tenders for Completion of Maynooth Education Campus

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg has been in further contact with the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board 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.

KWETB have advised Mr. Stagg that Tenders for the completion of the Education Campus were invited from the pre-qualified contractors on April 17th and Tenders have to be returned by Wednesday 22nd May. It is expected that the Tender Report will be completed by June 5th, reviewed by June 12th in the Department of Education and that a Letter of Intent would issue to the successful contractor on June 12th and a Letter of Acceptance would issue on 28th June. The contractor will then go on site to complete the 2 New Schools by May, 2020, and the Sports Facility by the end of June 2020.

Welcoming the progress, Mr. Stagg stated that we can finally offer hope to the students, staff and parents of students of Maynooth Post Primary and Maynooth Community College that the New Education Campus will be completed next Summer.

The Maynooth Education Campus is the largest ever school building project undertaken in the State which will see two 1,000 pupil secondary schools and a Shared Sports Facility built on the Moyglare Road in Maynooth.

Kildare North Labour General Election Candidate Emmet Stagg will keep the pressure on the Minister for Education and Skills and KWETB to ensure that the construction tender deadlines are met.

Maynooth Castle - Tempus fugit!

By Moira Devery, OPW Guide at the Castle

Spring is here once again, the days are noticeably longer, Nature's cycle is in full swing again and soon Maynooth Castle will reopen its gates to visitors from near and far. The OPW-operated Castle will begin its summer season on Thursday May 16 and finish on Wednesday, September 26. This is the window of time available for locals and visitors to come and experience Maynooth town's oldest remaining building. It is thought that the over 800 year old stone keep was begun by the Cambro-Norman Fitzgerald family in the 1180s and completed around 1204-5. They came from Wales (hence Cambro) with Strongbow to conquer Ireland.



The Norman Invasion of Ireland took place in May 1169 making it exactly 850 years to the month and year since these Welsh Norman knights landed in County Wexford and proceeded to impose their rule over the native Irish-Viking inhabitants. In honour of this anniversary, Trinity College Dublin is hosting a conference called **Invasion** from May 2-

4, 2019. The conference is open to those interested in the latest research into this fascinating but fateful period of Irish history which ultimately led to the loss of Gaelic Ireland, our Brehon laws and the Celtic form of Christianity which existed here until then.

At school we learned that Dermot Mac Murrough was to blame for inviting the Normans to Ireland to help him regain his throne as King of Leinster. However, we were rarely taught that even if he had never lived or been deposed, the then Pope, Adrian IV, the only English Pope, had decided to bring the Irish church well and truly under Rome's control.

Pope Adrian IV issued a Papal Bull (Laudabiliter) in 1155 giving Henry II of England full permission to invade Ireland and to reorganise the church according to parishes and bishoprics i.e. not based on monastic settlements. Thus we find the Normans sponsoring abbeys over much of the country following the invasion. The French-speaking Normans originally came via Normandy in France, hence they brought French monastic orders with them such as the Augustinian Canons, Benedictines and Cistercians. I will be attending most of the events at the conference so watch this space for more info on the latest research results! Meanwhile enjoy the spring and see you at the Castle!



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Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour Party County Council Candidate

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Updated Report on Shortlist of Contractors for New Maynooth Boys' NS Submitted to Department - Feeney

Local Election Candidate Angela Feeney has been in further contact with the Minister for Education in relation to the construction of the New St. Mary's Boys' National School on the Moyglare Road, Maynooth.

Contractors had until November 1st to register their interest in the project stated Ms. Feeney and 17 contractors expressed an interest in the construction project. The shortlist of contractors was submitted to the Department on January 11th 2019 for review. On January 17th the Department reverted to the Design Team with a number of items to be actioned prior to finalising the pre-qualification process.

The Minister has now advised Ms. Feeney that an updated Report on the pre-qualification of contractors was submitted to the Department on March 6th and that this updated report is currently under review.

The Minister further advised Ms. Feeney that when the pre-qualification process is completed the project will then be progressed to tender stage which normally takes between 7 and 8 months to complete.

Ms. Feeney stated that the New Maynooth Boys' NS was granted planning permission by Kildare Co. Council on August 1st 2017 and it comprises the replacement of the existing school and the construction of a new 3 storey National School with 24 classrooms including a Special Needs Unit and Multipurpose Hall. 3 Ballcourts and a Junior Play area will also be provided as part of the project.

The school currently has 560 pupils and when completed the new school will cater for just under 700 pupils.

Interviews for Principal of North Kildare Gaelcholaiste To be Held Shortly - Accommodation to be Sourced

Following the announcement by the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board that the North Kildare Gaelcholaiste will open this September in Maynooth, Local Election Candidate Angela Feeney has been pressing the Minister for Education in relation to the appointment of a Principal for the School and the sourcing of Accommodation for the School.

The Minister has now advised Ms. Feeney that Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board have informed officials from his Department that the closing date for receipt of applications for the role of Principal has passed with shortlisting and interviews to be held in April.

The Minister also advised Ms. Feeney that the Department had recently given approval in principle to KWETB to rent suitable accommodation for the Gael Choláiste to include 2 general classrooms, a special educational needs room, office and staff rooms as well pupil and staff toilets.

It is now a matter for KWETB to make the necessary arrangements to secure suitable accommodation and liaise with the Department's Building Unit on these arrangements.

Welcoming the continuing arrangements for the opening of the North Kildare Gaelcholaiste in Maynooth Ms. Feeney stated that this was great news for pupils who wish to continue their education from Gaelscoils to Secondary Education in the Irish Medium.

**Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be
Tuesday 21st May 2019**



Small Adverts/Local Services



The Alzheimer Café Leixlip Co Kildare



Alzheimer Cafe Leixlip
Wednesday May 8th 7 - 9pm.

Join us at our next Alzheimer Cafe, Wednesday May 8th in "The Conservatory", Ryevale Nursing Home, Leixlip from 7-9pm. The speakers this month are from the Memory Technology Resource Rooms in Dublin West and in Kildare and they will talk about "Technology to support your memory".

Attendance is free of charge and there is plenty of parking available

www.alzheimercafeleixlip.ie
Phone 087 7418512

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Opening Hours

Mon-Fri

9.00 am - 4.30 pm



THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail R.S.H.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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Never known to fail

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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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Never known to fail M



MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS

Join us if you have an
hour to spare!

Meet Courthouse Square:

Saturday Mornings @ 10am
Wednesday Evenings @ 7pm.

All equipment provided.



Frank O'Rourke T.D. Kildare North

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



Only half of firms that trade with UK are registered with Revenue – O'Rourke - Firms not registered will not be able to trade with UK after Brexit-

Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North, Frank O'Rourke has warned that only half of firms who trade with the UK have the necessary registration with the Revenue to allow them to continue to trade with the UK after Brexit. The remainder will be unable to trade with the UK post Brexit.

Deputy O'Rourke was commenting as new figures, released to Finance Spokesperson Michael McGrath TD illustrated a lack of preparedness.

Deputy O'Rourke said, "With the chaos in Westminster at the moment a disorderly Brexit is a very real possibility. It is deeply concerning that some 48% of businesses who engage in some level of trade with or through the UK have not yet acquired an Economic Operators Registration and Identification (EORI) number from the Revenue.

"For businesses to continue to trade with the UK following Brexit they must register with Revenue for an EORI number.

"The information released to Fianna Fáil shows that 43,875 businesses currently hold an EORI number. However, in 2017, some 84,000 businesses traded with the UK.

"I would be concerned that smaller businesses might be under the impression that only those who have significant trade with the UK need to register but this is not the case. Having an EORI number is the minimum requirement for businesses that wish to trade with, or through, the UK once they leave the EU.

"There needs to be greater awareness on this matter and the Government and Revenue urgently need to step up efforts to ensure that all businesses are prepared for Brexit.

"I would encourage Kildare businesses to better inform themselves also. Once a business is registered with Revenue Online Services, the turnaround registration for an EORI number is approx. 3 minutes so it is a fairly straightforward process", concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

Crippling business insurance leading to closures – O'Rourke

Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North, Frank O'Rourke has said the crippling cost of business insurance is leading to closures of nightclubs, marts, leisure and childcare facilities across the country. Deputy O'Rourke was commenting following reports of business insurance and public liability costs increasing by up to eight fold.

Deputy O'Rourke explained, "Having spoken to businesses and Kildare Chamber of Commerce, I am aware that insurance premiums for some owners have increased by a multiple of eight. That is completely unacceptable and is not sustainable.

"SMEs, who bear the brunt of these increases, make such a contribution to their local economies but the increase in insurance coupled with other increases which they have encountered over recent years, is proving too much for many and they are considering closing.

"To add insult to injury, we recently learned that three of the country's main insurance companies made a combined profit of almost €200m in 2018. They are raking it in by imposing huge premiums on consumers for their home, motor and business insurance.

"While I accept that the personal injury awards are far too high in Ireland and that they are a key contributor to the rising insurance costs, I do not accept insurance companies not passing on some of their profits to their customers.

"The reason the situation is out of control is due to the lack of delivery by the Government, they have not implemented the recommendations of the Cost of Insurance Working Group. The long promised Judicial Council which will set limits for claims is nowhere to be seen and the national claims database and a dedicated Garda insurance fraud unit is yet to be set up.

"The Fianna Fáil Party recently put forward a motion calling on the Government to take a number of steps to address rising insurance costs – I believe it is high time this Government takes our steps seriously. This needs to stop before we see the closure of more businesses and further job losses", concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

AIB mortgage rate cut welcome - Pressure on other lenders to reduce rates – O'Rourke.

Fianna Fáil's Deputy Finance Spokesperson and Local TD, Frank O'Rourke, has called on Financial Institutions to justify their elevated fixed mortgage rates when compared to the reduced fixed rate now offered by AIB.

"Since getting elected, I have persistently raised the issue of elevated mortgage rates in Ireland. Ireland's variable mortgage rates are almost double the EU average, and we also have high fixed rate mortgages."

"It is particularly welcome that AIB have changed some rates in a downward direction. AIB cut its fixed mortgage rate by up to 0.45%. This should put pressure on other lenders to reduce their rates. It is up to others now to respond. We need competition in the mortgage market."

"It is clear that much more needs to be done to ensure that mortgage customers in Ireland are treated fairly. We see 35,000 of Permanent TSB mortgage customers are still paying a variable interest rate of 4.5%."

"We know that 47,000 of Bank of Ireland Mortgage customers are entitled to an immediate rate cut if they move to a different product with the same bank. Therefore, over 80,000 customers of Permanent TSB and Bank of Ireland are able to avail of a lower rate, even with their own lender."

"Banks need to do more to bring this opportunity to save on their mortgage bills to the attention of the customers concerned. As I have said in the Dáil, given the rising living costs, such as energy bills, transport bills, childcare costs and other living expenses we need to ensure that homeowners are not paying over the odds for their mortgages."

"We need more competition between existing players in the Irish market and we need new market entrants. The introduction of Finance Ireland into the mortgage market is a welcome step in that respect but we also need plans by An Post to be advanced." concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

O'Rourke welcomes Government's proposal to explore cap on insurance pay-outs – but overall Government's response is weak.

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, welcomed the Government's proposal to explore putting caps on Insurance pay-outs, but says the Government response to the rising insurance costs, is at best weak, and at worst negligent.

"Since getting elected to Dáil Éireann, I have campaigned to have the cost of our motor insurance reduced. The Oireachtas have set up a working group on the cost of motor insurance, with 48 recommendations in total, and many have not been implemented."

"Over the past number of years, motor insurance premiums have risen by over 50%. While we have seen some improvement on this front, we need urgent action from the Government, and this is why we continue to raise the matter in the Dail by way of Private Members Motions."

"Over the last 18 months, I have continued to raise the importance of reducing motor insurance costs. I suggested at an Oireachtas Committee that the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) investigate the high level of motor insurance; this is now happening. I have also proposed that low income earners get financial support with the cost of their motor insurance while the Government implements the action plan to reduce the cost of insurance. Now we support the Government on exploring avenues to cap pay out on Insurance claims"

"As I have said in the Dáil, there is little point in reducing the Universal Social Charge, if a multiple of the reduction in USC, is being taken back by increased Insurance costs. The Government needs to accelerate implementation of the recommendations of the Cost of Insurance Working Group with a particular focus on Fraudulent claims and overly high pay-out on claims." concluded Deputy O'Rourke

Maynooth School Campus to open in May 2020 says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has received a commitment from the Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh TD that the Maynooth School Campus will open in May 2020.

"Construction of the new secondary school in Maynooth came to a halt last year. We must ensure that we get this project back on track. The Minister has given me a commitment that the Maynooth Secondary School Campus will be completed by May 2020."

"The Minister also gave me a commitment that if needed, resources will be provided to make temporary school accommodation available while we wait for the campus to be completed in 2020."

"The Department of Education and Skills will be liaising with the schools in relation to the provision of temporary accommodation if needed. I will continue to press the Department to have the school campus completed by mid-2020," concluded Deputy O'Rourke.

New Carriages on the way for Irish Rail says O'Rourke

Local Fianna Fáil TD, Frank O'Rourke, has welcomed the decision to purchase new rail carriages, which will bring benefit to users of the Maynooth Line and the Kildare Line.

"I welcome the announcement that new rail carriages are to be provided for Irish Rail. Approval has been given to purchase the rail carriages and it will take two years for them to come into service. Users of the Maynooth and Kildare Lines will be the first to benefit from the investment."

"I continue to campaign for better public transport services for North Kildare. It is becoming more and more difficult to drive into the city centre and we need to provide a regular and reliable public transport service for the towns of North Kildare and we are making progress."

"Both the Kildare and Maynooth lines are to be electrified, and once this is achieved, we will have a service every 10 minutes," concluded Deputy O'Rourke

VOTE

Cllr. John McGinley and Emmet Stagg are calling on their supporters to ensure that Maynooth continues to have strong and effective Labour representation on Kildare Co. Council.

In Angela Feeney, we have an exceptional candidate who is connected generations back to Maynooth and has been actively involved in the Maynooth Community for many years.

Angela is committed to working to improve Maynooth and to ensure that it will continue to thrive into the future.

We ask for your **No. 1 Vote** for Angela on Friday May 24th.

Cllr. John McGinley

Emmet Stagg

1 FEENEY



Carton Avenue Preservation Society

Hi All, it is with a sad heart that I report on the decision by Kildare County Council to reject the main point of our presentation on Feb 1st to the Maynooth Municipal District Councillors.

Angela Feeney (CAPS assistant secretary) and I attended the meeting of Maynooth Municipal District Council held on Apr 12th to hear the response to the CAPS presentation on Carton Avenue-Lime Walk.

NO CHANGES TO THE BRIDGE

Kildare County Council refused to make any of the requested changes to the size and purpose of the bridge.

Carton Avenue Preservation Society had requested the replacement or narrowing of the Carton Avenue/Lime Tree Hall 4 metre bridge to a 2 metre pedestrian access bridge. The bridge was built by the developers of Lime Tree Hall housing estate on the instructions of Kildare County Council. The purpose of the bridge is to facilitate cycling through Lime Tree Hall from the towns cycling lane network to the Carton Avenue footpath. Kildare County Council decided to ignore the views of the vast majority of the people and cyclists of Maynooth who oppose this plan for Carton Avenue.

GRASS MATTING

To allow for cycling, grass matting will be put on the area between the bridge and the Avenues footpath.

RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSALS

A full report on the Council's response to our presentation is not available until after the adoption of the minutes of Apr 12th meeting. The adoption of the minutes will happen at the next MMD meeting on May 3rd.

CHALLENGE

When the minutes of the Apr 12th meeting become available CAPS will discuss challenging the Council's response.

SAFETY CONCERNS

The construction of the 4 metre wide access bridge to Carton Avenue along with the construction of 4 metre wide cycle lanes through Lime Tree Hall is an invitation to

cyclists passing through Maynooth to cycle on the pedestrian path on Carton Avenue. This invitation will have a serious impact on the Avenue's pedestrians users. We are already aware of a collision between a pedestrian and a cyclists on Carton Avenue. The cyclist fled the scene and the pedestrian was hospitalised with serious facial injuries. Any increase in cycling on the Carton Avenue footpath will inevitably lead to similar incidences. At our presentation on Feb 1st we highlighted the safety issues for pedestrian users of the Avenue.

FUTURE WORK/LOCAL ELECTIONS

To protect Carton Avenue from more incursions it is very important to vote for candidates who support our cause.

THANKS

Thanks to the people of Maynooth for their support and encouragement.

Thanks to Cllr's Reada Cronin, Timmy Durkan, John McGinley (retiring) and Naoise O'Cearuil for their support.

Gerry Quinn - Chairperson - Carton Avenue Preservation Society.





Maynooth Tidy Towns Annual Collection will take place from Friday 17th May to Sunday 19th May. Please give generously.



Thanks to all recycled electrical goods and batteries on Saturday 24th March in the Tesco Car Park and the amount collected was 43 tonnes. A big thank you the Maynooth Tidy Towns volunteers who helped on the day.

Over 30 volunteers turned out to help with our National Spring Clean Up on Saturday 13th April, we segregated all items collected dividing into 4 categories hard plastics, green waste, which was when brought to the County Council yard, and all bottles and cans were recycled in the bins at The Council car park beside Supervalu.



Lots of people to thank following our National Spring Clean Up on Saturday 13th April, Ted Robinson and Shoda for providing the refreshments, Tea, Coffee and tasty rasher sandwiches. We all used our Keep Cups. Supervalu for the Water and last but not least all the Volunteers.

Before we started on our clean up marathon our Chairman John Kavanagh made a very special presentation to Edith of her own Picker and Tidy Towns Vest for her recent support to Tidy Towns.

At this time our National Tidy Towns application is due for submission, we ask residents associations to adopt an area near their estates as judges look at all areas around Maynooth as judging begins early June to end of August.

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

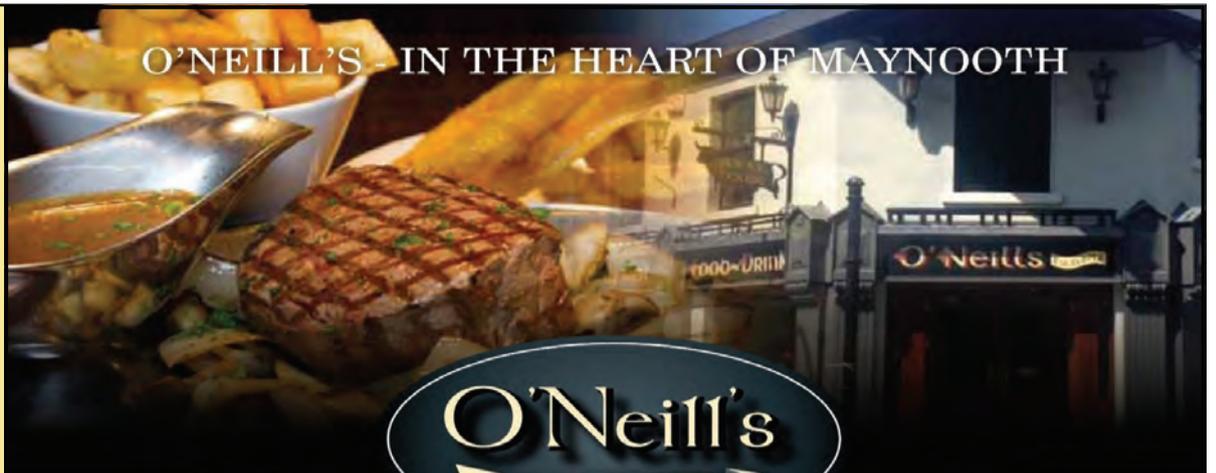
Please watch our Facebook for events in Maynooth

When buying plants for your gardens or patio please insure they are BEE and BUTTERFLY Friendly.

Work on the Sensory Garden is on going.

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

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



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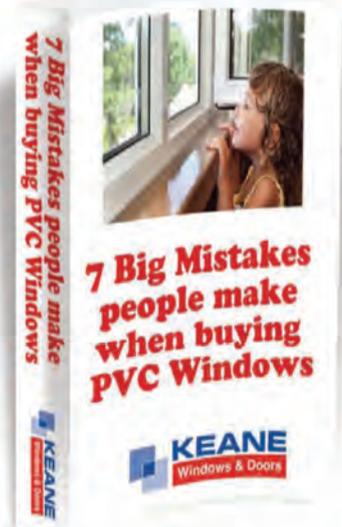
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Maynooth University congratulates Dr Mary Murphy on her appointment by President Michael D Higgins to the Council of State.

Dr Murphy is among seven new appointees to the Council of State who will be advising the President on a range of matters, such as whether to refer a Bill to the Supreme Court.

She will be joining former Taoisigh, former presidents Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese, as well as the Chief Justice Mr Frank Clarke and the Attorney-General Séamus Woulfe SC.

A senior lecturer in Irish Politics and Society in the Maynooth University Department of Sociology, Dr Murphy co-ordinates the BA in Politics and Active Citizenship. Her research interests include public policy, labour markets and social security, power and civil society and gender.

Dr Murphy said: "I am very honoured to be entrusted with this role and to be included among the seven nominees of President Michael D Higgins and I particularly welcome the commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion which underpinned his selection of nominees. I very much look forward to the work of the Council of State over the next years."

A key contributor to national debate on social policy, Dr Murphy was a member of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission 2013-2017 and a member of the National Expert Advisory group on Taxation and Social Welfare 2011-2014.

President of Maynooth University, Prof Philip Nolan, said: "I'm delighted to congratulate Dr Murphy on her appointment to the Council of State. Dr Murphy has been a leading voice for social justice and equality throughout her career. As a leading advocate, teacher and researcher, she will bring significant expertise to the Council of State in her new role."

Gabhann Ollscoil Mhá Nuad comhghairdeas leis an Dr Mary Murphy tar éis di bheith ceaptha ag an Uachtarán Micheál D Ó hUiginn ar an gComhairle Stáit

De hAoine 4 Mí Aibreáin – Gabhann Ollscoil Mhá Nuad comhghairdeas leis an Dr Mary Murphy tar éis di bheith ceaptha ag an Uachtarán Micheál D Ó hUiginn ar an gComhairle Stáit.

Is í an Dr Murphy duine den seachtar atá nua-cheaptha don Chomhairle Stáit ar mhaithe

le comhairle a chur ar an Uachtarán ar réimse d'abhair, an ceart Bille a chur faoi bhráid na Cúirte Uachtaraí ina measc.

Ar an gComhairle leí beidh iarThaoisigh, na hiarUachtaráin Máire Mhic Róibín agus Máire Mhic Ghiolla Íosa, chomh maith leis an bPríomh-Bhreitheamh Frank Clarke agus leis an Ard-Aighne Séamus Woulfe AS.

I mbun léachtóireachta ar bhonn sinsearach ar Pholaitíocht agus Sochaí na hÉireann i Roinn Socheolaíochta Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, is comhordaitheoir í an Dr Murphy ar an BA sa Pholaitíocht agus Saoránacht Ghníomhach. I measc a suimeanna taighde, tá beartas poiblí, margáí fostaíochta agus slándail shóisialta, cumhacht agus sochaí shibhialta agus inscne.

Dúirt an Dr Murphy: "Is onóir dom go bhfuil an mhúinín seo tar éis bheith léirithe ionam agus go bhfuilim mar dhuine den seachtar ainmnithe ag an Uachtarán Micheál D Ó hUiginn agus cuirim fíorchaoin fáilte roimh an tiomantas don chomhionannas, don éagsúlacht agus don ionchuimsitheacht ina bhfuil rogha na n-ainmnithe fréamhaithe. Táim ag súil go mór le bheith ag obair ar an gComhairle Stáit sna blianta amach romhainn."

Rannpháirteach ach go háirithe sa díospóireacht náisiúnta ar bheartas sóisialta, bhí an Dr Murphy mar bhall de Choimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta an Duine agus Comhionannas 2013 – 2017 agus mar bhall den Sainghrúpa Comhairleach Náisiúnta ar Cháin agus Leas Sóisialta 2011 – 2014.

Dúirt Uachtarán Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, an tOllamh Pilib Ó Nualláin: "Tá ríméad orm comhghairdeas a ghabháil leis an Dr Murphy as a ceapachán ar an gComhairle Stáit. Is príomhghlór ar chearta sóisialta agus ar chomhionannas í an Dr Murphy ó thosaigh a saol gairmiúil. Mar phléadálaí, mar mhúinteoir agus mar thaighdeoir den chéad scoth, tabharfaidh sí fuíollach saineolais leí go dtí a ról nua ar an gComhairle Stáit."



*Dr Mary Murphy outside Iontas,
Maynooth University
Friday, April 5, 2019 - 10:45*



Zero Waste
Maynooth

ZERO WASTE MAYNOOTH

Individual change is so important to reduce waste in our home and care for our environment. However greater change can only come about by our government. With local elections on the way make this a door step topic so that candidates know that it is an important issue for voters. Let them know that you want change in our town and in Ireland.

With thanks to Environmental Pillar you can cut out this poster and place on your door.



*We are delighted to host another free community event in May – join us!
Bring the kids and they can play with some eco toys with thanks to Jiminy.
Everyone is welcome!*



Zero Waste
Maynooth

**2-4pm Sat
11th May -
Maynooth
Community
Space -
Free Event**

- *Nu. Wardrobe * Ladies clothing freecycle
- *Bare Necessities * Package free food
- *Green Outlook *Sustainable shopping (like bamboo toothbrushes, water bottles)
- *Craft-Tae* Local handmade dishcloths, make up pads & baby items.

KIDS EVENT

Time to play with eco toys & enjoy a fun activity

Jiminy will have a range of products to buy on the day





Peter Hamilton Green Party County Council Candidate

Mobile: 087 2316308 - e-mail: Peter.Hamilton@greenparty.ie



Twelve priorities for the Maynooth Local Area

Peter Hamilton is the Green Party candidate in the up-coming County Council elections on May 24th. The urgency for climate action and action to protect our biodiversity is becoming clearer to us all in recent months. The Green Party has consistently taken a strong position on these issues nationally and locally for several decades. Peter has identified a number of important local priorities in the Maynooth-Kilcock Electoral Area which side-by-side with the global priorities, need attention if our community is to develop and our quality of life is to improve and be maintained for future generations.

Traffic and Commuting

Traffic and commuting is part of our way of life in the fastest growth commuter belt area in the country. It is part of the way we are now set up. We need a courageous and well-planned approach for our transportation and development so that the benefits of growth do not turn into an unsustainable nightmare.

Over-crowding on our trains and buses and congestion on our roads are causing increasing frustration to commuters. The Green Party has already campaigned for increased capacity on the Maynooth rail line and we will continue to press for the upgrade to the fast, efficient and cleaner electrified line that the current government has promised in the plan 2040. We are also monitoring the proposed introduction of the Maynooth-Celbridge-Hazelhatch-Tallaght bus service.

Transition to sustainable transport

There is an urgent need to transition our transport to sustainable electric power for our cars, trains and buses over the next decade. New patterns of work and transport will emerge. Bike and pedestrian transport will become more important. The transition will take time and will need support from local representatives and councillors who understand the issues.

Completion of our Ring Roads

The developer-led planning model which has been in place in Ireland for several decades means that it has taken over 30 years for action to start on the ring road around Maynooth. The Green Party believes in reducing traffic volumes in our town centres to make them better places in which to live work and play. We will campaign in all County Councils for an infrastructure-first approach to planning and for immediate investment in high quality ring roads to ease traffic congestion and to reduce pollution in our communities.

More Express Buses

Early morning passengers in Maynooth and Kilcock report the frustration of full buses passing by without stopping. To help solve this problem we are calling for more Express buses (using the M4) to and from Maynooth, Kilcock, Leixlip and Celbridge during morning and evening peak rush-hour.

The 67 bus in this photograph took four light changes to get through the Celbridge Road junction on a recent Monday morning. Commuters have had enough!

Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure

Better support for pedestrians and bikes can already be seen in Northern European cities. With strong support from Green Party councillors we are starting to see improvements to the daily commute in many parts of Dublin. This helps students and workers get to school and to work in a safer and cleaner environment. We are working with Kildare County Council to progress plans for road improvements with proper segregated cycle paths and safer junctions through Maynooth. A major upgrade to the Moyglare Road is a high priority to ensure safety for the increased traffic this will bring.

Maynooth Mill Street Upgrade

The upgrade to Mill Street, Maynooth, to relieve pedestrian congestion at the narrow bridge and to improve the footpath and cycle path from the Main Street-Mill Street junction, has been in planning for many years. We call for this to be completed this year. The Council have indicated they have funds allocated to provide the additional foot bridge and a major upgrade of the footpath. The Greens will continuously monitor progress to make sure this promise is kept.

Community Healthcare

With a growing population and rising expectations for healthcare the national system is under constant strain. The people of North Kildare deserve to be cared for in high quality multidisciplinary centres, with GPs, public health and community health nurses, community physiotherapists, occupational therapists, counsellors, and social care services all working together to deliver the best possible care in the community. The new Kilcock Community Healthcare Centre is a great benefit to the community there. Maynooth residents still have to rely on a very basic and ageing prefab building which needs a large investment.

In the UK 90% of primary healthcare contact takes place in the community. The Green Party is campaigning for a similar high-quality service in our towns.

Maynooth a Growth Centre

We are living in the fastest growing area in the country. This has brought great benefits including high quality employment, improved shopping and social amenities in our towns. However, the challenges of growth are with us all the time, as traffic and commute times

increase. School places and quality health services are stretched to breaking point. Maynooth has been identified as a focus town in the National Spatial Strategy, which means it will see considerable growth in the next 20 years. We need to be clear about the kind of town planning, community and transport infrastructure we want. The Green Party has the strongest track record on housing, town planning and transport, and will give us a clear voice in Kildare County Council.

A Vision for Maynooth

Maynooth can become like a sprawling American town with endless traffic, shopping malls and motorways or can be more like a role-model European city with a strong sense of identity, high quality transport linkages and a highly liveable town centre. It is up to us to set that vision and to continue to build the community and improve the quality of life that we have.

A Sporting, Social and Cultural Centre

Our commuting towns are growing rapidly with a lack of the sporting, social and cultural facilities a growing modern community needs. As part of the vision for the town we are supporting planning for a swimming pool, recreation facilities for young people, a skating park as well as a cinema, community centre and theatre. In this vision we see Maynooth having the facilities a mid-sized urban centre needs to support a good quality of life for all citizens.

Biodiversity

Community Groups in Maynooth, including our Tidy Towns Team, Residents' Associations and Maynooth University Campus have taken strong steps to increase biodiversity around the town with some very visible initiatives including wild planting in Harbour Field, 'Bug hotels', biodiversity areas in the campus and in the Moyglare Abbey landscaping. The Green Party supports these and will work to make sure they become part of planning policy with proper funding and support. These initiatives increase awareness of the need for biodiversity in the community.

Air Pollution in our towns

The Kildare Green Party is starting to measure air pollution in our town centres in the North Kildare area. The exhaust from diesel cars, buses and trains and the continued use of smoky coal, turf and wood are all causing a rise in the number of PM10 and PM2.5 particles that increase the risk of lung damage in our children and adults. While not yet reaching the very dangerous levels experienced in London and in busy areas of Dublin, this is an alarming trend.

The Green Party will publish its measurements of air pollution over the summer to help us understand air quality in our communities.

Sustainable Energy Community

In 2018, the Maynooth Town Sustainable Energy Community was formed and is applying to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland for funding to develop an Energy Master Plan. The plan will identify the best opportunities for energy savings in households, transport and businesses around the town. The SEC will run a communications drive in the second half of this year to help householders and businesses understand how they can improve energy performance, save money and protect the environment.

Introducing Peter Hamilton, your candidate for the Local Elections May24th

Peter has been a Maynooth resident since 1998. He has been an active Green Party member for over 5 years and is currently deputy chair of the Kildare Greens. He is a member of the Maynooth Community Council. He is founder and chair of the Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community and also founder of the Kildare County Sustainable Energy Network K-SELF.

With 35 years' experience in the technology industry, Peter has strong experience and understanding of business and enterprise. He is currently an entrepreneur working from Maynooth on two start-up companies in the education technology area. The North Kildare Green Party team have strong belief in the central importance of high integrity and forward-looking business in our local area.

Peter was also one of the founders of Lucan Educate Together, the first Educate Together school in the Dublin West area. This community action provided him with first-hand experience of what a small and dedicated group can do to drive positive change. Today more than 3000 children attend four Educate Together primary schools in Lucan.

Give Peter your #1 vote in the local election and Vote #1 for Saoirse McHugh in the European election

The Maynooth Local Area includes Balraheen, Cloncurry, Donadea, Kilcock, Maynooth, and Straffan.

The Green Party is also fielding a strong candidate, Saoirse McHugh, for our Midlands North West Constituency in the European elections.

Peter.Hamilton@greenparty.ie Phone: 087 231 6308

Saoirse.McHugh@greenparty.ie Phone: 087 100 7933



Maynooth University Town Football Club
Leinster Senior League Div 1 Sunday League Table as of 29/4/2019

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1	Maynooth University Town FC	23	18	4	1	62	19	43	58
2	Wayside Celtic	24	15	7	2	44	17	27	52
3	Edenderry Town	24	12	7	5	44	29	15	43
4	Leixlip United FC	22	11	7	4	36	25	11	40
5	Home Farm FC	22	9	5	8	33	22	11	32
6	Glebe North	22	9	5	8	46	40	6	32
7	Tullamore Town	24	10	2	12	36	43	-7	32
8	UCD AFC	24	8	5	11	38	39	-1	29
9	Newtown Rangers AFC	23	7	6	10	42	50	-8	27
10	Tek United	24	5	10	9	37	44	-7	25
11	Dublin Bus	23	6	6	11	34	43	-9	24
12	Greystones United AFC	24	5	8	11	30	43	-13	23
13	Glenville FC	23	5	8	10	23	42	-19	23
14	Drumcondra/Stella Maris	24	1	4	19	17	66	-49	7

Leinster Senior League Div 1 Sunday
Drumcondra - 1 Town - 2

A hard fought win keeps us ahead of our Rivals in our quest for league honours. Goals by Darragh Reynor and Daniel Burke ensured us the points.

F.A.I. Intermediate Cup Semi - Final
Town - 2 Crumlin Utd - 3

Town were edged out in this five goal thriller at Maynooth. Hot Favourites Crumlin had to pull out all the stops to clinch victory with the winning goal two minutes into added time. Daniel Burke and Conor Foley goals were just not enough to propel us into the final for the second successive season.

Leinster Senior League Div 1 Sunday

Tullamore Town - 1 Town - 2

The result of this game was in doubt until the very end. A Darragh Reynor free kick brought us level after an early Tullamore goal. Darragh Reynor secured all three points with a superb finish from just inside the penalty area.

F.A.I. Senior Cup Prelim Rd
Town - 5 Rockmount (Cork) - 1

Town were shocked by an early Rockmount goal. Town settled and put on a superb show of masterful football. An Eoin Mc Dermott hat-trick and a brace from Darragh Reynor completed a superb team effort.



Above: Declan Kennedy presenting a bottle of champagne to Darragh Reynor to honour his achievement on being selected as F.A.I. Intermediate Player of the Year 2018. A great honour for player and team. Once again we thank Declan and Brady's Clock House for their continued sponsorship.



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Local Elections (May 2019)

Election time is an opportunity by cycle campaigners to reassess progress and to set out new goals for the future. From earlier this year, we identified one glaring omission in Kildare County Council's proposals for Maynooth. That concerns the failure to provide for cycling facilities to the two primary schools on the Celbridge Road. Planning for the first of these school commenced nearly twenty years ago with little consideration given to how children would cycle to the schools.

As it turned out, draft plans have recently been drawn up to provide cycle facilities on the Celbridge Road and we are grateful to Cllr. Tim Durkan for informing us. However, the use of the terms "provide" and "cycle facilities" are somewhat arbitrary. The proposed cycle track does not connect with the Straffan Road cycle track and doesn't extend as far as either of the two schools. It is also discontinuous at Greenfield Park and its effective width is 1.5m which puts it in the category of low quality. The County Council seems to think that cyclists have need to travel in one direction only as the cycle track is unidirectional. Overall, it is an appalling design and once again the Council is "ticking the box" for cycling but doing nothing to enable people who want to cycle.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign proposes to lobby prospective councillors for 2m effective width of cycle tracks on either side of the road. The width of the proposed cross-section is 16m compared to the existing cross-section width of approximately 14.1m. Most of the additional space required is available or can be purchased by CPO but it is accepted that close to the junction with the Straffan Road a pinch point does exist which will require an imaginative solution. For some twenty years, Kildare County Council has been providing low quality cycle infrastructure which has had negligible impact on levels of cycling. If it continues to provide such quality, there will be negligible change in the next twenty years.

It is also proposed to lobby prospective councillors for the Maynooth Municipal District on their support for Cycling for All and to publish their names in due course. Only one Kildare councillor, Cllr. Padraig McEvoy, is currently signed up but he will not be running for the Maynooth District.

(Note – Details of existing and proposed cross-sections on the Celbridge Road are available on our own website here.)

Government Must Prioritise Active Travel

On 17th April, Maynooth Cycling Campaign through its membership of Cyclist.ie, the Irish Cycling Advocacy Network, and in collaboration with the Irish Heart Foundation, the Irish Cancer Society, Diabetes Ireland, Irish Doctors for the Environment, the Association for Health Promotion Ireland and the Irish Pedestrian Network, presented an open letter to An

Taoiseach and Ministers calling on the Government to ensure that active travel forms an integral part of the All-of-Government Climate Plan.



The National Physical Activity Plan Get Ireland Active

recognises the benefits of the natural and built environment in promoting active travel and lists actions which would enable increased physical activity. These include walking and cycling strategies and the planning, development and design of towns and cities. Despite the clear awareness of the link between physical activity and the built environment, Active Travel is not being prioritised. As an example, the present level of transport funding allocated to cycling is less than 2%. This needs to increase to meet the United Nations Environment Programme recommended levels of at least 10%, and with at least 20% recommended for cycling and walking.

It is widely acknowledged that the government is not meeting its climate targets. Transport emissions in particular continue to rise. Insufficient thought has been given to the extent to which the take-up of active travel can contribute to emissions reduction. Furthermore the Transition Statement 2018, which sets out a path towards a carbon free future, contains no targets acknowledging that walking and cycling are valid means of transport related climate action.

Healthy Ireland surveys confirm that the average Irish adult is not meeting the target of a minimum of 150 minutes of physical activity per week and concerns about the results of inactivity on the health of Irish children are growing.

Colm Ryder, Chair of Cyclist.ie, said "When exercise is seen as an 'extra' that has to be fitted into busy lives on top of work, commuting, caring and other family responsibilities, it is easy to neglect. On the other hand, walking or cycling to work, school, college, shopping or to social activities offers people the opportunity to integrate physical activity into their day-to-day lives".

The publication of the All-of-Government Climate Plan which is due shortly after Easter will reveal how serious the government is.

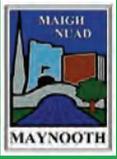
Cyclist.ie Council Meeting

Maynooth Cycling Campaign recently hosted the bi-annual Council meeting of Cyclist.ie in Maynooth University. Sixteen representatives from cyclist campaign groups from around the country met to discuss progress on existing campaigns and to plan for the future especially in the light of pending local and European elections. We would like to thank Dr. Joe Larragy of Maynooth University who treated the gathering to a talk on Maynooth Green Campus.

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.





Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2019 Photo Gallery



Photos: Courtesy of Mark Colfer





Cllr Naoise Ó Cearúil - Maynooth Fianna Fáil Notes

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

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



Ó Cearúil seeks status of Maynooth estates yet to be taken in charge

Cllr. Ó Cearúil has raised the issue of taking in charge of estates in Maynooth. Many estates are yet to be taken in charge and Naoise has sought the status of all estates in the town. Some estates are waiting over a decade such as Castledawson and Meadowbrook.

Road works on the Moyglare Road

Most people will be aware of the road works on the Moyglare Road as part of it's upgrade but it has brought with it some difficulty. The traffic system being used is traffic lights, however this isn't working as the works move continuously. There have been some near misses on the stretch of road and Naoise has asked that the works be properly manned to ensure the safety of road users.

Ó Cearúil continues to press for the ring roads

The ring roads are the only solution to Maynooth's traffic problems. The section of ring road going through Co. Meath has halted the progress as there was a high court action taken against Meath Co Co for granting permission for it. Naoise has sought an update on this and how best to progress.

Re-planting of Trees

Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil has called on Kildare County Council to plant the same amount of trees as has been felled in the process of upgrading the Moyglare Road. He has asked that details of where the trees will be planted be made available to the public.

Voter Registration evening with the Gardaí

Naoise organised an evening in the Glenroyal Hotel on the 1st of May so people could register to vote. There was a member of the Gardaí present to stamp forms and ensure that those not on the register could fulfil their democratic duty.

Table Quiz and Campaign Launch

Naoise hosted a table quiz and his campaign launch in O'Neill's on Friday the 3rd of May. The room was full and Naoise outlined his vision for the council if re-elected in this month's local elections.

Local Elections 24th May 2019 – A message from Naoise

A Chara,

In 2014 the people of this area put their faith in me and elected me to Kildare County Council. Since then I have worked hard on issues facing our community and delivered on real results. I spearheaded the campaign for the Purple Flag in Maynooth, organised the St. Patrick's Day Parade, helped organise the Christmas Lights, delivered a Gaelcoláiste, campaigned for a Full-Time Garda station among many other things. If re-elected I will continue to work hard for our community.

I ask for your support once again and your number 1 vote or highest preference.

Ní neart go cur le chéile – Together we are stronger

Naoise Ó Cearúil

My Priorities

Climate Action – Leading Kildare's Response

Crime – Full time Garda Station for Maynooth

Education – Adequate primary and post primary spaces

Traffic – Delivering the Ring-Roads

Housing – Ensuring that there is adequate and sustainable housing

Services – Proper services for a growing town

Childcare – Adequate childcare provision

Royal Canal Amenity Group

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Fare includes: Travel, hotel accommodation, Dinner on first night, Entry to places being visited and boat trip.

Limited places: Don't delay! Book Today!

FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



VOTE
No.1

Cllr. Naoise
Ó Cearúil

Please continue your preference for Cllr. Paul Ward



Maynooth 10k/5k 2019

Photo's courtesy of Mark Colfer & John Boyd



Maynooth 10k/5k 2019 was a great success with 600 entries between the two races. The weather cooperated with a lovely morning for running, bringing out the supporters and creating a wonderful festive atmosphere. The new finishers medal sponsored by Pearls Dental was a big hit as was the new Team Event with the Polish Runners Club Ireland winning both the 5k and the 10k events. The reusable plastic cups sponsored by Intel Pride of Place, were introduced last year and were back again this year at the water stations and at the finish saving around 1,000 items of single-use plastics per year.

Chairperson Teresa Murray thanked Carton House, St Patrick's College and the Presentation Girls' school for the use of their premises, Carton House, Donatello's and Picaderos for sponsoring the 10k prizes, Supervalu, Shoda and Salmon Leap for the 5k prizes, Supervalu for sponsoring the water, Maynooth Cycles for providing the

lead cyclist and Maynooth Tidy Towns for having the town looking so well. The 10k Times was a big success this year with record numbers of ads and articles, we'd like to thank all the businesses who took ads and the various clubs and groups who provided such interesting articles.

An event of this size requires a lot work and we'd like to thank all the volunteers who helped out on the weekend setting up the course, stewarding, registration, organizing the starts and finish and providing such excellent refreshments back in the school afterwards.

The proceeds from this event will go towards the up-keep of the multi-purpose playing fields shared with Maynooth GAA at Mariaville on the Moyglare Road and a Multi-Use Games Area and Astro to be located on the new schools Campus. Looking forward to our 10th anniversary space next year!



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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 21/03/2019 To 19/04/2019 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App Num	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
19419	Kildare County Council	David Dunne	Clonfert South, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	17/04/2019
19401	Kildare County Council	John Hoare	Catherinestown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	12/04/2019
19390	Kildare County Council	Belmullet Hospitality Group Ltd.	Carton House Hotel & Golf Resort, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/04/2019
19372	Kildare County Council	Stephen and Tanya Nevin	524b Newtown Road,, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 K07X	08/04/2019
19357	Kildare County Council	Brian McCormack	48 Griffin Rath Manor, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	03/04/2019
19326	Kildare County Council	Ray & Noelle McTernan,	No.4 Dillion's Row, Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	28/03/2019
19297	Kildare County Council	Colin Moane and Irene Kearney	15 The Avenue, Newtown Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	22/03/2019
19295	Kildare County Council	Colm O'Rourke	Laragh Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	21/03/2019

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Royal Canal Amenity Group

Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

DR IAN BATH R.I.P.

At the time of going to publication we learn of the sad 'passing' of Dr Ian Bath, a founding member and president of the group

Ian and some others set things rolling back in 1974. He had the foresight to see the potential of this great amenity and will be sadly missed by all. A more detailed report will appear in the next addition.

PRESENTATION

At a recent function on the canal banks at Ashtown, the Lord Mayor of Dublin Mr. Niall Ring made a presentation to another long serving member Mr Noel Spaine.

The Rathbourne community association installed an information plaque adjacent to the canal at Ashtown. This Plaque was unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Mr. Niall Ring at a ceremony on 26th February last.



Presentation to Mr Noel Spaine R.C.A.G.

He then presented Noel with a framed facsimile of the plaque. The plaque contains information for walkers and leisure cyclists availing of the Royal Canal Greenway. It is located on the canal bank in the vicinity of Ashtown Railway Station.

We in the group would like to extend our congratulations to Noel who has been with us 'for more years than we care to remember'.

Rathbourne Community Association made the presentation to Noel as a token of their appreciation of his long input and effort during the restoration of the canal, and his

continued dedication to the promotion of the restored amenity.

ROYAL CANAL TOUR

Bookings are coming in fast for this year's tour which will be to Bonnie Scotland and is set for the weekend of 6th - 8th. September 2019.

It will take in visits to Dumfries House (a Stately Home, like Carton), The famous Falkirk Wheel, The "Kelpies" and the house/museum of poet Robert Burns.

Travelers will stay two nights at the Leonardo Glasgow West Hotel and will have Dinner on the first night.

The price, which has been kept to the minimum, is: RCAG members €330.00, Non-members €350.00 and children under 14 €300.00. Price includes travel, accommodation, entry to all venues & boat trip. Places are scarce so early booking is advisable.

Booking telephone: 01 687 7034

Book early to avoid disappointment!

A deposit secures

GREENWAY UPDATE

Work is continuing in the area between Maynooth and Leixlip. At present these works are based just east of the thirteenth lock ('the haunted lock'). Hopefully the workers are not being spooked. Sections will be closed to walkers /leisure cyclists at different times for health and safety reasons.

Meanwhile, work is also progressing well at Moyvalley just north of Enfield. Most of the preliminary work is now completed and work on the next stage is in hand. Again sections will be closed to walkers / leisure cyclists and any inconvenience regretted.



'Dumfries House

Rioana Mulligan Fine Gael Party Candidate

Phone: 087 3305311

Email: rioanamulliganfg@gmail.com



I am a Fine Gael candidate for the upcoming local elections in the Maynooth Municipal area. Community work, volunteerism and sporting involvement have been a huge part of my life. I strongly believe in getting involved to improve our community and make it a safer and better place to live and work.

As a new candidate I am busy out canvassing at the moment and the response I'm getting has been great. However a number of issues have been raised at the doorsteps to me.

Maynooth traffic problem. An alternative route for the traffic coming and going to Maynooth University is needed. This would remove a large amount of traffic from the Main Street and the Straffan road.

Moyglare Road Schools. Residents are concerned about the potential of increased traffic congestion especially at peak times in Maynooth

Carton Avenue - Lime Walk. The Carton Avenue Walk is enjoyed by thousands of people. Many people would like to retain it for pedestrian use. A peaceful safe walk is one of life's greatest pleasures.

If you need assistance with any issue please contact me

Phone; 087 3305311

Email: rioanamulliganfg@gmail.com

Rioana (Oni) Mulligan

Maynooth Summer Festival 2019 setback.

At a meeting of the Maynooth Municipal District Council held in Naas on Friday 12th. April members refused to support Cllr. John McGinley's proposal to approve the award of funding for the Maynooth Summer Festival 2019 under Kildare County Council's Festival Grant Scheme.

None of the members of the MMDC, including those members representing the town, Tim Durkan, Reada Cronin and Teresa Murray, were willing to support Cllr. McGinley's motion. It must be noted that, as voting on the approval of the Festival Grants was to be taken "on block", Cllr. O'Cearuil correctly excused himself from voting due to his conflict of interest as organiser of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and long term supporter of the Summer Festival Committee.

Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services, Economic Community & Cultural Development, stated that it is the Council's (her department's) objective to give festival grants to community groups despite the fact that the Council's guidelines for Festival Grants clearly states "the purpose of the scheme (Festival Grants Scheme) is to assist voluntary groups who promote key festival events in County Kildare", whilst the Community Grant Scheme "is to provide financial assistance to community groups engaged in activities which encourage community participation and promote the well being of communities in County Kildare".

Cllr. McGinley advised his fellow councillors that the Maynooth Summer Festival Committee is a voluntary group, registered as such with Kildare PPN, and completely independent of any other group or organisation in Maynooth. It has its own Constitution, its own executive and members and its own Bank Account. Despite these assurances, Cllrs. Murray, Cronin and Durkin refused to support his motion.

This selfish, self serving action is inexcusable. These same Councillors seek sponsorship from the community and local businesses in support of their own projects such as the Maynooth 10k and Maynooth First Responders. Yet when reciprocal action is sought from them in gaining financial support from the local authority that request is met with silence.

This is a significant financial setback for the event which will obviously necessitate additional sponsorship and fundraising if the event is to take place.

The Summer Festival Committee are nevertheless determined to endeavour, in conjunction with those local businesses, groups and clubs who have already pledged co-operation, to provide an event which our community and local businesses clearly desire. Perhaps in the coming weeks when these same Councillors call seeking your support in their bid for re-election you might ask them why, when it was within their gift, they refused to sanction funding to assist the Maynooth Summer Festival Committee in promoting this community's summer festival.

Maynooth Summer Festival Committee.



Submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action from BirdWatch Ireland

BirdWatch Ireland respectfully requests that the Joint Oireachtas Committee considers the recommendations in this submission in their forthcoming report on Climate Action. Action to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Ireland is urgently required in order to stem the worst impacts of climate change. Climate change is anticipated to affect all levels of biodiversity, from organism to biome levels (Bellard et al 2013¹, Pereira et al 2010²) including our birds. Birds are indicators of the health of the environment but in Ireland the number of birds of serious conservation concern is at its highest ever. One third of Ireland's wild bee species are threatened with extinction. 91% of Ireland's internationally important habitats have bad or inadequate ecological status. Habitat loss and degradation caused by human activities are the main causes of impacts. **Climate actions which also protect and restore habitats will provide valuable co-benefits for our threatened wildlife.** Nature-based solutions will help create landscape resilience in the face of climate change. We make the following recommendations:

1. Climate actions must be proofed to ensure that they are consistent with both Ireland's targets under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and those of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Climate mitigation and biodiversity protection and restoration are complementary, but that this is not inevitably the case and proofing is needed to ensure that both goals are pursued.

2. Conserve and restore peat habitats and soils: Citizen's Assembly Recommendation 7 relates to the cessation of peat cutting and government subsidies to be directed towards peat bog restoration including rewetting of bogs. We fully support this proposal as it would have significant benefits for birds of our upland blanket bogs and lowland raised bogs including the globally threatened Curlew. Agriculture and afforestation policy and poor implementation of the laws protecting biodiversity on upland and lowland farms can also result in negative impacts to peat habitats and peat soils. We recommend that the Department of Agriculture supports financially rewarding agri-environment schemes in the forthcoming Common Agriculture Policy Strategic Plan and agriculture payment conditionality rules that support protection of peat habitats and soils in a farmed environment. The latter ties in with **Recommendation 11** where the Citizen's assembly called for rewards for the farmer for land management that sequesters carbon. Critically, restoring the proper functioning of peatland habitats would assist in slowing runoff which could help with flood protection in lowland areas.

3. Sequester and store carbon through hedgerows: It is estimated that 450 kHa or 6.4% of the Irish landscape is comprised of hedgerow, scrub and non-forest trees⁶. Hedgerows and their associated trees, banks, ditches and margins provide a precious multi-functional resource in our countryside, benefiting inter alia plants and wildlife, agriculture, water quality, flood mitigation, tourism and the general community through their landscape value. They provide essential food, shelter and corridors for wildlife. They also have potential to help mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon in woody biomass and in soil. EPA research suggests that hedgerows and non-forest woodlands could potentially sequester 0.66–3.3t CO₂/ha/year⁷. Data from 17 County Hedgerow Surveys indicate that **only one third of hedgerows are in a favourable conservation state** leaving potential for greater carbon sequestration & storage potential through an improved quality stock while supporting wildlife. **We recommend the completion of the National Hedgerow Survey and convening of a National Stakeholder Forum to**

develop a National Hedgerow Conservation Strategy to maximise the carbon and biodiversity co-benefits of Ireland's unique hedgerows.



4. Improve the Biodiversity Co-benefits of Afforestation. In relation to the **Citizen's Assembly recommendation 13** recommending supports for afforestation. Forestry can provide biodiversity co-benefits if the right trees are planted in the right place under the right management. Currently, afforestation is a significant pressure and threat to biodiversity⁸ especially when it occurs on land that was biodiversity-rich prior to planting⁹. Currently, there is no ecological assessment of afforestation applications outside of EU designated sites. Biodiversity-rich areas are being lost to an unsustainable forestry model. This must be rectified to protect ground nesting birds, pollinators and species rich grasslands. We recommend that ecological assessment is undertaken of all afforestation applications.

5. Explore the synergies between climate change mitigation potential of blue carbon while protecting habitats. Marine ecosystems provide an important role in climate regulation. The possibilities and potential of the 'blue carbon' of our marine and coastal habitats in Ireland should also be explored with the view to maximising carbon sequestration and storage benefits but critically ensuring the protection of coastal ecosystems for the benefit of biodiversity. The EPA has undertaken research on the role salt marshes, sand dunes, bays and estuaries play in relation to carbon mitigation¹⁰. Programmes such as the Blue Carbon Initiative and similar¹¹ provide additional information. Critically, many of Ireland's Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds are designated due to these important habitats but they have 'bad' conservation status due to habitat degradation and pollution. Protection and restoration could have multiple benefits. Terrestrial coastal habitats also have a very important role in climate change adaptation buffering the hinterland from storm and flood events.

6. Ensure coherence across government policies and strengthen enforcement of environmental laws to achieve climate goals with biodiversity co-benefits. Sectoral policies, plans, programmes, schemes and laws relating to, but not limited to, agriculture, forestry, flood protection, renewable energy, the marine, tourism, and biodiversity all need to be heading in the same direction to meet climate goals and to protect habitats which support them. There could also be significant wins in terms of reaching our climate goals if our existing suite of environmental laws and regulations governing habitats were implemented and enforced effectively. Indiscriminate hedgecutting and hedgerow removal in the countryside is the number 1 complaint to BirdWatch Ireland from members of the public despite laws in place to prevent this occurrence. The thresholds to trigger Environmental Impact Assessment for forestry and activities on farmland are too high and resulting in significant loss of habitat. Failure to regulate burning in the uplands results in significant impacts to peat-based habitats every year. Over 21,400ha of Natura land (SACs and SPAs) have been burnt between 2011-2016¹² releasing carbon into the atmosphere, degrading habitats, impacting on the species supported by these habitats like Hen Harrier and Curlew who breed in the uplands and stymying our goals to achieve favourable conservation status of these habitats as per the Habitats Directive. The cost to the exchequer to deploy the fire service to attend out-of-control fires in upland mountains and lowland hills between 2010-2015 in 10 counties was €6.1million¹³. Finally, awareness needs to be raised with the general public, farmers and competent authorities of the value of habitats for both biodiversity and climate benefits.

Contact: Oonagh Duggan-Assistant Head of Policy and Advocacy, BirdWatch Ireland, oduggan@birdwatchireland.ie



January Surprise

Cloudy-silver brightness
Succeeds the morning snow
And on our naked cherry tree
Are tiny blossom buds.
Will bullfinches feast on them,
A bladed east wind scatter,
Or threatened frost
Hinder their display?

No matter:
Despite the vandal-riven bole,
The years of pain and want,
Theirs is a promise of conversion
From black-boughed skeleton
To shining debutante.

Colin Scott

Pharisees' Frustrations! The Gospels in fewer than 300 words.

You say Joseph's his father, well how can that be?
A more God fearing man, you rarely will see;
And Mary his mother has had little joy,
Her heart he has broken since he was a boy!
Got his trade from the old man, then all that he shed,
Not a care in the world as to whence comes his bread.
Has some followers also, an ignorant lot,
Mostly fishers and taxmen, not one worth a jot;
And the women disciples who care for his needs,
Hang on his words, stare in awe at his deeds.
Yes the book he knows well, cutting straight to the core,
Love for God and one's neighbour, its wisdom and store.

But he can't be from God for he and his band
Will sit down to eat without washing their hands;

And who shares his table? The lame and the blind,
The publicans, harlots and dregs of their kind.
He cares not for the Sabbath, the Temple, the Law,
Claims rank above Moses, who God's fire saw;
And ailments he cures, by the devil, of course,
The father of lies, or some kindred source.
Says the poor are the blessed, the rich are accursed,
The first shall be last and the last shall be first,
Such riddles can only the masses confuse,
They're too steeped in evil the right road to choose.
He is a blasphemer, usurping God's voice,
By pardoning sins he leaves us no choice.
He must be got rid of, such men have to die,
And Pilate will yield to our mob's "Crucify!"
And then we will see his great boast all in vain:
"In three days I'll take up my life once again".

What? But how can that be!

"Alleluia! He is risen!"

GM



Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Visiting Jerusalem's Temple Mount

When my wife and I decided to visit The Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City we didn't anticipate any difficulty. We would, as our guidebook advised, walk down David Street to the Chain Gate at 1pm and all would be fine. Not so! Two armed guards, who may have been Palestinians and who, at any rate, spoke little English, turned us back. There would be no entry until later and then only from the Western Wall Plaza.

After a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre off the Via Dolorosa we made our way back through the narrow, cobbled streets with their colourful souvenir shops and throngs of tourists to another checkpoint. A young guard told us there would be no entry to The Temple Mount for another hour. We spent the hour exploring various passageways and even the sun-baked roof of the Jewish Quarter, where we had difficulty in finding our way back down. Eventually, a young man in traditional dress, outside what may have been a Yeshiva religious school, pointed us back the way we had come.

On arriving again at the checkpoint our possessions were scanned and the same young guard waved us through. We emerged into the open at a point overlooking the Western Wall, above which the Temple Mount, dominating the city much as the Acropolis dominates Athens, is situated. A flight of steps led down to the Plaza, which was cleared of Palestinian houses in 1968. Jews, many in traditional dress, and a sprinkling of Christians were praying at the Wall, all that remains of the Temple built by Herod the Great, the one in which Jesus preached. Descending to the crowded, sunlit Plaza, we asked directions to the Temple Mount and were directed to a nearby checkpoint, beyond which people had already gathered. Since we were exiting from the Plaza our possessions weren't scanned.

Quickly we joined the crowd lined up before a covered ramp leading up to Haram al-Sharif, as Moslems call the Temple Mount. Beside us were those waiting to visit the Western Wall, among them a family group, probably on a Bar Mitzvah outing? The women were carrying trays of cakes and confectionary, while the men and boys were singing exuberantly. Occasionally, one individual in a black suit and black wide-brimmed hat would blow the shofar, or ram's horn. It was like a scene out of Fiddler on the Roof. Meanwhile, sitting in the shade of the nearby wall, a shabbily dressed individual who may have been a street peddler was accepting handfuls of coins from two dark-gowned women, with whom he also shared food.

Even as we joined the multinational queue, among which French tourists in pink baseball caps stood out, new arrivals were pressing in behind us. Two uniformed Palestinian guards stood at the entrance to the ramp, the sides of which were enclosed with planks. A checkpoint hut was visible further up.

The guards had difficulty controlling the crowd. Two burly individuals made to barge past them but were angrily repulsed, then, fortunately, my wife and I were waved on. On reaching the hut our possessions were scanned. Impatiently, we hurried round a right-angled corner, passed a heap of battered riot shields, and continued up the long ramp. Once through the Moors' Gate we encountered a peaceful oasis, which contrasted with the discord below. Though the afternoon was hot, slender evergreens growing beside buildings of honey-coloured limestone lent an air of coolness. So this was the Moslem redoubt in the Holy City, the place where Jewish zealots wished to rebuild the Temple!

Losing no time, we walked by the El-Aqsa Mosque, once the Crusaders' headquarters, which we were not allowed to enter, then headed for the 7th century Dome of the Rock, the golden roof of which is a radiant focal point in views of Jerusalem. On the way we came upon men studying the Koran under shady olives, a scene that brought to mind Plato's academy. They ignored us infidels as we mounted steps to the higher level. Now we were beside the Dome of the Rock, the spot where Muhammad had made a night ascent to heaven before returning next morning to Mecca. When we tried to enter, a doorman waved us away. Fine. We had paid no entrance fee and were here at the pleasure of Allah's worshippers. Later, we learned that some years ago an Australian had tried to set fire to the interior, as a result of which tourists were now barred.

Exploring the spacious sanctuary, we photographed various buildings, an enclosed well, graceful freestanding arcades with tall columns and a lower, prohibited area bordering the eastside city wall, which was planted with olive trees and through which a woman in dark robes was approaching. Beneath us on the north side young people were strolling before the El-Aqsa School. There was so much to see that we didn't notice the time until a guard hurried up, shouting that visiting time was over. We were now the only infidels in sight.

"Where did you enter?" the guard demanded and when we said, "From the Western Wall," he told us to go there at once, then changing his mind he ordered us to follow him. Obediently, we complied, hurrying through a tunnel or gate into a narrow dimly lit street where men, many wearing Arab headdresses, were drinking and smoking hookahs at outdoor tables. Now I was beginning to feel nervous; this could be an alley in some North African city. Did the guard intend to rob us?

Eventually we reached a street with some tourists, whereupon our guide stopped and demanded money. I had 40 shekels (about 8 euro) and, if the fellow had been more civil, I would have complied but, as matters stood, I refused. Couldn't we have made our own way down to the Western Wall? Later, I had second thoughts. Perhaps the Moors' Gate had already closed? As for the exit we had taken, I learned it was through the Cotton Merchants' Market, one of the most atmospheric places in Old Jerusalem. If only our surly guide had told us that!

By P. G. Nerney

JAMES McCORMACK

Jim's first anniversary Mass was on April 16th and my family and I would like to take this moment to thank the people of Maynooth for their Mass cards, expressions of sympathy and their kind words over the past year.

It has been so heart-warming to hear your memories of Jim, and to realize how much you thought of him. It is a great source of consolation to me and to Emer, Niall, Conor and the grandchildren who miss him so much.

Jim's ashes will be placed in the new Columbarium in Laraghbryan Cemetery in due course. Please visit him there and say a prayer for him.

A Mass will be offered for the intentions of all

Ita



CULTURE NIGHT KILDARE 2019 REGISTRATION OPEN

On Culture Night venues open their doors after hours for a late-night programme of free entertainment, suitable for people of all ages and cultural persuasions!

Every year hundreds of organisations, groups and artists plan fantastic events and the programme sees thousands of people attending.

In 2019 Culture Night will take place on **Friday 20th September** and you are invited to take part.

This year Culture Night Kildare celebrates its **10th anniversary** and Kildare County Council will also launch their **Music Generation Project** so we are particularly welcoming events on these two themes, but all events are welcome, as usual, **including Saturday and Sunday events.**

In addition to single events, we are also supporting **Community projects** that will contribute to the promotion of the programme in the weeks prior to Culture Night. They must involve local groups (such as GAA clubs, schools and so on) and produce a **visible outcome** in one or more town's centres (shops windows displays or pop up performances and so on in main streets or squares). The projects selected will be awarded a grant of **€500.**

The deadline for projects and events registration is June 14th.

For further information and help or to apply please contact Culture Night Kildare Coordinator, Federica Petronilli

(Email: culturenightkildare@gmail.com, Tel: 083 1698936)

Facebook: Arts in co Kildare
Twitter: Kildare Arts Service

FINE GAEL 

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 rioanamulliganfg@gmail.com

**VOTE
No. 1**

**Cllr. TIM
DURKAN**
Vote No. 2



Maynooth Golf Society

**John Tiernan Cup
Sponsored by Ollie Bright**

Grangecastle Results

1st	Dermot Myles	40pts
2nd	Tom Coffey	38pts
3rd	Paul Farrelly	36pts
4th	John Carroll	35ptsB9
5th	Barry Farrell	35pts
Over 60	Sean Farrelly	
Visitor	David Murray	
F9	Derek O'Donovan	19pts
B9	Declan Byrne	20pts
Nearest Pin	Derek O'Donovan	
2's Club	Paul Farrelly	

**Next outing is the Weekend away
in Athlone 17/18th May**



**Drama News
An Nuadha Players
Community Theatre**

Twenty Years A Growing!

So here we are twenty years later and still going strong! It does not seem like that long ago that An Nuadha Players first came into being but we are now facing into our 20th anniversary production with as much energy and enthusiasm as we had when we faced into our first production all those years ago.

Attending rehearsals, it is always striking to see the spread of ages involved in each show and the new faces that appear with each production. It is a great way for young and old to meet in a creative activity, with the young often sharing their quickness to pick up certain things with older cast members and older cast members passing on their acquired wisdom in return. For new people coming to the town it is a way of making contact with a large group of people with similar interests and finding a place for yourself in the community and for long-time residents it keeps them constantly in contact with what is new in the town. The sense of satisfaction that comes from working so hard to create a moment of magic and sharing that with a cast of fellow townspeople is immense and, of course, the icing on the cake is when your audience tells you how much they enjoyed the whole experience as well.

This anniversary offering will hopefully have something for everyone – music, dancing, singing, comedy, great characters, great acting and an overall feel good factor. Martin Higgins, the writer, is no stranger to the Maynooth stage. He has been the

author of all our pantos to date, as well as having served as scriptwriter for the Gaiety panto, the Everyman Theatre in Cork panto and for the hilarious comedienne, June Rodgers. This offering, Twisted, shows his capricious imagination at its best, with inspirational input from his daughter, Catriona, who is the production's director. Meadhbh Fitzgibbon-Moore, herself an original child actor 20 years ago, takes on the choreography with great aplomb and great good humour and Colin Sloane, our first ever musical director, shows that he still knows how to bring out the best vocally in the cast.

We hope that as many people as possible will be able to attend and to help us celebrate our anniversary. We would love to see past cast members come along and meet us after the show to share some memories.

'Twisted: A Wicked Fairytale' will run from Wed. 8th May to Sat. 11th May in the Aula Maxima in St. Patrick's College and tickets are available online at buytickets.at/annuadhplayers, from Maynooth Bookshop, Main Street or email annuadhplayers@gmail.com.



Come along and give yourselves a guaranteed good night out while helping to keep creative activity alive and well in our community!

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Maynooth Monthly Diary Planner

<p>Community Library</p>	<p>Maynooth Multiple Births</p>	<p>Bridge Club</p>
<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>
<p>I.C.A.</p>	<p>MAYNOOTH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP</p>	<p>Arthritis Ireland</p>
<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>
<p>University of Third Age (U3A)</p>	<p>Maynooth Parent & Toddler Group</p>	<p>Maynooth Men's Sheds</p>
<p>We meet on Fridays between 11am & 1pm in Maynooth Community Space Tesco SC 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>
<p>Maynooth Tidy Towns</p>	<p>St Joseph's young Priests Society</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Church</p>
<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>
<p>Maynooth Senior Citizens</p>	<p>DIARY ENTRIES</p>	<p>ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND</p>
<p>Our morning club continues on Tuesday and Thursday and new members are always welcome. Perhaps you are new to the parish or new to the age bracket, why not come along you might enjoy it. You will find us in the Geraldine Hall on Leinster St. 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>

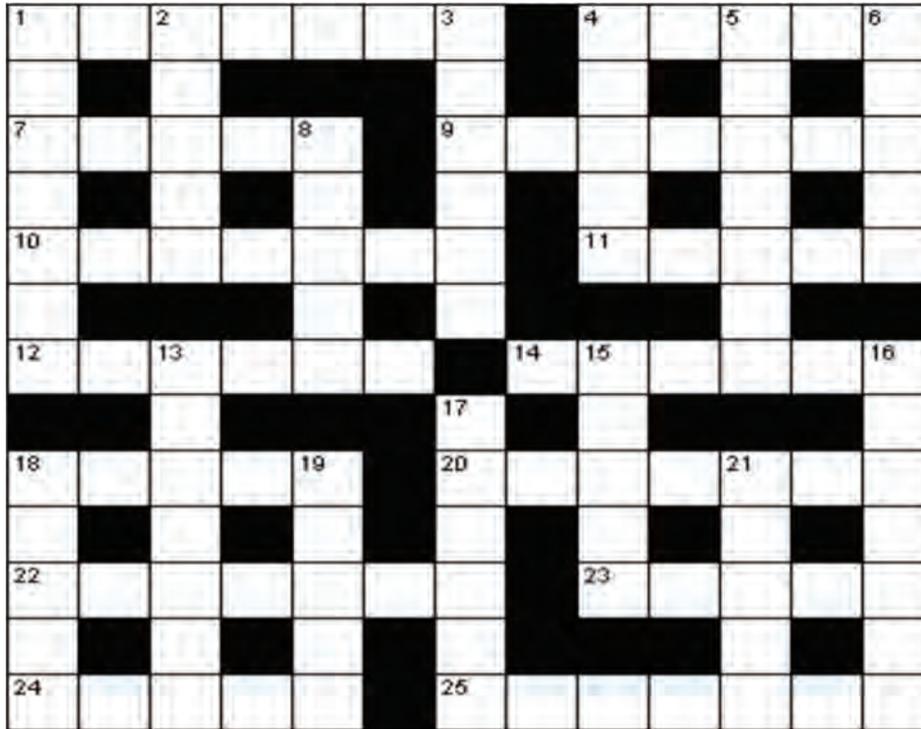
*Diary entries are published free of charge for all non-fee paying Community Groups.
The content of the Monthly Planner Diary is published in good faith. All details should be checked with groups in advance*

Clues Across

1. Floorshow (7)
4. Spooky (5)
7. Detection device (5)
9. Vertical (7)
10. Inactivity (7)
11. Measuring implement (5)
12. Dictator (6)
14. Ecclesiastic (6)
18. Copious (5)
20. Drawn (7)
22. Pouch worn with a kilt (7)
23. Diadem (5)
24. Admittance (5)
25. Spiny anteater (7)



May 2019 Crossword - No. 479



Clues Down

1. Transported (7)
2. Emblem (5)
3. Tropical bird (6)
4. Mistake (5)
5. Dependable follower (7)
6. Go in (5)
8. Magnitude relation (5)
13. Reinforcement (7)
15. Reasoned judgment (5)
16. Musical passage (7)
17. Opportunity (6)
18. Part of a church (5)
19. Ahead of time (5)
21. Obviate (5)



Solutions to Crossword No 478

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

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Winner of Crossword No. 478

Marian O'Mahoney
Carton Court
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
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Difficult

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

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

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

Sudoku Challenge 2019

Entries must arrive to
Newsletter Office before:
21st May 2019

Congratulations to April Winner:
Rebecca O'Mahoney
Castlepark Square
Maynooth

Collect prize from
Newsletter Office

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

Super Difficult

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



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Last Month's Winner:

**Alex Tully
 Newtown Hall
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 collected at:
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 Unit 5, Tesco Shopping Centre.

Entries must arrive before
 Tuesday 21st May 2019

Junior Puzzle Corner



Let's go to the Zoo

Fill in the blanks with the type of word described

Today we went to the Zoo! The first thing we saw was a

_____ ing
 (colour) (animal) (action word)

The Zookeeper told us that was normal,



except in _____. I had
 (country)

a _____ time! Next time, I will
 (describing word)

remember that if I ever see



_____ |
 (colour) (plural animal)

should _____ the other way.
 (action word)



Can you solve our Word Search Puzzle?

O	M	D	L	R	G	N	S	W	M	M	O	F	W	MUPPETS
S	C	L	I	F	F	O	R	D	U	I	R	R	R	JIM HENSON
C	D	O	O	I	W	I	S	L	P	S	G	O	E	KERMIT
A	R	Y	K	E	R	M	I	T	P	S	W	D	T	MISS PIGGY
R	I	Z	Z	O	O	O	F	E	E	P	A	B	O	GONZO
S	B	I	M	G	O	N	Z	O	T	I	L	O	O	PEPE
E	G	C	S	K	W	E	S	R	S	G	D	B	C	RIZZO
A	I	Z	O	A	R	T	I	E	O	G	O	O	S	ROWLF
F	B	F	L	O	E	G	G	P	R	Y	R	A	F	BEAKER
G	L	T	L	P	Z	L	O	R	O	R	F	B	E	SCOOTER
P	E	W	E	J	I	M	H	E	N	S	O	N	C	CLIFFORD
R	P	P	O	W	O	Y	L	M	E	L	M	O	F	BOBO
G	E	M	B	R	R	B	E	A	K	E	R	B	M	WALDORF
R	K	N	E	P	L	M	O	I	O	F	A	R	O	WALTER

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Early May is your last chance to sow a new lawn from seed as we come into the summer months and the temperatures rise even further. Those who have already sown a new lawn should continue to ensure it is watered regularly. For those



with an existing lawn, you should, by now, have lowered the blades on the lawnmower for a slightly tighter cut. Ideally the lawn should be cut once per week but the same rules apply as earlier in the year; don't cut the lawn when it's wet, wait for a dry day. Don't cut the lawn too tight. And don't forget to trim the edges with an edging shears; neat and tidy edges

make for a neater and tidier lawn. Apply lawn weed killer to your lawn this month.

In the vegetable garden

Harvest asparagus spears when they are no more than 18 cm tall. Thin out direct-sown vegetables such as spinach, carrot and lettuce seedlings, then water the rows well. Harden off outdoor tomatoes, courgettes and pumpkins for planting early next month. Protect carrots from carrot fly by covering with horticultural fleece or Enviromesh. Pinch out the growing points of broad beans as soon as beans start to appear at the base of the plant to reduce the risk of blackfly attack. Weed around your onions and garlic to reduce competition for nutrients and water. Apply an onion fertiliser to boost growth. Make supports for your runner beans, using 8 ft. (2.4 m) bamboo canes. Support pea plants with twiggy sticks or pea netting. Keep on top of weeding.



In the fruit garden

Protect strawberries with straw (to control weeds and lift the berries off the ground) and netting (to keep birds off the fruit). Harvest rhubarb, picking only one-third of the total amount of stems. Hang pheromone traps in plum trees from May to August to monitor plum-fruit-moth activity. Keep young fruit trees well-watered while they are putting on rapid growth. Remove blossom and fruits from newly planted fruit trees to help them establish properly during their first year.

Regularly check the centre of gooseberry bushes for green gooseberry sawfly caterpillars - they will quickly skeletonise leaves if not removed. Erect netting around soft fruit plants to prevent birds eating your crop.

Whether you believe that May is a spring or summer month, we are sure you will all agree that it is a wonderful month in the garden. The bare winter and early spring patches are filling in with fresh growth as the perennials make their appearance and the amount of colour in the garden is increasing by the day. Below you will find some handy hints to help you keep on top of things over the next few weeks.

In the flower garden

As your spring bulbs begin to fade, remove the flower heads to prevent them from going to seed. The stalks should be left in place to die back naturally; this allows for the bulbs to re-absorb any available nutrients which keeps them fed during their dormant period. The stalks can be cut/removed once they are well withered. This is also an ideal time to lift and divide any clumps of spring bulbs which appear to have outgrown their allotted space. They can be lifted and divided, withering stalks and all, and re-planted in their new position. Early flowering clematis, such as the Clematis armandii, should be pruned now, if required, as they finish flowering. They are group 1 climbers which means they flower early and on last year's growth. In truth, they should not need too much by way of pruning unless they are getting too big for the area they are in or they can be pruned to get rid of any old or damaged/dead wood. Always cut back to a pair of healthy buds. As the temperatures rise, so do the instances of pest and disease in the garden. As the old saying goes, prevention is better than cure! A strong case in point are roses. Keep an eye out for aphids/greenfly on the new buds or black spot and rust on the leaves. Remove any infected leaves immediately and discard them. Treat any affected plants with appropriate insecticide and fungicide which can be used every two weeks to keep problems at bay. Remember, good air circulation around the plants is a must in preventing the spread of pests and diseases.



*Gardening
"the fine art of soul to soil"*

Beef Taco salad with homemade tortilla bowls

Ingredients:

Tortilla bowls

- 4 10-inch flour tortillas
- Vegetable oil spray

Taco meat

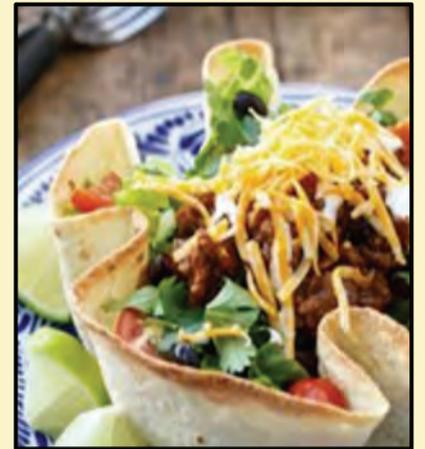
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 (8-ounces) can tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 2 teaspoons cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon packed light brown sugar
- Salt and pepper

Salad

- 2 romaine lettuce hearts, shredded
- 1 (15-ounces) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 8 ounces cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 2 spring onions, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 table spoons lime juice
- Avocado, and sour cream for topping (optional)

Directions:

1. To make homemade taco shells, adjust oven racks to upper-middle and lower-middle positions, preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Arrange 4 oven-safe soup bowls, flattened foil balls or 6 inch cake pans on two rimmed baking sheets.
2. Warm tortillas slightly until pliable. Spray both sides with cooking spray, then drape over soup bowls or nest inside cake pans. Bake until crisp, 10-15 minutes, rotating sheets half way through baking. Let cool completely before removing.
3. Heat oil in a non-stick skillet set over medium-high heat. Add onion and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in chili powder and garlic and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add ground beef and cook, breaking up meat with a wooden spoon, until almost cooked through but still slightly pink, about 2 minutes. Stir in tomato sauce, broth, vinegar and sugar and simmer until slightly thickened, about 5 minutes ;mixture will be saucy. Remove from heat and season with salt and pepper.
4. Combine lettuce, beans, tomatoes, spring onion, and 2 tablespoons cilantro in a large bowl; toss with lime juice and season with salt and pepper to taste. Place tortilla bowls on serving plates. Divide salad among bowls. Top with taco meat and sprinkle with cheese and remaining cilantro. Garnish with sour cream and avocado, if desired.



Strawberry no-bake mini cheesecake (serves 4)

Ingredients:

- 1 pound fresh strawberries
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 (8 ounces) package cream cheese
- 1 (14 ounces) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 5 ounces shortbread cookies
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted



Instructions:

1. Wash, core and slice strawberries. Sprinkle strawberries with sugar and toss to coat. Set aside.
2. In a tall mixing bowl, whip the cream with an electric mixer. Once trails begin to form, turn the mixer off and add powdered sugar and continue to whip until stiff peaks form. Place whipped cream in the refrigerator until ready to serve.
3. In a medium mixing bowl combine cream cheese, milk, vanilla essence and lemon juice. Beat with the mixer until mixture is smooth. Place in the refrigerator until ready to serve.
4. Place cookies in a blender or food processor to crush. Blend on low until you have all cookie crumbs. Pour into a small bowl and combine with butter. Mix until all cookie crumbs are moist.
5. Divide cookie mixture into 4 dishes(we used small jars). Gently pat cookies down with a spoon or your fingers.
6. Add cheesecake filling, divided evenly between jars. Top with 1/4 of strawberries in each jar. Add dollop of whipped cream.
7. Refrigerate for 2 hours.

Tips: Cheesecake keeps for several days in the fridge covered.

Enjoy!!

FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

SUMMER MOVIES PREVIEW



It's that time of the year again....summer movie season! We have months of movie blockbusters and sequels to look forward to. Whether superheroes, action thrillers, comic book movies, buddy comedies, documentaries, dramas or romances are your cup of tea, there is something for everyone to enjoy.



AVENGERS: ENDGAME.

In late December 2018, this was named the second-most anticipated film of 2019 by movie site **IMDb**. **Avengers: Endgame** is based on the Marvel Comics superhero team the **Avengers**, the 22nd film in the *Marvel Cinematic Universe* and the final film in the **Infinity Saga**. It features an all-star cast including Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner and Bradley Cooper amongst others. The culmination of 11 years of storytelling comes to a head as the original core Avengers (Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, Black Widow, Hawkeye and Hulk) recruit new heroes (Ant-Man, Captain Marvel, Rocket) to aid them in reversing the damage done by Thanos to the universe.

The final film in the franchise has been received well by American critics, giving it the thumbs up and calling it 'the undisputed champion of the *MCU* series of movies when it comes to emotional punch'. For an effects-driven, comic book movie, the character acting is unusually strong from the likes of Downey and Hemsworth. **Avengers** has been praised for its funny, smart screenplay and expert direction from Anthony Russo and Joe Russo. It's the must-see movie event of the summer!



THE HUSTLE

Female buddy movies have increasingly become the cinematic norm in the past few years. Hot on the trail of the Mila Kunis/Kate McKinnon starrer, **The Spy Who Dumped Me**, we now have **The Hustle**. This is an American comedy film directed by Chris Addison and written by Jac Schaeffer. **The Hustle** stars Rebel Wilson and Anne Hathaway as two scammers aiming to take down the "dirty rotten men" who have ruined their lives. Alex Sharp plays their intended target/victim, a tech nerd and billionaire.

The movie is a remake of the 1988 Steve Martin and Michael Caine film **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** — itself a remake of the 1964 Marlon Brando and David Niven movie **Bedtime Story** — and thus a familiar story, but in new, women-centred packaging. From a modern perspective, these older movies made for uncomfortable viewing with the misogynistic undertones of the male characters on display.

With a new female twist and spin on the original male storyline, it will be interesting to see if that sexism is softened to fit in with the new politically correct #MeToo era.

The quirky talents and combination of Wilson and Hathaway should make **The Hustle** an entertaining watch for viewers.



EXTREMELY WICKED, SHOCKINGLY EVIL AND VILE

People are endlessly fascinated with serial killer stories. Today's pop culture is steeped in wildly popular true crime podcasts and documentaries. There have been many cinematic and television incarnations of stories revolving around notorious killers like **The Boston Strangler**, **The Hillside Stranglers**, **Nightstalker** and **Jack The Ripper**. Perhaps the most infamous killer of them all is Ted Bundy.

Directed by Joe Berlinger, **Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile** draws its title from the judge's pronouncement during Ted Bundy's 1979 sentencing for the rape and murders of several young women. The film is based on the memoir **The Phantom Prince: My Life with Ted Bundy** by Bundy's former girlfriend Elizabeth Kloepfer. Zac Efron stars as the creepy serial killer, with Lily Collins as the fiancée he wooed and deceived. John Malkovich also appears in the film as Edward Cowart, the presiding judge at Bundy's trial.

The story of Ted Bundy (Zac Efron) is shown from the point of view of his girlfriend who struggled to accept the reality of her boyfriend's murderous rampages. Though, the film, according to some critics, seems much more interested in Bundy's point of view than those of the women he hurt. Which makes for a somewhat confusing film, lacking in any new insight that might justify going down a well-trodden path yet again. Instead of any real attempt to dissect Bundy, **Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile** seems too charmed by its subject to gain any real understanding into what made this all-American college boy tick. **The Hustle** promises to be the most uncomfortable viewing of the summer movie season. Not for the faint-hearted.



LATE NIGHT

Late Night is an upcoming American comedy-drama film directed by Nisha Ganatra. Emma Thompson and Mindy Kaling (who wrote the film) star in a film about how women adjust to working in male-dominated fields. The plot follows the host of a late-night talk show who teams up with one of her new staff writers in an attempt to save the show. Thompson plays Katherine Newbury, the long-time host of a late-night talk show who's on the verge of being replaced by a younger male comedian. Kaling is the young writer who

accidentally stumbles into a job in Newbury's all-male writing room. In reality, female late-night hosts are few and far between but the real point of the movie is about the ways women fight to succeed at work, and why changing themselves to do so may not be necessary. The excellent Emma Thompson is always very watchable, so **Late Night** should be required viewing.



THE LION KING

Director Jon Favreau takes his **Jungle Book** bag of tricks to the next level with this "live action" (CGI) remake of Disney's most successful animated movie ever. **The Lion King** is Disney's third live-action remake in what's been billed as 'photorealistic' computer animation. Favreau and Disney struck gold on their last collaboration, the live action retelling of **The Jungle Book**. There are a few new songs, CGI recreations of the original characters and Earl Jones reprises his role as Mufasa in the new movie. The voice cast is impressive and includes Beyoncé, Donald Glover, Seth Rogen, Billy Eichner and John Oliver. Four songs from the 1994 animated film classic are slated to appear on the soundtrack, reworked by Elton John and Beyoncé. **The Lion King** is sure to be the highlight of the summer months and a sure-fire hit with adult and children viewers alike.



FORD V FERRARI

Ford v Ferrari tells the tremendous true story of Ford and Ferrari's epic racing rivalry of the 1960s. James Mangold directs a cast led by Christian Bale and Matt Damon, who play driver Ken Miles and automotive designer Carroll Shelby respectively, in this retelling of a story about a team of engineers and enthusiasts trying to build a car from scratch that can beat the Ferrari at the 1966 *Le Mans* race in France. Of interest to viewers will be Irish actress Caitriona Balfe (of *Outlander* fame) in the role of Christian Bale's wife.

Damon of the **Bourne** movie series, **The Departed**, and countless other modern classics might seem an odd choice to play Shelby at first, but he's actually a little older now than Shelby was in the mid 1960s. The powerhouse combination of acting talents, Damon and Bale (**Batman** series), is creating some exciting advance press for the movie. One to watch out for!





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

Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group 21st Annual Art Exhibition

Another year and another very successful Art Exhibition. The Castle Keep Art Group held its 21st Annual Art Exhibition in the Maynooth Education Campus (incorporating Maynooth Post Primary School and Maynooth Community College) on 26-28 April. The exhibition titled "Kaleidoscope" was launched on the evening of Friday 26th by Dr. Maebh O'Regan. Maebh, an advocate of lifelong learning, is a lecturer in Visual Culture at NCAD. We would like to thank Maebh for launching the exhibition and for her comments and insights on the benefits and importance of art groups in the community.

We also thank Tom Ashe, patron of the Art Group and the Education Campus for supporting us down through the years. We would also like to thank Bistro 53 for their very generous sponsorship of the wine



Busy Bees by Robert Hines



Empty Cup by Geraldine Murray

reception on Friday night. We in the group will certainly be paying a visit to them shortly.

We had 82 works of art on display from 17 members of the group. These included – local scenes, still life, flora and fauna studies, abstract, seascapes and figurative works. There were as many mediums - oils, watercolour, acrylic, printing techniques, pen, pencil – it was all there.

We were delighted that over half of the exhibition items were sold and we were even more delighted with the very positive comments we received from visitors to the exhibition on the night and over the weekend. One comment was "I know the summer has arrived when the Castle Keep have their annual exhibition". So a big thank you to everyone who came to see the art works over the weekend and for your support down the years.

Castle Keep Art Group



Boat House Carton by Heather Ferguson



My Nautical Guide by Anne McGloughlin