


Local News October 2020 Issue No. 495 Online Version

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.



GAELCHOLÁISTE MHAIGH NUAD



GCMN – Gaeilge, Cultúr, Meas agus Neart

History was made in Maynooth on the 28th of August when Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad opened its doors for the first time. A new start, a new era, and a new generation of students from North Kildare and Meath beginning their secondary education through Irish in the centre of Maynooth.

24 students are registered and there is a wide range of subjects on offer to them. All core subjects are available, and they can choose from a range of optional ones: Spanish, German, Home Economics, Business Studies, Art, Woodwork, Technology, Technical Graphics and Music. We are putting a lot of emphasis on wellbeing in the Coláiste to ensure our students are settling in well after the sudden end to their primary education in March of this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Gaelcholáiste is currently based in temporary accommodation upstairs in Manor Mills Shopping Centre. The plan is to move to the Maynooth Post Primary and Maynooth Community College site after it has been vacated. The Coláiste's staff are committed and energetic and are looking forward to the future of Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad. We are committed to providing an excellent, wide-ranging education for our students through the medium of Irish and it is anticipated that the school will grow and develop quickly.

Application forms for First Year places for the school year 2021-2022 will be available on our website www.gcmn.ie in October.

Is de réir a chéile a thógtar na caisleáin.

Príomhoide: Mícheál Ó Ceoinín
 Suíomh na scoile: www.gcmn.ie
 Contact us at: eolas@gcmn.ie



Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad students pictured outside Maynooth Castle



Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad classroom at Manor Mills set out for social distancing

Maynooth Harbour Area

While the onset of COVID-19 has brought much stress and uncertainty there has been at least one positive. Many more residents of Maynooth, and further afield, have come to appreciate the fantastic amenity of the Harbour area of the Town. A tranquil walk along the towpath of the Royal Canal or a few hours enjoying the sunshine in the Harbour Field became the norm during lockdowns. Hopefully this trend, weather permitting, will continue.

With this increase in traffic came an increase in rubbish to the area. While most people will avail of the bins provided to dispose of their rubbish there will always be the few who don't.

Staff of the Maynooth Community Employment Project have installed larger bins in the area of the slipway to cope with the increase and the smaller bins that have been removed will be repositioned between the Harbour and the Playground to provide extra capacity for waste. While most of the work of the Community Employment Project staff goes unnoticed we owe them a huge thanks for keeping this area maintained. Photos show how full the rubbish bins become and the amount of rubbish collected (8 black bags) in just one day. We would appeal to all who use the area to use the bins provided or take their rubbish home if the bins are full.




New bins in the Harbour Area



MCEP staff maintaining the area

Twice a year, households across the Ireland change the time on their clocks either an hour forward or an hour backwards, depending on the time of year and each year, many of us get confused about when the clocks change. On Sunday October 25, clocks go back one hour at 2am marking the end of summer time. An easy way to remember the twice yearly occasion and which corresponds to going back or forward is the saying: “Spring forward, Fall back.”





SHOP LOCAL - EAT LOCAL - SPEND LOCAL - ENJOY LOCAL

Support Local Jobs - Keep Maynooth Working



Maynooth Newsletter

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

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

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

Tel: 01-6285922

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

Letters to the Editor

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

Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

The Newsletter Archive can be viewed and searched in pdf format. In addition, there exists the capability to be able to search an entire year. Please be aware the single files associated with the year are larger and will take a little longer to load.

The Archive provides an important historical footprint of the Town and records the community profile of Maynooth from the mid-seventies to the present day. We hope you enjoy using it and that it brings back memories of people, places and times and that it equally provides an interesting insight to the development of the town and university for newly arrived members of our community.

Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter

Due to the current restrictions in place to combat the spread of the COVID-19 Virus we are unable to print & deliver the normal edition of the Maynooth Newsletter. The hope going forward is to produce this Online Version to keep people informed. All the community of Maynooth are invited to submit relevant content to: office@maynoothcep.com. As we progress through these extraordinary times if we mind ourselves and each other we will get through this and come out the other side a stronger community & country. Please bear in mind as the situation progresses we may be unable to produce the Online version.

Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be Friday 23rd October 2020

Editorial

It is hard to believe that we are already in October 2020 and I can only speak for myself in asking where has 2020 gone. I have not been on a train or travelled to Dublin City since March. While working at home suits me as well as many other residents of Maynooth I have to say that while I moan about having to get up at six in the morning to travel to work in Dublin I am missing my train trips. The strange thing is that I cannot see anything changing at least for the rest of 2020. I am always a glass half full person and in as much as possible but I now have to accept that the daily Covid 19 news is the most important news every day. Kildare was the first place to have to accept losing almost the full month of August and it is now the case that other counties have followed. We do not want to go into another period of additional local restrictions so we all need to be sensible and follow the advice of Public Health officials. So please take care and let us all try to ensure that Maynooth does not become a hot spot for Covid 19.

Also being October we would like to welcome back students to Maynooth University and in particular those starting in first year. A lot can be said about the expectations that young people have about their time in university. Most courses are at least three years duration so there is plenty of time to experience the events and meet the people that will make the memories that you will take from your college years. By choosing Maynooth you are coming to a town that is not unlike the place you have lived up to now so please be conscious that most of the people in Maynooth live here permanently and while they understand student life they would also expect that students respect their lifestyle as well.

Of course many aspects of life continues and for those attending school you are almost at the end of the first term and the mid-term break at Halloween is here. On the front page we celebrate the opening of Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad the new Post-Primary School teaching through the medium of Irish. Currently based in the Manor Mills complex it is expected to transfer to the existing Maynooth Post-Primary building sometime during the school year. Also on the move is Gaelscoil Ruairi who teach the primary school curriculum through the medium of Irish. Gaelscoil Ruairi has moved to a site on the new Maynooth Education Campus in the Moyglare area.



Gaelscoil Ruairi new school building

At the beginning of this article I mentioned that I was missing my daily train journeys to Dublin. If plans go to timetable (I couldn't resist it) we will have a DART service to Maynooth. Irish Rail has opened a consultation process which closes at 5pm on Wednesday 7th October 2020. See link to their website below.

Irish Rail - How to Engage / Contact Us

This consultation is our way of asking you, as potential users of the service or those likely to be affected by its development, for your views on our plans.

Your local knowledge will inform the emerging design, help us to improve the project and ensure it will be a success for you and the communities the project will serve.

You can provide feedback on our proposals before 5pm on Wednesday 7th October 2020 via the following means:

Search DART+West Feedback on www.irishrail.ie

Phoneline: (01) 823 5127

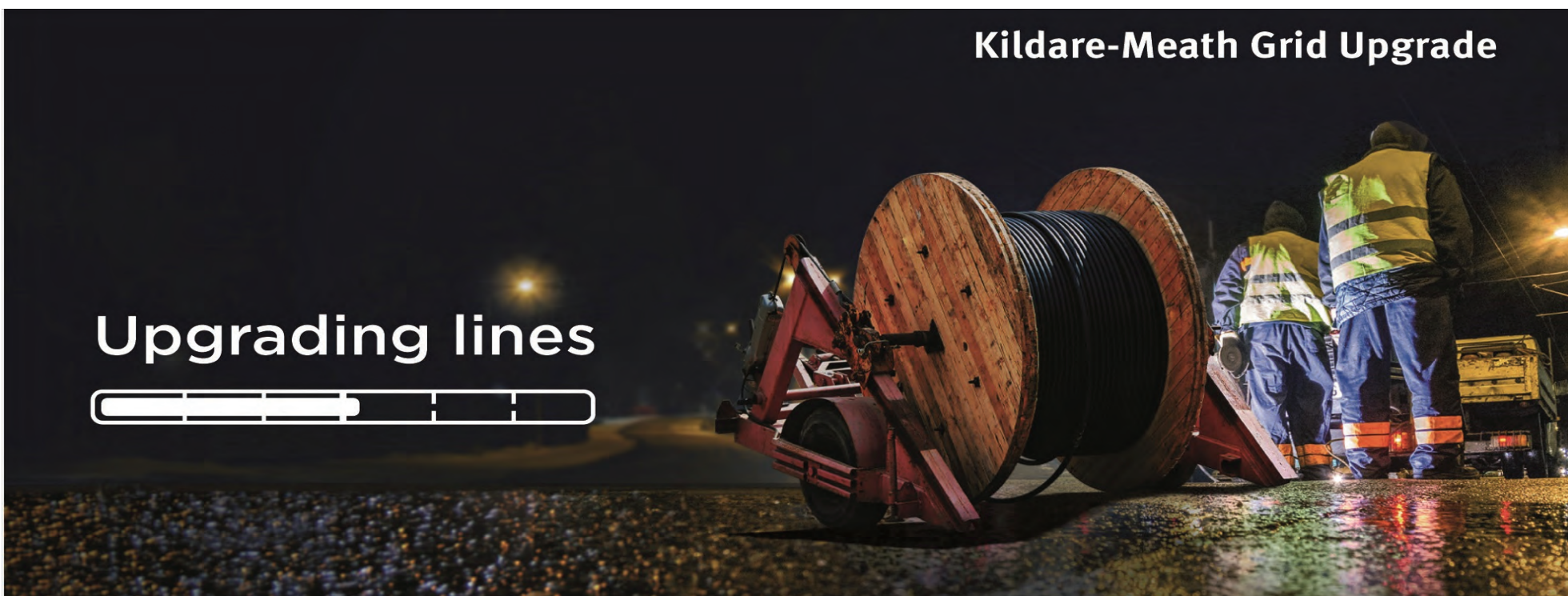
Email: DARTMaynooth@irishrail.ie

Paul Croghan - Editor



Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade

Upgrading lines

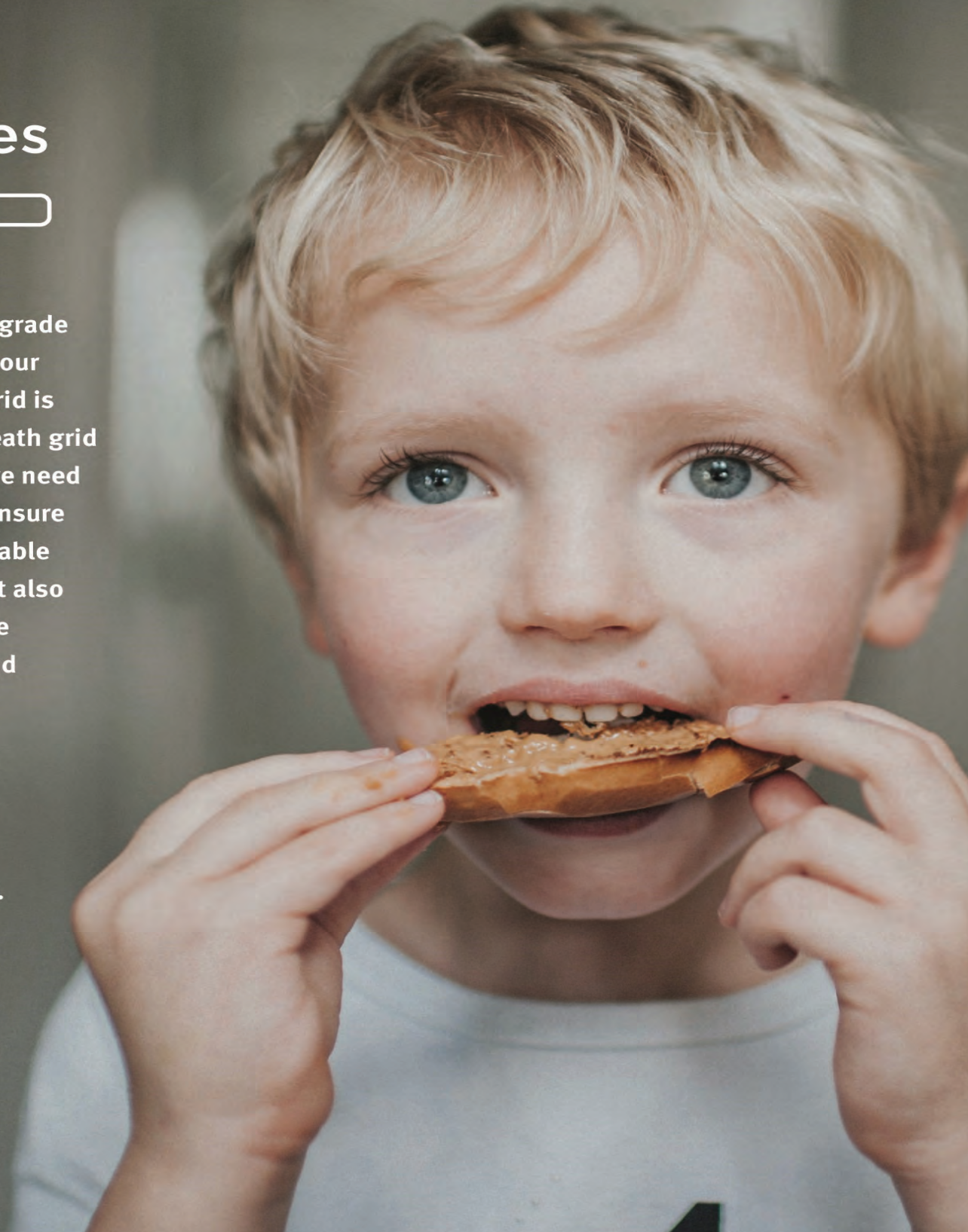


Upgrading lives



We all know how much better an upgrade can make things. And that's true of our electricity grid too. That's why EirGrid is planning to upgrade the Kildare-Meath grid – vital if we are to have the power we need for our growing population and to ensure you have a safe, secure and sustainable supply of electricity for the future. It also means we can bring more renewable energy onto the grid, helping Ireland to reduce carbon emissions.

We're now looking at five possible ways of doing this - with overhead and underground options - and will be in touch soon to hear your views. In the meantime, you can find out more at eirgrid.ie/KildareMeath



Molly's Big Chop!

About Me: Hi, My name is Molly and I am an 8 year old girl from Maynooth in County Kildare. I am in 2nd class in Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich. The first thing people usually notice about me is my super long hair. I was even born with lots of hair so I guess that makes me a good person to help The Little Princess Trust. My Mum told me all about The Little Princess Trust and how they help sick children in Ireland and the UK who lose their hair from cancer.



Cutting my long hair and fundraising for Little Princess Trust because I want to help a sick child feel happy.

I felt sad thinking about other children being sick. I would like to do something to help them. On October 16th 2020 I am going to cut my hair and donate it, to help a child get a nice wig and

feel happy. It costs a lot of money to create the wig from the hair so I am also fundraising to send money to the charity. I am hoping that, with the help of my family and friends I might even be able to raise €1,000. If you could help me to get there you would make me, and another child, and the charity very happy.

The Big Chop: On Friday 16th of October I will get my hair cut at Pelo Hairdressing in Newbridge. I'm really lucky that it will be Denise cutting my hair. She's one of the best hairdressers in Ireland, so I am sure she will do a great job. My Mum will pop up a picture afterwards so you can see.

About The Little Princess Trust: When a child loses their hair to cancer or another condition, we'll be there with a free, real hair wig to help restore their confidence and identity. We won't stop until the research that we fund ends childhood cancer forever. Promise. Please visit us at www.littleprincesses.org.uk to find out how you can help us give young people back what cancer takes away. The Trust relies solely on the efforts of enthusiastic community fundraisers. We receive no formal funding. Please help to raise money for us so that we can help more families.

See Maynooth Newsletter Facebook page for more info.

Irish Ghost Stories

A Haunted Mansion in Sligo

On the Coolera peninsula in Sligo William Phibbs built a stately mansion known variously as Seafield or Lisheen House.

It overlooked the sea and with over 20 rooms, it stood out as an opulent symbol built at the height of the Great Famine by a man who was a cruel and unsympathetic landlord.



By the early twentieth century, his descendent Owen Phibbs is said to have housed a collection of Egyptian artefacts, including mummies, at the house. Seemingly this stimulated the activity of a violent poltergeist.

According to some servants, the house often shook and objects would smash into the walls at random. A ghostly horse-drawn coach was said to rumble up the avenue at night only to disappear at the entrance door. Several exorcisms were apparently conducted at the house yet the activity did not cease.

The Phibbs family strongly denied the haunting, as it became difficult to retain servants. No-one knows what prompted them to leave abruptly in 1938, never to return. Their agents organized for all the house contents, even the roof, to be sold off. It is now a ruin, covered in wild Atlantic ivy, visited occasionally by those interested in its paranormal history.

The Faceless Lady of Belvelly Castle, Cork

Belvelly Castle sits prominently on the shore of Great Island in Cork Harbour. It is said that in the seventeenth century Margaret Hodnett lived there. Mirrors were a status symbol with the wealthy at that time and Margaret was known for her love of these to remind her of her renowned beauty. She had an on-off relationship with a local lord called Clon Rockenby who asked for her hand in marriage many times but was refused.



Eventually, Rockenby decided that the humiliation was enough and raised a small army and go to the castle to take her by force. He thought the Hodnetts, used to a luxurious life, would not withstand a siege. However, they surprised him by holding out for a full year before surrendering. When he entered the castle Rockenby was shocked to see the state of Margaret, skeletal and starved, a shadow of her former self, her beauty gone. Out of rage, Rockenby smashed her favourite mirror to pieces, as he did so one of the Hodnetts killed him with a sword.

After these events Margaret descended into insanity, she was said to have sought out mirrors constantly to check if her beauty had returned. It never did. She died in old age at the castle. Her troubled ghost appears as a lady in white, sometimes with a veiled face and sometimes with no face at all. Those who have seen her say that looks at a spot on the wall, then rubs it as if looking at her reflection.

Apparently, one stone on the castle's wall has been rubbed smooth over the years, perhaps in the spot where her mirror used to hang. Belvelly has largely been unoccupied since the nineteenth century but is currently being renovated.

Source: irelandbeforeyoudie.com



ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND

A chink of light finally appeared at the end of a very long tunnel when we played our first recital of the year in the Harbour on Saturday 26th September. Due to the restrictions on gatherings we were unfortunately unable to publicise our event as it was intended mainly for the residents of the Community Care Centre



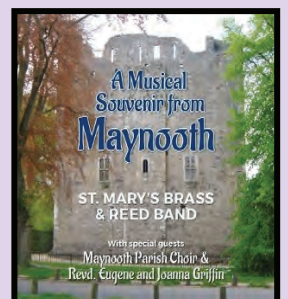
beside the Harbour and it did indeed brighten the day for them in these difficult times. As the photograph alongside shows the Band members were observing the necessary social distancing which can affect the playing and the overall sound of the Band but the members are ready and willing to put up with these disadvantages for the pleasure of playing together. We have been fortunate to have been able to rehearse outdoors for the past couple of months but with Winter on the way we will have to find a suitable safe indoor venue to continue rehearsals.

Once again the Band will be affected by the limitations imposed by coronavirus gatherings when our Annual Mass for Deceased Members is celebrated at 1oc on Sunday 1st November when only two of our members will be actively involved in the Mass. It will be a very strange feeling with the Band not being present but hopefully things will be back to normal next year.

We would like to thank those who bought a copy of our new CD at the Harbour recital last month and we hope to have them available when some of our small groups play in the Square between now and the end of the year. We are not allowed to collect and play in Manor Mill and Tesco in December but we hope to have these small groups playing Festive melodies in the lead up to Christmas to keep the tradition going.

The CD only costs €10 and is available from Maynooth Bookshop Main Street, Donovan's Londis in Greenfield and the Maynooth Newsletter Office in Carton Park or you can call 087 2537 906 if you can't make it to these locations, we would be really grateful for your support in these very difficult times.

Thank you.



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www.maynoothcommuniondresses.ie also www.maynoothdresses.ie



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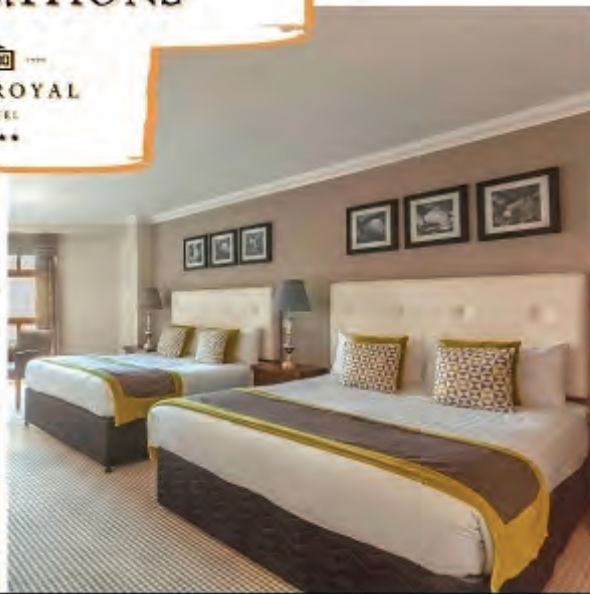
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*Gold Medal
Winner 2019*

Welcome to the October edition of our monthly update of works taking place in Maynooth for 2020.

It has been an unusual year for Tidy Towns with the All Ireland Competition cancelled. As a committee we have often discussed if we would have the same interest if we didn't enter the competition. This year has certainly proved that it doesn't matter if we have a competition or not, our volunteers have amazed us with their commitment to keeping Maynooth Tidy. The 14th March was our last clean up date before Lockdown and the 13th June was the date we resumed. We asked our volunteers to meet in Courthouse Square at 9am but due to social distancing only 15 volunteers can meet up safely. Some volunteers have made arrangements to meet at their respective estates in order to cover all areas of the town without too much walking.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated financially so far this year, especially Andy Duffy from CaterClean a new company set up during the pandemic in Maynooth Business Park, Andy gave us €500. Limetree Hall housing estate did a whip around in the estate and gave us €386. We had individual donations from local people who wish to remain anonymous. They understood that we didn't have our annual collection for 2020 due to the restrictions with Covid 19.

At the time of writing we are making arrangements for the Autumn planting which will be happening around the town in October. We are also working with a company called nobutts.ie to install Stashtrays receptacles in specific areas around the town. Cigarette Butts are the bane of all Tidy Towns groups around Ireland. These containers have a capacity for 5,000 butts. The WHO recently referred to the threat of butts in spreading Covid.



We would like to compliment our Chairman John Kavanagh and his son Ross for volunteering with DIY/SOS, refurbishing a house in Elton Court Leixlip for the Guihen family who have twins Shay and Finn who have special needs and need round the clock care. The programme will air on RTE1 in November.

If you wish to volunteer with Tidy Towns please call 087-3153189 and we will add you to our volunteer WhatsApp group. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter

Mary Molloy - Secretary - Maynooth Tidy Towns





MAYNOOTH
COMMUNITY CHURCH
Eaglais Phreispitéireach in Éirinn

Sunday Morning Worship

During Covid-19 restrictions, our Sunday AM Worship services are available on YouTube from 10.15am. Find us at www.maynoothcc.org or search on YouTube for maynoothcc. Everyone welcome!

office@maynoothcc.org

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- Bear Grylls
host of "Man vs Wild".

Alpha

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from 7.30 - 8.30 via ZOOM

(Details on our website homepage and link below)
www.maynoothcc.org/alpha-course/

Maynooth Community Church
Eaglais Phreispitéireach in Éirinn



MAYNOOTH
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Starting
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& then every Thursday
7.30pm-9.00pm

via ZOOM

Details on maynoothcc.org

7 sessions to
strengthen
your relationship

The
Marriage
Course

New Thursday Morning Bible Study

If you are not already in a group, we'd love you to join us on Thursday mornings for our online Bible Study via ZOOM. During Autumn we are looking the Book of Job. Full details on our Website.



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An Ghaeltacht sa Bhaile

25 Bliain Ag Fás

AUTUMN ONLINE IRISH WEEKEND COURSES 2020

7 HOURS ONLINE PREPARATION COURSES

FOR LEAVING CERT. - JUNIOR CERT. - 1st & 2nd YEAR STUDENTS
FRIDAY 6pm - 8pm + SATURDAY 10am - 3pm

COURSE	Cúrsa A. OCTOBER	30th, 31st
DATES:	Cúrsa B. NOVEMBER	27th, 28th

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Healthcare Support



Who is eligible: People who are over 21 years of age and in receipt of (or a dependent spouse in receipt of) an eligible social welfare payment.

Free course: The courses are free. There is no charge for books or materials. You will not lose any of your social welfare benefits.

Working: Limited part-time working is permitted in line with the demands of the course.

Extra financial supports: You may be entitled to meal and travel allowances. You may also be eligible to child care support.

Other supports: Free access to career guidance and counselling service.

Adult education: Learn new skills in a supportive adult education environment.

Email: celbridgefetc@kwetb.ie

Mobile: 087 397 7750

Web: www.celbridgefetc.ie

Facebook: @CelbridgeVTOS

Unit A11, M4 Business Park, Celbridge

KWETB OPENS NEW EDUCATION AND TRAINING CAMPUS IN CELBRIDGE

Kildare and Wicklow ETB are pleased to announce the opening of an exciting new Education and Training Campus for adults in Celbridge. This state-of-the-art educational facility will be home to Celbridge Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) and is open to adult learners interested in doing a further education course to upskill or re-skill.

The bright and colourful facility, located in the M4 Business Park, includes eight classrooms equipped with the latest audiovisual and IT equipment. The Centre will also have a social area for students and facilities for career guidance, counselling, language learning and evening classes. This Centre provides a new home for Leixlip VTOS, which was based in Riverforest Shopping Centre from 2008 to June of this year.

Leixlip VTOS was set up in 1993. The first class had 20 students in a rented classroom in Scoil Eoin Phóil. Since then, over 2,000 adults from the North Kildare area have achieved certification from FETAC (now QQI), City and Guilds, NCVA and the ATI. Leixlip VTOS continues to attract learners from school-leaving age to retirement age – true life-long learning. Their students have gone on to study in higher education, pursue other further education courses, find employment in many sectors and of course work in the home.

Some students have even returned to teach in the Centre after completing their degrees and teaching qualifications. This new Centre will ensure that KWETB continues to provide exceptional learning opportunities for adults in North Kildare well into this new decade and beyond.



For more information:
Phone: 0873977750/016275673
Website: www.celbridgefetc.ie
Email: celbridgefetc@kwetb.ie



For further information feel free to contact Michael Deegan or Eilis Clare on Michaeldeegan@kwetb.ie or Eilisclare@kwetb.ie.

North Kildare Further Education and Training Campus
Unit A11, M4 Business Park,
Maynooth Road, Celbridge,
Co. Kildare, W23 YK2V



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 This may affect your credit rating which may limit your ability to access credit in the future.
 Life Credit Union is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.





Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Dockin'

Recently, when a friend sent me a postcard showing two construction workers playing billiards in a wrecked building while a third looks on, he hardly expected that my first reaction would be negative. The caption, Dockin', which was explained as a verb that means 'relaxing, being comfortable in any situation', was just a little too 'cute' in the American sense. This conclusion was reinforced when I read on the back that I could win a week's holiday in 'San Francisco, the home of dockin'. The whole thing was just a promotion for – wait for it! – a dockin' hammock, dockchair and Dockers Khakis, and the promoters were Dockers UK Ltd and their parent company Levi Strauss! This 'smart Mick' wasn't going to be taken in by a piece of clever advertising. Chances were that the photo with the billiard table had just been posed.

Then I remembered my days working on building sites in New York. Didn't our Irish-American boss, Kenny, sometimes get up on his table about midday on Friday and dance a jig? And what about those great lunches we used have in Midtown Manhattan and the day Mr. Wagner from head office walked in on us in an Italian restaurant where the meals took almost two hours? Would we be given pink dismissal slips when we got back to the office? But no; all Mr. Wagner said to Kenny was, 'I suppose if they have to work, they have to eat'.

Weren't my mates in that New York firm, then, experts in the art of Dockin', able to shift into high gear when a deadline loomed and ready to seize the moment when the pressure was off? Think of the fun grown men had getting an unsuspecting colleague to open a box from which an imitation weasel jumped out! And I probably earned extra Dockin' credits myself when, without permission, I used take off St Patrick's Day to march up 5th Ave and, on the one occasion when I didn't march, served Irish coffee in the office to my colleagues. Yes, if in the course of their work our office staff or electricians had chanced upon a still-serviceable table, I would see them playing billiards.

Now that I think of it, while teaching in a Post Primary School back in Ireland I

used to play billiards myself – I'm calling it billiards but since we modified the rules it probably was some odd variant of the game. During lunch in the staff room my friend Richard and I would wolf down our sandwiches then, calling ourselves 'Sweet Daniel' and 'Little Sweaty Joe', grab the cues – Richard is a part-time musician with his own band, hence the Joe Dolan and Daniel O'Donnell personas, though I'm not sure which of us was which!

Anyway, with colleagues who were eating lunch at nearby tables looking apprehensive lest the end of a cue stick connect with an eye, we would concentrate on our game, keeping up our pop-singer banter. It was the best part of the day, when the pressure of teaching could be shed as one figured out a move or squinted along a cue.

Of course we weren't the only staff members who played and we certainly weren't the best. Challenges were issued and tournaments were organized. In one tournament I ended up in the final game with our principal, Sean. I had only to pot a ball right in front of a corner pocket to win but, whether from nerves or a subconscious reluctance to outdo 'the boss', I fluffed the shot. Soon after that the billiard table was moved to an adjacent room where nobody would be in danger from a carelessly wielded cue but, somehow, in its new location the old frisson was missing.

If we played a game, we were no longer Dockin', concentrating on our pastime in the midst of a roomful of loquacious diners, while the student horde roamed freely outside!

Not that Dockin' has to involve playing billiards. As the definition says, it's all about relaxing, making the best of a situation. It seems that since I retired I'm dockin' most of the time – in fact, apart from weekly shopping and lawn mowing, some people might conclude, 'That old codger is well and truly docked!'

P.G. Nerney

FRILUGTSLIV (Free air Life)

Beyond the obvious physical health advantages that come with any form of exercise, friluftsliv also offers some significant mental health benefits that are particularly important this year during the pandemic as increased financial stress, social isolation, and health concerns take a toll on people's well-being.

Fresh air, activity, and also being with your friends or family improves your mood, reduces depression, and has many positive effects on your health. Forget all the problems with the coronavirus disease and be outside, get fresh air, sunlight and be together in a good and healthy way.



Something as simple as spending time outside can provide a powerful reset for your mental health — and research is proving it. When it comes to understanding the healing effects of nature, trust the outdoors-loving Scandinavians to have the edge. Friluftsliv, a word coined in 1859 by writer Henrik Ibsen, according to Mother Nature Network (MNN), loosely means

“free air life,” and it signifies a fundamental understanding of the healing effects of nature. The Norwegian concept of friluftsliv, today used across Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, can make a big difference in your mental health, according to research.

Friluftsliv, essentially this idea, only as a deep part of Norwegian culture. MNN notes that the term encompasses an understanding of the essential connection between people and nature. Unlike the Danish term hygge, which emphasizes the importance of cosiness combined with social connectedness, Friluftsliv points to the human need for uplifting interactions with nature.

And both hygge and friluftsliv underscore basic needs that support fundamental human happiness and mental health.

Outdoor Journal reports that friluftsliv goes beyond just getting outside for a jog (though that's great, too). It's rooted in mindfulness, a feeling of being connected to a larger whole, and a sense of communing with nature.

Traditionally, friluftsliv means “a state of mind which doesn't necessarily require any physical activity,” *Outdoor Journal* writes. “All that is needed to experience this blissful state is to be in the context of nature.”

Getting outside, exploring nature, and having time to just be in the moment without distractions, phone notifications, and daily pressures, is one of the simplest ways to recentre your mindset, especially when winter blues may be getting you down. While getting out in nature is no substitute for mental health treatment under a doctor's supervision, making time to hike, get to a park, or even just walk around your block in the winter can make a difference in your mental health and mood.

Most of us have been spending a lot more time at home lately. And while technology makes it easier to work and socialize from home, there's no magic solution when it comes to finding the motivation to exercise in the very same space you eat, sleep and work.

There is a saying in Sweden 'there's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothes'.

Source bustle.com





Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Lockdown Lieutenants (Air: Slattery's Mounted Foot by Percy French)

What started in Australia
We were sure 'twould take a toll
The supermarket panic
And stocking-up loo-roll.
The cause was microscopic
It hadn't spared a soul
In Wuhan, that's in China,
As it spread from Pole to Pole.

We shied away from people
We saw upon the path.
We shied away from friends
Who knew what we were at.
We startled and we stumbled
When we saw that some were masked
When work was laid before us
We didn't shy from that.

Chorus:
And then from front-liners we saw the
best of us
They stepped into the breach with
ne'er a bit of fuss
And smiling through the danger which
was their trademark call,
E'en though while strangely suited,
they never dropped the ball.

Tony was the doctor
Who had seen it all before
In far distant countries
Of which we'd heard in lore.
He warned us of the ailment
That was coming to our shore
Assured us that the treatment

Was lockdown more and more.
We learned about its features
The headaches and coughs.
We learned about hand-washing
And clean 'till spots were off.
We learned about the curves
Once only known to toffs
We flattened them together
By pulling out the stops.

Chorus:
And then from front-liners we saw the
best of us
They stepped into the breach with
ne'er a bit of fuss
And smiling through the danger which
was their trademark call,
E'en though while strangely suited,
they never dropped the ball.

The TV was a lifeline
Thrown out to one and all,
To coddle those who stayed at home
Or answered Ireland's Call.
To follow that there came the Apps
Downloaded and installed
To keep in touch with far and near
Or do schoolwork in the hall.

Of all the things we thought we'd miss
Really, there were but few
Not the water-cooler
Nor driving traffic in a queue.
But we really missed our haircuts
A nice blow-dry or shampoo
And for many there was a longing
To hear their sermons from a pew.
Chorus:
And then from front-liners we saw the

best of us
They stepped into the breach with
ne'er a bit of fuss
And smiling through the danger which
was their trademark call,
E'en though while strangely suited,
they never dropped the ball.

The lockdown had its moments
And times of blissful ease
Revising Nature's bounty
Hearing birdsong in the trees.
But always in the background
Behind each cough or sneeze
We knew that there was someone
Who was given cause to grieve.

And now we are encouraged
To meet the world afresh
Our modus operandi
Will surely pass the test.
With bikes and scarves and picnics
From kitchen's home-baked best
We're going back to a future
That no-one could have guessed.

Chorus:
And then from front-liners we saw the
best of us
They stepped into the breach with
ne'er a bit of fuss
And smiling through the danger which
was their trademark call,
E'en though while strangely suited,
they never dropped the ball.

**Neil Hallinan
September 2020**

April Interlude For Catherine

*Why is it
That because everything
In this place
At this moment
Is beautiful
It breaks my heart?
Tulips, bluebells, daffodils
But most of all magnolias,
Despite the marks of Time –
Some petals mottled,
Others fallen –
Luminous, magnificent;
While all the new-leafed trees,
The chaffinches and great tits calling
Proclaim eternal spring.*

*I want to freeze
The creeping hands of clocks,
To recreate my children's youth
And bring them here,
Eyes dewy fresh,
To wonder at a cow, a donkey
Or, radiant in black and white,
A red-beaked water hen
Swimming jerkily around,
To lift them in my arms
And carry them
To join those toddlers
Casting pebbles in the pond...*

Colin Scott

Return to School in a time of Covid

The school is getting ready
The doors are open wide
The spaces have been measured
It's time to go inside
But you my darling daughter
With lunch-box ready packed
Are setting us to tremble
Our nerves are surely racked.

You'll have to whisper louder
Do you have a little cough?
Is your sore throat any better?
You'll have the whole day off.

My boss is on vacation I know she'll be
back soon
But I'm the one in charge today
I've got everyone on Zoom.
I'll call the doctor later
And then I'll call the school
Oh, no! I'd best not do that
Your forehead is still cool.

You'll have to whisper louder
Do you have a little cough?
Is your sore throat any better?
You'll have the whole day off.

Now what is it, my son?
Are you waiting at the door?
Your bus is just across the street
Your seat is Number Four.
Mam, we've played together
Just with the ones next-door
We were shouting at the telly
That's why her throat is sore.

You'll have to whisper louder
Do you have a little cough?
Is your sore throat any better?
You'll have the whole day off.

I think I'll call them anyway
See the story that unfolds
They'll make a space inside the class
You'll be safe in from the cold.
You're not so sick to stay at home
You've not done that before

Get your bag and bring your coat
You'll be alright, a stór.
You'll have to whisper louder
Do you have a little cough?
Is your sore throat any better?
You'll have the whole day off.

Now, teacher, she's not very bad
She's running round the house.
I think she will be fine at school
In her own space, of course.
Please, listen, Missus, can you hear me?
I'm sure she'll be ok
I just can't talk so very loud
My voice is gone today.
You'll have to whisper louder
Do you have a little cough?
Is your sore throat any better?

You'll have the whole day off.
What is that you're saying?
That you're sickly, God Forbid!
Have you spoken to the Principal?
Or been tested for Covid?
Oh, Missus, let me tell you

I am not sick at all
It's just from having meetings
And dusting down the hall.

You'll have to whisper louder
Do you have a little cough?
Is your sore throat any better?
You'll have the whole day off.

I'm putting on the kettle
I'm sure they'll shut the school
And, daughter, get your apron
We're going to bake a Fool
Raspberries or gooseberries
Or rhubarb wrapped in cream
No better way to spend the day
Home-schooling, so it seems.

You'll have to whisper louder
Do you have a little cough?
Is your sore throat any better?
You'll have the whole day off.

Neil Hallinan September 2020

COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Maynooth Ladies won the Tony Mooney Cup, beating
Kilcullen in the intermediate County Final 3-11 to
1-14. The cup is named after the Maynooth manager's
late father. The match was played in Hawkfield the
County pitches on Saturday 26th September.



The Black Friary Trim Excavations

The first ten years

Set within a green field within the medieval town of Trim lies the Black Friary where, since 2010, excavations have been running each summer, with the support of Meath County Council. Currently the Blackfriary Archaeology Field School provides training to third level students in a research environment as well as engaging with the public through outreach programmes and a summer community dig.

(Image 1: The Black Friary lies to the north of the town)

The Dominican friary of St. Mary of the Assumption was founded in 1263 by Geoffrey De Geneville, Lord of Meath and Trim, and suppressed by Henry VIII in 1542. During the 1750s it was taken down for building stone. Despite this, significant remains survive. The friary footprint was never built over and this means that we have the very rare opportunity to explore the full extent of the buildings, and the greater part of the friary precinct which contained the monastic gardens and a cemetery. While we have confirmed the presence of burials of townspeople through our excavations which are ongoing, there may in fact have been a second cemetery for the friars, yet to be explored.

(Image 2: Excavations of the side aisle of the church)

Every digging season adds to our understanding of the complexity of this surprisingly large and very important site. To date a significant amount of the nave and south aisle of the church and belfry tower and a large portion of the cloister of this National Monument have now been exposed.

Excavations have also been conducted on the other ranges of buildings, the junction between the northern and western range of the domestic buildings has been found and excavated, and following this interior of the west side of the north range and part of the buildings extending north to a second court have been uncovered.

The Black Friary is one of only two Dominican friaries in Ireland known to have two courts or cloisters. The cloister garth, or garden area, is large by Irish mendicant friary standards – indeed it is currently the largest known example. This, coupled with the evidence of the use of Purbeck marble, sourced in the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset, England, for the cloister arcade, mark out this site as being of very high status in its heyday.

(Image 3: Purbeck marble cloister arcade capital base)

Throughout the course of the excavations, thousands of archaeological artefacts have been recovered, dating primarily to the medieval and post-medieval periods. Among the most common finds are sherds of medieval pottery (such as locally manufactured 13th century 'Trim Ware'), post-medieval pottery and building materials (including decorated plaster, stained glass, floor tiles, and numerous architectural fragments). Medieval and later coins, bone pins and metal artefacts of various type, including a small piece of chain mail, have also been retrieved.

Of major significance has been the recovery of extensive amounts of medieval stained glass, of which several pieces are still within their lead comes, an extremely rare occurrence in Ireland where no medieval glass still intact in windows survives. In fact, in one specific area within the west range, thousands of pieces of glass were found mixed in with building rubble. The glass seems to have been smashed out of the lead and the lead then was re-cycled.

(Image 4: Medieval stained glass)

We are also beginning to recover information relating to a time when the friary was used as a farm, and finds from this period, the mid-16th century to the mid-18th are of considerable interest. For the last couple of years we have begun our Monastic Gardens Project involving excavations, with extensive community participation, within the Friaries' gardens leading to an eventual goal of a reinstatement of the gardens. We look forward to a resumption of digging in 2021.

(Image 5: Community dig volunteers 2019)

Credits and Acknowledgements :

Image 1: Fair Plan map of Trim map courtesy of the National Archives.

Images 2-5: Blackfriary Archaeology Field School.

Text: Blackfriary Archaeology Field School.

For more information on the Black Friary excavations, you can follow us on the below channels:

Website: www.bafs.ie

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Blackfriarycommunity/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Blackfriarydig>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/blackfriaryarchaeofieldschool/?hl=en>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AVvWRiOK5A>



Tips for staying well this winter

Every winter we hear about outbreaks of flu, winter vomiting bugs and patients spending time on trolleys due to hospital overcrowding. Here is some advice to avoid getting caught up in it.



Prevention

Viral infections are more common at different times of the year. Respiratory tract infections and norovirus gastroenteritis (the winter vomiting bug) are most common in winter. People who are fit and healthy can usually weather these infections with:

- bed rest
- plenty of fluids
- over-the-counter symptom relief

But these infections are very contagious. If you are infected you need to be very careful of managing your surroundings and who you come in contact with.

The infections are contagious even before they become symptomatic. It can be very difficult to prevent spread to those who are not so healthy and fit. Prevention is better than cure, even if you are in good health.

Even fit and healthy people have different abilities to fight off infection due to their different genetics. You don't necessarily know how good your infection fighting genes are until you get a really bad infection.

There is no effective vaccine for the winter vomiting bug so good infection control practice is important.

Get the vaccine not the flu

Vaccination is the most effective way of preventing infection. Vaccination works by stimulating your immune system to produce antibodies against the disease. The flu vaccine is not live so you can't catch the flu from it. The most common complaint is discomfort at the site of injection.

There is also a vaccine recommended for people with chronic disease called the pneumococcal vaccine. This vaccine protects vulnerable people from bad pneumonia and meningitis caused by this bug. The current flu vaccine is a good match for the circulating flu viruses.

People who are vulnerable to bad infections in winter

If you are over 65 years of age you are vulnerable to bad infections in winter.

You are also vulnerable if you have one of the following chronic diseases:

- Chronic lung problems (COPD, Asthma)
- Diabetes
- Chronic heart disease
- Chronic kidney or liver disease
- Living with cancer
- Conditions or treatment that weakens the immune system
- Frailty (poor nutritional and mobility status)

If you or your loved one fall into any of the above categories, get yourself winter ready:

- Get vaccinated

- Review your medication and the management of your chronic disease with your healthcare provider. This could be the specialty outreach nurse or your G.P.

- Avoid people with obvious symptoms of infection
- Wash your hands frequently – many of the bugs that cause infection can live for many days on table tops and other surfaces.

If you become unwell check out the range of services that are available from:

- Advice (website, call lines)
- GP Out of hours
- Emergency department

If you have a minor injury, check if there is an **injury unit** near you as the waiting time is a lot shorter than the Emergency Department. But remember they only look after minor injuries, not illness.

What to do if you get ill

Being sick falls into two broad categories: the walking unwell and those who are struggling to function

The walking unwell

The walking unwell typically:

- feel very tired
- have loss of appetite
- aches and pains
- feel rotten

These may or may not be with a temperature or chills. Keep drinking fluids, pee regularly and take over the counter medicines. If the illness is not getting much worse you should be OK with home care.

If you live alone make sure someone knows you are feeling poorly so they can check that you are not getting worse and maybe even pick up some supplies for you. If you are in one of the at-risk groups listed above or you are worried, talk to your pharmacist or GP. It is likely you have a viral illness and antibiotics will not help. You will need fluids, rest and time to recover.

However, if a specific part of your body appears to be affected and is not working properly because of infection you need a medical review.

Struggling to function

There are certain clues within the human body that may indicate the organs are struggling to function.

Brain

If an infection has caused a person to become confused, agitated or difficult to rouse, they need urgent medical care and a check for a serious rash using the glass test and tell the health care professional if it is positive.

Lungs

Rapid breathing and an inability to finish a sentence without needing to grab another breath or their lips could be blue-tinged.

Circulation

Hands are clammy, white and cold and dizziness that may

only be relieved by lying down again.

Kidneys

No urination in over 12 hours and no urge to pee.

Tummy

Severe pain, vomiting or diarrhoea associated with feeling very unwell, especially if it is associated with any of the other symptoms listed with the other parts of the body.

Skin

Sore, red and swollen areas of skin that may or may not have pus discharging (associated with feeling very unwell).

Young adults

When young adults are very unwell with infection they often complain of severe leg pain or that they cannot stand up properly. This can be a warning sign of something serious and should be checked out.

Young babies

Signs that a young baby is not functioning properly are:

- poor feeding
- a weak cry
- floppiness

These are serious signs that should be checked out, even if there is no temperature. An earlier sign might be not needing to change the nappy as it is dry because baby isn't taking in enough liquid.

When to go to the emergency department

You may not be functioning properly and feel too sick to go to the GP or GP out of hours service. If you do, you need to go to the emergency department. You will be seen even when they are full or very busy.

After check-in at reception you will be seen by a 'triage' nurse. They will assess the urgency of your signs and symptoms. If you are not sure, ask the triage nurse if you should go to the GP if the ED is busy.

In the ED, depending on the seriousness of your signs and symptoms, you will be seen as fast as possible. The nurses and doctors will ask you about your symptoms, examine you and they may suggest tests and investigations.

It is not always possible to know the exact cause of an illness. General treatments are given to cover the likely causes while the results of the tests are awaited.

A decision will be made as to whether you can continue your treatment at home or if you need to stay in the hospital

For questions about health services, your entitlements, or how to access HSE health or social services in your area?

Contact the HSELive team

Monday to Friday: 8am - 8pm
Saturday and Sunday: 10am - 5pm

Call: 1850 24 1850 or 01 240 8720

Email: hselive@hse.ie



Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



It appears the only show in town these days is Covid. It's the topic of everyone's conversation and sadly our organisation is no exception. While the goal posts change from time to time, there is no real change in lifestyle and we all muddle through as safely as we can. We keep in contact with "Services for Older People" in the HSE and continue to follow their advice. We can only have six people in a face to face meetings right now, any more than that has to be remote. Our last planned committee meeting didn't happen as we were in "Lockdown". So hopefully a limited number can meet in the next few weeks and work out a strategy for a "new normal" or at least some innovative thinking on events and fund raising going forward.

During the first wave of the Virus we had some wonderful volunteers offering their services and without whom we couldn't have survived. Now while some of you have come on board, perhaps a few more would consider joining our committee. We are in dire need of younger members (male & female) if we are to survive, as many of our present members are now in the vulnerable age group. You will find contact numbers at the bottom of this page.

Finally, our deepest sympathy to the families of Clare Malone, Breege Nangle and Pat Travers on the sad loss of their loved ones. Suaímhneas agus Siochain Dóibh go Leir.

Josephine Moore - 087 9002296

Patricia Cusker - 087 7661116 - Susan Durack - 087 7974582



Maynooth Cycling Campaign October 2020

Council Approves Trial Reducing Traffic Lanes from 2 to 1

As part of Covid-19 health measures, the Council recently approved the controversial reduction in traffic lanes from two to one following public consultation. Nearly twice as many submissions were received in favour of reducing rather than retaining the existing two lanes. Needless to say, the council was not Kildare County Council but Dublin City Council and the road wasn't Parson Street but Strand Road in Sandymount.

At the recent council meeting of Maynooth MD, no vote was taken on the proposed motion to retain two traffic lanes on Parson Street. Due to the scale of opposition the general view of councillors was to continue to prioritise cars rather than proceed with a trial to improve the health of the community. Maynooth Cycling Campaign regrets this decision but does accept for now that some people prefer to drive their car rather than have healthier neighbourhoods and offering people a choice of transport. This is especially regretted after Kildare has just come out of a second Covid-19 lockdown and infections are on increase again.

In relation to the other Covid-19 proposals for Maynooth, our response is underwhelming. Not only did Kildare get half the amount of funding which comparable local authorities received, but a number of the measures which are supposed to promote cycling will actually worsen conditions for cyclists. Our full response to the July Stimulus measures is available at <https://maynoothcyclingcampaign1.wordpress.com/2020/09/04/july-stimulus-funding-response-to-projects-proposed-motions-in-relation-to-parson-street/>.

Naas and Kildare Transport Strategies

Maynooth Cycling Campaign recently made a submission to Kildare County Council on the draft Transport Strategy for Naas. In 2009, the then government published its National Cycling Policy Framework which set out an increase in cycling from 2-3% to 10% by 2020. Since then, there has been virtually no increase in the level of cycling. Since then too, a climate and health emergency has been declared. While cycling will not solve these problems, it can make a significant contribution to mitigating their effects.

Our colleagues in the Limerick Cycling Campaign have called on Eamon Ryan, Minister for Transport, to withdraw the current draft of the Limerick/Shannon Metropolitan Transport Strategy (LSMATS) pending a full ministerial review on account of its lack of ambition. The target level of cycling is only 5% by 2040 compared to current levels of over 50% in many Dutch cities. Our colleagues in the Cork and Galway Cycling Campaigns are similarly appalled at their transport strategies. Maynooth Cycling Campaign is appalled at the lack of ambition in Kildare County Council's transport strategies. We support Limerick Cycling Campaign and call for a full ministerial review to include the draft strategies for Naas and Kildare Town.

KCC Transport SPC (Strategic Policy Committee)

It is nearly three months since Maynooth Cycling Campaign submitted six papers on a range of transport issues as part of the SPC committee. We are still awaiting a response. Meanwhile, as the next SPC meeting is on the 1st October, we are working on a further six papers.

Bikeweek 2020

For the first time in nearly ten years, Maynooth Cycling Campaign has reluctantly decided not to take part in Bikeweek this year.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-political cycling advocacy group. We are members of Cyclist.ie, the Irish Cyclist Advocacy Network, and through it to the European Cycling Federation.



We acknowledge with thanks the contributions to Cyclist.ie from An Taisce and Cycling Ireland.



Maynooth University escalates protective measures on campus



Maynooth University recognises that this has been a time of loss and illness for many of our students, staff, graduates and the broader Maynooth community and we wish to extend our sympathy to those who have lost loved ones and whose families and friends have suffered ill-health in these difficult times.

During the past six months, Maynooth University has continued to deliver its academic programmes, examinations and student support services remotely. Maynooth University has revised its teaching plans for the beginning of the new semester and escalated protective measures to help prevent the spread of Covid-19, given our proximity to Dublin and current heightened restrictions in the capital.

The University is limiting on-site teaching to laboratory, practical and skills instruction, and will limit classes and tutorials to up to 30 persons. Larger lectures will be taught online.

The key aim of the University is to protect our students, staff and in the wider community, from the spread of Covid-19.

Welcome Week for First Years took place on 21 September, with the bulk of the week's activities held online, and all students recommenced studies on 28 September, in accordance with the new protective measures.

Under the new protective measures, student societies will not have in-person meetings for the moment. Sports clubs can continue with outdoor training, but the gym will be closed for the moment. The library, computer rooms and the study spaces around the campus will be open for students to study when on campus. There will be catering facilities and social spaces open on campus. However, students are being asked not to come to the campus unless they need to, to avoid overcrowding of the campus. Students are asked to wear a face covering when indoors on campus; to wash their hands regularly; to observe the social distancing measures in place, and to avoid any social activity which is not compliant with the public health advice, on or off campus.

Campus Preparations

Over the summer, Maynooth University carried out extensive work to prepare the campus for the return to teaching for staff and students. An individual risk assessment was conducted for each department. Based on these assessments and the current public health guidelines, physical work has been done throughout the campus. This includes:

- Signage in all buildings of the public health measures in place.
- Sanitizing stations (including refill stations) throughout campus.
- Floor markings as a guide on where to walk, and to encourage separation.
- One-way systems in places, to increase separation.
- Staggered class start and end times to reduce congestion.
- Seats in lecture theatres and other teaching venues have been arranged to meet the social distancing requirements.
- Students are expected to wear face coverings in classrooms, laboratories, the Library and anywhere maintaining 2m distance is difficult.
- Perspex barriers installed in offices open to callers.
- Reduced density of seating to enable separation in the Library, the Phoenix restaurant and other areas.

Promoting Safe Behaviours

The University wishes to provide assurance to the wider community of Maynooth that public health safety

measures is its priority over the next semester. Everyone has a personal responsibility to keep ourselves, family, friends, the campus, and the wider community as safe as possible from potential exposure to Covid-19.

In order to encourage a strong awareness of safe interactions with the wider community, the University, in conjunction with Maynooth Students' Union, is running a student-focused communications campaign on how 'Playing My Part' is key to protecting the wider community. The campaign is running throughout campus and online, as well as at bus stops and the train station in Maynooth.

One key message being delivered to students and staff is that they *must* avoid coming on campus if they have any symptoms which could indicate COVID-19 infection. Additionally, there are reminders throughout campus to observe the social distancing protocols, wash hands frequently, follow appropriate respiratory etiquette when coughing or sneezing, and wear face coverings whenever 2m distance cannot be maintained.

The University is also reinforcing the message that students should not attend house parties and should restrict all gatherings in line with the public health guidelines at the time. They should avoid shopping locally during hours designated for vulnerable people, and they should follow all guidelines related to public transportation.

Most student residences take the form of 3-6-person bedroom apartments with shared kitchen and living areas. No guests are permitted to visit student accommodation and each apartment acts as a household. Students were required to complete an induction training prior to registering for courses and they were shown videos on MU campus specific health and safety protocols at the beginning of the semester. There are rigorous precautions around wiping down desks and computers before and after use, as well as staggered start times to prevent crowding outside buildings. The University has put its technology expertise to the cause. It has developed the Maynooth University Check in App in which students are being asked to scan a QR code at each new location or desk they attend around campus. The technology will be used to help the HSE identify close contacts in the event of a positive Covid-19 diagnosis. In addition, all students are asked to use the national Covid Tracker app.

International Students

International students who arrived from countries not on the COVID-19 Green List have restricted their movements for the first 14 days after arrival. Some students completed this restriction period in campus residences, with appropriate arrangements for food delivery and cleaning for a 14-day period. Information for international students travelling to Maynooth University is available <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/international/september-2020-you-arrive>

Support

A security number is available to students to call immediately if they show symptoms when on campus, and they will be guided to an isolation room to wait safely while contact is made with the student's doctor, and arrangements made to be collected or transported home without the risk of infecting others.

The University also has established a Student Help Desk to serve as a one-stop shop for student queries about any aspect of the upcoming year. The Maynooth Access Programme is a key resource for students as well. More detailed information on return to campus arrangements is available on the Maynooth University website at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/coronavirus>.



Royal Canal Notes

October 2020

Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

STEPtember walking month

As we come to the end of the month of September we also come to the end of STEPtember walking month. This was an initiative hosted between a number of groups including Sport Ireland, Kildare sports Partnership, H.S.E., Waterways Ireland and others. The purpose was to promote walking along the canals of Kildare. Judging by the increased activity on the Royal



Canal there was a lot of interest in the project. There is still time to take part. If one completed any 6 of the listed walks they would receive a free 'Snood' courtesy of Kildare Sports Partnership. Details are on their Facebook site.

LOOKING BACK

Often as I traverse the canal my mind rambles back to what it took to put the canal there. Two hundred years ago, when the canal was being built, there was no such thing as machinery of any kind. No JCB's, no bulldozers, no dumpers or Hi-macs; nothing but the pickaxe, shovel and barrow. The barrows of the time, (see photo below) were made with: Heavy timber, steel fixings and an iron wheel.



They were almost impossible to push when laden. The barrow depicted was recovered in an advanced state of decay but was lovingly restored to its original state. When one stops to consider that almost 100 miles of canal, including the Longford Branch, was dug by hand; this is no mean feat. This does not include harbours, towpaths, walls, bridges, locks, lock-houses and other ancillary works of the time. There is no doubt that a lot of blood sweat and tears went into the building of the canal. It has

stood the test of time and is still there for you to enjoy. It started life as a business enterprise and has now evolved to being a wonderful amenity. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the building of the canal let us know by: telephone 00353 (0)1 6877034 or E-mail us at chairman@royalcanal.ie If there is sufficient interest we could re-publish articles in this regard by author Peter Clarke.

CANAL WEEDING

Nice to see Waterways Ireland weed boats operating in the Maynooth Harbour area at this time. It needed to be de-weeded badly Hopefully the second boat will now gather the cuttings and remove them. We understand that the boats are moving steadily in an east to north west direction and will slowly move up the full length of the canal.

INCREASED ACTIVITY

As a result of increased activity along the canal two extra bins have been installed in the harbour area, one adjacent to the RCAG storage facility and one adjacent to the harbour gate. Let us take advantage of this and keep our canal clean and tidy.

A.G.M.

The date of the rescheduled A.G.M. has not yet been decided, or if it will be a virtual meeting or a social distancing meeting. I will keep you all posted.

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 28/08/2020 to 29/9/2020 Information from Kildare County Council Website

Covid-19: Arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Planning and Development Act 2000 was amended on 29 March 2020 resulting in the extension of certain timelines in the planning process including submission and decision dates. The Online Planning system does NOT take account of the revised dates.

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
201104	Kildare County Council	Richard and Mary Farrell,	11 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	28/09/2020
201105	Kildare County Council	Colin and Michelle Cushen,	563 O'Neill's Park, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 F8P8.	28/09/2020
201084	Kildare County Council	Shaun Iredale	20 Parklands Crescent, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	22/09/2020
201074	Kildare County Council	Andy and Deirdre Sweeney,	53 Maynooth Park, Maynooth, County Kildare, W23 D5W4	21/09/2020
201063	Kildare County Council	Stephen and Ashling Fitzpatrick,	Site No. 27, Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	17/09/2020
201065	Kildare County Council	Leo MacCanna and Alice Austin,	17 Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	17/09/2020
201066	Kildare County Council	Lidl Ireland GmbH,	Lidl, Straffan Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 FV34.	17/09/2020
201046	Kildare County Council	Laura Bruton,	Ballygoran, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	14/09/2020
201035	Kildare County Council	Eileen O'Connor,	Laraghbryan Builders LTd, Laraghbryan West, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 CA45	10/09/2020
201003	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University,	North Campus, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co Kildare	03/09/2020
20998	Kildare County Council	Laura Jayne Halton,	Laragh Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	02/09/2020
20999	Kildare County Council	Paul Byrne & Olivia Speight	Newtown Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 D9K5	02/09/2020
20986	Kildare County Council	Brendan Hoare,	Catherinstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	31/08/2020
20976	Kildare County Council	Emer Fallon	Ballycurraghan, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	28/08/2020

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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



News

CIB Board vacancies

CIB is seeking to fill 3 vacancies on its Board. The Board comprises up to 15 members (including the Chair) who are appointed by the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection. The closing date to submit expressions of interests is 3pm, 24 September 2020.

COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP)

From 17 September 2020, PUP is closed to new applicants and the rate of payment will be as follows:

- €300 for those who previously earned over €300 per week
- €250 for those who previously earned between €200 and €300
- €203 for those who previously earned less than €200 (no change)

PUP recipients will see the change to their payment in their bank account on Tuesday, 22 September.

Back to Education Allowance and PUP

Ordinarily, you must be getting a qualifying social welfare payment for 9 months before applying for the Back to Education Allowance (BTEA).

This requirement has been waived for recipients of PUP. A person in receipt of PUP must transfer to a jobseeker's payment in order to apply for BTEA. The rate of BTEA will be linked to the qualifying social welfare rate of payment.

The Irish Examiner reports rapid testing for COVID-19 could be introduced at ports and airports also as part of the new roadmap.

Stay and Spend Incentive

Revenue published details of the Stay and Spend tax credit scheme. Tax payers can claim a tax credit of up to €125 per person for money spent on accommodation, food and non-alcoholic drink between 1 October 2020 and 30 April 2021. Receipts can be submitted to Revenue using the new Revenue Receipts Tracker mobile app.

Energy prices

Bord Gáis Energy has confirmed a price freeze for residential customers.

Electric Ireland has announced a price increase of 3.4% from 1 October 2020.

Prepaypower has announced an increase of 2.9% from 4 October 2020.

Reduction of standard rate of VAT

The standard rate of VAT has been reduced from 23% to 21%, effective from 1 September 2020 to 28 February 2021.

Foreign Births Register (FBR)

The FBR has resumed processing applications. Applicants can expect delays.

Leaving Certificate appeals and helpline

From 14 September 2020, students can appeal their Leaving Certificate calculated grade and access their school's estimated marks and their final calculated marks when they log in to the Calculated Grades Student Portal.

There is no fee to appeal. Appeals must be submitted by 5pm, 16 September 2020.

A helpline for Leaving Certificate students is available on 1800 265 165 until after the CAO first round offers.

The Calculated Grades Executive Office is also providing a helpline until 16 September 2020 on 1800 111 135 or 1800 111 136 (9am to 4pm).

You can also email lcsupport2020@education.gov.ie.

Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS)

The Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) has replaced the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) from 1 September 2020. It will run until 31 March 2021.

Increase in parental leave

Since 1 September 2020, you can take up to 26 weeks of parental leave for each eligible child before their 12th birthday (or 16th birthday for a child with a disability or long-term illness). This is an increase from 22 weeks.

Atypical Working Scheme

Since 3 September, applications for the Atypical Working Scheme are online only.

Employment permits

The DBEI have advised that you should not submit original documents by post. They may not be able to return them to you as they continue to work remotely. Documents should be sent using the designated email addresses.

Supports for businesses

The COVID-19 Credit Guarantee Scheme is now open. Businesses can apply directly to a participating bank and the scheme will be available until the end of 2020.

The Microfinance Ireland COVID-19 Loan Scheme has reopened with business loans from €5,000 to €25,000 available. Applications can be made through microfinanceireland.ie or Local Enterprise Office.

The Government announced further supports for pubs, bars and nightclubs including:

- A 40% top up on the Restart Grant Plus
- Waiver of court fees and associated excise and stamp duties for the renewal of pub and other liquor licences in 2020
- Waiver of excise duty on on-trade liquor licences on renewal in 2020

Upcoming

Budget 2021

The Department of Finance confirmed that Budget 2021 will take place on Tuesday, 13 October 2020.

EWSS 'sweepback' payments

From 15 September 2020, employers can backdate a claim to 1 July 2020 for newly or seasonally hired employees that were not previously included in the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS).

New COVID-19 Garda powers

The Criminal Justice (Enforcement Powers) (COVID-19) Bill 2020 will be debated in the Seanad when it returns today, 10 September 2020. The Bill, if passed, gives the Gardaí extra powers to enforce restrictions that are in place in bars and restaurants in response to COVID-19.

Jobseeker's payments

From 17 September 2020, the temporary increase in the adult dependant rate for jobseeker's payments will end and the waiting days for jobseeker's payments will be reinstated.

Automated Import System

In November 2020, Revenue will implement a new national import system called Automated Import System (AIS). From this date it will not be possible to import goods into Ireland from outside the EU without using AIS.

Ones to watch

Free GP care for children delayed

The Independent reports that free GP care for children aged 6-8 will be delayed until at least 2021.

Breast Check screening delayed

The Independent reports the restart of the Breast Check screening programme may not happen until October. It had been paused since 16 March due to COVID-19. Invitations will be sent to those who have been waiting longest first.

New waste targets

The new Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy sets out targets for reducing waste production and making producers more accountable for their products. Plans include:

A deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and aluminium cans. A ban on single-use plastics including cotton bud sticks, plastic cutlery and plates, chopsticks, straws and polystyrene containers from July 2021. A commitment to ban non-medicinal wet wipes and other single-use plastics

Updated

Leaving Certificate 2020 and calculated grades

Results, appeals and helplines for students.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme, Leaving Certificate

Applied

Written exam in November 2020 and information about fees added.

Established Leaving Certificate

Written exam will take place in November 2020.

Junior Certificate

List of students eligible to sit the Junior Cycle.

Leaving Certificate examination fees

2020 fees refunded, fees for 2020-2021 to be published in early 2021.

The State Examinations Commission
State Examinations and COVID-19.

EWSS

Clarification added that employees do not have to be working to qualify for scheme and also applies to employees on reduced hours and/or pay.

Childcare and COVID-19

Reopening of childcare, childcare provider supports, EWSS replaces TWSS, and fees to be kept at pre-COVID rates.

State Pension (Contributory) and State Pension (Non-Contributory)

Clarification that the increase in pension age has been deferred.

Renting and COVID-19

Details added on the process for dealing with rent arrears due to COVID-19.

Supports for businesses

Updated cash flow supports for businesses and supports for pubs, bars and nightclubs.

Rest periods and work breaks

Updated special regulations governing working time of fishermen.

How your income tax is calculated

New section added on 'week 1/cumulative/temporary' bases for income tax.

Your finances during COVID-19

Section on 'support from utilities providers' removed following expiration of telecoms commitments. BPFI information for coming off a COVID-19 payment break added.

Shopping online

New section 'Check you are buying from a legitimate business' added.

Parental leave

Updated with increase effective 1 September 2020.

Public health measures

Updated and revised.

Testing for COVID-19

Document rewritten and updated.

COVID-19: Travel overview

Expanded section on travel green list.

Barristers

Document revised and separate document on Junior/Senior Counsels merged.

Retiring to Ireland

Document rewritten.

Common Travel Area between Ireland and the United Kingdom

Document revised and partially rewritten.

Information is also available online at
www.citizensinformation.ie and from the
Citizens Information Phone Service -
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or Lo-call 1890777121

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Maynooth University Town Football Club

Leinster Senior League Tables

Tables & Results courtesy of Leinster Senior League (www.lsl.ie)



After a long hard, drawn out season our respective Senior leagues have come to a close. The highlight of the season being the clinching of the Division 3 Sunday title in the Leinster Senior League. Competing at Senior level for the first time having graduated from schoolboys level this was a remarkable achievement.

All the drama was packed into the last game of the season. Vying for the title with near rivals Confey F.C., Town had to pull out all the stops to achieve a remarkable victory.

With the Confey game kicking off 15 minutes later than Town everything pointed to a nail biter. Town trailed by a point behind Confey going into their respective final games.

Town led early while Confey were losing. Town still led when Confey drew level. Confey scored with 16 minutes remaining which would have given them the title. With Towns game finished Confey looked league winners but a dramatic injury time equaliser for Spartak Dynamo F.C deprived Confey the 3 points and gave the title to Town. With a total of 64 pts Town pipped Confey by one point Town scored a massive 96 goals and won their last 14 games in a row. Remarkable and well done to all involved.

Our Senior Sunday side finished in 5th place in our first season at this level. Our Major Saturday team finished 3rd in the top Saturday Division having lost only twice. Drawn games were our downfall here. A notable achievement never the less.

Our cup programmes have not been completed and will be rescheduled to be played before the start of the new season. With our three teams still collectively in four cups more silverware is a possibility. If we perform well on all fronts in the new season we should have another exciting campaign.

Leinster Senior League Senior Sunday

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1.	Malahide United	26	18	5	3	71	20	51	59
2.	St. Mochtas FC	26	17	6	3	57	20	37	57
3.	Crumlin United FC	26	18	2	6	73	36	37	56
4.	Bangor GG FC	26	13	6	7	55	42	13	45
5.	Maynooth University Town FC	26	12	8	6	43	28	15	44
6.	Bluebell United	26	11	11	4	60	48	12	44
7.	Killester Donnyrne FC	26	11	4	11	43	40	3	37
8.	Liffey Wanderers	26	8	7	11	48	52	-4	31
9.	Edenderry Town	26	7	7	12	33	48	-15	28
10.	Wayside Celtic	26	7	5	14	37	47	-10	26
11.	Cherry Orchard	26	6	8	12	38	65	-27	26
12.	Ballymun United	26	6	6	14	32	50	-18	24
13.	Newbridge Town FC	26	3	6	17	25	77	-52	15
14.	Portmarnock AFC	26	3	3	20	35	77	-42	12

Leinster Senior League Major Saturday

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1.	Bluebell United	22	19	1	2	79	24	55	58
2.	Crumlin United FC	22	16	4	2	61	21	40	52
3.	Maynooth University Town FC	22	13	7	2	57	24	33	46
4.	Cherry Orchard	22	12	4	6	53	35	18	40
5.	Bangor GG FC	22	10	5	7	51	43	8	35
6.	UCD AFC	22	10	3	9	51	38	13	33
7.	Liffey Wanderers	22	6	6	10	39	51	-12	24
8.	Swords Celtic FC	22	7	2	13	30	59	-29	23
9.	Booth Road Celtic	22	6	4	12	44	64	-20	22
10.	Ballymun United	22	4	4	14	30	60	-30	16
11.	Colepark United	22	4	2	16	30	70	-40	14
12.	St. Patrick's CYFC	22	2	4	16	33	69	-36	10

Leinster Senior League Division 3 Sunday

#	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1.	Maynooth University Town FC	26	21	1	4	96	33	63	64
2.	Confey FC	26	20	3	3	84	35	49	63
3.	Verona FC	26	19	4	3	99	26	73	61
4.	Ayrfield United	26	19	1	6	84	34	50	58
5.	Wayside Celtic	26	12	5	9	56	42	14	41
6.	Dingle United	26	12	2	12	57	52	5	38
7.	Esker Celtic FC	26	11	2	13	54	72	-18	35
8.	Spartak Dynamo FC	26	11	2	13	45	63	-18	35
9.	Edenderry Town	26	9	7	10	48	48	0	34
10.	Woodfarm Football Club	26	8	2	16	35	54	-19	26
11.	Shankill FC	26	8	1	17	51	95	-44	25
12.	Tymon Bawn AFC	26	7	1	18	41	98	-57	22
13.	Loughshinny United	26	5	3	18	37	71	-34	18
14.	River Valley Rangers AFC	26	2	2	22	17	81	-64	8



Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Repair of Older Footpaths in Maynooth

At the September Council MD meeting, Cllr Angela Feeney asked if the Council could inform members when the footpaths in the older estates in Maynooth will be repaired and brought to a standard that will ensure the safety of all residents but particularly the older residents of the town? Cllr Feeney added that while it is agreed that creating new walk and cycle ways is very important for communities, maintaining existing footpaths is equally important and that in many of the older estates, the footpaths are in a really bad and even a dangerous state. Many of these older estates have older residents who during COVID-19 restrictions want to walk a few hundred metres from their home to visit neighbours and get some much needed time outdoors but were unable or nervous about doing that due to the poor state of the footpaths. The Council responded stating that the Municipal District has repaired a large amount of footpaths in Maynooth in recent years. Cllr Feeney acknowledged and welcomed that. The Council did add that if funding allows, additional estates will be examined and that the members might consider these locations for future LPT funding. Cllr Feeney concluded that this will certainly be done so to make sure this essential work is done and that we support residents in these estates but especially for our very special older residents.

KWETB Post Primary School

Cllr Feeney submitted a motion requesting the Council to explore the possibility of using the KWETB Post Primary School for Maynooth community use once it becomes mostly vacant when the students move to the new schools. The response was very positive from the other councillors and from KCC, which has agreed to engage with KWETB on the proposal. Here is a space, in the heart of our town, accessible, with ample parking, well maintained, in public ownership and with great capacity to house any combination of projects. There is huge potential here at a time when Maynooth is crying out for facility and amenity space such as a Youthreach/Further Education space for young adults, a community crèche-Mother and Toddler facility for families-badly needed too, a Primary Care Centre, an Nuada Theatre Group, and many more community groups. This could be a real community hub for all the great groups currently active in our town, which are without a permanent home. The suggestion has also received positive support from MPPS principals past and present; KCC has agreed to engage with KWETB on this. The proposal has also received favourable response from the CEO of KWETB and the members of the Board at the September meeting.



Kildare Child Care Committee to address Council

Cllr Feeney submitted a motion that the Council invites the Kildare Child Care Committee to present on the current situation regarding childcare provision in the MD at the next meeting. This was agreed and representatives from the Planning Section at KCC will also attend. In order to get an up-to-date picture of childcare provision in the MD and gain an understanding of the interface between the Committee and planning development in the Council.

KCC engagement with Maynooth University

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to inform members as to what engagement has taken place with Maynooth

University and other agencies in preparation for the new academic year, given the serious current COVID-19 situation facing the County? Cllr Feeney informed the meeting that the Vice President for MU Elizabeth Dunne recently gave an excellent presentation to local councillors and to Maynooth community groups about the measures in place to welcome students on campus, this was really comprehensive and well planned. Cllr Feeney added that having a multi-agency approach that works in partnership with the University to pre-empt any situations that could arise due to the arrival of over 10,000 students into the town and that is why she scheduled this question. The Council confirmed that the Municipal District Office has been in contact with Maynooth University in regard to the installation of stencils on the public footpath to highlight social distancing. So, adopting this multi-agency approach has been welcomed by the MU Vice President Elizabeth Dunne.

County Speed Limit Review

At the September Kildare County Council meeting Cllr Feeney requested the Council to provide an update to members on the current status of the County Speed Limit Review, with associated timelines for its implementation. The reason Cllr Feeney brought this motion was on foot of another motion to introduce 30km speed limits in the vicinity of schools in Maynooth at a recent Maynooth MD meeting. The response Cllr Feeney got for that motion was that it could not be done until the county speed limit review had been completed. Speeding in estates is also a huge issue and one that we as councillors are being asked to address all of the time. So a lot of speeding issues are on hold because we need this county speed limit review completed.

Response from the Council:

- The current position is that the Council is carrying out a County Speed Limit Review which includes reviewing the speed limits in accordance with "Road Traffic Act 2014" and "Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland".
- So, there is a legal requirement for the Council to prepare what's called a "Schedule of Proposed Amendments" and present that to us as members of each Municipal District next month.
- Once that "Schedule of Proposed Amendments" is agreed, the next stage is drafting the "Draft Bye Laws Revision A" for public consultation.
- They are aiming to have the public consultation stage completed before the end of this calendar year with a view to having the County Speed Limit Review adopted early in the new year.

Cllr Feeney welcomed the response and the clarity it provides at least we now have a target date of early 2021. However, Cllr Feeney did add that she finds it concerning that we agreed as a council in 2015 to implement Jake's Law and nothing has happened on that when it is really a matter of signage in estates. Cllr Feeney acknowledges the fact that as the Director mentioned yesterday it is not as simple as that, there is legislation to be adhered to and he acknowledged that there have been staffing issues-staff were assigned to this task, they were then taken off and now are back on it. Suggestions were also made could the review be broken down into segments-schools and housing estates for example segregated from the more regional and national issues. The response to this motion provided clarity around timeframes and the consultation process.

9/11 Commemoration dedicated to Sean Tallon

Emergency Services personnel from the local Gardai from the Naas District, the Fire Service and Paramedics conducted a Guard of Honour at the 9/11 Memorial in Donadea Forest, Co. Kildare, dedicated to Sean Tallon, originally from Donadea, who joined the New York Fire

Department and was assigned to Ladder 10. He died in Tower 1. Due to Covid 19 restrictions his family in America were unable to attend but watched a live stream of the ceremony. A minute's silence was observed followed by the playing of the last post. A flower wreath with red, blue and green flowers representing all the Emergency Services personnel that gave their lives to help others 19 years ago was placed at the base of the monument. Members of the Tallon family attended. Also attending were members of the organising committee who have been actively caring for this monument the last 19 years. Cllr Feeney and fellow councillors supporting this important commemoration. Next year will be a special 20th anniversary of the event. It was a very moving and dignified tribute and when the last post was played, it was particularly haunting.



Health Centre Update Response from the Minister for Health

Here is the response to Cllr Feeney's question to the Minister for Health regarding Maynooth Health Centre and calling for a Primary Care Centre, the final paragraph is particularly interesting. 10th September 2020

Dear Cllr. Feeney,

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the provision of health services by the HSE in Maynooth and the provision of a Primary Care Centre in Maynooth. As you may be aware, the HSE holds responsibility for the provision, along with the maintenance and operation of Primary Care Centres and other Primary Care facilities. However, I have asked the HSE to provide a report on the matter.

The HSE have informed me that the Public Health Nursing Service operating from Maynooth Health Centre has been temporarily relocated to Kilcock Primary Care Centre. This move has facilitated on-going access to the nursing service for the local population of Maynooth whilst the Health Centre is undergoing an assessment for necessary building works.

The HSE Primary Care Team, in collaboration with their colleagues in HSE Estates and the HSE Health and Safety officer, continue to assess the essential infrastructural work required in Maynooth Health Centre to guarantee the building is safe for both staff and service users. The assessment incorporates work that is required in the building to ensure adherence to infection prevention and control standards for the safe recommencement of health services.

HSE Estates advertised Maynooth Primary Care Centre in an advertisement, placed in the national press, in May 2019 under the HSE's Primary Care Operational Lease Mechanism. The advertisement sought submissions of interest from parties who are developing or planning to develop Primary Care health facilities. A number of Expressions of Interest were received, and the competition has now progressed to Stage 3 where parties are asked to submit a priced offer. It is anticipated that a preferred provider will be selected in Q4 2020.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,
Stephen Donnelly T.D.
Minister for Health

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Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News (Cont.)

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(Continued from page 20)

An update on the Parson Street one-way proposal

Councillor Feeney and all the other Maynooth MD Councillors confirmed that there is no local support for a one way system on Parson Street and that it would cause huge stress to residents in the town. She is happy to report that the proposal as it currently stands will not go ahead. In response to motions on this issue, the Council stated that it will, instead, include Parson Street as part of a wider public consultation to deliver improved walking and pedestrian infrastructure in the Newtown area, including the Newtown/Rathcoffey Road, Beaufield and Meadowbrook. This will allow for public consultation early 2021.



DART Expansion to Maynooth

The first of the infrastructural projects of the DART+ Programme to be delivered will be the Maynooth Line, Modernising and upgrading of infrastructure, the Electrification of approximately 40km of existing track network, Enhancements in the city centre to provide extra capacity and Level crossing replacements. On this, the alternate option for the Blakestown level crossing closure was to provide a pedestrian and cycle bridge across the line and canal and Cllr Feeney would be in favour of this, as the quiet country roads to the South of the level crossing are popular with cyclists from around the area, and they would be substantially cut off from Leixlip without such a bridge.

A good news day for Maynooth but just a pity the planned expansion could not include Kilcock. With the proposal to dual track the line from Maynooth the majority of the way to Kilcock, and the rear of the depot effectively being in Kilcock town itself; it would seem to make great sense to extend the dual-tracking and electrification through Kilcock station to provide for DART services to the rapidly growing town of Kilcock. As a significant amount of the work will already be done for the depot, the cost of doing this is likely to be minimal. An additional pedestrian access to the station, across the canal to bring it within a sensible

walking distance of the Kildare County Council Park and Ride facility at Lidl would also be worthwhile. Iarnróid Eireann commented that there is a challenge that is to do with spatial capacity at Kilcock that would cause difficulty. Many of the other councillors at the presentation also made the plea for Kilcock so Cllr Feeney would be hopeful that with the public voice added this will be revisited by the design team.

Public feedback will be accepted during all stages of the design development and can be submitted through the project website, e-mail address, phonenumber or by written correspondence. You can provide feedback on our proposals before 5pm on Wednesday 7th October 2020 www.irishrail.ie/projects So, please make submissions on this!

Motion to Council: the DART Expansion should include Kilcock

Cllr Feeney submitted a joint motion with Cllrs Durkan and Hamilton that the Council carry out a population analysis and forecast for Maynooth and Kilcock with a view to making a submission on the Dart Plus proposal to impress upon the relevant national authorities and the Minister for Transport the importance of ensuring a double dart line is delivered for Kilcock as it is the only town in North Kildare on the Dublin/Sligo train line not serviced by this proposed project.

Response from the Council:

It is the function of the County Development Plan (CDP) to allocate population targets for each town and settlement in County Kildare through the plan formulation process which involves statutory consultation with the general public, prescribed bodies and consideration by the elected members. The current CDP sets the targets to 2023 & beyond. The future population forecasts will need to be agreed under the review of the development plan, which will begin in early 2021. It is important to note that targets for County Kildare to 2026 & 2031 are set out in the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework & the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Eastern Midlands Region, however these are not specific to each settlement within the county. The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) identifies population targets for Maynooth & Kilcock of 1,839 & 675 persons respectively from 2020-2023. It is likely, given that both towns are located within the MASP (Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan) that allocated levels of growth would be, at a minimum, retained at the current percentage in future development strategies for the county. The NTA have agreed that it will consider the next phase of electrification, from Maynooth to Kilcock and beyond, in the review of the transport strategy. This is scheduled for the end of next year.

Cllr Feeney added that while the recent NTA announcement about the DART West expansion was a good news day for Maynooth it seems such a missed opportunity that this planned expansion could not include Kilcock considering the huge population growth of Kilcock. The proposal is to dual track the line from Maynooth the majority of the way to Kilcock, and the rear of the depot effectively will be in Kilcock town itself; it is only 450m short and it would seem to make great sense to extend the dual-tracking and electrification through Kilcock station to provide for DART services to the rapidly growing town of Kilcock. A significant amount of the work will already be done for the depot, the cost of doing this is likely to be minimal. An additional pedestrian access to the station, across the canal to bring it within a sensible walking distance of the Kildare County Council Park and Ride facility would also be worthwhile.

There have been many Strategic Housing Developments in Kilcock spewing more even cars onto an already congested N4/M4 when we should be availing of this opportunity to enhance public transport links such as this. The Director welcomed the motion and has already raised this with NTA stating that there is nothing to preclude it from going to Kilcock in the future and that the NTA will consider it in the next phase as part of the Greater Dublin Area review and it will be looked at in that context. Meath County Council has also outlined significant growth. The combined call from us as Maynooth MD councillors is to make the case to NTA to get it on the programme for the future; we need as a Council to impress on them how important this is. We welcomed the fact that the council is going to communicate this request on our behalf to the Minister. The NTA has agreed that it will consider the next phase of electrification, from Maynooth to Kilcock and beyond, in the review of the transport strategy. This is scheduled for the end of next year.

Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney

August 21st: Briefing from Minister Stephen Donnelly and Officials to Kildare public representatives regarding Kildare lockdown

August 26th: DART Expansion Webinar

September 4th: MD Council Meeting

September 11th: 9/11 Commemoration at Donadea

September 14th: KCC Finance Committee

September 15th: KWETB Board Meeting

September 18th: AILG Training event regarding Planning

September 21st: Webinar with Irish Water

September 21st: Council Plenary Meeting

September 21st: BOM for MPPS

Living faith

Why is God such a hidden God? Can it be that it's just to make it hard for us? Unlikely. And if all the religions of the world agree that to know God is the one essential obligation and privilege of mankind surely we should listen to them and align our lives with that truth. The Christian religion goes away farther than any of the other religions in its mission to inform the world about God. The Christian religion, movement, philosophy, does this by God himself taking the form of one of us and living amongst us for more than thirty years. The gospels, much of their content historical, are documents that tell us about this marvellous happening. Have you read them? Do our priests take them seriously enough and encourage us to read them by showing us how steeped in them they themselves are, if they are?

In the Gospels Jesus refers to a great variety of the everyday work of his listeners: shepherding, making bread, sowing corn, making wine, and so on. He refers to the corn sprouting under the clay totally unconnected to the agency of the farmer; likewise with yeast; it expands because of what it is. That is what yeast does and does after its own fashion. My question is: is Jesus telling us that only God can make things do what they do? In other words is the behaviour of material things simply ongoing creation? If so and I think it is, God's action in the world is very obvious! So, perhaps God is not such a hidden God!

Wouldn't it be nice, and intelligent, if our preachers presented the gospels to us in the images and practices of today! In such a world view wouldn't we expect references to Climate Change, Arms Dealing, Mass Migrations, War and Famine, National Boundaries, the wonders of Planet Earth and this magnificent Cosmos which many people have experiences of through Television. Shouldn't we hear something now and again about World Poverty in the light of Christianity?

What are bishops and priests doing up there if they're not interpreting our lives for us in the light of the Gospel, in the light of the totality of Jesus' life? What is their experience of their own lives in the light of that same Gospel? Tell us. We want to know, always keeping Jesus at the centre of their stories. Hopefully, that is where Jesus is!

By: GM.



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Catherine Murphy TD calls for restoration of PUP rates and income supports for parents

Catherine Murphy TD, co-leader of the Social Democrats, has today called for a reversal of cuts to the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) and immediate income supports for parents whose children are sent home from school due to Covid-19 outbreaks.

Deputy Murphy said:

“For most of those who were laid-off last Friday, this will be their second experience of Covid-19 related unemployment within a short space of time. With further reductions today in PUP rates, this will come as a double blow to workers who have found themselves without a job at short notice.
“Most of these workers will have little, if anything, in reserve, which adds to the sense of panic they are feeling right now.
“It is now really hitting home that Covid-19 will be with us for a considerable time to come, so the timing of the PUP reductions could hardly be worse. These cuts urgently need to be reconsidered and reversed.
“Another group finding themselves with little or no financial support are the parents who have been informed by a school that their child must self-isolate.
“The CMO was very upfront in advising parents there would be outbreaks in schools, and he was correct.
“Parents are not necessarily required to self-isolate if pupils are sent home from school – but their children still have to be cared for.
“Accordingly, there is an urgent need to include parents in such situations in the State’s Enhanced Illness Payment Scheme. We should not differentiate between the parent of a child diagnosed with Covid-19 and a parent of a child in a pod who is also sent home from school for 14 days.
“The reality is that not everyone can work from home and it’s simply not acceptable that a parent could be left without any income at all.
“I welcome the Taoiseach’s assurances in the Dáil today that he will consider providing income supports for parents who find themselves in this situation.
“I am also hopeful he will look favourably on a proposal from the Primary School Principals’ Network who are seeking a dedicated out-of-hours phone line with the HSE to allow them to seek and receive medical guidance.”

Taxi sector will be a vital part of post-Covid recovery

Catherine Murphy TD, co-leader of the Social Democrats and spokesperson on Transport, today called for immediate supports to be put in place to assist those working in the taxi and small public service vehicle sector.

Deputy Murphy said:

“It is vital that the Government takes immediate action to show that it is listening to the very real concerns of those working in the taxi, limousine and hackney business. When Covid-19 is eventually behind us, it will be important that we come out of it with a sector that is still intact.
“The livelihood of taxi drivers has been devastated by Covid-19. There are far too many of them seeking a living from an economy that is not properly functioning, with no night-time entertainment or sporting events and a tourism sector that has pretty much shut down.
“Some drivers want to get out of the business but they have loans and other outlays that don’t allow them to do that so it’s a catch 22 situation. Many are in an age range where they are putting themselves at risk by mixing too closely with other people while working.
“Many are not receiving any additional payment over and above the State pension. That is a really difficult circle for them to square and they cannot do it on their own – they need Government support.
“We need a new forum to take stock of the challenges faced by those working in the taxi industry and look at ways people can make an income from it.
“In addition, a temporary moratorium on the issuing of taxi licences could be brought in for a specified period of time. This is something that could be done quickly and would mean we are not making a bad situation worse.
“Even though taxi drivers have suffered a huge loss of income, the cost of paying for their car, insurance and maintenance does not stop. The 10-year lifespan of a taxi should be extended as 2020 has been a complete write-off. Other obligations in terms of vehicle maintenance and licence costs also need to be looked at.
“There is sense of disbelief when people realise that many drivers over the age of 66 are required to go to work with no income coming in, despite having considerable outlays.

“This is not the time for the Government to take a hands-off approach. We are going to need an economy that includes a functioning transport system with small public service vehicles. Taxi drivers will play a vital part in the recovery of our tourism and entertainment sectors.”

Minister needs to urgently address school transport crisis

Catherine Murphy TD, co-leader of the Social Democrats, has called on the Minister for Education to deal with serious deficiencies in school transport services.

Deputy Murphy said:

“Following NPHEP advice at the end of August, major shortcomings in the provision of school bus services have arisen as measures to ensure social distancing are phased in over the coming weeks.
“Problems are already emerging, particularly in cases where students have to travel outside their area if their local school is over-subscribed. Students availing of the subsidised School Transport Scheme, including medical card holders, must be attending the school closest to where they live in order to qualify.
“This is a problem throughout the country and not just in rural communities. For example, I am aware of 150 students who live in Lucan but attend school in Leixlip. The lack of a viable transport option results in traffic chaos every day as parents are forced to drive their children to and from school.
“Despite spending €375m on reopening our schools, Dublin Bus has no term timetable in place due to lack of funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA).

“This situation is going to get worse when buses have to operate at 50 percent capacity by the end of the month. The reality is that it will not make financial sense for many private companies to offer school services in the absence of some form of subvention from the State. We could end up with a situation where parents would have to pay for two seats on a private school bus to make it viable for the operator.
“Every September there are issues surrounding the lack of school bus services but the situation is further compounded this year by the Covid-19 crisis.
“There is a very real and immediate crisis in school transport provision and it is going to get a lot worse in the coming weeks unless Minister Foley urgently intervenes.”

Covid-19 Data Hub needs to be updated weekly

The Covid-19 Data Hub should be updated on a weekly basis to ensure public goodwill in the event of further localised lockdowns, according to Catherine Murphy, Kildare North TD and co-leader of the Social Democrats.

Deputy Murphy said:

“It is clear that we will have to live with this virus until there is a vaccine and public goodwill is an essential component of our battle. To do that, the message and information have to be coherent and understood – and the measures have to be seen to be fair and proportionate.
“As a representative for Kildare, I know it is a huge relief for over 220,000 people and many hundreds of businesses in the county to see the extended lockdown lifted.
“The Government needs to learn lessons from the lockdowns in Kildare, Offaly and Laois in how it responds to further outbreaks. The availability of usable data is essential if public buy-in is to be secured for any future restrictions needed.
“The Covid-19 Data hub was last updated on August 12 during the lockdown of the three counties. This is simply not good enough and I have today called on the Taoiseach to ensure that the data hub is updated every week.
“For businesses and residents to understand the rationale behind public health guidance, they need to see the figures underpinning these decisions.
“Public acceptance and proportionality in terms of future measures is essential. If lockdowns are going to be part of the fight against Covid-19, then up to date information is essential.”
The Hub is available here: <https://covid19ireland-geohive.hub.arcgis.com/>

Catherine’s contribution to the debate on Taxi Services:

I too want to thank Sinn Féin for bringing this motion forward. It is important. In many ways, we would have debated this earlier had we been properly functioning before now. I also want to acknowledge the effort that taxi drivers put in to showing the strength behind the need for a financial package to get drivers back to work.

Small public service vehicles are a vital part of the public transport system and we need to acknowledge that. Many taxi drivers ended up in this business following the last crash. Many made work for themselves and it was the tourism sector that was the first to show some green shoots following that crash. We will require them to be in a position to assist in that recovery when Covid is a thing of the past. We have to ensure that this sector, which is predominantly made up of taxi drivers as well as those who drive limousines and hackneys, comes out of this intact. How do we do that? We do it by supporting the industry. Some people want to get out of the business, but they have loans and outlays that do not allow them to do that. We have all spoken to such people in recent months. They are in a catch-22 situation. Many are putting themselves at risk by virtue of the fact that they are in an age range that should not be mixing as closely as they are required to do at work. Many are not being paid an additional payment over the State pension. That is a difficult circle for them to square. They cannot square it on their own and requires support.

I know where the licence issue came from. I was on the taxi forum that was set up in the 1990s under the auspices of the Dublin transportation office. There were months of collaboration between various leaders in the taxi system and various agencies of the State. Some very good initiatives came out of that. Taxi drivers did not expect the system to be deregulated before the ink was dry on the agreement. There were very valuable things done in the forum and much of that good work now requires us to take stock and examine how we can make sure the industry continues and is healthy and that people can make an income from it.

While there is resistance to introducing a moratorium on the issuing of taxi licences, such a moratorium could be introduced for a specified period. That could be done quickly. Another issue is that there is not enough work for the number of taxi drivers we have. One only has to look at the taxi apps, which is where people often hail taxis nowadays, to see that there is no work coming in. It is important that we recognise that there are too many people seeking to earn an income from an economy which is not functioning. People are working at home, there is no night-time entertainment and our tourism sector, as least as it applies to outside visitors, is pretty much shut down. These areas represent the work needed to keep the number of taxi drivers we have gainfully employed.

It is really important that we consider Christmas. This is the most significant stretch of time with regard to night-time entertainment and, at this time, the economy functions slightly differently. Now is the time to look at this. We need to get the numbers down right across the country and especially here in Dublin because, if we do not, this period will be very difficult to manage while allowing the economy to function. It is really important to think about this particular sector because there are sectors within sectors. Airport runs, Christmas parties and so on were staples but that work is no longer there. This is a large sector and people need the wherewithal to get out of it at a time when new people are entering it because they are scratching around trying to pay their bills and provide gainful employment for themselves.

This is not the time to take a hands-off approach; it is the time for a hands-on approach. That is why a forum would be particularly valuable, in addition to the other supports that should be introduced. While there has been a great decrease in drivers’ income – as much as 40% or 50% – the costs of paying their car loans, insurance premiums and car maintenance have not stopped. A taxi vehicle’s life is ten years but this year has been a write-off. That period could be immediately extended. Maintenance obligations with regard to roadworthiness and licence obligations need to be looked at.

I support the use of bus lanes for buses and taxis. We do need to have a discussion, however, as to how to safely share our road space. We can share this space in a way that works for everyone. It is nonsense to mix double-decker buses and bicycles in the same lane. It is not safe for anyone and is not productive. I should be clear that I am not saying that buses or taxis should be excluded from these lanes but we do need to design our roads differently. In places such as Berlin and Paris, there are segregated arrangements. These make these cities safe places for people to function. We need to free up some surface space in this city. This could be done by developing the interconnector, which would allow the rail system to take great

(Continued on page 23)



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

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amounts of traffic off the roads thereby providing us with the surface space to design a system that functions in the way it should in a city with the amount of movement Dublin has. I am not, however, speaking about Dublin exclusively. We need to design the roads in all our urban settings so they are safe for public transport vehicles and cyclists to use.

It is absolutely essential that action and a hands-on approach are taken immediately. Some initiatives must be taken to show that Government is listening with regard to these huge challenges. I have no doubt that Government Deputies are hearing exactly the same things that I and other Members are hearing when people contact us. There is a sense of disbelief that, for example, people over 66 who have many outlays are required to work even when there is no income coming in. They are in a catch-22 situation. There is also a sense of disbelief that taxi plates are still being issued. A timeline should be developed, which would include a sunset clause if necessary, during which licences would not be issued to avoid making a bad situation worse.

There are things that could be done quickly. I urge the Government to take a number of initiatives in this respect. It can be done. When Covid is a thing of the past, we will require an economy which includes a functioning public transport system and public service vehicles to allow the tourism sector and the economies of our towns and cities to function. The taxi system will be vital to that.

Question on the criteria used to determine if a child needs a COVID 19 test.

To ask the Minister for Health the criteria that is used to determine if a minor and/or child requires a test for Covid-19 and if he will make a statement on the matter. [23719/20]

Reply from Minister Stephen Donnelly:

I would like to thank the deputy for bringing this to my attention, which my officials have passed on to the HSE. In terms of assessment and testing pathways for children and minors, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre has in recent days issued clear instructions to all GP providers and published these on its website. For children aged from 3 months up to 13th birthday, the following summarises the criteria: Testing is advised for any child with any of the following unless there is a strong clinical reason to do otherwise:

1. Fever (greater than or equal to 38.0°C; confirmed) in the absence of an alternative diagnosis (e.g. UTI, varicella) OR
2. A new cough, shortness of breath or deterioration in existing respiratory condition OR
3. Symptoms of anosmia (loss of sense of smell)*, ageusia (loss of sense of taste)* or dysgeusia (distortion of sense of taste)*OR
- *If the child can express or describe these symptoms
4. Minor respiratory symptoms in a child who has other ill contacts, is part of an outbreak or is a contact of a proven case.

The HPSC documentation describes the assessment in much more detail. For those aged younger than 3 months, the usual assessment protocols apply. For those aged 13 years or older or who attend secondary school, the HPSC refers these to adult testing guidance.

Contribution from Catherine Murphy at Leaders Questions re School Bus transport

Getting students back to school has been a major undertaking and a monumental task at individual school level, supported by a subvention of €375 million from the public purse. In addition, this week the leaving certificate results were issued and tomorrow CAO offers will be made. There have been positive Covid cases in some schools and a variation in how they have been handled. All of this has generated queries. It is easy to miss another issue which has not received sufficient attention. On 18 August, NPHE recommended that school transport for secondary schools students apply the same social distancing as is the case with public transport. That was understood to mean that an additional 1,600 buses would be required.

Because of the requirements being changed so close to school reopening, there was a very short lead-in time. That is almost expired. Even more problems will emerge in the next week or two as a consequence of that. Many people are saying that there was a huge effort and financial resources deployed in getting schools opened but there is a sense of disbelief and frustration that getting students to the same schools is still chaotic. There is

no end in sight and it is impossible for parents to get information. The school transport system causes real problems every year but Covid has amplified those problems. For those with a medical card and attending the nearest school, transport is provided. For those who do not have a medical card and are attending the nearest school, if there is spare capacity, they will be accommodated for a charge. These are called as concessionary passengers. If there is no spare capacity, they have to make their own arrangements.

Many of those who are not attending the nearest school are doing so because there is no capacity in the nearest school and they could not get a place. Because of this they are not necessarily entitled to a place on the school bus because they are not attending the nearest school. Schools and parents sometimes organise private sector buses between them. The new social distancing requirement also apply to them and there is no subsidy. To be viable for private operators, they are effectively saying that parents will have to pay for school places to achieve the social distancing unless there is a subsidy. That is not attainable for some for households with multiple children.

In addition, Dublin Bus normally introduce a school timetable when schools return but they have been unable to do so because the National Transport Authority, NTA, have not funded such a timetable. Is additional funding being made available to deliver the school transport, including the NTA and the Dublin Bus timetable? What is the timeline for getting transport fully in place? Will a subsidy be considered and provided for those who have to hire additional private buses because of the new social distancing rules?

Reply from Minister Leo Varadkar:

I thank the Deputy for raising this important issue. I know that a large number of Deputies, particularly in rural constituencies, are getting many representations about school transport, as we always do at this time of year, but they are of a very different nature this year because of the pandemic. It is absolutely the case that there have been positive Covid-19 cases among schoolchildren since schools reopened. Back in August I said that that would be the case. Some people criticised me at the time and said it was bad messaging or some such stuff.

It was not messaging; I was just telling the truth and telling it as it is and making sure that parents would be prepared for the new normal in our schools, in that there will be cases among schoolchildren. So far as there is very little evidence of school transmission, which is really encouraging. We have not had significant school outbreaks. That may yet happen but it has not happened yet. The vast majority of children and teachers are much more likely to get Covid-19 in their own or somebody else's home than they are in schools, which are very controlled and sanitary environments now, largely because of the very good work that has been done by teachers and school management to make them ready for living with Covid-19.

We are committed to ensuring that schools remain open safely and that school transport will play a vital role in that. We have invested more than €11 million in ensuring that school transport is safe. In line with new public health advice issued on 18 August, we are working to achieve 50% capacity on school buses for post-primary students. However, it was not possible to roll that out on 1,600 routes within two weeks. That change in advice came very late in the day.

We are taking a practical approach backed up with real resources to assist schools. In conjunction with the 50% capacity target, we are also working to accommodate concessionary students. As to the additional funding that the Deputy has asked about, €11.3 million has been provided for additional hygiene, sanitisation and PPE requirements on the school transport scheme. This allowance is in addition to that provided during the period of school closures between March and June, during which the Department continued to pay contractors 50% of their normal rate, even though school transport was not operating. That cost €26 million. The allowance for additional hygiene, sanitisation and PPE requirements will be kept under review and further engagement will take place with Bus Éireann, as necessary, when services resume.

Reply from Catherine Murphy:

The Tánaiste did not refer to Dublin Bus and I would appreciate if he would do that. While this is a dominant issue in rural areas, it is not exclusively so. The school route timetables have not

been reintroduced and we are being told that they are not being funded by the NTA.

He referred to PPE and sanitising the buses. Is there additional funding for this because these buses are going to be half full? More buses will be needed. Is there money for those additional buses? How will the concessionary passengers be accommodated? I see hundreds of parents in their cars just in my own locality every morning who are doing this because they have no school transport. They cannot go to work and their lives are being disrupted by this as well. This is an investment that requires to be made. The schools are open and the children and students need to get there. When will all of those buses be in place? Surely, there is a plan of action or an indicative timeline. Can the Tánaiste give some information to people, even in a general way, because there is a dearth of information at the moment?

Reply from Minister Leo Varadkar:

I will have to come back to the Deputy in respect of her specific question on Dublin Bus as I do not have that information to hand.

Among the actions that the Department of Education and Skills is taking is the provision of grant support to parents to help them with the cost of private transport arrangements where they want it. So far just under 1,000 parents or guardians have contacted the Department in regard to seeking a refund.

Under the terms of the school transport scheme, children are eligible for school transport if they satisfy the distance criteria and are attending their nearest school as determined by the Department and Bus Éireann having regard to ethos and language. The Government is working with Bus Éireann to ensure that capacity is rolled out at the 50% space and that space is opened up for concessionary students. No tickets will issue to post-primary late applicant payees until such time as routes are rolled out at 50% for those who applied and paid by the deadline of 4 August. As routes are rolled out, if capacity is available, tickets will be allocated at that point to those applicants.

Question from Catherine Murphy T.D.

To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning, and Local Government the number of non-Part V houses purchased by location in 2019 and to date in 2020; the cost; the developer; the housing mix; and if he will make a statement on the matter. [23059/20]

Reply from Minister Darragh O'Brien

My Department publishes comprehensive statistics on a quarterly basis on all social housing delivery activity under Rebuilding Ireland. This is published on the statistics page of my Department's website, at the following link:

Acquisition information for each year of Rebuilding Ireland can be found at the following link: https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/attachments/social_housing_output_overview_2016-to-q4_2019_.xlsx

Detailed acquisition information for each Local Authority can be found on the website. Expenditure on acquisitions in 2019 totalled over €495 million. It should be noted that acquisition recoupment claims may not be received from Local Authorities in the same year the unit was acquired.

The precise mix of property types acquired is a matter for each Local Authority based on local requirements and opportunities and the granular details in terms of individual developers or vendors would be held at local level. The Programme for Government, identifies the need to avoid over-concentration of particular housing types in areas, by requiring local authorities to complete housing need and demand assessments to inform delivery of an appropriate mix of housing typologies to cater for the needs of diverse household types and sizes.

In terms of social housing delivery data to date in 2020, data gathering and collation was impacted by COVID-19, where the focus was on maintaining the essential housing services. The data collection and collation process has since resumed and social housing statistics for Q1 and Q2 2020 will be published together.

**Please stay at home and continue
to take care of each other.**

Continuing to support
the people of
Maynooth-Clane
in these difficult times.

*Thank you to all our
frontline workers.*



Cllr Angela

Feeney

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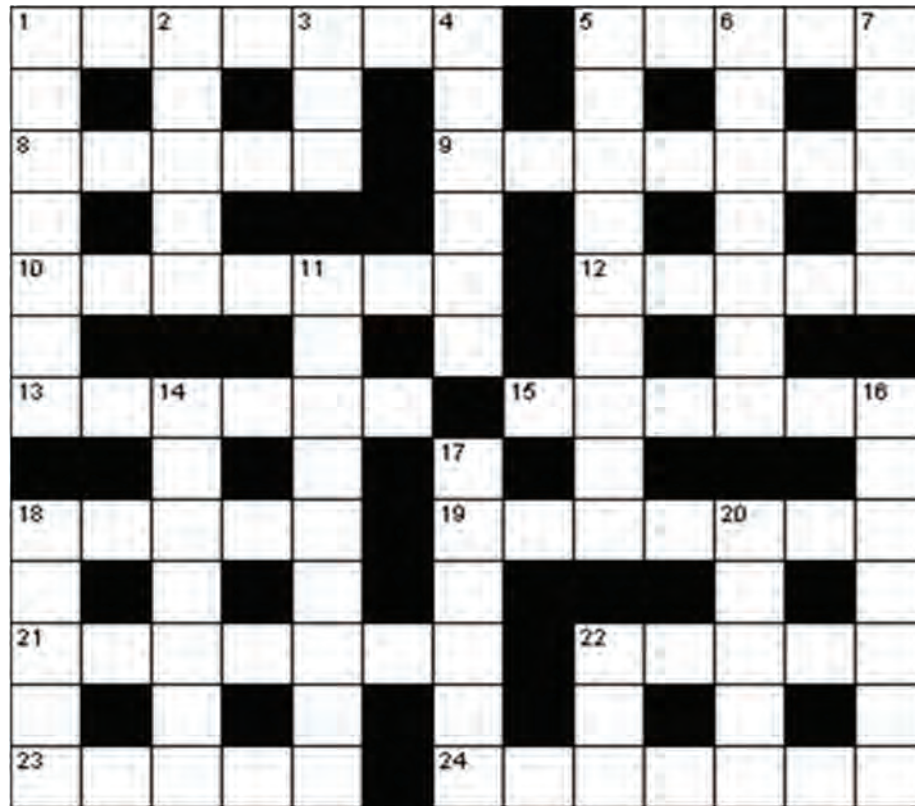
1 day per week (9:30 - 16.30) Garda Vetting is required

Wash, Cut & Blow Dry are the most common requests.
Applicant will be asked to provide charges.

For further information contact:
Máire O'Keeffe - Director of Nursing
M.C.C.U. Leinster St., Maynooth
Ph: 01-6196320/0860235012
Or e-mail: maire.okeeffe1@hse.ie

Clues Down

-



1. Tapers (7)
2. Inexperienced (5)
3. Frozen water (3)
4. Personify (6)
5. Decorative covering (9)
6. Photographic film (7)
7. Synthetic silk like fabric (5)
11. Short accounts of incidents (9)
14. Quashed (7)
16. Private place with peace and quiet (7)
17. Marine mammal (6)
18. Alleviates (5)
20. Emblem (5)
22. Nothing (3)



Entries for the Crossword & Sudoku Competitions have been suspended until further notice.

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Super Difficult

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							2	



Be sure to avoid printing ALL the pages of the Newsletter unless you intend to do so.



You may like to try the Spooky Doughnuts too!!!!



As the leaves fall from their branches, our gardens are filled with wonderful, warming colours. Autumn is a wonderful time of year and there is so much that can be done in the outdoors. Here we outline what you can do in your garden in October.

Sow and Grow:



October is a good time to plant rhubarb in your garden. I recommend choosing the early fruiting variety known as **Timperley Early** for strong stems of rich red rhubarb. It is important to enrich the soil using organic compost before planting rhubarb. If you have apple, pear or plum trees, now is the time to pick the remaining fruit. Simply wrap the fruit in clean newspaper and store in crates in a dark, frost-free and cool location.

If you want to plant a new apple, pear or plum tree in your garden, October is a good time to do so. The Coronet Dwarf Apple Tree can be grown in a patio pot or container and will give you an abundance of fruit next summer.

Garden Care:

Moss is growing fast and strong this autumn. Apply **PAC** to your outdoor areas that are affected by moss (patios, slates, tiles, driveways and footpaths) and watch as your moss disappears. Simply mix the solution with water and apply to affected areas in dry weather. An application of PAC will kill any unwanted moss and lichen growth in your garden in October. If you are interested in composting now is a good time to start making a garden compost heap. Simply collect fallen leaves, lawn clippings, shredded newspapers and uncooked kitchen waste. If you want to accelerate the composting process just apply a dressing of autumn compost maker over the layers of organic composting materials.

Garden song birds should be fed from now until late spring. Sunflower seeds, wild bird mixes and peanuts are great feeds for your garden birds, offering high levels of protein and energy. October is also a good time to clean out old nesting boxes for your feathered friends.

Plant hedging plants now to provide shelter and privacy in your garden. Large, instant mature hedging plants are now available for planting to create an instant wall of foliage up to 6 feet tall. They come in a wide selection of heights and varieties. Trees including liquid ambar, mountain ash, maples, sumachs and cotoneaster offer stunning autumn and early winter colours in your garden. Fruiting trees including sorbus, pyracantha, cotoneaster and malus offer your garden song birds a natural food source of delicious berries to sustain them through the autumn and early winter.



Garden Colour

Spring flowering bulbs can be planted in your garden in October. Spring flowering bulbs include tulips, daffodils and crocuses, all of which are easy to grow. Plant the bulbs in patio planters and borders now for great colour in your garden next spring. One of my favourite spring flowers is called **jack the lad**. It is a daffodil that produces a brightly coloured double flower with golden yellow petals. The **woodland walk mix** is another beautiful variety. The combination of the bright yellow narcissus flowers and the blue from muscaria create a brilliant combination in spring. A wonderful project to complete with your children this autumn is to plant **scented hyacinths**. Hyacinths offer you a

wide range of colourful blooms. If they are planted now they will reward you with a stunning show of colour and scent for Christmas and the New Year. They can be planted in baskets, pots or window boxes. What a fun and rewarding activity to get your children or grandchildren involved in. October is the ideal time to add winter flowering plants to your patio planters and window boxes. Winter flowering plants such as heather, cyclamen, pansies, violas and trailing ivy can all be planted now. Before adding the plants place some spring flowering tulips and dwarf narcissus in the center of the pots for some additional colour next spring.



If your greenhouse is fairly empty, now's a good time to clean and disinfect it. This lets in more light, and prevents pests and diseases over-wintering. Protect half-hardy plants with fleece or bring them into a frost-free greenhouse. Sweep up any fallen leaves that harbour fungal spores and provide ideal hiding places for slugs and snails. Use them to make leaf mould for the garden. Lift and divide any overcrowded herbaceous perennials whilst the soil is still warm.

October is also a good time to visit and tidy graves. Graves can be brightened up by planting some winter and spring flowering cyclamen, pansies and violas. Why not add a planted container? You can plant it up with colour for winter and spring.



The last couple of years have not been easy on Irish gardens. Plants that have grown happily for the last few decades were killed by the cold, crushed by the snow or had their leaves burned off in late spring storms. People are now more aware than ever that when choosing plants for their garden, hardiness is an important issue. And rightly so - nothing is more depressing than seeing plants die.



Roasted Butternut Squash and Bacon Soup

Ingredients:

- ◆ 1 butternut squash (about 3 pounds), peeled, seeded and cut in 1-inch chunks
- ◆ 1 onion, diced
- ◆ 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- ◆ 4 slices bacon, diced
- ◆ 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ◆ 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ◆ Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste



For the soup

- ◆ 4 slices bacon, diced
- ◆ 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- ◆ 2 1/2 cups chicken stock, or more, to taste
- ◆ 1/4 cup crumbled goat cheese
- ◆ 2 tablespoons chopped chives

Method:

- ◆ Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Lightly oil a baking sheet or coat with non-stick spray.
- ◆ Place butternut squash, onion, bell pepper and bacon in a single layer onto the prepared baking sheet. Add olive oil and garlic; season with salt and pepper, to taste. Gently toss to combine.
- ◆ Place into oven and bake for 25-30 minutes, or until butternut squash is tender, stirring at halftime.*
- ◆ Heat a large skillet over medium high heat. Add bacon and cook until brown and crispy, about 6-8 minutes. Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate.
- ◆ Heat a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add butternut squash mixture and thyme, and cook, stirring occasionally, until fragrant, about 1-2 minutes; season with salt and pepper, to taste. Stir in chicken stock and puree with an immersion blender.
- ◆ Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer until slightly thickened, about 5-10 minutes. If the soup is too thick, add more chicken stock as needed until desired consistency is reached.
- ◆ Serve immediately, garnished with bacon, goat cheese and chives, if desired.

Carrot, sweet potato and feta fritters

Ingredients

- ◆ 800g carrots
- ◆ 2 large potatoes
- ◆ 1 large onion
- ◆ 600g sweet potatoes
- ◆ 5 medium free-range eggs
- ◆ 200g feta, crumbled
- ◆ 6 tbsp. wholemeal flour
- ◆ 25g fresh coriander, chopped
- ◆ 2 tbsp. cumin seeds
- ◆ 300ml vegetable oil
- ◆ Green salad, lime wedges and yogurt to serve



Method

- ◆ Peel and grate the carrots, potatoes, onion and sweet potatoes. Put in a colander over the sink with a big pinch of salt to drain for 30 minutes.
- ◆ In a large bowl, combine the eggs, feta, flour, coriander and cumin seeds, then beat with a fork until mixed.
- ◆ Squeeze as much liquid from the veg as you can, pressing down hard into the colander for 1-2 minutes, then add to the egg mixture. Stir to combine and season well. Heat the oven to 150°C/fan130°C/gas 2.
- ◆ Heat the oil in a wok or saucepan to 180°C or until a cube of bread sizzles. Put a small handful of the mix in a slotted spoon and lower into the oil. Cook 2-3 at a time: fry for 1-2 minutes, then turn and repeat until golden. Put on a plate and keep warm in a low temp. oven.





FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

JAMES BOND MOVIE QUIZ



Scottish veteran actor Sean Connery celebrated his 90th Birthday recently. There have been many Bond screen incarnations over the years, but the suave Scot topped a *Radio Times* poll to be crowned the best ever Bond. He pipped current Bond, Daniel Craig, at the post as Bond fans' personal favourite super spy in the iconic film series. Craig will be hanging up his tux, handing in his licence and Aston Martin after the delayed 25th Bond movie, *No Time To Die* finally makes its appearance on cinema screens, world-wide in November.



Test your James Bond knowledge with this 'licenced to thrill' quiz!!

1. What was the name of the first Bond movie?

- a) *Casino Royale*
- b) *Dr No*
- c) *For Your Eyes Only*
- d) *No Time To Die*



2. Who was the first actor to play M?

- a) Judi Dench
- b) Bernard Lee
- c) Richard Attenborough
- d) Ralph Fiennes

3. Which was the first Bond film to star Pierce Brosnan?

- a) *Die Another Day*
- b) *Tomorrow Never Dies*
- c) *Golden Eye*
- d) *The Living Daylights*

4. How many Scottish Bonds have there been?

- a) 4
- b) 1
- c) 3
- d) 2



5. What does the '00' signify in 007?

- a) The rank of commander
- b) A licence to kill
- c) A licence to carry weapons
- d) Secret Agent

6. How many actors have played James Bond on screen?

- a) 6
- b) 9
- c) 7
- d) 12



7. Who sang the title theme song for *Diamonds Are Forever*?

- a) Diane Warwick
- b) Cilla Black
- c) Shirley Bassey
- d) Lulu

8. What famous landmark does Grace Jones jump from in *A View to a Kill*?

- a) Big Ben
- b) The Eiffel Tower
- c) The Empire State Building
- d) The Statue of Liberty

9. How many times did Timothy Dalton play James Bond?

- a) Once
- b) Twice
- c) Three Times
- d) Four Times



10. What is the most successful James Bond movie?

- a) *Skyfall*
- b) *Dr No*
- c) *Casino Royale*
- d) *Quantam of Solace*

11. Which Bond film does not feature M?

- a) *For Your Eyes Only*
- b) *Moonraker*
- c) *Octopussy*
- d) *Live and Let Die*



12. What is Roger Moore dressed as in the final scene of *Octopussy*?

- a) A policeman
- b) A Clown
- c) A bomb disposal officer
- d) A soldier

13. James Bond has never been married onscreen

- a) True
- b) False

14. Which Bond Girl Married a Beatle?

- a) Barbra Bach
- b) Jane Seymour
- c) Britt Ekland
- d) Ursula Andress



15. Where does the only Irish James Bond hail from?

- a) Wicklow
- b) Dublin
- c) Carlow
- d) Meath

16. Which famous children's writer wrote the screenplay for a Bond movie?

- a) JK Rowling
- b) Dr Suess
- c) Roald Dahl
- d) CS Lewis

17. Which Bond movie features the classic Louis Armstrong song 'We Have All the Time in the World'?

- a) *For Your Eyes Only*
- b) *The Spy Who Loved Me*
- c) *Goldfinger*
- d) *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*

18. Shirley Bassey has performed the most Bond theme songs. How many?

- a) 2
- b) 3
- c) 4
- d) 5



19. What secret service agency does 007 work for?

- a) N17
- b) M18
- c) M15
- d) M16



Answers to James Bond Quiz in November edition of the Maynooth Newsletter

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Best Wishes to All during these extraordinary times.

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