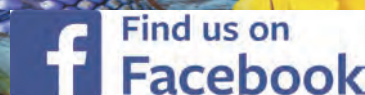


# Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the people of Maynooth



Local News

April 2021

Issue No. 500

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.*



**SHOP LOCAL - EAT LOCAL - SPEND LOCAL - ENJOY LOCAL**

**Support Local Jobs - Keep Maynooth Working**



## Announcement of the Next President of Maynooth University

**Maynooth University appoints an international researcher and current Vice-Chancellor as its next President**

The Governing Authority of Maynooth University have appointed Professor Eeva Leinonen to be its next President effective from 1 October 2021. Professor Leinonen will succeed Professor Philip Nolan who has led the University for the past 10 years. Professor Leinonen has held the role of Vice Chancellor of Murdoch University, Perth, Australia since 2016, having previously been Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia. Prior to moving to Australia in 2012, she was Vice Principal (Education) at King's College London.

Originally from Finland, Professor Leinonen has a background in linguistics and psychology. She engages with researchers in Finland and Italy in ongoing research into pragmatic language development in children and contextual processing deficits of children and young adults with autistic spectrum disorders.

The Chairperson of the Governing Authority, Dr Mary Canning, said she was delighted to announce the appointment of Professor Leinonen as the next President of Maynooth University. Dr Canning believes that Professor Leinonen's track record in the leadership and management of higher education institutions internationally will be of great benefit to Maynooth University, the Irish Universities Association and the higher education system in general at this critical time. She wished Professor Leinonen well as she takes up her new role.

In accepting her appointment, Professor Leinonen said that she was honoured to have the opportunity to lead this fine university in the next stage of its development.

"High quality innovative education, world class research that has positive societal impact and transformational educational opportunities for all who can benefit irrespective of background are hallmarks of Maynooth University and resonate closely with my approach to university education."

"I am very much looking forward to working collaboratively with colleagues across the University, with students, the Governing Authority, Academic Council, the Irish education sector and the many partners and supporters of Maynooth University to build on the University's impressive achievements gained under the leadership of Professor Nolan and previous Presidents."



## Dr Jessie Rogers appointed Dean of the Faculty of Theology

The President of Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, Rev Prof Michael Mullaney, is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Jessie Rogers as the first woman and lay Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the Pontifical University Maynooth.



**Dr Jessie Rogers appointed Dean of the Faculty of Theology**

Dr Rogers, originally South African, undertook her graduate studies at the University of Stellenbosch and came to Ireland in 2007 to teach in Mary Immaculate College before joining the Faculty of Theology at Saint Patrick's College in 2014. As a Scripture scholar specialising in the Old Testament, her academic work focuses on biblical wisdom literature. In recent years it has broadened to include spirituality and a focus on the theology of childhood.

Dr Rogers is a member of the Irish Biblical Association, the South African Society for Near Eastern Studies, the European Society for Catholic Theology, and the Godly Play International College of Trainers. Dr Rogers brings international and ecumenical experience to her new role.



## Hot Cross Buns

Traditional spiced, sticky glazed fruit buns with pastry crosses. Served as a classic Easter treat, the buns can also be enjoyed at any time of year and your family can enjoy all that fruity, spicy stickiness.

### Ingredients

625g/1lb 6oz strong white flour, plus extra for dusting  
 1 tsp salt  
 2 tsp ground mixed spice (or a combination of ground spices such as cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg, cloves and ginger)  
 45g/1½oz unsalted butter, cubed, plus extra for greasing  
 85g/3oz caster sugar  
 1 unwaxed lemon, finely grated zest only (alternatively use finely grated zest of ½ orange or 1 tangerine/satsuma)  
 1½ tsp dried fast-action yeast  
 1 free-range egg  
 275ml/9½fl oz tepid milk (non-dairy milks are also suitable)  
 125g/4½oz dried mixed fruit of your choice



### For the Topping

2 tbsp plain flour  
 1 tbsp golden syrup or runny honey, gently heated, for glazing

### Method

For the buns, sieve the flour, salt and mixed spice into a large mixing bowl, then rub in the butter using your fingertips. Make a well in the centre of the mixture, then add the sugar, lemon zest and yeast. Beat the egg and add to the flour with the tepid milk. Mix together to form a soft, pliable dough.

Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface.

Carefully work the mixed dried fruit into the dough until well combined. Knead lightly for 5 minutes, or until smooth and elastic.

Grease a large, warm mixing bowl with butter. Shape the dough into a ball and place into the prepared bowl, then cover with a clean tea towel and set aside in a warm place for 1 hour to prove.



Turn out the proved dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knock back the dough. Shape into a ball again and return to the bowl, then cover again with the tea towel and set aside for a further 30 minutes to rise.

Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and divide into 12 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a ball, then flatten slightly into a bun shape using the palms of your hands. Cover the buns again with the tea towel and set aside to rest for 5–10 minutes.

Grease a baking tray with butter and transfer the buns to the tray. Wrap the tray very loosely in baking paper, then place inside a large polythene bag (or cover loosely in lightly oiled cling film). Tie the end of the bag tightly so that no air can get in (if using) and set aside in a warm place for a further 40 minutes to rise. Preheat the oven to 240C/220C Fan/Gas 8.

Meanwhile, for the topping, mix the plain flour to a fairly thick smooth paste with 2 tablespoons cold water (you may need to use slightly less or more water to get the right consistency). When the buns have risen, remove the polythene bag and the greaseproof paper. Spoon the flour mixture into a piping bag (or a plastic food bag with a corner snipped away) and pipe a cross on each bun.

Transfer the buns to the oven and bake for 8–12 minutes, or until pale golden brown. As soon as you remove the buns from the oven, brush them with the hot golden syrup, then set aside to cool on a wire rack.

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/hotcrossbuns>



## Mediterranean diet A heart-healthy eating plan

If you're looking for a heart-healthy eating plan, the Mediterranean diet might be right for you. The Mediterranean diet blends the basics of healthy eating with the traditional flavours and cooking methods of the Mediterranean.

### Why the Mediterranean diet?

Interest in the Mediterranean diet began in the 1960s with the observation that coronary heart disease caused fewer deaths in Mediterranean countries, such as Greece and Italy, than in the U.S. and northern Europe. Subsequent studies found that the Mediterranean diet is associated with reduced risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

The Mediterranean diet is one of the healthy eating plans recommended by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans to promote health and prevent chronic disease. It is also recognized by the World Health Organization as a healthy and sustainable dietary pattern and as an intangible cultural asset by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

### What is the Mediterranean diet?

The Mediterranean diet is a way of eating based on the traditional cuisine of countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea. While there is no single definition of the Mediterranean diet, it is typically high in vegetables, fruits, whole grains, beans, nut and seeds, and olive oil.

### The main components of Mediterranean diet include:

- Daily consumption of vegetables, fruits, whole grains and healthy fats
- Weekly intake of fish, poultry, beans and eggs
- Moderate portions of dairy products
- Limited intake of red meat

Other important elements of the Mediterranean diet are sharing meals with family and friends, enjoying a glass of red wine and being physically active.

### Plant based, not meat based

The foundation of the Mediterranean diet is vegetables, fruits, herbs, nuts, beans and whole grains. Meals are built around these plant-based foods. Moderate amounts of dairy, poultry and eggs are also central to the Mediterranean Diet, as is seafood. In contrast, red meat is eaten only occasionally.

### Healthy fats

Healthy fats are a mainstay of the Mediterranean diet. They're eaten instead of less healthy fats, such as saturated and trans fats, which contribute to heart disease.

Olive oil is the primary source of added fat in the Mediterranean diet. Olive oil provides monounsaturated fat, which has been found to lower total cholesterol and low-density lipoprotein (LDL or "bad") cholesterol levels. Nuts and seeds also contain monounsaturated fat.

Fish are also important in the Mediterranean diet. Fatty fish — such as mackerel, herring, sardines, albacore tuna, salmon and lake trout — are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, a type of polyunsaturated fat that may reduce inflammation in the body. Omega-3 fatty acids also help decrease triglycerides, reduce blood clotting, and decrease the risk of stroke and heart failure.

### What about wine?

The Mediterranean diet typically allows red wine in moderation. Although alcohol has been associated with a reduced risk of heart disease in some studies, it's by no means risk free. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans caution against beginning to drink or drinking more often on the basis of potential health benefits.

### Eating the Mediterranean way

Interested in trying the Mediterranean diet? These tips will help you get started:

- Eat more fruits and vegetables. Aim for 7 to 10 servings a day of fruit and vegetables.
- Opt for whole grains. Switch to whole-grain bread, cereal and pasta. Experiment with other whole grains, such as bulgur and farro.
- Use healthy fats. Try olive oil as a replacement for butter when cooking. Instead of putting butter or margarine on bread, try dipping it in flavored olive oil.
- Eat more seafood. Eat fish twice a week. Fresh or water-packed tuna, salmon, trout, mackerel and herring are healthy choices. Grilled fish tastes good and requires little cleanup. Avoid deep-fried fish.
- Reduce red meat. Substitute fish, poultry or beans for meat. If you eat meat, make sure it's lean and keep portions small.
- Enjoy some dairy. Eat low-fat Greek or plain yogurt and small amounts of a variety of cheeses.



Spice it up. Herbs and spices boost flavor and lessen the need for salt.

The Mediterranean diet is a delicious and healthy way to eat. Many people who switch to this style of eating say they'll never eat any other way.

Source: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/mediterranean-diet>

# 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:

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E-mail: [office@maynoothcep.com](mailto:office@maynoothcep.com) - Website: [www.maynoothcep.com](http://www.maynoothcep.com)

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor, for publication, should be sent by e-mail to: [editor@maynoothcep.com](mailto: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](http://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**

# Editorial

Unfortunately, as I write the five day average Covid 19 case number in Kildare are the second highest in Ireland and in March generally the Kildare infection rate was causing concern. With the population profile in Kildare being younger compared to other counties we will be later to receive wide community vaccinations so it means that we have to live longer with the infection risk. The danger is that we could see a repeat of July/August 2020 when there was a regional lockdown in Kildare. In addition, high levels of infection mean that we will have to wait longer for the opening up of the economy which is having a serious impact on local businesses, our friends and family who find their income and jobs lost during this pandemic.

Of course for many of us who can manage it we have been working from home for over a year now. Some including myself had a mix of home and office based working arrangements before the pandemic and now that we have the full week working from home will find it difficult to go back to commuting. So many of us will want to maintain the flexibility that we have for working after the pandemic. One of the biggest drawbacks is of course the quality of broadband in Maynooth with so few properties getting the higher speed service.

The Government plan to create four hundred working hub bases throughout Ireland was announced at the end of March. Being originally from Roscommon and having spent many years lobbying for proper balanced regional development so that we limit the continuing drain of people from rural Ireland to the Dublin area, I welcome this initiative. I am even aware that the two neighbouring houses to my mother's house were purchased this year by people returning to Roscommon having lived in Dublin. Both were not retirees but young people who can bring up their family in Roscommon.

This leads me to reflect on how places like Maynooth could find that we lose out with policies like the Government effective relocation policy as people always make decisions on where they live based on where they work or get to work. Places like Maynooth could be squeezed between Dublin where people get more services and facilities because of population mass and rural Ireland where people can work, live in much cheaper housing and have short journeys to work and an overall better quality of life.

With over thirty years of voluntary community activity in Maynooth there are many positive developments that I can claim to have been part of the delivery. However, if Maynooth is to develop into a proper regional town and cast off the tag of simply being a commuter town for Dublin there are many other things that we need in this town.

**Paul Croghan**  
**Editor**

**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](mailto: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 Monday 26th April 2021**



## Birdwatch Ireland Kildare Branch

### Walks & Talks:

Birdwatch Ireland Kildare Branch monthly scheduled walks & talks are currently on hold and when the COVID-19 restrictions change the situation will be reviewed again.

### Project Lapwing:

It is that time of the year to make a note of lapwing around the county again. Lapwing are red listed\* so of high conservation concern. Of the 202 birds in Ireland considered, 37 were put on the red list. Lapwing make their nest on the ground in relatively open terrain, thus are vulnerable to predation. Knowing where Lapwing are in Kildare, will help with conservation efforts. Birdwatch Ireland in cooperation with Biodiversity Ireland are coordinating this citizen science survey. Play your part by recording lapwing on the Biodiversity Ireland website at: <https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/project-lapwing>

\*Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2014–2019

Kendrew Colhoun<sup>1</sup> & Sinéad Cummins<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,

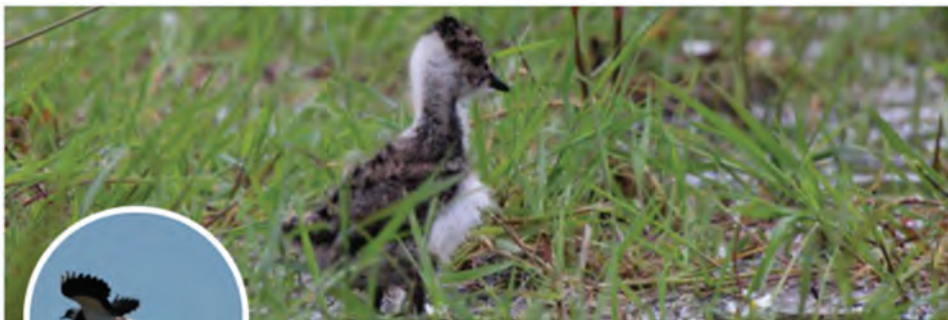
Belvoir Park Forest, Belfast BT8 7QT

<sup>2</sup> BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford

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<https://twitter.com/LapwingSurvey>



### Project Lapwing

@LapwingSurvey

#ProjectLapwing is coordinated by @birdwatchIE and aims to gather breeding Lapwing records from around the country. Submit your records at the link below 📍📅

📍 Ireland 📅 [records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/project...](https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/record/project...)  
📅 Joined March 2019

### WINGS:

"WINGS" Spring 2021 has landed on the doormat since the last monthly mailing, and as usual is full of interesting articles.

Garden birds are highlighted twice, both by Brian Burke, who is also the coordinator of the garden birds survey in Birdwatch Ireland.

The Irish garden birds survey, another citizen science survey, has just come to an end, and so I encourage all those who have filled in the survey sheet to submit it to Birdwatch Ireland's ... via the online data system, by emailing your count form to [gardenbirds@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:gardenbirds@birdwatchireland.ie) by posting your count form to the address below: **BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20 Block D, Bullford Business Campus,**



### Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

#### Hen Harrier:

In the WINGS magazine of Spring 2021, there is also an article on the Hen harrier by Alan McCarthy (pages 10-12), which is one of Ireland's most threatened birds of prey.

The Birdlife international global distribution map shows that the Hen Harrier has a large breeding area, but the area where it is "native resident" is



much smaller, and Ireland is one of those areas. BirdLife International (2021) Species factsheet: *Circus cyaneus*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org>

On the island of Ireland, the distribution map shows that the hen harrier is "native resident" in the lower half of the island.

BirdLife International (2021) Species factsheet: *Circus cyaneus*. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org>

The distribution map below from "Xeno-canto" has some more detail as to the breeding areas in Ireland, and currently they do not extend to Kildare. However in the winter sightings of hen harrier have been noted in the county, even though they are notoriously difficult to observe.

<https://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Circus-cyaneus>

<https://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Circus-cyaneus>

The graceful flight of the Hen Harrier and its elusive nature, make it a delight to behold if you can get the chance.

Seasonal occurrence: Resident Breeding Non-breeding Passage Uncertain

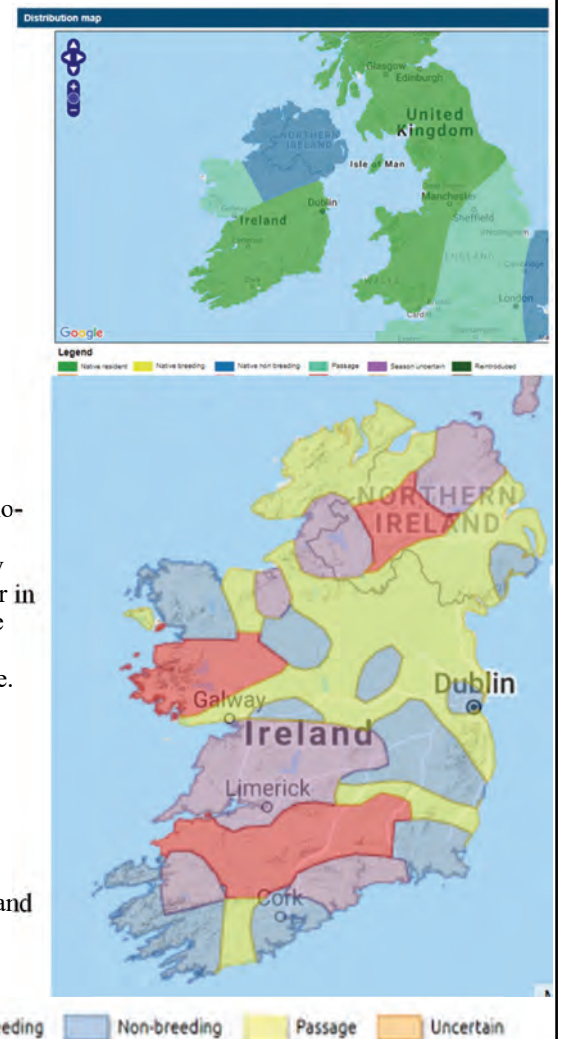
The link below to the screencast, shows the Hen Harrier in a number of behavioural settings, and I hope you enjoy watching it.

<https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/crnu6fW4n5>

Best Regards

Neil Bourke  
Chairman  
BirdWatch Ireland  
Kildare Branch

Please look on [www.Facebook.com/bwikildare](https://www.facebook.com/bwikildare) or [www.birdwatchkildare.com](http://www.birdwatchkildare.com) for up to date news and events.





## Watch out, scammers about! The top 5 scams to watch out for.

### 1. The many changing faces, and names, of dodgy fashion websites

Being able to buy clothes or other fashion items online and across borders is of great benefit to consumers in the majority of cases, but unfortunately there are situations where it hasn't turned out so good and they have been the victim of a dodgy fashion website. ECC Ireland receives reports, on an almost weekly basis, about certain online fashion traders who rip off consumers by sending clothes/shoes that are either of inferior quality, the wrong colour/size or product altogether, and even with stains or holes in them (yes, you read correctly!). Not only this, but when consumers try to complain they often find out that the trader is not actually based in the EU/EEA but further afield like China, then struggle to get a response or adequate refund or replacement. Some have even returned the offending item, at their own expense, never to hear from the trader again, and obviously lost the money too.

There is another problem that we've noticed. Even when there are bad reviews on handy resources such as Trustpilot or negative ratings on Scamadviser that's not to say that suddenly the fraudsters' dodgy dealings are scuppered. Au contraire mon ami! Some of these traders get around this little hiccup by just changing their names – they sometimes don't even bother changing the look of the site, just the domain name and anywhere the company name is mentioned. That's it! They go on to scam even more consumers. There are quite a few of these Lazurus-like traders out there.

Some of these reincarnations are not even that clever. The new not-so-genious domain name may not even have anything whatsoever to do with clothes or shoes, for example the domain name may contain something like landscaping and yet on the site it sells shoes. This should be an alarm bell but alas, consumers have bought products from these types of websites but inevitably end up paying the price. How does this happen? Well, a domain name from another business may become available and so the dodgy trader can buy them quite cheaply and use it to trade online for a short time, but time enough to scam a few people before the site disappears and the trader scarpers off again, to probably set up yet another website, and so, it goes on and on.



### 2. Pops-ups that could end up costing you more than you thought

Social media is just harmless fun isn't it? What's wrong with just scrolling and clicking things without thinking twice? Well, a lot actually! Not only are consumers buying more and more online from official websites but they are also responding to advertising, clicking the link or pop-ups and following through on that purchase via social media. Most of this is fine as social media is by now a well-established marketing tool used by countless online retailers all over the world. However, just like anything else, there are the few bad seeds who will try to use this medium to con you so beware.

ECC Ireland and the rest of the ECC-Network has received numerous reports from consumers who have been blindsided by dodgy social media pop-ups and other similar advertising. While the majority of these complaints have involved beauty products others have been in relation to health-related items and even credit cards.

The modus operandi is that consumers are attracted by this shiny enticing pop-up ad, which maybe promotes a 'special offer' or 'free trial' or it's something that you can only get from these guys, and maybe for a limited time. The consumer is interested, clicks to find out more, might enter details such as a name, email, and address but then doesn't continue on with the purchase and has not entered into a contract. However, some time later unsolicited goods may arrive on the doorstep along with a demand for payment and often a threat of debt collectors if this is not paid.

Some consumers have not even provided the trader with a postal address, only an email, and then they receive an email with an invoice claiming that a contract had been entered into and that payment needs to be made. Not very nice at all for these consumers who understandably are worried by this thinking that they have to pay. The answer is, you do not have to pay for or return a package that you have not ordered.

For more information:  
<https://www.eccireland.ie/>

### 3. Romance scams that will break your heart and empty your wallet

Unfortunately, from time-to-time ECC Ireland is contacted by consumers who have been caught out by so-called romance scams. This is one of the worst kinds of scams as it results in the victim being not only financially at a loss but also feeling heartbroken and betrayed. You may think, 'But, how can this happen?'. Well, it happens quite a lot, but it is under-reported mainly because people feel embarrassed and maybe don't know where to go with their complaint.

These types of scams typically occur when the victim gets talking to the scammer either on a dating website, social media, or other online forums. Trust is built up over time, even as long as a couple of years, during which the scammer

dupes the victim into believing that it is a real relationship – there is sometimes even proposals of marriage. Everything is going wonderfully when all-of-a-sudden there is a crisis of some kind and the scammer needs money to help him/her – it could be to pay off a credit card, get them out of the army, save their business. If this is all sorted, then they can be together. Happy ever after, right? Wrong!!! Unfortunately, ECC has seen cases where people have lost more than €30,000 in this way.

These scammers pray on the vulnerable and the lonely, take what they can get, before their true intentions have been revealed and the victim, or perhaps a friend/family member, raises the alarm.

Please watch out for this type of scam. It may not be you, but it could be someone you know who falls victim to this so be vigilant. ECC Ireland did a press release on romance scams last year which is available at [www.eccireland.ie/romance-fraud-ireland/](http://www.eccireland.ie/romance-fraud-ireland/)



### 4. Fake accommodation owners or non-existent rental properties

There are also the mysterious cases of the elusive accommodation owners, disappearing rental properties, and your vanishing money. These scams usually start out normal enough with the consumer searching for a property to rent, either to live in or just for a holiday. They may do their research on a well-known legitimate accommodation website but when it comes to sealing the deal with the property owner they are encouraged to go off the platform, where there is a secure payment system, and deal with the owner directly.

This often leads to the owner telling the consumer that the payment needs to be made by bank transfer (which is not a secure method of payment). The consumer may then turn up to the property only to find out that they have not been dealing with the real owner but an imposter and therefore have no booking. There have been cases where the consumer has found online what looks like a beautiful villa to rent, pay the money, only to find out that the property doesn't even exist.

This type of scam doesn't just happen with holiday rentals, there have been many cases reported where people looking for a room or apartment to rent here in Ireland have been scammed. The wannabe renter may find a property on a legitimate rental accommodation platform which seems too good to be true – great

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

price, fab pictures, etc (should be a red flag given what the housing situation in places such as Dublin is like at the moment). They contact the email provided and get a reply saying that they bought the apartment while they were living for a few years (usually about 5) in Ireland. Then they say that they have this big job that doesn't allow them to come to Ireland 'for even a single day' but that there will be someone to meet you at the apartment and you can give one month's rent first, just to see if you like it. **ALARM BELLS!!!! DING DING DING!!!!**

The rule of thumb here is that if you're using a legitimate holiday accommodation website that uses its own secure payment system then stay on that platform and do not, I repeat, do not, go off the platform to pay the owner directly. Most of these platforms allow you to contact the owner to ask questions about the property and that is recommended but when it comes to payment you should use the secure payment system provided by the third party accommodation website. You should always use a credit/debit card to make the payment. Never ever send money via bank transfer as this is not secure and difficult to trace meaning if it's taken by a scammer then it's gone.

For general long-term rental accommodation the most common accommodation platforms only advertise properties and don't provide its own payment system so really it's up to you to make sure to do your research thoroughly and remember, if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. Never send money to anyone without having first viewed the property and being comfortable that the property is as advertised. Some rental property sites have a report ad button so if you see an ad that's suspicious then report it.

### 5. Refurbished phones causing trouble

There is a big market out there now for refurbished phones, especially if consumers can get their hands on a cheaper iPhone as a brand new one could set you back quite a bit. While refurbished phones are available directly through

manufacturers and perfectly legitimate new and second-hand phone sellers/marketplaces, ECC Ireland has received a concerning number of reports from consumers who have bought refurbished phones from some dodgy online traders only to encounter significant problems with their purchases later.

The cases reported include instances where the consumer has bought from an online trader with a domain name that looks like it is based in Ireland or UK but in fact is based in the US or somewhere else outside the EU/EEA, and so when there has been a problem with the purchase it is difficult to avail of EU consumer legislation. Even when the trader is based in the EU, there may be another obstacle – the manufacturer does not recognise the consumer as the owner of the phone and therefore refuses to give assistance when there is a fault or perhaps the manufacturer will not fix a problem because the handset has been fitted with unapproved refurbishment parts. Sometimes the phone has been blacklisted because it has been reported stolen. In some cases, consumers have bought these phones only to find that after just one month they have stopped working because they have been blocked.

### General tips to help you avoid scams

Do your research thoroughly before hitting the purchase button or agreeing to anything. When you're shopping online for any kind of product or service it's vitally important that you know who the trader is and where they are based. Remember, if they are based within the EU/EEA then you have better protection under EU consumer legislation. However, watch out for traders who claim to be based within the EU/EEA but when you dig a little further (in the terms and conditions, doing a 'whois domain' search online, or a review search) it turns out that they are based elsewhere or for traders who have no contact information at all other than a contact form.

Here's an article we did a while back which provides tips on checking for fake websites and doing your research.

**[www.eccireland.ie/avoid-online-fraud-and-shop-online-safely-in-2021/](http://www.eccireland.ie/avoid-online-fraud-and-shop-online-safely-in-2021/)**

Other research resources to find out about the trustworthiness of a website and information about scams include: The Wayback Machine, Scamadviser, Trustpilot, gov, Action Fraud UK and the scams section on the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission's website.

Know what you're signing up for. As previously stated in scam number 2 (above) there are a lot of online purchases that may involve a 'free trial' or special offer. Make sure you read the terms and conditions fully to find out what this free or special offer entails – when do you start to pay, is there an automatic renewal/rolling contract, how do you cancel?

Always use a secure method of payment such as a debit/credit card just in case things go wrong. Never ever do a money transfer as once it's gone, it's gone. By using your card, you at least have the option to go to your bank/credit card provider to see if you can avail of chargeback and/or cancel an unauthorised payment. Other payment methods such as PayPal are also secure to use as they have protections in place.

What to do when you've been scammed: If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of a scam then it is treated as a criminal matter and therefore these cases should be reported to the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau by phoning 01-6663776.

**Source: [www.eccireland.ie](http://www.eccireland.ie)**



## Ways to Increase Storage in your home

Making space in small homes requires some creativity and the ability to make the most of the space you have. Below are some ideas on how you can increase storage in your house.

The first thing to do is declutter and remove all things that are unnecessary. You might not realize how many things you're holding onto that you don't need. Do you really need as many scissors, socks, shoes, sheets, etc. as you have in your home?

The kitchen is notorious for duplicate items. Go through everything and get rid of all the stuff you don't actually use. Even pots and pans. How many pots do you need? Then you'll have tons of free space for the items you actually use and need.

Buy furniture that comes with inbuilt storage, e.g. beds with drawers, or a sofa with storage under the seat.

If you have space under the stairs make the most of it by having the space beneath your stairs fitted with proper storage cupboards, shelves and/or drawers.

If you have a hallway in your house, use the space to accommodate wall-to-wall storage. Make sure you paint the doors the same colour as the walls.

Install shelves and cabinets. Try to buy units the same colour as the walls so they blend seamlessly into the space. Invest in multipurpose furniture pieces.

Think sofa-cum-beds, coffee tables with a cavity inside, stools that can be used in different areas of the house, etc. In your dining room, consider adding storage under the dining table in the form of drawers where you can store cutlery and table mats.

In the bedroom, choose headboards that come with hidden storage and beds that have pull out drawers where you can store bed linen and towels. Install a full length mirror on the door of your wardrobe so you do not need a separate dresser. This ensures your room appears larger too. If you are really struggling for space use a bed that can be pulled up to the wall so you save floor space during the day.

In the children's bedroom, choose bunk beds as this will help create more floor area for play. Storage boxes with shoes, toys etc. can be stored in containers under the bed.

Add storage under the bathroom sink to keep towels and bathroom supplies.

Use flexible, foldable furniture that can be folded and put away when not in use.

Living in a small space can encourage you to get back to basics and edit your stuff down to the essentials. With fewer items to store, you can avoid overcrowding and use limited space much more effectively. Declutter your home by storing only what is necessary and replacing items as they get worn or damaged.





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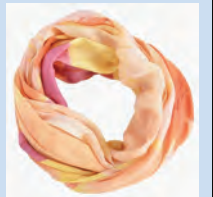


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Antoinette - Maynooth Dresses



### Thoughts for the day

- . You can't live a positive life with a negative mind
- . If you can't convince them, confuse them
- . People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing everyday!
- . Its okay if you disagree with me, I can't force you to be right
- . If you feel like doing some work, sit down and wait, the thought does go away!
- . My doctor asked me if I have ever had a stress test done, I said yes, its called life!
- . Laugh when you can, its cheap medicine!
- . Happiness is not having to set your alarm for the next day
- . The first 5 days after the weekend are always the hardest
- . The more you weigh, the harder you are to kidnap. Eat more cake!
- . Don't give up on your dreams, keep sleeping!
- . Silence is golden, unless you have kids, then silence is suspicious



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# Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

## Our First Farmers At Carrowkeel

When my wife suggested that we drive to Carrowkeel Megalithic Cemetery I wasn’t enthusiastic, having been there once previously, but after weeks of indifferent weather it was a glorious July day, so I acquiesced. On my first visit about forty years ago with a college friend I had carried his young daughter up to the cairns, which, to the best of my recollection, had been left gaping after their 1911 excavation. Wouldn’t a second excursion into the Bricklieve Mountains just be a waste of time and effort? Nevertheless, after asking directions in Castlebaldwin, we set off westward then turned south along a winding road that was soon barely one lane wide.

After driving for about five kilometres, we turned left up a fairly steep road that soon levelled out, giving a good view of the Bricklieves. As we proceeded, the countryside appeared more and more deserted. Eventually, we were cruising downhill to a metal gate than seemed to bar further progress. A notice told us to be sure to close the gate, so we took that as permission to proceed. Eventually we came to an area where three cars were parked. A sign informed us that it wasn’t advisable to drive to an upper car park about one kilometre further on as the road was unsuitable, so leaving our Volkswagen we set off on foot.

Having passed out another elderly couple, we descended into a valley where white-faced sheep, some with lambs, nibbled coarse moor grass. A black-faced ewe grazed the green verge of the rough road and a wheatear raced ahead of us before eventually flying away. The road rose up then descended into another valley hemmed in by steep cliffs. It looked like a place that might have been gouged out by a glacier. Bog vegetation, lone limestone boulders and an occasional stunted thorn bush gave the place a primordial atmosphere that was added to by the croaking of a raven. Soon we were plodding uphill again, wondering how much further on the cemetery was.

Eventually, we arrived at a place that we took to be the upper car park. Metal frames of long vanished notices stood on its verge – no doubt they would have given us valuable information about the stone cairns now gleaming whitely on the heathery crest above. Around us bell heather still retained its blossoms and ling was coming into bloom. Without hesitating, we began to climb up a rough, unpaved path. The going was difficult, with occasional steep sections of bare, slippery peat. Soon we were alongside the first cairn, which, to my delight, seemed in pristine condition. There was a large upright stone placed about two feet in front of the entrance, which had an oblong roof-

box over its horizontal capstone. Later, we learned that this roof-box is aligned to the midsummer sunset and that the only other such roof-box in Ireland is the one at Newgrange, though that one is aligned to the winter solstice.

I tried to enter the cairn but found the opening too cramped. However, by bending down, I was able to survey the square, stone-covered passage leading towards the centre. In there one can stand upright in a corbelled chamber like that at Newgrange. The chamber is cruciform, meaning that there are three small side chambers where ashes of the cremated dead were laid on flat stones. Although no mortar was used in constructing these tombs they are as sturdy now as when they were built. In his book From Bantry Bay to Leitrim Peter Somerville-Large tells how, in January 1972, he spent a night in one of these cairns and, ‘It was dry and warm like a cellar,’ not bad after a lapse of at least 5,000 years. We climbed up to two more tombs, but again the passages were too low for my stiff body. All of the entrances seemed to face towards Knocknarea, on which Miosgán Meadhbha (Maeve’s Cairn) could be seen. The fourth cairn, built on the summit of Carrowkeel, had fallen in. Nevertheless, the view from there was magnificent: mile after mile of green countryside, with here and there grey rocks jutting through, Lough Allen pale blue to the east, and, over towards Arigna, white wind turbines, the only sign of modern man’s intrusion. As well as Knocknarea, the Ox Mountains, Benbulbin, and even Croagh Patrick were clearly visible and it occurred to me that there are probably few places left in Europe where such an unspoilt panorama can be found. But what would our Neolithic ancestors have seen?

It is certain that the landscape would have been much different. For a start about 500 BC, when the Bronze Age was nearing its end, the climate became much wetter and blanket bog began to form on the slopes of mountains – at the time of their first excavation the cairns here were covered with peat. When our Neolithic ancestors reached the Bricklieves about 3000 BC – probably by travelling down the Unshin River from Carrowmore near Knocknarea in dugout canoes – most of the surrounding countryside would have been wooded and there may even have been grass or trees growing on Carrowkeel. Unlike the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers that preceded them, these newcomers were farmers. That meant that they used stone axes to create clearings and, having prepared the soil with wooden hoes or crude, ox-drawn ploughs, they grew crops such as wheat and barley. As a result, instead of being periodically obliged to find new hunting grounds, they

could settle in one place and their numbers grew. The fields discovered under blanket bog at Céide in Mayo are an example of this pattern.

About eight years ago, Dr Stefan Bergh and students from NUI Galway confirmed the presence of a substantial Neolithic village lower down, on the Lough Arrow side of Carrowkeel Cemetery; they examined 140 hut sites on Mullaghfarna plateau and as well as cremated bones, animal teeth and hazelnut shells, they discovered pieces of pottery and small flint tools. The flint – one discovery was an Antrim flint knife – is interesting. It has always intrigued me how people without metal implements were able to inscribe decorations on large stones such as those at Loughcrew and Newgrange or to bore holes in stone beads to make necklaces such as one found at Carrowkeel. Well, flint, an especially hard stone, as well as being used for arrowheads, knife blades and scrapers, was probably used for inscribing and boring also. There are no decorated stones at Carrowkeel but, otherwise, the standard of construction, while simpler than at Newgrange, is impressive.

What religion did these people have? The presence of that roof-box in one cairn would seem to indicate that they worshipped the sun. It is interesting that in ancient Egypt – part of the Fertile Crescent where farming began – men worshipped the sun god Ra and, indeed, twice yearly in the Great Temple of Ramses 11 the first rays of the rising sun move down through various chambers to illuminate the inner sanctuary. This corresponds to what happens in Newgrange at the winter solstice and in Carrowkeel with the setting sun at the summer solstice. Yes, these Neolithic farmers obviously believed in an afterlife and so they undertook the Herculean task of building communal tombs in which to place the ashes of their dead.

As my wife and I began to descend to the roadway by a slightly different path, noticing delicate orchids growing here and there, we came upon a circle of white stones, the remains of a fifth cairn. It stuck me that, without a bulldozer or forklift truck, it would take a large team of present-day workers using iron crowbars, pickaxes and hammers many backbreaking days to reconstruct that Neolithic tomb. On the other hand, if the original builders returned, would they recognise this lonely landscape, frequented only by sheep, ravens and the occasional curious sightseer?

P.G.Nerney

## Midnight Fox

It was an unexpected sight  
In our frost-covered housing estate  
Where Christmas lights still decked some windows  
And not one cat or dog was visible.

I watched it pausing by our neighbour’s fence  
Then venturing across the road,  
Wary steps, long bushy tail outstretched,  
Nose pointing like a torpedo cone.

What did it hope to find in this neat place?  
Surely no discarded dinner waste  
Or living turkeys, geese or chickens,  
And yet it must have food in mind,

Then I recalled our universal fear:  
Soaring numbers stricken when they mingled,  
Deaths in hospitals and nursing homes –  
Was Renard a malign avatar?

Colin Scott.

## The Light of the World

.. why should we toil alone,  
We only toil, who are the first of things,  
And make perpetual moan, ....

So complained Odysseus' men in Alfred Lord Tennyson's *Choric Song of the Lotos-Eaters*. And hadn't they a point? Why should humans suffer more than any other animals on this planet? Three times, at least! We suffer in anticipation of the hurt! We suffer the hurt! And we suffer after the hurt! Death is a constant worry for us and for us alone! We have numerous fears and threats. Danger is all around us.

Does it have to be like this? No! It does not. If all the people of the world took Jesus Christ seriously and loved each other all pain and hardship would be gone from our lives. Because then we would have become a living body, mystical if you like, where the good of one is the good of all! Where we would see that harming my neighbour is harming me! Wars would become obsolete! There'd be no more need to spend trillions on arms and governments could concentrate on having food and medicine enough not just for their own people but for those of poorer countries too!

"Come to me all ye who are laden and over burdened and I will

give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart and you shall find rest for your souls. My yoke is sweet and my burden is light".

Are we ever reminded of this? Is our discourse not all too hidebound in clichés and our liturgy and prayers stagnant with complex ritual? We lack what should be a living faith in every word that came from the mouth of God when he spoke in Aramaic or perhaps Hebrew to real people who had worries and cares just as we do and flocked to him until he was spirited away from them by those who claimed that they knew better, knew the mind of God! Why? Because they had it too cushy in their long robes with their hands being kissed in the market place. They had no poverty! They had no humility! They thought they were rich in knowledge and near to God when they were spiritually bankrupt! "The blind leading the blind." That's what Jesus called them! Have his words any relevance for today?

Who rejected Jesus and his message of love? It was the 'spiritual leaders'. Ironic, isn't it? Jesus claimed to be the light of the world, the way, the truth and the life, the good shepherd, the Son of God! In the history of the world has anyone ever made such claims? And yet...!

GM



# 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](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) and from the*  
*Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121*



## SCOPE NEWSLETTER

### Benefits and Taxes 2021

The Benefits and Taxes 2021 wallchart and leaflet are now available on [citizensinformationboard.ie](http://citizensinformationboard.ie). The print version of the wallchart and leaflet will be distributed to Citizens Information Centres in April 2021.

### Mandatory hotel quarantining begins

From 4am on 26 March 2021, if you arrive from a Category 2 country, or do not have a negative PCR test on arrival, you have to quarantine in a designated hotel. You must pre-book and pre-pay your hotel quarantine stay before your arrival. The booking system is available on [quarantinehotelsireland.ie](http://quarantinehotelsireland.ie).

### Medical cards for patients with terminal illnesses

You can now get a medical card if you have a terminal illness and have been told you have less than 24 months to live. Your hospital consultant must submit the application for you.

### Walk-in testing centres for COVID-19

Five walk-in testing centres are open in Dublin and Offaly until Wednesday 31 March, 11am-7pm. You can get a free COVID-19 test in the walk-in centre without an appointment if you:

- Are aged 16 years or over
- Do not have symptoms of COVID-19 but would like to be tested
- Live within 5km of the walk-in testing centre
- Have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 6 months

### Nursing home visits

Since 22 March, people in nursing homes can have someone visit them twice a week, as long as at least 80% of residents in the nursing home have been fully vaccinated.

### PUP eligibility checks

People contacted by DSP and asked to confirm that they still qualify for PUP must confirm their eligibility on [MyWelfare.ie](http://MyWelfare.ie) by Friday, 26 March 2021 or their payment may be stopped.

### Partial Capacity Benefit

Partial Capacity Benefit (PCB) will continue for a maximum of 3 years (156 weeks) for people qualifying from Invalidity Pension. However, a person can apply for PBC again after the 3 years. It is a new application and they will be reassessed.

For people qualifying from Illness Benefit, the Partial Capacity Benefit will continue for as long as they are entitled to Illness Benefit.

### Disability Allowance and PhD bursaries

From 1 September 2020, bursaries or scholarships of up to €20,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years awarded to PhD students by an approved institution are excluded from the means test for Disability Allowance.

### Easter payment dates

The Department of Social Protection has published details on social welfare payments over the Easter period.

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan and COVID-19

The eligibility requirement for applicants' to be in continuous employment for a certain period to access the loan has been relaxed due to COVID-19. This applies if applicants' have periods of unemployment due to COVID-19 and meet other criteria.

### Climate change

The Government has published the revised Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021, which commits Ireland to becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

## UPCOMING

### One-Parent Family Payment

On 8 April 2021, the One-Parent Family Payment earnings threshold of €425 will be removed.

### Family Leave and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2021

The Family Leave and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2021 is expected to be commenced before 1 April 2021. It increases Parent's leave and Parent's Benefit from 2 weeks to 5 weeks and the period during which parents can take the leave. The changes will be backdated to November 2019.

The Bill also provides adoptive leave and benefit for male same-sex adoptive couples.

All adoptive couples will be able to choose who should take the adoptive leave. The parent who does not avail of adoptive leave will be entitled to paternity leave.

### Minister Helen McEntee to take 6 months' maternity leave

Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee will take maternity leave from 30 April 2021. Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys has been assigned lead political responsibility for the Department of Justice from 1 May to 31 October 2021, in addition to her current portfolio.

### Changes to social housing regulations

The Social Housing Assessment (Amendment) Regulations 2021 will commence on 19 April 2021. They amend the principal regulations by:

Replacing the existing social housing support application form with an updated one  
 Removing the cap on the 2.5% increase allowed to the maximum income threshold for each person in a household aged under 18.

## ONES TO WATCH

### Extension of protections for tenants impacted by COVID-19

The Residential Tenancies Bill 2021 is before the Dáil. The legislation will extend protections for tenants who have fallen into rent arrears due to COVID-19 until 12 July 2021. These protections include a rent freeze and a 90-day notice period when ending a tenancy.

### Digital Green Certificate

The European Commission is proposing to create a Digital Green Certificate to facilitate free movement inside the EU. The certificate will be digital proof of vaccination, testing or recovery so that the holder may be exempted from testing or quarantine requirements. The proposal is expected to be ready before the summer.

### Reform of harassment laws

The Irish Times reports the Government plans to widen current laws on harassment to prevent offenders from contacting their victims. The changes will mean harassment orders can be applied for after a person is released from prison, widening the scope of protection available to a victim. Currently, harassment orders can only be imposed at the time of the offender's sentence or at any time before the offender's release from prison.

The new Bill will also implement a recommendation from the Law Reform Commission in relation to an accused person's belief in consent, to say that their belief that another person was consenting to a sexual act must be reasonable, as well as honestly held. The new Sexual Offences Bill is expected to be published towards the end of the year.

### Changes proposed to citizenship rules for children

The Minister for Justice will propose new legislation intended to enable children born in Ireland, who are not entitled to citizenship at birth, to secure citizenship more quickly.

Under the proposed legislation:

- Children will be required to be resident in Ireland for 3 years to become an Irish citizen (currently it is 5 years)
- Minors will be required to have been resident in Ireland for 2 years out of the previous 8 years (currently it is 4 years out of the previous 8 years), in addition to the requirement to have 1 year's continuous residence immediately prior to their citizenship application.

## On Citizens Information.ie

### New

Mandatory hotel quarantine

### Updated

Traveling to Ireland during COVID-19 Updated with hotel quarantining.

### Safety advice for motorcyclists

Information on helmets added.

### Vaccines for COVID-19

People aged 16 to 69 who are at very high risk now getting their vaccine.

### Disability Allowance

Information added on means test.

### Universal childcare subsidy

Updated rates and example of how rates work in practice.

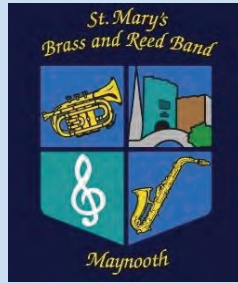
### PLC courses

International Protection applicants will no longer have to pay excess fees from September 2021.



## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

At the time of writing we are still waiting to see what we can and cannot do for the next few months and hopefully April 5th will give us some positive news so it's very much a wait and see situation at the minute. It does however give us an opportunity to look backwards and forwards. The photo below shows the first outing of the newly formed Boys' Band getting ready outside the Bandhall to parade to the Church for the start of the annual Corpus Christi Procession in May 1956. While many of those are sadly no longer with us there are a few hardy annuals still playing with the present Band and we are delighted to report that a number of girls joined the Band three years later.



After 65 years the wheel has gone the full circle and we are now in the process of forming a Junior Band which we hope will be up and running within the next two to three years. With this in mind we are preparing a list of applications from boys and girls aged between 8 and 18 years of age interested in playing Brass, Reed (saxophones, flutes and clarinets) and a full range of percussion instruments. We will have tutors available for all of the instruments and once things are up and running there will also be the opportunity to play as a group.

When our list is complete we will be in contact with the boys and girls to keep them updated. Once we are allowed to open our Bandhall in safety we will arrange an Open Night to meet everyone, show them the various instruments and meet some members of the Senior Band. The one advantage that members of the new Junior Band will have over the Boys of 1956 is that they will have the opportunity to graduate to the Senior Band which is doing extremely well at present and are looking forward to an International Music Festival in Germany next year.

If you are interested in joining the Junior Band please email your name, age, address, contact phone number, let us know if you have any knowledge of music (not a requirement) and if there is a particular instrument you would like to play.

**E-mail: [stmarysjrbandmaynooth@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysjrbandmaynooth@gmail.com)**

Or call **Francesca on 087 7168369** or **Paddy on 087 2537 906** if you have any questions you need to ask.



**First outing of the newly formed Boys' Band May 1956**

## Fun Facts about Easter Eggs



1. The UK's first chocolate egg was made by Fry's of Bristol in 1873. Before that, people would make do with hollow cardboard versions – or a hand-painted boiled egg if they were lucky!
2. The average time for cracking into your first Easter egg is 11am on Easter Sunday morning
3. But 43 per cent of children admit to giving into temptation before the big day. We wonder how many adults can say the same? Guilty as charged!
4. Over 500 million Cadbury's Crème eggs are made in a year. If you piled them all on top of each other, they'd be ten times higher than Mount Everest!
5. The world's tallest chocolate Easter egg was unveiled in Italy on 16 April 2011. Standing 10.39 metres tall and weighing 7,200kg, it was taller than a giraffe and heavier than an elephant!
6. The origin of the 'crocodile finish' you see on Easter eggs today. This traditional decorative design was originally designed to disguise minor imperfections that would otherwise be obvious on a smooth chocolate shell.
7. The world's most expensive edible Easter egg was made in 2006. It was created by La Maison du Chocolat and had over a hundred half-carat diamonds encrusted into the shell. The price tag? A whopping £50,000!
8. It's not all about eggs when it comes to Easter treats. Chocolate bunnies are a seasonal favourite, too. But how do you eat yours? According to a survey carried out by the National Confectioners Association, 76 per cent of people eat the ears first, while only 4 per cent start with the tail...

<https://www.idealhome.co.uk/diy-and-decorating/8-fun-facts-you-never-knew-about-easter-eggs->



## The Royal Canal Greenway

Ireland's longest greenway, stretching 130km, has officially opened along the Royal Canal.

The new trail begins in Maynooth, Co Kildare and will allow users to travel through Meath, Westmeath and into Longford where it ends at Cloondara.



The route has 14 points at which users can visit local towns and villages throughout the counties through which it runs. Once lockdown travel limits are fully lifted, cyclists will be able to pass 90 bridges, 33 locks, 17 harbours and four aqueducts as they travel along the canal route.

Visitors can complete the entire 130km off road trail in one visit or explore the shorter designated routes. It's a beautiful stretch of water, split into different sections to make it easier for people to get along the canal. The new greenway means you can go boating, paddling, walking or even cycling along the route which goes all the way to the Shannon.

In the future, local communities will benefit not just from the amenity itself, but jobs and business creation through bike hire, accommodation, restaurants and cafes along the route.



The greenway was completed in partnership with Waterways Ireland; the four local authorities of Kildare, Longford, Meath and Westmeath County Councils; the Department of Transport, and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.



## The Teapot Club and the Irish Grand National

The earliest record of a race meeting was in 1848 when organised by the West Union Hunt group. The Ward Union Hunt had transferred its annual steeple chase meeting from Ashbourne to Fairyhouse in 1851 (T. Dooley). Although that first meeting was a point-to-point meeting, within 3 years it became an enclosed course, which began the process of turning it into the top National Hunt course in the country.

In those very early days, its top race was the **Citizens Plate** organised by members of the Tea-pot Club, the first on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 1850 being won by Kate, a mare owned and ridden by Mr. Lawless. There were 12 runners.. The next year on Tuesday 22nd April the race was won by an unnamed chestnut gelding by Slinge owned and ridden by Mr M. Murphy.

The Sporting Intelligence of 1<sup>st</sup> May also notes an entry fee was 1 sovereign and a silver teapot. The winner was expected to provide a dinner “with a dozen champagne” for the Tea Pot Club members on that evening.

A racing commentary and verse from the Freeman’s Journal of 1858 gives us an indication of the race and the excitement around the event.

“This truly and honestly contested race came off on Monday last at one o’clock, over the far famed Fairyhouse course, three Irish miles, interspersed with fair but with stiff fences of a rasping description, the lands all grass, without a ploughed field in the entire line. Eight nags came to the scratch, steered by their sporting owners, to contend for a prize of about forty sovereigns. “

### The Teapot Steeplechase

Hither hasten, high and low,  
Welcome to our splendid show,  
See thy’re started, off they go,  
What a glorious sight.  
Who at home would basely stay?  
Who from the race would keep away?  
Who would miss a “Teapot Day”?  
Go it, blow me tight.

The names of the owner-riders were Mistrs Hogan,

Lynch, O’Connor, Watson, Waters, Connelly, Tyrrell, and Malone. Mr. Watson’s horse Job’s Comforter “came in the gallant winner so little distressed that he would not have blown out a candle”.

The Irish Grand National today is a racing event that is looked forward to with excitement and relish especially for people within its vicinity. A steeplechase, it is open to horses aged five years or older. Since 1991, the distance of the race has been 3 miles and 5 furlongs; previously it had been 3 miles and 4 furlongs. There are twenty-four fences to be jumped. It is a handicap race, and it is scheduled to take place each year on Easter Monday. The Easter Monday fixture regularly attracted racegoers from Dublin, and it became known as the Dubs’ Day Out.

The event was established in 1870, and the inaugural race meeting was won by a horse called Sir Robert Peel owned by Mr. Dunne. The winner’s prize money was 167 sovereigns. In the early part of its history, it was often won by horses trained at the Curragh, and there were ten such winners by 1882.

Several winners of the Irish Grand National winners have also won its English counterpart at Aintree, but none in the same year. The first to complete the double was Ascetic’s Silver, the winner of the latter version in 1906. The feat has been achieved more recently by Rhyme ‘n’ Reason, Bobbyjo and Numbersixvalverde. The most successful horse in the event’s history is Brown Lad, a three-time winner in the 1970s.

In 1964 the most famous steeplechaser of them all was Arkle, born at Ballymacoll Stud just outside Maynooth. Owned by the Duchess of Westminster who owned Derrinstown, he brough great pleasure and a sense of pride to Maynooth families who were instrumental in his care while in Derrinstown. Arkle won the Cheltenham Gold Cup and went on to land the Irish Grand National in the hands of Pat Taaffe when trained by the legendary Tom Dreaper.

Research on the Tea Pot Club ongoing!

Sources

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<https://www.irishnewsarchive.com/>

“A study of the changing social world of the landed

nobility of Co. Meath 1875-1945 by Terence Dooley.  
<http://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/771/1/>



county\_meath.pdf  
(From commons.wikimedia.org)  
Skeleton of Arkle the horse at the Irish National Stud.

The Irish thoroughbred racehorse Arkle is widely regarded as the greatest steeplechaser in history. Regarded as a remarkable combination of talent, intelligence and bravery. Arkle was also the first horse to capture the imagination of the Irish and British public outside racing circles. He left everyone who witnessed him in awe of his remarkable abilities. Even when he was still around, the general belief was that racing would never see his kind again.

Foaled in 1957, Arkle was bred by Mary Baker and later purchased by Anne, the Duchess of Westminster. He was sired by Archive and the mare Bright Cherry. His grandsire was the undefeated Nearco, one of the best flat racehorses ever.

This photograph of Arkle’s skeleton was taken at the Irish National Stud in County Kildare, Ireland.

This image was taken from the Geograph project collection. See this photograph’s page on the Geograph website for the photographer’s contact details. The copyright on this image is owned by Alan James and is licensed for reuse under the Creative Commons Attribution -ShareAlike 2.0 license.

(SD)



Gold Medal  
Winner 2019

Unfortunately because of Covid 19, level 5, restrictions we are unable to assist KCC with our clean ups, hopefully after the next meeting with NEPHET, our Government should have some good news to tell our volunteers about our next meet up by lowering the restrictions.

The flowers that we planted over the last number of years are in full bloom right now. Daffodils, Muscari, Tulips to name but a few, are adding some much needed colour to our lives in Maynooth.

We are very disappointed with the amount of Graffiti on every post and pillar, if we are to have a Tidy Towns Competition this year all that Graffiti will have to be removed manually.

We hope all our followers and supporters are well and we hope to see you all again soon in Courthouse Square. #staysafe #stayhome





## Maynooth University records highest ever number of CAO applications



Maynooth University has recorded its highest number of CAO applications ever. The record number is in line with a general upward trend of applications to the University over recent years. This year the University has seen a rise of 17% in applications for degree courses and a 16% rise in the number of applicants.

The Maynooth Arts degree has this year recorded the highest number of applications of any course in the CAO system, reflecting the popularity of the flexible Maynooth curriculum in which students can progressively specialise. Applications for the degree increased by 9%.

Several programmes at the University have seen a substantial increase in first preferences including Computer Science (+46%), Engineering (+39%) Biotechnology (35%), and Social Science (+27%).

There has also been strong interest in the new BSc in Biological and Geographical Sciences degree, introduced in 2020, which offers students the opportunity to study various areas of climate change, ecosystems, landforms, and how human activity impacts on our ecosystem both locally and globally. The BSc is offered by two academic departments of international repute, with first preferences rising by 52% year on year.

Similarly, the University has received significant applications for the new full-time four-year BA Early Childhood - Teaching & Learning. The course has been offered for the first time in 2021 in response to the increasing requirement for early childhood graduates to work in this growing sector.

Commenting on the figures, Prof Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, said: "Today's CAO figures, together with Maynooth University's position as the highest-ranking Irish university in the Top 50 Young Universities in the world, are key indicators of our innovative curriculum, offering students an extraordinary level of flexibility and control over their educational experiences. Maynooth University offers students the kind of education that will equip them with the critical skills and ability to adapt to today's rapidly changing job market."

"We look forward to welcoming our new students for the academic year 2021-2022. Maynooth University is a vibrant and stimulating place to study and we continue to invest and innovate to ensure that we offer our students a world class education and experience."



A big thank you from 8th Kildare Maynooth Scouts to everyone who supported our 12 Days of Christmas ticket sales. Below is the list of winners but unfortunately there were no winners from Maynooth this year. Wishing everyone well and stay safe.

Prize	Winner	Sold By
1st Prize	Pat Kinsley	18th Wicklow Greystones
2nd Prize	Sinead O'Brien	25th 27th Cork Cobh
3rd Prize	James O'Dowd	14th Clare Sixmilebridge
4th Prize	R Bates	1st/2nd/5th Louth St. Patricks
5th Prize	Malachy Mahon	13th Wexford
6th Prize	Natalie Farrell	21st Waterford Faithlegg
7th Prize	Christian McHugh	5th Wicklow Bray
8th Prize	Pat Hanratty	3rd 4th 6th Louth
9th Prize	Jon Scanlon	Skerries
10th Prize	Karen Connelly	11th Limerick Newcastle
11th Prize	Claire Dillon	4th 5th 129th 190th Dublin
12th Prize	Andrew McCormack	14th Limerick Murroe Boher
Sellers' Prize	Harry McMahon	1st 4th 22nd 32nd Tipperary Clonmel

## Homemade Facials

With COVID-19 confining us to indoors and beauty spas on lockdown, there are simple and natural ways to maintain your skin.

Below are a few simple ways for you to treat your skin in the comfort of your own home.

### Banana facial

Bananas are packed with ingredients for great skin: vitamin A to fade dark spots and blemishes and smooth out rough skin, vitamin B to reduce dryness, vitamin E to reduce the appearance of wrinkles, and potassium to moisturize and hydrate. So the fruit makes a perfect all-natural, homemade face mask that leaves skin looking and feeling softer. To make: Mash up a medium-sized ripe banana into a smooth paste, then gently apply it to your face and neck. Let it set for 10 to 20 minutes, then rinse it off with cold water. Or mix 1/4 cup plain yogurt, 2 tablespoons honey (a natural acne remedy), and one medium banana.

### Egg facial

For a little pampering, head to the refrigerator and grab an egg. If you have dry skin that needs moisturizing, separate the egg and beat the yolk. Oily skin takes the egg white, to which a bit of lemon or honey can be added. For normal skin, use the entire egg. Apply the beaten egg, relax and wait 30 minutes, then rinse.

### Honey facial

For this homemade face mask, start with 2/3 cup of instant oats and heat them in 1/2 cup of hot water for about five minutes until the mixture thickens. While you're waiting, toss half a cored apple into a blender with 2 tablespoons of yogurt, 2 tablespoons of honey, and one egg white. Blend at a pulse for 45 seconds, then add the heated oatmeal mixture. Blend at a pulse for another 20 seconds. Apply the mixture to your face and let it sit for 15 minutes for maximum nourishment.



### Yogurt facial

You don't have to go to a spa to give your face a quick assist. To cleanse your skin and tighten the pores, slather some plain yogurt on your face and let it sit for about 20 minutes. For a revitalizing homemade face mask, mix 1 teaspoon plain yogurt with the juice from 1/4 slice of orange, some of the orange pulp, and 1 teaspoon aloe. Leave the mixture on your face for at least five minutes before rinsing it off.

### Lemon facial

Lemons contain AHAs and BHAs, two types of hydroxy acid that remove dead skin cells and help clear up blackheads, acne, and discoloration. Create a homemade face mask by mixing the juice from one lemon with 1/4 cup olive oil or sweet almond oil. Or mix the juice of 1/2 lemon with a tablespoon of honey. Apply to your face, wait 15 minutes, and rinse off with warm water.

### More beauty fixes with a lemon.

Considering its size, the vitamin C powerhouse we know as the lemon provides an astonishing number of beauty benefits, six of which are listed below.

One word of caution: lemons can cause skin to be extra-sensitive to sunlight, so don't expose yourself to the sun for too long after a skin treatment.



1. Exfoliate dead skin and bring new skin to the surface by washing skin with lemon juice mixed with a little sugar.
2. Smooth wrinkles by boiling 1 cup milk, 2 teaspoons lemon juice and 1 tablespoon brandy. Cool the mixture to room temperature, apply and let dry before wiping it off.
3. Lighten age spots by dabbing them with lemon juice and rinsing off after 15 minutes. Repeat once later in the day.
4. Create a facial that both exfoliates and moisturizes by mixing the juice from 1 lemon with 1/4 cup olive oil or sweet almond oil.
5. Fight dandruff with a daily scalp massage with 2 tablespoons lemon. Rinse with water and follow with a rinse of 1 cup water mixed with 1 teaspoon lemon juice.
6. Whiten and clean fingernails by soaking them in 1 cup lukewarm water and the juice of 1/2 lemon for 5 minutes, then rub the inside of the lemon peel against the nails.

By drinking 2 litres of water and eliminating or reducing your sugar intake makes for better looking skin. Remember, it is only recommended by experts that you only ever apply any type of face mask once to a maximum twice a week.



<https://www.rd.com/article/6-quick-beauty-fixes-with-a-lemon>

<https://www.thehealthy.com/beauty/face-body-care/homemade-facial-masks-recipes>





# Royal Canal Notes

April 2021

## Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

### ROYAL CANAL GREENWAY

The Royal Canal Greenway was officially opened by the Minister of Transport Eamon Ryan and the Minister of state at the department of housing on March the 24<sup>th</sup>. It was a virtual function having regard to the current lock down. The Greenway extends from Dublin to The Shannon with one or two spots still to be completed.



Leisure on the Royal Canal Photo © Royal Canal Blue Ways

If one is feeling fit one can divert from the greenway at Mullingar and head west on the 'Old Rail Greenway' and continue to Athlone. Staying on the Royal Greenway one can again choose to divert and walk / cycle along the Longford branch line, This line has many unspoiled views of Longford



More leisure on the Royal Canal Photo © Royal Canal Blue ways

As can be seen from the photographs, our canal is a hive of activity. This is as it should be and long may it last. Do please have regard for others when taking leisure on the banks or when boating. Do take your rubbish home and don't forget to 'Scoop the Poop'. Please leave the canal and its environs as you would like to find it.

### A GOOD READ

Elsewhere in this illustrious publication you can read the second part of a four part article on life before and during the construction of the Royal Canal. Written By Peter Clarke, author and long serving member of the Royal Canal Amenity Group. He has written a booklet on walks on the canal which is currently available on our website [www.royalcanal.ie](http://www.royalcanal.ie) at the very reasonable cost of €10.00 postage included

### STUCK

A lot of hoo-ha recently concerning the huge container ship getting stuck at the Suez Canal It did cause serious delays but this can happen anywhere....



Ever Given container ship stuck in the Suez Canal. Photo © Satellite Control

..... Yes! it could even happen here in Ireland on one of our many canals, this one in Country Leitrim.



Photo Public Domain

We do hope our canal friends managed to rectify the situation without undue difficulty and wish them well in sailing.



**Before the Banks of the Royal Canal**  
**By Peter Clarke (Part2)**

**About the author**

Peter Clarke MSc Pg. DIP ABRC is a retired lecturer at the Dublin Institute of Technology. A long serving member of the Royal Canal Amenity Group, he used the Royal canal as his thesis at Trinity College Dublin. He has written, a very well researched, book on the history of the Royal Canal and also a booklet on Royal Canal Walks\*. He lives with his wife and family in Dublin

*A four part article serialised in the Royal Canal News Letter issues 32, 33, 34 and 37*  
*In this article Peter describes the trials and tribulations prior to and during construction off the Royal Canal.*

The digging of the canal must have provided much needed employment for the labouring poor of Dublin when construction began in about May 1790. Approximately 2,000 men were initially employed at the rate of 10 pence per day, which had risen to 18 pence per day by July.

In the early months the work was concentrated on the Broadstone Branch, but large sections were also excavated out as far as Broombridge. While it must be assumed that the majority of the workforce was Irish, evidence exists that English canal diggers were also employed. A bet placed on 23rd September 1790 between the overseers of English and an Irish gang as to which could dig the most in a specified time saw the Irish £10 better off.

On the 12th November 1790 the first stone of Westmorland lock (Cross Guns Bridge) was laid by John Fane "Earl of Westmorland. The occasion was marked by the flying of flags and firing of guns. The event attracted such a large crowd that it was necessary to have soldiers to keep them back. The contract for building the lock and bridge was awarded to Messrs. Pemberton, 7 Park St., Dublin, at a cost of £1,846.9.4 The contract to make and fit the gates was awarded to James Parkhill, builder and joiner of Hendrick St., Dublin.

Until January 1791 the direction of the line from Ashtown was still very unclear. In the previous October, at the time of his survey, John Brownrigg suggested that the line should run through Mulhuddart, Confey, Ravensdale, on the north side of Carton Demesne and on to Kilcock. He made particular note of the quarry at Carpenterstown describing it as a "stumbling block of the most serious kind". This was also the line favoured by Richard Evans when he carried out a survey in the general area to estimate costs for masonry work. However despite both their advice to the Company, Evans was ordered, on 3rd January 1791, to proceed with the line through Castleknock, Leixlip and the town of Maynooth and on to Kilcock. This route, apart from carrying the line through Carpenterstown quarry which Evans estimated at the time would cost £10,223.12.0, would now run on the south side of Carton Demesne and on through the town itself. While no evidence exists to conclusively prove that the change of direction, taking the canal through Maynooth, was at the request of the Duke of Leinster, owner of Carton Demesne, it is the view expressed in contemporary sources that it was done on his insistence.

While the Duke may have gained the convenience of the new modern transport system passing his front lawn, the Company on the other hand were now faced with the problem of having to carry the canal over the Rye water about a mile beyond Leixlip village. By early 1791 Evans had estimated that it would require 7,652 perches of masonry to form the single span arch and 150,000 cubic yards of earth to form the embankment for the aqueduct necessary to carry the canal over the river. His estimated cost at the time was £8,449.4.0 which did not include the 3 foot of puddling necessary to make it waterproof. Excavation for the foundation of the aqueduct began in November 1791.

By now most of the canal was excavated as far as Kilcock and as was customary, work ceased for the winter months. The winter of 1791/2 was mild and work was able to res-ume by January 24. By the middle of February, Blaquiery Bridge on the Broadstone Branch was completed at a cost of £789.2.0. The 1<sup>st</sup> of March saw work commence on docks at the North Wall. The cost of cutting the line from Dublin to Kilcock by now had risen to £53,000 and it was still in a very incomplete state.

The major works of 1792 was the Carpenterstown quarries and the Rye aqueduct. Work began at Carpenterstown in July. The excavation was let out on contract for prices ranging from 1s-6d to 2s-2d per sq. yard, space was also provided for a cabin if required. Progress was slow due to heavy rain, which eventually brought

the work to a standstill. The same weather also had a devastating effect on the aqueduct. By now the contractors Bergin and Semple had most of the foundations in place, but these were washed away by the heavy rain.

It was now obvious that Evans was unable to cope alone with this huge undertaking and the Company sought the advice of Sir Thomas Hyde Page an English canal engineer. On his visit to Dublin in April 1792 he did little except to survey the work at the Liffey docks and the line as far as Mullingar. The main trunk line was not intended to pass through the town at that time. It would have passed to the north of Lough Owel and Mullingar would have been connected by a branch line. Page suggested that this be changed, and he planned a new route through the south side of the town and on to Coolnahay. Page returned to Dublin in May 1793. His advice to the Company was that they immediately set up a committee to inspect the work and assess the present position of the Company. By June a committee of the more prominent directors was appointed to "take into consideration the appointment of the different officers employed on the works and their respective duties". Page acted in an advisory capacity to the Committee and suggested how the work could be carried on in a more efficient manner. By July they had examined the line where work was in progress and were ready to report back to the other Directors. They found the building work in total chaos, a recently constructed bridge at Barberstown had collapsed causing the death of more men and the cost of the work had risen to £118,148.11.5. It was their opinion that it was the officers negligence that caused several of the works to be so imperfectly constructed and that few of the terms of the contract were complied with. It was said that the deviation was so striking that it bore the appearance of criminal negligence and professional ignorance and cited the fifth lock (now called the 10th lock) as an example. They recommended that the engineer's salary be stopped until he gave a satisfactory explanation, particularly about this lock. The statement and the action taken against Richard Evans was unfair, he was an able engineer, but as will be seen later his main fault was that he was very poor at estimating.

The citing of the 5th lock as an example was strange as Evans had little to do with its construction other than setting it out as per the Company's instructions. He had laid out the lock as a treble lock on 13th May 1790 after a contract had been agreed to build it. However, after work had started and the foundations were in place the directors decided, without consulting Evans, that the lock be changed to a double chamber instead and informed the contractors directly. Apart from the expense of altering the work it necessitated building an additional lock at Cabra (now the 9th lock). The original contract was priced at £1,770.18.0. After altering the lock and adding the single lock the cost rose to £2,866.12.51/2.

The Directors accepted no responsibility for any of the work or the high expenditure and suggested that all the problems arose because Evans had not submitted monthly and quarterly reports and therefore were kept in ignorance of the progress of the works. The Directors were not attributed with any blame whatsoever and as a result of the investigation a bitter feud erupted between Evans and John Brownrigg. Both presented separate reports to the Committee, each attempting to avoid taking the responsibility for all that had gone wrong. Brownrigg, admitting that it was possible to make mistakes in the levels he had taken, emphasised that such mistakes would normally be spotted by the engineer during construction and then rectified. Evans freely admitted to being frequently absent from the work due to his commitments elsewhere, but placed all blame for the problem encountered on Brownrigg's levels and sections.

The Directors of the Company used this so-called investigation to cover up their own inability to manage the project. Using Evans and Brownrigg as scapegoats they were successful in what they set-out to do. Having considered Evans and Brownrigg's reports, Brownrigg was completely exonerated of all blame and it was recommended that Evans be dismissed along with the Supervisor of masonry and earthworks. Although he took full blame for all that went wrong, the recommendations of the committee were not implemented in his case, for he continued to work as company engineer until his death in January 1802.

*To be continued*

*Don't miss next month's instalment in the May Edition of the Maynooth Newsletter!*

\*This booklet is available from the Royal Canal Amenity Group website [www.royalcanal.ie](http://www.royalcanal.ie) very reasonably priced at €10.00 postage included.

**Maynooth Newsletter would like to thank the Author Peter Clarke for kind permission to republish this article.**



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## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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### Meadowbrook Taking in Charge

At the March MD Council meeting, Cllr Feeney asked that the Council prepare a plan or proposal for the taking in charge of the Meadowbrook Estate, Maynooth.

Currently, there are thirty-three estates in the county waiting to be taken in charge and ten of those estates are in the Clane-Maynooth MD. To take those ten estates in charge would cost nearly a million Euros to bring them up to the standard to be taken in charge. Meadowbrook Estate is a particular one that Cllr Feeney has been pursuing on behalf of the residents for some time now and she understands their frustration as their case dates back to 1998. The Council has estimated that €300,000 is required to bring the footpaths etc up to modern taking in charge standards.

The bond is long expired and would be insufficient to cover even a third of that amount. Cllr Feeney added that from the residents' point of view, there appears to be no obvious repercussions for the developers involved who sail off into the sunset and in some instances, do the same thing again somewhere else leaving the Council to pick up the tab. Cllr Feeney also made the point at the meeting that the residents are understandably asking, as is she, where this leaves them. Cllr Feeney continued that, if the residents were even provided with a timeframe or staged approach to solving the issue that would go some way to helping the situation. The Council said it is working with Irish Water to try to agree that portion of the work that is under the ground and as for the rest of the work which they estimate comes to 300K, if the funding can be found they can progress the estate.

Cllr Feeney said the sooner that happens the better because the longer it is left like this, the higher the cost. On the positive side, the Council said that it now has a dedicated Bonds Officer looking after bonds, tracking them and expiry dates, calling them in, in advance so that is in place now and it was not in place in the past so that safeguard is now there for not letting them expire. Cllr Feeney welcomed this and suggested that as a group of MD councillors a motion should be submitted on the whole bond issue, by that she explained to mean the amount of the bond and the composition of it-the ratios of cash and insurance bonds but also how funds can be identified for these estates like Meadowbrook.

### Carton Avenue:

Cllr Feeney asked at the MD meeting that the Council engages with the residents in estates adjoining Carton Avenue to ensure that any proposed entrances or changes to existing entrances onto the Avenue are submitted for consideration to the Council. Cllr Feeney said that Carton Avenue is a treasured historical public space and that we are so lucky to have it but also that we need to mind it and make sure to retain its historic and natural integrity.

Cllr Feeney expressed concerns regarding recent works and changes on the Avenue with trees cut back in recent days. She reminded the meeting that there is a preservation order on those trees. She also observed a makeshift pathway of concrete slabs set in place from an exiting estate onto the Avenue. Cllr Feeney added that no doubt these were done with the best of

intentions but all she is asking the Council is what the monitoring process is, given that the Council is the custodian of the Avenue. What are the consequences if some residents just decide to take these changes into their own hands, it could get out of control. Cllr Feeney added that while permeability is important and we all, particularly with the COVID restrictions, want to be out enjoying natural spaces within our 5Km but we have to balance that with respect for those spaces. So the Council agreed to follow through on the request.

### Car Park Spaces on Main Street

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to update the members as to when the car park on Doctor's Lane will be made accessible to the general public, given the recent reduction in the number of available parking places in Maynooth. Under the COVID enhanced walking and cycling measures, ten parking spaces were replaced with a shared walking/cycling space on the Dublin Road Maynooth., off Main Street.

Those spaces are near shops, restaurants and a school. Cllr Feeney said that while she welcomes the enhanced walking and cycling space particularly at the Manor Mills/Mill street side and the resulting enhanced safety, removing the parking spaces has caused businesses and parents of children from the school to complain. The obvious solution Cllr Feeney proposed to the Council is that a few yards away there is a car park with over 100 spaces, which should and could be made available to those people who need for whatever reason to park a car. The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department said it will liaise with the Planning Department to ensure that the developer complies with the conditions of the planning permission. So the Director said she would keep it as an action item and report back.

### Maynooth Swimming Pool Update

Cllr Feeney asked if the Council could confirm if a response had been received to the Council's and Maynooth University's communication to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) last September about their appeal in relation to the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund. The Council made a joint application with Maynooth University almost two years ago for funding to the Department and that application was unsuccessful.

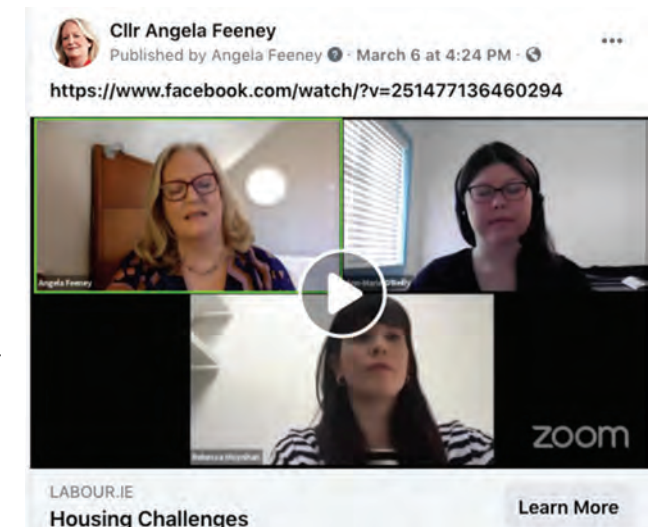
The Council and Maynooth University appealed that decision last September. So at the MD March meeting of the Council Cllr Feeney asked where that appeal was at. The director of services confirmed that there is still no response from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to that appeal. So Cllr Feeney commented that in one way no news is good news as there is still hope that the appeal could be successful. The director agreed saying it's a 'Wait and See' scenario and both parties are anxious to know the outcome of the appeal.

MU has a responsibility to students and the Council has set aside €2 million for the project but it would cost €11-12 million and there is no point in starting work if we are not getting the funds. First tranche funding is the design stage in a similar way to the Urban and Village Renewal scheme.

### Webinar on Housing Challenges

Cllr Feeney hosted a Facebook Live webinar on March 6th to discuss the many housing challenges facing the county. This is a huge issue Cllr Feeney said and shocking that the average waiting time on the social housing list is twelve years and even worse in other counties. Kildare is the third most expensive county to buy a house and many young people cannot afford to buy or rent in order to stay near family and employment. Cllr Feeney said that we built more houses when we were poorer as a country and yet today as one of the wealthiest economies, according to the OECD, we have a huge problem of supply.

The panel included Ann Marie O'Reilly, Policy Officer of Threshold, the National Housing Charity, and her colleague Stephen Large, The Eastern Region Services Manager as well as Senator Rebecca Moynihan, the Labour Party's spokesperson on Housing. The webinar was well attended with some very interesting questions for the panellists from the attendees. Threshold also does fantastic work helping renters and preventing homelessness, the contact number on **1890 43 44 45** and [www.threshold.ie](http://www.threshold.ie)



### NTA Sustainable transport measure funding

Good Improvements are on the way with the National Transport Authority Sustainable transport measure funding allocation of €3,750,000 to Maynooth. This funding is to improve the Maynooth to Leixlip Section of the Canal Greenway, Mill Street as part of the Maynooth North-South Corridor, Phase 5 has been allocated €500,000, Maynooth Permeability Measures-€500,000-essentially improvements on the Meadowbrook Link Road into Beafield to connect with Rathcoffey Road and the Celbridge Road, Maynooth 60K also Kilcock Road, Maynooth 60K allocation.

Period Poverty needs to be addressed and should not stop girls going to school

Cllr Angela Feeney submitted a joint motion to the KWETB meeting on March 23rd that the ETB recognises that for many of its learners, particularly younger women, we know that period poverty or the inability to afford period products that meet their needs is an issue. Using period products for longer periods of time than is recommended or using

(Continued on page 20)





## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News (Cont.)



*(Continued from page 19)*

unsuitable alternatives can lead to infections and health issues. We recognise that this is both a health and justice issue. Period injustice has huge knock on effects for women, girls and transpeople who may feel they have no choice but to miss out on educational activities, work, or recreation due to not having appropriate products.

The KWETB commends the Scottish Government in making available period products free of charge in their schools, educational institutions, and public building. Consequently, the KWETB requests the CEO to conduct a pilot project, in no less than three Centres, (COVID guidelines allowing), to assess how this will work in the KWETB and report back to the board by September 2021 on how such a scheme could operate.

Cllr Feeney added that periods are a natural part of a girl's life and that as a former teacher in a mixed school herself she was always keenly aware of this and knows teachers are very helpful in this but it should not rely on the kindness of a teacher because for some students that can be even more embarrassing for a student and they end up heading home. Without access to sanitary products at school, many girls are missing out on their education and missing days at school can lead girls to drop out altogether. Ensuring that girls do not have to fear the embarrassment of stains on their clothes, or being bullied which stops them from going to school. Free products in schools will ensure that every child can learn and be their very best, without periods holding them back.

The KWETB executive responded saying that it has raised the issue with the KWETB directors and they will endeavour to ensure the implementation of the legislation, in line with relevant circulars as issued from the Department. In addition, if feasible, in

advance of same, they will see if what was suggested can be trialled in some of our centres, bearing in mind that COVID-19 restrictions will delay any meaningful implementation of same. The motion was carried and agreed by all members.

### Cllr Feeney nominated to contest Seanad seat

Cllr Feeney is honoured to be the Labour Party candidate in the upcoming Seanad bye election announced during the week when we celebrated International Women's Day, Cllr Feeney said she wants to encourage other women to engage in politics and she will continue to work hard to promote fairness and diversity. Cllr Feeney will contest the Seanad, agricultural panel, while Ciarán Ahearn will contest the Administrative panel. Labour Leader Alan Kelly said, "I am delighted that we have two candidates of the calibre of Angela and Ciarán to contest these elections. As Leader of the Party, it is my intention that we will vigorously contest elections and stand for as many seats as possible across the country. Our membership numbers are growing quickly, and I am constantly impressed by the dynamism and talent of the people in our Party across every constituency who are eager to promote our values and seek to implement our policies."

### Upcoming Motions to Plenary Council on March 29th 2021

That the council rejects the provisions contained in the Land Development Agency 2021 Bill published by the Government removing the role of the elected members of Local Authorities in approving the transfer or sale of lands, to the Land Development Agency and communicates this decision to the Department of Housing, Local Government and

Heritage.

### Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney since the last Newsletter

March 1st at 11.00 am. Training for Councillors on Local Area Plans (online)  
 March 5th at 10.00 am Council MD (online)  
 March 5th at 7.00 pm Meeting with Rockfield Residents Association (online)  
 March 8th at 7.00 pm. Maynooth Community Council (online)  
 March 16th KWETB Audit and Risk Committee at 2.00 pm (online)  
 March 19th at 2.30 pm. Governing Body of I.T. Carlow (online)  
 March 22nd at 7.00 pm BOM Gaelcholaiste (Manor Mills)  
 March 24rd at 10.00 am KWETB meeting (online)  
 March 29th at 3.00 pm Council Plenary (online)



## MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN



### Opening of the Royal Canal Greenway

Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the recent opening of the Royal Canal - for the second time. Minister Eamon Ryan did the honours but due to Covid restrictions, the opening was a virtual one. We hope that Maynooth will see the Minister on the greenway later in the year when Covid is less of a problem.

### Funding for Sustainable Transport in Kildare

The government has allocated Kildare County Council €7.73 million under the 2021 Sustainable Transport Mobility Grants (STMG) programme. This is a significant increase over last year allocation of €2.25 million but while this is welcome news, it is concerning that Kildare's failed to spend a significant portion of last year's allocation. While it is accepted that a new team is in charge in the Council and that it will take time to ramp up schemes, Maynooth Cycling Campaign is concerned that Kildare County Council is aiming at a very low bar in relation to cycling infrastructure.

Celbridge Road's cycling and walking facilities are funded but under the July Stimulus programme. If the preliminary design is approved in 2021, construction could begin in 2022 but a lot of work needs to be done this year. Again, Kildare county Council failed to spend a lot of last year's allocation but has been allowed to retain the funding for expenditure in 2021.

### Transport Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) & Substandard Walking & Cycling Infrastructure

At a recent meeting of Kildare County Council's Transport SPC, Maynooth Cycling Campaign informed members that substandard infrastructure for walking and cycling has been provided on the Straffan and Moyglare Roads Maynooth and also on the Kilcullen Road Naas. As there was no response from officials to this, we have asked councillors to submit a official question to the Council seeking confirmation or rejection.

Also, some 8 months after Maynooth Cycling Campaign first submitted a series of policy papers to the SPC, it was agreed that the Committee will consider the first three items at the May meeting of the committee.

### County Development Plan - Issues

With the review of the County Development Plan and the rumoured 50% increase in the population of Maynooth to 30,000, it will be interesting to see how it is proposed to cater for the increased traffic. With the refusal to even trial a one way system on Parson Street, Maynooth is looking to 20th century rather than 21st century solutions of transportation. If car dependency stays at current levels, Maynooth will be unable to address climate change, reduce congestion and tackle the health crisis.

### Kissing Gates

Cycling campaign groups from around the country have raised the issue of Kissing Gates with their local authority - and no they have nothing to do with Valentine's Day!. In Kildare, Waterways Ireland have a number on both the Royal and Grand Canals. People in Maynooth who use the

Royal Canal towpath will be familiar with one at Kilmacreddock. Kissing gates block many cyclists and disabled people from accessing parks and towpaths. It is also not possible to pass through kissing gates with a bike without using your hand to open/close the gate. With increasing numbers of people using the canals, Waterways Ireland appears to have no concerns about the risk of spreading Covid-19.

### Punchestown Vaccine Centre

The good news on Covid-19 is that the government is pushing ahead with offering the vaccine to those most at risk and has established a number of vaccine centres across the country. Unfortunately, the site chosen for Kildare is at Punchestown Racecourse. Although the health advice from NEPHET is to walk or cycle where possible, whoever chose that location has ignored the 6,700 Kildare households without access to a car.

### Naas & Celbridge Cycle Campaigns

Finally, we would like to welcome our colleagues in the newly formed Celbridge and Naas Cycle Campaigns and look forward to co-operating with them for the benefit of cyclists everywhere in Kildare.

*Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political cycling advocacy group. Further information on the campaign is available on our website.*

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







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

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### URDF Funding

Catherine Murphy TD welcomes the allocation of €1,908,750 for the Maynooth Town Square Renewal

698. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning, and Local Government if he will provide a schedule of works and-or projects granted funding under the urban regeneration and development fund 2021, by county.

The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), which was launched in 2018 to support more compact and sustainable development, is one of four funds established under the National Development Plan 2018-2027.

The URDF supported capital programme is applicant led and all applications for URDF support are assessed in terms of their alignment with the intended purpose of the URDF programme and also their viability before being considered for approval.

There have been two calls for proposals under the URDF. In 2019, approval in principle together with provisional funding allocations issued in respect of the 87 projects approved under the first call which was launched in 2018. The second call for proposals was launched last year, and following a rigorous assessment process I have recently approved a further 45 projects for URDF support. My Department will soon be in contact with the local authorities involved concerning the arrangements and conditions attached to this URDF support.

In this regard, it should be noted that responsibility for the advancement of URDF supported projects through the various stages of development and completion is, in the first instance, a matter for the relevant successful applicant, the Sponsoring Agency. Each URDF supported project is unique as each addresses location specific issues, and many are of significant scale, complexity, and cost. As is normally the case, such projects must be carefully developed and managed by the Sponsoring Agency in accordance with the normal conditions and arrangements that apply to public sector managed projects including exercising appropriate cost control and delivering each project as approved and in full compliance with the Public Spending Code.

Table 1 lists the 87 projects approved under Call 1 together with provisional URDF funding allocations. Table 2 lists the 45 projects recently approved under Call 2 together with provisional URDF funding allocations.

**Note: ONLY the Kildare related projects are shown below**

**TABLE 1- Projects Approved under URDF Call 1 (Kildare Only shown)**

County	Applicant	Project	Provisional Allocation
Kildare	Kildare County Council	Naas Library (including Public Realm works)	4,445,243
Kildare	Kildare County Council	Celbridge Southern Relief Road & Second Liffey Crossing	400,000
Kildare	Kildare County Council	Newbridge Cultural and Civic Quarter	492,000
Kildare	Kildare County Council	Canal Quarter Naas	195,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>5,532,243</b>

**TABLE 2- Projects approved under URDF Call 2 (Kildare Only shown)**

County	Applicant	Project	Provisional Allocation
Kildare	Kildare County Council	Maynooth Town Centre Renewal	1,908,750
Kildare	Kildare County Council	Naas Town Renewal Masterplan	3,496,374
Kildare	Kildare County Council	Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road	10,237,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>15,642,624</b>

### Social housing leasing by local authorities actively being sold as a financial product to developers

Speaking during Leaders' Questions in the Dáil today, Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy TD said:

"Time and again we have seen that the market cannot be relied upon to deliver housing people can afford.

"Long-term leasing effectively means that the State is paying a developer's mortgage on a property by entering into a 20-25-year arrangement, with four-yearly rent reviews built in and no asset to show at the end. After the term of the lease, the property is refurbished by the council and handed back to the developer. This means that local authority tenants have no security or protections after the term of the lease has expired and can just be thrown out of their homes.

"Part V, which is now the dominant means of delivery of social housing, is increasingly – and in some cases exclusively – being delivered through long-term leasing instead of properties being sold to the State at cost price. The Minister needs to clarify if local authorities are obliged to accept the option of leasing on a 'take it or leave it' basis from developers.

"It seems that this arrangement is being pushed as the preferred option by the Minister, even though it makes no financial sense and could not be described as a social good. It is clear that the real solution lies in the scaling up of direct build of social housing by the State but I see no evidence on the ground that this is happening.

"There will be thousands of these leases in place before taxpayers realise they are being taken for complete idiots. Leasing is the most expensive and unsatisfactory way of delivering social housing and is typical of the type of Fianna Fáil policymaking that only benefits developers.

"We need to directly contract builders to build on publicly controlled land to deliver social and affordable homes for both purchase and rent in socially mixed communities, and on sites that are developed to a masterplan with prices set in advance by the State using a Housing Delivery Agency."

### Second bridge linking Celbridge to Hazelhatch

Catherine Murphy TD asks the Minister for Housing, Planning, and Local Government the date on which the works on the second bridge linking Celbridge to Hazelhatch, County Kildare, will commence; the status of the design detail of the bridge; and if he engaged the National Transport Authority on the granting of funding.

The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) was launched in 2018 to support more compact and sustainable development. The URDF is one of four funds established under the National Development Plan 2018-2027 and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has responsibility for its implementation. The Fund is providing part-funding for applicant led projects that will enable a greater proportion of residential and mixed-use development to be delivered within the existing built-up footprints of our cities and large towns, while also ensuring that more parts of our urban areas can become attractive and vibrant places in which people choose to live and work, as well as to invest and to visit.

The URDF, as a key activator of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and Project Ireland 2040, is supporting a programme of significant transformational capital projects that will contribute to the regeneration and rejuvenation of Ireland's five cities and other large towns, in line with the objectives of the NPF and PI2040.

All applications for URDF support are assessed in terms of their alignment with the intended purpose of the URDF programme and also their viability before being considered for approval.

With regard to the approved proposal in question, Kildare County Council's proposal for the Celbridge to Hazelhatch Link Road, the recently announced provisional allocation of €10,237,500 for this project under Call 2 of the URDF is to support substantive capital works subsequent to a related planning and design project that was allocated support of €400,000 under Call 1. This means that to date a total of €10,637,500 in URDF funding has been provisionally allocated to this project.

In the coming weeks, my Department will issue a formal approval in principle letter in respect of this successful proposal to Kildare County Council, which will set out the arrangements and conditions attached to URDF support.

While my Department works closely with the successful applicants in respect of project funding, responsibility for the advancement of URDF supported projects through the various stages of planning, development and completion is, in the first instance, a matter for the Sponsoring Agency, in this case Kildare County Council.

In this regard, it should be noted that all URDF supported projects must be carefully developed and managed by the Sponsoring Agency in accordance with the normal conditions and arrangements that apply to public sector managed projects including, exercising appropriate cost control and delivering projects as approved, and in full compliance with the Public Spending Code.

(Continued on page 22)





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

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### Protected Disclosures

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

127. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of protected disclosures received by his Department in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021; the number that were accepted as a protected disclosure; the number that were in part or fully examined by a third party or consultancy; the number of protected disclosures under investigation over this period; and the number that were finalised and the contents accepted and acted on. [16025/21]

Roderic O'Gorman (Dublin West, Green Party)

In the period 2017 to 2020 two Protected Disclosures were received by the Department, one in 2017 and one in 2019. No Protected Disclosures have been received in 2021 to date. One additional disclosure was received in late 2016 and has been the subject of examination in the period referred to.

In relation to the 2017 disclosure the Department responded at the time and the person who made the disclosure did not follow up to correspondence. It is open to the discloser to further engage with the Department if they so wish.

In relation to the 2019 disclosure there is ongoing correspondence with the person concerned. A full investigation was not deemed necessary as preliminary enquiries established sufficient information to show that the substantive issues being disclosed were known and were being addressed. I have received further correspondence in recent months from the person who made the 2019 disclosure and I am aware that the Deputy has separately raised a number of questions with regard to that matter.

In relation to the late 2016 disclosure, the details were referred to the relevant body for examination and a final report of is still awaited by the Department. An external consultancy examination of the correspondence was separately commissioned by the Department.

128. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the number of protected disclosures received by his Department in each of the years 2017 to 2020 and to date in 2021 from officials within his Department; the number of officials who made protected disclosures over the period and who are now not working in his Department; and the number of protected disclosures received from retired officials of his Department over the period. [16043/21]

Roderic O'Gorman (Dublin West, Green Party)

In relation to the period 2017 to date in 2021 no protected disclosures were made by current officials of my Department, officials not now working in my Department or by retired officials of this Department.

### Supports for Small Business

Phase 1 of €8,000 Grant Under New Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC). Applications to go through your Local Authority.

- the scheme is available to companies, self-employed, sole traders or partnerships, with a minimum turnover of €50,000 and are not owned and operated by a public body. The Scheme is open to firms that currently employ less than 250 and with current turnover of less than €25m;
- the business is not eligible for CRSS, the Fáilte Ireland Business Continuity Scheme, or the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Live Performance Support;
- the business operates from a building, or similar fixed physical structure on which business rates are payable (mobile premises, or premises which are

not permanently fixed in place, do not meet the definition of business premises nor do premises on which no rates are payable);

- the business must have a current eTax Clearance Certificate from the Revenue Commissioners;
- the turnover of the business over the claim period is estimated to be no more than 25% of the average weekly turnover of the business in 2019; or the projected average weekly turnover of the business for 1st January to 31st March 2021, and 30th of June 2021 where applicable, for businesses that commenced after 1st November 2019, and the financial plans as of end of 2019 should be uploaded with the application;
- the business intends to resume trading in full once Government restrictions are eased;
- all eligible applications receive a first payment of €4,000; and,
- payments will be dispersed in the same format as rates refunds via bank transfer.

The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation has established a Business Support Call Centre for information on the business supports available to businesses and enterprises affected by COVID-19.

It can be reached at [infobusinesssupport@enterprise.gov.ie](mailto:infobusinesssupport@enterprise.gov.ie) or (01) 631 2002. Or [sbasc@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:sbascc@kildarecoco.ie).

### Also, following a parliamentary question to the Dail

The Local Enterprise Offices have undertaken significant work in supporting business across a range of sectors develop contingency plans to diversify and pivot their business ensuring that they are resilient and can continue to trade. Resources will be utilised to increase one to one engagement with clients to identify innovation and technology challenges delivering appropriate solutions. Located nationwide LEOs offer direct grant aid to microenterprises up to 10 employees in the manufacturing and internationally traded services sector. A core focus of the LEO's is supporting owner manager capability and development. Developing the confidence and driving the ambition of local firms to scale and compete will continue to be a priority in the coming years.

Scaling and growing the export and start-up base continues to be a priority of this Government. Through Enterprise Ireland, my Department provides assistance to entrepreneurs and start-up companies to help with business planning, mentoring and development advice, feasibility funding and finance. Programmes and initiatives include: - Enterprise Ireland's New Frontiers Development Programme, the national entrepreneur development programme for early stage start-ups.

- A Competitive Start Fund to support start-up companies to reach key technical and commercial milestones.
  - Support for High Potential Start-Ups (HPSUs) companies with the potential to develop an innovative product or service for sale in international markets.
- While addressing the current needs of business, I am keenly aware that we as a Government need to look towards safeguarding the future of small businesses so that we can facilitate greater growth, productivity and sustainability within Irish SMEs.

That is why in the latter half of 2020, I established an SME Growth Taskforce of entrepreneurs, business leaders and other stakeholders to fulfil the commitment made in the recent "Programme for Government – Our Shared Future", to draw up an ambitious long-term strategic blueprint for SMEs and entrepreneurs beyond COVID-19. The resulting 'Report of the SME Taskforce: SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan', which was published last month by my Department, sets out a wide range of recommendations with long-term strategic relevance for

SMEs and entrepreneurs.

Importantly, the recommendations in the Report include measures to help SMEs and entrepreneurs to start up, scale up and access foreign markets, as well as recommendations aimed at helping SMEs to become more productive and ready for the transition to a digital, green economy. These proposals, while not yet Government policy, will be considered by a Ministerial-led SME & Entrepreneurship Implementation Group, in conjunction with appropriate Government Departments, Agencies and other stakeholders, during the course of 2021.

### Tax warehousing without penalties for SME's

To ask the Minister for Finance if he plans to allow SMEs to avail of tax warehousing without penalty for at least 12 months after mass gatherings are permitted again in view of the curtailment of their activities due to the public health restrictions.

Paschal Donohoe (Dublin Central, Fine Gael)

I am advised by Revenue that the current tax warehousing schemes allow for the deferral of collection of certain tax liabilities relating to "Period 1", the "Covid-19 restricted trading period". The tax liabilities that may be deferred or "warehoused" are VAT, PAYE (Employer) liabilities, excess Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) payments due to be refunded to Revenue by employers, and certain self-assessed income tax liabilities.

In the case of VAT, PAYE (Employer) and excess TWSS liabilities, Period 1 refers to the period when a business has been unable to trade due to the Covid-19 related restrictions and includes the first full two monthly VAT period after the business resumes trading. For example, if a business has been closed due to Covid-19 restrictions but resumes trading in April 2021, it will be able to warehouse liabilities accrued from March 2020 up to the end of June 2021.

Revenue has confirmed that where a business re-opened but has had to close again due to the re-imposition of restrictions, the trade is deemed to be still subject to the restrictions provided for in the regulations under sections 5 and 31A Health Act 1947 until it has re-opened again. This means that VAT, PAYE (Employer) and excess TWSS liabilities for such businesses can continue to be warehoused in respect of the extended restricted period.

Following the expiration of Period 1, businesses are afforded a further 12 months ("Period 2") during which collection of warehoused liabilities will be deferred. No interest will be charged on outstanding Covid-19 liabilities in either Period 1 or Period 2. In cases where businesses have been subject to re-imposition of restrictions intermittently since March 2020, the earliest liabilities warehoused (Jan/Feb VAT and Feb PAYE) have already been warehoused at 0% interest for almost 12 months.

For instance, where such businesses do not resume trading until April 2021, these liabilities may be warehoused at 0% interest for a period of 28 months in total (from March 2020 until June 2022). Interest on warehoused liabilities is charged thereafter at c. 3% per annum until the liabilities are paid in full (this is "Period 3" of the warehousing scheme). Legislation underpinning the warehousing scheme refers to the day on which a business ceases to be subject to Covid restrictions and the day it recommences business. I would not consider a reference to "mass gatherings" would be appropriate to include in the legislation.

The legislation provides that Period 2 may be extended by Ministerial order but cannot extend beyond 31 December 2022. This is to ensure compliance with EU State Aid rules, provided for under the EU Temporary Framework for State Aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak.



# Online Office

## Here to help with

- \* Medical Cards
- \* Health Issues
- \* Social Welfare
- \* Education
- \* Services for Senior Citizens
- \* Housing Support and Grants (Windows/ Doors, Insulation, Roofing, Electrical)
- \* Housing Adaptations and Planning (Level Access Showers, Extensions, Rebuilding Ireland Housing Loan)
- \* Social Housing
- \* Estate Issues
- \* Community Issues
- \* Environmental Concerns
- \* Employment Concerns
- \* Covid - 19 related queries



Phone



E-mail



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**Stay safe everyone.**





**A Chairde,**  
Tá ríméad orainn  
a fhógairt gur  
sheol Mícheál Ó  
Muircheartaigh



Gaeilge Nuada go  
hoifigiúil ar an Luan. Ba mhór an onóir dúinn  
uilig gur Mícheál a sheol ár ngrúpa agus táimid  
go mór faoi chomaoín aige as ucht é sin a  
dhéanamh dúinn. Níl aon amhras ach gur spreag  
sé sinn uilig chun dul i mbun oibre go traen,  
....Bhí sé deacair aon ghluaiseacht a bhunú le  
linn bliana 2020 mar gheall ar an dianghlásáil a  
bheith i bhfeidhm, ar an gcúis sin is miorúilt é go  
bhfuil Gaeilge Nuada seolta agus cruth  
dóchasach ag baint leis. Molaim sibh go hard na  
spéire” a dúirt sé.

Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil le gach  
duine a bhí linn don seoladh. Bhí tinreamh mór i  
lathair ar an oíche, 42 duine san iomlán. Daoine ó  
eagrais agus grúpaí seanbhunaithe agus  
nuabhunaithe, lucht oideachais ón  
mbunscolaíocht go hollscolaíocht, tuismitheoirí,  
gaeilgeoirí áitiúla agus daoine gur maith leo a  
ngaol leis an teanga a laidiríú.

Rinneadh cur i láthair ar stair an ghrúpa agus ar  
stair na Gaeilge sa cheantar. Briseadh an slua ina  
ngrúpaí beaga ansin agus pléadh imeachtaí do  
pháistí agus daoine óga faoi 18, imeachtaí do  
dhaoine óga thar 18 agus daoine fásta agus  
imeachtaí a bhaineann le deiseanna foghlama.  
Bhí an-chur is cúiteamh in sna grúpaí agus  
tuairiscíodh na príomhpointí ar ais chuig an

grúpa mór i ndiaidh. Tá obair an ghrúpa tosaithe  
anois agus tá go leor le déanamh. Táimid ar fad ag  
súil leis na míonna agus na blianta atá amach  
romhainn agus tá súil againn go dtiocfaidh sibh  
ar an turas seo linn, is le gach duine Gaeilge  
Nuada.

Mar a dúirt Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh ar an  
oíche, “Tá seanfhocal ann a deir go mbíonn gach  
tosú lag ach ní féidir a leithid a lua i dtaobh  
Maigh Nuad”. Tíocfaimid le chéile, tabharfaimid  
tacaíocht dá chéile agus oibreoidimid go dian agus  
go cairdiúil ar son na Gaeilge lena chéile.  
Coimeádaigí súil ar obair Ghaeilge Nuada agus  
ar na nuashonraithe tríd na meáin shóisialta.

We are delighted to announce that Mícheál Ó  
Muircheartaigh officially launched Gaeilge  
Nuada on Monday. We were more than honoured  
that Mícheál was the one to launch our group and  
we are extremely grateful to him for supporting  
us.

There is no doubt that he encouraged us all to go  
about our work with Gaeilge Nuada with  
enthusiasm and diligence “....Bhí sé deacair aon  
ghluaiseacht a bhunú le linn bliana 2020 mar  
gheall ar an dianghlásáil a bheith i bhfeidhm, ar  
an gcúis sin is miorúilt é go bhfuil Gaeilge Nuada  
seolta agus cruth dóchasach ag baint leis. Molaim  
sibh go hard na spéire” he said.

We would like to thank everyone who was with  
us for our launch. There was a great attendance  
on the night, 42 in total. Attendees from long

established as well as newly established groups  
and organisations, education sector from primary  
school to university level, parents, local  
gaeilgeoirí and people who would like to  
strengthen their relationship with the Irish  
language.

There was a presentation on the history of  
Gaeilge Nuada as well as on the history of the  
Irish language in the area. The attendees then  
broke out into smaller groups and discussed  
events for children and young people under 18,  
events for young people over 18 and adults and  
language learning events. There was great  
discussion in these groups and the main points  
were reported back to the main group.

The group’s work has now begun and there is  
plenty to do. We are all looking forward to the  
months and years ahead and we hope that you  
will all join us on the journey, Gaeilge Nuada is  
for everyone. As Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh said  
on the night, “Tá seanfhocal ann a deir go  
mbíonn gach tosú lag ach ní féidir a leithid a lua i  
dtaobh Maigh Nuad”. We will come together, we will support each  
other and we will work in a diligent and friendly  
manner on behalf of the Irish language.

Keep an eye on the work of Gaeilge Nuada and  
any updates through social media.

Le meas agus buíochas,  
Gaeilge Nuada  
gaelgenuada1@gmail.com

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## Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 25/02/2021 to 25/03/2021 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
21383	Kildare County Council	Veronica Ryan	Kumbyya, Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	25/03/2021
21370	Kildare County Council	Glenveagh Homes Limited	Parson Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/03/2021
21360	Kildare County Council	Irish Water	Celbridge Road, Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	22/03/2021
21350	Kildare County Council	Maynooth GAA Club	Maynooth GAA Sports Club Grounds, (lands adjacent Moyglare Hall), Moyglare Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	19/03/2021
21338	Kildare County Council	Yvonne McQuigg	79 Silken Vale, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 E9F8.	18/03/2021
21348	Kildare County Council	Laura Jayne Halton	Laragh Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	18/03/2021
21321	Kildare County Council	Declan & Caitriona Foley	Crannog, Leinster Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23F1H9	15/03/2021
21305	Kildare County Council	Stephen & Ashling Fitzpatrick	27 Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	11/03/2021
21297	Kildare County Council	Jason And Julia Costelloe	524 b Newtown Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	10/03/2021
21299	Kildare County Council	Will McCarthy	Bareen, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/03/2021
21259	Kildare County Council	Brendan and Emer Barry	Oakview, Crinstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 V2R0.	04/03/2021
21250	Kildare County Council	Aoife and Owen Conlan	20 Parklands Place, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 X9X0.	03/03/2021
21241	Kildare County Council	Charlie and Eilish Hinde	39 Leinster Wood South, Carton Demesne, Carton, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	02/03/2021
21248	Kildare County Council	Emer Fallon	Ballycurraghan, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	02/03/2021
21239	Kildare County Council	Catherine Fogarty	Woodview, Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare W23 ND73.	01/03/2021



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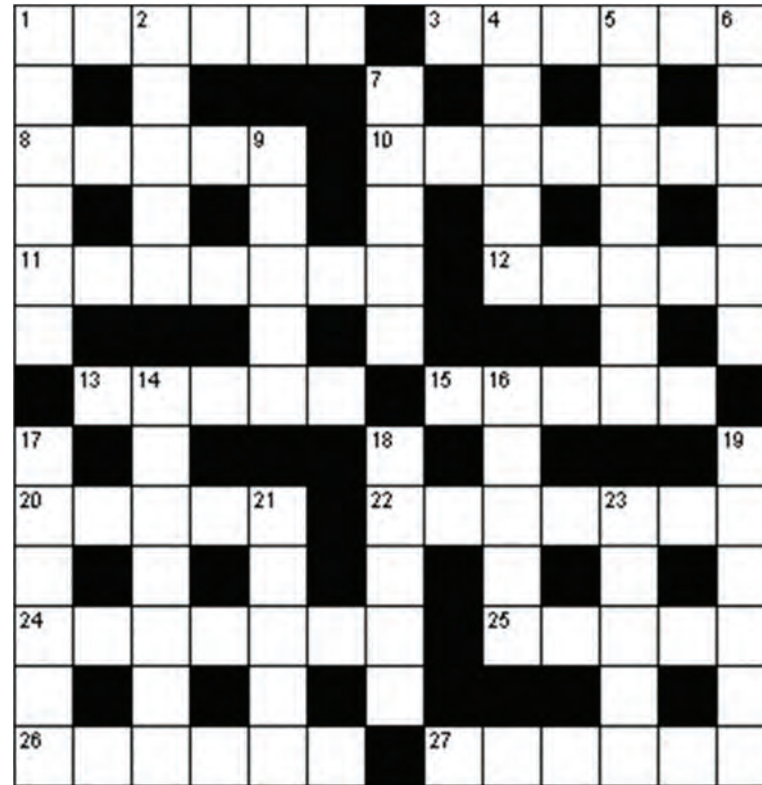
## Clues Across

## April 2021 Crossword - No. 500

## Clues Down

## Across

1. Bicycle for two (6)
3. Legal (6)
8. Metal bar (5)
10. Voter (7)
11. Choices (7)
12. Stingless male bee (5)
13. Ire (5)
15. Accumulate (5)
20. Entice (5)
22. Recess (7)
24. Let go (7)
25. Automaton (5)
26. Riding seat (6)
27. Repented (6)



## Down

1. Sartor (6)
2. Evening (5)
4. Make better (5)
5. Asinine (7)
6. Food store (6)
7. Laconic (5)
9. Fish (5)
14. Wandered (7)
16. Type of musical scale (5)
17. Begins (6)
18. Bet (5)
19. Combined (6)
21. Path (5)
23. Relating to a city (5)

Solutions to Crossword  
No. 499

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

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

If you have access to a printer and wish to complete the Crossword and/or Sudoku for fun you can print the single page by going to File -> Print and print the single page number only.

## Difficult

## Sudoku Challenge

## Super Difficult

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

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

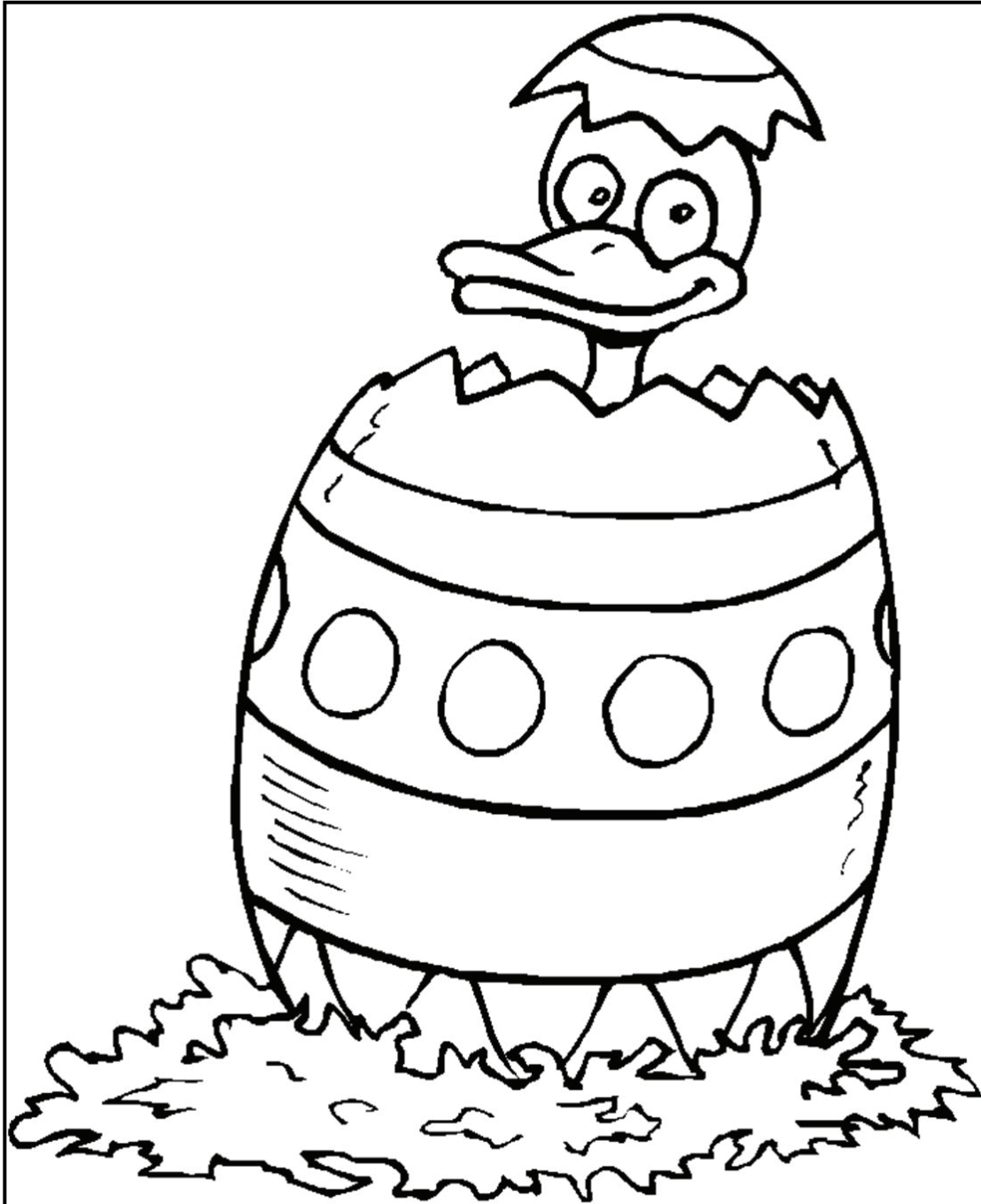




**Entries for the Colouring Competition have been suspended until further notice**



## Children's Colouring Competition



*Happy Easter*

**Entries for the Colouring Competition have been suspended until further notice.**

If you have access to a printer and wish to complete the colouring or Puzzles for fun you can print the single page by going to File -> Print and print the single page number only.

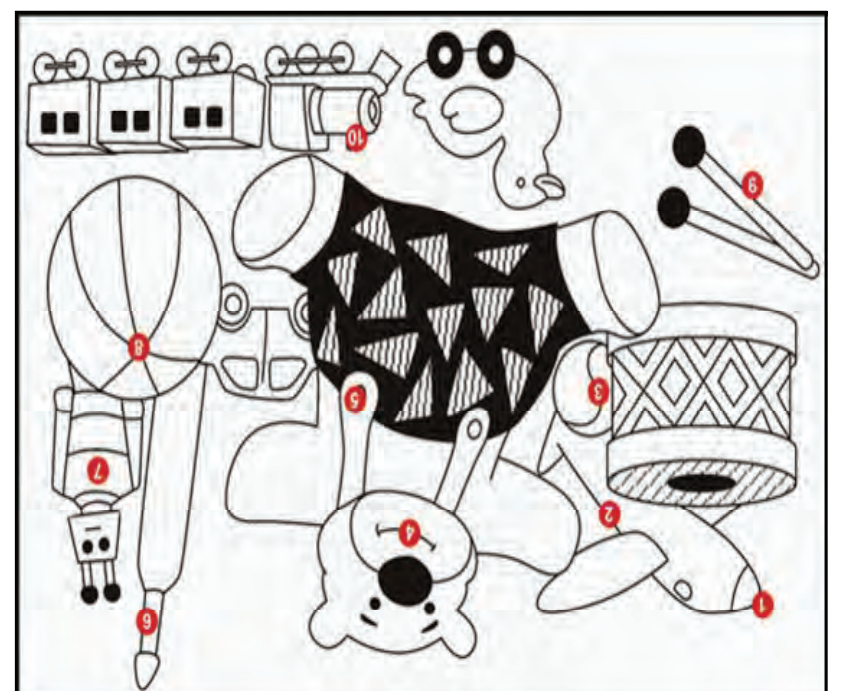
Be sure to avoid printing ALL the pages of the Newsletter unless you intend to do so.

## Junior Puzzle Corner

### Spot The Difference



Answers





## April in the Garden



April gardening season perks you up and uplifts you for the summer. To enjoy your garden for the whole season it's important to do certain April gardening tasks. What are they?

### Clean the Garden

Once you are through removing weeds, winter mulches, and debris, you can start digging and preparing your garden for planting. Assuming that the soil is not too wet and difficult to work on.

### Lawn Edging

After cleaning up your garden and doing your first lawn maintenance, you need to do some edging. This allows you to clearly divide the flower beds, the lawn, and



the garden. Beyond aesthetics, edging also separates the soil, mulch, and rocks.

### Time to Prep Your Soil

If you don't have compost or manure, apply a slow-release fertilizer. Just make sure not to use traditional synthetic lawn fertilizers for your garden.



### Get Rid of Garden Pests

Snails, slugs, and aphids usually hide and hibernate in the crowns of perennial plants throughout the winter.



These garden bugs come out in the warm weather to wreak havoc on your plants during spring and summer.

If you look closer, you could also find white vine weevil larvae in your compost heap. These larvae would feed on the roots of your plants.

Be sure to treat your plants for vine weevils as well.

### Plant Spring Annuals

Time to plant spring flower seedlings and young plants that you planted in March.

If you've not sown seeds yet, start them now: Petunias, zinnias, marigolds, purple coneflowers and any other seasonal flowers you fancy in your flowerbeds. It might seem like some work now, but you will definitely enjoy their blooming sight in summer.

Check your flower beds; you may find the need to add more perennials as well. It's also a time to plant your container garden. Think about nice container flower combinations.



### Set Up a Compost Area

This does not need to be complicated. You can dig a sizeable hole; build a crate like structure, some woodworking involves. You can also buy a simple compost bin.



Check out these [DIY compost bin ideas](#) for help.

Throw in a mixture of anything organic including grass clippings, paper, vegetable peelings and leaves.

Turn the compost once or twice in a month using a rake to keep the compost heap aerated.

### Time to Grow Vegetables

There are many warm-season vegetables that you might also consider planting this April for the summer harvest. Some of these crops are cucumbers, tomatoes, okra, beans, eggplants, cantaloupe, peppers, and melons, just to name a few.

You should also plant cooler season vegetable like radish, carrots, peas, and lettuce.

This is also the season to begin planting your favourite annual herbs.



### Trees and Shrubs

Prune your trees and deciduous shrubs and remove any dead and sickly looking leaves or branches. This stimulates new plant growth and spring flowering. Be sure to fertilize and also mulch your trees and shrubs. Add the organic mulch in a circle surrounding the plant rather than layering it on the trunk. This will not only provide the plants with the nutrients they need for optimum growth, but it will also conserve moisture and encourage strong hardy drought-resistant roots.



If you want to add any tree or shrub to your garden, now is the time to do it.

### Fertilize and Reseed Your Lawn

Apply slow-release fertilizer on your lawn this early spring. As the name suggests, 'slow-release' means the fertilizer that is slowly released into the soil over a long period.

After fertilizing, reseed all patches of dead or damaged grass in your lawn and water well.

The new seeds will require sufficient moisture for optimum growth.



**God Made Rainy Days So Gardeners  
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## Easy Victoria Sandwich

### Ingredients:

- 4 free-range eggs
- 225g/ caster sugar, plus a little extra for dusting the finished cake
- 225g/8 oz. self-raising flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 225g/8 oz. butter at room temperature, plus a little extra to grease the tins

To serve

Good quality strawberry or raspberry jam

Whipped double cream (optional)

*Let's Cook*



### Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Grease and line two 20cm/8in sandwich tins. Use a piece of baking paper to rub a piece of butter around the inside of the tins until the sides and base are lightly coated, then line the bottom with a circle of baking paper.
2. Break the eggs into a large mixing bowl, then add the sugar, flour, baking powder and butter.
3. Mix together until well combined with an electric hand mixer (you can also use a wooden spoon), but be careful not to overmix. Put a damp cloth under your bowl when you are mixing to stop it moving around. The finished mixture should fall off a spoon easily.
4. Divide the mixture evenly between the tins. Use a spatula to remove all of the mixture from the bowl and gently smooth the surface of the cakes.
5. Bake the cakes on the middle shelf of the oven for 25 minutes. Check them after 20 minutes. The cakes are done when they're golden-brown and coming away from the edge of the tins. Press them gently to check—they should be springy to the touch. Set aside to cool in their tins for 5 minutes. Run a palette or rounded butter knife around the inside edge of the tins and carefully turn the cakes out onto a cooling rack.
6. To assemble the cake, place one cake upside down onto a plate and spread it with plenty of jam. Spread on the whipped cream if using. Top with the second cake, top side up. Sprinkle over the caster sugar.

## Gingerbread Loaf

### Ingredients:

- 175g unsalted butter
- 200g caster sugar
- 3 tablespoons golden syrup
- 250ml milk
- 250g plain flour
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda



### Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180/Gas 4. Grease and flour a 20x10cm loaf tin.
2. In a small saucepan combine the butter, sugar, golden syrup and milk. Bring to the boil, then remove from heat and set aside. Sieve the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger and allspice into a large bowl. Stir in the boiled mixture until just blended. Pour the batter into the prepared tin.
3. Turn down the oven to 160C/Gas 2 1/2 and bake for 1 hour or until the top of the loaf springs back when lightly touched.

## Plain/Fruit Scones

Makes 15 7.5cm(3 inch) scones

### Ingredients:

- 900g plain white flour
- 175g(6oz) cold butter
- 3 free range eggs
- Pinch of salt
- 50g(1/4 cup) caster sugar
- 3 heaped tsp baking powder
- 450mls(2 cups) approx. milk to mix
- Egg wash (whisk 1 egg with a pinch of salt.)
- Fruit/Sultanas



### Method

1. Preheat oven to 250C/450F
2. Sieve the dry ingredients into a large wide bowl. (add fruit at this stage)
3. Cut butter into small pieces and rub into the flour mixture to resemble crumbs.
4. Whisk together the eggs and milk, add to the dry ingredients to form a soft dough.
5. Turn onto a floured board. Do not knead, just shape enough to make round.
6. Roll out to 2.5cm(1 in) thick. Cut into round 'cakes' 2.5x5 cm (1 in x 2 in) and put onto a baking sheet. Brush the tops with egg wash.
7. Bake in a hot oven 240C/475F/Gas 9 for 10-12 minutes, until risen and nicely browned.

*Enjoy*





# FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

## EASTER MOVIES TRIVIA



### EASTER PARADE (1948)

The title song Easter Parade, which also appeared in the Irving Berlin musical Holiday Inn (1942) was inspired by the annual event in New York City where people stroll down Fifth Avenue, displaying their new hats and their Easter finery.

The actor/dancer Gene Kelly was originally scheduled to partner his regular co-star Judy Garland as the male lead in Easter Parade. However, when he injured his ankle in a volleyball game, Kelly suggested dancing legend, Fred Astaire as a replacement. It turned out to be inspired casting! Ann Miller also replaced Cyd Charisse (the dancing partner of Astaire in Easter Parade) who had ligament injuries. Although Garland had been a major studio star for years, she had never met Astaire and was fearful of speaking to him, till they had been properly introduced.



The shedding feathered dress worn by Judy Garland when she dances with Fred Astaire in one movie number is an inside joke and parody of Ginger Rogers' problematic feathered dancing with Fred Astaire in Top Hat (1935). In that classic film, an ostrich feather broke loose from Ginger Rogers' elaborate dress and stubbornly floated in mid-air around Astaire's face, much to his annoyance. Seemingly, it had been one of Astaire's bugbears from his onscreen dancing partnership with Rogers in the 1930s.



Anne Miller had problems with nerves in her back throughout the filming of Easter Parade. She was also taller than Fred Astaire, so she offered to wear ballet slippers instead of heels when she danced with him. As Miller finishes the song The Girl I Love in a stage scene, she goes behind the curtain wearing red high heels. When Miller re-emerges in front of the audience to entice Astaire's character to dance with her to It Only Happens When I Dance With You, she's wearing red flat shoes.

### JESUS OF NAZARETH (1977)

Peter O'Toole was cast as Judas, but had to back out of the project, due to illness. Zeffirelli wanted Italian actor Marcello Mastroianni for the role of Pontius Pilate, but they couldn't agree on financial terms. In the end, the director was happy with the casting of American actor Rod Steiger, as he felt he was a "magnificent Pilate".

Some portions of Monty Python's Life of Brian were filmed on the same sets and locations as Jesus of Nazareth. The comparisons (although vastly different in approach) between these biblically inspired stories are easily drawn. Python director Terry Jones remembers that some extras had worked on both productions, and would occasionally comment "Franco would never film it like that!"

The actress Olivia Hussey who played Mary doesn't physically age or alter throughout Jesus of Nazareth as it was said the Virgin Mary never aged throughout Jesus' life.



Robert Powell endured a strict diet, limiting his calorie intake (eating just cheese) for a number of days prior to shooting the crucifixion scenes in the miniseries. The desired effect of this was to make Powell appear extremely underweight following Jesus' imprisonment and torture.

The eye makeup for Robert Powell had the effect of highlighting the piercing blue of his eyes, thus giving him a penetrating stare, making his character appear surreal and other-worldly.

The character of Jesus also rarely blinks throughout the miniseries. Franco Zeffirelli decided on this as a method of creating a visual mystique about the character, making Jesus stand out from all of the other characters in the story. The result is spookily effective. The young Jesus blinks twice in the Temple, and the adult Jesus blinks only once on film.

### THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD (1965)

In his role as Pontius Pilate, Telly Savalas shaved his head bald. The actor was not naturally bald, but he liked the look it produced so much that he kept his head shaven for the rest of his career. This was most notable in the hugely popular American crime-drama TV series, Kojak.

The actress Joanna Dunham who played Mary Magdalene was pregnant during the making of The Greatest Story Ever Told. Her later scenes in the film were substantially different to the earlier ones. As the film progressed, she was increasingly framed in close up shots. Director George Stevens had to employ creative and tighter camera angles to hide or disguise her expanding stomach.

Swedish actor Max von Sydow said that the hardest part about playing Jesus Christ was the expectations people had of him to remain in character at all times. He wasn't allowed to smoke between takes, drink alcohol, or even be affectionate with his wife on set.

Sydow was chosen to play Jesus because he was largely unknown to American audiences. The rationale for this being Von Sydow wouldn't distract from the story being told, unlike more famous casting in the pivotal role of Jesus. There was also some irony in the casting of Max von Sydow, as the actor was an atheist!



Western movies legend, John Wayne, in strange casting, was given the role of the Centurion in the climatic Crucifixion scene in the movie. Director George Stevens carried out several takes of John Wayne's single line, "Truly, this man was the Son of God." At one point, Stevens had to plead with Wayne to deliver more emotion, and awe in the few lines the actor was given to speak. During the next take, Wayne changed the line to, "Aw, truly this man was the Son of God."

### Answers To Movies 2021 Preview Quiz

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

5 - Sam Heughan

6 - c) 7 - b) 8 - c) 9 - a)  
10 - c) 11 - Regé-Jean Page





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