



**Local News February 2021 Issue No. 498 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**



**Following a delay in reconnecting our ITC systems after our office move we were unable to produce our normal Online February edition of the Maynooth Newsletter. We are hopeful that our systems will be up in time to produce our March Online edition. The delay was caused by the introduction of Level 5 COVID-19 restrictions.**

**Please note that as of 3rd February 2021 our phone lines are still down. We can be contacted by e-mail at [office@maynoothcep.com](mailto:office@maynoothcep.com). Our office will be closed to the public during Level 5 restrictions.**

**The Maynooth Community Employment Project & the Maynooth Newsletter have now moved to Unit 10 Tesco Shopping Centre. This is just a couple of doors up from our old office between Coyne's Butchers & the Maynooth Community Space.**

**Apologies to all our advertisers, Contributors & Readers for any inconvenience caused.**

## Editorial

With Ireland still in level 5 Covid 19 restrictions up to March 5<sup>th</sup> my predictions of last April that things would be back to normal in a short period were completely wrong. Many of us have used the past year to re-think how we do things and what did not seem possible before, is now how we do things. However, we miss the opportunities to socialise and enjoy each other's company so we still have to wait for the re-opening of places to socialise as well as get the opportunity to take up some of our hobbies and pastimes.

At the Maynooth Newsletter we have made some changes as well. From April 2020, the monthly publication was an online version only as it became impossible to deliver a print version door to door. In the Autumn months we engaged with Maynooth University

and others in a review of our operations. In January 2021 we moved office by just four doors to number 10 Carton Retail Park. The reason for the move is to facilitate the expansion of our neighbour MyVet who currently operates in the units adjoining our original unit.

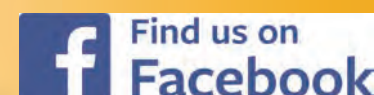
Unfortunately Covid 19 lockdown has meant that it has not been possible to connect up the services to our new office during January. In addition to comply with Level 5 restrictions the office is not currently open to the public so it has not been possible for the community to submit material for the February newsletter. Therefore, the February Maynooth Newsletter will not be a complete edition.

**Paul Croghan  
Editor**





# Maynooth newsletter



Serving the people of Maynooth



Local News

March 2021

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## Tips to mind your mental health during the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is a challenging time. Some people might find it more worrying than others. Medical, scientific and public health experts are working hard to contain the virus. Try to remember this when you feel worried. It has affected all our lives in some ways. But in time, it will pass. There are many things you can do to mind your mental health during times like this. Here are some tips to help you.

### How Covid 19 might effect your mental health.

You may notice some of the following:

- increased anxiety
- feeling stressed
- finding yourself excessively checking for symptoms, in yourself, or others
- becoming irritable more easily
- feeling insecure or unsettled
- fearing that normal aches and pains might be the virus
- having trouble sleeping
- feeling helpless or a lack of control
- having irrational thoughts

### Stay informed but set limits for news and social media

The constant stream of information about COVID-19 can be overwhelming. It can also make you feel unnecessarily worried. If it does, find ways to moderate what information you choose to take in, and when.

For example, you could set aside a short time slot every day or two, to look out for important updates. It can also be difficult to separate facts from misinformation. Always make sure to get your information from trustworthy and reliable sources.

### Keep up your healthy routines

Your routine may be affected by the COVID-19 outbreak in different ways. But during difficult times

like this, it's best if you can keep some structure in your day.

It's important to pay attention to your needs and feelings, especially during times of stress. You may still be able to do some of the things you enjoy and find relaxing.

For example, you could try to:

- exercise regularly, especially walking
- keep regular sleep routines
- maintain a healthy, balanced diet
- avoid excess alcohol
- practice relaxation techniques such as breathing exercises
- read a book
- search for online exercise or yoga classes, concerts, religious services or guided tours
- improve your mood by doing something creative

### Stay connected to others

During times of stress, friends and families can be a good source of support. It is important to keep in touch with them and other people in your life. If you need to restrict your movements or self-isolate, try to stay connected to people in other ways, for example:

- e-mail
- social media
- video calls
- phone calls
- text messages

Remember that talking things through with someone can help lessen worry or anxiety. You don't have to appear to be strong or to try to cope with things by yourself.

### Smoking, drinking and eating for comfort

If you smoke or drink, try to avoid doing this any more than usual. It won't help in the long-term. Eating habits can often be linked to your emotions. You may turn to food for comfort during this pandemic. Long-term comfort eating can lead to weight gain and affect your health. It's important to be able to recognise and separate out your emotions from your eating.

### Don't make assumptions

Don't judge people or make assumptions about who is responsible for the spread of the disease. COVID-19 can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, nationality or ethnicity. We are all in this together.

### Online and phone supports

Face-to-face services might be limited at the moment because of COVID-19. But some services are providing online and phone services.

*Everyone is in this together. You are not alone. If you feel alone, don't be silent. Instead, reach out to a friend or health care professional. Communication decreases the sense of isolation and anxiety.*

Source: <https://wpss2.hse.ie/wellbeing/mental-health/covid-19>



Sunday, March 28, 2021, 01.00 am  
Clocks go forward 1 hour



## Activities to keep Kids entertained during lockdown

Keeping the kids entertained all day is not always easy. Firstly plan the day. Divide the day with the help of a timetable,. You can plan educational tasks and breaks them up with fun activities. It will keep your kids happy and engaged. Don't get too serious about this, it will not harm them if they watch television a bit or play video games. It is a tough time for all of us, and everything is about balance. So below are a few activity ideas.

**Art and craft:** You can involve your kids in art and craft activities. This will help them to pass their time and get creative. You can also help them in making easy and simple craft project. It can be sewing, Knitting, Art etc..



**Cooking:** Involve your kids in cooking. Help your kids to recognize different fruits and vegetables. If you're planning to bake a cake, teach them how to mix the batter. Ask them to decorate the cake that you make. Your kids will enjoy the fun cooking time with you.

**Plan a treasure hunt game:** Hide a treasure in the house and layout some clues to the hidden treasure. The whole process of searching for clues and the treasure will sharpen the mental faculties of your kids. It will help them to grow as well.

**Learn a musical instrument:** Picking up a musical instrument could be the best thing you could do for yourself and your children during the lockdown.

It is also a skill that you will carry with you for the rest of your life, long after the lockdown is lifted. Maybe you have a piano lying in the corner that has never been used or a recorder or guitar in the attic. There are lots of free YouTube lessons you can try online.

**Grow your own veg:** Gardening can be a great activity for all children during this lockdown. If you have a little space beside your kitchen, you can help your kids to grow their own vegetables and herbs there. Planting different vegetables, taking care of them, watering them regularly will not only keep your kids busy for a while but will also encourage them to eat some of their home grown vegetables. You can buy some gardening kits for your kids from online retailers as well. Give your child a small plant to care for. Maybe they can grow a herb garden or a few flowers on the windowsill.



**Puzzles:** Kids love puzzles. They will love to solve a challenging puzzle or play a good board game. Jigsaws are also a great way to keep kids occupied for a long time.

**Learn about new countries:** You just need one world map. Play small games with your kids, let them blindly point out any place on the map and then discuss that specific country's cultures, foods, citizens, languages, etc.

**Play Outside:** Never underestimate just getting outside, even on a cold day. Kids can bundle up and get some fresh air, even just for 10 minutes can make a big difference. Go to the park. Bring the bicycles and get some exercise.

**Make a Stage:** Create a "stage" area for puppet shows. It can work as a toy shop too. You can pull your couch out from the wall and let the kids crawl behind it, or cut a hole out of a large piece of cardboard. The stage allows for whatever your child can imagine.

Happy playtime & activities can make it a little easier to get through the days of lockdown

## Feng Shui



The flowers are starting to bloom and spring is in the air! Since Spring is the time for spring cleaning, now is the time to rethink, reorganize and revitalize your house with a little Feng Shui.

The Chinese words "feng" and "shui" translate to mean "wind" and "water," respectively. This concept derived from an ancient poem that talks about human life being connected and flowing with the environment around it. The philosophy of feng shui is a practice of arranging the pieces in living spaces in order to create balance with the natural world. The goal is to harness energy forces and establish harmony between an individual and their environment.

### Tips to bring balance & flow to each room

The main principles of the practice are: the Commanding Position, the Bagua, and the Five Elements which, when used together, help to create harmony in your home.

### The Commanding Position

The Commanding Position determines the best way to position furniture in a room: You want the item to be facing the door without being directly in line with it so that you command the room.

### The Bagua

The most common tool used in Feng shui design is the Bagua - an energy map that identifies which elements you should place in a room to help the energy flow. The Bagua helps you to 'zone' your house and decide which areas of your home need a little bit more TLC depending on what you want to bring to each space. There are nine areas in the map which relate to your work, home and personal life, with a different colour and element to match:



### The Five Elements

The five elements (fire, water, wood, metal and earth) are interconnected forces that define life itself. The principle of Feng shui is to balance these elements in each space: each element attracts a different energy. Use this guide on how to incorporate these ideas when redesigning your home:

**Fire:** Associated with red and the season of summer, fire attracts pointy or triangular shapes. It's also associated with passion and illumination.

**Water:** Water translates to black and winter, and attracts wavy, curved shapes. It's also known for its flowing and shifting qualities.

**Wood:** Green and blue are both associated with wood, as is spring. This element attracts rectangular, column-like shapes and is known for its expansiveness.

**Metal:** Metal is paired with white and autumn. Believed to attract circular and sphere-like shapes, the element is known for its beauty and efficiency.

**Earth:** Earth is associated with brown, orange and yellow, along with more transitional seasons. This element attracts flat and square-like shapes and is known for its grounding, self-care and stabilising qualities.

### How to actually integrate these into a room to achieve that harmony and balance you've been craving.

Take your living room, for example. Try adding each element into the space by either using colour or shapes - this could be a triangle wooden side table (fire), a curved couch or a black candle (water), green plants (wood), a round mirror (metal) and square neutral coloured cushions (earth).

If you don't know where to begin, the best place to start is with the front door as this is the main entry point into your house. Remove any clutter and bring positive energy to the entryway by placing a light or plant at the side of the door. Placing a mirror is also a good way to welcome new opportunities. The staircase is one of the most important elements of Feng shui for good Chi energy. Try placing a picture at the bottom of the stairs to keep the balance, or if your stairs directly face the front door, add lighting to your staircase, touches of art and avoiding bright coloured carpets such as red.

The best colors for the house are milk white, ivory and white, which are most suitable to the optic nerve of people because sunlight belongs to white series and symbolizes light and people's heart; eyes also need to be adjusted with light. In addition, white series of furniture is recommended since white is a symbol of hope. Burly wood is also the best color because it can easily lead to inspiration and wisdom, especially for the study.

The bed, stove and couch and other key items in your home are essential for maintaining a positive energy space. Use the Commanding Position method to ensure that each item is placed facing the door slightly, but not directly in line with it, so you can command the centre of each room. If you have a hallway, make sure that it is not cluttered as this space represents opportunity. Try adding flowers or a mirror to the hallway to keep it nice and bright.

A general rule in Feng shui, keeping your spaces tidy and decluttered means that you're creating physical space in your life for new experiences. Windows symbolise your eyes to the world, so staying on top of any dirt that may build up means that you're keeping your eyes open to endless possibilities.

Bathrooms must always have the door closed and the toilet seat down, as water is related to wealth and you don't want to drain your finances down the toilet or basin. Try also adding in some plants as they naturally soak up water.

As plants symbolise life's energy, a good way to connect back with nature and bring more positivity into your home is by adding some greenery into each space.

The intent is to bring positive energy to all rooms, those areas of your life, and, ultimately, your entire home.

Source: [www.cosmopolitan.com/uk/worklife/a32169297/feng-shui/](http://www.cosmopolitan.com/uk/worklife/a32169297/feng-shui/)





# Maynooth Newsletter

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

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## 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

**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 22nd March 2021**

# Editorial

It is March already and 2021 has begun pretty much as 2020 ended in terms of living with Covid 19. Although level 5 restrictions remain in place until April 5<sup>th</sup> it is good to see that the impact of the pandemic is reducing when compared with the beginning of the year.

But I would prefer to think about other things in March. Last year those of you with gardens discovered the value of having open space that you could use especially in the early summer when the weather was so good. Hopefully with the possibility that we may have limited travel options in summer 2021 that the weather will be good this Summer too. I recommend that you read the article on page 4 by Klaus Laitenberger on having a self-sufficient garden. You could even involve your children as one of our suggestions for keeping your children interested is to involve them in a growing project either in your garden or if you do not have a garden a balcony can be home to planters as children love to discover new things and plants rarely fail to grow.



**My new little greenhouse – hoping to grow some vegetables this year.**



**Maynooth Educate Together NS – Phase 2**

With many of our children returning to school in March let's hope that everyone is safe and well. I know that a school term has been lost in terms of being in the classroom but I know that teachers having been providing online classes and there is also certainty about the process for the leaving and junior certificate exams. Maynooth Education Campus finally moves into their new schools in Moyglare. At primary school level the schools provided online interaction with pupils as well during the last term and as essential construction work has commenced on the new boys school on the Moyglare Road and the completion work on phase 2 of Maynooth Educate Together continues. So in a few short years the Department of Education and Skills has invested significant resources in upgrading school buildings in Maynooth.

As MC for the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade I get another year off this year as it will not be possible to hold a parade or related events this year. It is a pity as the Parade is a great annual event. The St. Patrick's Day Parade organising committee has taken this gap in parades to think of ways of making the 2022 event an even more successful event. It is important to remember that participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade is open to everyone in Maynooth to take part in and while the event is very expensive to stage local commercial support helps to fund the cost.

Unfortunately 2021 started off for me with the sad news of the passing of Robert Reilly the former President of Maynooth Tidy Towns with whom I worked as a volunteer for twenty five years. Robert was both inspiring and a hard worker and there are many projects around the town that he worked on. He was also active in the Maynooth Scouts and a number of other local organisations. Our sincere sympathy to his wife Maura and his family. See more about Robert in the Maynooth Tidy Towns notes.

Two things that you must remember in March. Firstly it is Mother's Day on Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> so make sure to remember your mother and although it may not be possible to spend time with her this year make sure to mark the occasion. Secondly, On March 28<sup>th</sup> the clocks go forward an hour so it is one less hour in bed but the benefit is the start of brighter longer daylight.

**Paul Croghan - Editor**



**The Self-Sufficient Garden  
New Book by Klaus Laitenberger**

There are more and more people who are growing their own food again. It’s a great way to connect with nature in the garden and to get a glimpse of the little miracles that surround us - the miracle of a seed germinating or a potato sprout emerging from the soil. Digging a basket of potatoes, cooking them and eating a delicious meal with your family – it is so simple but yet – you worked for it and it will nourish you infinitively more. As well as that – you possibly left this plot of land in a better state than when you started.

Over the last couple of years I’ve come across numerous young people starting small market gardens. I recently asked a young organic market gardener why she chose this profession as there are far easier ways of making a living. Her answer was “because it’s cool”. This is a great shift in mindset and hopefully reflects a much wider population. Up to quite recently, food growing was considered old-fashioned and too much like hard work. It’s easier to buy food from a shop. Now it’s cool to grow your own food and you’ll get the extra benefit of good physical exercise and fresh air. The times are changing.

**New Book: “The Self-Sufficient Garden” by Klaus Laitenberger**

This book outlines how to grow the 30 most productive vegetables, when to sow them and how much to grow to get a continued supply of fresh and stored crops. Many minor or fiddly crops have been omitted only because it would make the book and the planning too complex. You can easily fit them into your crop plan – in a garden there is always some extra space. One important thing to realise is that not all crops will be perfect – there will also be some complete failures of certain crops and this happens to the best of growers.

**Garden Plans**

The crop plans are based on a family of 2 adults and 2 children that consume a lot of vegetables. The first crop plan is for a small garden and specialises only on high value and value for space crops, the second crop plan is for easy to grow staple crops that will fill your store. The third crop plan is for the completely self-sufficient garden with 300m<sup>2</sup> outdoor garden and 90m<sup>2</sup> of a polytunnel. If all crops are performing well there will be a lot of vegetables to give away and new friends to be made. The book is available on our website: [www.greenvegetableseeds.com](http://www.greenvegetableseeds.com)

**How much land is needed to feed a family?**

When you ask people to guess how much land you would need to feed a family with vegetables for most of the year the answer is often an acre or two. This is completely wrong. In this book I’ll outline three vegetable cropping plans ranging from 50m<sup>2</sup> to 400m<sup>2</sup>. A plot of about 200m<sup>2</sup> (partial self-sufficiency) to 400m<sup>2</sup> (full self-sufficiency) would be enough to feed a family of two adults and two children. And 400m<sup>2</sup> is 1/10 of an acre (an acre is about 4,000m<sup>2</sup>). It is fantastic news that one acre can feed 10 families or 25 families per hectare (one hectare is 10,000m<sup>2</sup>).

**How much time is needed?**

The first two gardens can be done with very little time commitments – a few days to get it all started in spring and then just a couple hours in the evening or half a day at the weekend. The completely self-sufficient garden, however, requires a more concerted family effort. If you haven’t a garden yet it will take time (or good machinery) to get the ground ready and the beds formed. After that it will take 2 people for one full day at the weekend and half an hour some evenings to maintain the garden.

Throughout the book, I’m quite precise with figures and sowing dates just because I think this is helpful for people to get started. But obviously these are not written in stone – try them out, modify the techniques and sowing dates as it suits you. The beauty of gardening is that there are many right ways of doing things. No two gardeners will ever be the same. After reading a number of books from different authors, visiting gardens and trying it all out yourself you will be in danger of getting confused so much conflicting

information thrown at you from all sides. Don’t worry – simply pick out the best tips and create your own method that suit you and your garden.

**Great beginner’s vegetables**

There are now so many novice gardeners starting to grow vegetables who never had time to grow food before. There are also so many new young budding gardeners (children at home) who have to spend many weeks at home. Gardening can give us an important escape from the dreadful reality that surrounds us. It’s such a wonderful way of spending time together as a family and to reconnect with nature – and find some peace. It only took one or two generations of people not passing on the skills of vegetable gardening and the knowledge is lost. Now - new gardeners have to re-learn it from books and social media. Here is a list of the 10 best vegetables and flowers suitable for beginners. These are chosen for ease of growing and also high yields from even a small space making them ideal beginners vegetables for a small plot. An example of this is kale versus cabbage. From a kale plant you can pick individual leaves every week for about 6 months while from a cabbage you’ll only get one harvest after about 6-8 months.

Detailed growing instructions can be found on our website [www.greenvegetableseeds.com](http://www.greenvegetableseeds.com) in the Seed Shop for each crop.

**1. Perpetual spinach and/or Rainbow Chard**  
You’ll only need about 5 plants which will fill a square meter and you’ll get a weekly harvest of fresh delicious spinach leaves for at least 6 months.

**2. Kale**  
Kale is another crop that produces a lot of food from a small area. One square meter with 3 – 4 kale plants should be sufficient for a small family – for at least 6 months.

**3. Oriental salad mix**  
Again, one square meter should be sufficient to get fresh spicy salad leaves. Sow small quantities every 2 to 3 weeks. You can pick individual leaves as required or use the cut-and-come-again technique.

**4. Lettuce Surprise Mix**  
These comprise a mixture of lettuce varieties which can be harvested regularly over a two month period. Simply harvest leaves as required and leave the plants in the ground.

**5. Radish**  
Radish seeds can be sown directly into the ground. Only sow small quantities every fortnight. They are ready to eat 5 to 6 weeks after sowing. These are the ideal starter vegetable for children – the seeds are large enough to handle and they are ready so quickly.

**6. Courgette**  
Courgettes are one of the most productive plants with each plant producing about 3 courgettes per week over a period of 14 weeks. So you only need one or two good plants in your garden.

**7. Scallions**  
Regular sowings of scallions are necessary to give great crops of scallions for many months. I usually sow 10 seeds in each module and plant out the module without splitting up the seedlings. This way I can harvest a whole bunch of scallions. The best variety is Ishikura.

**8. Cucumbers**  
You will need a greenhouse or polytunnel to grow cucumbers, but if you have one this is the most productive crop of all, producing a cucumber fruit nearly every day over a few months. The best variety is Passandra F1.

**9. Tomatoes**  
In order to get a great yield you’ll need to grow tomatoes in a tunnel or greenhouse. Once you’ve got the taste of home-grown tomatoes you’ll find it difficult to go back to shop-bought tough and tasteless Dutch tomatoes.

**10. Flowers**  
Why not grow a bee and butterfly mix to attract our friends

into the garden and also calendula, nasturtium and borage which can be used as edible flowers.

**Self-sufficient Ireland**  
While I was preparing various cropping plans for a self-sufficient garden I thought it would be a good idea to find out how self-sufficient Ireland is in food production. One would imagine with a low population density and so much farmland we would be a major exporter of fresh vegetables. Unfortunately this is not the case and a missed opportunity. The good thing is – the land is there and with a few changes in policy this could quickly be changed so that Ireland would be at least self-sufficient in vegetables, fruit and cereals. In my opinion every country should make it a priority to be able to provide sufficient food for its citizens. In fact – this should be the number one priority alongside clean water and air.

Here are some calculations:  
Ireland has 6.9 million hectares of land, 4.4 million hectares are used for agriculture and 0.73 million hectares for forestry. Of the agricultural land area 80% is pasture, 12% rough grazing, 8% is crops (cereals, fruit and vegetables). Cereals account for 272,200 hectares, potatoes 9,100 hectares and vegetables account for 4,500 hectares (2016 statistics). Carrots and cabbage are the most important crops in terms of land area with carrots accounting for 800 hectares and cabbage 650 hectares. Let’s presume we only use one twentieth of the agricultural land area (4,400,000 hectares) for vegetable production. This equates to 220,000 hectares. Based on the presumption that 1ha will provide sufficient vegetables for 25 families or 100 people – 220,000ha would feed 22 million people.

So, only one twentieth of the currently used agriculture land area would provide sufficient food for 22 million people and this doesn’t even take into account the actual garden areas where people grow their own food. In order to provide vegetables for 5 million people we would “only” need 50,000 hectares. Currently we only have 13,600 hectares under potatoes and vegetables. We have a potential (or responsibility) to nearly quadruple the land area for vegetable production. In other words, we currently only produce vegetables for just over 1 million people. Let’s take carrots as an example: We produce 800 hectares of carrots in Ireland with an average yield of 65 t/ha. That’s a total of 52,000 tonnes or 5,200,000kg. With a population of close to 5 million people we can each get 10.4kg of carrots per person per year. I would eat this in a month!

I think I made my point and hopefully the calculations didn’t put you off. What I wanted to show is that there is a lot of potential to grow your own food as well as planning to set up a market garden. We are nowhere near self-sufficiency in vegetables in Ireland and if there ever is a crisis in logistics or drought or floods in different countries we are not in a good position at the far edge of Europe. On a positive note, vegetable production in Ireland has many advantages over many other countries – there is still plenty of land and water available especially if we mind it well. Worldwide, access to water has already become one of the main limiting factors for food production. This puts Ireland in a very important position for the future and we may well change from an importer of vegetables to becoming a supplier to many countries where food production will become more difficult.

**Klaus Background Info**  
Klaus Laitenberger is the author of four gardening books: ‘The Self-Sufficient Garden’, ‘Vegetables for the Irish Garden’, ‘Fruit and Vegetables for the Polytunnel and Greenhouse’ and ‘A Vegetable Grower’s Handbook’ (available at [www.greenvegetableseeds.com](http://www.greenvegetableseeds.com)) He works as an Organic Inspector for the Organic Trust Ltd and as a consultant for various organic market garden start-ups. Together with his wife, Joanna, they run a seed company, specialising in the most suited vegetable varieties for the Irish climate as well as the most resistant and delicious ones (Green Vegetable Seeds).





**MAYNOOTH**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH  
Eaglais Phreispitéireach in Éirinn

# Join Us Online!



## Sunday Worship Services

Sunday Mornings at 10.30am on YouTube. Just click the link on our home page [www.maynoothcc.org](http://www.maynoothcc.org). This year's Easter Series: *"The Wonder of Grace - Six things I wish my friends understood about Easter."*

## Easter Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows)

Tenebrae includes Music, Poetry and Reflection as we remember and enter into the Suffering of Jesus. Premiers on Friday 2nd April @ 8.00pm on YouTube Just click the link on our home page.

## Easter Sunday Service (10.30am, April 4th 2021)

To allow us to see one another, this year's Easter Sunday Communion Service will be at 10.30am on ZOOM. You'll find the ZOOM ID on our home page.

## New ALPHA Marriage Course

Our next online Marriage Course (via ZOOM) will begin on TUESDAY 16TH MARCH from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Using professional video input and private discussion times, it is a great way to explore and deepen our relationships. More Info and ZOOM details can be found on our home page.

## Venture Online Youth Group

Every Friday evening from 7.00pm-8.30pm. We are currently watching and discussing the NUA Course – 'Fresh Perspectives on Faith' All secondary school students welcome! Please email [office@maynoothcc.org](mailto:office@maynoothcc.org) for details & parental permission forms.



[www.maynoothcc.org](http://www.maynoothcc.org)  
[office@maynoothcc.org](mailto:office@maynoothcc.org)

### MU partners with Meath Enterprise and County Kildare Chamber to help business re-think Covid-19 & Brexit strategies



A bespoke innovation programme led by Maynooth University's Innovation Value Institute (IVI) will support companies who are forced to re-think how they do business. The stresses of Covid-19 and Brexit have accelerated the need for firms to re-design their business model and leverage technology for the benefit of their business. The 'ReThink-ReDesign' initiative spearheaded by Maynooth University, Meath Enterprise and County Kildare Chamber aims to address this need.

Prof Markus Helfert, Director of IVI at Maynooth University, stated: "We are delighted to partner with Meath Enterprise and County Kildare Chamber with this innovation programme. I have no doubt it will be of value to businesses in the region as we have developed and trialled the programme with a number of SMEs.

"The University recognises the impact that Covid-19 has had on companies and with Brexit upon us; our bespoke programmes are well positioned to support businesses across all sectors and of all sizes."

"The possibility to leverage state supports to fund this practical collaboration between business and a regional third-level institution such as Maynooth University is a game changer for businesses," said Allan Shine, CEO of County Kildare Chamber.

"Companies in the mid-east region are facing huge challenges with the current pandemic and Brexit. This innovative programme has been specially crafted to suit all business types and focuses on innovation and digital capabilities," he added.

For further details visit [www.ivi.ie/rethink-redesign/](http://www.ivi.ie/rethink-redesign/) or contact Kildare Chamber or Meath Enterprise.



From L-R is Gary O'Meara (CEO Meath Enterprise), Michael Hanley (Head of Innovation & Training Programmes, IVI) and Allan Shine (Chief Executive, County Kildare Chamber)

### The Bonsai Tree

Like many other plants and trees with unique characteristics, the bonsai tree has a rich history. And throughout its history, from long ago to where we are today, it has evolved dramatically. The bonsai tree's story includes fascinating details which play a large part in the massive popularity of bonsai.



#### The Meaning Of Bonsai

Bonsai is a term derived from Japanese, meaning "planted in a shallow container." "Bon" is specifically referring to the shallow container, whereas "sai" is referring to a planted tree. The inspiration behind the name comes from the fact that bonsai trees represent replicas of trees found in nature but on a much smaller scale due to their miniature size. It also represents a type of art form that connects life and nature with beauty. This symbolism is a driving force behind the bonsai tree's popularity. Bonsai trees originated from China before eventually transitioning to Japan and other parts of the region of Asia. They were first implemented with spiritual practices like Buddhism before eventually being linked to many other art forms of life.

The shape of the bonsai is as meaningful as its size. Different shapes have different meanings: "Formal upright" means tranquil and strong; "informal upright" – a curved trunk -- means steadiness through change; "slanting" – an angled trunk – means stable under stress; "semi-cascade" – a trunk that bends horizontally -- means staying strong in a time of hardship and "cascade" – trunk curving down, with branches below the container -- means change through challenges.

#### The Bonsai Tree Benefits

Bonsai plants are considered as one of the best indoor plants for homes and offices. Not just because they enhance the aesthetic appeal, but also because they have multiple health and psychological benefits. Here are a few benefits of the bonsai plants:

- Bonsai plants are known to be a great stress reliever. It relaxes one's breathing and many people take growing it as a wonderful hobby.
- Bonsai plants will make you patient and physically active, as it requires proper care, watering, fertilizing and trimming. It gives us the chance to learn life's most importance lesson — work hard, be patient and it shall bear fruit for you.
- One of the many reasons why bonsai plants are one of the best plants for homes or offices is that they help in purifying the air in their surroundings.

All in all, by having a bonsai plant around, you can stimulate your balance and creativity while also boosting your immunity.

Source: [bonsairesourcecenter.com/the-history-of-the-bonsai-tree-and-its-origination](http://bonsairesourcecenter.com/the-history-of-the-bonsai-tree-and-its-origination)  
[www.karmaandluck.com/blogs/news/bonsai-tree-meaning-benefits-history](http://www.karmaandluck.com/blogs/news/bonsai-tree-meaning-benefits-history)



## Two new publications with Maynooth Connections

### The Ballad of Lord Edward and Citizen Small

By: Neil Jordan €20.00

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*'It would begin with the burning mail coaches, my Citizen told me. And end with the citadel of freedom set up inside the castle gates. And I had a ticket for the playhouse for once. No more rapping at the stage door or hiding in the flies. So I took my time dressing that night while Julie attended to the lady and her child.*

*I had best be well appointed, for the curtain call or the advent of freedom, whichever happened first. But there was the problem of choice. Mine was limited to those well-worn Leinster duds, a greatcoat and some collarless shirts ... And then I saw the case of his own clothes, which I had dragged all the way from Leinster House. I thought, he wouldn't mind me wearing his. On this night of all nights.'*

From multi-award-winning author and director Neil Jordan comes a new and stunning work of fiction, *The Ballad of Lord Edward and Citizen Small*. Blending the drama of real events with Jordan's inimitable storytelling ability, this work spotlights a long-forgotten chapter in Ireland's history.

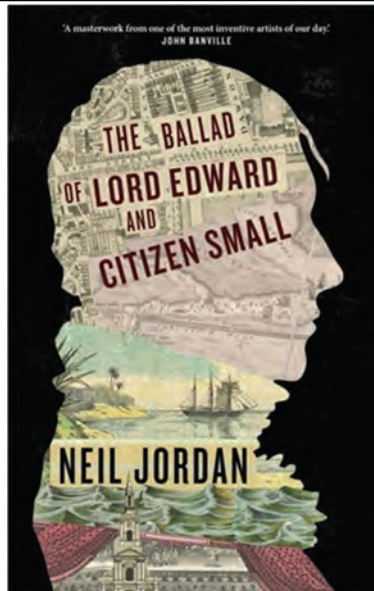
The tale is related by Lord Edward Fitzgerald's manservant Tony Small, a runaway slave who rescued Lord Edward after the Battle of Eutaw Springs during the American War of Independence. While the details of Lord Edward's life are well-documented, very little is known of Tony Small, who, in this gripping narrative, examines the ironies of empire, captivity and freedom. Small, who knows too well the consequences of rebellion and resistance, reflects on Lord Edward's journey from being a loyal servant of the British Empire to becoming a 1798 rebellion leader.

This story is populated with a brimming cast of characters, from Molly, who works as a maid in Leinster House, to Lord Edward's lover Elizabeth Sheridan, her husband, playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan, and the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Camden. The action moves from the Carolinas, to London, to Dublin, to the chaos of revolutionary Paris, and back to Ireland for its inevitable, tragic conclusion.

Jordan's deft approach to *The Ballad of Lord Edward and Citizen Small* makes for a riveting parable of empire.

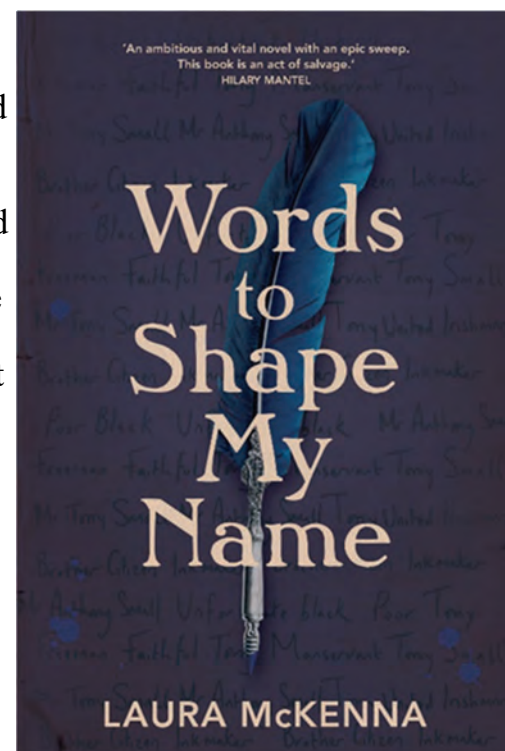
#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Neil Jordan is an Irish film director, screenwriter and author. His first book, *Night in Tunisia*, won a Somerset Maugham Award and the Guardian Fiction Prize (1979). He was awarded the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature (1981), the Irish PEN Award (2004), and the Kerry Group Irish Fiction Award for *Shade* (2005) and *Mistaken* (2011), which also received the 2011 Irish Book Awards Novel of the Year. His films include *Angel* (1982), the Academy Award-winning *The Crying Game* (1992), *Michael Collins* (1996) and *The Butcher Boy* (1997).



### Laura McKenna

LAURA McKENNA is a writer of fiction and poetry and worked for many years as a child psychiatrist. *Words to Shape My Name* was longlisted for the 2019 Bath Novel Award and was a winner at the 2020 Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair. She is the recipient of Tyrone Guthrie, Cork County Council, John Montague Mentorship (Munster Literature Centre) and Arts Council bursaries. Twice nominated for a Hennessy Literary Award and a Forward Prize for poetry, Laura's work has been published in *The RTÉ Guide*, *Southword*, *Banshee* and *New Irish Writing*.  
<https://www.newisland.ie/>



*Seventeen years. We were together for seventeen years. I knew him like a Brother.*

In a London graveyard in 1857, Miss Harriet Small is approached by a stranger with an intriguing gift for her. In the last will of a woman she barely remembers, Harriet has been left a collection of long-lost papers: her father's *True Narrative* of his years after escaping enslavement in America, and his close relationship with Irish revolutionary Lord Edward Fitzgerald.

Nearly sixty years earlier, in the aftermath of Edward's death and disgrace in the 1798 Rebellion, his sister, Lady Lucy, commissioned Harriet's father, Mr Anthony Small, to write about his life as Edward's manservant in the form of a 'slave narrative'. But what emerges from Faithful Tony's pages is Lucy's real motive (revealed in her notes and deletions) to restore Edward's reputation and his family's fortunes, as well as a complex, co-dependent and sometimes turbulent allyship between the two men.

Tony gains opportunities to work, to prosper, to love, only to be powerless in preventing the devastating events that destroy his master. He learns that the quest to be truly heard is never-ending, and as heartbreaking as it is to read her father's words, Harriet comes to realise there is more than one way to be free.

Inspired by true events, from war in South Carolina to the genteel drawing rooms of Kildare, from the colonial politics of London to the intrigue and simmering resentments of Dublin, *Words to Shape My Name* imagines the powerful story that Tony Small might have told, one of hope, failure, resilience and an unbreakable bond.





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### Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

This time last year I was telling you all about our club being in full swing and our wonderful Valentine's Party as we looked forward to the year ahead. Well what a year that turned out to be. Today the only show in town is Covid and Pfizer. However, looking on the bright side, the Vaccine is our hope for the future and by the time you read this you will probably have received your "Jab".



As you will be aware, contact for all organisations is limited and remote is more than just the TV control these days. Perhaps by April/May a real meeting might be possible, we can but hope. While there are no events happening, we still link in with our people and will continue the fuel provision as long as necessary. Keeping warm is vital as Hyperthermia can be a real threat at this time of year.

Meanwhile, we wish to thank all those who supported our organisation throughout this time of uncertainty, in particular, Cole Kavanagh and Barney Boyd for their initiative in producing the "Old Maynooth Calendar". The amount we received from this venture was €2,176.40. Tesco Ireland for including us in their fundraising from which we received €333.33. To Barton Transport for their continued support over the past fifty years and to Barret's, Brian Geoghegan, Toni Read, The Byrne family (Bookshop) and all our committee members who raised funds within their own families. A special word of thanks to the grandchildren in our families who gave up a Christmas present to contribute to our funds. Well done to all. As we could not hold our "Sale of Work" so many people rose to the occasion this year and supported us in many different ways. To those of you who have been keeping an eye on an older neighbour please stay vigilant a while longer, it could make all the difference. Once again, Thank You Maynooth.

Amid all of this we lost a valued committee member in January. Lima Higgins had been a dedicated member of our team for many years. She was a willing and diligent worker and always ready to oblige. She will be a great loss to our team and of course an even greater loss to her family. Our sincere sympathy to Billy and all the Higgins / Kenny families on this very sad occasion.

Our condolences also to the families of Richard Moran, Mary Mooney, David Tracey, Dominic Hollywood, Cora McCann, Rose Bean (Cusker), Robert O'Reilly, Bernard Farrelly, Rose Connolly, Micheal Lyons and John Paddy all of whom passed away during January and February.

Suaimhneas agus Síocháin Dóibh go Léir.

Josephine Moore.

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Contact us for any queries  
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087 61 4540

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

### Jimmy's Stained Glass Picture

When drops of rain started to fall, Jimmy hurried to the Franciscan church. It would give him shelter and a chance to rest after his long walk from the art gallery. Genuflecting stiffly before the altar, he shuffled to a pew beneath the Harry Clarke window, placed his large shopping bag on the floor and sat down heavily. The place was empty so he closed his eyes and tried to pray but all he could think of was his picture – that and rain pelting Harry Clarke's Saint Brigid as if each flurry were intended for himself.

On impulse he lifted the shopping bag onto his lap and took out the solid, rectangular package inside. Folding back the brown wrapping paper, he contemplated his own stained-glass creation. He had got the idea from a poem their college English teacher read to the class years previously:

Now sunset brings the close of day,  
My weary toil is o'er  
and, growing bright,  
a lone star beckons far away  
To guide my boat to shore  
By its kind light...

That was the scene he had tried to depict by painstakingly fitting pieces of coloured glass together. Harry Clarke had been his guide in the choice of colours, arctic blue for the sea and forest green for patches of trailing seaweed. He had grazed his hand cutting thin pieces for some cliffs, but the currach and a thatched cottage in the distance had been easier. It was the soldering that had given him the biggest headaches; while using it to join the lead between glass pieces he had accidentally cracked the grey rock in one corner. Nevertheless, the final result had been striking, especially after he had mounted the picture in a wooden light-box he himself had made.

Most people in his art group who had seen the picture told him it was a surefire winner. Even their teacher, who held weekly classes in her own studio, said it was first rate, but was the judge impressed? Was he hell? This highbrow art professor had given first prize to a woman who had made a monstrosity out of molten glass, probably the result of some accident with her kiln. He himself hadn't even got a consolation prize. When the judge had finished his spiel, he had taken his picture and walked out the gallery door, intending to dump 'An Aran Fisherman' in the river. What was the use of all the pains he had taken when nowadays any piece of pretentious rubbish could be classed as art?

As he was about to drop his picture from the bridge into the swirling water, it had started to rain. That was when he remembered that he was close to the Franciscan church. On a few occasions he had chats with Fr Benedict, an old friar, about the Harry Clarke window. This humble man knew more about stained glass than all those professors with their high-faluting theories. Thrusting the picture back into the bag, he had hurried on. Now that he was inside there was no sign of the friar. The continual pelting of the rain added to his gloom. Better to smash his picture into tiny pieces than suffer the humiliation of more rejections.

He was heading for the door when Fr Benedict pattered out of the sacristy in his sandals. 'Ah, Jimmy,' he called out in his soft voice, 'I almost missed you.'

'I just dropped in to shelter from the rain,' Jimmy mumbled.

'But it's still raining,' Fr Benedict pointed out, 'not that I'm trying to detain you. How did your entry do in the competition?'

'Not good,' Jimmy held out the bag. 'Here, Father, you can have it.'

Fr Benedict removed the picture in its light-box from the bag and examined it, holding it up to see it more clearly. Then his face lit up. 'This is a small masterpiece, Jimmy,' he declared. 'There's such amazing details – and that lovely blue!'

'But the rock in the corner's cracked,' Jimmy pointed out.

'So what?' Fr Benedict shrugged. 'I'm sure there's many a cracked rock around our coast. That little flaw just makes your picture more realistic.'

'That's hardly what the judge thought,' Jimmy grimaced ruefully. 'I didn't even get a Highly Commended.'

'Ah, judges!' Fr Benedict shook his head. 'You know what happened to Harry Clarke's famous window, the one he wanted to enter for some Swiss project?'

'You mean the Geneva Window?'

'Yes, that's the one. I understand that our Irish experts judged it to be obscene, so they wouldn't submit it as this country's entry. It finally ended up in Florida – not that I approve of too much nudity – but then you have Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling.'

'But Michelangelo was painting biblical scenes and wasn't Harry Clarke showing some female dancer with practically no clothes on?'

'Yes, true enough – to use a nautical expression, he should have trimmed his sails to the prevailing winds. But there's nothing like that in your picture. Do you know

what? I'm going to ask our Vicar Provincial's permission to incorporate it into one of our windows.'

'But it's not a holy picture,' Jimmy demurred.

'So what?' Fr Benedict shrugged. 'It's the Irish equivalent of one of Jesus' disciples, Simon Peter or Andrew, fishing on the Sea of Galilee.'

'You're not saying that just to cheer me up, Father?'

'No. Not at all! As you know, we're not a rich community, but "The labourer has a right to his maintenance". How much will we give you for this small masterpiece?'

'You've already given me more than I expected, Father. To tell the truth, after leaving the art gallery, I was going to dump it in the river. I would have too, only it started to rain.'

'That was Providence intervening,' Fr Benedict beamed. 'I knew when I got up this morning that something wonderful was going to happen.'

P.G. Nerney

### Killycluggin Stone

Once a seven-foot, inscribed rock,  
it's broken now, housed in a museum.  
Scholars call the curving lines  
Iron Age *La Tène*, but who the artist was  
no one can tell.

Antiquarians once felt they knew  
the purpose of this Moyslaught artifact.  
Did ancient texts not show it was *Crom Cruach*,  
who with twelve sub-gods was worshipped  
by those, who to ensure both milk and grain,  
sacrificed their first-born infants here?

Modern scholars would have none of that.  
Those tales of human sacrifices by Celts  
were trotted out by Caesar and his ilk  
to justify their own blood-drenched expansion,  
and also by our own myth-weaving writers  
to dramatize the impact of Saint Patrick,

but then we found those half-intact bog bodies –  
ritual killings to ensure good harvests? –  
and, in later times, we'd burnings at the stake,  
beheadings, people hung, drawn and quartered...  
Yes, it's likely our *La Tène* stone,  
has blood upon its inscribed, broken form.

Colin Scott

### A visit to a Desert Monastery

When our tour guide, Sharif, reminded my wife Frieda and me on our way back from Alexandria to Cairo that we might be able to visit the Monastery of St Macarius in the desert of Wadi el-Natroun I wasn't too excited. Having seen the temples at Philae, Kom Ombo, Edfu, Luxor and Karnak, temples that reflected over 4,000 years of religious worship, what was so special about a monastery that was founded in just 360 A.D.? And those massive temples were a reminder that many beliefs and practices that we consider uniquely Christian had their counterparts in ancient Egypt. Take a representative temple with its sanctuary and inner shrine where a statue of the god was kept; was it not like our Christian sanctuary and tabernacle? And then there were the special days on which the god's image was carried in procession outside the temple, something that brought to mind a Corpus Christi procession.

'But,' Frieda objected, 'didn't the Egyptians worship a multiplicity of gods, many of them with animal heads or bodies, whereas we believe in only one?'

'OK,' I conceded, 'but many of the saints we pray to, while not gods, used, at least in popular imagination, to have semi-divine powers – and think of the

Holy Ghost being represented as a dove and three of the evangelists as ox, lion and eagle.'

'Oh, that's just clever nonsense, Colin! You're trying to equate pagan superstition with the worship of the One True God.'

'What about the pharaoh Akhenaten – remember we saw his statue, the one with the big tummy? Well, in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. Akhenaten introduced the worship of a single god, the Aten, admittedly a sungod but one seen as the author of all life. That was at least 600 years before Solomon built his temple in Jerusalem to house the Ark of the Covenant.'

'Wait! This is all very fine, Clever Clogs, but where was there a belief in personal responsibility for one's actions, the belief that when we die we will be judged on how we have lived?'

'Well, *The Book of the Dead* shows that an ancient Egyptian believed that when he died the god Anubis would weigh his heart against the Feather of Truth; if the heart was balanced by the feather, the person was judged worthy of eternal life, but if sins weighed the heart down the person was consumed by the Devourer – perhaps an easier end than an eternity burning in hell!'

'I'm not sure that the existence of hell is taken literally nowadays but, be that as it may, weren't the

Theban priests involved not only in amassing great wealth and power but in robbing royal tombs, including some of those we visited in the Valley of the Kings?'

'That's right, but weren't some of our own priests and popes guilty of similar faults, from selling indulgences to keeping mistresses to amassing great wealth and power – you've heard that before the Reformation the monasteries in England owned at least a fifth of the wealth of that country?'

'Here we go, church bashing again!'

'No, Frieda, I'm just trying to point out the discrepancy between the lifestyles of too many clerics and the simple lifestyle of Christ and his apostles: "go home and sell all that belongs to thee; give it to the poor..." Which brings me back to my subject, the desire of men to live austere like the early Christians. Just as John the Baptist lived in the desert and Jesus spent 40 days and nights fasting in it, holy men in the period when Egypt was under Roman rule went out into the desert, not only to escape persecution by emperors such as Diocletian and Licinius but also to practice self-denial. Originally, these men lived in caves but, over the years, others joined them and so began the monastic tradition in Wadi el-Natroun.'

'Is there any connection between monasteries in

(Continued on page 12)





Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers. (Cont.)

(Continued from page 11)

Egypt and those in Ireland?”  
‘Well, yes. In our Golden Age, a holy man would retire to an out-of-the-way place, sometimes called *Díseart* or desert, as in *Díseart Nuadhan*, the desert of St Nuadhan – You have St Kevin retiring to Glendalough and St Enda to Aran. In time others joined them and a monastery grew up. It’s also interesting that the Psalter found recently in Faddan More bog had traces of papyrus on its cover, showing a connection with Egypt – but we’re digressing.’

*By now the driver had turned our air-conditioned minivan off the busy Desert Highway and, after taking photos of small wayside shrines, one with a mosaic of the Virgin and Child, another with a mosaic of St Macarius, we travelled down an empty avenue bordered by trees with pale white trunks and green leaves, as well as date palms with hanging bunches of yellow fruit. Eventually we came to a pillared gateway with a gatekeeper’s lodge. After some moments a guard opened the gate and we proceeded. In time we came to a second gateway and following a brief consultation between our driver and the guard, were let through. We then drove down another stretch of avenue bordered by bright-flowered bushes, beyond which tillage fields, some with banana and mango trees, were visible. Suddenly we arrived at a high, beige wall, above which a white ornate church tower soared.*  
*When we left the parked van, Sharif spoke to a doorkeeper, who then admitted us inside the monastery compound. What a pleasant ambience greeted us: buildings with mellowed brown or beige stonework, paved open areas, tall, slender palms with a fan of branches on top, other trees with luminous green foliage, the whole encircled by the high boundary wall. I felt as if we had entered an Eden in the hot desert – Which reminds me that in olden times this region provided the sodium carbonate or natron used to preserve mummies, hence its name, Wadi el-Natroun.*

At a church door with shoes left beside it Sharif spoke in Arabic to a frail Coptic monk wearing a black robe, who indicated that we should remove our own footwear. After asking if we wished to use the toilet and being told ‘no’, he led Frieda and me inside. On entering we found ourselves in a pleasantly dim, rectangular room with people sitting in three long pews arranged parallel to one sidewall listening attentively to a bespectacled priest dressed in a black robe and dark-blue embroidered hood, who was standing before them speaking in Arabic. The people made space for us and, once seated, I gazed about at the old-fashioned church.

There were three archways and, beyond them, three murals high up and three closed doorways leading to side chapels. Compared to wall paintings we had seen in the Valley of the Kings, the murals weren’t that exciting, but perhaps an art expert would disagree. I had read that the Copts were a branch of the Orthodox Christian Church and that they choose their pope from among the Wadi el-Natroun monks but apart from that I knew very little about them. On the other hand, this church with its altar and candles looked reassuringly familiar.

When the speech was over the people touched the outstretched and down-turned left palm of the priest – who, we later learned, was named Fr Cyril – with the fingers of their left hands and then kissed those fingers. Once they had dispersed, Fr Cyril asked in excellent English where we were from and then showed us around the church, pointing out religious paintings – the oldest was from the 7<sup>th</sup> Century – and icons and the domed brick roof of a side chapel. He also showed us the crypt of St John the Baptist and Elisha the Prophet and the ornate reliquary where their bones are kept. Ever the skeptic, I couldn’t quite share his conviction that the remains of St John and Elisha had actually ended up in this monastery. Weren’t the Middle Ages renowned for their traffic in fake relics? Still, he was a warm, soft-spoken man with a sincere faith that won my admiration.  
*I asked about the use of ancient Egyptian by the Copts and Fr Cyril explained that while the monks did not speak that language, they could read it in the Greek characters in which it was later written and chant it, no doubt the way our own priests formerly read and recited Latin. There were once 60 monasteries in the area but now there are only four. On the other hand, after this particular monastery was extensively restored in 1969 the number of monks increased from six to 130. Love, ‘without rules or limitations’, is the only law of the community. There is not even a precise timetable. The monks, many of whom have university degrees, work on the farm, where they have planted fig and olive trees, grow a variety of crops, from watermelons to fodder beet, and raise livestock and poultry. They sell their farm produce and employ extra male workers in the summer.*

Later, Fr Cyril showed us the crude, 2-room cells where monks formerly lived – there are now 150 modern cells, each with a study, bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. The monks have computers and washing machines, and some have TVs. He then took us to the restored square keep with a high-up, retractable drawbridge. It was in this building that monks used take refuge after Berbers

(Bedouins?) killed 49 of their number in a long-ago attack. The martyrs’ remains are kept in a chapel with ostrich eggs – symbolizing God’s watchful care – hanging from the ceiling. Everything in the monastery is endowed with symbolism, for example, peacocks carved on an altar – on which three bodies in red shrouds were laid – symbolize immortality; wooden crosses with arms ending in three points symbolize the Trinity and also the twelve apostles; a seashell symbolizes the biblical ‘pearl of great wisdom’ and so on.

When I asked about the Cairo riot of the previous Sunday, in which the army had reportedly killed 29 Copts, Fr Cyril grew very agitated. Christians were, he declared, under siege in Egypt: ‘we’re all right in here but it is our families outside we worry about.’ Some of the monks visit their families on weekends but he himself – he is 39 years old –does not like leaving the peace and quiet of the monastery. His parents, however, visit him three times a year. Seven monks live as hermits, only joining the community once every two weeks or, in the case of a few, every month.

After satisfying our curiosity, Fr Cyril took us up some steps to the bookshop, while he himself joined visitors who were waiting to speak to him. When I purchased a slim history of the monastery, the old monk who served us insisted on giving us a tiny wooden cross and a St Cyril key ring for free – Obviously the widespread desire for baksheesh in the country at large hadn’t penetrated here!

We could have got refreshments or a meal in the modern cafeteria nearby but, being on a tight schedule, we made our way back down to the courtyard and headed for the monastery entrance. On the way we passed Fr Cyril surrounded by a number of smiling Egyptian families; before parting, the adults and older children were touching his palm with their fingers, then kissing them. Looking at that little threatened flock with its shepherd it suddenly struck me that the religious faith nurtured here, a faith that seeks to emulate the love of God and neighbour practiced by Jesus and his disciples, was what our troubled, fratricidal world needs.

One final anecdote will underline the warm humanity of Fr Cyril. When Frieda remarked that the horses we had seen while touring the country looked starved, he burst out laughing. ‘You’re worried about the horses,’ he said. ‘How can the people feed the horses when they’re starving themselves?’

by Colin Scott

Saul's Conversion

Saul was a young zealous Jew, perhaps not yet 25, when he went to the high priest in Jerusalem seeking authorization to carry his persecution of Jesus' followers all the way to Damascus, 150 miles away. This heretical movement was getting out of hand. Because of persecution by Saul, himself, and others in the orthodox Jewish community, many of Jesus' followers had fled Jerusalem and thereby spread the news of the resurrection far and wide. Saul obviously had heard that this resurrection story had got as far as Damascus. The spreading of these lies about this false prophet, Jesus, this blasphemer, must be stopped.

Saul was no Sabbath Day Jew! He was a wholehearted believer in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Having been tutored by Gamaliel, a highly respected teacher of the law and traditions of the Jews, he was a scrupulous follower of that law and the idea of Jesus healing people on the Sabbath, his claiming the Temple as his Father's house and his prediction of its destruction, his claiming authority higher than that of Moses, his own existence predating that of Abraham and finally his outrageous claim to having the authority to forgive sin, were all too much for a very devout young Jewish man.

Jesus' summary crucifixion appeared to have put an end to all this nonsense but now, with the story of his resurrection from the dead, the situation had become worse than ever. Saul was ruthless in his opposition to this new error and now these letters from the high priest gave him the authority to bring these heretics to heel.

Ach níl mar a síltear bítear! As he approached Damascus a bright light disorientated him and having fallen to the ground he heard a voice saying,  
"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"  
"Who are you, Lord?", Saul asked.  
"I am Jesus whom you are persecuting."  
Was this not the God of his Fathers who had spoken to him, who was now showing himself in the person of Jesus? There's a strong suggestion in Saul's words that he had already suspected as much. Now he knew. This is an explosion in the history of Christianity. All Jesus' appearances before this were to people he knew before his crucifixion. Now he appeared to a man who hated Him and all his 'deluded' followers. And the effect was the same. The fearful, cowardly disciples had become men and women on fire with Christ and the deadly enemy had become his champion.

So it will be with all to whom he reveals himself. Maybe the revelation will not be as dramatic as described by Luke and Saul himself but it will be just as sure and those who are awake will be changed! **GM.**

Smaointe

Dúirt sé(Pioláit) leis na Giúdaigh: "Féach, sin é bhur rí!" Ach chuir siad na gártha suas: "Beir uainn é! Beir uainn é! Céas é!" Dúirt Píoláit leo: "An amhlaidh a chéasfaidh mé bhur rí?" D'fhreagair uachtaráin na sagart: "Níl de rí againne ach Céasar." Ansin thug sé suas dóibh é chun a chéasta. (Eoin, 19, 14-16.)

Cé tá de rí agatsa?  
Dhá lá ina dhiaidh sin bhí Máire (Mhaigdiléana) ag gol in aice an tuama mar gur "thóg siad mo Thiarna ... agus nach eol dom cár chuir siad é".

B'shin creideamh! Bhí Máire ina fíor dheisceabal!

Cé bhí ina rí aici?

Gabriel Martin.





Gold Medal  
Winner 2019

Our last clean up was on the 5th December 2020, we have taken our usual winter break and hope to be back out on the streets of Maynooth come March 2021 if COVID restrictions allow.

Two of our volunteers have passed away since the last newsletter was issued JP Murtagh and Robert O'Reilly. We would like to express our condolences to both of their families at this very sad time.

JP died in December, he was originally from Co Mayo and wore the Green and Red with pride. In Maynooth the family lived in Greenfield Drive, JP died after a long illness with cancer. He will always be remembered as a gentleman by everyone who knew him. JP often joined us for our social occasions to celebrate our successes over the years. Rest in peace JP. You will be fondly remembered by everyone that knew you.

Robert (Bob) Reilly, Moyglare Road, died January 8th last. Bob was a member of Tidy Towns for many years as Chair and as President, he retired more than 10 years ago. Many locals will remember Bob cutting the grass on Carton Avenue with a scythe and bill



hook until they got funding from Ray Grehan and the Glenroyal Hotel to buy on a ride on lawn mower. In his private life Bob worked with the ESB and also spent many years in Canada. Bob received many accolades for his voluntary work with Tidy Towns and the Maynooth Scouts. Rest in peace Bob

It's really wonderful to see our hard work paying off, with the many displays of flowers all around the town, some we planted last year and for many years previous to that. A Million thanks to our volunteers who turned out in great numbers during 2020. Our Minister Heather Humphreys did tell us that there would be a Tidy Towns Competition for 2021 but with the numbers of Covid 19 cases so high its looking highly unlikely. I'm sure we will have an update on that for the April Newsletter. If you would like to find out further information about Tidy Towns and how to volunteer please "like us" on Facebook and follow us on twitter, or just send a message to 0873153189 and we will take your details and add you to our volunteer whatsapp group.

**Mary Molloy**  
**Maynooth Tidy Towns**



**Robert (Bob) Reilly (R.I.P.)**

## Healthy Options for a New You

Now that Spring is here it is the perfect time to make some changes in your life. For some, this means setting health goals, such as losing weight, following a healthier diet, and starting an exercise routine. Don't aim too high as this can often result in breaking your resolutions within a few weeks. It is important to make resolutions that can not only improve health, but also be followed for life.

### FIND A PHYSICAL ACTIVITY THAT YOU ENJOY

Every new year, people start a new fitness programme, join gyms workout classes in hopes of shedding excess body fat in the year to come. Though most people start strong, the majority do not make their new routine into a lasting habit.



Still, you can increase the chances of making your fitness resolutions stick. To get started, choose an activity based on enjoyment and whether it fits into your schedule.

For example, taking a half-hour walk, jog, or bike ride before work, or swimming, or working out at a gym that's on your way home, are simple and sustainable exercise resolutions.

Then, set an attainable goal, such as planning to walk a few specific days per week instead of aiming for every day. Making a more realistic goal can enhance the chances of making your new routine last, especially if you're new to working out.

### EAT MORE WHOLE FOODS

One of the easiest and most sustainable ways to improve overall health is to eat more whole foods.

Whole foods, including vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, whole grains, and fish contain nutrients that your body needs to function at an optimal level. Adding more whole foods to your diet can be done slowly and consistently. For example, if you are not used to eating vegetables, start by adding one serving of your favourite vegetables to your diet every day.

### SIT LESS AND MOVE MORE

Whether it is due to having a sedentary job or simply being inactive, many people sit more than they should. Sitting too much can have negative effects on health. In fact, it may be linked to an increased risk of overall mortality. Making a resolution to sit less is an easy and attainable resolution that can be tailored to fit your lifestyle. For example, if you have a desk job that requires long periods of sitting, make a resolution to go for a 15-minute walk at lunch or to get up and walk for five minutes every hour.

### CUT BACK ON SUGARY DRINKS

Cutting back on sweetened beverages is a smart idea, considering that sugary drinks are linked to an increased risk of obesity, fatty liver, heart disease, insulin resistance, and cavities in both children and adults. Though quitting sweetened beverages right away is always an option, gradually minimising your intake may help you kick your sugary drink habit for good.

### PRACTISE SELF-CARE

Taking time for yourself is not selfish. In fact, it's imperative for optimal health and well-being. This is especially true for those in caretaker roles, such as parents and healthcare workers.

For people with busy schedules and limited time, making a resolution to engage in self-care may take some planning. However, it's well worth the time investment. Self-care doesn't have to be elaborate or time-consuming. It can simply mean taking a bath every week, attending your favourite weekly yoga class, preparing a healthy meal for yourself, going for a walk in nature, or getting an extra hour of sleep.

### COOK MORE MEALS AT HOME

Research shows that people who cook more meals at home have better diet quality and less body fat than people who eat more meals on the go.

Start by making one meal a day, then increase the frequency over time until you are making the majority of your meals and snacks at home.

### BE PRESENT

Research shows that being more present may improve life satisfaction by decreasing negative thoughts, which may thereby improve psychological health. Making a resolution to be more mindful and present may help you feel more content in your everyday life.

Spending less time on your phone, stopping to notice your environment, and listening intently to others are simple ways to be more present.



### TRY A NEW HOBBY

It is common for adults to let once-loved hobbies fall by the wayside as they get older due to busy schedules or lack of motivation. However, research shows that partaking in a hobby that you love can help you live a longer, healthier life. Make a resolution to try out a hobby that you have always been interested in or pick up back a hobby that used to bring you joy.

### Small Changes - Big Impact

Source ;New year, new you, new determination to be healthy | Health | Jamaica Gleaner (jamaica-gleaner.com)





Stockists of:  
**Environ Skincare, Advanced Nutrition Programme, Jane Iredale, Heliocare and Skin Formulas.**

This lockdown, shop local from the comfort of your own home via our website [CelebrateSkin.ie](http://CelebrateSkin.ie).

Are you looking to start your skincare journey, or looking to gift someone with the gift of skincare?

**Book a virtual consult with us via our website: [www.celebrateskin.ie](http://www.celebrateskin.ie)**

A 45 minute consultation will lead you towards the correct skincare for your needs and is complimentary with the purchase of product

## Reimagining Irish Rivers; Working with Nature. 22-23 March

To celebrate World Water Day 2021, join us and our partners for this two-day conference on March 22 & 23 as we reimagine Irish rivers through working with nature. The event will feature leading experts, practitioners and community groups connected with rivers. There will be opportunities for deeper participation and discussion during Q&A sessions.

Nature is an excellent teacher, for those who are open to learning. This conference will look at how nature can guide us to restore rivers and manage the pressures affecting them. Experts continue to learn from societies and civilisations that co-exist with nature rather than against it. Such knowledge is fundamental to addressing the causes of the water, biodiversity, and climate crises.

### Day 1: Restoration, Management, and Biodiversity

Featuring well-known author Padraig Fogarty. The central theme, 'Working with Nature and Natural Places', will set the context for the event. We will explore possibilities for prioritising nature in work practices, projects, and plans. Speakers from Ireland and the UK will present emerging concepts and practical examples of: Hydromorphology (water flow and energy); Geomorphological (land features); Natural Water Retention and Flood Management; and improvements for fish passage.

### Day 2: Communities & Rivers

The focus will be on community participation and their role in catchments. Two Rivers Trusts will give updates on their work. Four large scale locally led European Innovation Projects water catchment-based project, with different lead organisations will give examples of the innovative results-based model code signed and delivered by farmers and landowners. Invasive species, their control and biosecurity will be addressed from the communities' perspective. How communities can engage in catchment management through understanding their sense of place, what supports are available and how they can engage in river restoration, and citizen science. The conference will conclude with the launch of the new Citizen Science aquatic invertebrate monitoring scheme.

Get involved by registering early and let us know if there any topics you would like to see covered within the programme. **Register at <https://bit.ly/2NZXfkS>**



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
 Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
 Department of Housing,  
 Local Government and Heritage





# Royal Canal Notes

March 2021

## Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

### NO CHANGE

The 'Newsletter' did not publish in January or February. It is nearly March and we are still in lockdown, but every cloud has a silver lining.

In our case the silver lining is the wonderful amenity that we can use during lockdown, to take exercise and enjoy. It is heartening to see so many people using the Royal Canal. This is as it should be. Not many other people in lockdown have such a facility on their doorsteps.

It could also be said that the vaccine coming online is another silver lining but if only there was enough of it then it could be regarded as the golden lining. We in the group are very conscious of our member's families that the dreaded virus has touched in 2020. To all our members affected and indeed to all in the Maynooth catchment area affected, we wish you a speedy recovery and to those who have lost loved ones in the last year, our sincere condolences. You are in our thoughts and prayers

### CLOSURE

As a result of civil engineering works being undertaken on behalf of local authorities in the vicinity of our storage facility at Confey the towpath will be closed to pedestrians /cyclists for periods during the month of March. These works include the laying of pipes underneath both the canal and railway line. The closure will affect Boaters as well as pedestrians and cyclists since the slipway will also be out of action during this period.

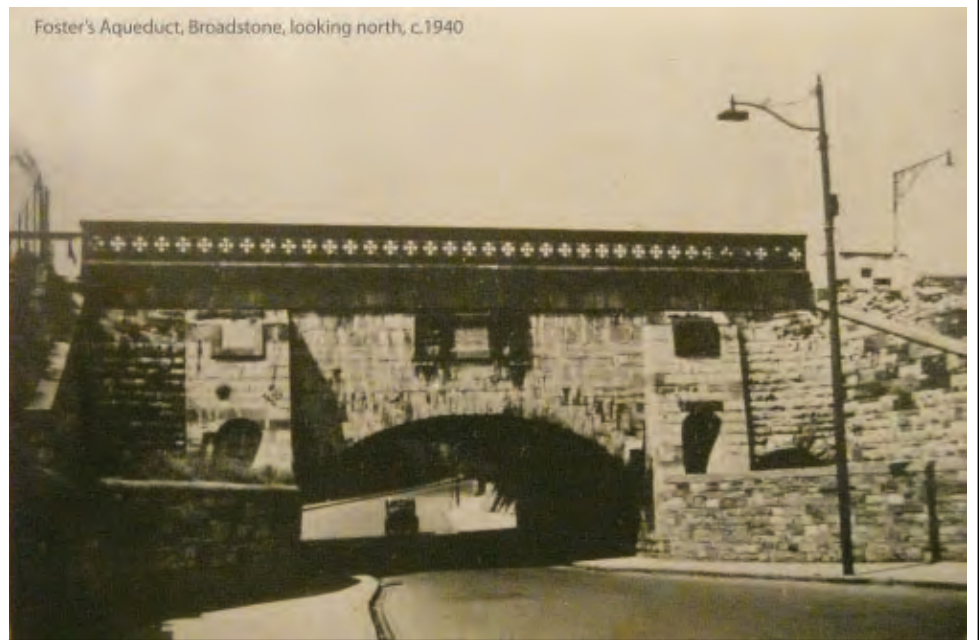
Signage will be in place. We would not recommend that pedestrians/cyclists take to the road to circumvent the works as this is a narrow twisty road which is not conducive to the health and safety of pedestrian users



The Royal Canal Amenity Group's facility at Confey which will close due to works in March.

### A GOOD READ

Elsewhere in this illustrious publication you can read the first 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, it outlines the ups and downs before and during construction. Peter, a retired lecturer at the Dublin Institute of Technology, has written a book on the history of the Royal Canal. Although currently out of print moves are afoot for a reprint. He has also 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.



A rare photo of Foster's Aqueduct which carried the Royal Canal across Phibsboro Road in Dublin. It was demolished in the early 1950s when that part of the canal was filled in.

### GOOD WISHES

The Chairman, committee and board of directors would like to extend good wishes to Maynooth Newsletter on their move to their new premises in recent days. The new premises is only a few doors away from the old premises, We wish them continued success in all their endeavours.

### St. Patrick's Day Recipe

#### Traditional Irish Stew

What could be more heartening and filling than a delicious bowl of Irish stew, a popular dish from Ireland and loved the world over. Though a hugely popular dish on St Patrick's Day, this dish is far too good to reserve for a few days a year; eat it when you want a comforting and warming dish. Irish stew was traditionally made with mutton (sheep), but it is now often made with the easier-to-find lamb. Either meat will make a delicious, hearty stew. The beauty of this Irish stew recipe is that little else is needed to make it a meal because it contains vegetables. Serve with crusty bread to soak up all of the delicious sauce.

#### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 1 pound mutton or lamb cutlets, bones removed, cut into 2-inch/5-centimeter chunks
- 2 pounds potatoes, peeled and cut into quarters
- 1 cup onion, roughly chopped
- 1 cup leeks, cleaned and finely sliced
- 1 cup carrots, roughly chopped
- 2 tablespoons plain flour
- 1 1/2 pints dark beef stock
- Optional: 2 or 3 cabbage leaves, thinly sliced
- Salt, to taste
- Pepper, to taste



#### Method

Heat the oven to 350 F/ 180 C/ Gas Mark 4.  
In a large frying pan, heat half the oil until hot but not smoking. Add half the lamb pieces and brown all over by turning in the hot oil.  
Remove the lamb with tongs and place them in a casserole.  
Cover with half of the potatoes, onion, leeks, and carrots. Add the remaining oil to the frying pan and heat.  
Add the remaining lamb and brown all over as before and add to the casserole. Cover with the remaining potatoes, onion, leeks, and carrots.  
Add the flour to the still-hot frying pan and stir really well to soak up any fat and juices. Cook on a gentle heat for 3 minutes.  
Add the stock a ladle at a time and mix until you have a thick, lump-free sauce. Pour this sauce over the lamb and vegetables.  
Add the remaining stock to the casserole, cover with a tight-fitting lid, and cook in the preheated oven for 1 hour.  
Add the cabbage (if using), replace the lid, and cook for another hour. Check from time to time to make sure the stock hasn't reduced too much. If it has, add a little boiling water. The meat and vegetables should always be covered by liquid. If the sauce is too runny at the end, you can always cook a little longer with the lid removed. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Serve piping hot and enjoy.

It will keep in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 3 days.

Source: [www.thespruceeats.com/traditional-irish-stew-recipe](http://www.thespruceeats.com/traditional-irish-stew-recipe)





## Before the Banks of the Royal Canal

By Peter Clarke (Part1)

### 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**

As and from the 13th May 1789, the landscape for a 93 mile stretch westward from Dublin to the Shannon in Co. Longford, was destined to undergo major change. On that day, a petition was lodged with the then Irish Parliament for aid to build a canal from the Liffey in Dublin to Tarmonbarry on the River Shannon

The main force behind the venture was a Dublin silk merchant John Binns. Binns had organised and collected subscriptions from many of the country's leading politicians and businessmen. Sums of money ranging from £300 to £3,000 were subscribed. The proposal was on a grand scale, somewhat larger than was eventually built. The length of the canal was to be 109 miles, having 76 locks, 65 aqueducts and 85 bridges and it was estimated that it would cost £197,098.00. The petition was successful and the Royal Canal Company was granted £66,000 towards the building of the new canal. While it was expected that surveys and estimates would be carried out meticulously prior to making the petition it was later discovered that the Royal Canal Company had made nothing more than an eye survey and the estimate was little more than a guess.

To short cut the system Binns engaged the services of an eminent surveyor John Brownrigg. Using old survey material that was prepared for a combined river/still water navigation in 1755 which ran roughly in the same direction as the proposed Royal Canal, Binns and Brownrigg carried out a quick eye survey between Dublin and Mullingar. Brownrigg then drew a map of the proposed line and estimated the number of locks, bridges and aqueducts which would be required. It was not until the autumn of 1789 that Brownrigg undertook the first detailed survey of the whole of the pro-posed line.

Binns's approach to formulating the cost of the canal was equally bizarre. He enlisted the help of two contractors who had worked on the Grand Canal to whom he described the new canal as small, only 5' deep and 18' wide at the bottom and with their help, he managed to piecemeal together the estimate that was used with the Petition.

James McMahon one of these contractors estimated that he could cut the canal for £500 per mile in favourable ground and £800 per mile in less favourable conditions. Thomas Black, a stone cutter, estimated that he could build the locks for £900 each. On this information Binns based his estimate, without having carried out a proper survey, digging any trial holes or making any sections along the proposed route. It was without any doubt the first and one of the most serious mistakes made on the building of the Royal Canal.

Between the granting of aid to the Company and the enrolling of its charter on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1790 some alterations were made to its proposed route. It was proposed to run a branch line from Prospect (where Dakota Factory now stands) across Dorset Street and Bolton Street. However this branch had to be abandoned when it was discovered that the valuation of the land rose considerably when it was learned of the coming of the canal. The new route chosen was to run from Prospect through Phibsborough and terminate at

Broadstone It was this line that was eventually built. The first headquarters of the Company was also in Broadstone in a house that they had purchased from Mrs. Meredith for £1,500. The house (part of which still stands) was later converted to the Company's first hotel.

Just prior to the commencement in December 1789 the Company engaged the services of Richard Evans, an engineer, who up until then had worked for the Grand Canal Co. Although he had full responsibility for the building of the canal he was only employed on a part-time basis. He was also employed as engineer on the Boyne Navigation while working on the Royal Canal. Much of his time was spent preparing working drawings for the bridges and locks and most of his on-site work was taken up with levels and laying out sections on the main line, leaving little or no time for supervision. Evans did not take up full-time employment with the Royal Canal Company until Sep-tember 1792.

In the British canal building system it was usual for the Company to appoint a Chief Engineer and also at least one Resident Engineer on a canal the size of the Royal Canal. The Chief Engineer prepared drawings, plans and sections of the proposed line, which he then passed to the Resident Engineer who supervised the building of the waterway. Although John Brownrigg was employed as a surveyor by the Company, in practice he carried out the duties of chief engineer, having surveyed the line, laid out parts of it and he also drew some sections of it. Evans therefore assumed the role of resident engineer who in theory should have been available at all times to supervise the on-going construction of the canal. However as previously described he was not always available and consequently the four mile stretch between the Liffey and Ashtown, where the major portion of the work was constructed during his part-time employment, suffered drastically. In his absence the day-to-day supervision of the work was performed by supervisors. This arrangement proved most unsatisfactory and while the work proceeded rapidly it was of a poor standard.

The lack of constant supervision by an engineer created major problems. Firstly the contractors employed to build the locks and bridges produced poor quality work, often using inferior materials. The supervisors selected by Evans were negligent of their duties and failed to identify and report on serious problems which occurred at an early enough stage to have been rectified. Practically all the masonry work on the bridges and locks carried out by contract had to be demolished and re-built or at the very least needed remedial work to rectify them. A typical example of such work was the bridge built at Summerhill. Here the contractor was allowed to proceed with the work although it was not being built in accordance with the drawings and specifications. It was intended that the Ashlars on the stonework were to be from 8 inches to 12 inches and the bonds to be 16 inches to 20 inches. However when the bridge was completed it was discovered that many of the stones had no bond at all and the whole weight of the arch rested on a single ashlar the scantling of which measured something less than three-quarters of an inch and consequently caused the bridge to collapse resulting in the death of four men.

*To be continued*

***Don't miss next month's instalment in the April 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.**

## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Another month gone by and no sign of any light at the end of the tunnel but we live in hope. For the second year in succession the St. Patrick's Day Parades have been cancelled so we can only show you a photo from the Maynooth Parade in 2013 where we unveiled our spanking new uniforms to the public for the very first time. The uniforms have been much admired since, especially the Royal Blue Waistcoats which we use for indoor recitals and also outdoors when the weather is agreeable.

Our thanks to Declan Kennedy of Brady's Bar & Lounge for his very kind donation of €1,440 which will be a huge help towards the cost of our Band insurance due next month.

Despite all the restrictions we remain positive and have a number of events planned as soon as we get the green light. In addition we hope to introduce new music classes for children up to and including 18 years of age with fully qualified tutors on brass, reed and percussion instruments. These will be open to both beginners and those with some experience with the opportunity to progress to the Senior Band when ready. With the lockdown we are unable to work indoors but we are enrolling at the minute so that we are ready to begin as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

For those interested please send your name with full details and a preferred instrument if you have one by email to [sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie](mailto:sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie) or call 087 2537 906 for all the details, we would love to have you play with us.



**St. Mary's Band playing in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Maynooth on the 17th March 2013 wearing their new uniform**



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## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



### Flooding at the Harbour Field

At the February MD Council meeting, Cllr Feeney asked the Council to address the flooding issue at The Harbour Field, Maynooth caused by the New Road blocking the drainage from the Harbour Field to the town side of the New Road. The Council replied stating that during excessive rainfall some ponding occurs on the northern end of the field, which dissipates as the weather improves. They added that this issue existed prior to the installation of the new road and was not caused by the road and that perhaps it has become more evident as footfall through this area has increased with the installation of the roadway. The Municipal District Office stated that it has no plans at present to undertake any works but will monitor the location to ensure it has not deteriorated. Cllr Feeney argued that it was less of a pond and more of a lake and that there was never any flooding like this prior to the new road being built through the harbour field. She added that those of us who live in Maynooth could confirm this fact. The flooding is now for the full length of the new road and that the Council did extensive drainage on the town side of the road (and it is very visible). However, Cllr Feeney said that the drainage from the field side of the road to the town side of it was blocked off with the construction of the new road and asked that they unblock the drainage under the new road. The area engineer replied saying that he will examine the issue and if it is not too big a job it will be done but if it is a big job, it will wait until the revamp that is due to happen to that whole area of the Harbour Field.



### Visitor Parking Permits:

Cllr Feeney called on the Council to consider allowing unused 2020 visitor parking permits to be used in the current year, when the current period of COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Given the year that 2020 was and the year that 2021 is, we are all mindful of the importance of keeping connected with family and supports so Cllr Feeney asked the Council to meet residents half way on this matter. The reason for this request is that if residents use even one permit from a book (each book contains 10 permits) the book won't be replaced, as it has to be a complete book. Given the exceptional year we had in 2020, not many visits were allowed under restrictions, so residents may have unused 2020 permits. Cllr Feeney welcomed the fact that the Council has said that if visitor parking permit application forms are accompanied with unused passes they will be reimbursed or taken off the cost of a new book.

### Signage at entrance to Laurence Avenue

Cllr Feeney called on the Council to install a stop sign line for traffic coming into Laurence Avenue from the Celbridge Road, Maynooth. The Council informed Cllr Feeney that the criteria for the implementation of statutory signing and lining measures, the introduction of stop lining/signage is not generally used in estates and that if a substantial accident history is recorded at a junction in an estate their introduction may be considered. The Municipal District Office is not aware of any accident history at this location and as such the installation of a stop line is unwarranted. Cllr Feeney responded stating that this is an increasingly busy route used as a short cut, off the very busy Celbridge Road and that it has got busier due to the schools on the Celbridge Road, many motorists turn to the right without any indication that there could be traffic coming from the left, it is a real blind spot. Cllr Feeney added that since a temporary access through Laurence Avenue was created to allow school children and parents walk through the estate and reduce the number on the

Celbridge Road, this has added to the volume of young children traversing the estate. For this reason, Cllr Feeney requested that consideration be given to a 'Children at Play' sign as this is a huge issue for public safety, Cllr Feeney said we do not want to wait until an accident happens here to do something and she is happy to see the safety signage in place now (photo opposite).



### Yellow Box on the Straffan Road barely visible

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to upgrade the existing yellow box on the Straffan Road, Maynooth at the Celbridge Road Junction, outside the Maxol Service Station as it has faded (photo below). The Council replied stating that "in accordance with Kildare County Council's Criteria for Implementation of Statutory Signing and Lining Measures, the provision of yellow boxes is reserved for road junctions where static traffic at the junction is affecting efficient cross flow of traffic. A yellow box is not appropriate for an individual entrance. The location the Councillor refers to is for allowing egress from the service station and as such is not allowed for under this policy. The Municipal District Office has none the less observed this location on numerous times to monitor the traffic flows and there is very limited restriction of flows from the garage, no restriction to through flow at the junction and the renewal of the markings is unwarranted". Councillor Feeney said this begs the question why was the yellow box warranted in the first place? She added that the reason the traffic is flowing is that there is still a faint semblance of a yellow box, which is not to facilitate the service station but to facilitate the motorists availing of the service. Cllr Feeney asked the area engineer to continue to monitor the situation and revert back as needed.



### Update on Canal Lights

The public lights installed three years ago at the town side of the Canal Walk have finally been activated. It felt like Christmas all over again on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The eleven lights were installed three years ago and had not been switched on so Cllr Feeney has been working on getting this sorted since last October with motions and questions at the Council MD meetings, it seemed to have been passed back and forth. The certificate for the lights had lapsed and needed a new application to be completed. Then a faulty isolator had to be replaced. Cllr Feeney says that it makes such a difference to the area and is much safer for commuters but also for those walking or jogging along the canal.



### Speed Limit Review Submission

Cllr Feeney attended a workshop facilitated by the Transportation Roads and Public Safety Department of KCC and its interpretation of the Road Traffic Act 2004, Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland

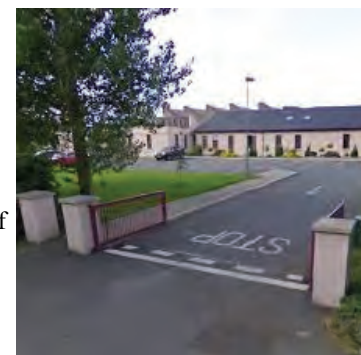
(2015) and Circular RSD 01/2015. The use of the Guidelines for the Setting and Managing of Speed Limits in Ireland (2015) is a legal requirement on Kildare County Council in assessing and implementing the Speed limits zones in Kildare. The views of all councillors were sought. The Review will be presented for public consultation in the coming months. Cllr Feeney has made the following observations on the proposals presented to date:



1. The proposal for the road from The Pikes Bridge to the Celbridge Road (R405), to be increased from 60km to 80km is not acceptable. In fact, at recent MD meetings, Cllr Feeney has asked for a reduction in the speed limit on this increasingly busy road used to bypass Maynooth town centre traffic; the road has no footpath or cycle lane and is also used by many walkers and cyclists as it is near the Canal walking route. Increasing the speed limit to 80km is totally inappropriate. Cllr Feeney would request a review of this proposal and reduce the speed limit to 40/50km max.
  2. Equally, Cllr Feeney would ask that the proposed increased speed limit along the Dunboyne Road from 60km to 80km should be reconsidered, another increasingly busy road with more housing developments and near a primary school.
  3. That Jake's Law be fully implemented in all housing estates in the county.
- Cllr Feeney welcomes the speed limit reduction from 80km to 50km on the Moyglare Road, especially with the opening of the new Maynooth Education Campus.

### Update on the MPPS vacated site

Cllr Feeney continues to pursue the proposal to use part of the vacated Maynooth Post Primary School building for community activities. Given that the school's Assembly Hall was financed by the efforts of the parents and staff, it makes great sense to retain these facilities for the town of Maynooth. Cllr Feeney submitted a motion to the Council and also put forward the idea to KWETB. A dialogue has started with a formal letter sent from the Council to KWETB and Cllr Feeney understands that a consultant is to be appointed to address the issue of future use.



Cllr Feeney submitted the issue as an agenda item for KWETB Board on January 26th, requesting an update. The CEO responded stating that "while Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad is the priority for the ETB in terms of the future use of this property, we recognise that the facility is situated in a prime location in Maynooth and there is much interest in it from the local community. It is currently planned that Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad will be moving from Manor Mills to the Maynooth PP site. We are currently identifying any remedial works that may be required for the school building in order to ensure the building is fit for purpose for the use of the school from September 2021. Any requests for use of the building by 3rd parties will be reviewed by KWETB in consultation with the primary users, Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad, ensuring that the needs of the school are prioritised whilst also ensuring that it can bring added value as a community facility for Maynooth. The Executive would write to the Kildare County Council to confer such information in response to their correspondence".

(Continued on page 19)





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



(Continued from page 18)

### New Fire Station for Maynooth

Cllr Feeney welcomes the news that Maynooth Fire Service has been allocated €3.5 million for a new station by 2022. A new fire appliance will also be received in the county during the 5-year plan. The new station will be located behind Lidl at Carton Court. This raises the issue of what use can be made of the vacated site of the current fire station near the harbour and train station in Maynooth. Cllr Feeney submitted a motion to Council in January 2019 asking for a Community Centre at the old site, as it is an ideal location and could incorporate a much-needed Community Crèche. At that time, the Council got back to Cllr Feeney saying that the fire station site was part of the larger Council area office site and that both are currently still in use and that there was at that time, no timeline for the vacation of the overall site but they did say that when there would be a definite timeline a decision would be made about the future use of the overall site.

Cllr Feeney added that now that we do have that definite timeline on foot of the funding announcement, the community centre plan can now be explored as a reality for Maynooth, because a community centre that has been long overdue for the town. Given that a community centre was part of the last Local Area Plan and we still do not have one, Cllr Feeney re-submitted her motion for the February MD meeting saying to the council that this site would certainly merit consideration because of its location and accessibility, right beside the playground and the Harbour Field amenity. The lack of community facilities for Maynooth is a major concern to everyone in the community and the lack of a physical building where activities can be accommodated is being felt and much of Maynooth's community and voluntary activities that operate from premises they do not own or have any long-term agreement in place, and they are depending on the good will of schools, Maynooth University, local hotels and pubs.

Senior Citizens, Parent and Toddlers Groups, Drama, Arts and Music Groups and a whole range of groups that would be too small to sustain a venue of their own but would be viable in the security of a Community Centre. This is an important issue for Maynooth and Cllr Feeney's hope is that it will be added to the Public Realm discussion to be had in the very near future. The Council's Director of Services agreed that such a facility is needed for Maynooth; she takes Cllr Feeney's suggestion on board and has promised to discuss the suggestion in full with the members.

### Planning for the future educational needs for our Town

Cllr Feeney submitted the following motion to full Council, January 25<sup>th</sup>, "That Council in liaison with the Department of Education and Skills inform members as to the current and projected capacity of schools in the county, particularly in those areas experiencing continuous population growth". The rationale for this motion, which received the support of other councillors and as Cllr Feeney stated at the meeting that in Kildare North, 27.6% of population is under 18 years of age, above the national average. Given the level of development currently taking place within the County and the development pressures associated with our proximity to Dublin, by 2031 county population projections are that we will increase from 222,500 to 266,500 so the motivation for this motion is to ensure that we are ready for that growth from an educational provision point of view from early childcare education to primary and on to post primary.

Cllr Feeney sought reassurance for the parents of babies born in 2021 that those children who, in the coming years will be looking for a place in a local childcare facility, then in a local primary and post primary school, that they will not experience the stress we have seen elsewhere in the country with a race for places. Cllr Feeney added that we do not want to be caught short and we need to proactively plan for those students now, not be caught on the back foot because demand for enrolments has been building in recent years, and it could be a ticking time bomb. There are more houses being planned and built and there are more plans for development in the pipeline. Cllr Feeney said that at recent Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs) planning applications presented to councillors planning Clongowes Wood College a private fee paying school was included in the number of available school places listed by the developer. Cllr Feeney sees the inclusion of a private fee paying school which is far from accessible to all or any the people moving as a joke. She also drew attention to a

particular area of concern is that of meeting Special needs students' requirements so that there are sufficient ASD places and we do not end up placing students with special educational needs in schools outside their communities which can increase their sense of isolation. Cllr Feeney asked why if the building of houses in our county can be fast tracked why can we not make sure that the necessary school places are available for the children who will live in those houses.

She cited the Department's website that divides the country into 314 school planning areas and uses a Geographical Information System (GIS) along with Child Benefit Data and the Department's own school enrolment databases, to identify where the pressure for school places across the country will arise. Cllr Feeney said she could not find that projected data but that it is good to see that the department also states that the process has been strengthened this year through enhanced engagement with local authorities in relation to the information on residential development incorporated in the analysis process which Cllr Feeney welcomed and the fact that the Council has been requested to nominate a point of contact to liaise directly with the Department of Education in order to progress the demographic exercise for 2021. Cllr Feeney asked if that point of contact has been decided and the executive confirmed that the acting Senior Planner is that designated person.

Finally, Cllr Feeney asked that the high level Infrastructure Audits mentioned in the report be made available to members when available as these will inform the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans across the County. Cllr Feeney asked that this important matter be retained on the progress report for Council and that the executive and the members continue to engage with the Department on the issue. Building sustainable communities is key.

### Successful bid for funding on Gender and Diversity in Local Government

At the October Council Plenary, a call was issued from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government offering financial support to local authority initiatives that would contribute towards the goal of increasing the presence of women and individuals from diverse backgrounds in Local Government leading up to the 2024 local elections and beyond. Cllr Feeney spoke on the matter and called on the Council to actively engage with the initiative and made suggestions such as piloting a mentoring/education programme with second level Transition Year students which is even more relevant now that politics is a subject on the Leaving Certificate programme, we could provide regular opportunities for women guest speakers to present at executive and council meetings as subject matter experts that build women's visibility and linking in with community groups which include many of our new citizens and women.

Cllr Feeney also stated that by putting a focus in the media on stories of women's experiences in local government, and building an online presence advocating female leadership and promoting local government councillors as role models of women's leadership, celebrating International Women's Day, we can raise awareness and engagement. Council agreed that Cllr Feeney should make a submission to this call by the deadline and a submission was made at the end of October. Cllr Feeney is happy to report that the application for funding was successful and the Department selected the following proposals from your local authority for funding: Mentoring Programme, Guest Speakers, Build an online presence advocating female leadership, A community engagement program linking in with minority groups, young people and women

### National Broadband Ireland Planned Improvements

National Broadband Ireland (NBI), the company rolling out the new high-speed fibre broadband network under the Government's National Broadband Plan (NBP) recently announced that surveying works in several areas of Kildare are well underway. The following areas in Kildare are being surveyed: Leixlip, Celbridge and Maynooth. Survey designs are an important part of mapping out how every home and business will be connected, and these will provide the blueprint for how the NBI fibre is laid. NBI's website [www.nbi.ie](http://www.nbi.ie) has a search tool to enable the public to check whether their premises is within the rollout area, and to show indicative dates for areas being surveyed. There is also a

facility to register for updates on this. Detailed designs for the fibre area network are drawn up following these surveys. NBI's contact centre can be reached at 0818 624624 (lo-call) or [contactus@nbi.ie](mailto:contactus@nbi.ie)

### County Development Plan-have your say!

Have your say on the Development Plan for our county! Really important to hear the views of all including children and young adults-they can get involved. Further information and how to make a submission by March 8th here: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/.../issues-paper-pre-draft...>



### Upcoming Motion submitted to Plenary Council on February 22<sup>nd</sup>

That Council issues a letter to the relevant government ministers calling for maternity and paternity leave for councillors.

### Meetings attended by Councillor Feeney since last newsletter:

December 4<sup>th</sup>: MD Council at 10.00 am (online)  
 December 10<sup>th</sup>: DART+ expansion update to Councillors at 10 am (online)  
 December 14<sup>th</sup>: Meeting with Bord na Mona at 12 pm (online)  
 December 15<sup>th</sup>: BOM of MPPS at 6 pm  
 December 16<sup>th</sup>: County Development Plan Briefing at 3pm (online)  
 December 21<sup>st</sup>: Council Plenary meeting at 3 pm (online)  
 January 8<sup>th</sup>: MD Council at 10 am (online)  
 January 11<sup>th</sup>: Maynooth Community Council at 8pm (online)  
 January 13<sup>th</sup>: KWETB Audit and Risk Committee at 2 pm (online)  
 January 20<sup>th</sup>: KCC Speed Limit Review Workshop at 4 pm (online)  
 January 21<sup>st</sup>: KCC Twinning Liaison Committee Meeting at 11.30 am (online)  
 January 21<sup>st</sup>: KCC Finance Committee meeting at 2 pm (online)  
 January 25<sup>th</sup>: Council Plenary at 3pm (online)  
 January 26<sup>th</sup>: KWETB Board meeting at 10 am (online)  
 February 4<sup>th</sup>: KCC's Strategic Policy Committee at 2pm (online)  
 February 5<sup>th</sup>: Joint Policing Committee at 9 am (online)  
 February 5<sup>th</sup>: MD Council at 10 am (online)  
 February 8<sup>th</sup>: First BOM Gaelcholaiste Mhaigh Nuad (online)  
 February 8<sup>th</sup>: Maynooth Community Council at 7pm (online)  
 February 11<sup>th</sup>: BOM MPPS at 5pm (online)  
 February 11<sup>th</sup>: Launch of Biodiversity Action Plans for Kildare 7.30 pm (online)  
 February 18<sup>th</sup>: County Development Plan Briefing for Members at 2pm (online)  
 February 22<sup>nd</sup>: Plenary Council Meeting at 3pm (online)  
 February 23<sup>rd</sup>: KWETB Board at 9.30 am (online)  
 February 24<sup>th</sup>: KWETB Audit and Risk Committee at 2 pm (online)





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

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

**Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)**  
289. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht the amount of funding that has been allocated for the installation of a swimming pool by Kildare County Council at the Maynooth University campus. [44904/20]

Jack Chambers (Dublin West, Fianna Fail)

No funding has been allocated by my Department for the project referred to by the Deputy.

The Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) was launched in 2018 to provide Exchequer support for larger sports facility projects including swimming pools with €100m being made available over the period to 2027.

An application was received from Kildare County Council for design funding towards a new swimming pool at the Maynooth campus with €1m sought. All applications under the LSSIF were assessed in accordance with the published scoring criteria and provisional allocations totalling €82.4m for 32 projects were announced last year. Of these 32 grants, 8 swimming pool projects were awarded funding.

The total funding applied for under the scheme significantly exceeded the amount available to allocate and the swimming pool project in Maynooth did not score sufficiently highly to be awarded a grant under this set of allocations. All unsuccessful applicants were however, given the opportunity to appeal the Department's decision if it was felt that an error was made in the assessment process and an appeal in this regard was received from Kildare County Council. All appeals have now been assessed by officials who were not involved in the initial assessment process and a final decision on the LSSIF appeals will be made shortly.

While it is not proposed to open the LSSIF for new applications at present, I have asked my officials to review progress on existing grants this year when the question of whether it would be appropriate to seek new applications or award additional grants will be considered.

### **SocDems' motion seeks scrutiny of CETA and Investor Court System by multiple Oireachtas committees**

The Social Democrats have this week submitted a Dáil motion calling for CETA and the Investor Court System to be scrutinised by all relevant Oireachtas committees, not just one.

The motion states that given the breadth and scope of CETA, there are potential implications for various issues, including workers' rights, labour standards, food safety, agriculture and even on our democracy. The motion makes several calls, including the need for rigorous scrutiny and for debate to be facilitated by all relevant Oireachtas committees.

The party believes that to limit the scrutiny of this far-reaching and intergenerational decision to a single Oireachtas committee will not meet the bar required for a full and proper debate on the issue. The motion also outlines growing public concern over the contentious Investor Court System and its potential to reduce our capacity to respond to climate change through the regulatory 'chilling effect', noting that energy companies would be the ones most likely to resort to this mechanism. As well as enabling all relevant committees to scrutinise CETA, the Social Democrats are also calling for a Dáil debate on the remaining aspects of the trade deal, in particular the Investor Court System, in advance of any vote.

They are calling for the Government to carry out a risk analysis of CETA before any final ratification of the ICS provision is applied.

Social Democrats spokesperson for Climate Action and

Biodiversity, Jennifer Whitmore TD, said:

"We have written to the Taoiseach and each Joint Oireachtas Committee seeking support for this proposal before any further ratification of CETA is voted on. The public want a thorough debate on this complex, intergenerational trade agreement and they deserve, at the very least, for their public representatives to scrutinise this in full."

### **Government assumption that international travel is low-risk does not stand up to scrutiny.**

There is broad public acceptance that enforceable quarantine measures are required to keep other variants of Covid-19 out of the country, according to Catherine Murphy TD, co-leader of the Social Democrats.

Speaking in the Dáil today, Deputy Murphy told the Taoiseach that the Government seems to be operating on the working assumption that international travel is low-risk.

She said: "High profile non-compliance in relation to international travel is undermining broader compliance. There is a high degree of fear. People are not looking to punish other people – they are looking to be protected. That is why the focus is on international travel in relation to the other variants. There is a public understanding of those risks."

"The reality is that the UK and South African variants did not arrive into this country on a south-easterly – they came in on a flight or a boat. Other strains of the virus will arrive though these means too."

"Given that the UK variant is now the most dominant one in Ireland, where is the evidence that international travel is low-risk? Figures I recently received from the Minister for Health showed that 49% percent of passengers arriving into Ireland did not provide the authorities with an address, so where is the evidence of compliance?"

"There's an understandable desire by the public for the Government to keep the country as safe as possible. It is difficult to understand how changing quarantine requirements from advisory to mandatory can be enforced in homes."

"The starting point for the Government strategy seems to be what can't be done, with a reliance on the default position of rolling lockdowns."

### **Government's fingers-crossed approach to international travel is putting country at further Covid-19 risk.**

Co-leader of the Social Democrats, Catherine Murphy TD, has expressed serious concern at the high number of international passengers arriving in Ireland who are failing to provide a contact address, as required.

In reply to a Parliamentary Question from Deputy Murphy, the Minister for Transport confirmed that, between December 11 and January 3, 118,414 passengers travelled here by air, with a further 20,252 arriving by sea. Excluding passengers with exemptions, such as air crew, and those travelling onwards to Northern Ireland, just 51% confirmed their address to the Irish authorities on arrival.

Deputy Murphy said: "We are currently seeing people being fined for travelling beyond 5km without good reason, yet 49% of passengers arriving here from abroad faced no sanctions for not providing their address. This contrast has not been lost on the public."

"While none of us likes losing our freedoms or wants to see International travel restricted, it must be remembered that we are in the middle of a pandemic. Such levels of non-compliance are extremely high-risk and may prolong the current lockdown."

"The Government is continuing to take a fingers-crossed

approach to international travel and the lack of enforcement or supervised quarantine arrangement are matters of great concern. Passengers arriving here from the UK, South Africa and South America are simply being 'advised' to restrict their movements – but how can we be sure they are complying?"

"These risks have to be managed until the vaccine provides the protection needed for us to return to some semblance of normality."

"We also know that an all-Island approach to Covid-19 is needed, yet we are not providing the information that has been repeatedly sought from our Northern counterparts about passengers arriving into Dublin and then travelling across the border."

**For Written Answer on : 10/02/2021**

**Question Number(s): 285**

**Question Reference(s): 6352/21**

**Department: Housing, Local Government and Heritage**

**Asked by: Catherine Murphy T.D.**

### **QUESTION**

To ask the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the number of housing units that have been leased for social housing since 1 September 2020 to date; the locations of same in tabular form; the developer in each case; the number of units in each development; the length of time each lease has been agreed for; the cost of each; the number agreed in principle and not as yet finalised, respectively; the locations of each; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

### **REPLY**

To end September 2020, 722 homes were delivered under the Social Housing Leasing Programme in 2020. A breakdown of the delivery by location can be found on my Department's website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/6060e-overall-social-housing-provision/?referrer=http://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/social-housing/social-and-affordable/overall-social-housing-provision#social-housing-current-expenditure-programme-sheep>

Leasing delivery data for Q4 2020 is being collated at present and will be published as soon as that process is finalised. Details of the developer involved in each social housing leasing project are not held by my Department. That level of granular detail would be kept at local level. The total expenditure for leasing up to end 2020, together with the average cost and agreement length of a new unit in 2020, is set out in Table 1 below. There are some further claims due into my Department in respect of 2020 delivery.

**Table 1: Leasing Expenditure 2020**

Total 2020 Leasing Expenditure	Average Annual Leasing Cost (New Unit) 2020	Average Annual Agreement Length (New Unit) 2020
€78,342,768	€13,389	19.6 years

but have not yet been confirmed as delivered as part of the Department's quarterly statistical process. Additional homes may be delivered through the delegated sanction allowed to each local authority. A breakdown by Local Authority can be found in Table 2 below.

*(Continued on page 21)*





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

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

(Continued from page 20)

**Table 2: Approved for Delivery under Leasing from Q4 2020 to End 2022**

Local Authority	Total Leasing
Carlow	37
Cavan	18
Clare	41
Cork City	246
Cork County	71
DLR	191
Donegal	20
Dublin City	563
Fingal	132
Galway City	15
Galway County	49
Kerry	27
Kildare	330
Kilkenny	29
Laois	30
Leitrim	11
Limerick	119
Longford	15
Louth	97
Mayo	39
Meath	85
Monaghan	14
Offaly	57
Roscommon	13
Sligo	16
South Dublin	274
Tipperary	49
Waterford	42
Westmeath	57
Wexford	41
Wicklow	136
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,864</b>

**Housing estates in Kildare open under the restrictions due to deliver social housing .**

- **Loughlione, Kildare Town - 15**
- **The Paddocks, Newbridge - 16**
- **Kilbelin Abbey, Newbridge - 4**
- **Grand Canal Wood, Allenwood - 21**
- **Ledwill Park, Kilcock - 27**
- **The Vestry, Glebelands, Athy - 18**
- **Toberton Wood, Johnstown - 49**
- **Whitewell (Phase 1), Kilcullen Road, Naas - 25**
- **Whitewell (Phase 2), Kilcullen Road, Naas - 29**
- **Barnhall Meadows - 61**
- **Old Mill Race, Monasterevin - 9**
- **Hemmingway, Clane - 31**
- **Crockaun Way, Brownstown - 26**
- **Fitzgerald Close, Greenfields, Maynooth - 2**
- **Coolaghknock Green, Melitta Road, Kildare Town - 12**
- **The Willows, Allenwood - 4**

- **Temple Mills, Rathangan - 2**
- **Abbottfield, Clane - 4**
- **Jigginstown, Naas - 12**
- **Cluain Dara, Derrinturn - 2**
- **Bellingsfield, Kilcullen Road, Naas - 14**
- **Rathangan Manor - 4**
- **Leinster Walk, Kildare Town - 4**
- **Westfield, Leixlip 20**
- **Whitethorn Village, Jigginstown, Naas - 10**
- **Mariavilla, Maynooth - 5**
- **Oldgrange Wood, Monasterevin - 2**
- **Ryebridge, Kilcock - 7**
- **Nancy's Lane, Clane - 17**

**Total 452**

### Press statement

#### Sweetest Deal to ever fall on developers laps!

Figures obtained today by Catherine Murphy from the Minister for Housing; Local Government and Heritage Daragh O'Brien indicate a huge spend on social leased properties.

Nationally, €78,342,768 has been spent in relation to the number of houses acquired under the social leasing scheme.

The average spend per year on renting the new homes is €13,389.

The average length of the lease is 19.6 years.

It has been advised that to end September 2020, 722 homes have so far been delivered under the Social Housing Leasing Programme in 2020. Leasing delivery data for Q4 2020 is not yet available so we will need to review that once available.

There are currently 30 building sites open in Kildare delivering social housing projects with a projected delivery target of 462 units completed by end February. It is not clear how many are exclusively delivered under the social leasing programme but if so would cost:  
 $462 \times 13,389 = €6,185,718$  per year.  
 $462 \times 13,389 \times 19.6 = €121,240,072$  over the lifetime of the leases (averages out as per the table above.)

€164m is the entire annual budget of Kildare County Council.

"There are five pillars under rebuilding Ireland, it seems that delivery is happening only under one pillar. I have raised it in a number of fora that I would prefer to see the money spent on affordable homes."

"It's time we ask a serious question of the Department of Housing who are so intent on putting private developers first. We already know the Strategic Housing Development policy plays into developers' hands – but this continuous reliance on the private market to deliver a social need is unsustainable."

"My concern here is the lack of accountability and transparency in the decision-making process with regard to leasing and the absolute disregard for value for public money."

"After 25 years of public funds being diverted to leasing private houses, we hand back the keys to the developer. Tens of millions of euros will be pumped into a government housing policy that is more concerned with hitting targets than value for money, and also the lived experience of those residing in them."

"Orla Hegarty and Lorcan Sir published a piece in the Irish Times in November – they quote the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service who recently found that, in 2019, it cost six local authorities (including Dublin) an average of €230,000 to build a three-bed house. Some 80 per cent of the cost was hard

construction, including vat and fees."

"So, whilst the maths on leasing simply doesn't add up, neither does the management of leasing arrangements." "In a recent report received by me from Kildare County Council, it stated that the local authority is the decision maker, the Department of Housing sanction the agreements, but the Housing Agency are the custodians of the lease and then the builder still owns the units. You can be guaranteed tenants will be sent from pillar to post when issues arise."

This is a long term commitment to pay for expensive rentals and will not deliver a fix to the housing crisis. I think the government should immediately rethink this pillar and focus on quality of the method of delivery of purchased homes for working and low income families and offer realistic affordable housing. Many families apply to go on social housing lists as they are priced out of the market for renting and buying not because they want long term social housing.

We desperately need housing solutions but I am very concerned about the number of homes acquired under the social leasing scheme. I know the local authority are delivering on the options open to them but I do not see it as a good use of taxpayers money. It supports short term housing solutions but does not deliver a public good because the houses will never be owned. Paying for a short term fix for 25 years is a long term political commitment to developers. There are also maintenance contracts awarded with many estates.

The concentration of social leasing units in some estates in Kildare goes against government policy for sustainable communities.

It was confirmed to me by KCC that 61 new units in Leixlip will be delivered in one estate under the scheme. If we are spending this much money on homes, we should own them after 25 year lease terms.

Lease terms differ and this is storing up a huge housing deficit problem which we will still have to solve in 25 years. Meanwhile competing for the supply of homes on the market exacerbates the issues for other working families that need homes.

The delivery of social housing in each estate should be a defined percentage of units fully handed over under Part V. How do we know this is happening .

If the average national figures are applied to the estate - as above

$61 \times 13,389 = 816,729$   
 $61 \times 13,389 \times 19.6 = 16,007,888$  - over the lifetime of the average national lease.  
 That's 16 million in one estate

The prices of homes in that estate go from 320,000 (2 bed) to 400,000 (3 bed)

16mil would buy you 50 houses on the open market (2 bed) or 40 (3 bed)

The developer should already be giving 20% for social housing, how is this delivered? There are more questions Proposed units from qtr 4 2020 to 2022 is 2,864 units

$2,864 \text{ units} \times €13,389 \text{ annual rent} \times 19.6 \text{ years} = €751,583,481$ , over three quarters of a billion euros.

For houses at 320k would get you 2,277 houses  
 For houses at 400k would get you 1,878 houses  
 If you built them at 180k would get you 4,175 houses  
 I have seen in recent times a focus on delivery of leased units as opposed to purchased units.



## Birdwatch Ireland Kildare Branch

With the lengthening daylight hours our mood is lifted as we can take our exercise and enjoy the fresh air and our winter birds both domestic, and those who visit Ireland for the Winter only. Soon those winter visitors will start to make their way to their breeding grounds and our Summer visitors will arrive.

### Walks & Talks:

Up until February 2020, it was customary for Birdwatch Ireland Kildare Branch to hold monthly events. Talks in the Town House Hotel, Newbridge Road, Naas, on the second Thursday of the month, and walks or outings the second Saturday of the month.

Sadly these events had to be postponed Spring and Summer 2020.

There was one moment of respite in September 2020, when a walk was held in Ballynafagh lake, under strict guidelines for holding outdoor events according to Covid-19 Government guidelines. Social distancing, face masks, hand sanitising, no sharing of binoculars and telescopes, and a group maximum of 15, with places requiring pre-registration, were all adhered to on the day.

Those who attended were delighted to get the chance to mix and mingle with others than their immediate family, for the first time in months, in those delightful surroundings, and the weather was kind to us, with bright sunshine all morning. (see photo)



### Wings Magazine:

Wings magazine is a quarterly publication of Birdwatch Ireland and is delivered to paid up members. Wings contains articles of the highest quality about bird and birding in Ireland, and is always eagerly anticipated. The Winter 2020 edition is no exception, and it is also the 99th number to be published, so Spring 2021 will be a milestone edition namely the 100th edition. Read from cover to cover, and keep them archived for future reference. I remember a time when there was almost nothing published about Irish birds.

The front cover of the Winter 2020 edition, has a photograph of a siskin on it, and those who are feeding birds in their gardens may well be fortunate enough to have siskins come to feed, particularly on nijger seed, together with the goldfinches.

The siskin is a nice addition to the garden birds survey, and usually comes to garden bird feeders in the latter part of the survey, which this year, ends the last week of February 2021.



### Birds and cold weather:

Birds are survivors. They are adapted to live in certain environments, eat specific foods, nest in extraordinary locations, and then are able to move house twice a year when required, often travelling thousands of kilometers on migration.

This cold snap we are experiencing, coming as it does at the end of a cold and wet Winter, is another hurdle for birds to surmount. The link below is a short screencast about "Birds and cold weather". I hope you enjoy it.

<https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/crnXF1Sreg>



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



## St Patrick's Day Poster Hunt



Kildare Communities 4 Climate Action are organising a poster hunt in towns throughout Kildare.

17th -21st March.

Find the posters - complete the challenge and be in with a chance for a prize. For more details see <https://kildarecommunity4climateaction.blogspot.com/> Or contact us on [kildare4climateaction@gmail.com](mailto:kildare4climateaction@gmail.com)



### Kildare Communities 4 Climate Action is organising a St Patrick's Day Poster Hunt.

As there will be no St Patrick's Day Parades this year due to Covid 19, the group thought it would be a fun and safe community event to have in the towns across the county. The posters will be displayed inside shop or business windows in the towns of Kildare or in smaller villages may be in house windows.

Each of the 12 posters have a Nature, Biodiversity or Climate Action theme. The hunt includes a challenge; on each poster we have included a picture of a native Irish bird, plant or animal.

Families, children, individuals have to identify the bird/plant/animal in the picture (we have provided hints) and put the first letters of all the pictures together in poster number order to make a word. We are asking you to send in your entries to us to enter a raffle to win a prize.

We will have a prize for each town that is hosting the Poster Hunt. For full details of the towns involved and any updates check our blog <https://kildarecommunity4climateaction.blogspot.com/> or email us on [kildare4climateaction@gmail.com](mailto:kildare4climateaction@gmail.com)

### Unexpected Gifts

We reckoned it an eyesore,  
a pole supporting three high-tension  
wires  
above our bungalow's back garden,  
but as days and weeks slipped by,  
perched on the wires like music  
notes,  
starlings, finches, house martins,  
swallows...

This change of mind prompts a re-  
view of other things:  
that time we left the town where we  
had raised  
five bright-eyed children to settle in  
another  
without a castle or university –  
regrets until new prospects dawned:  
a theatre, Cúpla Focal <sup>1</sup>, LitLab<sup>2</sup>.

And there's a bigger change before  
that one,  
leaving the pioneer world of rein-  
vention

beyond the western ocean, where I  
had  
overcome past failures, grown in  
confidence,  
to seek a more fulfilling job back  
east  
with, salary apart, a storm-proof  
life.

Now, in my ninth-decade, there  
looms the final change:  
a farewell to the world of living  
things.  
I think of bosom friends, once  
brimmed with life,  
who one by one passed to the great  
unknown  
and trust, despite doubts born of  
reason,  
they will await me in some realm to  
come.

<sup>1</sup> an oral Irish group

<sup>2</sup> a literary group

P.G. Nerney



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- \* Environmental Concerns
- \* Employment Concerns
- \* Covid - 19 related queries



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**Stay safe everyone.**



**Happy St Patrick's Day to all our Advertisers,  
Contributors and Readers**







## Preasráiteas ó Ghaeilge Nuada 26 Eanáir 2021

Is Grúpa pobail nua é Gaeilge Nuada a bunaíodh chun Gaeilge agus cultúr na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn i gceantar Bardasach Maigh Nuad trí dhaoine le spéis sa teanga, beag beann ar a gcumas, a chur i dteagmháil lena chéile. Tá sé i gceist againn imeachtaí sóisialta agus spráit a eagrú do dhaoine fásta agus do pháistí chomh maith le hardán a thabhairt do na grúpaí agus eagrais seanbhunaithe ar fad atá sa cheantar a n-imeachtaí Gaelacha a fhógairt in aon áit amháin.

Ba bhreá linn plean teanga don cheantar bardasach Mhaigh Nuad a chur le chéile chomh maith a chuirfeadh leis an bPlean don Ghaeilge atá ag Contae Chill Dara. Is é sprioc an ghrúpa ná an pobal áitiúil le spéis sa Ghaeilge agus cultúr na Gaeilge a

chruinniú le chéile agus gréasánú a eascú agus imeachtaí a eagrú. Is féidir le gach duine gur spéis leo spriocanna 'Gaeilge Nuada' a chomhlíonadh a bheith mar bhaill den ghrúpa.

Tá ár leathanach facebook agus cuntas twitter beo anois agus cuirimid fáilte romhaibh iad a leanúint agus iad a roinnt chun eolas faoin ngrúpa nua seo a scaipeadh.

Tuigimid go maith go bhfuil go leor grúpaí eile sa cheantar atá ag obair go dícheallach ar son na Gaeilge agus táimid ag súil go mbeidh deis againn obair le roinnt acu amach anseo.

Beidh ár gcéad ócáid, ócáid fhíorúil ag tarlú le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge. Ócáid saor in aisce a bheidh ann chun ár ngrúpa pobail a sheoladh go hoifigiúil. Déanfar cur i láthair ar stair na Gaeilge sa cheantar agus ar cad as a dtáinig Gaeilge Nuada ar an oíche agus baileofar eolas faoi na himeachtaí a mbeadh spéis ag an bpobal go n-eagrófaí sa cheantar amach anseo.

Ní neart go cur le chéile!

*Gaeilge Nuada is a new community group established to promote the Irish language and culture in the Municipal Area of Maynooth by connecting everyone with an interest in the language, regardless of their*

*ability. We intend to organise social and fun events for adults and children as well as provide a platform where all the other local and long established groups can advertise their Irish language events in one place. We would also like to produce a language plan for the Maynooth municipal district that would be added to the Irish language plan in County Kildare.*

*The objective of this group is to gather the local community with an interest in the Irish language and culture and to serve these people by facilitating networking and by organising events. Everyone interested in fulfilling the objectives of Gaeilge Nuada can become a member of the group.*

*Our facebook and twitter account are now live so please like and share in order to help us spread the word about our new group.*

*We are very much aware that there are lots of other groups in the area working diligently on behalf of the Irish language and its culture and we hope to get the opportunity to work with some of these in the future.*

Feel free to contact me, Póla Ní Chinnsealaigh (Cathaoirleach / Chairperson) on 087-642022  
Is mise le meas,  
Póla



## St. Patrick's Day Festival Six Great Virtual Days & Nights

The National St. Patrick's Festival returns in 2021, running from March 12th to 17th inclusive. The presentation of this year's Festival will be through 'SPF TV', a St. Patrick's Festival TV Channel, which will be located at [www.stpatricksfestival.ie](http://www.stpatricksfestival.ie) and will be accessible globally.

A rich and dynamic programme of Festival events, created by hundreds of artists, musicians, performers, makers, creators, arts and live events workers and community organisations across Ireland, will run on the St. Patrick's Festival TV online channel over six days and nights, marking our national day and offering a joyous and uplifting celebration of Ireland's contemporary culture and traditional heritage.

Through SPF TV, the world is invited to take a front row seat at St. Patrick's Festival 2021, connecting our family of 80 million across the globe through music, theatre, art, performance, poetry, storytelling, traditional arts, tours, street and building lighting and art installations and much more.

While we cannot gather on the streets for the St. Patrick's Festival Parade this March 17th, we are reimagining how we bring to life the heart and soul of the national Parade, through spectacle, marching bands, pageantry and ceremony, inviting our audiences to participate virtually and enjoy safely from their homes until we can come together again.

We are delighted to partner with RTÉ this year in developing the successful #RTÉVirtualParade initiative, and will be announcing details of this in the coming weeks. The RTÉ /SPF Virtual Parade will provide a fun and safe 'at home' parade alternative for all the nation to enjoy on March 17th.

Details on St. Patrick's Festival 2021, SPF TV and RTÉ /SPF Virtual Parade will be announced over the coming weeks.



Source: <https://stpatricksdays.ie>



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## Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 01/02/2021 to 24/02/2021 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
21216	Kildare County Council	The Society of the Divine Word	Moyglare Road, in the townland of Mariavilla, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	24/02/2021
21210	Kildare County Council	Eamonn O'Malley	25 Brookfield Avenue, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/02/2021
21208	Kildare County Council	Maynooth GAA Club	Maynooth GAA Sports Club grounds, (lands adjacent to Moyglare Hall), Moyglare Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/02/2021
21199	Kildare County Council	Mark & Aoife Kennedy	No. 5 Griffin Rath Manor, Maynooth , Co. Kildare	22/02/2021
21186	Kildare County Council	Emer Fallon,	Ballycurraghan, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	18/02/2021
21191	Kildare County Council	Moldovan Estates,	Bistro 53, Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	18/02/2021
21178	Kildare County Council	Jason and Julia Costelloe,	524b Newtown Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	17/02/2021
21171	Kildare County Council	Lisa & Robert Graham	284B Old Greenfield, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	15/02/2021
21166	Kildare County Council	David Carey	Ballygoran Road, Moneycooley, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	12/02/2021
21155	Kildare County Council	High Degree Developments Limited,	Railpark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/02/2021
21114	Kildare County Council	Harmony Solar Smithstown Limited,	Smithstown and Roosk Townlands, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	03/02/2021
21102	Kildare County Council	Yvonne McQuigg,	79 Silken Vale, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 E9F8.	01/02/2021
21101	Kildare County Council	Glenn Millar,	22 Kingsbry, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 T1F2.	01/02/2021
2198	Kildare County Council	Moldovan Estates,	Bistro 53, Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 D2T9.	29/01/2021
2197	Kildare County Council	Greenfield Shopping Centre Limited,	Greenfield Shopping Centre, Maynooth Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	29/01/2021
2174	Kildare County Council	Ann Lynch	22 The Lawns, Moyglare Abbey, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 F7T2	26/01/2021
2165	Kildare County Council	John & Alison Reilly	No. 9 Griffin Rath Manor (Townland: Moneycooley), Maynooth, Co. Kildare	22/01/2021
2166	Kildare County Council	Fergus & Kym Devereux	145 Kingsbry, Greenfield, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 A5D5	22/01/2021



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Devotion to the Divine Mercy  
Jesus I trust in You  
Will you help me  
"Where if not in the Divine Mercy can the world find refuge and the light of hope"

Saint Pope John Paul 11

**THE MIRACLE PRAYER**

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

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









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



**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

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

CLOVER  
GREEN  
GOLD  
IRISH  
MARCH



*Word Search*

D	H	N	V	X	C
L	S	E	H	M	L
O	I	E	S	A	O
G	R	R	P	R	V
B	I	G	Q	C	E
J	I	P	F	H	R

*St Patrick's Day Crossword*



Across:

1. The Capital of Ireland.
3. The color associated with St. Patrick's Day.
6. After it rains, a \_\_\_\_ forms in the sky.
8. A type of Irish dance.
10. I hope you always have good \_\_\_\_.

Down:

2. March 17th is \_\_\_\_'s Day.
4. You are lucky if you can find a 4 leaf \_\_\_\_.
5. How many colors are in a rainbow?
7. In what do leprechaun's store their gold?
9. People from Ireland.





Gardening with Kids

Activities for growing with children.

Gardens can be a great place to cultivate a meaningful and fun learning experience for children. It's a natural match.

Gardening can offer children an opportunity to learn the life cycle process, by which plants are grown, as well as responsibility, caretaking, independence, and environmental

awareness. Introducing children to gardening is a great way to increase their awareness of where food comes from and the importance of the environment in everyday life.

Bug Collection

What kid doesn't like collecting live bugs and butterflies? These wonderful kits are what your budding entomologist needs to gather, observe and learn about our insect friends, good and bad.

Watch them grow and let them go! The Insect Lore Port Bug is a lightweight and durable insect habitat that is designed with kid and critter comfort in mind. Made with soft and breathable nylon mesh, it pops open instantly when ready for use and will stand on a desk, table or countertop. Includes an attractive carrying case and belt clip for those big adventures.

Tools & Gloves

Get your children outdoors and playing in the dirt with the right-sized gear. Quality kids gardening tools that are built to last and gloves designed to fit small hands; everything young boys and girls need to get excited about growing flowers and food. And having their own "real" equipment is a great way to instill pride and teach caring for one's things. Make it a family activity... your little ones will love it.

Gardening Basics

One of the most important things to determine when **starting a garden** is the location. Ideally the garden should be placed in an area where it will receive maximum sunlight. It is also important to determine the soil quality of the area and assess what needs to be added to the soil - chemistry to maximize growth potential. The soil should be dug six to ten inches. Layering the soil with some kind of organic material will help to strengthen it. Drawing up a plan of the garden is another way to help make the most of the gardens potential. Tallest plants should be at the north end of the garden, while permanent plants should be on the sides. For those who don't have a lot of space to garden, containers are another option for growing plants. Containers can be made from materials such as plastic or clay, and must have adequate drainage to avoid root rot. Plants grown in containers should be planted in a **ready to use potting soil** and watered frequently. Some basic gardening tools to have handy are rakes, hoes, spades, trowels, and watering cans.

Make your beds

Make the most of the dry spells, or tarp soil to keep dry if the rain continues. Prepare vegetable beds by digging in compost or well-rotted manure. If you are planning to make a new area or to renovate a tired corner, remember the gift of well-prepared ground: new plantings will thank you for it.

Close in on weeds

If you haven't been tempted to do so already or you've been held back by the weather, wade into the beds to make the big clear-up. Work from boards to prevent compaction on heavy soil and use this as a chance to really get to know what's going on in the beds. Cut perennials close to the base to avoid jagged stems that will snare you later while weeding, and use this chance of getting in close to check for weeds.

This mulch I know

Mulch only on to clean ground, or you risk simply improving the quality of perennial weeds. Roses, soft fruit and perennials will benefit from a mulch of up to 5cm. It helps to hold in summer moisture and improves soil quality. Spread evenly over soil and up to the necks of the plants for a protective eiderdown to keep weed seeds in darkness and inactive.

Kindest cuts

If you haven't done so already, prune clematis, soft fruit, top fruit and hardy deciduous shrubs such as buddleia. Prune bush roses before mulching. Evergreens and Mediterranean shrubs such as rosemary should be left until the end of the month or early April, as a cold snap can set them back. **Santolina** can be cut to a tight knuckle late in the month to encourage new top growth but most evergreens resent being cut into old wood and should be pruned by no more than a third in any year.

Prune hedges hard

Elderly yew hedges can be renovated by judicious pruning. Cutting back all in one go is only successful if your hedge is in its prime and can take it. I prefer a more gradual approach, and March is the perfect month to prune hard - into old wood, to one side only. The top and the remaining side will "feed" the pruned wood, which will reclothe itself in the spring. Summer-cut the remaining hedge as usual but wait two years to cut the other side and the same again before cutting the top. Look after your hedges with feeding and mulching to encourage quicker regeneration.

Start to sow

Once the soil reaches 6C you can start to sow directly outside. Salad crops, rocket and broad beans can go in now with a cloche for protection, as can sweet peas.

Chit seed potatoes and plant the first earlies.

Line out shallot sets and onions. Cover rhubarb to make the most of the first new growth.

The new spears are like the first cut of grass, marking the growing season ahead of us.



Breakfast pizza

Servings: 4

Cooking time: 10-15 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 cup(5 oz.) all purpose or white whole wheat flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup non-fat Greek yogurt (not regular), drained if there is any liquid
- Handful baby spinach
- 2 ounces (1/2 cup) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 8 cherry tomatoes, sliced
- 4 large eggs
- 2 strips cooked centre cut bacon, chopped



Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 450F.Place a silicone liner on a large baking sheet or spray with oil if using parchment.
2. In a medium bowl combine with flour, backing powder and salt and whisk well.
3. Add the yogurt and mix with a fork or spatula until well combined.it will look like small crumbles.
4. Lightly dust flour on a work surface and remove dough from the bowl, knead the dough a few times until dough is tacky, but not sticky, about 20 turns (it should not leave dough on your hand when you pull away)
5. Divide into 4 equal balls about 3oz each.
6. Sprinkle a work surface and rolling pin with a little flour roll the dough out into thin ovals 7 to 8 inches in diameter and place on the prepared baking sheet.
7. Top with spinach, mozzarella and tomatoes, leaving the centre open for the egg. Gently break an egg the centre of each dough and finish with bacon.
8. Bake 10-12 minutes, until the crust is golden and the egg is set. Season with salt and pepper.
- 9.

\*\*\*\*\*

Irish potato pie

Preparation time:15 min

Cook time:55 min

Total time:1 hour 10 min

Ingredients:

1. 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
2. 4 tablespoons butter
3. 7 thick sliced bacon, chopped
4. 5 potatoes(4 large ones), peeled and sliced thin
5. 1 onion, peeled and sliced thin
6. 1 tablespoon fresh dill
7. 1/2 cup heavy cream
8. Salt and pepper
9. Chive for garnish



Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F .Place the thawed puff pastry in a 8-9 inch tart pan and crimp the edges. Remove the excess dough and piece it along the rim if needed to make the rim even in some places. Refrigerate the crust until ready to fill.
2. Place the butter and bacon in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté until the bacon is crispy then toss in the onions, followed by the potatoes and dill. Season with 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper. Gently stir 3-5 minutes, to mix the onions and potatoes and coat in bacon grease. (The potatoes don't need to be cooked through). Then spoon the mixture into the crust and drizzle with heavy cream.
3. Bake on the low rack in the oven for 35-45 minutes, until the potatoes are fork tender and the crust is golden. Rest for 10n minutes, then sprinkle with chopped chive and cut.







# FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

## Movies (2021) Preview Quiz



1. Downton Abbey's Hugh Bonneville will shortly be seen on screen as children's author, Roald Dahl in the dark drama To Olivia. How many versions of Dahl's famous novel Charlie and The Chocolate Factory have made it to the big screen?

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



2. Frances McDormand's upcoming movie Nomadland has Oscar buzz surrounding it, having already bagged prestigious awards at both Venice and Toronto film festivals. Which quirky Cohen Brothers movie earned McDormand an Oscar for Best Actress?

- a) *No Country For Old Men*
- b) *The Hudsucker Proxy*
- c) *Fargo*
- d) *The Big Lebowski*

3. The much anticipated and significantly Covid-delayed 25th Bond movie (Daniel Craig's swansong) No Time to Die won't hit cinema screens now till October this year. Name the actor making his Bond movie debut as the central villain.

- a) *Christoph Waltz*
- b) *Rami Malek*
- c) *Javier Bardem*
- d) *Tom Hiddleston*



4. The ever-youthful Tom Cruise returns as action hero Ethan Hunt, performing his usual death-defying stunts, in which immensely popular film series this year?

- a) *Kingsman*
- b) *Top Gun*
- c) *The Matrix*
- d) *Mission Impossible*

5. It will be a busy 2021 for the Scottish actor below with 3 of his movies potentially getting big screen releases. We will see him as Paul Newman in To Olivia; a Special Forces operative in the Andy McNab inspired thriller SAS: Red Notice; and the love interest of Indian superstar Priyanka Chopra in the remake of the German romantic drama Text for You. Name the actor in question.



6. Kenneth Branagh follows up his big-screen treatment of Murder on the Orient Express with another Agatha Christie potboiler Death on the Nile later this year. Which debonair and portly actor incarnated the moustachioed Belgian sleuth in a previous screen version of this luxury cruise liner mystery?

- a) *Albert Finney*
- b) *David Suchet*
- c) *Peter Ustinov*
- d) *Anthony Hopkins*

7. Ghostbusters: Afterlife is the long-anticipated sequel to cult classic Ghostbusters. It brings back the legendary original team of Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Sigourney Weaver for another ghouls-sliming adventure. Which Ghostbusting actor/writer member of that iconic group died in 2014?

- a) *Paul Rudd*
- b) *Harold Ramis*
- c) *Rick Moranis*
- d) *John Candy*



8. In Top Gun: Maverick, Tom Cruise dons the shades and flight jacket to reprise his most iconic role after thirty years. The Top Gun

sequel has been much-anticipated and a long time coming due to Covid interruptions. What other actor will make his return in the role of Iceman?

- a) *Michael Keaton*
- b) *Christopher Walken*
- c) *Val Kilmer*
- d) *Willem Dafoe*



9. The Kenneth Branagh-directed drama Belfast, based on his childhood experiences, opens this year with the notably starry cast of Judi Dench, Ciaran Hinds, Caitriona Balfe and Jamie Dornan front of screen. Which thriller TV series also set in Belfast made Dornan's name?

- a) *The Fall*
- b) *Harry's Game*
- c) *Hunger*
- d) *Bloody Sunday*

10. Stephen Spielberg reinventing the American street gangs musical West Side Story for modern audiences this December is a tantalising prospect. Apparently, Spielberg will stay closer to the Sondheim/Bernstein material than the original 60s film did. Which famous Hollywood star played the leading role of Maria in that classic movie?

- a) *Shirley Jones*
- b) *Barbra Streisand*
- c) *Natalie Wood*
- d) *Julie Andrews*



11. Name this charismatic actor who's currently making all kinds of waves in Netflix's Regency costume-drama romp Bridgerton. He's also in the running to be the next James Bond.

Answers to Quiz in  
April Online Newsletter



# BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



## Brady's Bar, Lounge & Restaurant

**Brady's will be OPEN for Tea, Coffee & Crepes from March 2021**

We look forward to welcoming all our customers back as soon as circumstances allow

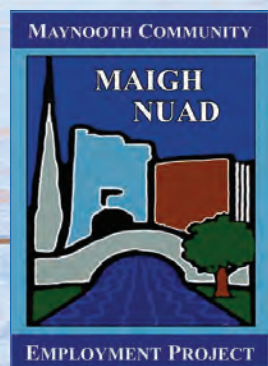
**Stay Safe & Well**

e-mail: [info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie](mailto:info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie) Web: [www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie](http://www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie) - Tel: 01-5054725

<https://www.facebook.com/BradysClockhouseB2/>

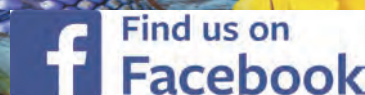






# Maynooth Newsletter

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

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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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## 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 Colhoun1 & Sinéad Cummins2

1 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,

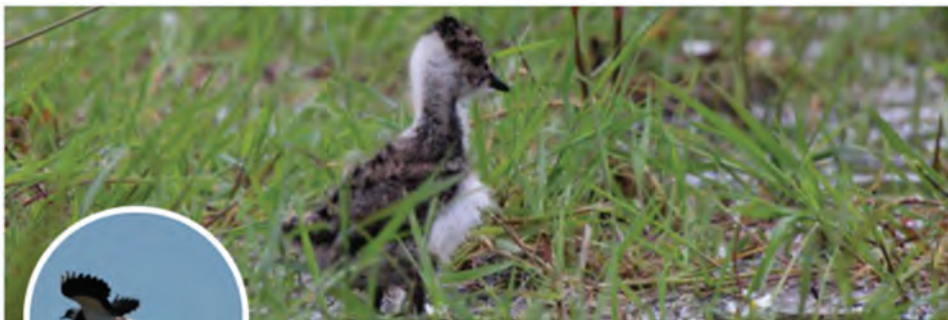
Belvoir Park Forest, Belfast BT8 7QT

2 BirdWatch Ireland, Unit 20, Block D, Bullford

Business Campus, Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow

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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>

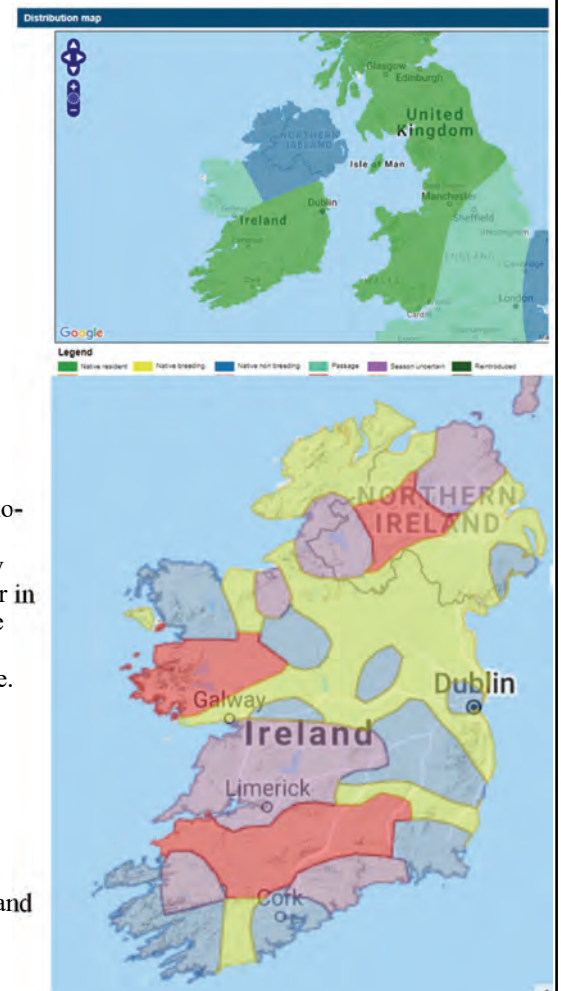
The distribution map below from "Xeno-canto" has some more detail as to the breeding areas in Ireland, and currently they do not extend to Kildare. However in the winter sightings of hen harrier have been noted in the county, even though they are notoriously difficult to observe.

<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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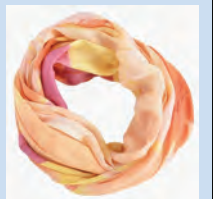


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Antoinette - Maynooth Dresses



### 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.

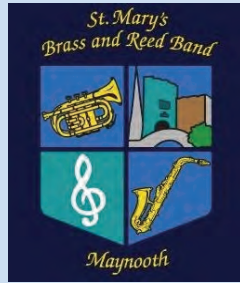
### PLC courses

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**

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 ? 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

<http://www.greyhoundderby.com/Fairyhouse%20Racecourse%20History.html>

Freemans Journal, 1851, 1858 (Irish Newspaper Archive)

<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 resume 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.

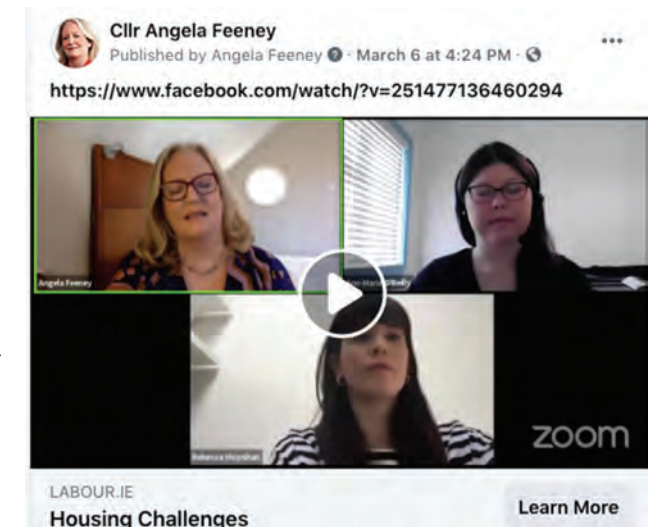
The Council and Maynooth University appealed that decision last September. So at the MD March meeting of the Council Cllr Feeney asked where that appeal was at. The director of services confirmed that there is still no response from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to that appeal. So Cllr 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.

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

### 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.)

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

(Continued from page 21)

### 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.



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- \* Social Housing
- \* Estate Issues
- \* Community Issues
- \* Environmental Concerns
- \* Employment Concerns
- \* Covid - 19 related queries



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**E-mail**



**Cllr. Angela Feeney**

**Tel. 087 238 1962**

**Email. [angelafeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelafeeney@gmail.com)**

**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 dianghlasáil 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 lathair 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 dianghlasáil 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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TO ALL OUR  
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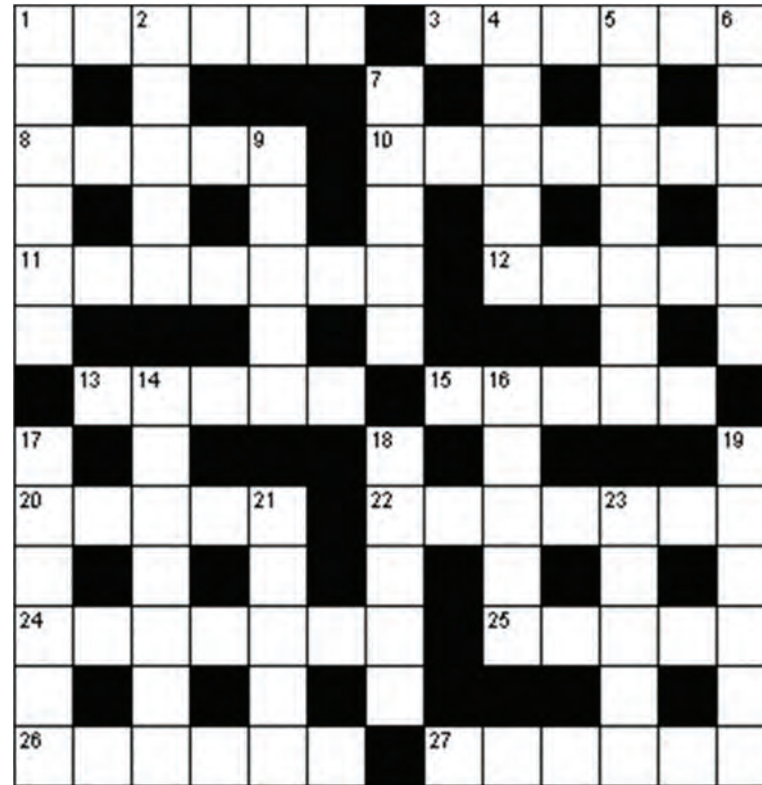
## Clues Across

## 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						

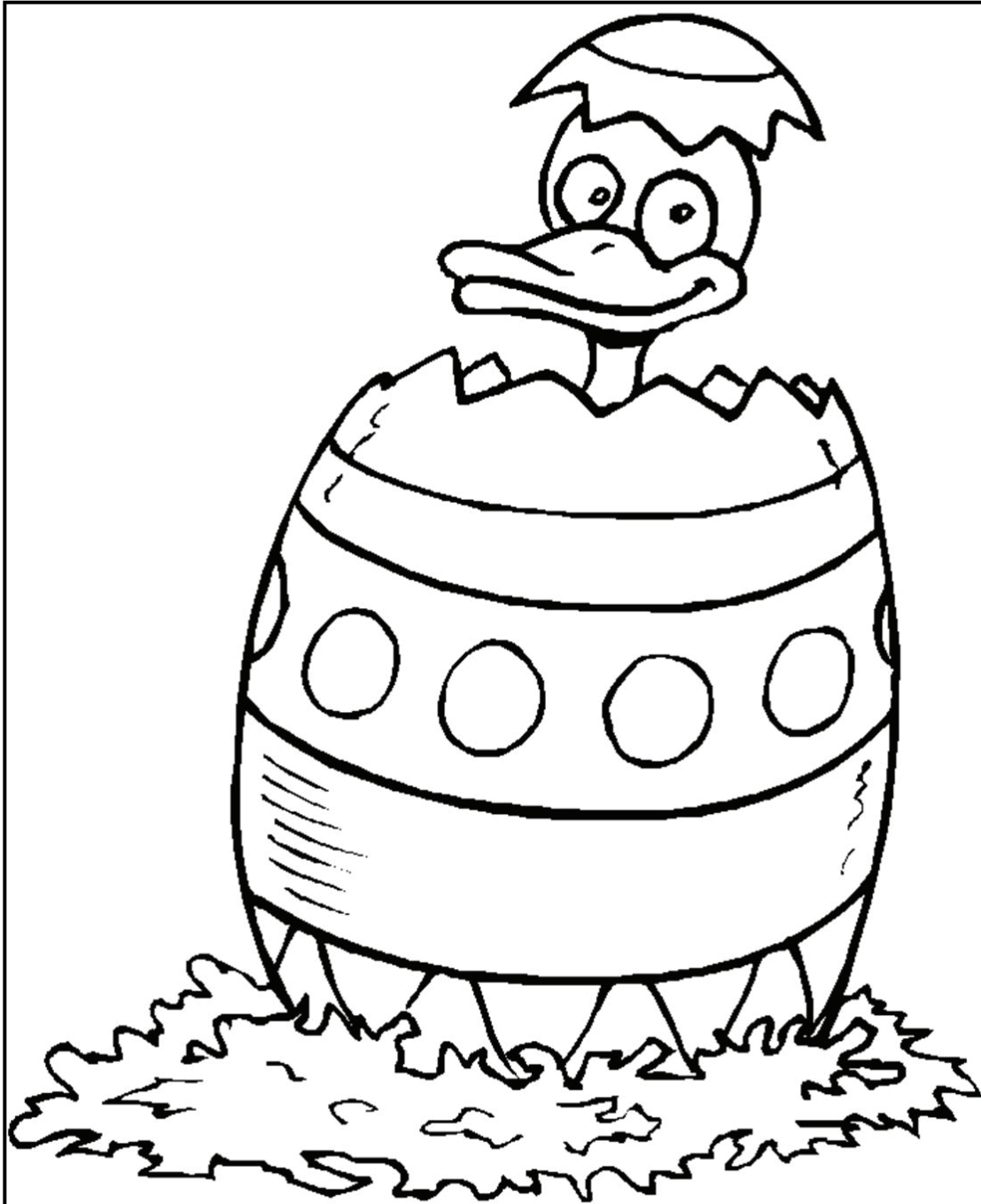




**Entries for the Colouring Competition have been suspended until further notice**



## 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.

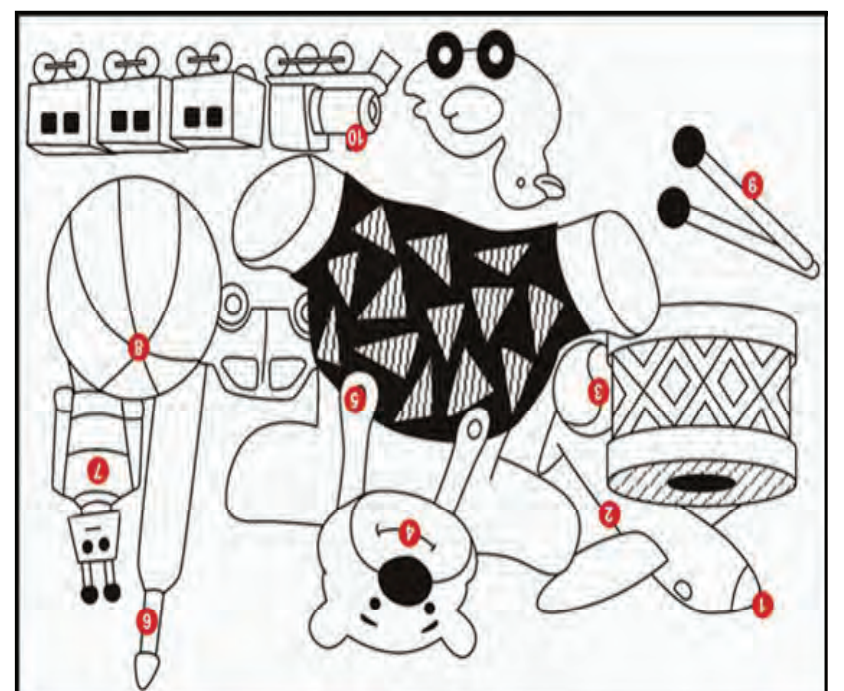
Be sure to avoid printing ALL the pages of the Newsletter unless you intend to do so.

## 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  
Could Get Housework Done**

## 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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<https://www.facebook.com/BradysClockhouseB2/>







# Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the people of Maynooth



Local News

May 2021

Issue No. 501

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**



## Mountjoy Prison and Maynooth University Partnership (MJMU) launched to promote access to education

19 April, 2021: The Mountjoy Prison and Maynooth University Partnership (MJMU) was launched today. The unique partnership promotes access to education and supports the reintegration of prisoners and former prisoners in society.

The research and work undertaken by the partnership will inform national policy on the rights of prisoners and former prisoners to education and employment, and it is also a forum to share best practice across the education and prison sectors. It builds on a collaboration with the City of Dublin Education and Training Board who are the primary providers of education within the Dublin Prison Service.

Speakers at the event include Minister for Further and Higher Education Simon Harris, Independent Senator Lynn Ruane, and President of Maynooth University, Prof Philip Nolan.

Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee T.D., said: "The Mountjoy Prison and Maynooth University Partnership shows that education transforms lives. Based on the values of respect, inclusion and diversity, the partnership makes education more accessible as a life changing opportunity for prison experienced people, empowering them to make informed choices and fulfill their potential."

The event featured words by Dublin writer, poet and spoken word artist Colm Keegan and finished with a recorded performance of the Auld Triangle by the Mountjoy Prison Inhouse Voices and the Solas Workplace Choir.

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris T.D., said: "One of my focuses since becoming Minister for Further and Higher Education has been engaging with the Irish Prison Service, Solas and education partners about improving the pathways from prison education to third level education."

"Across the country there are important partnerships being built and today is one of those. MJMU raises awareness of the benefits of such a partnership, not only to prison experienced people, but to the wider community. Educational opportunities should be for all, regardless of circumstances. Education is a right and I am so pleased to be here today to thank you for ensuring the doors of third level are open to all."

The event also included speeches by Director General of the Irish Prison Service, Caron McCaffrey, Mountjoy Prison Governor Eddie Mullins, and Professor Aislinn O'Donnell, Maynooth University Education Department.

Professor Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University said: "The MJMU Partnership fits with the mission, ethos and purpose of Maynooth University. At Maynooth, we believe that education is a right to which everybody should have access. But more

important than that, we believe that education is a great leveller. It is a way of bringing people together and making them more equal. It is key to addressing systematic inequalities in society and disadvantage."

The Narrative 4 Story Exchange Project was the first formal activity of the partnership. It was developed in partnership with Gaisce, The President's Award scheme, and worked towards building empathy and understanding. The project brings together young people in Mountjoy Prison's Progression Unit and young people studying in Maynooth University into Mountjoy Prison over the course of 6 months to work towards a Gaisce award.

MJMU also committed to running a series of lectures in Mountjoy to open up a broader range of academic experiences to inmates. The lectures were based on findings that those from under-represented backgrounds, including people with convictions, can sometimes find themselves funnelled into particular disciplines and careers such as sociology, social work, and addiction services. The lecture series thereby aims to provide a broader range of experiences.

The Unlocking Potential Project is another initiative by the partnership which provides a guide to the admission of people with convictions across the higher education sector. All of the partnership's work is guided by a Steering Group, whose membership is drawn from both organisations and includes a prisoner representative



Photo - L-R: Sarah Meaney Sartori (Research Manager College Connect), Dr Gemma Irvine (Vice-President of Equality & Diversity), Dr Seamus Taylor (Head of Applied Social Studies), Prof. Nolan (President of Maynooth University) & Dr Rose Ryan (Director of Access, Maynooth University Access Programme).



# Maynooth Newsletter

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

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## 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

May is here and we have got used to longer and brighter days. With the re-opening of some sectors of the economy in May following the reaction of Government to improved Covid 19 infection level, there is a real expectation that there will not be a return to full level 5 restrictions after already having months where almost the entire economy had been shut. While the national vaccination programme continues I am certainly noticing that many people I know are looking forward to summer.

There has been much comment locally and nationally about the levels of litter in areas such as the Harbour field in the centre of the town. It is not my place to lecture everyone on behaviour but I will appeal to people to think of the bigger picture and play your part in keeping the town clean and an attractive place to spend the time. Think of it this way, if you want to go down and enjoy the open space in the Harbour you would like to find the place clean when you get there.

Maynooth Community Employment Project (MCEP) maintain the environs of the Royal Canal as distinct from the Harbour Field which is cleaned by Kildare County Council. MCEP outdoor employees are back at work this month with the lifting of Covid restrictions. So the team are back maintaining the Harbour as well as Maynooth Town Soccer Club.

As we, hopefully, bring our children back to more outdoor activities maybe we should take a moment to consider the work that goes into providing these facilities and activities, mostly by volunteers and in our case our Community Employment Project. A lot of these groups will have struggled to raise funds in the normal ways during the pandemic. If we value these groups and the work they do it is as important to support them as it is to support our local business to get back on their feet.

Like the litter control and maintenance services in the Harbour area, provided by the Community Employment Project, unfortunately these services do not seem to be noticed until they are gone.

As I have said many times before the support provided through the Maynooth Community Employment Project is invaluable to the community as there is no alternative resources that can undertake the work they do. In addition and importantly the project provides work and upskilling through training opportunities for local people.

**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 24th May 2021**





Unfortunately not much happening with our Maynooth Tidy Towns group meet ups at the moment, we are waiting for the next announcement from government, but hopefully we can all get back out on our streets again in May. We have not met up officially since November 2020. Some of our volunteers have been out on our streets as private citizens picking litter every morning in the Harbour and Harbour Field. At the beginning of April we asked our volunteers to withdraw their services as we realised we have been doing the work of our council not just enhancing what they do. At a Maynooth MD meeting with Kildare County Council we were promised that 2 Industrial Bins would be installed in The Harbour Field but unfortunately at the time of writing this has not happened. Another motion has been put down for the April 26th meeting with KCC and we will wait with bated breath the outcome.



Thanks to everyone who has supported us over the last few difficult months especially those who have sent emails and contacted our local councillors and TDs. We just want more for Maynooth from our local authority but we fear that they are using volunteers to their advantage all over the county of Kildare.

It was with regret that we received Richard Farrell's resignation from Maynooth Tidy Towns Committee after more than 40 years service to the Community of Maynooth. We wish Richard and Mary much health, wealth and happiness in to the future. More about Richard and his contribution to Maynooth in the June edition of the Newsletter.

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more information about our activities. Please phone 0873153189

## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band



The Band are delighted to announce that we will be teaming up with Music Generation Kildare to deliver small group brass, reed and percussion classes for beginners starting next September. This exciting new initiative will offer young musicians the opportunity to choose from a range of instruments including trumpet, trombone, clarinet, flute, saxophone and percussion. There will also be an opportunity to learn French horn, Tuba and euphonium instruments which don't normally rate highly on the popularity list for beginners. We hope to bring all these musicians together as a Junior Band on a weekly basis in 2022 with the opportunity to progress to the Senior Band when they have reached a certain standard.

Applications can be made through our Facebook page, by email to: [stmarysbandmaynooth@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbandmaynooth@gmail.com). or calling 0872537906 if you require further information. The Senior Band have travelled to the USA, France, Germany and the UK in recent years so the opportunities to meet and play with international musicians are indeed endless. Please apply now to make sure you can share in this great experience.



### World of Dreams

There are tales told of girls so fair  
Their lands, though summertime were there,  
If once they left seemed sudden bare  
And warriors, high on chivalry,  
Would brook no frown of sky or sea  
But frenzied fought for self and king  
To repossess the wandering:  
With Trojan blood was Helen praised,  
For Deirdre's beauty Emain blazed,  
And Isolde in a tower still raised  
The hackles of a king;  
Yet never saw I such a one  
And thought that poets let fancy run  
To please the hungry ears of those  
Who meld the image of a rose  
Into a setting sun;

Then one day when rain washed clean  
This dream-webbed mansion, falsely seen,  
And glistening briars beside the lane,  
Wet weeds sharp outlined flat between  
Low myriad blades of mildest green  
And damp dark stones, distinctly plain,  
Proclaimed the simple earth again,  
When all these scenes of fresh delight  
Had chased the fevered dreams that blight,  
Leaving a dripping hazel screen  
You walked into the light,  
And milk of skin and sheen of hair  
So blossomed in my sight  
The sky, while cloudlets lingered there,  
Mirrored a rainbow sprite.

By Colin Scott

### HOPE

Through the Darkness & Despair  
Tears of sadness everywhere  
An eerie sound in the air  
Of empty streets & vacant stares

But together we can shine a light  
And win this furious but silent fight  
Although at a distance  
Together we stand  
With kindness & love  
Throughout the land

And where there is hope  
There is a way  
Each of us with a role to play  
And together again we will be one  
day

By GB

### Interesting facts about the month of May that you didn't know!

Source: [blastingnews.com](http://blastingnews.com)

A new month is with us; the month of the flowers, the fifth month of the year and also, the month in which huge and important celebrations take place!

The month May was named for Maia, the Greek goddess of fertility.

In any given year, no month ever begins or ends on the same day of the week as May does.

May was once considered a bad luck month to get married. There is a poem that says "Marry in May and you'll rue the day".

May's birthstone is the emerald which is emblematic of love and success.

On May 1, 1931, the Empire State Building was officially opened.

#### Flower

The flower that represents May is the Lily of the Valley. It is beautiful with blossoms that resemble a bell. It has a sweet fragrance.

#### Birthstone

The birthstone for May is the precious emerald. The popular colour is green, but that's not the only colour of an emerald. Green is the primary colour, but yellow and blue are also colours of some emeralds.

#### April showers bring May flowers

The saying is that April showers bring May flowers. If that is true, then there will be plenty of beautiful flowers in people's yards and on hillsides because there were many showers in April.



## MAYNOOTH DRESSES

**Maynooth Dresses are Delighted to Re-Open on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May  
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**Contact us on:**

**01 6293585 - 086 8260825 - 085 7471039**



**“One thing Covid 19 taught us  
is that change can happen  
rapidly.”**

Finally there are days again that remind us of spring. I think it's so important for all of us to get this little lift – this little sign from nature that everything will be okay again – and maybe even better than before.



***“we have forgotten about her and think we have the  
right to spray poison”***

I can see more and more people realising that the old normal isn't just good enough any longer. We all had so much time to reflect and delve a little deeper.

One thing I came to realise is that we have to treat the Earth like a Mother. In many cultures she is called “Mother Earth”. In Peru, Mother Earth - Pachamama is a real being and is venerated and celebrated by people throughout the season. It's there, ever-present and alive.

Here we have forgotten about her and think we have the right to spray poisons onto the land, pollute the waters and kill its children (bees, insects, worms, etc). However, once we realise that we are poisoning our Mother – the giver of all life – we will realise that she may struggle to keep us healthy. Our health depends on the health of the Earth and all its elements and living beings. We are fooling ourselves into thinking that we are separate beings.

***“Ireland could be one of the last havens on Earth.”***

One thing Covid 19 taught us is that change can happen rapidly. I realise I have been dreaming about this for a long time, even if I doubted myself at times, but now I think it could be possible.

I dream of an Ireland – a real green Ireland where farmers are no longer spraying pesticides and weed killers onto the land poisoning our waters and our bodies; where artificial fertilisers are replaced with the good old “Black Gold” - the composted farmyard manure; where organic regenerative farming brings the land and soil back to life; where life will flourish again; where we give some land back to the natural world and also to people. Ireland could be one of the last havens on Earth.

The side-effects will be clean water and clean air. Imagine if we could swim in every river and lake in the country and freely drink water from every well. One thing is definite – the next crisis or war will be waged over water. We could certainly be in a very good position here in Ireland.

***“80% of our organic fruit and vegetables are  
imported”***

It's a simple dream and the interesting fact is that it would be so easy to do. Nobody would suffer and Ireland could become the model of the world – the Real Green Ireland.

I know the policies are still against it. Farming is more about inputs and productivity. The organic land area is currently 2.4% and with the new Organic Farming Scheme may go up to just 3% while 80% of our organic fruit and vegetables are imported. That's all a drop in the ocean. We need exponential growth of sustainable farming methods to protect and enliven our soils. The EU has a target of 25% organic land area by 2030 – that's more ambitious. Some countries like Austria and Denmark are fully embracing it and will most likely exceed this target. Maybe if lots of people dream the same dream and also support organic farmers and growers by buying their produce, we may get there sooner than we think.

**Klaus Laitenberger.  
[www.greenvegetableseeds.com](http://www.greenvegetableseeds.com).**



# LIFFEY MEMORIALS

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Begin  
CPR

<b>Tesco</b> 24/7 - Exterior W23 W6X3	<b>Ladychapel Church</b> 24/7 - Exterior W23 VW40	<b>SPAR – Newtown SC</b> 24/7 - Exterior W23 CT78
<b>Circle K, Straffan Rd</b> 24/7 - Exterior W23 V489	<b>Maynooth GAA, Moyglare Pitches</b> 24/7 - Exterior	<b>McCormack's Pharmacy, Main St</b> 24/7 – Exterior W23 E6P4
<b>Maynooth GAA</b> 24/7 – Exterior W23 HH94	<b>Glenroyal Hotel</b> Business Hrs – Interior W23 C2V1	<b>Schools</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Mary's Boys' NS</li> <li>Presentation Girls' School</li> <li>Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich</li> <li>Educate Together</li> <li>Maynooth Education Campus</li> </ul>
<b>Maynooth Town FC</b> Interior W23 R302	<b>Carton House</b> Business Hours – Interior W23 PE02	
<b>Pastoral Centre, St. Mary's Church</b> 24/7 - Exterior W23 N663	<b>Maynooth University North Campus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports Complex</li> <li>Pitch</li> <li>River Apartments</li> </ul>	
<b>Scouts Hall</b> Business Hrs - Interior W23 ED86		
<b>SOUTH CAMPUS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gate Lodge</li> <li>Library</li> </ul>		<b>Creches</b> <b>Maynooth Day Nursery - Exterior</b> 14 Parklands Court W23 EP99  <b>Kidz @ Play - Exterior</b> 14/5 The Grove Newtown Hall W23 R2F7
<b>Manor Mills Shopping Centre</b> Business Hrs - Interior W23 NW62		
<b>COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS</b>		<b>Train Station</b> Business Hrs - Interior W23 N2F8

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Life Credit Union is Regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.





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

### Black Bags and Red Squirrels

When Tony, on his way back from the supermarket, was walking past the Bungalow's garden the sight of a heap of bulging black bags sickened him. What ignorant lout dumped his rubbish there week after week? Probably someone who was too stingy to pay for refuse collection? He knew that a woman lived in the Bungalow, a semi-recluse who rarely ventured outside. He had met her a few times when he was on his way home from Saturday evening mass but she hadn't responded to his polite 'Hi!' Instead she had hurried past, head down, as if fearful of being attacked.

She had black hair, a pale, intense face and must be at least a good ten years younger than himself, which would make her about forty. The bulky, grey overcoat she wore was obviously chosen for warmth, not for style, and the same could be said for her blue knitted cap. Who exactly was she and why had she moved to Abbeyboyle in late summer? Somehow he was certain it wasn't she who left the plastic bags; she looked too refined to do something so antisocial. On impulse, he carefully pushed open the metal gate and picked up the topmost bag. Nothing stirred inside the Bungalow, so he hadn't been detected. With his shopping bag in one hand and the black plastic bag in the other he hurried home. Once he had put away his groceries he donned rubber gloves and, picking up a small tongs from the sitting room fireplace, went out to examine the bag, which he had left by the side of the house. The contents were much as he expected: empty milk cartons and beer cans, used tea bags, circulars, calendar pages, empty cigarette boxes, all the usual domestic rubbish – What was this? A torn brown envelope with ripped-up racing forms inside! So the lout had been careless. Placing the brown pieces of paper side by side, he made out the typed name: 'Mr. Joseph Ludstrow' – something missing – then 'Crescent, Abbeyboyle'. Eureka!

He knew Ludstrow by sight, a burly, middle-aged individual who was probably a barman or security worker. With his three-piece suit he certainly didn't look poor and he drove a fairly new car, a dark hatchback. The question then was: why did he throw his rubbish into the Bungalow garden when he could have done like other litter louts and dumped it by the entrance to the Forest Park?

Tony's first impulse was to phone the guards then he decided they would have too much on their plate to bother with a petty crime like this one. No, he would have to deal with the matter himself. The thought that Ludstrow was targeting a woman living on her own angered him. And to the best of his knowledge the guy was married; he had seen him once in the supermarket with a stout, plain-looking woman who was pushing a trolley into which Ludstrow had dropped a six-pack of lager.

Using the tongs Tony put the rubbish back in the bag then fetching a roll of insulating tape, he attached the torn envelope to the outside. When night came, he made his way back to the Bungalow and placed the bag on top of a gate pier so that Ludstrow's name was at eye level. Hopefully, the culprit would now be known to the townspeople. He had just begun the return journey when he heard footsteps behind him. On turning round whom should he see but the woman! 'So you're the one who's been dumping your rubbish at my house!' Her fierceness surprised him. 'I'll report you to the gardai.'

'Easy on!' Tony held up his hands, palms out. 'It wasn't my rubbish. Didn't you see the envelope stuck to the outside?'

'What envelope?' She was alongside him now but well out from the footpath, as if ready to bolt should he make a move towards her.

'Mr. Joseph Ludstrow's envelope! He must have it in for you. Do you know him?'

'Oh no!' She turned abruptly on her heel and, keeping to the middle of the road, retreated like a scared rabbit.

'Wait!' Tony called, hurrying after her. 'Wait! I was only trying to help. It's not fair to have a decent woman like yourself persecuted by a litter lout.'

Whether or not it was his words that reassured her, she stopped at the gate to peer at the envelope, which showed up dully under the streetlight.

'You'll have to forgive me.' She spoke in a barely audible voice. 'I didn't notice it. That fellow has me almost driven out of my mind.'

'Why?' Tony could tell by her accent that she was an educated woman, hardly the sort to be on intimate terms with the likes of Ludstrow.

'Are you a nice person?' Her question flabbergasted him.

'Well, I've never considered the matter,' he began, 'but if you're wondering if I have some underhand motive in what I did, the answer is "No". It's just that the

sight of those bags of rubbish annoys me. By the way, my name's Tony, Tony O'Rourke, and I live in one of those two-storey houses back there. I sometimes see you when I'm on my way back from Saturday mass – not that I'm religious – far from it. You could say I'm just a run-of-the-mill Joe Soap.' His eagerness to explain surprised him just as much as her.

'I've noticed you too,' she confessed, 'but I don't know who to trust. Men think a woman on her own is fair game – not that I don't trust you. Look, if you want to come in for a cup of –'

'Fine!' he agreed before she could change her mind. 'I promise I won't overstay my welcome.'

She unlocked the front door and led him through the hallway to an inner door. When she switched on the room lights the sight that met his eyes amazed him. Compared to the overgrown front garden with its dumped rubbish bags the Bungalow's interior was warm and inviting: chairs and a couch with cushions, an oak table with scattered sheets of paper and a computer, bright pictures on the wall, an easel with a pencilled sketch, a coal fire glowing in the grate, a bookcase filled with books, a television in one corner and potted plants in the other corners. 'You must have paid a fortune for these pictures.' He was admiring a woodland scene with a girl in the foreground feeding red squirrels.

'Oh, no.' She drew up a chair for him. 'I painted those myself. Watercolours are my main income. You can sit here. Do you like your tea strong or weak?'

'Medium.' He sat down. 'Well, you certainly have a lovely place. Compared with mine it's a palace.'

'You're not married then?' She began cutting up a barmbrack.

He explained that he had never found the right woman then admitted that the girl he had asked when he was in his twenties had turned him down.

'She married a solicitor. I suppose an electrician like me didn't measure up. Did you marry yourself?'

At once he could see her stiffen. 'It's just that a good looking woman like you must've had many offers,' he blundered on. 'But it's none of my business.' 'No, no!' She poured out his tea. 'I never found the right man – does that answer your question? I've had some painful experiences that have convinced me that it's best to be single. The trouble is that men like Mr. Ludstrow consider a single woman an easy target – when I informed his wife about his approaches he got incensed. Now he seems determined to drive me out of this place but I'm not going to budge. I'm tired of moving from country to country and town to town. Why can't I just be left alone? I can't concentrate on my writing or painting anymore – That one on the easel has been there for weeks. I can't even go to the supermarket for fear I'll run into him.' There was a mixture of desperation and growing hysteria in her voice.

'How do you get your groceries?' Tony tried to sound matter-of-fact.

'SuperValu delivers them.' Tears began to well in her eyes. 'I'm like a prisoner, afraid to leave my own home. I used to love visiting the Forest Park and feeding the squirrels; they weren't afraid of me. Now I don't know what will happen to them in this cold weather.'

'Can't you report Ludstrow to the guards?' Tony wished he could put his arm round her shoulders but knew it would be too risky.

'I did that already – that's another reason he's trying to intimidate me. The gardai told me that without proof they could do nothing, so all I achieved was to aggravate him.'

'But you have proof right out there in your front garden,' Tony declared. 'I'll guarantee that if we open those rubbish bags we'll find enough evidence to nail him.'

'Do you really think so?' She gazed at him with eyes that were now large and luminous, like the eyes of some exotic night creature. 'I suppose I did suspect it was him but I was too discouraged to do anything.'

'Well, the two of us should be more than a match for Mr. Ludstrow.' Tony was surprised at his own confidence. 'It's not right that a beautiful woman like yourself should be targeted. How about if I drop round tomorrow after work and we do a bit of detective work? And don't have any fear of retaliation. If Ludstrow so much as raises a finger to you I'll flatten him.'

'But you know nothing about me.' She looked at him, her expression mingling doubt with newly awakened hope.

'This room tells me all I need to know.' He opened his hands as if to embrace its ambience. 'The person who created all this beauty has to be special, like that girl with the red squirrels.'

*By P.G. Nerney*



# 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**



## Know your rights: Applying for a student grant.

This news item was posted on April 22, 2021

I'm doing my Leaving Certificate this year and plan to go to college in the autumn. How do I apply for a student grant?

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) awards higher and further education grants to people living in Ireland.

You complete an application form online to apply to SUSI. You must have an online account with SUSI before you can make your application. SUSI accepts grant applications for the 2021-2022 academic year from 22 April 2021.

You can use SUSI's eligibility reckoner to see whether you meet the criteria for student grant funding.

These include:

You must be an Irish, UK, EU, EEA or Swiss national. You may also be considered for a grant if you have refugee status, subsidiary protection or leave to remain in Ireland.

You must have been ordinarily resident in Ireland for three of the last five years. Your family's means must be under the specified threshold for the previous tax year (2020). If you or your family have had a change of circumstances during the tax year, your changed circumstances may be taken into account.

You must be attending a course that is approved for a student grant. You can see the list of approved institutions and courses on SUSI's website.

If you are refused a grant or are approved a grant at a rate that you don't think applies to your situation, you can appeal the decision in writing to SUSI. You must appeal within 30 days of getting your decision.

If you are living in direct provision or are in the international protection system, you can apply for support under the Student Support Scheme for Asylum Seekers.

You can read more about the Student Grant Scheme on [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie).

During COVID-19, you can find comprehensive integrated information online at [citizensinformation.ie/covid19/](http://citizensinformation.ie/covid19/) and you can get daily updates on what's changed on Twitter at [@citizensinfo](https://twitter.com/citizensinfo).

You can also get information and advice from:

The Citizens Information

Phone Service: Call 0761 07 4000, Monday to Friday, 9am – 8pm

Our national call back service: Visit [citizensinformation.ie/callback](http://citizensinformation.ie/callback) to request a phone call from an information officer

You can continue to contact your local centre by email or phone using the details in the Find a Centre page on [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie).

## Know your rights: Emergency medical card.

This news item was posted on April 22, 2021

What is an emergency medical card and how do I apply for one?

An emergency medical card is a medical card that you can get without a means test in certain emergency situations.

You can get an emergency medical card if you:

Have a terminal illness and have been told you have 24 months or less to live

Are getting end-of-life treatment

Need urgent ongoing care and urgently need a medical card

Only a healthcare professional (for example, a doctor or consultant) can apply for an emergency medical card for you. They will send the application to the HSE.

If your application is approved, it can take up to 10 days to get your medical card in the post. However, your card will be active within 24 hours of your application being processed. Your GP, pharmacy and hospital staff will see your card is active on their systems. This means you can access medical card services while you wait for your card in the post.

If you get a medical card because you have a terminal illness and have been told you have 24 months or less to live, the HSE will never review your card and your card will never expire.

If you get a medical card because you are receiving end-of-life treatment, the HSE will never review your card and your card will never expire. End-of-life treatment means you have been told you have less than 12 months left to live.

If you get a medical card because you need urgent ongoing care and urgently need a medical card, your card will expire after 6 months. You will need to complete a means assessment before your emergency medical card expires. The HSE will write to you to remind you to do this.

You can get more information from the National Medical Card Unit on (051) 595 129, or lo-call 1890 252 919 or you can contact your local Citizens Information Centre.

You can read more about emergency medical cards on [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie)

## Know your rights: Parent's leave

This news item was posted on April 8, 2021

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

Parent's leave is a statutory entitlement for parents that allows each parent 5 weeks paid leave for a child born or adopted on or after 1 November 2019. It aims to let working parents spend more time with their child.

It must be taken within 2 years of the birth of a child or in the case of adoption, from the date of placement of the child. If you have enough PRSI contributions, you get a weekly Parent's Benefit payment of €245 from the Department of Social Protection during parent's leave.

You can take parent's leave in one 5-week block or in 5 one-week periods. You can visit [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie) to find more about parent's leave.

Parent's leave is different to parental leave. Parental leave is unpaid and can be taken up until the child's 12th birthday.

Summary of leave available for parents:

Leave	Who gets it?	How long?	Is it paid?
Maternity leave	Female employees	26 weeks and up to 16 unpaid weeks	Yes, Maternity Benefit is paid for 26 weeks
Adoptive leave	One parent of an adopting couple or a parent adopting alone.	24 weeks and up to 16 unpaid weeks	Yes, Adoptive Benefit is paid for 24 weeks
Paternity leave	A parent of a child under 6 months of age (usually the father or partner of the mother, or in the case of adoption, the parent who is not taking adoptive leave)	2 weeks	Yes, Paternity Benefit is paid for 2 weeks
Parental leave	Parents and guardians of children under 12	26 weeks	No, it's unpaid
Parent's leave	Parents of children under 2 years of age (or in first 2 years of adoption placement)	5 weeks	Yes, Parent's Benefit can be paid for 5 weeks





# AGE FRIENDLY DIGITAL AMBASSADORS

**Kildare Library Service**

## IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO:

- join the library online
- access online library resources
- download your favourite books or listen to audio books

*Our Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors in Kildare Library Service will help you get started*



Contact Maynooth Library  
[maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

Phone: 01-6285530  
or  
Call your local library to be directed to your very own Digital Ambassador.



[www.kildare.ie/library](http://www.kildare.ie/library)

## Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors Programme

Would you like to be able to access your local library services on the Internet, download your favourite books or listen to audio books, but you're not sure how to do this?

Let Maynooth Library Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors show you how to get on-line. You don't even have to be a member of your local library, as we'll help you join.

In our training sessions, we will guide you through the process of getting on the internet and downloading apps which will offer you a whole new digital world of online activities, workshops, and classes.

To find out more, contact:

**Brigitte Bark or Mary Dunne in Maynooth Library**  
Or  
Email: [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)  
Tel No: 01 6285530

## Kildare Library Service presents the Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors Programme

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) Libraries Development Unit and Age Friendly Ireland have partnered to launch the Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors Programme. This programme aims to support older people access online library resources, primarily BorrowBox, which is an app used to download books and audio books to phone, tablet, or laptop.

Fourteen Kildare library staff have received training which will enable them to provide online or phone training to older people in Kildare. The training sessions will guide trainees through the process of getting on the internet and downloading library apps which will offer a whole new digital world of online activities, workshops, and classes.

In the challenging times we now live in, this training will be a lifeline for many older people to connect with others and improve digital literacy skills.

**For more information, please contact your local library [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) / 01 6285530**



Would you like to be able to Access your local library Services on the Internet, download your favorite books or listen to audio books **but you're not sure how to do this.**

Let our **Library Digital Ambassadors** show you how to get on-line. You don't even have to be a member of your local library already, we'll help you join.

**To find out more contact:**  
Brigitte Bark or Mary Dunne  
Maynooth Library, Co. Kildare

Email:  
[maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)  
Tel No: 01 6285530





## How to Create your own Wild Life Garden

Attracting wildlife into your garden is not only great for you but is also great for your garden's plants, the environment & landscape that you live in. By making your garden more nature friendly, you can help to protect all our native mammals, insects & bird species, some of which are becoming endangered.

### Wildlife Garden

You can increase the numbers of bees, hedgehogs, wild birds, butterflies, frogs & insects your garden to add life, sound & increased garden pest control. Whether your garden is large or small, you can create your own wildlife garden and below outlines a number of steps that you can take to achieve it.



### Grow Wildflowers

Native Irish meadows are alive with activity. You can increase the numbers of hoverflies, bees, butterflies, wasps and a whole host of crawling insects by sowing a patch of wildflowers in your garden. Select a sunny spot at least 5m<sup>2</sup> for your wildflowers. Prepare the area by removing the surface vegetation. You can sow wildflowers in early Spring or early Autumn. Spring sowing will start flowering about 6 weeks after sowing. Meadows should be cut back once flowers have died off in late Autumn, remove all cuttings & stay on top of weed & grass growth during the Summer months.

### Grow a Nectar Patch

Specially aimed at attracting butterflies & bees, you can grow a nectar patch to encourage additional life in your garden. Like a wildflower meadow, a nectar patch needs a sunny spot, but here you can grow any plants that have big showy flowers such as Buddleia, Echinacea, Foxgloves, Rudbeckia & more.

### Avoid Chemicals

New regulations continue to roll in to reduce and remove an ever widening range of pesticides & herbicides. These chemicals can harm & kill insects and hence damage the delicate balance of ecosystems. To encourage wildlife into your garden we need to find ways to control weeds & pests without the use of chemicals. There are an endless array of organic methods for pest control from physical barriers such as netting over crops to homemade pest deterrents including garlic sprays. Certainly, we all need to limit our use of chemicals, read labels & use only when necessary and with great care.

### Encourage 'Rough' Patches

As gardeners we sometimes like to keep everything neat and tidy but raking up leaves, clearing debris, cutting grass and keeping borders neat all create gardens inhospitable to wildlife. All mammals & insects prefer untidy gardens with patches of long grass, areas of fallen leaves, old rotten tree stumps, patches of weeds such as thistles, nettles, yarrow & other native plants. Ideally every garden should reserve an area at least 5m<sup>2</sup> to grow wild. Keep grass growing at various heights, keep weeds & leaves in place and certainly avoid using strimmers & chemicals.



### Include Habitats

Hedgehog houses, butterfly B&Bs, insect hotels & ladybird lodgings. There is an endless selection of wildlife habitats that you can pick up & add to your wildlife garden. A few bird houses, bird tables & feeders are a simply way to get started.

### The soil

Don't forget all of the life that lives in the soil. Leaving dead leaves where they fall will feed the worms and the other bugs in the earth, which in turn provides food for the birds. Birds like to eat seeds and nuts that we put out for them, but they also need worms and grubs to feed their young, so healthy soil is crucial.

### Frogs

Water is another great addition to a wildlife garden and the pond doesn't need to be too big to attract wildlife. There's lots of advice for how to do this on the internet. This will attract a whole different community of wildlife, from frogs and newts to dragonflies. Even small ponds can harbour a lot of life. In fact, no matter how small your garden space is, you'll be amazed at how much nature is waiting to move in. So stop gardening and start nurturing.



Source: <https://www.thegardenshop.ie/wildlife-garden/> <https://www.independent.ie/life/home-garden/gardens/bee-happy-how-to-make-your-garden-a-wildlife-haven>

## Launch of CU Greener Homes scheme a one stop solution for home energy efficiency upgrades, Credit Union members will have warmer, more comfortable homes



Motivated by comfort and warmth as well as energy savings, homeowners across Ireland are looking to invest in home improvements in 2021. To help people to upgrade their homes, Life Credit Union in conjunction with Energia and House 2 Home, has launched the CU Greener Homes scheme, a one-stop solution for home energy efficiency upgrades.

CU Greener Homes provides access to all the information and supports needed to carry out home energy efficiency upgrades, including the initial assessment, the grant application process, the finance required and the project management.

Karen Mulligan, CEO of Life Credit Union said "We've seen that there is a clear demand amongst our members to undertake improvements to maximise the energy efficiency of their homes. The CU Greener Homes initiative is an excellent opportunity for members to get all of their green home improvement needs completed in one go."

Grants and supports of up to 40% are available for eligible work as part of this scheme. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) provide grants of up to 35% depending on the age of the home and the type of energy efficiency improvements carried out. In addition, as part of this initiative, Energia will provide additional support of up to 5%, subject to terms, conditions, and eligibility criteria. Homeowners can apply to Life Credit Union for a loan for the remaining balance of the energy upgrade.

A key feature of the CU Greener Homes website is the Energy efficiency calculator. The calculator enables people to find out the cost of proposed home energy upgrades, the grant support which may be available, the cost of credit union finance and the impact of the work on the energy efficiency of your home.

"Whether you are considering a new boiler or a deep retrofit, CU Greener Homes is here to help you. The application process is easy and straightforward and can be done through the [cugreenerhome.ie](http://cugreenerhome.ie) website. Life Credit Union is offering the lowest interest rates on work which has the biggest overall impact on the home's energy rating.

Approved retrofit work which results in the home achieving a Building Energy Rating (BER) of A3 or better will attract a loan interest rate of 4.9% APR\* Terms, conditions and eligibility criteria apply."

**Start the journey to improve the comfort of your home, from the comfort of your home.**

*Visit [www.cugreenerhomes.ie](http://www.cugreenerhomes.ie) and get a quick quote today.*

## Maynooth Senior Citizens

The future is looking a little brighter ahead although we take nothing for granted just yet and with that in mind the committee would like to let our people know our Club and other social activities will only resume when it is safe to do so. In the meantime the committee has been working in the background keeping up with administration duties, fuel and security schemes, and keeping in contact (remotely) with our people when needed.



We are seeking new members to join our committee to help carry out, maintain and develop our work on behalf of our senior citizens. If you are interested in giving your time to this organization, which has flourished under great guidance from successive and successful committee members from its establishment, please make contact with us at [maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com](mailto:maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com). You will also find information about the group on the Parish Website. In ordinary times our meeting night is the first Tuesday of every month.

Kildare Library Service and Maynooth Community Library are inviting people to avail of their Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors Programme (See page 10 for full details)

Our thanks to the broader community who have been a tremendous support to us over the last year.

Our condolences to the families of Pat Kinsella, Marie Nolan and Sr. Alphonsus.

Suaimhneas agus Síocháin Dóibh go Léir

### Limerick!

Berkeley's thinking defined,  
The strange magic powers of the mind;  
It claimed that the chair,  
Was not really there,  
Before being beneath B's behind!

GM





# Royal Canal Notes

May 2021

## Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

### RUBBISH

It is with reluctance that I return to this subject in this issue. In recent times an outdoor party was held at Jacksons Bridge, just north-west of Maynooth. The revellers left behind a very large amount of rubbish including disposable BBQ's, pizza boxes, copious beer cans and more.



Discarded rubbish at Jackson's Bridge Maynooth © FitzFoto

This is nothing short of despicable behaviour and cannot be condoned in any shape or form. The discarded rubbish could have been put into three or four refuse sacks and taken home



More discarded rubbish at Jackson's Bridge Photo © FitzFoto

Fortunately on this occasion CCTV footage has been made available to us and could be used to initiate proceedings against the offenders. The group does not want to go down this road unless it becomes absolutely necessary. We prefer to encourage those using this wonderful amenity to do so in a mature responsible manner, taking their rubbish home. The footage will however be retained, for future use should it be necessary.

**"The amenity is there for all to enjoy  
And definitely not for a few to destroy"**

### FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ

A gentle reminder that elsewhere in this illustrious publication you can read the third 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 also 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.

### ROYAL CANAL GREENWAY

In last month's publication we mentioned the virtual launch of the Royal Canal Greenway. This month in keeping with the theme of this article we publish the Greenway Rules, as compiled by the 'Leave No Trace Ireland Organisation'.

## Rules of the Greenway

- \* Do not enter adjoining farmland.
- \* Respect the habitat that is the Greenway and its flora & fauna.
- \* Do not litter the trail – take home your litter.
- \* Keep Dogs on leads (scoop the poop).
- \* Cyclists should wear a helmet and a High-Vis jacket/ top is recommended – "be safe be seen".
- \* Take special care at junctions.
- \* Cyclists should give clear hand signals and use bell.
- \* Walkers should be aware that cyclists may be approaching from behind.
- \* In case of emergency dial 999 or Maynooth Garda Station (01) 6292380
- \* Royal Canal Greenway employs the "Leave No Trace" Principles.

Further information on Leave No Trace can be found at the link below.

<http://www.leavenotraceireland.org>





Before the Banks of the Royal Canal  
By Peter Clarke (Part 3)

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 Newsletter  
issues 32, 33, 34 and 37  
In this article Peter describes the trials and tribulations prior to and during  
construction off the Royal Canal.

By 1800 the canal had reached Newcastle, one and a half miles before the Blackwater and from here was poised to continue on to Longford. From Molerick most of the line was cut for about a mile past Kinnegad but once again work was halted due to lack of money.

The Directors at this time were desperately trying to ditch the project and were trying hard to get the government to complete the canal at public expense. This drew a sharp reaction from the Director General of Inland Navigation who reminded them that £50,000 had been granted in February in 1799 to enable them to complete to Thomastown on condition that no further aid would be sought until the canal had reached that point. While totally rejecting the idea of funding the completion of the entire works, they agreed a compromise whereby they provided the sum of £95,866 to carry on the works to the end of the summit level at Coolnahay. Although this arrangement provided a short term solution to the Company's problem it was not without conditions and they were forced to reduce their existing tolls and to keep them at a fixed rate until the canal reached the Shannon.

Prior to allocating the funds for the new work, the Director General of Inland Navigation had a survey carried out to assess the condition that the canal was in and the future plans for it. John Brownrigg carried out the survey on their behalf. His analysis of the proposed line from the Blackwater to Coolnahay showed clearly that no lessons had been learned from the Company's previous experience in choosing its route. He remarked on the line chosen from the Blackwater to one and a half miles beyond the Boyne "that it was as bad and as expensive as can be imagined". About one and a half miles of this part of the line was lock spitted as far as Molerick. Brownrigg changed this section and suggested that it should pass through Ashfield and Blackshade and then on to Molerick.

In his opinion the proposed section of canal from Molerick to Kinnegad was impracticable. The first mile of ground was very low and therefore would be very

expensive to run a canal through. Apart from this difficulty, it would also be necessary to run two very high embankments over the Kinnegad River to enable the town to be reached. Brownrigg wanted to avoid Kinnegad and his first choice of line was from Molerick to Thomastown. Apart from the construction difficulties Kinnegad was only 8 miles from the Grand Canal at Edenderry. Brownrigg suggested one further substantial change to the proposed route. When Thomas Page had re-routed the line through Mullingar in 1783 he proposed to run the line on the south side of the town. This would have necessitated building a huge aqueduct and bridge. The bridge was so high that it required the demolition of several houses in the town to allow an approach road to be built. Browning was to abandon this route and run the line around the east side of the town in a loop and join up with the intended line from the town to Coolnahay. The Company were insistent on the Kinnegad route and were ready to proceed when another difficulty arose.

Legal advisors to the Director of Inland Navigation insisted that the line must run to Thomastown as stated by the Statute 38 Geo. III '79. This problem was not resolved until November 1801. The final blow to the Kinnegad line came in January 1802 with the death of Richard Evans. To replace Evans the Company employed John Rennie, the English canal engineer, as consultant and promoted Michael Sparks (who had been assistant engineer to Evans) to resident engineer. Further problems now arose when Rennie revised Evans estimates from £26,159.16.0 to £47,946.1.7 for the line. Although considerable sections were excavated Rennie persuaded the Company to abandon it and redirect the line through Thomastown.

Although it never happened, there is no doubt that the Company planned to return and complete the line to Kinnegad as a branch. The work from Molerick to Thomastown continued without much incident and it was expected that this section would be opened by 1 June 1805. While Thomastown was reached by 1805, Mullingar was not reached until 1806. The cause of the delay was the deep sinking required near the town. When excavation work began it had been discovered that the entire route was through solid limestone rock. In an attempt to reduce costs and speed up the work they were forced to make this section a narrow channel 28 feet at the top and 14 feet at the bottom.

To be continued

Don't miss next month's instalment in the June 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.

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 26/03/2021 to 29/04/2021 - 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
21552	Kildare County Council	Anthony Gaffney	86 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/04/2021
21537	Kildare County Council	Graham Dempsey	84 Moyglare Abbey, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	22/04/2021
21538	Kildare County Council	Karen and Austin McGlade,	32 Limetree Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	21/04/2021
21521	Kildare County Council	Mary Cafferkey	94 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 C6T8	20/04/2021
21523	Kildare County Council	David & Mabel Sullivan	13 Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, County Kildare.	20/04/2021
21489	Kildare County Council	Bertie Daly,	1 Hayfield Estate, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	13/04/2021
21476	Kildare County Council	Martin J. McMahon,	Ivy House, Court House Square, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	12/04/2021
21467	Kildare County Council	Ciaran Gallagher,	Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	09/04/2021
21470	Kildare County Council	Yvonne McQuigg,	79 Silken Vale, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 E9F8.	09/04/2021
21453	Kildare County Council	Graham Dempsey	84 Moyglare Abbey, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	07/04/2021



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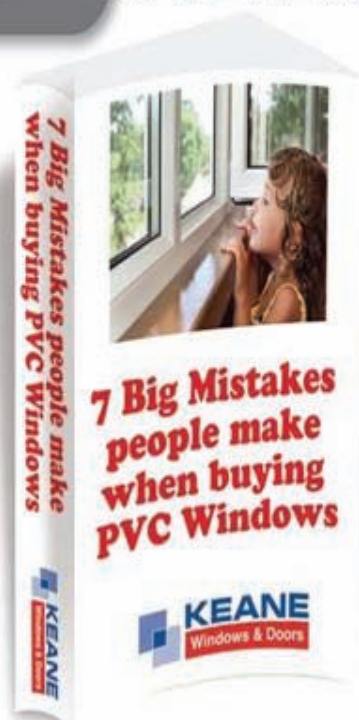
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## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



### Cllr Feeney proposes a Walk/Cycle Way between Maynooth and Celbridge

At the April Council MD meeting, Cllr Feeney proposed that the Council applies to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for funding for a shared walking and cycling space linking Maynooth to Celbridge. In speaking to the motion, Cllr Feeney said that we have the canal Greenway to connect us walking or cycling from Maynooth to Leixlip and Kilcock yet Celbridge, which is the closer of the three, does not have any such safe walking or cycling connection. Cllr Feeney also said that we should better exploit the connections between the two historic towns, particularly given that we have the beautiful Obelisk between the two. Cllr Feeney said that this site is, in her view, much under exploited, fenced off and almost unwelcoming. There is a lot of scope there, yet the Obelisk (Conolly's Folly) is the very emblem of the Georgian Society itself.

The Council stated that it is currently in the process of implementing its Programme of Works for the approved Sustainable Transport Measures Grants from the National Transport Authority (NTA). This takes priority for the NTA in 2021. With regard to this link, the most direct connection between Maynooth and Celbridge is the R405. However, a large portion of this road is not listed within the NTA National Cycle Plan, which would affect funding opportunities in this instance. However, Cllr Feeney welcomed the fact that the Council said it would forward this motion/proposal to the NTA for their attention and consideration. Cllr Feeney said that there are other funding streams and she is happy to continue to work with the council on progressing this because she thinks there is a lot of merit in it, a lot to be gained from it not only for enhanced safer walking and cycling but from a tourism perspective too.

### Cllr Feeney requests update on M4 Upgrade

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide an update on the upgrade of the Maynooth to Leixlip section of the M4. The report from the Council is as follows: "This project is currently in Phase 2 – Options Selection: The purpose of Phase 2 is to examine a number of feasible alternative options to determine a Preferred Option which could address the project objectives. Public consultation will commence in 2021 with the long list of options being considered and this will likely be a virtual event given the current situation with COVID-19 restrictions. The project website <https://maynoothleixlip.ie/> is now live but is currently not searchable as the website has not yet been indexed by Google. This will be updated soon and will be available via the normal Google search. Next Steps/Update – the public and elected members will be informed in advance of public consultation events later this year".

The reason Cllr Feeney raised this issue is that the resurfacing of that section is long overdue for the residents along that section of the M4. The current surface has been in place for over 20 years now and there is a huge contrast to the noise levels particularly now since the Maynooth to Kilcock section has recently been done, it has really highlighted the need for this work to be done. The Council replied stating this is a big project to be done in phases, it is currently at phase 2 and eventually will go for public consultation. Cllr Feeney understands that there is a discussion about inserting a dedicated bus lane, which as a consequence means there are many

stakeholders involved which can prolong the process. However, Cllr Feeney stated at the meeting that what she is calling for and focussing on is the resurfacing on the section that affects the residents, that immediate section as you exit Maynooth. The Council said they will have a look at the resurfacing issue and Cllr Feeney will pursue this issue for the residents, as it is long overdue.

### Draft Harbour Field Design to be put on public Display

Cllr Feeney asked the Council about the status of the Harbour Field design. The Council replied stating that the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team is finalising the Part 8 documentation for the Harbour Field Park Project and the estimated Part 8 launch date is mid to late April. The proposed design will be online and if COVID guidelines allow, in public libraries. In addition, Cllr Feeney was informed that the kick off of the recent Urban Regeneration and Development Funding of €1.9 million for Maynooth was delayed due to resourcing difficulties but that a new planner will be in place in May who will take up this project.

### Biodiversity Meadow at Carton Avenue Lands

Cllr Feeney called on the Council to use a section of the available public lands adjoining Carton Avenue as a dedicated biodiversity meadow. The Council replied stating that there already is a section of the grass along the Avenue walk for biodiversity. Cllr Feeney replied saying that what she was referring to are the public lands adjoining the Avenue. The Council said that the addition of any other areas would be considered as part of the master plan for the amenity lands along Carton Avenue. Cllr Feeney said there is great potential for these public lands such as a community garden and she asked when would the master plan be presented to the public and what the process will be. The Council said that the initial work on the archaeology report had to be completed and that a tender is progressing. Cllr Feeney added that she looks forward to seeing that progress.

### Litter Management for Maynooth

A joint motion was submitted by all Maynooth Councillors at the April MD Council as follows: "That the council resolve the issue of litter in public areas throughout the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District given COVID-19 Legislation and the Alcohol Bye-Laws to the satisfaction of the members and the public by providing 1,100 litre commercial bins where necessary while paying particular attention to areas with high levels of pedestrian/cyclist traffic to include but not limited to playgrounds, parks, harbours, greenways, public walkways, town squares and any other public amenity spaces". Cllr Feeney said it is really disappointing to see pictures on social media of places covered with litter. This is happening all over the country and as we all look forward to a summer outdoors, we need to take pride and show respect to our localities.

Cllr Feeney added that Maynooth Harbour Field is the main black spot has become Maynooth's People Park with a huge increase in picnicking and gatherings. She said that the previous level of litter management is no longer adequate and we need to rethink this issue and find solutions through a partnership approach. There is public responsibility, the important part played by the Tidy Towns and the Community Employment Project workers as well as

by the Council. Cllr Feeney suggested that we need more emptying of bins and more bins. We can find a solution working together. The issue has been placed on the agenda for the full Council on April 26<sup>th</sup> and Cllr Feeney hopes that all the councillors will agree with the motion and that the Council will provide the commercial bins.

### Maynooth Line Train Capacity and Car Park

Cllr Feeney called on Iarnród Éireann to revert to weekday timetables since there are more people travelling on the trains from Maynooth since reopening of schools, outdoor leisure reopening demand will continue to rise. Many commuters are experiencing great difficulty with the 25% capacity limit on a Saturday timetable, with extremely small trains and has forced many to travel by car instead and this has led to a surge in traffic. Cllr Feeney also asked for a timeline for the completion of the works at the extended car park at the train station. Iarnród Éireann replied to Cllr Feeney stating that they "will continue to monitor capacity and demand, building to a full resumption of the regular Commuter timetable from Tuesday 4th May". Regarding the train car park, they confirmed that the contractor is in the final stage of the works and that "all of these works should be completed by end of June 2021 and the car park available for use in early July".

### Update on the Health Centre

Since April 2020 when the Health Centre closed and relocated its services were moved to Kilcock Primary Care Centre, Cllr Feeney has been calling on the HSE to reopen the Centre. Finally, almost a year later, the Centre reopened and Cllr Feeney welcomed this, as it is a very important facility for Maynooth.

However, Cllr Feeney made further enquiries about the lack of a dental service at the Centre and she received a reply from the Minister for Health confirming that a large modern dental facility for the North Kildare area has been opened in Celbridge Health Centre and that the primary care dental services previously delivered from Maynooth and Kilcock are now to be delivered from Celbridge. Labour's Emmet Stagg had also previously called for the restoration of this service to North Kildare. The full reply can be seen below:

*Dear Cllr. Feeney,  
Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the restoration of services at Maynooth Health Centre. As the provision of services are a matter for the Health Services Executive, I have requested that officials from my Department make inquiries on the matter, and I understand that the following is the up-to-date position.*

*Maynooth Health Centre has recently reopened after undergoing a refurbishment programme and has begun to deliver services in line with the current Covid-19 Response Plan and government guidelines. Whilst the refurbishment programme was underway the suite of services provided from Maynooth Health Centre were provided from other Primary Care Centre locations within Kildare West/Wicklow, at sites where compliance with Covid-19 Guidelines allowed.*

*(Continued on page 16)*





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



*(Continued from page 15)*

Whilst we appreciate that travelling for services in the interim has been an inconvenience for service users, I am glad to be able to report that the newly refurbished Centre is now open and with the exception of the Community Welfare Officer and Dental Services, is providing all of the services that had previously been available. The services currently provided at Maynooth Health Centre include Community Nursing, Physiotherapy, Ophthalmology, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Public Health Nursing.

The Community Welfare Officer, whilst not reinstated at Maynooth Health Centre, will remain located in the town at: The Community Welfare Office, Claremount House, Kelly's Lane, Maynooth.

Lastly, in line with the development plan for HSE Dental Services, a large modern dental facility for the North Kildare area has been opened in Celbridge Health Centre. I have been notified that the primary care dental services previously delivered from Maynooth and Kilcock are now to be delivered from Celbridge. Exceptions to this include orthodontic treatments and other secondary care services which are referred to specialist services in a range of locations, including the Dental Hospital in Dublin and the Simms building in Tallaght.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,  
Private Secretary to the Minister for Health

### Self Help Grants for Council Tenants

Kildare County Council Self Help Grants are now open for applications from Council tenants and the closing date is 14th May 2021. Qualifying works: Replacement of older gas/oil boiler with new high efficiency condensing boilers, replacement of defective windows and doors which have not been replaced by Kildare County Council in the previous 5 years, replacement of defective internal doors/press doors/hot press doors and skirting, replacement of defective kitchen units (Minimum standard: MDF – teak faced), repair or replacement of fascia's and soffits, installation of new storage shed, replacement of boundary fence/wall, installation of new room space heating stoves. Applications can be made at the link below but contact Cllr Feeney if you need a paper application.

<https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/AllServices/Housing/grants/>

### Seanad Bye Election

I was honoured to have been nominated as a candidate for the Labour Party in the recent Seanad Bye Election, in which only sitting TDs and Senators have a vote. With the Government Parties agreeing a voting pact, there was never any real chance of winning the seat but the Labour Party always contests elections and will continue to do so. Thank you to all those who supported me and wished me well. Beidh lá eile againn.

Meetings attended by me since the last newsletter:  
March 31<sup>st</sup>: 10.00 a.m. KWETB Board (online)

April 1<sup>st</sup>: 12.00 p.m. Coillte (online)  
April 9<sup>th</sup>: 9.30 a.m. Council MD (online)  
April 12<sup>th</sup>: 7.00 p.m. Maynooth Community Council (online)  
April 12<sup>th</sup>: BOM Gaelcholáiste Mhá Nuad (online)  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>: 12.00 p.m. KCC Finance Committee (online)  
April 26<sup>th</sup>: 11.00 a.m. Homelessness Strategy Meeting (online)  
April 26<sup>th</sup>: 1.00 p.m. Clinic with Irish Water (online)  
April 26<sup>th</sup>: 3.00 p.m. Council Plenary Meeting (online)

**Please get in touch on any issue, I am here to help in any way I can**

**Cllr Angela Feeney MA, PhD,**  
**Kildare County Councillor**  
**Vice-Chair of Finance Committee KCC**  
**Member of Strategic Policy Committee KCC**  
**Member of KWETB**  
**Designated Public Official under the Regulations of Lobbying Act**  
**Peace Commissioner**



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

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

### Observation to the Parsons Lodge Development lodged by Catherine Murphy TD & Cllr Aidan Farrelly

Planning Department,  
Kildare County Council,  
Aras Cill Dara,  
Devoy Park,  
Naas,  
Co. Kildare.

14th April 2021

Re: Application No. 21/370: The provision of 183 no. apartments and ancillary/commercial development (total c.891 sq. m including concierge, gym, café, creche, tenant amenity and commercial floorspace) at Parson St. Maynooth.

In addition to being an important and growing university town Maynooth is full of history and character with many important buildings including Maynooth Castle, the College itself which dates from 1795; Carton House and Demesne etc. In total there are 22 protected structures of Architectural and Historical significance identified in the Maynooth Local Area Plan. Views to and from these buildings are also of major significance. It is important therefore that any new developments, such as the one proposed, are complimentary to the existing built heritage and respects the character of the existing town.

#### Maynooth Local Area Plan;

HP 2: To ensure that the density and design of development respects the character of the existing and historic town in terms of structure, pattern, scale, design and materials with adequate provision of open space.

#### Maynooth Local Area Plan

6) Heritage The plan also seeks to protect and enhance the unique architectural and archaeological heritage of the town including the St Patrick's College campus the Main Street and Carton Avenue. The retention of vernacular buildings on the Main Street and its side streets will ensure the character of the town remains intact. Maynooth can realise its potential as a heritage town and associated tourist destination by referencing its heritage associated with significant periods of Irish history.

#### Maynooth a growing town:

There has been sustained population growth in the Maynooth over several decades, this has accelerated in recent years with a few new residential developments completed or under construction. Census 2016 showed a population of 14585; the postponement of the 2021 Census means the current population is unknown, however, it is likely to have increased considerably since 2016.

In addition to the population of the town a large proportion of the Universities student population commute on a daily basis which adds to the vibrancy of the town but also places demands on already stretched infrastructure and services, the demands of which may not be fully captured by using census numbers only.

Infrastructure such as the long-awaited ring road have not yet been completed which results in significant traffic issues these dominate daily life in the town.

Section 3.7 of the Maynooth Local Area Plan States Traffic congestion is a major problem in Maynooth, and the delivery of the Maynooth Outer Orbital route illustrated on Map 1 is vital for the economic development and quality of life of all Maynooth's residents and visitors.

3.1 The population of Maynooth has risen steadily since the 1970s. The greatest rate of population change took place between 1996 and 2002 reflecting the growth in residential development in the town at that time. The 2016

census indicated that Maynooth had a total population of 14,585 persons representing an increase of 16.6% since 2011.

#### Traffic

Traffic congestion has been identified as a significant problem in Maynooth, it particularly impacts the Town Centre. Drawing additional traffic into the already congested Parson's Street area will add to the problems of access/egress and the flow of traffic onto Main Street. It is not at all clear how this can be mitigated. Traffic surveys/counts associated with this application need to be viewed in the wider context rather than specific to this site.

#### Scale Location Height

The scale, location and height of the proposed development are out of keeping with the existing architectural character of the historic town centre. The proposed development seeks a density of 142units per hectare (Table 3 Page 18 planning report) this is substantially above that proposed in the Maynooth Local Area Plan.

Maynooth Local Area Plan -Table 12: Indicative Residential Densities of 50 units per hectares for Town Centre and Brownfield sites.

In addition, the building heights that have been sought between 3 and 9 stories are significantly above what is permitted. The location of and the visual intrusiveness of the proposed buildings would dominate and obstruct views of important structures during daylight and because of lighting would dominate the nighttime landscape.

We believe this development is out of character with the Local Area Plan HP2 which states: "To ensure that the density and design of development respects the character of the existing and historic town in terms of structure, pattern, scale, design and materials with adequate provision of open space."

#### Wastewater & Drainage

The location between the Lyreen River and the Royal Canal has a history of recurring flooding at times of heavy rainfall. In advance of consideration on this application a flood impact assessment is needed.

On page 84 of the Engineering Services Report (Irish Water Feasibility Letter) under the heading 'Wastewater Connection', Irish Water confirm that "connection to 225mm sewer adjacent to site is not feasible. Customer should connect to 500/1200mm sewer to the west of the site."

Should the Council decide to grant planning permission a condition needs to be included.

#### Bats

Bats are protected under Irish and EU law. The bat surveys noted 516 bat passes on the proposed site. Table 4.7.1 indicated an average of 100+ bat passes per hour on nights 1-21, and one piece of equipment was moved from nights 32-45 which appears to have lessened the number of passes detected. The proposed developments on this site pose a real threat to this protected species.

As per the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2006), proportionate mitigation measures including a Mitigation Plan which would include a compensation element which would determine the works needed to deliver new roosts. Consulting with the National Parks and Wildlife Service on this Mitigation Plan would be necessary. Should this development be permitted the level of bat activity on this site warrants further, uninterrupted analysis before any site works can take place.

For the reasons stated above we are seeking a refusal to this planning application.

Deputy Catherine Murphy  
Cllr Aidan Farrelly

### Maynooth's rubbish problem

For the last number of weeks my office has been inundated with complaints about the rubbish accumulation in Maynooth and surrounding towns. This is due to more outdoor activity as a by product of the COVID restrictions. As the government focuses on plans for an outdoor summer, preparations must be made to deal with the accumulation of litter. The Local Authority must put plans in place for more local collections or, at the very least provision more bins. There should be a public information campaign asking people to bring their rubbish home. The Tidy Towns groups cannot be simply left to clear up the mess, it is unfair. .

### Concern at outbreak at Intel plant

***Serial testing, antigen testing and rapid test-and-trace must be utilised to the greatest extent possible.***

Social Democrats co-leader, and Kildare North TD, Catherine Murphy has expressed concern at reports of an outbreak of 70 Covid cases at the Intel site in Leixlip.

Deputy Murphy said:

"I have been assured the company is working with public health teams to identify and isolate any positive cases. "A review of travel procedures, to and from and site, should be undertaken to ensure that transmission is not occurring when workers are congregating in cars or buses on their way to, or from, work.

"It is hugely important that serial testing, antigen testing and rapid test-and-trace are all utilised to the greatest extent possible to break chains of transmission, ensure a safe work environment and prevent spread to the wider community."

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

Speaking during Leaders' Questions in the Dáil in March, 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

(Continued on page 18)





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

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

(Continued from page 17)

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.”

### Good News for Golfers, access to resume from 26<sup>th</sup> April

654. To ask the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht her plans to revisit the way in which outdoor golf may resume in the context of allowing clubs to permit non-member fee paying visitors to use their courses that live within the county and or within 20km from their home as a matter of urgency in view of the fact that this arrangement will provide immediate potential to raise revenue and mitigate further losses due to not being in a position to facilitate social and society golf; and the reason for restricting the number of persons that can play together per tee time.

### Jack Chambers (Dublin West, Fianna Fail)

In the context of the Government’s COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery Plan 2021 – The Path Ahead, it has been agreed that the public health restrictions will be subject to ongoing review taking account of the evolving epidemiological situation and available evidence in relation to vaccine deployment, uptake and effectiveness. Any easing of measures should be slow and gradual with sufficient time between phases to assess impact and to respond if the epidemiological situation was to deteriorate. It will take account of emerging international and national evidence and experience and with a specific focus on supporting mental health and wellbeing.

As part of that gradual easing of measures, from the 26<sup>th</sup> of April participation in a range of outdoor sporting activities, such as golf, is to be allowed subject to adherence to the generally applicable measures concerning social distancing, mixing between a maximum of two households and the travel limits within counties or within 20kms of one's home if crossing county boundaries.

The public health regulations do not draw a distinction between members and non-members in the case of golf, which is a matter for the NGB concerned, Golf Ireland, and its affiliated clubs to manage the available capacity in each club in accordance with the above-mentioned measures. I would refer the Deputy to Golf Ireland's website, which contains the detailed protocol developed for the gradual resumption of golf from the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

### The Crisis of Youth Unemployment

098. To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection her engagement with the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in respect of the ways in which the issue of youth unemployment is being addressed; her plans to reduce the levels of youth unemployment here; and if her Department offers support and or assistance to business regarding mitigating youth unemployment (details supplied).

### Heather Humphreys (Cavan-Monaghan, Fine Gael)

As the Deputy will be aware, the experience of past recessions indicates that youth employment tends to be significantly impacted by any labour market shock. This is because many employers operate a "last in-first out" protocol when reducing their labour force. Moreover, in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact on our youth is driven by the tendency for many younger people to work in some of the sectors most severely impacted by the pandemic; namely accommodation and food and retail. Prior to the pandemic, seasonally adjusted youth unemployment (15-24 year olds) stood at just over 11 percent in December 2019. Latest estimates from the CSO however, show that by the end of March 2021, this figure had increased to almost 15 percent. This measure excludes those in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP). Including all those in receipt of the PUP gives a

COVID-19 adjusted unemployment rate estimate 59.2 percent for young people at the end of March 2021.

It is important to note that there are a significant number of PUP recipients who are students. As of end-March 2021, 47,000 PUP recipients have self certified as students, with almost 90 percent of these in the under 25 cohort. Using international measures of unemployment, set by the International Labour Organisation, students are generally not counted as unemployed, as they are not considered part of the labour force. Therefore, the inclusion of recipients of PUP, including students, in the COVID-19 Adjusted measure of youth unemployment inflates this measure of unemployment.

While the employment of young people is significantly affected by the pandemic, we also know from past recessions that youth unemployment levels typically fall quite quickly once economic activity resumes. In addition, the jobs of many persons currently on PUP will not be permanently lost due to the pandemic. Many will return to previous employment once restrictions ease, as they did during previous easing of restrictions during 2020. My Department engages on a regular basis with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment through a number of fora that address a range of labour market issues, including youth unemployment. These include the Labour Market Surveillance Group (LMSG), which was initially established to promote labour market intelligence sharing and collaboration in preparing for Brexit. Since the onset of the pandemic this group has expanded its remit to include the monitoring of the impacts of the pandemic on workers and employers. The LMSG, whose membership is drawn from across various Government Departments and State Agencies, including the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment meets regularly to share labour market intelligence, discuss the latest policy developments and ensure co-ordinated responses at both national and regional levels.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment also forms part of the membership of the Labour Market Advisory Council on an ex-officio basis. The Advisory Council is comprised of leading labour market experts, representatives of industry, workers and unemployed people. The Advisory Council was convened in 2019 to provide advice to Government on employment and labour market issues.

In addition, in order to continue to strengthen and support the links between Intreo and the Further Education and Training (FET) sector, a High-Level Group has been established to engage on coordinated approaches to support jobseekers. This group includes membership from my Department, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, SOLAS, the Higher Education Authority, Skillnet Ireland and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

While many young people will be able to return to work once restrictions ease, others will require assistance and support to return to employment, reskill and to find new jobs. My Department is supporting initiatives to assist people, including young people, get back to work, once COVID-19 restrictions and their impact on the economy and labour market begin to ease.

Under the July Jobs Stimulus, my Department, along with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, are putting in place the following measures:

- Expanding the benefit of the JobsPlus recruitment subsidy to employers who hire young people. Under this scheme an employer receives the JobsPlus subsidy of €7,500 once they employ a young person (under 30 years of age) who has been unemployed for just 4 months. A higher subsidy of €10,000 is paid for recruitment of a person who was long term unemployed (over 12 months). The expansion of this scheme thus helps make it more attractive for

businesses to recruit young people who face difficulties in securing a footing in employment.

- Providing access to additional full-time and part-time education, including targeted short-term courses, with over 35,000 new education and training places for those currently unemployed.
- Providing incentives to employers to take on more apprentices, with the provision of a grant of €3,000 to employers for each new apprentice recruited.
- Facilitating access to the Back to Education Allowance and Back to Work Enterprise Allowance to those displaced by the pandemic and in receipt of the PUP, by waiving the usual qualifying period of 3-9 months.

My Department is at an advanced stage in developing a new Work Placement Experience Programme for those out of work for at least six months, regardless of age. This programme will seek to encourage businesses provide jobseekers with the necessary workplace skills to compete in the labour market and to help break the vicious circle of “no job without experience, no experience without a job”. I expect to launch the Programme as soon as public health restrictions allow in 2021.

With regard to apprenticeships, the Action Plan for Apprenticeship 2021-2025 was launched this week by my colleague, Minister Harris. The Action Plan sets out a five-year strategy to deliver on the Programme for Government commitment of reaching 10,000 new apprentice registrations per year by 2025. The plan provides a roadmap to a single apprenticeship system and new supports for employers and apprentices, which will prove attractive for many young people.

All of these efforts to support young people back into employment will be bolstered further by Pathways to Work 2021-2025, which is currently being finalised by my Department. Pathways to Work, is the Government’s national employment services strategy. It will set out how an expanded Public Employment Service will utilise its existing and expanded capacity to deliver effective services in a post-COVID labour market. This whole-of-Government strategy will seek to build upon those support measures outlined above as we assist young people on their journey to work. Publication is expected following the launch of Government's National Economic Recovery Plan.

### National Strategy for Women and Girls.

1210. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the status of the preparation and implementation of the National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020; the number of times this committee has met in 2020 and to date in 2021; and if he will publish all minutes from these meetings.

### Roderic O’Gorman (Dublin West, Green Party)

As of April 2021, work is completed on 45 of the 139 actions in the National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020, work is progressing on 91 actions, and 3 actions have not yet commenced.

In view of the significant impact of COVID-19 on planned work, implementation of the Strategy has been extended from 2020 to end 2021. On its conclusion, the Government has committed to developing and implementing a new Strategy. An evaluation of the Strategy will be conducted during 2021.

The Committee advising on the implementation of the Strategy, which I chair, met on two occasions in 2020, on 13 May and 9 December, and on one occasion to date in 2021, on 15 April. Minutes and agendas for the Committee's meetings to end 2018 are published on the website [www.genderequality.ie](http://www.genderequality.ie). As this website is being upgraded, minutes for 2019 to 2021 will be published online as soon as possible.



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- \* Employment Concerns
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**Phone**



**E-mail**



**Cllr. Angela Feeney**

**Tel. 087 238 1962**

**Email. [angelafeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelafeeney@gmail.com)**

**Stay safe everyone.**





# Advice on Securing your Home



Consider defensive planting, e.g. thorny plants around the perimeter, for extra security.

A barrier of prickly hedge along your boundary or underneath a window will help deter thieves. Hedges and shrubs in the front garden should be kept to a height of no more than 3 feet in order to avoid giving a burglar a screen behind which he can conceal himself.

## Home security and Burglary Prevention Advice

### Signs of vacancy

The majority of burglaries take place in unoccupied homes. The following are some of the things a burglar looks for:

- No lights on at night, or just 'dead' lights on (porch, hall).
- Lights on constantly during the day.
- Blinds pulled down, or curtains across during the day.
- A build-up of papers and/or flyers in the letter box.
- A build-up of letters in the hall or porch visible from outside.
- A build-up of milk on the door-step.
- Front gates closed and no car in the driveway.
- Notes left for delivery men or callers.
- Uncut lawn and untidy garden.

Most burglars are opportunists and will select the easiest target that they can find. Don't offer them assistance by:

- Leaving any window open. Some people do this for ventilation forgetting that burglars will take advantage of the smallest opening
- Leaving external doors unlocked
- Leaving a key on a string, under a doormat, or in some other 'good hiding place' outside
- Failing to secure side doors, allowing entry to the back of the premises, which is more vulnerable to attack
- Failing to keep garages and sheds locked. Not only do they contain valuable property, but also tools which may help the burglar gain access to your home.

### Doors

Burglars prefer to enter homes through a door because, if disturbed the open door provides the quickest escape route.

Whether an intruder will gain access to your home through your external doors may depend on:

- the strength of the construction material
- the quality of the locks
- proper fitting and installation

If you are replacing your doors, you should consider doors that have already passed stringent security tests, such as PAS 24 2016, or for higher levels of security, doors meeting Irish & EU Burglar Resistant Security Standard IS EN 1627:2011.

Additional locks and limiters may be added for extra security. Remember to lock your doors. One in five burglars will enter a home via an unlocked door or window.

More information on Home Security Doors can be found on the Garda website.

### Windows

More than a third of burglars will enter your property through a window. A window's individual vulnerability will depend on three main factors:

- The accessibility of the window
- The quality of the fabrication, strength and installation of the window
- The visibility of the window to neighbours or passers-by

We can reduce their attraction as an entry point for the burglar by trying to minimize these risk features. Windows manufactured to comply with the European standard I.S. EN 1627:2011 or the British security standard for doors & windows PAS 24-2016 or equivalent are recommended as these will have been subjected to specific security and burglar resistance tests. Additional locks and limiters may be added for extra security. Remember to lock your windows. One in five burglars will enter a home via an unlocked door or window.

More information on Home Security Windows can be found on the Garda website.

### Lighting

It is widely accepted that appropriate lighting can help to reduce crime and act as an effective deterrent to burglars. Appropriate lighting will help to make your home more visible to neighbours and passers-by; thereby increasing the likelihood of discovering unwanted intruders and trespassers. Lighting also helps to reduce the fear of crime.

When installing security lighting, please consider each of the following:

- Avoid the creation of shadows and dark areas
- Position the light fitting out of reach
- Aim for a uniform light level
- Direct the light beam appropriately
- Consider your neighbours
- Avoid light pollution

More information on Home Security Lighting can be found on the Garda website.

### Alarms

It is widely accepted that intruder alarms are an effective deterrent against burglars, thereby helping to reduce the likelihood of your home being targeted. However, it is important to understand that an intruder alarm is not a replacement for good physical security. It should, rather, be regarded as a back-up to good physical and other security measures and precautions employed to protect your home.

All installed alarms should comply with the European Standard EN 50131. All alarm installers and installation companies must now be licensed by the Private Security Authority. A list of all licensed installers is available on their website. It is important to understand how your alarm system operates. Your installer should explain the operation of the system to you and all other members of your family. Insist on a training session to demonstrate its features. Do not write alarm codes etc. on the instruction manual or on walls or doors near the control unit or keypad. More information on Home Security Intruder Alarms can be found on the Garda website.

Burglars like easy opportunities. If they have to make a lot of noise, spend a lot of time or risk being seen, the chances are they won't bother. A good rule of thumb is the 3 minute delay test. If you can deny entry for 3 minutes or more – chances are the burglars will go elsewhere.

Complete the simple home security survey available on the Garda Website to determine how well your home is secured against burglary.

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

## Home Security

1. Whether at home or going out, turn on some lights, use timer switches.
2. Lock all doors and windows, almost 1 in 4 Summer time burglaries involve entry through an unsecured access point.
3. Use your house alarm.
4. Store keys safely; away from windows and letterboxes.
5. Record details of valuables and don't keep large cash amounts at home.

## Vacant Houses

**If your home is going to be vacant during the summer period;**

1. Ask a trusted neighbour or family member to conduct frequent checks of the property at different times of the day to note any signs of trespassing or interference.
2. Ensure the house alarm is set.
3. Check all doors and windows are secure. (Use deadbolt locks if property is to be vacant for long periods).
4. Install timers on internal lights and motion detectors on external lights to make the house appear occupied and offer natural surveillance of the property.
5. Ensure that the building doesn't look neglected. Cut the grass, trim hedges etc.
6. Ask a neighbour to collect post or if you are going to be away for longer periods arrange a 'mail minder' service with An Post to retain post for collection and place a 'No Junk Mail' sign on letter-box.
7. Inform the local Garda station about the premises being vacant to afford passing attention on patrols.

## Social Media

**If you are going on holiday and your home is going to be vacant, be mindful of what you post on social media. Even if you have enabled strict privacy settings, your holiday plans could be shared with unscrupulous people.**

1. Don't post status updates about your holidays while you're still away.
2. Don't post pictures while you're away.
3. Respect other people's privacy, don't tag others while you and they are on holidays.
4. Avoid posting upcoming travel plans.
5. Consider turning off the location sharing setting of your phone's camera app.

## Garden/ Landscaping

1. Don't help the burglar; safely store away ladders, tools etc.
2. Use quality locks on Garden sheds, chain valuable property, tools, bikes, etc. within.
3. Property mark and photograph valuable possessions.
4. Tidy up gardens and shrubbery, this improves visibility and creates the illusion of an occupied home.





# Maynooth Community Employment Project

## Community Employment Scheme

# Staff Required



**JOB TITLE: Grounds Person x 2 (Outdoor) - Job Ref # CE 2176653**

Location: Maynooth Town Football Club

DUTIES TO INCLUDE: General Building & Pitch Maintenance.

---

**JOB TITLE: Maintenance Operative (Outdoor) - Job Ref # CE 2176660**

Location: Maynooth Harbour Area

DUTIES TO INCLUDE: General Maintenance. Some Heavy Lifting may be involved.

---

**JOB TITLE: Office Receptionist - Job Ref # CE 2176656**

Location: MCEP Office Carton Retail Park

DUTIES TO INCLUDE: Receptionist & General Office Duties

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**JOB TITLE: Office Administrator - Job Ref # CE 2176658**

Location: MCEP Office Carton Retail Park

DUTIES TO INCLUDE: General Office Duties

---

**JOB TITLE: Bookkeeper - Job Ref # CE 2176655**

Location: MCEP Office Carton Retail Park

DUTIES TO INCLUDE: Updating of Accounts in MS Excel,  
Compiling Reports & General Office Duties

---

**All Positions are 19.5hrs per week**

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Clues Across

- Across**
- 1. Goddess of love (5)
  - 3. Revoke (7)
  - 7. Floor show (7)
  - 9. Oversight (5)
  - 10. Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
  - 11. Rising warm air current (7)
  - 13. Symbol of disgrace or infamy (6)
  - 14. Sour (6)
  - 18. Inscrutable (7)
  - 20. Type of snake (5)
  - 21. Photo book (5)
  - 23. Luxurious (7)
  - 24. Commotion (7)
  - 25. Restorative (5)

Solutions to Crossword  
No. 500

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

May 2021 Crossword - No. 501

1					2		3		4		5		6
7			8						9				
10							11				12		
13								14	15				16
							17						
18					19				20				
21		22					23						
24									25				

Clues Down

- Down**
- 1. Asinine (7)
  - 2. Satire (7)
  - 3. Turn on an axis (6)
  - 4. Unguent (5)
  - 5. Mischievous fairy (3)
  - 6. Live (5)
  - 8. Transience (7)
  - 12. Gruesome (7)
  - 15. Explanation (7)
  - 16. Forceful and extreme (7)
  - 17. Educational institution (6)
  - 18. Intone (5)
  - 19. Musical speed (5)
  - 22. Saloon (3)

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 (27) only.

Difficult

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

Sudoku Challenge

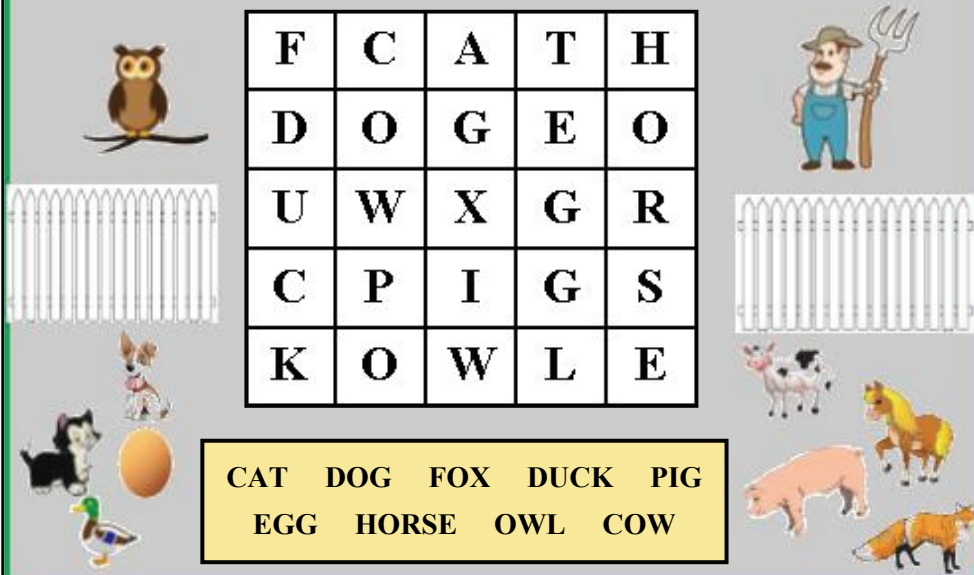
	3							
					1			9
				3		2		5
6	8					9	2	
5		3				8		1
		2	7					9
1	7		8		6			
9					2			
							6	

Super Difficult



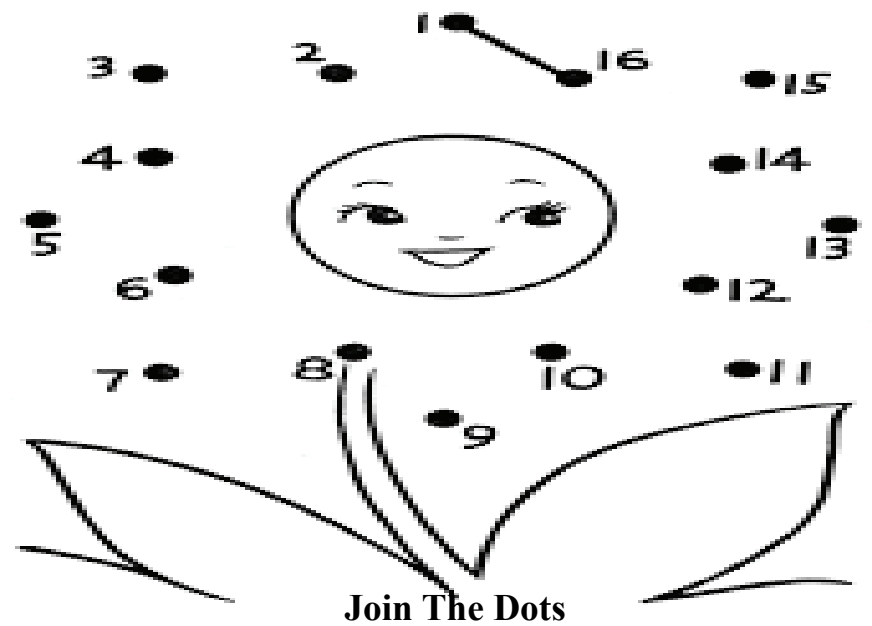
## Junior Puzzle Corner

### SEE WHO YOU CAN FIND ON THE FARM



F	C	A	T	H
D	O	G	E	O
U	W	X	G	R
C	P	I	G	S
K	O	W	L	E

CAT DOG FOX DUCK PIG  
EGG HORSE OWL COW



**Q: How do all the oceans say hello to each other?**

**A: They wave!**

**Q: What did one wall say to the other wall?**

**A: I'll meet you at the corner!**

**Q: What do you call a bear with no teeth?**

**A: Gummy bear!**

**Q: What's did one tomato say to the other tomato?**

**A: You go ahead and I'll ketchup.**



Help me find my way home



## Children's Colouring

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.





**E**arly May is your last chance to sow a new lawn from seed as we come into the summer months and the temperatures rise even further. Those who have already sown a new lawn should continue to ensure it is watered regularly. For those with an existing lawn, you should, by now, have lowered the blades on the lawnmower for a slightly tighter cut. Ideally the lawn should be cut once per week but the same rules apply as earlier in the year; don't cut the lawn when its wet, wait for a dry day. Don't cut the lawn too tight. And don't forget to trim the edges with an edging shears; neat and tidy edges make for a neater and tidier lawn. Apply lawn weed killer to your lawn this month.



**In the vegetable garden**

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



**In the fruit garden**

Protect strawberries with straw (to control weeds and lift the berries off the ground) and netting (to keep birds off the fruit). Harvest rhubarb, picking only one-third of the total amount of stems. Hang pheromone traps in plum trees from May to August to monitor plum-fruit-moth activity. Keep young fruit trees well-watered while they are putting on rapid growth. Remove blossom and fruits from newly planted fruit trees to help them establish properly during their first year. Regularly check the centre of gooseberry bushes for green gooseberry sawfly caterpillars - they will quickly skeletonise leaves if not removed. Erect netting around soft fruit plants to prevent birds eating your crop.



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

**In the flower garden**

As your spring bulbs begin to fade, remove the flower heads to prevent them from going to seed. The stalks should be left in place to die back naturally; this allows for the bulbs to re-absorb any available nutrients which keeps them fed during their dormant period. The stalks can be cut/removed once they are well withered. This is also an ideal time to lift and divide any clumps of spring bulbs which appear to have outgrown their allotted space. They can be lifted and divided, withering stalks and all, and re-planted in their new position. Early flowering clematis, such as the Clematis armandii, should be pruned now, if required, as they finish flowering. They are group 1 climbers which means they flower early and on last year's growth.

In truth, they should not need too much by way of pruning unless they are getting too big for the area they are in or they can be pruned to get rid of any old or damaged/dead wood. Always cut back to a pair of healthy buds. As the temperatures rise, so do the instances of pest and disease in the garden. As the old saying goes, prevention is better than cure! A strong case in point are roses. Keep an eye out for aphids/greenfly on the new buds or black spot and rust on the leaves. Remove any infected leaves immediately and discard them. Treat any affected plants with appropriate insecticide and fungicide which can be used every two weeks to keep problems at bay. Remember, good air circulation around the plants is a must in preventing the spread of pests and diseases.



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

**Beef Taco salad with homemade tortilla bowls**

**Ingredients:**

*Tortilla bowls*

- 4 10-inch flour tortillas
- Vegetable oil spray

*Taco meat*

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



*Salad*

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

**Instructions:**

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

**Strawberry no-bake mini cheesecake (serves 4)**

**Ingredients:**

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



**Instructions:**

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

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

**Enjoy!!**





# FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

## OSCARS 2021 SPECIAL QUIZ



Oscars 21 was a ceremony quite unlike any other in recent Academy Awards history. The usual parade of Hollywood glitterati was significantly reduced, due to Covid-19 this year, with only 170 people in attendance for the live stream of the event. Also, the *Oscars* moved out of the traditional Dolby Theatre, and the event was held in Union Station instead. The ceremony's format was significantly altered too with testing measures in place, attendees observing strict social distancing, and some stars joining the ceremony via video links from other parts of the world.



There were other firsts in a somewhat muted Oscars ceremony this year too. Road movie Nomadland swept the boards and director Chloé Zhao made history, becoming the first woman of colour to win the award for directing, and the second woman in history. Minari actress, Yuh-Jung Youn with her win for Best Supporting Actress became the first Korean actor to take home an Academy Award. Daniel Kaluuya is the first black British winner of the best Supporting Actor prize in Judas and the Black Messiah. Frances McDormand became a triple Award winner as Best Actress for Nomadland. At 83, Anthony Hopkins is the oldest ever acting Oscar winner for his lead performance in the moving drama, The Father.

To mark this year's Oscar's event, test your movie knowledge with this Awards Quiz!

1. *Titanic* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* share the record for most Oscars won by a single movie. How many awards did they both win?

- a) 8
- b) 9
- c) 10
- d) 11



2. Which one of *The Godfather* movies won the most Oscars?

- a) *The Godfather*
- b) *The Godfather Part 11*
- c) *The Godfather Part 111*
- d) None of them

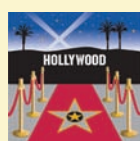
3. Who won the Best Actor Oscar at the 2020 Academy Awards?

- a) Joaquin Phoenix
- b) Adam Driver
- c) Anthony Hopkins
- d) Antonio Banderas



4. Who won the Best Actress Oscar in 2020?

- a) Saoirse Ronan
- b) Renee Zellweger
- c) Olivia Colman
- d) Judi Dench



5. Name this 1958 Oscar-winning movie.



6. Who is the only actor or actress to ever win four Oscars?

- a) Meryl Streep
- b) Jack Nicholson
- c) Katherine Hepburn
- d) Robert De Niro



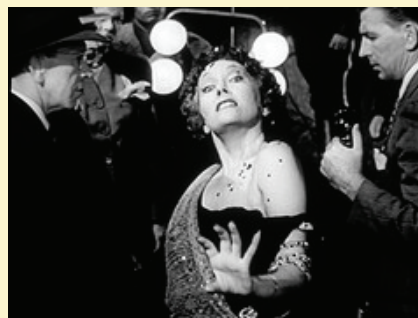
7. Tom Hanks has the distinction of winning the Best Actor Oscar two years in a row. What were the two movies he won for?

- a) *Saving Mr Banks*
- b) *Forrest Gump*
- c) *Saving Private Ryan*
- d) *Philadelphia*

8. Which popular movie did Colin Firth win an acting Oscar for?

- a) *Love Actually*
- b) *Bridget Jones' Diary*
- c) *A Single Man*
- d) *The King's Speech*

9. Name the actress and Oscar-nominated classic movie.



10. What was the very first horror movie to be nominated for Best Picture?

- a) *Jaws*
- b) *Psycho*
- c) *The Exorcist*
- d) *Halloween*

11. For what movie did Leonardo DiCaprio finally win his first and only Oscar to date?

- a) *The Departed*
- b) *The Wolf of Wall Street*
- c) *Titanic*
- d) *The Revenant*



12. Who was given the longest standing ovation in Oscar history - minutes - while receiving an Honorary Oscar Award in 1972?

- a) Cecil B DeMille
- b) Walt Disney
- c) Charles Chaplin
- d) John Wayne

13. Which of these Alfred Hitchcock's movies won an Oscar for Best Film?

- a) *Vertigo*
- b) *North By NorthWest*
- c) *Psycho*
- d) None of them



14. Who was the first African American woman to win an Academy Award in the Best Actress category?

- a) Halle Berry
- b) Whoopi Goldberg
- c) Dorothy Dandridge
- d) Hattie McDaniel



15. In an infamous Oscars gaffe, which movie was incorrectly announced as winner of the Best Picture Oscar in 2017?

- a) *Manchester by the Sea*
- b) *Moonlight*
- c) *La La Land*
- d) *Hell or High Water*



16. Name this Oscar-winning actor.

17. Who caused Oscar outrage by sending a Californian Apache woman to decline the Best Actor Award he had just won?

- a) Rod Steiger
- b) Marlon Brando
- c) James Dean
- d) Harry Dean Stanton



18. Italian actor/director Roberto Benigni went wild with joy and climbed over the stalls after winning an Oscar in 1999 for which movie?

- a) *Life Is Beautiful*
- b) *Cinema Paradiso*
- c) *Jean de Florette*
- d) *Amelie*





# BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



## Brady's Bar, Lounge & Restaurant

**We look forward to welcoming all  
our customers back on June 7th  
providing outdoor service.**

**Stay Safe & Well**

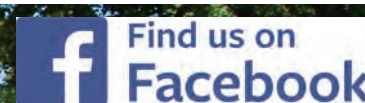
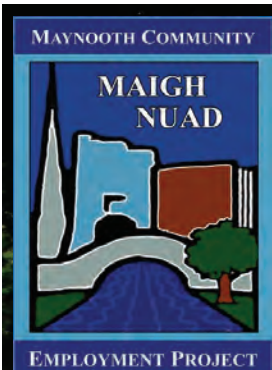
e-mail: [info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie](mailto:info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie) Web: [www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie](http://www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie) - Tel: 01-5054725



<https://www.facebook.com/BradysClockhouseB2/>







# Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the People of Maynooth



Local News

June 2021

Issue No. 502

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**



## Refugee exhibition hosted by MU Access funded under Public Service Innovation Fund

An innovative exhibition of photographs by refugees to be co-hosted by Maynooth University Access is among 20 diverse projects to successfully secure funding from this year's call for ideas under the Public Service Innovation Fund.

This year's Public Sector Innovation Fund call saw a total of 279 project proposals received from organisations in all sectors of the Public Service - Civil Service, Defence Forces, Education Sector, Health Sector, Local Government, Justice Sector and Non-Commercial State Agencies.

Maynooth University Access Office in collaboration with Dublin City University, the Irish Refugee Council and Dublin Castle will create the 'We are here, HEAR' project, an outdoor and virtual exhibition of photographs taken by refugees to illustrate barriers they experienced accessing Higher Education, alongside accompanying descriptions.

All awardees were congratulated by competition organisers for 'Our Public Service', who stated that it was a significant achievement, as only 7.5% of projects received will be funded.

The 'We are here, HEAR project' will be an open-air touring exhibition of 40 photographs and stories from refugees on the barriers they have experienced in relation to accessing Higher Education in Ireland.

The exhibition will launch in the grounds of Dublin Castle in June/July 2021, on the year before its centenary. It will highlight the dichotomy for people in the protection system in Ireland, who are often without citizenship, by occupying the iconic civic space.

Dublin Castle's community engagement expands beyond the walls of the Castle and reaches out into the community to work with groups who might not otherwise access the Castle's public programme. This project will directly link to schools and community projects through Dublin Castle's education programme.

Following its launch in Dublin Castle, the exhibition will draw on its partner networks to tour the Higher Education Institutions in the MEND (Midlands East North Dublin region) as well as the following purposefully selected locations due to their proximity to Direct Provision centres; Maynooth University; Dublin City University; Athlone Institute of Technology; Dundalk Institute of Technology; Mosney Accommodation Centre; Rosslare Harbour; Dublin docklands.

Exhibition viewers will be able to log their reaction to the exhibition through a QR code, that that can be snapped with a mobile phone to collect responses to provide an ongoing evaluation of the project. Mi:Lab - the Maynooth University Innovation Lab will provide design thinking expertise to the project and we will utilise design thinking strategies, tools and techniques to support project activity, outputs and the evaluation of the exhibition.

The 'We are here, HEAR project' virtual exhibition will also be housed on a website outlining the background to the project, serving to increase public engagement with the project.

The Dublin Castle website will link to the project website, as will Maynooth University, DCU and the Irish Refugee Council websites. Mi: Lab will also provide their expertise in Design Thinking to map out and mine the deep learning of shared knowledge and co-generated insight that will constitute the core elements of the website to ensure user friendliness at all stages. The 'We are here, HEAR project' will also incorporate a Continuous Professional Development Lecture Series for the partner organisations and delivered by refugees with third level qualifications.

Adopting an evidenced-based approach, the lectures will draw on recent MU and DCU research exploring the experiences of refugees and people seeking asylum in accessing Higher Education (Nwanze & Meaney, 2021 in press). This research was completed as part of the College Connect programme, a 3-year project funded by the Higher Education Authority under its Programme for Access to Higher Education - PATH 3.

College Connect, which is led by Maynooth University, supports access and widening participation of groups underrepresented in higher education in the MEND cluster (Midlands, East, and North Dublin region). The cluster is made up of Athlone Institute of Technology, Dublin City University, Dundalk Institute of Technology, and Maynooth University.

The lecture series primarily aims to build staff capacity within Higher Education Institutions in terms of understanding and appreciating the experiences of students who are refugee or seeking asylum.

The goal of the lecture series is to improve the overall experience of the target group in their interactions with Higher Education Institutions and their experience in 3rd level, from pre-application to entry and graduation. The series will be piloted with MU employees in late spring 2021. It is anticipated that the content will be made available to other HEIs later in 2021.

The Public Sector Innovation Fund is based on 'Our Public Service 2020' reform strategy for development and innovation in the Public Service, and incorporates a competition designed to support innovative ideas from public service bodies to promote collaboration and new and better approaches to service delivery.





# 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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## 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

As someone who makes a blood donation at least four times a year, I have done so in the past year when the Irish Blood Transfusion Service clinic has been held in the Glenroyal Hotel in Maynooth. Pre-Covid when the students at Maynooth University are here, I used to avoid the Maynooth clinic because of the large number of people making donations meant that it took longer to get through than in smaller clinics, so I donated in the Irish Blood Transfusion Service clinic in Dublin city centre instead. In the past year donations are by appointment only and the numbers donating have been fewer. June 14th is "World Blood Donor Day" so I thought that I would encourage you donate especially if you have been thinking about it but never made the time to attend the Irish Blood Transfusion Service clinic in Maynooth. I can even tell you that the next donation days in Maynooth are August 3rd to 8th and you can register at [www.giveblood.ie](http://www.giveblood.ie). You are making a real difference to someone else when you make a blood donation.

Talking about making a difference to others with Covid restriction having been in place for so long until recently we have not been able to meet family and friends in person. Getting together with friends is normally a tonic for our mental wellbeing. "Best Friends Day" is marked on June 8th so perhaps now is a good time to reach out to people who you have lost contact with as it is most likely that they will welcome your call. I noticed a recent posting on the Maynooth Notice Board Facebook Page when a new resident in Maynooth was talking about loneliness. Reading the post I was not sure of what was the intention but I have to compliment the many respondents who offered support. Remember that if you are feeling lonely please reach out to others as by nature we like the company of others and in Maynooth you will not have to go far to find a good neighbour.

Last month I considered commenting on the now national story about the cuckoo fund buying up the majority of houses in Mullen Park. People looking to find a home in Maynooth are looking for a range of properties and most people looking to buy will have known that cuckoo funds had previously purchased properties in at least two other recently completed residential areas in Maynooth. It was clear last month that the purchase by investment funds of properties intended to increase housing supply was perfectly legal so I could not criticise it. One month on the Government has made changes to the rules which limits this practice for future planning applications. It is a pity that this change does not apply to multi-unit developments as there are people in Maynooth who would like to buy these type of properties as owners. Perhaps the debate on property ownership is not over yet?



I note from the Maynooth Tidy Towns notes on page 15 that they mention the service to tidy towns of their PRO, Richard Farrell. Richard's name is synonymous with tidy towns in Maynooth as a result of his 40 years involvement. He is responsible for getting me involved and I have so many memories of working with Richard as for over 25 years we worked together in preparing the annual National Tidy Towns Competition Application for Maynooth. As readers will know being a tidy towns volunteer in Maynooth is a challenge and Richard's approach has always been to see the best in everyone he met. No matter how bad the litter was or someone damaging tidy towns work he would always say we have to continue the work. Over his 40 years he has won over many volunteers for tidy towns and many more supporters and as he takes a step back from his role as PRO his influence will continue in the incredible work that the tidy town's volunteers carry out week after week.



**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 21st June 2021**





## Maynooth Cycling Campaign

### Virtual Public Meeting - School Streets/ Zones, Substandard Cycle Maynooth

How do we make it safe for children to walk/cycle to school?  
How can active travel improve healthy streets? How do we

attract people out of cars? Join us for a virtual public meeting to explore these questions at 8pm on Thursday 10 June.

To register for Zoom, please email [maynoothcycling@gmail.com](mailto:maynoothcycling@gmail.com).

### Funding for Sustainable Transport in Kildare

The NTA has released how much it allocated to different local authorities in 2020 and how much they actually spent. Kildare County Council was the local authority which spent the highest proportion of its allocation at 87%. However, this disguises the fact that Kildare's allocation was the lowest of all local authorities in the Greater Dublin Area and Regional Cities.

Local Authority	2020 Allocation €	2020 Spend €	2021 Allocation €	2021 Spend/ Allocation %
Kildare County Council	2,519,864	2,214,122	7,730,000	87.9%
Meath County Council	11,046,843	8,539,636	12,885,000	77.3%
Wicklow County Council	6,644,050	3,877,457	7,616,000	58.4%

Comparable commuting local authorities such as Meath and Wicklow received multiples of what Kildare was allocated which tells its own story.

### Kildare Cycle Forum

At the February meeting of Kildare County Council's Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), there was reference to the Kildare Cycle Forum. Maynooth Cycling Campaign described it as dysfunctional and undertook to propose measures to improve its operation. We forwarded our suggestions but in the interim KCC decided to absorb it into a Sustainable Transport Forum. The initial Kildare Cycle Forum was held in February 2014 and in the seven years since then it has had a chequered history. Although cycle forums were intended as an interface between councillors and cyclists, for a number of years there were either no meetings or meetings were held without the presence of any cyclist representatives.

The Chair of Kildare's SPC is also normally the Chair of the Cycle Forum but during the previous council, the Chair had no interest in cycling and stopped attending meetings.

There was even no response to repeated requests for a copy of the Terms of Reference and minutes were circulated months after the meeting, if at all. Maynooth Cycling Campaign regrets the downgrading of cycling in the Council and in particular regrets that it has been downgraded with minimal effort to establish a properly functioning forum. It would have been nice if even on one occasion, a meeting had been organised as it was intended.



### Transport Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

In June 2020, Maynooth Cycling Campaign submitted a number of policy papers to the Chair of the Transport SPC. After prioritising three of them at the February meeting, it had been expected that they would have been discussed and voted in May. However, it was disappointing that one year later, the Chair has still not seen fit to include them for consideration.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign also tried to raise the issue of the number of collisions between pedestrians and cyclists on the Moyglare Road and to lower the speed limits in urban areas following an increase in the number of pedestrian fatalities in 2020, but they too were disallowed.

### M6 Maynooth to Leixlip Project – Just One More Lane!

One of the projects included in Ireland 2040, the strategic planning framework, was the widening of the M6 between Maynooth and Leixlip. The addition of more traffic lanes is the standard response of many road designers to congestion. However, at a past meeting of the SPC, it was announced that the Department of Transport was investigating the conversion of the hard shoulder to a dedicated bus lane as has happened elsewhere in Europe.

That new roads attract more traffic is a concept known since the 1950s as “induced demand” and is often summarised with a quote usually attributed to the American urbanist Lewis Mumford: “Building more roads to prevent congestion is like a fat man loosening his belt to prevent obesity.”

In the 21st century, progressive communities realise that they have to make it easy not to drive. They have to provide high quality walking/cycling infrastructure, and cheap and reliable public transport while at the same time discourage driving by roads pricing and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. This is the only way to avoid climate change, congestion, environmental damage and poor health outcomes.

### Bikeweek

Bikeweek 2021 will not be taking place in June this year. The Department of Transport has decided to move it to September.

*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.*



## Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 24/04/2021 to 25/05/2021 - 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
21725	Kildare County Council	Patrick Connolly,	65 Silken Vale, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	25/05/2021
21686	Kildare County Council	Tara & Anthony Gibney	1 Beaufield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	19/05/2021
21664	Kildare County Council	Board of Management Gaelscoil Ui Fhiaich	Gaelscoil Ui Fhiaich, Celbridge Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	14/05/2021
21615	Kildare County Council	CRL Recruitment Limited,	Units 2 & 3, Maynooth Mall, Mill Street and Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	07/05/2021
21610	Kildare County Council	Mary Feely	Straffan Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	06/05/2021
21613	Kildare County Council	Ciaran Gallagher	Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	06/05/2021
21597	Kildare County Council	Tara and Anthony Gibney	1 Beaufield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	04/05/2021
21588	Kildare County Council	Ian Barrett	Toolestown House, Straffan Road(R406), Maynooth, Co. Kildare	30/04/2021
21579	Kildare County Council	Turf Lawn Sales Limited,	Taghadoe, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	28/04/2021



## MAYNOOTH DRESSES

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**MAYNOOTH**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH  
Eaglais Phreispitéireach in Éirinn

### LIVE SERVICES

From Sunday 6th June, we will be returning to in-person services in Manor Mills. Sadly, our numbers will be restricted as per government guidelines and attendance will be by booking only. Please contact [office@maynoothcc.org](mailto:office@maynoothcc.org) if you would like to attend. Our services will continue be streamed (via Zoom) for those unable to join us in person. You'll find the Zoom link on our website Home Page.

[www.maynoothcc.org](http://www.maynoothcc.org)  
[office@maynoothcc.org](mailto:office@maynoothcc.org)

Current Sermon Series:  
"New Beginnings - the Book of Joshua."



### SOCIAL MEDIA & CHILD MENTAL HEALTH

Join us for an online workshop  
presented by Dr Deborah Webster of Thrive Academy



**ZOOM**  
WORKSHOP

Tuesday 15th June  
@ 7.30pm

Please contact Ann at  
[office@maynoothcc.org](mailto:office@maynoothcc.org)  
if you'd like to participate.

**Thrive**  
academy  
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How is your child's digital wellbeing?

Are you concerned about the amount of time they spend on their devices?

Don't worry, Thrive Academy is here to help!

Our online workshops use the latest research to help parents and carers like you explore the relationship between social media and wellbeing. They equip you with the tools you need to help your children thrive by becoming digitally resilient!

This workshop will be practical, informal and non-judgemental. It will enable you to help your child enjoy the good things our connected world offers while learning to cope with the not so good.

### Younglife Camp August 3rd-6th



#### What is Younglife?

Younglife is a non-profit organisation focused on teenagers. Through work with schools, clubs and their own activities, Younglife staff and volunteer leaders work hard to show every adolescent that they are known and valued.

Younglife is a christian based organisation that invites teens to explore christianity in a safe, non-judgemental way.

At Younglife, you will find fun, adventure and community!

#### What's Camp?

Due to Covid restrictions, we can't run our normal camp in Scotland. Instead, for the first time we are running a local camp right here in Maynooth!

Camp will be over 4 days (2 half and 2 full days), featuring games, food, team challenges, clubs, laughter, a camp speaker, surprise events and more!

#### Interested?

Get in touch with Conor McCrory today on:

0896114417

[cmccrory@younglife.org](mailto:cmccrory@younglife.org)

Website: [younglife.ie](http://younglife.ie)

**younglife**

Maynooth





BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA  
**CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN**  
KILDARE AND WICKLOW  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

# Celbridge

Further Education & Training Centre

 087 397 7750  celbridgefetc@kwetb.ie  www.celbridgefetc.ie

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**Enrolling now for new courses starting Autumn 2021**

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General Studies (University Access)  
Business Studies  
Computer Studies  
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### Part-time courses in

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Communication Skills  
English as a Second Language



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

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

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

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

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

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

**Email:** celbridgefetc@kwetb.ie

**Mobile:** 087 397 7750

**Web:** www.celbridgefetc.ie

**Facebook:** @CelbridgeVTOS

**Location:** Unit A11, M4 Business Park, Celbridge



An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Seileanna  
Department of  
Education and Skills



EUROPEAN UNION  
Investing in your Future  
European Social Fund



Ireland's European Structural and  
Investment Funds Programmes  
2014-2020  
Co-funded by the Irish Government  
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Representative example as at 22/04/21. Example is for illustrative purposes only.

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**Warning:** If you do not meet the repayments on your loan, your account will go into arrears. This may affect your credit rating which may limit your ability to access credit in the future. **Warning:** The cost of your repayments may increase.

Life Credit Union is Regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.





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

## Aran Quest

The cycling was proving harder than they had expected. John was already feeling the strain on his leg muscles, while Anne was finding it difficult to breathe. Only Donal, their fourteen-year-old son, was impatient with the slow pace forced on them by the long uphill road; he raced ahead on his bicycle, occasionally circling around to wait for them, his T-shirt vivid white against the grey walls. After the “Aran Flyer” from Rossaveal docked at Kilronan they had hired their sturdy ‘bone-breakers’ with the intention of travelling the five or so miles to Dún Aengus, the great Iron Age fortress on the edge of a 300-foot high sea cliff. Since the July weather was so hot John had removed his jacket outside the village and given it to Anne, whose bike had a front basket. She had folded it up with her own cardigan and placed them as shading over the sandwiches and orange drinks.

As they pedalled doggedly on John recalled the Halloween weekend he and his college pals had cycled out to Carraroe with the intention of getting a lift to Aran on a hooker, one of the sailing boats that carried turf and other cargo to the island. There had been five of ‘The Scoffing Shantalleers’, as they called themselves, when they started out from Galway but faced with a road winding its way further and further into the rugged bleakness of Connemara, three of the group had lost heart, leaving only Bill and himself to complete the journey well after nightfall.

What had given him the incentive to accomplish that feat? Was it the desire to hear Irish used as a living language by people whose way of life had won the admiration of Pearse and Synge or was it because Eithne, a pre-med student whose father was a doctor, had turned down his invitation to Seapoint ballroom? Probably both motives had played their part. Back then he was in madcap flight from the reality that he wasn’t cut out to be an accountant. When he should have been studying a Commerce textbook his friends would find him reading Ó Conaire’s Deoraíocht or borrowing money to see an Irish play in the Taibhdhearc. No wonder that Eithne had caught the whiff of failure off him!

Not that the trip to Carraroe hadn’t been worth making. Once they had found accommodation in a guesthouse, Bill and he had walked to a pub, Tigh Chathain, where men in homespun clothes with weather-reddened faces under peaked caps were conversing in rich, guttural Irish – the sort of Gaelic peasants Joyce’s Stephen Daedalus professed to fear. Over foaming pints they had gotten into conversation with an Aran islander. What an experience that had been, actually talking to somebody who had little or no English, somebody who might have stepped directly out of one of Liam O’Flaherty’s stories! The islander had promised to bring them to Inishmore in his hooker early the following morning but during the night a gale had blown up.

When they walked to the mist-shrouded quay soon after daybreak a scene of desolation met them: seaweed and driftwood washed up on the pier, a broken currach lying facedown on pebbles, a cormorant perched forlorn on a rock. There was no sign of the hooker. A local fisherman told them that there would be no more sailings that year. John had known then the feeling expressed by Pádraig De Brún, the college president, in Valparaiso, his poem about a ship that had sailed without him to a wonderful faraway place. It was some consolation to spend the rest of that weekend in Carraroe but they had failed in their primary objective, to reach Aran, which waited out there beyond Galway Bay like a magical island – or like the degree he might never get.

“I can’t keep this up!” Anne’s voice brought him back to the present. By now, obeying the pointing hand on the statue of a spear-armed Celtic warrior, they were halfway up the laneway leading to Dún Eochla, having decided to investigate it before visiting Dún Aengus. She dismounted and he followed suit. Below them the island spread out in all its rugged splendour, stonewalled yellow-green fields curving down to the pale blue expanse of Galway Bay. “Give me the camera,” he said. “I’ll have to photograph that.” “Don’t you have it?” Her voice betrayed her alarm. “No,” He looked at her in dismay. “I must have left it down when I took off my jacket. Oh, what an idiot I am!” She did not reproach him but stood there like a little girl who had lost her doll. He knew that her father had given her the camera as a birthday present when she was a teenager in

London. She had worshipped her father, who had died before she had sat her A-levels. What were the chances of a valuable item like that not being stolen by the first person that chanced along? He would have to look for it at once.

Donal agreed to accompany him and together they sped like demons back the way they had come. A thousand thoughts raced through John’s head: the time he had told Anne she was like a beautiful seabird that had landed on the shore of Ireland; their giving their children Celtic names and sending them to the Gaeltacht in summer; her attempt to learn Irish herself; his disappointment that Aran was no longer the place he had once seen through green-tinted glasses – Why, except for two old fellows they had passed earlier, he hadn’t heard anybody speaking Irish and the supermarket in the village didn’t even have bilingual signs, let alone ones in Gaelic. Television and tourism had eroded the island’s once unique culture, replacing it with Anglophone commercialism. What were the chances of finding a camera in such a place? When they reached the wall against which he had rested his bike while removing his jacket there was no sign of the camera. “Dad, why don’t you ask over there?” Donal indicated the Heritage Park. To John’s delight the woman in the heritage centre had the camera. She explained that some teenagers had left it in. No, they wouldn’t want a reward: it was just what anybody would do.

“I’m not so certain about that,” John remarked, then after asking her to be sure to thank the children on his behalf he began to enquire in Irish about the Anglicisation of the island. She told him that while the language was in decline in the more built-up parts it was still in everyday use in remoter districts such as Gort na gCapall. It would, she agreed, be a pity if it died out completely but then the young people were more interested in “Home and Away” than in “Ros na Rún”. Once they were outside Donal kidded him about going native. “You’ll be going native yourself next summer,” he told him. “No I won’t, Dad,” he said. “You can send me to the Gaeltacht if you like but don’t expect me to start speaking Irish. It’s all right for you; you’re a gaeilgeoir.”

On the slow, hard cycle back to Dún Eochla John thought about Donal’s attitude to what was, after all, the country’s first official language. His generation seemed unaware that Pearse had fought for “an Ireland not free merely but Gaelic as well” – though maybe he was being a bit unfair to today’s youth. Despite his own love of Irish, he hadn’t fallen for any of the girls he had met at the Hangar in Galway or at dances in Carraroe. Maybe at heart he was a snob, turning up his nose at homespun Connemara manners while chasing after girls like Eithne? In the end when it came to marrying he had put grace and refinement ahead of proficiency in Irish, though he still expected the people of the Gaeltacht to show more loyalty.

Anne was overjoyed when she saw the camera, examining it thoroughly to make sure nothing had been broken. “I thought I’d never set eyes on it again,” she confessed. “Where did you find it?” When she had heard all the details she exclaimed, “Oh, John, you should have insisted on giving those teenagers a reward. They really were so honest.” “It would only offend them,” he said. “The old decency is still alive here – or should that be the old flaithiúlacht?”

“Does that mean ‘generosity’?” she said. “Very good!” he applauded. “You’ll master the language yet.” “Why don’t we have our sandwiches now?” Donal broke in. “I’m starving.” “Fine,” he agreed, “but first I want to take some photos. Maybe you and your mam could stand over there just to add interest to the foreground.” “You know I don’t like having my photo taken,” Donal protested. “It will be a record of your first trip to Aran,” John told him. “When you’re my age I guarantee you’ll look back on this day with nostalgia, especially after you’ve seen Dún Aengus.

By P.G.Nerney

## Gaelic Farewell

Banucht lath, a Gaelic blessing  
that people murmur when they part,  
mo vanucht lath, I’ll leave you guessing  
its meaning in your lonely heart.

Oh, close your eyes while I am going,  
your lovely eyes my courage break  
now that the winds of night are blowing  
in desolation o’er the lake.

Our hearts were mingled so together

through all the years we leave behind  
their image sways like sprigs of heather  
in careless, sun-drenched rapture twined.

But now wherever fortune leads us  
will strangers form a heedless throng  
and strangers too at home succeed us  
within this valley of our song.

I will not leave you, love, forever,  
perhaps some day before you know  
you’ll see me like the joyful river  
come stumbling down to Derrylow.

Banucht lath, the dew is falling;  
mo vanucht lath, it’s time to go:  
the minawn aerach\* long is calling  
his lonely song o’er Derrylow.

\*airy kid , the snipe, so-called because during  
courtship flights  
it makes a bleating sound with two vibrating tail  
feathers.

By Colin Scott



# 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*



## HSE service disruption

Many HSE services and appointments are suspended because of a cyber attack on HSE IT systems. Cancelled appointments will be rescheduled as soon as possible. People can check for updates on affected services on the HSE website.

## COVID-19 vaccination

Pregnant women and people aged between 45 and 49 years can now register for a vaccine appointment. Pregnant women need to contact their obstetrician, midwife or GP to register. People aged between 45 and 49 can register online or phone the COVID-19 Helpline on 1850 24 1850.

## Mandatory hotel quarantine

The list of designated countries has been amended for mandatory hotel quarantine.

You must pre-pay for your stay in your designated quarantine hotel. If you are unable to pay, Irish embassies and consulates can arrange deferral of charges. This is available in exceptional circumstances. After you arrive in Ireland you can request an exemption from charges from the Minister for Health on financial grounds.

## PUP

The DSP are asking employers to notify them of people who refuse to go back to work by emailing [C19employerreports@welfare.ie](mailto:C19employerreports@welfare.ie). The DSP will follow up with the workers concerned. You are no longer eligible for PUP if you left work to care for a child due to school or childcare closures.

## Carer's payments

A carer cannot provide less than 35 hours per week of care over 5-7 days to be considered a full-time carer and qualify for Carer's Allowance.

The DSP has removed their reference to the weekly limit of 18.5 hours 'work outside the home' for the Carer's Support Grant. The limit is now described as 18.5 hours in employment or self-employment.

## Public Services Card

You can now renew your Public Services Card online.

## Summer Education Programme

A Summer Education Programme will run in 2021 for children in DEIS schools and children with special needs. The Department will publish further details of the programme. From 24 May, application forms for the home-based programme for post-primary children with complex needs (pdf) will be available in schools.

## Special needs assistants

The introduction of the front-loaded allocation model for special needs assistants for students in mainstream classes in primary and post-primary schools is deferred to the 2022-2023 school year.

## Consultation on the General Scheme of the Consumer Rights Bill 2021

DETE has published the draft General Scheme of the Consumer Rights Bill 2021. The Bill proposes to consolidate and modernise existing consumer protection legislation and to strengthen rules for consumers, including:

- New rights for digital content contracts
- New rights for contracts for the supply of services currently subject to much less statutory regulation than the sale of goods
- A 'black list' of contract terms that are always unfair
- New enforcement powers for the CCPC to ensure rights are upheld
- A public consultation on the General Scheme is open until 30 June 2021.

## Updated Work Safely Protocol

The Work Safely Protocol has been updated with new guidance on vaccinations, use of antigen testing in the workplace and updated guidance on ventilation and at-risk workers.

## TWSS and employers paying employees' 2020 income tax and USC liability

Revenue is facilitating employers who want to pay the 2020 income tax and USC liabilities of their employees, where the liability arose from the TWSS. Employers have until the end of September 2021 to make the payments on behalf of their employees.

## Moratorium on electricity and gas disconnections to end

The COVID-19 moratorium on disconnection of utilities will end on 31 May 2021.

## Driving licences

NDLS centres are open to all customers since 17 May 2021. If you have a Public Services Card or MyGovID, you can make an appointment to attend an NDLS centre online.

## New rules to allow asylum seekers to open bank accounts

AIB, Bank of Ireland, Permanent TSB, KBC and Ulster Bank have adopted a coordinated approach to make it easier for people seeking international protection to open bank accounts. Under the new system, asylum seekers wishing to open an account will be able to provide alternative documentation to prove their identity or where they live if necessary.

## Measures to prevent investment funds from bulk buying homes

Cabinet has agreed new measures to stop the bulk purchase of houses. These include changes to planning laws which would see up to 50% of houses and duplexes in new developments ring-fenced for owner-occupiers. Stamp duty on block purchases of ten or more houses and duplexes has increased from 1% to 10%.

## Companies virtual general meetings

The Companies (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Covid-19) Act 2020 has been extended until 31 December 2021. This means that all companies, including owners management companies, can continue to hold their general meetings online.

## UPCOMING

### Announcement on resumption of travel

The Irish Times reports that a comprehensive statement from Government is expected next week on the EU COVID-19 Certificate (also known as the 'digital green certificate'), including information on resumption of travel, aviation, sports, entertainment and the future of mandatory quarantine.

### Social welfare changes in June 2021

From 2 June for Disability Allowance and 4 June for Blind Pension, the earnings disregard will increase by €20, from €120 to €140 per week.

From June, the Carer's Support Grant will increase by €150, from €1,700 to €1,850.

On 21 June, applications for Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance will open. The closing date for applications is 30 September.

Leaving Certificate 2021

Leaving Certificate written exams will begin on 9 June 2021.

### New legislation for criminal trials

Legislation providing for the introduction of preliminary trial hearings in criminal trials has been passed by the Oireachtas. The Criminal Procedure Bill is intended to streamline the operation of criminal trials and reduce delays.

### COVID-19 business supports

Phase 2 of the Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC) will open for applications shortly with a closing date of 21 July. Businesses can apply for a second payment of €4,000 if they continue to be eligible.

### Birth Information and Tracing Bill

Draft Heads and General Scheme of the Birth Information and Tracing Bill (pdf) has been published.

### Nursing Home Support Scheme

The Government is proposing to amend legislation to change the treatment of farm and business assets in the financial assessment of applicants for the Nursing Home Support Scheme. The Bill will extend the availability of the 3-year cap to relevant family-owned and operated farm and/or business assets. A family successor must commit to working the farm or business within the first 3 years of the applicant's time in care.



## HISTORIC MOMENTS

I was more than a little afraid the night that President Kennedy challenged the Russians in their effort to site nuclear missiles in Cuba. I was in Louvain at the time and somehow felt more exposed than if I had been at home in Ireland. They were a tense few hours, or indeed days!

I am wondering now if there was anymore danger during those hours and days than there was during the last four years with a lunatic in charge of the world's biggest arsenal of nuclear weapons? The world has been lucky!

There have been many such nerve-wracking incidents in my lifetime. Born just before World War 2 broke out I remember the rationbooks, the extra sugar for beetgrowers, the preciousness of tea. I was standing idly by when my father asked Paddy the Postman if there was any sign of the war being over! Strangely, I do not remember the answer.

I was worried when the U2 was shot down; the suppression of the Hungarian Rising and the rector of my boarding school announcing that Budapest had been razed."Budapest is no more", he stated in his voice which never lacked authority. Before that there was the Korean war and the 38th parallel. There was Cardinal Minzinti, whom we prayed for each night at the family rosary.

Thinking of all these moments as being frightening for the world too, why not focus for a moment on the positive, the uplifting moments. And there were many. There were the miners rescued from various collapsed mines; there was the election of Mikhail Gorbachev; there was the Fall of the Berlin Wall, the Good Friday Agreement and many more of equally happy memory.

All these are empirical happenings. They were seen and experienced by many. But is that all there is? I think not! For me the objects of our faith are just as certain, if not more so. I'll just concentrate on one. And that one is the Annunciation. The Annunciation was when God took on himself our human form and began to live among us showing us what it is really like to be human. Christians celebrate that Titanic event on the 25th March. What date it actually occurred on I'll leave it to the scripture scholars to enlighten us.

But to me it was the Greatest moment in the history of the world!

GM



The Management & Team at the Glenroyal Hotel are looking forward to welcoming back our guests on June 2nd 2021.



Arkle Bar & Restaurant to reopen for outdoor dining on June 7th 2021



Noa Spa has reopened for bespoke spa treatments on May 10th 2021



Glenroyal Leisure Club to reopen to members only on June 7th 2021



Shoda Market Café to reopen for outdoor dining on June 7th 2021

WWW.GLENROYAL.IE | 01 629 0909 | INFO@GLENROYAL.IE

## Tips to Stay Safe Shopping online

Online shopping is big business these days, with more and more consumers across the world turning to the world wide web to purchase good. The world wide web has made shopping an altogether more pleasant, cost-effective and user-friendly experience. However, buying online has its risks. Here are five top tips to stay safe and secure.

### Stick with trusted brands that have a strong reputation

Sticking with popular brands is as good as any advice when shopping online. Not only do you know what you're getting by way of quality and price, but you also feel more confident that these well-established names have in place robust security measures. However, be careful, as fraudsters often create fake and professional looking websites to lure in unsuspecting victims.

### Use credit cards and secure payment services instead of debit cards

As a general rule, credit cards, in comparison to debit cards, offer consumers additional protection when shopping online. The main advantage of the latter is that a credit card account is in no way linked to whatever funds you actually own. And that's not all – there are other benefits too. "Unlike debit cards, credit cards may have a limit on the monetary amount you will be responsible for paying if your information is stolen and used by someone else," explains Stay Safe Online, a National Cyber Security Initiative.

Likewise, using secure online payment services, like that offered by PayPal, are advisable. The advantage with these providers is that they act as a kind of middle man, whereby you deliver payment to them – i.e. PayPal – and they then pass this onto the retailer. Your bank details always remain unseen.

### Look for the "https" URL and the padlock symbol

HTTPS, which was developed by Netscape, is an online safety protocol that encrypts information so that data can be kept private and protected. In most cases, the text in the URL is preceded by a padlock symbol (if this is missing, the website should be treated with caution). The 'S' in HTTPS, incidentally, stands for secure. Websites that use HTTPS cause data sent between the site and your web browser to be encrypted through the use of TLS (Transport Layer Security). That means that any information, such as your credit card details, can't be intercepted in plaintext form by an external attacker. Note that using HTTPS does not say anything about the reputability of the site receiving the data, however.

### Be wary of dodgy offers that are too good to be true

We have all come across a legitimately unbelievable offer and jumped on it with enthusiasm, glad to have been afforded the opportunity to purchase something at a fraction of its true cost.

But that is rare. The old adage of "if it's too good to be true,

then it probably is" should inform how you shop online – caution is required because there are plenty of scams looking to hook you in with tempting offers. In some cases, the perpetrators are looking to simply infect your device.

### Opt for your mobile phone network over public Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi is unquestionably something we as consumers now expect. From shops to cafes to restaurants, being able to access the internet with little or no cost is in tune with our connected way of living. However, when it comes to buying online, all the convenience that comes with public Wi-Fi can be overshadowed by the many risks that are associated with this service. You'd be surprised at how insecure many hotspots actually are and how easy they are to attack.

There are ample solutions to resolving the vulnerabilities associated with public Wi-Fi, but, in general, when out and about, opt to use data provided by your network provider when going online.



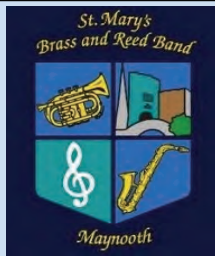
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## ***St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band***

### ***90th Anniversary Calendar***

### ***now on Sale***



This year marks the 90th Anniversary of the reforming of the Band in 1931 and to celebrate the occasion we have produced a Souvenir Calendar which chronicles, in both text and photographs, the progress of the Band over the 90 years. It also includes a snapshot of events between the founding of the Band in 1796 and 1920 when it suffered a setback due to the War of Independence.

We are sure that the calendar will bring back memories to so many of the past members who appear in the photos, especially those who no longer live in Maynooth. We have taken those into account by providing a mail order opportunity to purchase one as a souvenir of their time with the Band if they email their contact details to [calendarsales90@gmail.com](mailto:calendarsales90@gmail.com) and we will make sure that it gets to them.

The Band would like to take this opportunity to announce the recent appointment of our Parish Priest Fr. Frank McEvoy as their Honorary President to succeed the late Michael Dempsey. Since his arrival in the Parish Fr. Frank has taken a great interest in the Band, particularly around the Annual Mass for Deceased Members, and he was delighted and honoured to accept the nomination. He joins another Parish Priest Fr. Fergus O'Higgins who was also President in the 1970s.

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## **Crime Victims Helpline**

### **Beware of Scam Phone Calls**

Every day fraudsters and scammers come up with new ways to steal money and information from unsuspecting people. Scams can be very elaborate and it can be easy for even the savviest of people to be taken in by them. Following are some common scams to be aware of and how to recognise and avoid them.

A pervasive scam revolves around the claim that your computer is infected with a virus. Someone rings and says that your computer has been hacked and malicious software has been loaded onto your computer. They offer to help for a fee or they ask for information to so that they can access your computer. They often end up with people's credit card information, personal information that can be used for identity theft purposes, or both. Legitimate technology companies will not ring you out of the blue. If you have any concerns about your computer, ask someone you know and trust to look at it or hire an established tech-support company to investigate the issues.

Other common scams involve claims that you have won a prize, lottery or free holiday. The fraudsters will then charge a fee or "tax" before releasing the prize. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Be suspicious of anyone who cold calls you and asks for personal information or money. Don't give out personal details over the phone. If you are unsure if someone is legitimate, take down their name and contact information. Independently verify the information either online, in person, or by ringing the number that is listed on your bank or credit card statements. Legitimate callers should not pressure you or make you afraid. Genuine people and organisations will understand why you are being cautious.

If you do end falling prey to a scammer, don't hesitate to contact your local Garda Station. You may also want to ring the Crime Victims Helpline for someone to talk to. The Crime Victims Helpline provides non-judgemental listening and support at Freephone 116 006.

They can also be reached by email at [info@crimevictimshelpline.ie](mailto:info@crimevictimshelpline.ie)





# Royal Canal Notes

June 2021

## Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

### LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS

Restrictions have been partly lifted which hopefully will mean increased usage of our waterway and its environs. This is most welcome and people are encouraged to enjoy the canal along its entire length



From the archives: Camlin Falls Longford c.1905 where the Royal meets the Shannon. © NLI Lawrence

### ROYAL CANAL SAFETY

We in the Royal Canal Amenity Group, promote as one of our priority's safety on the canal. As a result of a recent complaint, from two senior citizens we again exhort all users to think safety. In this case the couple, who were enjoying a walk along the canal, were overtaken by a number of bicycles at speed and without warning almost sending them headlong into the canal. This type of conduct is totally unacceptable and more so where senior citizens are concerned. There is no difficulty in sounding your bell or calling out to let people know you are coming.

Waterways Ireland has banned the use of electric scooters along the canal yet some people still choose to use such equipment adjacent to the waterway.

These scooters can achieve up to thirty miles an hour which is unnecessary, unsafe and unwise in a leisure area. Bicycles (for leisure purposes only) should be used in a manner respectable to and considerate of other users.

The Canal cannot and must not be used for racing cycle time trials, speed trials and such.



### FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ

A reminder that elsewhere in this publication you can read the fourth and final part of an 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 also 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.

Next month will see the first part of a new article on 'the canal by canoe' subject to author's permission

### ROYAL CANAL WALKS

At last! Some good news on this front, the easing of pandemic restrictions means that once again walks may be resumed on the Canal. While it is unlikely that the annual Ashtown – Castleknock midsummer walk will go ahead in June it is hoped that a socially distanced walk (SDW) can take place at a later juncture. One has been pencilled in for September, with times and venue to be announced. Hopefully all will be coordinated and details available for one of the next issues. So, polish up the hiking shoes/boots and be prepared.



Royal Canal Hill of Down, Co. Meath © FitsFoto Maynooth

### CANAL NOT SUITABLE FOR SWIMMING

As we enter the Summer months a timely reminder that the Canal is not suitable for swimming in. It is against 'Waterways' bye laws to swim in the canal and could also cause health issues. It is better to be safe than sorry.



## Before the Banks of the Royal Canal

### By Peter Clarke (Final Part)

#### 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 Newsletter issues 32, 33, 34 and 37*

*In this article Peter describes the trials and tribulations prior to and during construction off the Royal Canal.*

Although the ultimate destination of the canal from its inception was Tarmonbarry, from as early as 1807 several other lines were suggested and surveys carried out on them. The Company itself put forward a plan in 1807 that the navigation should end at Lough Ree instead of Tarmonbarry. John Rennie had surveyed a line to Rooskey and a line to Ardagh had also been surveyed. In 1809 John Killaly carried out a major survey for the Directors General. His instruction was to try to continue the canal in the most northerly direction feasible. By this line he proposed to terminate the canal at Coolnahay and begin his new line by branching off at Thomastown and continuing towards Castlepollard, Finac and Purtanure and carrying on towards Lough Allen. The canal was to further branch at Purtanure and run towards Lough Erne. The total cost of this network of canals would have cost £520,000. To enable the canal to enter the Shannon at Tarmonbarry he planned a branch from Farthaman, a distance of 101/2 miles, at a cost of £83,600.

The cost of this network of canals was beyond the financial resources of both the Directors General and the Royal Canal Co. While contemporary sources suggested that a northerly direction would be of greater advantage to the canal, it is unlikely that this proposed route would have provided more trade than its present route. An accurate description of the country and the potential trade on the proposed line was made by Arthur Richard Neville for the Company on the 18th June 1810.

Very little of Neville's survey was in favour of running a canal through this part of the country. He described the surrounding countryside as poor, hilly and containing a lot of bog. Little or no crops were grown and roads were in a poor condition. In his opinion there were few local advantages, there was a low population, the housing and the people were poor. Neville also reported on the extension from Coolnahay to Tarmonbarry which was surveyed by Richard Evans when he was the Company engineer and laid out at a later stage by J. Alex Jones with some alterations. The line was to proceed from Coolnahay to Balnacarrig (Ballynacargy).

Here it was expected that a new linen industry would soon be in operation. Many new houses had been built in the area ready for occupation by the workforce. From here the line was to proceed to near Jinnelick flour mills and across the river Inney to the village of Tishinny and on to the town of Ballymahon; from Ballymahon on to the villages of Kenagh, Killashee and on to Clondra where it was to enter the River. Camlin.

The length of this line was 24 miles. Neville saw no difficulties with construction in this particular area. In comparison with the northern line, it passed through an area of good tillage, which produced wheat, oats, potatoes, also some flax. The houses were of a better quality, indicating a more prosperous population. There were fewer bogs and these were of a much smaller size. Eventually this was the approximate route decided upon.

#### The Grand Canal Company Object to the Completion of the Line

Between 1810 and 1813 no construction work was carried out on the line. The reason for the stoppage, apart from the ever-present financial difficulties, was several parliamentary investigations into the Company's affairs. These investigations were the result of a dispute between the Company and the Grand Canal Company when it became public knowledge that they planned to divert the line a mile to the south of Terlicken and continue on to Ballymahon. This had been agreed between the Company and the Directors General, the cost was also agreed at £1 06,638.1.3. The Grand Canal Company had petitioned the Directors General, complaining that the Royal Canal had from the beginning been an injury to them and an encroachment on their monopoly.

Now with this extension to Ballymahon, bringing the line still closer, and the reduced tolls being operated they feared a further loss of business. Although it was not practical and only considered briefly by the Royal Canal Company, the Grand Canal Directors' biggest fear was that the Royal Canal would not continue on to Tarmonbarry from Ballymahon but enter the River Inney and terminate in Lough Ree, leaving a distance of only ten miles from Athlone. The Directors General felt that no such injury existed, the canals still being twenty miles apart. They rejected the Grand Canal's complaints, but on appeal to the Lord Lieutenant, the Grand Canal Co. had the decision to grant the money overruled and successfully halted the Ballymahon line.

As a result of this situation the Royal Canal Company had to appeal to Parliament in an effort to carry on building the line but they were unsuccessful. After an investigation by a House of Commons Committee it was recommended that the Company be dissolved and a new one formed of its creditors. The entire work was handed over to the Directors General who were to complete the canal to the Shannon.

#### Directors General Complete the Line.

With the new Company in position no time was lost in organising the resumption of work. John Killaly had carried out a survey on the proposed line from Coolnahay to Tarmonbarry early in 1813. He had followed closely the line laid out by Evans and Jones in this direction. From Coolnahay to 1.5 miles beyond Ballynacargy he followed the same course, but by inclining to the north from Rathkelet and crossing the River Inney at the Ford of Driminure he avoided a long embankment over the Blackwater and a considerable length of deep sinking through Ballymoyleary Bog, and several large embankments from here to Terlicken. Apart from the financial saving, this part of the line to Ballymahon was one mile shorter. His proposal from here to the Shannon was again similar to what was already laid out, but by moving the position of the locks and entering the Shannon through the Camlin River he saved the expense of an aqueduct.

The Jones/Evans line would have taken 10 years to complete at a cost of £340,525.15.11, with the alterations, Killaly proposed to complete it in four years, at a cost of £198,110.5.4. Killaly laid out his new line on 9th November 1813 and a contract was signed with the firm of Heary, Mullins and McMahon for work to commence on 27th May 1814 and completed by 1st March 1817. Killaly had overall responsibility for the new works and reported directly to the Directors General. Unlike his predecessor, Killaly had a well-structured team of engineers and supervisors working under him. Two resident engineers were appointed, J. Alex Jones and Mr. Whitehead and six overseers, Charles Tarrant, Edward Cooke, John Killinger, Joseph Burke, William Musgrave and Hugh O'Neill. Jones and Whitehead were respon-sible for the works from Coolnahay to the Shannon. The supervision of the work was further increased when on July 29th, 1814 six assistant supervisors were appointed at £2 per week. One of those appointed was Michael Sparks who had succeeded Richard Evans as resident engineer on the canal after his death in 1801.

One of the major problems encountered during the construction of the extension was' malicious damage to the line. This problem was first encountered in 1811 in the Moyvalley area of Westmeath. The problem then was a fear of a potato scarcity which was indirectly caused by the canal. Robert Peel, Chief Secretary of Ireland, in a letter to the canal Directors, said that he had laid before the Lord Lieutenant a letter he received from the Company together with four notices they had enclosed, one addressed to the Company and three to boat owners, threatening that if potatoes were brought on the canal from the country to the Dublin market, the banks of the canal would be cut again and the boats sunk or burnt.

In an effort to quell these outrages the Company sent circular letters to several magistrates and clergymen throughout Counties Kildare, Meath and Westmeath informing them of the difficulties being encountered. They also offered rewards for any information that might lead to the prevention of these outrages. The offering of a reward had been effective the previous year when similar threats were received. Threats were sent only to boatmen who carried potatoes and none were received by the Grand Canal Company or its boatmen. The threats came from local inhabitants along the route of the canal who in general thought that all the potatoes in the area would be sent to Dublin, leaving them starving. Vast quantities were being sent to the Dublin market by farmers with reasonable access to the canal. The reason the Royal Canal was chosen instead of the Grand was because of the low toll rate. It cost ½d per ton on the Royal Canal compared with 1½d per ton on the Grand Canal. It was possible to transport potatoes at 1.8d per ton from Mullingar to Dublin, this amount being less than it cost farmers living within a five-mile radius of the city to transport the same quantity.

Harsh measures were adopted in County Westmeath to deal with offenders who were caught interfering with the canal of boats. Under the chairmanship of Gustavies Rochford the Westmeath committee gentlemen set up a subscription to gather money to offer as a reward for information leading to the apprehension of those caught damaging the canal. At a meeting held in October 1812 a resolution was passed and posted in the surrounding districts of Mullingar, Kinnegad, Castlepollard, Kilbeggan, Moate, Athlone and Castletowndelvin. Any person who willfully or maliciously "beat down, undermine, damage, or destroy bridges, lock wire, sluice, aqueduct. Floodgate, towing path, bank, reservoir, etc. shall be transported for seven years or be fined, whipped or imprisoned, according to the direction of the court". These measures did curtail the vandalism for a while in this area but by July 1814 Heary, Mullins and Mc Mahon, the contractors, reported to the Directors General "that a spirit of riot and combination had manifested itself to an alarming degree".

On the night of July 25th, forty men armed with guns, swords and pistols attacked the canal. Carts belonging to the Company were burned and broken to pieces. The contractors found it difficult to continue with the work and it became necessary to post troops along the banks to protect the canal and the workmen. While some engineering difficulties did arise during the construction these were competently handled by Killaly and the entire extension was completed to the Shannon on time, by 26th May 1817.

**\*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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when you need someone  
to guide you ... A father's  
always there."**





## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

E mail: [angelaemfeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelaemfeeney@gmail.com) - Phone: 0872381962



### The Mullen Park Housing Development

This long awaited development finally went on sale in September 2020 and the 174 houses were marketed as 'superb family homes'. Phase 1, 34 houses were sold on the open market. However, Cllr Feeney was contacted in April by some of people on the waiting list for phases 2, 3 and 4 who were enraged because they had just been informed that a foreign investment company had bought all of the remaining houses, 80% of the estate. In addition, discussions had taken place with Kildare County Council, facilitated by the Housing Agency, Tuath with the developer of Mullen Park, to acquire those units for social housing. However, in April, the Council confirmed that the developer informed Tuath that he was engaged with another party with regard to the acquisition of the housing development. As a result, Tuath



advised the Council that, regrettably, they were not in a position to complete the acquisition. This was hugely disappointing, particularly given the amount of time assigned to this project by the Council, the Housing Agency and Tuath and the number of people on the Council social housing list. These properties are being bought in bulk to then be rented out for profit. Cllr Feeney immediately wrote to Minister Daragh O'Brien asking how, at a time of a huge housing supply issue, can these 'cuckoo funds' be allowed to buy 80% of a new development and she asked why there are no restrictions on foreign residential real estate investors buying in Ireland.

Cllr Feeney was invited to speak on the issue on RTE's 'The Week in Politics' and Virgin Media's news and 'The Tonight Show' as well as KFM Radio which featured it when she brought it to their attention. Cllr Feeney communicated the shock in our community that this could be allowed to happen as well as the sense of disappointment and hopelessness for future homeowners. She called on the government to address this situation immediately especially at a time when we have a national housing crisis.



### Visit to Maynooth by Alan Kelly T.D. Leader of the Labour Party

Cllr Feeney was delighted to welcome Alan Kelly, the Labour Party leader to Maynooth on May 13th to hear first hand the concerns of local residents and meet the people working in our community. Alan met some childcare educators and providers who explained the current challenges facing parents and providers, Alan also visited Mullen Park and shared Cllr Feeney's concerns for future home owners, he vouched his support by making concrete proposals to the government to resolve it. On his walk around the town he had the opportunity to talk to local business owners and residents within COVID guidelines and Alan promised to be back when he can hopefully enter premises and meet more people.



### Planning Matters

Planning Application 21370 at Parson Street Update: 40 further information requests from Kildare County Council, to be submitted by the developer within 6 months. Request to reduce proposed 9 storey block to 7 storeys, revised proposal for protected former Rectory building, mobility management plan, public transport impact study, flooding and overlooking balconies are just some of the 40 items. Read the full report here by entering planning file number 21370: <http://webgeo.kildarecoco.ie/planningenquiry>

### Meadowbrook Taking In Charge

Cllr Feeney and Cllr Hamilton had a joint motion calling on the Council to outline a phased approach to the upgrade on the Meadowbrook Estate with the aim of creating an approach that can be funded in manageable pieces across multiple years through central funds, LPT, government permeability and active transport funding and other relevant sources. The Council replied stating that the Development Control Engineer has met on site with the Parks Department, which has provided an undertaking to carry out a Tree Inspection Report. This report will then form the basis of agreement as to which trees will need to be removed and which will require pruning. The tree works will then be costed. The Development Control Engineer has also sought prices for remedial works required below ground to the storm lines and is awaiting prices for same. The above ground defects have recently been costed in the region of €428,973.25. This figure includes an estimate of €50,507.50 for tree removal/pruning. When agreement has been reached between the Development Control Section/Park Section and Municipal District Office as to which trees are to be removed/pruned a report will be submitted to the members for their consideration. It was agreed that given the scale of the work to be done, large

tranches of funding 100k by 5 years are required. It is welcome to see an initial allocation of 50K to be used to assess and manage trees and related issues in the estate and that the Council team visited the estate for an overview of issues. We have a precedent as an MD when Chambers Park Kilcock was in a similar situation and we can use this as a template to address this long awaited issue in Meadowbrook.

### Retrofitting Programme for Council Houses

At the April Plenary Council meeting we were informed that Kildare County Council is receiving funding in 2021 under both the Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (MEERP) and the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (EERP) to retrofit our social housing stock. The council received €3.3m in funding under MEERP and have identified between 80-100 housing units across four developments to be retrofitted in four phases commencing in May as follows:

- Phase 1 Beechgrove, Rathangan
- Phase 2 Ashbrook, Derrinturn
- Phase 3 Bishopsland (Farrincooley and Dunmurry Rise), Kildare
- Phase 4 St Evins Park, Monasterevin

In addition, the council have received €1,488,786 in funding for 2021 under EERP and have compiled a work programme for 55 units across three developments which are separate to the developments to be retrofitted under MEERP [Loughnamona, Leixlip; Clonmullion, Athy; Cill Corbain, Naas]. Three demonstration units have been completed to date in Ashbrook, Derrinturn with a further 16 units being prepared for tender. That will conclude the retrofit programme in the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District for 2021. The retrofitting of further units within the municipal district will be considered when a call for proposals is requested in 2022. We also learned that the Council did not seek funding under the National Home Retrofit Scheme, as there was limited interest in that scheme from the local authority sector, with ultimately no local authorities progressing applications mainly arising from by the roll out of the EERP by the DHLGH. A number of staff have been assigned to both the MEERP and EERP on a part-time basis and consideration is being given to what additional resources may be required to deliver both programmes. The Council also added that there is no indication at this time of the likely funding over the next 5 years. So, Cllr Feeney, at the May MD, asked in the interest of fairness, that all council houses or those that are the oldest estates be included in the retrofitting programme. The Council accepted the point and agreed to have a look at the age of stock in Maynooth and at Cllr Feeney's suggestion.

### Housing Transfer Applications

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide the number of housing transfer applications for medical reasons, received and completed in the municipal district in the past five years. The Council replied stating that they do not collate yearly records under categories, which would provide the response that has been requested. They confirmed that they currently have 13 transfer applicants in the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District area of which 5 transfer applications were received for the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District during the period 2020/2021 to date. Prior to 2020, they do not have the applications broken down into yearly figures and do not have a record of the number of allocations to transfer applicants during that time. Cllr Feeney expressed her dissatisfaction with this and added that this is an on-going issue and the subject of huge stress to those families in this predicament. Cllr Feeney will pursue this further.

### Cllr Feeney Fáilte Ireland Strand 2 Outdoor Dining Funding

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to inform the members if Maynooth, as the first purple flag town in the county, will be included in the application for Strand 2 of the funding initiative to facilitate outdoor dining. The Council replied stating that Fáilte Ireland has announced funding for outdoor dining, with the focus of the scheme to provide a level of financial support to tourism and hospitality businesses, in Kildare's town centres, to purchase or upgrade equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and, therefore, increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021. This scheme will financially assist and support independent tourism and hospitality business owners to create outdoor dining experiences in a regulated and accessible manner. Funding under the scheme is only available to existing businesses under Strand 1 with funding being available to Local Authorities under Strand 2. The scheme is open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses or other tourism and hospitality business establishments where food is sold for consumption on the premises. Where a business wants to use public footpaths/space the business must apply for a Section 254 licence, and in this regard 8 no. S254 licences have been for Maynooth with 2 no. applications currently being assessed. As the Public Realm Team are already progressing plans for parklets in Maynooth, cross departmental consideration, including collaboration with the Municipal District Engineer will have to be given to additional appropriate locations, over and above those being funded through the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and those being funded by the recently announced Fáilte Ireland scheme for businesses (Strand 1) as outlined above.

Cllr Feeney responded asking specifically about Strand 2 and the Director of Services confirmed that KCC has already secured funding for parklets in Maynooth and elsewhere in county. The Council will match funding to where it is required and where space allows. The Council is trying to react to an evolving situation and by all working together, businesses, Purple Flag and other community groups to address issues as they arise. Public procurement has to be complied with.

(Continued on page 15)





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



(Continued from page 14)

The Council take comments on board and added that there is another scheme, Urban Animation Scheme which provides for further enhancements such as a stage or performance space.

### Funding Opportunities

**1. The Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021** is now open for Expressions of Interest from interested groups including voluntary and community groups and also for the first time, proposals that support a number of businesses will be considered. An Expression of Interest must be submitted prior to making an application for funding. The 2021 Scheme will prioritise tackling vacancy in towns and villages, remote working and supporting town centre living. Other projects which will be welcomed include regeneration projects that support active and vibrant town or village centres, upgrading shop fronts and street facades, and green spaces and parks, etc. For the 2021 Scheme, the minimum grant which is available is €20,000. The maximum level of grant funding available is being raised to €500,000 in respect of one application. A maximum of €250,000 will apply in respect of 2 applications and €100,000 in respect of 4 applications. Expressions of Interest can be submitted from today 14th May to 28th May 2021, with completed forms to be emailed to [angough@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:angough@kildarecoco.ie) in the Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team.

Information here:

<https://kildare.ie/.../2021TownandVillageRenewalSchemeLa.../>

was invited to speak on the issue on

**2. Covid-19 Stability Fund:** The COVID-19 Stability Fund 2021 is open to all Community and Voluntary organisations, Charities and Social Enterprises providing certain critical services to the most at need in our society. Closing date for applications: 27th May 2021

<https://www.pobal.ie/pro.../covid-19-cv-stability-fund-2021/>

### 3. Community Enhancement Programme:

The 2021 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) will provide small grants designed to assist in the re-opening of facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres. The grants will range from a few hundred euro up to €10,000, however, exceptions will be made depending on the application.

The funding is to help groups and clubs get back on their feet and may be used to carry

out necessary renovations and repairs or to purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies, training equipment and so on.

<https://www.gov.ie/.../df30e-ministers-humphreys-and.../>

### Dublin Bus Response to Cllr Feeney's query

Dublin Bus response to Cllr Feeney's query regarding their plans to extend their service in Maynooth:

*Dear Councillor Feeney*

*The New Dublin Area Bus Network which is being implemented as part of the BusConnects Dublin Programme, provides for a new orbital route (W6) between Maynooth and Tallaght. The new route will terminate adjacent to the new secondary school campus on Moyglare Road. Subject to the availability of funding, the NTA plans to implement this service in 2022. In light of this, the NTA has no current plans to extend Routes 66 and 67 in the short term.*

*The new bus network does not propose express services operating from Cluain Aoibhinn on the Newtown / Rathcoffey Road. However, Route 139, operated by JJ Kavanagh under a public service contract with the NTA, does operate along this corridor.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Oireachtas Liaison*

### Meetings attended since last Newsletter

May 6th at 2:00 pm Strategic Policy Committee on Transportation, Roads and Emergency Services (online)

May 6th at 8:00 pm Community Crèche Action Group (online)

May 7th at 10:00 am MD Council meeting (online)

May 7th at 9:00 am Joint Policing Committee (online)

May 7th at 1:30 pm KCC Strategic Projects (online)

May 10th at 7:00 pm Maynooth Community Council (online)

May 18th at 2:30 pm KWETB Audit and Risk Committee (online)

May 19th at 3:00 pm Speed Limit Review (online)

May 20th at 9:30 am County Development Plan workshop (online)

May 25th at 9:30 am County Development Plan workshop (online)

May 25th at 4:00 pm KWETB Board (online)

May 31st at 3:00 pm Council Plenary (online)



Gold Medal Winner 2019

We would like to say a few words about Richard Farrell and his lone tenure of 40 plus years as a servant to Maynooth Tidy Towns as PRO.

Richard together with his wife Mary entered Maynooth in the Tidy Towns Competition every year and slowly but surely gathered up the points to secure us our first Tidy Towns Bronze Medal in 2013. We won silver in 2014 and were nominated for the best kept town in Ireland, which we won at an event in the Titanic Centre in Belfast. It was all uphill after that. Richard took great pride in our winnings as it was always a struggle securing finance for projects. Many of you will remember when Richard and Mary went door to door to our businesses looking for funding.

Richard and Mary organized many events including the Tidiest Estates Competition. The Annual volunteers night out.

Richard built up a relationship with Intel and was instrumental in securing €10,000 back in 2015 for the Big Belly Compactors that you see on Main Street. Other funding followed for the Information Board that you see in the Square. Richard was also a member of the PPN, Public Participation Network.

Richard was instrumental in producing The Maynooth Calendar in 2015 which was sold in Maynooth Book Shop. Since 2015 we have won silver and 4 gold medals for Maynooth. Richard always made himself available doing the paperwork in recent years and was really well liked by all the volunteers.

Today we thank you for all your hard work, enjoy your retirement with your family and

friends and when restrictions have lifted we might have a retirement party or some such meet up in celebration of all your community work for Maynooth.

We would like to express condolences to the family of John Gillick, Rockfield. John was a member of our Sunday morning crew for many years back in the noughties. Rest in Peace John.

Our meet ups are continuing since May 15th with lots of tasks completed in the Council Car Park and The Square with help from Ted Robinson and his crew from the Glenroyal Hotel. Minister Heather Humphreys launched The Virtual 2021 Tidy Towns Competition so that should keep us busy thinking about the application.

### Below: Photos of Richard in years gone by.



**We are not looking for new members at the moment due to restrictions but you can follow us on Twitter and Facebook for up-dates on our activities or phone us at 0873153189**

**MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEE**





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

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

### Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats) raises the issue of Cuckoo funds at Leaders Questions in the Dail.

If I told the Taoiseach that cuckoo funds have been betting on this Government to the tune of €53 million every week this year, he would probably say I am being overdramatic. It is true, however. Despite its claims of ignorance about the activities of these cuckoo funds, the Government is up to its neck in it. Last year, GillenMarkets, a financial advisory firm based in Dublin, published a note to its wealthy investors which stated:

The current high level house prices and rents in Ireland's residential property market have been driven in a significant way by the Government's housing policy with favourable policies attracting institutional investors such as IRES REIT into the market. Their gradual move into the market has contributed to higher house prices and thus higher rents. [It continues] ... Overall the current housing policy has benefited both institutions and developers at the expense of individual buyers. The potential risk for institutions such as IRES comes from a potential change in Government policy.

The cuckoo funds do not really care about our housing crisis. They only care about their bottom line. They view the complete absence of affordable homes as a major incentive to invest here. Worse, they view the lack of affordable homes as a deliberate Government policy.

The assessment by GillenMarkets of the Government's policy is pretty damning stuff. The Government, however, is not unaware of it. Last June, The Times, Ireland edition, published a lengthy article about this and contacted the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a comment. Regrettably, the Department did not seem interested.

Rents in Ireland increased by 62% between 2010 and 2020. At the same time, the average rent across the European Union increased by 15%. Is it any wonder that institutional investors are looking to Ireland? Rents in Dublin are more than 30% higher than they were at the peak of the Celtic tiger. That does not come as a surprise to those who have been struggling to pay those rents. It has not come as a surprise to those who have been trying to save for a mortgage because they know that renting is not sustainable in the long term with what is happening.

It is not that we only have a supply side crisis; we have an affordability crisis. It is central to the problem. All the evidence is that the best method of delivering affordability is the interventionist approach. This is the one the global funds fear. We saw this with the Ó Cualann model. However, that is not being delivered to scale which is needed. The key reason the Government decided to act now is because Mullen Park was a catalyst for change. Such sales will not be tolerated any longer.

The Government is committed to making changes regarding houses in housing estates---- *What about apartments? Are they not people's homes too? What about affordability?* How is it factored into the Government's model? Why are the funds favourable towards a policy that they claim lacks an interventionist approach which is what they fear?

### Micheál Martin (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

What we have now in housing policy is an interventionist approach in terms of the State's role in social housing and the Minister's affordability legislation. These provide for a range of schemes where the State is getting directly involved in building affordable housing, not just social housing. It is through a range of supports, either through the serviced sites fund, the shared equity scheme or others, that the State is actually intervening to provide. The cost-rental scheme is there too which, again, is State intervention. I have already referenced the massive social housing side.

The Ministers will deal with the issues which have arisen in respect of investment funds. They were brought in in 2013 to bring investment to get apartment blocks built in high-density areas in cities. Those are the origins of this. From our perspective in the past ten months, the Cabinet committee on housing has met on a number of occasions. The entire focus has been around affordability. We have dealt with the social housing allocation and the budget was quite transformative in terms of the €3.3 billion allocated.

That marks an interventionist approach from the Government. The issue, however, is that we are not building enough houses. There is an issue in terms of development finance for house building. That is the other side of the equation on which we need to work in terms of making sure that the cost of borrowing in respect of housing projects is at a level that makes projects viable. For example, the Government is looking at how we can get greater development in brownfield sites in cities which makes sense from the perspective of climate change and developing compact cities in terms of public transport, services and so forth.

A comprehensive approach is being taken. For example, the urban regeneration fund of €1.2 billion is designed to underpin greater residential development in our cities and in large urban areas. The bulk of the investment from the State is going towards that. We will deal with the issues which have arisen whereby we do not want the investment funds crowding out first-time buyers or moving into suburban housing estates. A combination of measures will be taken. The Ministers are working through that now and will come back to the Government on it.

The Deputy should be in no doubt that the Government is the biggest player in housing market in terms of investment and intervention. We need more supply, however.

### Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

If there was not a pandemic, there would be boots on the streets with people protesting. A whole generation has simply had enough and is not going to take that kind of response. I acknowledge a lot of money is being spent by the Government on our behalf. However, we must look at what it is spent on, such as long leases for 25 years. Dublin City Council is in the market for 1,000 units just since the Covid crisis commenced. After the 25 years of the lease, the council will have no asset at the end but top dollar will have been paid. We have been told by a council official that these investors are greedier and they want more but are easier to deal with.

We are talking about affordability. Cost-rental with a profit tagged on to it is the opposite of what is intended. I remember in 2014 in the Dáil raising the issue of the housing assistance payment and saying that, if it was not accompanied by significant house building, it would become the dominant payment and suck up a huge amount of funds. It is exactly the same with long leasing.

I do not see affordability in the Taoiseach's plans. I do not understand what the Taoiseach thinks affordability is.

### Micheál Martin (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

There is a project developing in Cork on the Boherboy Road, from which the Deputy will get a strong sense of what that affordability is in terms of the range of prices, which are really affordable.

The Government is ten months in office. Without question, it has taken a significant interventionist approach in the provision of housing, both social and affordable, along with the necessary accompanying infrastructure to deal with it. The preference is direct build. The Minister made announcements and set targets around budget time. However, Covid impacted on these because we have lost so much time through restrictions while construction was closed down for three to four months. The target at the commencement of the year, prior to the Covid restrictions, was 12,750 social homes, of which 9,500 will be direct build. Leasing will be a small part of that. There has been a 36% reduction in family homelessness, for example, which does not get mentioned in the debate here.

That is because of direct intervention in the market. There has been a 19% overall reduction in homelessness. Progress has been made but we need to make a hell of a lot more.

<https://www.kildarestreet.com/debates/?id=2021-05-05a.46&s=mullen+park#g85>

### Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

I also raise the role of the international investment funds in displacing individuals and families from purchasing a home. Last week, the example occurred in Maynooth, in Mullen Park housing estate, which is well under construction at this stage. I started getting calls and emails late last week from constituents on this. Each one of them had signed up with an estate agent expressing an interest in purchasing a home. They would have been watching the development as it was progressing. They would have been looking forward to the day when they would have been contacted and asked to pay a deposit on a house. Those hopes were dashed last week when the auctioneers sent them an email to say that Round Hill Capital would be buying the rest of the estate. The developer had no shortage of buyers. Individuals wished to purchase, as did Kildare County Council and Tuath Housing association. However, they were all dumped in favour of Round Hill Capital. The same company also purchased 112 family homes in Bay Meadows, Hollystown and 297 apartments in Northwood, Dublin. They will now come on the market at extortionate rents. Round Hill Capital claims to have €1 billion to spend on residential property in Ireland. It is just one of dozens of investors competing for this limited supply of housing. Since 2018, nearly €4 billion has been invested by global funds in the Irish residential market. In 2019, international funds bought a staggering 95% of the apartments that were constructed that year. How are ordinary buyers, who scrimp and save for a mortgage, supposed to compete with this?

There is no mystery as to why these funds are outbidding ordinary buyers because they are being advantaged by the State. As has been said, they pay no stamp duty, no capital gains tax and no corporation tax. I listened to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage yesterday talk about not doing anything radical. He was concerned about unintended consequences. It begs the question: is what happened in Maynooth an unintended consequence? It is not just that estate in Maynooth; another estate in Maynooth went the same way some months ago.

There is a skewed ideology at play here. The Taoiseach must tell us when there will be a change in this. It cannot be put off until the budget. If we need to, every one of us can sit over a weekend or overnight to pass legislation to stop this. It is not just that they are buying these estates, but we will find that the State will be on the other side with long leases over 25 years where they will be leased, refurbished and returned to the developer at the end of it.





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

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**Written reply to Parliamentary Question No. 236 on 28 April from Hugh Creegan, Deputy Chief Executive, National Transport Authority (NTA) dated 4th May 2021**

Dear Deputy

I am writing to you concerning the matter you raised in Parliamentary Question No. 236 on 28 April last to the Minister for Transport, which has been referred to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for reply.

The DART+ Programme, which is in development, will provide frequent, modern, electrified services to Drogheda on the Northern Line (DART+ Coastal North), Hazelhatch - Celbridge on the Kildare Line (DART+ South West), Maynooth and M3 Parkway on the Maynooth/Sligo Line (DART+ West), while improving DART services on the South-East Line as far south as Greystones (DART+ Coastal South).

During 2020, Iarnród Éireann undertook a public consultation for the DART+ West project, which included the location of a proposed depot for train maintenance and stabling to the west of Maynooth and south of the rail line and canal. The feedback from the public consultation is being used to inform the design process for the development of a preferred option. The design process includes further consideration of the options for the proposed depot.

Following completion of this further design process, Iarnród Éireann will undertake a second public consultation on the updated preferred option. This second public consultation, which is expected to commence within the next two months, will be widely publicised in advance to communities along the route and their public representatives.

### Maynooth Local Area Plan

Cllr Aidan Farrelly had sought an update from Kildare County Council regarding the development of the Maynooth Local Area Plan, and received the following response; The members will be aware that the review of the Maynooth LAP is on the Forward Planning Team's current work programme. Background research for the preparation of the Maynooth LAP, specifically the preparation of a Transport Strategy in accordance with the requirements of RPO 8.6 of the RSES for the Eastern Midlands Region in addition to the Social Infrastructure Audit and Infrastructure Assessment in accordance with Appendix 3 of the National Planning Framework. On completion of the first draft of the

Transport Strategy for Maynooth a programme and timeline for the review will be presented to the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee. It should be noted that the current public health restrictions may inhibit the assessment and recording of accurate traffic, pedestrian, and cycle movements. Cllr Farrelly has also been working on issues in Maynooth including seeking an increase in litter services to serve the community.

Cllr Farrelly initially raised concerns about Mullen Park, and received the following response when he included it on the agenda for the May Municipal District Meeting; In the period 2019-2020 the Housing Agency facilitated negotiations with the developer of Mullen Park to acquire units for social housing. In 2020 Tuath Housing Association received support from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage to deliver 142 units in the development, this number included the Part V units. In April 2021, Tuath advised the council that the developer was engaged with another party with regard to the acquisition of the housing development. As a result, Tuath have advised the council that they are not now in a position to complete the acquisition. As things stand Part V units only will be delivered in this development.

**Aidan Farrelly, Councillor, Clane Local Electoral Area, Kildare County Council**

### Additional information re the access to Carton Demense

I spoke with a manager today in Carton House, who confirmed the following; Whilst Carton House is a private estate, it always remains open to the public through vehicular access on the Dunboyne Rd. Due to the level of activity on the site in recent weeks in preparation for the reopening, Carton House made the decision to close the pedestrian access points during the day, but they said they open them every evening somewhere between 4.00pm and 6.00pm.

The other vehicular gate is due to open next week when the Hotel etc. reopens. I queried if cars are being restricted from parking on site to walk, and the manager confirmed that this can happen at weekends due to capacity issues but that Monday-Friday, this isn't the case. The Manager confirmed to me that there are no plans whatsoever to restrict pedestrian access, or introduce a permit for walkers etc.

**Aidan Farrelly, Councillor, Clane Local Electoral Area, Kildare County Council**

**Hope you are keeping safe and well  
We are working to support you through COVID**



**For Constituency Clinics**

**Telephone: 089 2444 793**

**Monday to Friday**

**Or,**

**Email:**

**[Catherine.Murphy@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Catherine.Murphy@oireachtas.ie)**

**Our local Social Democrats  
team working in the area  
for you!**

**Contact us for any queries  
you might have**

**Aidan Farrelly**

**Nuala Killeen**

**087 61 4540**

**087 183 2322**



**Catherine Murphy, Your Kildare North  
Social Democrats TD**

**Honest Politics, Strong Economy, Fair Society**



Zero Waste Maynooth is back!!! We are delighted to announce that we will host our **Ladies Clothes Swap Shop** at the outdoor Rathcoffey Cottage Market on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 10am to 2pm.**

I think we all could do with a bit of fun right now and this Swap Shop has so many benefits:

- Get to swap clothes for something new to you.
- Save clothes from sitting in the wardrobe and getting no love.
- Make sure no clothes go to landfill – we love anything about a circular economy.
- It is free, no cash needed.
- Chat to local people who like to swap too.
- And most of all it is like a big high five to Mother Earth – swapping clothes when you can instead of buying new clothes is really a big thing to help your sustainable lifestyle.



The Swap Shop is on rails, outside at the market. So even if you don't want to swap this time, you can check it out for next time. Until our monthly events start back in Maynooth we are just thrilled that the lovely folk at Rathcoffey have invited us to their market, the first Saturday of each month at the Rathcoffey GAA grounds (under current covid guidelines).

Ok, so now for some of the reason that the fashion industry isn't really so green. Information from <https://www.fashionrevolution.org/>

- 95% of discarded clothes can be recycled or upcycled.
- It takes 2720 liters of water to make a t-shirt. That is the same amount of water we drink over a 3 year period.
- 1/3 of the carbon footprint of clothes comes from the way we care for them
- The dyeing and finishing phase of textiles production can require as much as 200 tonnes of water for every tonne of textiles produced
- Paying sweatshop workers in apparel supply chain a living wage would result in only a small price increase (typically 2-7%) for consumers.

How does this Swap Shop work?

- Pick up to **3 items** of good condition ladies clothes from your wardrobe
- Items must be in **good condition** – think is it the quality of an item you would like to receive.
- Have a look at the items available on the day and **swap**.
- If you don't see anything that takes your fancy, we can give you a **token to swap the next time**.
- **Keep the conversation going** – tell your friends about the swap and show off your new to you finds!

Zero Waste Maynooth is a voluntary group based in Maynooth. Our aim is to live a low waste life where we can – we totally get that life is busy and demanding. Small changes do make a difference. We would love to see you at the swap and have a chat.

[www.zerowastemaynooth.ie](http://www.zerowastemaynooth.ie) & we are on Facebook



# LADIES CLOTHES SWAP SHOP

ACCESS TO FASHION IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

**Rathcoffey Cottage Market**  
**Saturday 5th June 10am till 2pm**  
**Bring up to 3 items of clothing in good condition to swap at this event or the next**



## June Fest

June Fest is a community and family-orientated festival run by the non-profit organisation, White Lily Events, in Newbridge each year during the month of June. The Festival has been running since 2012 and celebrates its 10th 'birthday' this year. The Festival grew out of the Bealtaine festival that had been held in Newbridge in the years prior to 2012. Each year the festival grew in stature and in the range and number of events it encompassed – peaking at some 100 events in 2019.



June Fest celebrates and promotes music, arts, culture, nature, sports, heritage, history, and other associated and related activities by hosting events in Newbridge and the surrounding area. June Fest strives to bring our community the best in Art, Theatre, Music and Family Entertainment. It provides a platform for community groups and local creatives, such as the Kildare Art Collective, to showcase their work and talent.

Commitment to community and individual wellbeing is a core principle

underpinning the Festival, as is a belief that everyone has the right to create, to engage with, enjoy and participate in the arts.

Over the years, June Fest has featured such luminaries as: Christy Moore, Andy Irvine, Donal Lunny, Luka Bloom, Wallis Bird, Damien Dempsey, Mundy, Jinx Lennon, Sive and A Lazarus Soul.

The festival attracts audiences from Newbridge, Kildare generally and neighbouring counties. Collaboration with local community groups is key to the success of the festival. Regular festival highlights include: Yarn Bomb in the Liffey Linear Park, Bands on The Bank, Musical Gigs, Art and Writing competitions, Exhibitions, Family Fun Day, History/Heritage Seminars, Solstice on The Liffey.

While in normal times most festival activities are live, during COVID many activities are online or socially distanced to comply with public health advice. June Fest greatly appreciates the support of its sponsors. It especially wishes to acknowledge the grant aid received over the years from Kildare County Council. This assistance has been critical to the success of the Festival.

Visit: [www.junefest.ie](http://www.junefest.ie) for more information



### Two events in the 1790s with unlikely connections

Looking at historical events for the month of June I was struck by two main events which took place in the first week in the 1790s which had a Maynooth connection and which were interconnected in themselves. These were the Royal Assent by George III for the establishment of the Royal College of St. Patrick on the 6th June 1795 and the death of Lord Edward Fitzgerald who died in Newgate Prison Dublin on the 4th June 1798.

The origin of how St. Patrick's College came about has been widely researched and publicised. In brief there were a number of factors that came together that saw its establishment. We can go back to the American Revolution and the thoughts expressed by Thomas Paine in his famous publication *The Rights of Man* which advocated that all men are equal by nature and before the law and were entitled to Liberty, Property, Equality and Security. Ideas that subsequently informed the political upheaval culminating in the French Revolution (1789-1799).

Before the French Revolution there were 348 Irish scholars and 17 masters in various colleges in France of which 180 scholars were in Paris in the College des Lombards and Community Rue Cheval Vert. The remaining students were in Nantes, Bordeaux, Douay, Toulouse and Lisle. The total number of Irish students on the continent was 478 students and 27 masters.

One of the arguments put forward for the establishment of the College by Irish bishops and other supporters was that Irish scholars would pick up these revolutionary ideas and bring them to Ireland. They pointed out that Irish scholars "might be contaminated by the contagion of sedition and infidelity"... and thus become "the means of introducing into this country the pernicious maxims of a licentious philosophy"

After the French Revolution it was also the case that foreign colleges had nearly all been closed, especially those in France, another factor which added to the case for the establishment of the



**Thomas Paine 1737-1809**



**William Robert  
2nd Duke of Leinster (1749-1820)**



**Stoyte House, from Maynooth College  
its Centenary History (1895)  
by Rev. John Healy**

college. There was a strong anti clericalism aspect to the French Revolution.

After much debate royal assent was granted on 5th June 1795 by George III. The first meeting of the 21 Trustees took place on 24th June 1795 with one item agreed — "That notices be published in the Newspapers that the Trustees will receive proposals for lands and buildings, in the vicinity of Dublin for the new Seminary, and that applications for that purpose be made to Mr. Strange, Dr. Troy or Dr. Hussey". A considerable number of proposals were examined. The Trustees chose Maynooth as the most suitable. The 2nd Duke of Leinster was influential in this decision and the house of his steward John Stoyte was acquired along with some acreage. The first ordinations took place on 6th June 1800.

Lord Edward Fitzgerald, the son of the 1st Duke of Leinster, and brother to the 2nd Duke, had taken part in the American Revolution on the British side and later supported the ideals espoused by the *Rights of Man*. He had been to Paris, met Thomas Paine and became a friend follower of Wolfe Tone. Tone was inspired by the writings of Thomas Paine and wanted to form an organization for political change, one that was "A brotherhood uniting all Irishmen, high and low, catholic and protestant" So it was that the Society of the United Irishmen was established and the ill fated 1798 rebellion came about. Lord Edward Fitzgerald, a member of the organization was shot and wounded, captured and imprisoned. He did not receive medical help and died of his wound in Newgate Prison on 4th June 1798.

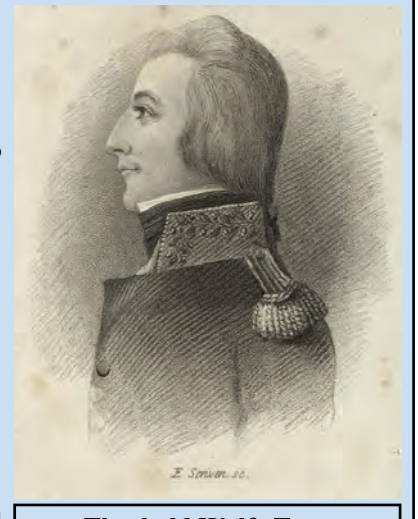
In exploring the links between the June dates in 1790s in this narrative, there is a certain irony. The establishment of St. Patrick's College at Maynooth was in part due to fear of revolutionary ideas being brought back by Irish students from the continent, and the person who actively brought back those revolutionary ideas and acted on them was an aristocrat, whose brother, the 2nd Duke of Leinster FitzGerald who country house was Carton, helped to found the Catholic seminary at Maynooth in 1795.

Susan Durack

Sources: Maynooth College its centenary history by Rev. John Healy (1895).  
Wikimedia commons (images).



**Lord Edward Fitzgerald  
1763-1798**



**Theobald Wolfe Tone  
1763-1798**



**Two men apprehending Lord Edward  
Fitzgerald at gunpoint.**

### Maynooth University ranked 1st in Ireland for Reducing Inequalities by THE Global Impact rankings 2021



Maynooth University (MU) has been ranked as Ireland's leading university and in the top 5% of universities globally (at number 32 out of 669 institutions) for its research on social inequalities, policies on discrimination and commitment to recruiting staff and students from under-represented groups (SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities). MU is in the top #201-300 universities in the world as ranked by THE University Impact Rankings 2021, which capture universities' impact on society based on their success in delivering the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over 1,000 institutions from 98 countries participated globally.

Recognising MU's commitment to progressing gender equality, MU was placed 2nd in Ireland and 60th globally for SDG 5 - Gender Equality. This reflects our research on the study of gender equality, policies on gender equality and commitment to recruiting and promoting women. MU is joint first in Ireland for Quality Education (SDG 4) and ranked #101-200 globally for our contribution to early years and lifelong learning, pedagogy research and our commitment to inclusive education.

The UN 17 SDGs aim to achieve a better and a more sustainable future for all by 2030. The goals address global changes including poverty, inequality, climate, environmental

degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

THE University Impact Rankings cover how an institution embodies the SDGs in their internal practices, policies and procedures, "outreach" in society, and also their research activities.

Find out more at <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/new-way-defining-excellence-higher-education>

Full results at: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/rankings/impact/2021/overall>

#THEGlobalImpact

Summary of the findings:

SDG10 Reduced Inequalities ranked 32nd out of 669 Institutions (overall score of 80.4%), 1st in Ireland;

SDG5 Gender Equality ranked 60th out of 776 Institutions (overall score of 67.7%), 2nd in Ireland;

SDG4 Quality Education ranked 101-200 out of 966 Institutions (overall score of 68.5%), =1st in Ireland. Overall for THE University Impact MU ranked 201-300 out of 1,115 institutions (overall score of 72.1%).





# 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**



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**Stay safe everyone.**





# HEADSUP

## KILDARE

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*If you would like to know more, please contact;*  
*Lorna@countykildarelp.ie 085 8421347*

[www.heads-up.ie](http://www.heads-up.ie)







## James Lawless T.D. Kildare North

Phone: 01-6183587 - e-mail: james@jameslawless.ie - Web: www.jameslawless.ie



### CONFIRMATION OF ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR MAYNOOTH GIRLS SCHOOL

I recently received confirmation that Maynooth Girls' School has been approved additional funding under the Additional Accommodation Scheme as follows:  
Accommodation Approved 2020: 2x Mainstream classroom, 3x SET room, reconfiguration to create Early Intervention Unit.  
Additional Accommodation 2021: 2x Mainstream Classrooms

The Minister of Education has confirmed to me that this additional accommodation has been approved and this much needed extra capacity is very welcome for Maynooth Girls' School. I will continue to engage with the Minister of Education to ensure the extra capacity of our schools here in Kildare North remains a priority.

#### €7 Billion Investment Announced for Leixlip Intel Site

Great news for North Kildare as Intel commits to a €7 billion investment to the Leixlip site, which will create 1,600 high tech jobs and consolidate their presence in Ireland. I have met with Ireland Head, Eamonn Sinnott, on several occasions both onsite in Leixlip and in Leinster House and worked closely with the firm as Technology Spokesperson in the last Dáil. The ramifications go beyond the plant itself and into the secondary economy with so many suppliers, employees and local spending being boosted.

These investments are hotly contested by many sites and competing locations globally

and to secure this for North Kildare is a huge boost of confidence in the local area, the local Chamber of Commerce, the knowledge base, local supporting services and in Ireland's research and technology strategy over many years.

#### Justice Committee- Survivor's Testimony

Recently the Justice Committee discussed victim testimony in trials of rape and sexual assault. Arising from the Belfast rape trial a few years ago, following a focus on the ordeals of the victims in having to give evidence again and in some cases being subject to very traumatic questioning, the Law in Northern Ireland was changed regarding how such trials are conducted. We have seen similar happen in various trials here and I felt it was important that our committee review procedures in this area. A series of expert witnesses from groups like the Bar Council, the National Council for Women, One in Four and other groups offered valuable insight. While it is essential that criminal procedures follow the centuries old rule of presuming innocence of an accused person, ways must be found to establish the facts without re-traumatising victims of abuse.

#### Clinic and Office Arrangements

My office is currently operating on a remote basis due to the current restrictions. However you can continue to contact me by email or social media with any urgent matters that arise. I am dealing with many cases as per usual, but you will understand that I am prioritising those situations arising from the Covid19 outbreak.

Phone: 045 898 476 / 01 618 3587 - Email: james.lawless@oireachtas.ie

## Ready to refresh your home? Tips for a sustainable Spring Clean

It's proven that spring cleaning can help you feel more organised, satisfied and less stressed. Here's how to do it in an environmentally-friendly way

Nothing says spring quite like flinging open the windows, letting fresh air in and doing a thorough deep clean. Don't write this off as an old-fashioned tradition — it's a great opportunity to clear your space, declutter and ensure the products you use in the home aren't toxic to you, your family or the environment.



#### Environmentally-friendly products

A good place to start is knowing what cleaning products to use. Purchasing non-toxic products is an excellent way to help the environment. You may not realise it, but all those cleaning products that are washed down the kitchen sink will end up in nature, so it is best to limit the amount of chemicals you use. Non-toxic products can be found in any supermarket.

Alternatively, if you want to create your own cleaning products at home you can find lots of recipes online. Simple ingredients like baking soda, vinegar or lemon juice can be used in different ways as great alternatives to stain removers and cleaning products. Likewise, instead of using an endless amount of kitchen roll, try using old pieces of fabric or towels on your surfaces. This helps reduce the amount of paper waste in your home and you will get extra use out of old materials that will most likely never be used again.

#### Help avoid allergens

When dusting your home, remember to dust your air vents too. This will help reduce the amount of pollen and bacteria in your home. It will also help reduce exposure to allergens for your family especially in the upcoming months when the weather starts to improve. Even simple tactics like remembering to clean from the ceiling down makes a difference. That way, it forces debris downwards and you won't have to re-dust or re-clean areas as you go.

#### Embrace your dishwasher

Your dishwasher isn't just for your plates and cups! You can give lots of items a thorough deep clean quite easily. Children's toys made of hard plastics such as building blocks, kitchen tools like scrubbing brushes and bathroom accessories will be like new after a run through the dishwasher, and it will save you having to scrub pieces by hand. Looking after all of your possessions well will mean you have to replace them less often.

#### Mend rather than replace

Think twice about making a new purchase, and see if you can mend or repair a broken or damaged item in your home. We have gotten out of the habit of looking after our belongings, but taking time to care for them will extend their lifespan, saving us money and reducing waste. Get to know your local cobbler who can help ensure your shoes last longer, find a seamstress who can sort out dodgy hems, or try learning to sew yourself.

#### Give up clothes for good campaign

Donating clothes to charities is one of the best ways to help achieve a sustainable spring clean.

Source: [irishcountrymagazine.ie/ready-to-refresh-your-home-tips-for-a-sustainable-spring-clean/](http://irishcountrymagazine.ie/ready-to-refresh-your-home-tips-for-a-sustainable-spring-clean/)

## How to make your own Eco-Friendly Cleaning Products at home



#### The Stain Remover

Whether you have stains on your carpet, your walls, or your clothes, you'll know that they can be a real hassle. Washing them with normal eco-friendly detergent normally makes them a little less visible, but most people's trained eagle-eyes can still see it — and nobody wants that. One of the best natural stain removers can be made using just a few ingredients, including baking soda, white vinegar, and water. All you have to do is cover the stain with baking soda to begin with, and then fill half of a spray bottle with vinegar and then fill the rest of the bottle with water. Spray the solution over the stain, and let it work its magic for around three hours. Then, simply wipe away.

#### The Ultimate all purpose Cleaner

If you want an eco-friendly cleaning product that will do everything, then you definitely need this all-purpose cleaner in your life. There's no need to head to the store to pick up nasty chemicals because everything you could possibly need to bring this cleaner to life is probably already in your kitchen. For this cleaning recipe you'll need; one part white vinegar, one part water, the rind of a lemon, and a few rosemary sprigs. If you can, try and infuse this whole solution in a spray bottle for a week before using, as this will make it even more effective in cleaning everything from your kitchen worktops to the sticky smudges on your walls.

#### The Glass Cleaner

There's nothing more irritating than trying to look out of your window to see smudgy finger marks, bird dirt, or watermarks from the last time you attempted to clean them. What you might not realise is that one of the best glass cleaners you can make is totally eco-friendly, which means that you can stay away from the unnatural products on offer in the shop. To make this cleaning solution, simply mix two cups of water with ½ cup of white or cider vinegar, ¼ cup rubbing alcohol (70% concentration is best), and then an essential oil of your choice to make it smell delicious. Then, spray it onto the windows and wipe down with a soft cloth.

#### Disinfectant Wipes

Sometimes you don't need to make a full solution of cleaning products to clean the little niggles you have in your house, so why not make some disinfectant wipes instead? You can use these around your house or even to disinfect your own hands — and they're pretty easy to make. The best thing about this cleaning recipe is the fact that you can cater them to your own tastes by adding the essential oil you love the smell of most into the mix.

When you've chosen, you'll then need to dig out a cup of water, ¼ cup of white vinegar, 8 drops of tea tree oil, 8 drops of eucalyptus oil, 8 drops of lemon oil, and empty container, and 15-20 squares of cloth, which can be made from dish rags, old T-shirts, or other old material. All you have to do is pour the solution over the cloth, and voila!

If you're tired of smelling the nasty scent of chemicals and want to embrace a more eco-friendly and natural lifestyle, then your cleaning doesn't have to suffer. These eco-friendly cleaning products can be made at home, and they're super easy to perfect.



Source: [earthunearthed.com/make-eco-friendly-cleaning-products/](http://earthunearthed.com/make-eco-friendly-cleaning-products/)



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**CHILDREN (8-13YRS)**  
**ONLINE VIA ZOOM**  
**Friday Afternoons**

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**OUTDOOR SUMMER SATURDAY  
PAINTING DAYS**  
**ADULTS JULY & AUGUST**

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Or contact Nina E-mail: [ninapattersonart@gmail.com](mailto:ninapattersonart@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 087 2977797

**Maynooth Community Employment Project**  
**Secretarial Services**

Unit 10, Tesco Shopping Centre Maynooth  
(Beside Mulcahy's Butchers)

Tel: 01 6285922  
Email: [office@maynoothcep.com](mailto:office@maynoothcep.com)

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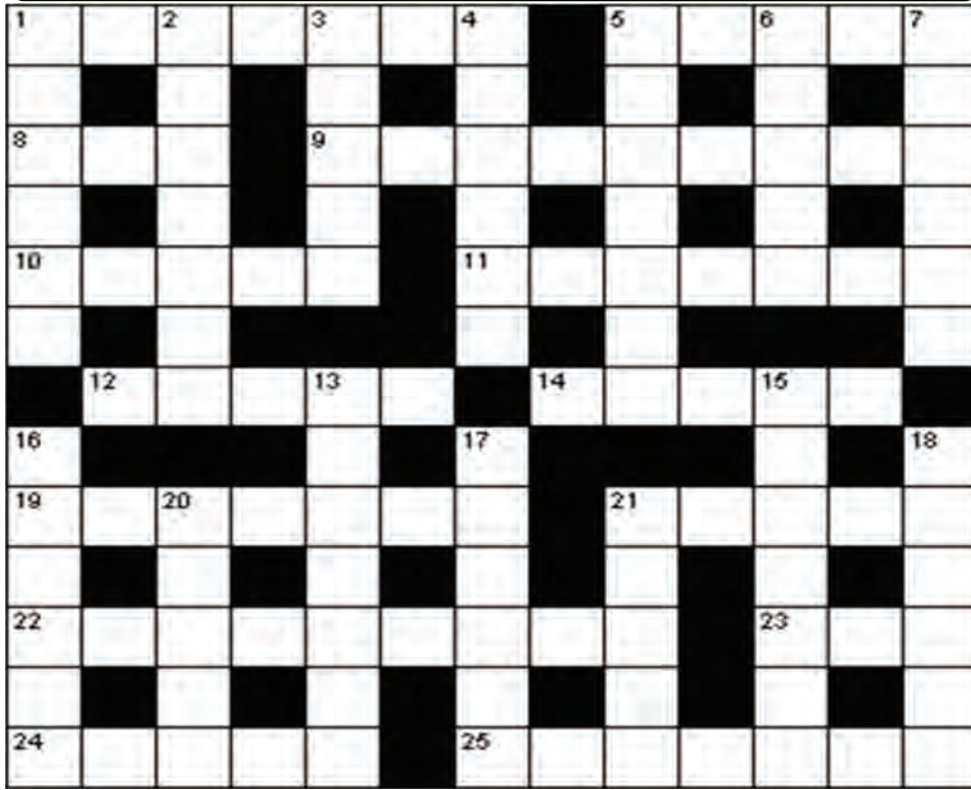
Maynooth Community Care Unit requires a hairdresser to be available to residents one day per week (9.30-16.30).

The applicant is asked to provide details of charges. There are male and female residents in MCCU. Wash, cut and blow dry are the most common requests. I welcome informal enquiries.

Máire O'Keeffe, Director of Nursing,  
Maynooth Community Care Unit,  
Leinster St, Maynooth W23HT28, Co Kildare.  
Ph: 01-6106320/0860235012.



## June 2021 Crossword - No. 502



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.

## Clues Across

1. Meteorological conditions (7)
5. Accolade (5)
8. Conclusion (30)
9. Submersible warship (9)
10. Task (5)
11. Alphabetic character (7)
12. Guide (5)
14. Square root of forty-nine (5)
19. Tableland (7)
21. Hoard (5)
22. Disregarded (9)
23. Small vegetable (3)
24. Happening (5)
25. Sincere (7)

## Clues Down

1. Twist (6)
2. Gruelling (7)
3. Overly eager speed (5)
4. Burrowing mammal (6)
5. Greed (7)
6. Exculpation (5)
7. Resides (6)
13. Component (7)
15. Fugitive (7)
16. Parazoan (6)
17. Chelonian reptile (6)
18. Leave (6)
20. Slant (5)
21. Aromatic wood (5)

## Solutions to Crossword No. 501

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

**Difficult**

**Sudoku Challenge**

**Super Difficult**

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

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



## Junior Puzzle Corner

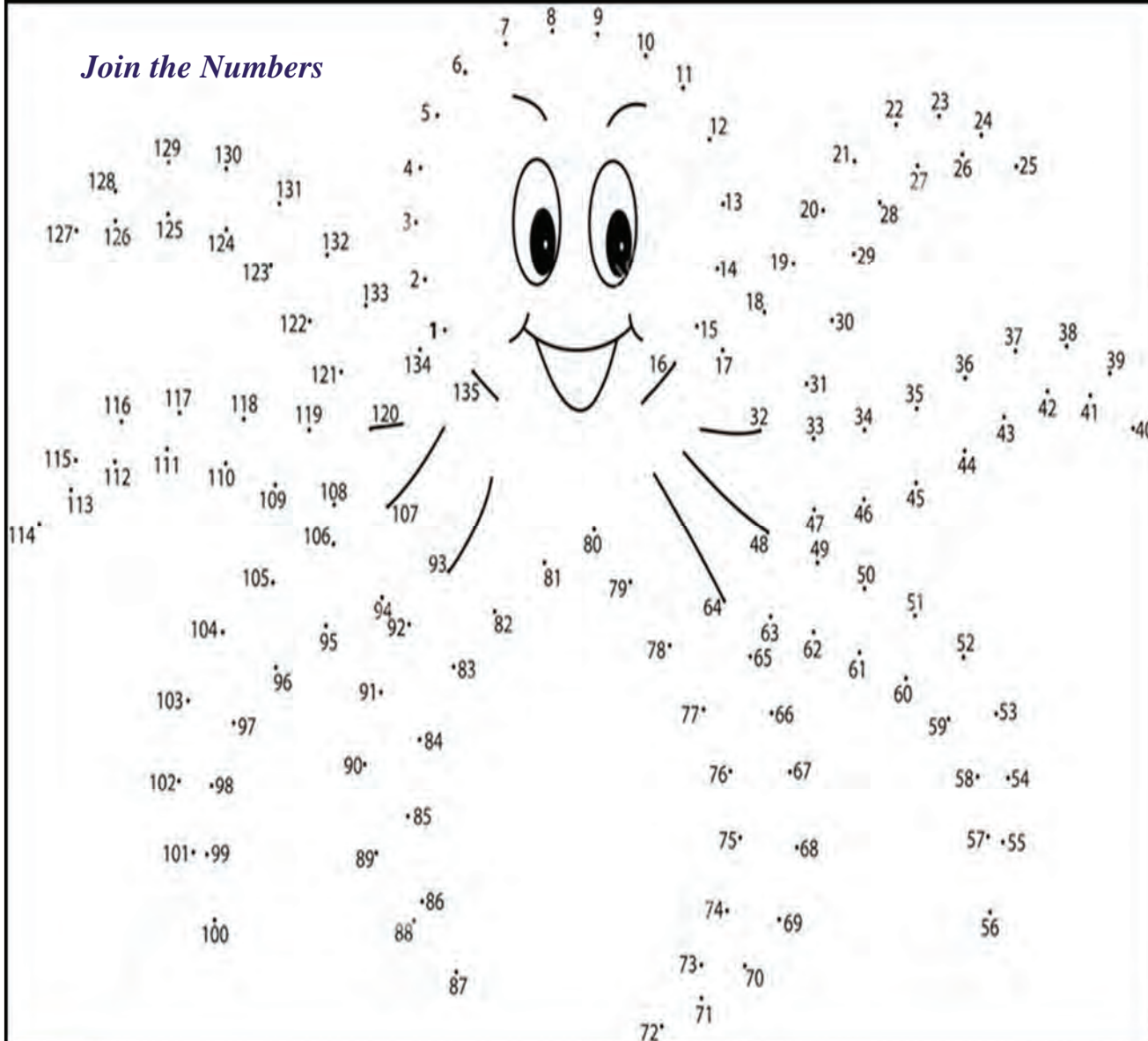


### Children's Colouring

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.

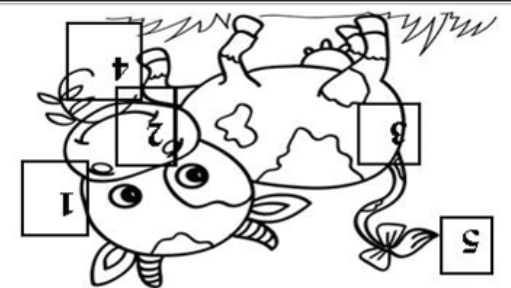
### Join the Numbers



### Spot The 5 Differences



ANSWERS





## CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION CELEBRATING CRUINNIÚ NA nÓg SPONSORED BY MAYNOOTH CASTLE KEEP ART GROUP

In celebration of **Cruinniú na nÓg** on 12th June, The **Maynooth Newletter** in conjunction with **Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group** invite children up to the age of 12 to draw and design a butterfly composition. These are some basic butterfly shapes to help with the drawing and we include a page to give you an idea of their range of shapes and colours. Your artworks must include at least one butterfly. Put your imagination to work and have fun.

You can use whatever medium you like, crayons, colouring pencils, paints, markers, pastels or make a collage. A4 size. Send scanned images to: [office@maynoothcep.com](mailto:office@maynoothcep.com), before 20th July. Please include your name, age and contact details.

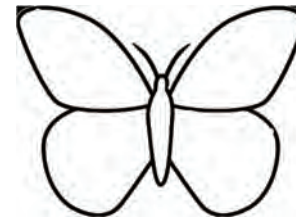
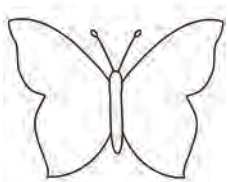
There will be 3 prizes and selected images will be included in the next month's Newsletter. Alternatively you can drop in your entry to the Newsletter Office.

(Images sourced from free downloads and creative commons images).



## A day of free creativity for children and young people

Ireland is the first and *only* country in the world to have a national day of free creativity for children and young people under 18. **Cruinniú na nÓg** is a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme's Creative Youth Plan to enable the creative potential of children and young people. The inaugural **Cruinniú na nÓg** took place on 23rd June 2018 and for the past number of years, including under exceptional circumstances in 2020, young people and families have come together to enjoy, a wide range of activities including workshops and tutorials to recitals and reading in every city, town and village across the country. Delivering in partnership with the 31 Local Authorities and supported by RTÉ, you are invited to participate in a programme of fun, free, creative activities; from graffiti art workshops to stop-motion animation, to coding and architecture workshops!







### Harvest

It's a great time of year for gardeners who put the work into their vegetable gardens earlier on. You can now harvest your lettuce, other salads, strawberries and early potatoes, and literally enjoy the fresh and tasty fruits of your labour!



### Weed Control

Extra light and warmth boosts all plant growth, including weeds, so keep on top of them with regular weeding. This will prolong the desired plant growth and prevent weeds getting out of hand, which can easily happen in June. Make sure to hoe your borders to keep them tidy too.

### Irrigation

It's easy to forget to water your garden beds, hanging baskets and potted plants in rainy Ireland, but June can often bring long spells of dry weather. You may need to give the soil a light dampening every few days.

### Lawn Care

You should be mowing once a week this month. With the grass in such a strong growing phase, it is also an ideal time to feed it to ensure lush green growth with no bare patches and moss.

### Plant

Plant your summer bedding plants and unless there is heavy rain, make sure to regularly water them. A liquid feed will ensure they get off to a good start, and keep a close eye on them for any snails or slugs, which can destroy them.



**Here are some more planting jobs that can be completed in June:**  
Repot house plants.

Plant seeds of annual flowers, e.g. nasturtiums

Plant vegetables, e.g. beans, tomatoes, lettuce, peas, cabbage, peppers, cucumbers and carrots

Plant pots and baskets with **petunias, begonias** and **busy lizzie**.



### Stake & Prune

The growth spurt might leave some of your taller plants a bit floppy; stake them to keep them from wilting. Prune your shrubs as they go out of flower. Thin out vegetable plants, pinching out any side-shoots. Similarly with roses, tie in the new shoots of climbing roses.

### Spray Roses

Spray roses regularly to protect them against insects and diseases - like blackspot.

### Tomatoes

If you are growing tomatoes, these are the evenings when you will be in your greenhouse or tunnel taking care of them. Firstly, you will need to support each plant so that it can bear the weight of the fruit as it grows.

You can do this by rigging up a string system. Check YouTube for tutorial videos on how to do it.

You also need to regularly pinch out the side shoots growing between the main stem and the leaf joints of your plants. If you don't pinch these out you will have a plant which is putting all its energy into producing lots of foliage, not succulent fruits. Wait until each plant has developed four good 'trusses' of blossom. Then start to pinch out any shoots which grow between the main leaf joints and stem, all the way along from top to bottom.

Remove by pinching developing shoots between your thumb and forefinger and they should break off easily. If you miss any side shoots and they develop into bigger leaf stems, you can still pinch these out and use them for cuttings to grow new plants.

### Broad Beans and Peas

If you haven't already done this in late May, pinch off the growing tips of your broad bean plants now to prevent Blackfly. Also pay attention to bean canes and make sure your peas and runner beans are well supported as they grow.



### Weeds

Every month is weed month from now till the end of the season! Get out there with your bare hands or the hoe to remove weeds as they grow. As the growing season progresses, this could be a daily job depending on how big your patch is.

*There's a lot of gardening work to be done in June! Don't forget to find some time to enjoy this month in the garden, when all is in bloom and the weather is at its best. Lie back in a comfy recliner, host a BBQ, stop and smell the roses.*

## Healthy Summer Recipes

### Crispy Paprika Chicken with Tomatoes & Lentils

#### Ingredients

2 chicken breasts  
½ tsp smoked paprika  
½ lemon, zested and juiced  
1½ tbsp cold-pressed rapeseed oil  
1 garlic clove  
1 tsp fennel seeds  
Fennel bulb, sliced  
400g can cherry tomatoes  
1 tbsp sherry vinegar  
200g pouch puy lentils  
100g watercress  
2 tbsp natural yogurt  
Handful of dill, leaves picked



#### Method

- Put the chicken breasts between two sheets of baking parchment and, using a rolling pin, roll to a 1cm thickness. Rub with the paprika, lemon zest, ½ tbsp oil, salt and pepper. Cover and set aside while you start the lentils.
- Heat the remaining oil in a pan and add the garlic, fennel seeds and fennel slices with a pinch of salt. Cook for 5 mins until starting to soften, then tip in the tomatoes, vinegar and lentils. Turn down the heat and leave to bubble away.
- Heat another non-stick frying pan over a high heat, add the chicken breasts and cook for 7 mins, turning halfway, until golden brown and cooked through. Add the watercress to the lentils and stir to wilt, then squeeze in the lemon juice.
- Slice the chicken then serve it alongside the lentils with a dollop of yogurt and dill

### Garden Salmon Salad

Prep: 15 mins No cooking

Choose a lighter lunch with this easy, no-cook salmon salad packed with courgettes, peas, pea shoots and radishes. It's healthy and takes just 15 minutes to prepare.

#### Ingredients

2 Courgettes  
100g fresh shelled peas  
8 Radishes, halved  
3 tbsp Rapeseed Oil  
1 large Lemon zested and juiced  
2 tbsp fat-free natural yogurt  
75g pea shoots  
4 poached Salmon Fillets, skin removed and flaked into large chunks  
2 tbsp mixed seeds  
½ small bunch dill, fronds picked.



#### Method

- Cut the courgettes into long thin strips using a peeler, and discard the soft, seeded core. Toss the courgette ribbons, peas and radishes together in a large bowl. Whisk the oil, lemon zest and juice, and yogurt together, then toss with the veg.
- Put the pea shoots, dressed veg and large flakes of salmon on a large platter. Finish with a good grinding of black pepper, and scatter over the mixed seeds and dill to serve.

### Miso Broccoli, Egg & Quinoa Salad

Prep: 5 mins Cook: 15 mins

Pack a lunch that will power you through the afternoon with this healthy miso and lime-dressed salad with broccoli, peas, boiled egg and radishes. It's tasty and full of goodness

#### Ingredients

100g thin-stemmed Broccoli Spears  
1 medium egg  
2 tsp white miso paste  
1 Lime, juiced  
125g cooked Quinoa  
70g frozen Peas, defrosted  
3 Radishes, thinly sliced  
½ tbsp sesame seeds



#### Method

- Bring a pan of water to the boil. Add the broccoli and cook for 3 mins, then lift out with a slotted spoon and leave to cool. Lower the egg into the water and gently simmer for 6 mins. Drain and set in a bowl of cold water to cool.
- Whisk the miso and lime juice in a small bowl, then toss with the quinoa, peas, radishes and cooked broccoli. Tip the salad into your lunchbox or an airtight container. Peel the egg, slice in half and arrange on top of the quinoa, then sprinkle with the sesame seeds.

*Enjoy*





## FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

# Who Will Be The Next Bond ?



This year, James Bond fans will see the end of Daniel Craig's spectacular journey as Ian Fleming's super-spy on the big screen in the upcoming **No Time to Die**. The 25th Bond movie is currently set for release in UK cinemas on 12th November. The film (directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga) was originally scheduled to be released in April, but was pushed back due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Daniel Craig has played the iconic British spy in five movies starting with the explosive **Casino Royale** back in 2006. The race for the James Bond role has been heating up in the past few years. The speculation about who will replace the most successful Bond actor (since Sean Connery) has been rife since 2015, when Craig joked he would rather "slash his wrists" than perform in another Bond film.



It's a much sought after role that many will covet, but few get to call their own. With Daniel Craig sending his tuxedo to the cleaners for good after Bond 25, a number of actors have hinted they would be willing to take on the Bond mantel. From Tom Hardy and Idris Elba to Regé-Jean Page and Cillian Murphy, there's a long list of actors being touted to play the world's most famous martini-loving spy.

### Tom Hardy

English actor Tom Hardy has been a serious contender with bookies to take over from Craig in the Bond role since last year. The gritty 43-year-old English actor, known for his roles in **Venom**, **The Dark Knight** and **The Revenant**, previously spoke about those Bond rumours commenting: "You know, there's a saying amongst us in the fraternity of acting,.... that if you talk about it you're automatically out of the race. So I can't possibly comment on that one."

Hardy has garnered acting kudos for films like **The Revenant** and **Mad Max** and has a rugged handsomeness, not unlike Craig. He often plays the villain, but can be suave and charming as well. The actor certainly has a wide range of acting experience under his belt that would equip him well as Bond. No stranger to action movies, Hardy's has the kickass dynamism that this action-orientated role requires. However, Hardy's success in DC's **Venom** franchise might tie him up for the next couple of years.



### Regé-Jean Page

While Tom Hardy has been the odds on favourite to take over as 007 for some time, newcomer Regé-Jean Page is hot on his heels. The **Bridgerton** heartthrob set pulses racing when he first appeared as the Duke of Hastings in the Netflix period romp. Page's chances of bagging the

role of Bond skyrocketed after it was announced he would appear in the upcoming thriller **The Gray Man**, with Bond girl Ana de Armas. When the 31-year-old breakout actor was asked by Jimmy Fallon about the Bond rumours, he said: "If you're a Brit and you do something of any kind of renown, that people regard well, then people start saying the 'B' word. It's like a merit badge." Much to the disappointment of his many fans, Regé-Jean will not be returning for a second season of the hugely popular **Bridgerton** series. This has further added grist to the rumour mill surrounding the actor and the Bond role. Watch this space.

### Henry Cavill



Of course Henry Cavill's name (currently in negotiations to star in a revival of 1980s adventure movie, **Highlander**) would pop up in discussions for the Bond role. The 37-year-old charismatic star of **The Witcher** already auditioned for James Bond in his 20s. Cavill was apparently really close to winning the iconic role in **Casino Royale**, on the strength of his impressive work in **The Tudors**. While he lost out to Craig eventually, Henry Cavill has continued to express interest in playing the role. In an interview last year, he commented: "I would absolutely jump at the opportunity. At this stage, it's all up in the air. We'll see what happens. But yes, I would love to play Bond, it would be very, very exciting." As comfortable in a sharp suit as in a red cape, Cavill could also show off the secret-agent skills he acquired from his role in **The Man From U.N.C.L.E.**

### Richard Madden



Scottish actor Richard Madden (best known for playing Robb Stark in **Game Of Thrones**) has been a bookies favourite to usurp Craig's Bond crown for some time now. His role in BBC's **Bodyguard**, in particular, impressed critics and created buzz around his Bond potential. Madden is considered to be a serious contender for the role after impressing the film's executive producer Barbara Broccoli. The actor previously said: "I love the movies. I've read all the books." But he also said, echoing Tom Hardy, "If you talk about it, you'll curse it."

If successful, Richard Madden would be only the second Scottish actor to don the famous tuxedo. The 34 year-old star previously told **GQ Magazine**: "I'm more than flattered to be mentioned, for people to consider putting me in that role... It's a really brilliant thing to be in." But Madden also told **Vogue** that he would be willing to play second fiddle to a female Bond. "If it was an interesting part, a Bond boy would be an interesting dynamic."

### Idris Elba

The London-born actor has been one of the most talked-about potential replacements for Craig in recent years. Idris Elba is renowned for his role in BBC's **Luther**, as well as an actor who's worked in many films. A contender that's hotly debated as next in line for a franchise martini. Ladbrokes has said: "It looks like the name's going to be Elba; Idris Elba", with people seemingly convinced the actor will get the nod to replace Daniel Craig as Bond. Back in 2018, Elba got fans' hearts racing when he posted a selfie, with the caption: "My name's Elba, Idris Elba."

The star has addressed the rumours, saying he does not want to be a "token black" Bond. Elba stated: "I think it's more about, 'We just want to have a black guy play James Bond' rather than, Idris Elba, the actor, play James Bond." Idris Elba is no stranger to action and stunts after his high-octane role in **Luther**, so he would be more than capable should the opportunity arise to play the super-spy.



### Sam Heughan

Sam Heughan is now one of the favourites to be the next James Bond. Although he's not as well known as his competitors, he has built up a reputation as a sought after actor. Heughan is best known for his role as a Scottish Highlander in the popular TV series **Outlander**. Sometimes, all you need to do is put on a tuxedo, and people will start saying you're the next James Bond. And that's exactly what happened to Sam Heughan, after he played a 007-like character in the comedy thriller, **The Spy Who Dumped Me**. The **Outlander** star has previously said he would like to bring Bond home to Scotland for the first time since Sean Connery.



"Who doesn't want to see another Scottish Bond!" enthused the 41 year-old actor. After **British GQ** hailed Heughan as a good choice for the next Bond, Sam took to Twitter to express his gratitude: "Thank you Moneypenny." Movie star Vin Diesel has even backed Sam Heughan to be the next 007 after working alongside him on the comic book action movie **Bloodshot** last year. Heughan's most recent starring role as a Special Forces operator in Sky Movies' **SAS: Red Notice** has been regarded by his fans as a trial run for the Bond role. However, the actor faces stiff competition in the 007 stakes.

### Other Actors in the Running

**Cillian Murphy** is a fan favourite for his role in hugely popular TV series **Peaky Blinders**. The acclaimed Irish actor said he is honoured by speculation that he could become the next James Bond. The 44-year-old told **GQ**: "It's incredibly flattering to be in that conversation", though Murphy also reckoned it was time for a female Bond to helm the spy franchise.

There were lots of rumours that **Night Manager** star **Tom Hiddleston**, would be the next Bond after a reported meeting with Bond producer Barbara Broccoli a few years ago. However, in 2016 he told fans that "your guess is as good as mine, to be honest." Hiddleston has stated in the past that he is a huge fan of Bond, and that he would embrace the extraordinary opportunity (should the occasion arise) to play this iconic role.

### ANSWERS TO MAY OSCARS SPECIAL QUIZ

- |                                    |           |       |      |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| 1 d)                               | 2 b)      | 3 a)  | 4 b) |
| 5 Bridge on the River Kwai         |           |       |      |
| 6 c)                               | 7 b) & d) | 8 d)  |      |
| 9 Gloria Swanson: Sunset Boulevard |           |       |      |
| 10 c)                              | 11 d)     | 12 c) |      |
| 13 d)                              | 14 a)     | 15 c) |      |
| 16 Philip Seymour Hoffman          |           |       |      |
| 17 b)                              | 18 a)     |       |      |



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



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### Maynooth's Naoise Ó Cearúil is new Mayor of Kildare

Maynooth-based politician Naoise Ó Cearúil was elected the new Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council at the June meeting of KCC. Following his election the new Mayor made the following statement.:

A Chairde,  
 Is mór an onóir dom a bheith os bhur chóir mar Chathaoirleach agus Mhéara Chill Dara. Ba mhaith liom ar dtús báire mo bhuíochas a ghabháil leis an gComhairleoir Paul Ward as ucht mé a ainmniú, leis an gComhairleoir Ivan Keatley as ucht tacú le m'ainmniúcháin agus libh uilig as bhur tacaíocht agus muinín. Déanfaidh mé dhícheall ar bhur son agus ar son mhuintir Chill Dara don bhliain seo romhainn.

It is a great honour to be before you today as the Cathaoirleach and Mayor of Kildare. I would like to first of all thank Cllr. Paul Ward for nominating me for the position, Cllr. Ivan Keatley for seconding my nomination and to all of you for your support and trust. I will do my very best on your behalf and on behalf of the people of Kildare in the forthcoming year. The past 18 months have been extremely difficult for everybody throughout this pandemic but Kildare County Council, it's staff and it's councilors stepped up to the fore. I would like to pay credit to the Chief Executive Peter Carey and all of the staff for their tireless work. Cllr. Mark Stafford as Cathaoirleach had a difficult job and rose to the challenge, thank you Mark on behalf of all members and the people of Kildare.

I was first elected to Kildare County Council 7 years ago in 2014 as a young Councillor at the age of 24. The past 7 years have moved extremely quickly and they have been both challenging and rewarding. I would never have gotten to this position without the unyielding support of my family, my friends and my supporters. Thank you to my mam Geraldine, my dad Colm and my sisters Muireann, Déirdre and Éirín and their partners for believing in me. A special word of thanks to my partner Aly who is my rock and is always by my side. None of you chose to get involved in public life and have sacrificed much in order to support me. I really appreciate it. Anybody that knows me, knows that I speak about Maynooth a lot. I'm extremely proud of where I'm from and the people that live there. It is an honour to represent the place I



**Colm Ó Cearúil, Muireann Ní Chearúil, Ger Uí Chearúil, Naoise Ó Cearúil, Aly Murphy and Déirdre Ní Chearúil. (Not in photo Éirín Ní Chearúil)**

love most in the world and I hope that the people of Maynooth are proud of me today.

The next 18 months of this Council will be taken up primarily with the County Development Plan. This will require patience and stamina from both members and staff. We must all work together collectively to determine how this County will develop and prosper into the future. This CDP offers us a great opportunity that no previous council has had. We have seen with the pandemic, how as a society, as an organisation and as a County we can adapt and change at a rapid pace. We must be innovative and think outside the box; because that is what is expected of us now. We need to address remote working, regenerating our rural nodes, economic expansion throughout the entire County and responsible development in our large towns. While addressing and future proofing our County in the CDP we must also use the lessons of the Pandemic to address immediate issues.

We have started opening working hubs through the Local Enterprise Office - how can we maximise this.

We created a network of community volunteers through the Community Call - how do we keep this going to care for our vulnerable neighbours and friends.

We have had remote meetings - how do we ensure that this option or a Hybrid model is available to Councillors for whatever reason they might have.

We reduced our Carbon emissions - what are the lessons we can take from this and how do we address the climate emergency.

To answer these questions and more, I would like to establish a Re-opening Kildare Committee where we can learn from what we have done well and what we could have done better.

From a meetings perspective, the next year will be extremely busy with the CDP, local area plans and monthly statutory meetings. We must all be respectful of each other's time and that we use our time together wisely. I would like to improve the efficiency of meetings as well as how we operate in general. I will be rigid with the standing orders and I would ask the members for their cooperation in abiding by standing orders and respecting all members' time. Everybody here has a mandate, and nobody's mandate is more or less important. We are all equals in this chamber.

Is í mana Chill Dara ná Meanma agus Misneach. The motto of Kildare is Meanma agus Misneach which translates to Spirit and Courage. The people of Kildare have shown these characteristics throughout the pandemic, let's have the Spirit and Courage as a Council to make the changes and adapt as we prepare for the future.

Go raibh maith agaibh



# 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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## 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

July already and unfortunately we are still operating under some restrictions in terms of the reopening of businesses particularly in the hospitality area. It has been great to see how our restaurants and pubs have expanded their outdoor space. It brings a real sense of being on holidays when you go around the centre of the town. Let's hope that we get summer weather so that we can enjoy socialising outdoors and support our local hospitality businesses. As a gardener I would be hoping for some rain but I am happy that the rain comes at night when we are all asleep.



With Covid restrictions for the past year or so a key group of people who were at risk were our older citizens. The roll out of the vaccines quite rightly prioritised older people and across the community it is great to see our wiser, older neighbours and friends out and about again. Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee are always here to offer support and assistance and have done so for decades. For many of those years (and she would say herself, too many to count) Mrs. Josie Moore has been at the centre of the work of the Maynooth Senior Citizens Group. Josie has been a fantastic advocate for older people in Maynooth and I have heard her say a number of times over the years that she will become an older person sometime in the future herself.



**Josephine Moore**

One feature of a good community group is that new people continue to join, so that volunteers already involved can step back and there are people already in the group to carry on the work seamlessly. Maynooth Senior Citizens and Maynooth Tidy Towns are such groups and as a consequence are able to continue. Josie has been able to step back from the key roles in the Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee. For those who know Josie, you will understand when I say that there are few people that you will meet that engages you with her passion for everything that she does. I have no doubt that she will continue to contribute in a positive way on the subjects that exercise her interests.

One other Maynooth person that is well known locally but has also gained international recognition is actor Paul Mescal. Last month Paul was awarded a BAFTA Leading Actor award for his role in the TV Drama Normal People. He is now a world-wide personality and he seems to be taking it all in his stride. We wish him continued success with his acting career and there is no doubt he will be an inspiration to many more young people in Maynooth. Maybe sometime he will talk to the Maynooth Newsletter.



**Paul Mescal at the BAFTA Awards.**

*Image courtesy of IMDB.com*

**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 July 2021**



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We love to celebrate with a party! Celebrating birthdays, new arrivals, communions, end of school or even just a simple playdate – having a get together does not have to mean a massive increase in your household shopping and waste. Lots of fun should be the main priority.

As the author Jen Gale wrote ‘celebrations seem to have become synonymous with consumerism’. Even here at ZWM as we try to have a low waste household, waste can just seem to pile up around parties. How we celebrate has being sold to us with a list of must haves. Increasing money out and waste in. And all this waste in turn costs us again as we have to pay to part with in our waste collection.

We are looking at children’s parties but it could be any sort of gathering – here are some simple green tips for a low waste event. Lots of fun but hopefully less stuff to clutter up are already overcrowded homes.

- **ReUse what you have** – keep candles from the last party in a jar and use again. Keep any bunting or decorations nice and safe, like how we are happy to keep and reuse our Christmas decorations.
- **Avoid single use items** – balloons are a big one here. If you can’t cut them out totally, cut back on what you use. Buy ones that can go into the compost bin when they burst. I often see balloons on the Freecycle pages, which is great – they get another day out.
- **Invitations** – can you text? Maybe the kids can make an invitation. Please avoid the use of glitter. Glitter is litter! It is basically tiny bits of plastic that get everywhere – on our clothes, in our hair, down the drains, into our water system.
- **Gifts** – No gift and a handmade card is totally cool in my books but I am not 6 years old! Check out a local charity shop or Adverts for some amazing kids items. Or a book from home with a lovely message. Or a fiver in an envelope. Our kids are young, hopefully this can become a part of their normal – so they get a mixture of new and used gifts for their birthdays. Don’t forget to Reuse wrapping paper and bags. My brother wraps his gifts to us in a hug, always makes me giggle as he has the gift up his jumper!
- **Party food** – Before covid I would say buy/make larger quantities of food and share out into smaller bowls. Now, if single wrapped items feels better – go for it. Having a low waste party is important but we still have to do what feels good and safe in the current climate.



**Party bags** – OK so again I am not 6 years old and can’t see the point of these but lets try and make these bags and the contents plastic free. Get paper sandwich bags – add some birthday cake. Or if you want to do it in advance of the party maybe a small book, colouring book, chocolate coins wrapped in foil or a packet of seeds to grow at home

To help reduce party waste Zero Waste Maynooth has teamed up with the wonderful Sharon at Jiminy.ie. A group of likeminded volunteers around Ireland have joined together with Sharon and have party kits to borrow in a scheme called Rainbow Rentals. Borrow a box with plastic cups, plates and cutlery. (Yes plastic but hard wearing and reusable!)

Collect the kit from us here in Maynooth and use at your party. Wash and return. Save buying a load of single use items, help reduce your waste and encourage others to buy into the idea that a sharing community can work here in Maynooth. A suggested donation of €5 to cover costs but it is absolutely not necessary. To book the party kit send us a message on Facebook or email us on [zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com](mailto:zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com)





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## Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



As many of you know by now, I stepped down as Chairperson of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee at the beginning of February 2020. However, as covid raised its ugly head, I continued to work with the incoming officers to ensure the smooth hand-over of operations.

That transition is now complete, and I pass on the baton to Patricia Cusker (Chair) and Susan Durack (Secretary) as the Committee open a new chapter.

Many thanks to our wonderful community of Maynooth and Ladychapel for their sustained support over the past fifty six years and I have no doubt that your support will continue in the future.

I have had the privilege of serving the Senior Citizens of our Parish for over five decades and as Committee Chairperson and PRO for almost three decades. The experience has enriched my life and I will always be grateful for that. I will sign off now one last time and take a long over-due break. Thank you and farewell.

**Josephine Moore.**  
**Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.**





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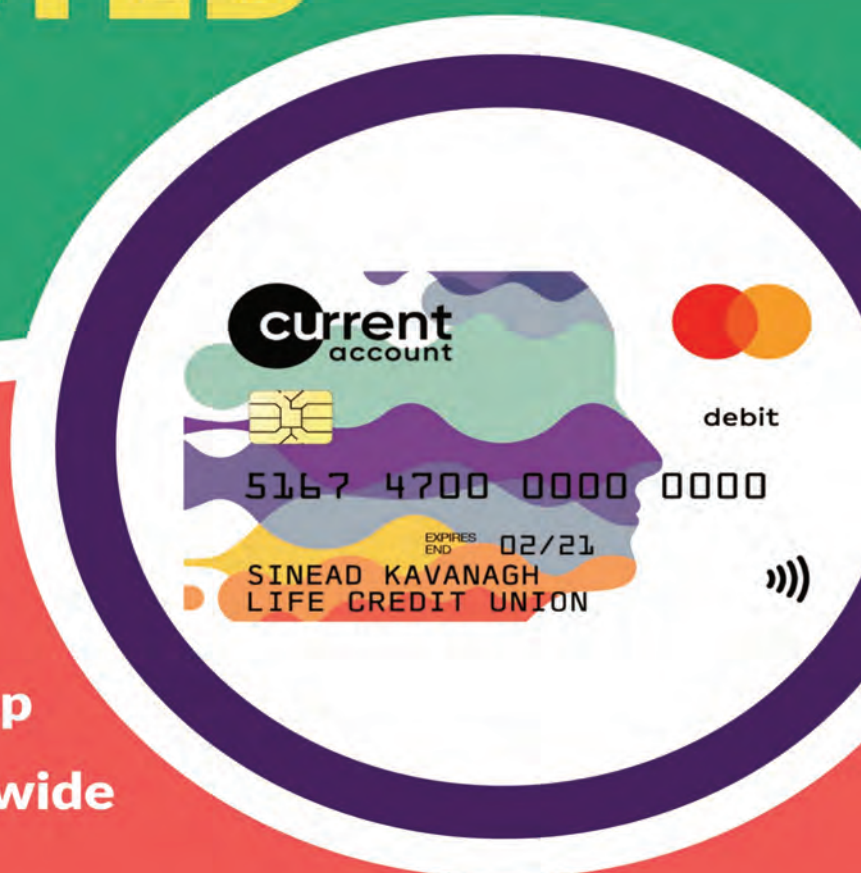
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## Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

### Park Avenue Restaurants

On arriving in New York in 1958 I was employed as a draughtsman by Fischbach and Moore Inc. This firm had recently obtained the electrical contract for the 38-story Seagram Building, an iconic bronze skyscraper between 52nd and 53rd Streets on Park Avenue, and had a field office on an unoccupied floor. My first experience on entering that office was of Bill, the general foreman, roaring down the telephone, 'You kiss my big, fat Irish ass!' Bill was Irish-American and ruled the workplace like a despot but, luckily for me, welcomed a raw recruit from The Old Sod. My workmates were the usual ethnic mix, Jewish, Italian, Anglo-Saxon and Bill, a World War 2 veteran and only African-American employee.

As tenants for commercial firms took up residence, Fischbach and Moore would move its temporary office to a new location. One of the principal tenants was The Four Seasons Restaurant, situated on a basement floor. This exclusive dining place was so named because each season, spring, summer, autumn and winter, it completely changed its décor to reflect that time of year.

Now after our team of office workers and electricians had moved on to another building, one of my jobs was to complete As-Built Drawings for the restaurant. These drawings were required because in the process of wiring the place the electricians often deviated from the original plans. Later, my drawings on regular drafting paper would be transferred to plastic-like sheets, which would be stored as a permanent record of the work done. Meanwhile, there I was, without a partner, trying to check circuits in the hot, steaming kitchen among cooks and waiters busily at work – talk of organized mayhem! A further source of pressure was the fact that my boss wanted the job wrapped up quickly, since it was just a niggling requirement that wouldn't increase profits. Did I ever dine in The Four Seasons? Certainly not, it was way out of my league.

My next job was on the opposite side of Park Avenue in The First National City Bank, a 41-story building just nearing completion. If the Seagram Building had a prestigious restaurant, First National had its basement Rue de Gourmets with at least seven restaurants: French, Italian, Japanese and so on. Again, Fischbach and Moore had set up a

field office, in which one of my buddies was Walter, a genial Irish-American timekeeper.

One afternoon, on returning from a beef stew meal in my usual diner, a smartly-dressed fellow refused me entry because, as ill luck would have it, I didn't have an identification card. It was the official opening of the building and safety restrictions were in place. Only after a heated exchange was I allowed to return to our field office. But that wasn't my chief tight spot in that building.

Before opening for regular business the Italian restaurant was serving meals gratis to employees of firms that had rented floor space. Walter and I decided to risk having a free meal and in due course we found ourselves being ushered to a table covered with a spotless white linen tablecloth. A uniformed waiter with an immaculate shirt and bowtie asked if we were employees and we assured him we were. Then, having given our orders, we waited expectantly for our five-course meal.

We had just finished the aperitivo with its olives, cheese and wine when disaster struck. Walter got a phone call telling him he was wanted in our main office, which was situated further up Park Avenue. Suddenly I was on my own, like some casually dressed emperor with a line of obsequious waiters presenting him with piping hot, aromatic dishes. In normal circumstances I should have been chuffed, but there was no guarantee that the situation wouldn't end in disaster. I was like a condemned man eating his last meal. After dessert of Italian rum cake followed by coffee, a waiter presented me with an enormous bill, explaining that it was just a formality, but that I should sign it and add the name of my firm. Hoping I wasn't signing my dismissal notice, I scribbled my signature, followed by Fischbach and Moore. Then leaving a substantial tip, I thanked the headwaiter for a first-rate meal and walked out past other smiling waiters, expecting every moment to be called back to explain why Fischbach and Moore wasn't on the tenant list. Luckily, no such call came.

If I am ever again in New York I shall visit First National City Bank and check to see if that restaurant is still in business. I may even order a meal, a much smaller one this time!

By P.G. Nerney

### The explanation of all things!

The world and all in it is entirely rational, is explicable, is understandable or will eventually be understandable to the human mind. All things are caused. No one thing is an isolate, standing alone with no influence or dependence on other things. Not all people will understand everything or maybe even understand many things but there will be some who will understand and will be able to reassure the rest of us that all is well, all is rational, all is good.

The most rational thing about the universe is that it is not the cause of itself. Can anything be the cause of itself? No scientist or philosopher has ever found the universe to be self explanatory - though many have gratuitously stated that such is the case -but science tells us that the universe was created with such precision that the slightest deviation from the set up as it was in the beginning, immediately after the Big Bang, would have made any further development impossible! Einstein weighed in heavily here with his famous paradox stating that the most incomprehensible thing about the universe is that it is comprehensible!

And it is into this comprehensible and interconnected world that Christianity fits so snugly. My friend from Barcelona would laud it as the great non-duality. All is one and one in the great creator, the Father. So many times Jesus stressed his union with the Father and exhorted us to pray to Him daily that we should all be one. He gave his body as bread for this whole unified world as an efficient symbol of our interconnectedness. The world's bread is for the people of the world and no one can eat of this bread without sharing it with those who need it but haven't got it. Bread shared with the world's hungry is divine bread indeed, is Christ! This is the teaching of the Christian Eucharist!

By G.M.

### Blanket Street

i. m. Donald Kerins

In those days of pillow fights and apple-pie beds, of dormitory raids and midnight raisin-cake feasts, we had to furnish our own sheets, but not the blankets, and those supplied would not have been expensive Foxford, but who could bother about such trivial matters? No, 'Gingernut, the Boy who Takes the Biscuit,' was, at least to the wildest bunch of us, our hero, for he was expert at bamboozling rivals.

After lights out, when the prefect used his torch to spotlight those intent on further mischief, we chatted to the boy who had the bed beside us; Freddie the Fearless Fly's was next to mine and we discussed Rob Roy or Alan Breck Stewart until it was time to turn away and sleep.

Freddie unexpectedly contracted some disease and so we never got to visit Appin.

By Colin Scott



At the time of writing our volunteers have been very busy catching up with planting, clearing our beds, scuffling and litter picking in all areas around Maynooth. We are not looking for new volunteers at the moment due to the Covid restrictions still in place.

The #sdgroadshow visited Maynooth University in June, Tidy Towns were invited to a question and answer session. We also took them to visit our Sensory Garden to explain all the Sustainable Goals we have covered in Maynooth, Water Harvesting, Seats made from recycled materials, all of our planting is intended to support biodiversity in Maynooth by attracting Bees and Butterflies.

We are meeting up every Saturday morning at 9am at our shed in the council car park. Thanks to all the businesses who have supported us over the past 2 months either financially or otherwise. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more information about Maynooth Tidy Towns.

#### Maynooth Tidy Towns Committee





# 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*



## Easing of COVID-19 restrictions

The Government announced a further easing of COVID-19 restrictions for June, July and August.

### From 7 June 2021:

- You can have visitors inside your home from 1 other household if you are unvaccinated
- Fully vaccinated people can meet indoors in private homes with up to 2 other households
- Restaurants and bars can reopen for outdoor service
- Up to 25 people can attend a wedding reception
- Gyms, swimming pools, cinemas and theatres can reopen
- Outdoor sports matches can take place
- Up to 100 people can attend outdoor events, or up to 200 people in larger venues
- Driver Theory Test Services can partially reopen
- From 5 July, restrictions will ease further, including the return of indoor service for restaurants and bars. From 19 July, non-essential travel abroad will be permitted. A further easing of restrictions will be considered for August.

## Emergency public health powers extended

Emergency public health powers, including additional Garda powers, introduced to deal with COVID-19 will be extended until November 2021.

## EU Digital COVID Certificate (DCC)

From 19 July 2021, Ireland plans to operate the EU Digital COVID Certificate (DCC) for travel originating within the EU and EEA. Available in digital or paper format, it will be a proof that a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, tested negative, or recovered from an infection.

## Mandatory hotel quarantine

The list of designated countries has been amended for mandatory hotel quarantine. A dedicated mandatory hotel quarantine information line is available Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm on 01 613 1744.

## COVID-19 vaccinations

People between the age of 40 and 44 can now register for a vaccine appointment online or by calling the HSE COVID-19 helpline on 1850 24 1850. People in this age group are asked to register on different days, depending on their age.

## Confirming PUP eligibility

The Department of Social Protection may contact PUP recipients to provide evidence of their continued eligibility for the payment. People contacted between 14 May and 26 May 2021 should upload the information on MyWelfare.ie. If you do not confirm, your payment may be stopped. If you no longer meet the criteria, you must close your PUP claim. For further information contact the Department's Income Support Helpline for COVID-19 on 1890 800 024.

## Extensions of COVID-19 payments

The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment has been extended with a gradual reduction in payments from 7 September 2021. The scheme will close to new applicants from 1 July 2021. Students can continue to claim PUP until the start of the 2021/2022 college year with the final payment on 7 September 2021.

**COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit** will continue after the end of June 2021. No further information is currently available.

**Rent Supplement** rules due to expire on 30 June 2021 have been extended until the end of 2021. The rules, also known as flexibilities, apply to applications on or after 13 March 2020.

## Increase in earnings disregards

The earnings disregards for Disability Allowance (from 2 June) and Blind Pension (from 4 June) has increased by €20 per week from €120 to €140 per week.

## Leaving Certificate 2021

Leaving Certificate students who chose to take written exams only can now opt in for accredited grades. The State Examinations Commission will contact eligible students later this summer.

The Leaving Certificate written exams start on 9 June 2021. Leaving Certificate results will issue directly to students on the Candidate Self-Service Portal on Friday, 3 September.

If a school cannot give external students an estimated percentage mark (accredited grade), it will notify the students between 3–9 June. Students can appeal the school's decision by submitting an appeals form (pdf) by 12pm on 14 June 2021.

## Driver theory tests

From 8 June, driver theory test centres and services will gradually reopen. The pilot scheme for online remote testing is available for all categories on a limited basis.

## Economic Recovery Plan for Ireland

- Additional measures to support businesses announced under the Government's Economic Recovery Plan for Ireland are:
- An extension of the EWSS and CRSS schemes until 31 December 2021
- A new Business Resumption Support Scheme to be introduced in September 2021
- The commercial rates waiver will be extended to 30 September 2021
- The tax debt warehousing scheme will be extended until 31 December 2021
- An extension of the reduction in VAT rate of 9% for the hospitality and tourism sector until 1 September 2022
- A final extension of the suspension of redundancy provisions until 30 September 2021
- A new COVID-19 Deferred Payment arrangement to support additional statutory redundancy costs

A National Recovery and Resilience Plan (pdf) will work alongside and reinforce the Economic Recovery Plan (pdf). The National Recovery and Resilience Plan will use €915 million in grants from the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility. The draft plan needs to be formally assessed by the European Commission, expected to take two months, before being submitted to the Council of the European Union for approval.

## EWSS changes

The EWSS changes under the Government's Economic Recovery Plan for Ireland are:

EWSS has been extended until 31 December 2021

The enhanced rates of supports under the current 5 payment bands and associated rates will continue for July, August and September

The time period for assessment of reduction in turnover or customer orders test is extended from 6 months to 12 months

A decision on the rates that will apply from October, is expected at the end of August or early September

## CRSS changes

The CRSS changes under the Government's Economic Recovery Plan for Ireland are:

- CRSS has been extended until 31 December 2021
- Businesses will be able to claim an enhanced restart payment for 3 weeks to help with the costs of reopening as businesses exit the scheme
- The maximum restart payment will be €10,000 per week (increased from €5,000)

## Other COVID-19 business supports

A new Outdoor Service Enhancement Scheme to assist bars and pubs that do not have a food offering, will give a payment of up to €4,000 to help enhance outdoor seating capacity and weatherproof service areas.

(Continued on page 9)



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CONT/....

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(Continued from page 8)

## Local Property Tax

The Minister for Finance has announced proposed changes to Local Property Tax (LPT). The changes (pdf) include the widening of the valuation bands and a reduction in the rate of tax. It is also proposed the LPT will apply to properties that have been built since the last valuation date of 1 May 2013, and new properties will become liable for LPT at the next liability date each year. There are also proposed changes to LPT exemptions and deferrals. New laws will need to be passed before these changes apply.

## Changes to civil legal aid eligibility

The Legal Aid Board will no longer include the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) in their calculation of entitlement to civil legal aid. Changes to priority/emergency visas

Two new categories have been added to the priority/emergency list of visas being processed. Visa applications will now be accepted from people joining family members in Ireland. Applications will also be accepted from people who are travelling for essential business or employment purposes and have been issued with an employment permit by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

## International Protection Appeals Tribunal

All hearings before the International Protection Appeals Tribunal will take place online from 1 June until at least 1 July 2021.

## Changes to personal insolvency laws

The Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Act 2021 (pdf) was signed into law on 26 May 2021. A separate commencement order is needed to bring the changes into force. The new laws enable homeowners in arrears dating from after 1 January 2015 to access a court

review if their mortgage lender or other creditors refuse a reasonable proposal for a Personal Insolvency Arrangement (PIA).

## MABS offices reopening

From 8 June 2021, MABS offices will reopen on a limited, appointment-only basis.

## Birth registrations suspended

Registration of births has been temporarily suspended due to the HSE cyber attack. Do not email birth registration forms to your local civil registration office until further notice. Instead, you can post completed forms to your local civil registration office, or email them to [births@welfare.ie](mailto:births@welfare.ie).

## UPCOMING

### VAT changes on online shopping

From 1 July 2021, the current VAT exemption for imported items below €22 will end. Import VAT will be payable on all goods entering Ireland from non-EU countries, irrespective of their value.

## BTSCFA

On 21 June 2021, applications for Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BTSCFA) will open. The BTSCFA is paid automatically to many families. You will get a letter before 21 June 2021 to let you know that you will be paid automatically. If you have not received a letter by 21 June, you must apply for BTSCFA online using [MyWelfare.ie](http://MyWelfare.ie). The closing date for applications is 30 September 2021.

## School Transport Scheme

The medical card verification system used as payment for the School Transport Scheme is unavailable due to the cyber attack on the HSE. Payment for the scheme is due to open from 16 June until 30 July 2021. If the verification system has not been fixed when the payment opens on 16 June, Bus Éireann may extend the payment period for medical card holders.

# Water Safety Advice

## Coastal Walking

Now that Summer is here and we have the long sunny warm days popular and common activities take place on / around water throughout the year but especially during the summer months. However, there are associated risks so it is important to know the do's and don'ts around water.

There is nothing quite like walking to get you away from all the hustle and bustle. Fresh air, open surroundings and exhilarating views! Plus, it's a great form of exercise to keep healthy and improve your fitness.

Walking close to water along Ireland's shores presents its own challenges and should never be underestimated. If you intend to walk on your own or as part of a walking group, we can all take steps to stay safe. Follow our handy tips for both inexperienced and advanced walkers and you will be set to go

- Before departing for your walk, always check the weather forecast. Ensure no yellow, orange or red warnings are in place.
- Check the time of the tides and be cautious of the risk of stranding due to tides. Carry a well charged phone—dial 112 if you feel that you are likely to get stranded or if you / a member of your group gets injured and requires assistance.
- Always let someone know where you are leaving from and going to, as well as what time you expect to return.
- If the walk is not well signposted, carry a map and compass. Fog can come down very quickly in coastal areas.
- Be aware of all edges around the sea and waterside. Slips and falls happen in all locations, it is not just high cliff edges that are at risk.
- Be careful when walking in dark and slippery conditions.
- If you are walking your dog never follow it into the water, call 112 instead.

## Beach Safety

For most people summer means days at beach, enjoying the sun and sand. By following very easy tips, you can have a safe and happy time at beach

- Learn to swim
- Swim near a lifeguard
- Swim with a buddy

- Check with the lifeguards
- Use sunscreen and drink water
- Obey posted signs and flags
- Keep the beach and water clean
- Learn rip current safety
- Enter water feet first
- Wear a life jacket

## To stay safe at the beach, always remember F.L.A.G.S.

**F** – Find the red and yellow flags and swim between them.  
 Always swim where there is a lifeguard on patrol, and stay inside the area marked by the red and yellow flags. Never swim where a sign says not to, or when the red flag is flying.

**L** – Look at the safety signs.  
 Always read and obey the safety signs – they will help you to avoid potential dangers on the beach, and to identify the safest areas for swimming.

**A** – Ask a lifeguard for advice.  
 If in doubt, it's always best to play it safe and ask the experts.

**G** – Get a friend to swim with you.  
 Make sure there are other people around, because you never know when help might be needed.

**S** – Stick your hand in the air and shout for help if you get into difficulty.

Source: [watersafety.ie/recreation/](http://watersafety.ie/recreation/)

### WATER SAFETY - Flags you need to know



### RED FLAG - no swimming at all



### BETWEEN TWO RED AND YELLOW FLAGS safe to swim and belly board



### BETWEEN TWO BLACK AND WHITE FLAGS NO SWIMMING area used by surfers and windsurfers



## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

The Band were delighted to receive an Intel Pride of Place award of five thousand euros last month.

This money will be going towards the purchase of the more expensive lower brass instruments (tuba, euphonium, French horn and trombone), the cost of which would normally be beyond the reach of most parents.

As a result, the Band is now in a position to extend the range of instruments in the present Junior Band and are taking applications from budding musicians between the ages of 8 and 18 to join classes beginning in October if COVID-19 restrictions permit.

Please submit your contact details through our [stmarysbandmaynooth](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysbandmaynooth) Facebook, email [stmarysjrbandmaynooth.ie](mailto:stmarysjrbandmaynooth.ie) or call 087 2537 906 if you need further details.

Members of the Junior Band have the opportunity to progress to the Senior Band when they have reached a certain standard, something that several of the current Junior Band have managed to achieve this year.

Places in these classes are limited so early registration is advisable.



Photo: Francesca Sheridan, who conducts the Junior Band



Photo: Junior Band at rehearsal

## Remembrance: The World War I Dead of Co. Kildare

Remembrance: The World War I Dead of Co. Kildare is an important new publication from Kildare Decade of Commemorations. The book was compiled and edited by genealogist Karel Kiely and historians James Durney and Mario Corrigan of Kildare Library & Arts Service.

The book lists over seven hundred and fifty men and three women from County Kildare who died in World War I. Each entry includes (where available), service number and/or rank, regiment, date of birth, age at death, date and location of death, burial or memorial location, parents and/or spouse, nature of the connection to County Kildare, and also brief supplementary information including enlistment date and location. The work will serve as a valuable reference for many years to come for historians and genealogists, as well as the general public with an interest in how World War I impacted upon the people of County Kildare.

Officially launched on the 17th of June 2021 by the Cathaoirleach of Kildare County Council, Cllr. Mark Stafford, this well presented hardback publication can be purchased at the following locations throughout the county:

Athy – Winkles Shop  
Kilcullen – Woodbine Books  
Kildare – Kildare Heritage Centre  
Maynooth – Maynooth Bookshop  
Naas – Barker & Jones  
Newbridge – Farrell & Nephew  
Copies are also available to borrow at County Kildare Community Libraries.  
Source: Remembrance: The World War I Dead of Co. Kildare – Kildare Local History.ie



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## Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 25/05/2021 to 29/06/2021 - 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
21930	Kildare County Council	Allen Spillane	31 Castlepark Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	25/06/2021
21936	Kildare County Council	Peadar O Fearghaile	No. 57 & 58 Rail Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	25/06/2021
21917	Kildare County Council	Mary Mooney,	Toolstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 YX05.	24/06/2021
21918	Kildare County Council	Fiona McEvoy,	9 Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	24/06/2021
21921	Kildare County Council	Paul Mooney	Kealstown, Ladychapel, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	24/06/2021
21907	Kildare County Council	Ronan O'Reilly and Sara McIntyre	75 Kingsbry, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	23/06/2021
21857	Kildare County Council	Certas Energy Ireland Limited	Certa Service Station, Carton Park, Dublin Rd, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	14/06/2021
21844	Kildare County Council	Paul & Siobhan Turley	18 Limetree Hall, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	11/06/2021
21836	Kildare County Council	Nicola O'Neill and David Lynch,	10 The Crescent Moyglare Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 H9R0.	10/06/2021
21822	Kildare County Council	The Trustees of Maynooth Town Football Club,	Newtown Road, Newtown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	08/06/2021
21823	Kildare County Council	Maynooth GAA Club	Moyglare Road, Mariavilla, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	08/06/2021
21814	Kildare County Council	Kerrie Leonard	The Leinster Clinic, Dún Sion, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	04/06/2021

## How to prevent Slugs & Snails in the Garden

Snails, like slugs, cause a great deal of damage to plants. They feed mostly at night, seeking shelter during the day from the drying effects of the sun. However, the snail's shell allows it to move more freely than a slug over dry areas, such as paving. It leaves a tell-tale trail of slime.

They cut holes in the middle of leaves, eat seedlings completely to the ground, and also attack ripening low-hanging fruit such as strawberries and tomatoes. The foliage and fruit of some trees is also eaten by snails and slugs. They are quite competent at climbing vertically and they do have a preference for the young leaves of citrus trees.

### Here are some common methods for getting rid of snails in the garden

#### Tidy the Garden

Clean around the garden edgings, hedges and flower beds so that the snails can not seek shelter there.

Remove fallen fruit and other appealing organic stuff they love. A poorly managed compost, leaves or grass can also give them food, shelter and a good environment for laying eggs.

#### Water in the Morning

Water in the morning and not in evening. Slugs and Snails are nocturnal beings and are favored by the humid nights. They love moisture and when you water in the evening, it creates a favorable conditions for them to thrive in.

#### Combat Slugs early

Start to kill them off early in the growing season, in the spring. Then you'll have a limited population, you will prevent them from laying eggs since the beginning of the growth of garden.



#### Hunt them at Evening or Early Morning

Slugs and snails are active in night or when it is slightly dark.

Hunt them when they remain active – especially early morning and in evening.

It is labor intensive, but effective if performed regularly for several weeks

#### How to Kill Slugs

- Make a beer trap, dig a hole that forms the trap and set down a bowl of beer or an open bottle of beer to lure slugs. Empty the trap daily.
- Use salt to kill slugs, sprinkle. It draws the water out of their soft bodies.

You must be careful when using salt as it can harm other animals and plants. Salt absorbs the water from slugs and snails, dehydrating and eventually killing them. You can sprinkle the salt directly on the snail or create a barrier so it can't go near the plants.

- Use lime and sawdust as a barrier around the plants you would like to protect, you can also use eggshells. This prevents the slugs. The one disadvantage of such barrier is that it washes out in rain and then you will have to lay this out again.
- Coffee grounds and mashed rhubarb are also useful to deter them.
- Horse chestnuts can be ground and laid out around the plants too. Researchers have found that these garden pests do not tolerate chestnut mixture.



- Wash or replace the soil and pots of new plants you buy before putting them in the garden to avoid small snail or slug eggs to spread.

#### Use Chemicals, Killer Substances, and Pesticides

You can opt to use a natural pest control spray to repel snails and slugs. It is not recommended that you spray it directly on the plants, as doing so may cause leaf burns. Other chemicals include chlorine (bleach), aluminum sulfate, and potassium permanganate.

Garlic is also useful in killing snails and slugs. The garlic can be mixed with water in a spray bottle and then applied to or on the infested area. Garden snails often stray away from plants and flowers that are highly scented and ornamental grasses and plants. That's because they are not seedlings and succulent vegetation. These types of plants include: Ferns, Lavender, Hydrangea, Sage, California Poppy, Herbs, Nasturtium, Rosemary and Cyclamen.

#### Use Bait

When using bait, you have the choice of liquid or powdered baits. For liquid baits, the most efficient ones are beer and iron phosphate baits. Other good options are grape juices and yeast and sugar or honey. To achieve this, you need a bowl or container filled half up with the mixture in a spot where the snails are customarily based. The bait's sweet scent attracts the snails to come out of the hiding spot, crawl into the bowl, and die.

Source: [gardenhelpful.com/how-to-get-rid-of-snails-in-your-garden/](https://gardenhelpful.com/how-to-get-rid-of-snails-in-your-garden/)

Source: [tip.balconygardenweb.com/slug-prevention-how-to-prevent-slugs-and-snails-in-the-garden/](https://tip.balconygardenweb.com/slug-prevention-how-to-prevent-slugs-and-snails-in-the-garden/)



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## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

E mail: [angelaemfeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelaemfeeney@gmail.com) - Phone: 0872381962



### Shocking to say that no crèche facility has been delivered in new housing developments in the past 10 years

At the June Council MD meeting, Cllr Feeney requested the Council to provide the number of crèche facilities delivered as part of new housing estates in the municipal district between 2011 and 2021. The Council replied stating that one crèche has commenced in Kilcock and there are a further five planning permissions granted for residential developments that include a crèche/childcare facility which have not commenced to date. Cllr Feeney said that the report makes very depressing reading, it is shocking to think that in a town of the size of Maynooth which has seen huge housing developments in this period, that no crèches have been built in those estates. Cllr Feeney said that the report received from the Council is not surprising to her since she is aware of the huge difficulties parents are experiencing sourcing childcare places in Maynooth; many parents having to travel outside the town to source childcare. Cllr Feeney is a founding member of the Maynooth Community Crèche Action group, which is two years in place now, and the stories from parents are heart breaking. Parents who are desperate to find places, asking where to turn, regularly contact Cllr Feeney.

Cllr Feeney explained that a crèche is included, as required by legislation, in the planning application for developments with over 70 units and is deemed necessary at that stage but somehow seems unnecessary at the end point, when the estate is finished. Cllr Feeney also sees the problem from the perspective of providers who engage with developers but it all comes to nothing. The developer claiming that there is no need for a crèche or that a crèche is not viable or a shell of a building is built which would require a huge outlay for the provider to bring to the required standard. Cllr Feeney said that what ends up happening is that the designated crèche site transforms into an application for repurposing for more houses. A lot of these larger developments are built in phases, with the crèche often planned for the final phase by which time the crèche is described as unviable or unnecessary. Cllr Feeney's intention is that the county development plan addresses this growing crisis and that crèches should be delivered in the first phase of any development. She has made a submission to this effect to be included in the County Development Plan. In addition, Cllr Feeney believes that we need to establish a community crèche as there is none in the north of the county and she will pursue this with the Council.

### More bike parking facilities

Cllr Angela Feeney has called on the Council to explore the provision of increased facilities for the safe parking of bicycles in Maynooth. The Council agreed to explore the provision of increased facilities for the safe parking of bicycles in Maynooth and will forward her proposal to the National Transport Authority for their attention and discussion. Cllr Feeney said it is great to see more people are out on their bikes not only for leisure but also for doing their business and that we need to make sure that it is possible to do this. Maynooth needs more bike parking at the obvious places like supermarkets, playgrounds, bus stops, train stations and at the Council car parks.

Cllr Feeney added that while we all welcomed the funding received by the Council to upgrade existing cycle lanes and to create new segregated cycling paths to encourage us to get out on our bikes, spending money on creating cycle paths without places to safely park our bikes did not make sense. The proposal received the support of the members and Cllr Feeney welcomed the fact that the Council said it would forward her proposal to the National Transport Authority.

### Marking the emergence from COVID 19

Cllr Angela Feeney sought clarification from the Council regarding the process involved in realising a proposal to erect a statue in Maynooth to mark our emergence from the COVID-19 pandemic. Cllr Feeney said that the reason for her request is that the Kildare Gallery at Carton Estate has generously offered to donate a piece of sculpture to mark our emergence from the COVID 19 pandemic. Cllr Feeney welcomed this offer and believes the community would warmly welcome it. The Council said that there is a Civic Memorial Policy that outlines the process for groups or individuals and all proposals are subject to assessment by the Civic Memorial Technical Committee, a recommendation of the Corporate Policy Group to go to municipal district or full council for final decision. Cllr Feeney said that it is very useful to find out how to advance such a proposal and the response provides reassurance to members about compliance and about what is appropriate.

### Cllr Feeney calls on the Council to provide caravan and camping facility to boost tourism

Cllr Angela Feeney has called on the Council to engage with St Patrick's College Maynooth to consider establishing a Caravan/Camping facility adjoining the Greenway and to exploit the tourism potential for this area. Cllr Feeney said that such a development would make great sense and would be a fantastic boost to tourism in Maynooth. Cllr Feeney said that cycling groups have contacted her saying they would love to use the Greenway and would welcome such an amenity as would their international counterparts. The college farmyard has all the necessary services so it would make great sense that the Council considers exploiting the huge tourism potential for the area adjoining the canal. The Council said it will consider this proposal as part of the forthcoming review of the Maynooth Local Area Plan later this year and will also raise the matter with St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

### Cllr Feeney calls for action on Bulk Buying in Housing Developments

At the May Plenary meeting of the Council, Cllr Feeney submitted a motion "That Kildare County Council calls on the Government to urgently introduce legislation that prevents foreign investment funds from bulk buying in new housing developments in our county". Cllr Feeney stated that a great deal has been said nationally about the Mullen Park Maynooth matter but she felt it should also be addressed in the Council Chamber. Speaking to the motion, Cllr Feeney said that there was a shared sense of outcry that a foreign investment company can bulk buy 80% of a development and outbid individuals, families and even our own local authority, at a time of a housing crisis when families are crying out for homes. Cllr Feeney added that housing impacts every aspect of life and thousands of people have had to press pause on their lives while they wait to be housed and the more we prevent people accessing home ownership, the more problems we are storing up down the line. What happened at Mullen Park and elsewhere is so bad for communities, because the very people who want to continue to live and to work in their own community are being, and will continue to be, outbid by these wealthy cuckoo funds. Cllr Feeney continued and said that if the intended outputs are to deliver affordable and social homes for our county, we are failing and failing badly if this is allowed to continue, when we have so many units planned for the county and such a long social housing list, when we as councillors daily have to remind our constituents that we have thousands on our social housing list with an average waiting time of 12 years. Cllr Feeney said that as elected public representatives, we cannot stand idly by but must ask what can we as a local authority hugely affected by these practices do and do now to stop this happening and being repeated. So, there is understandably a huge sense of despair and the public is calling on us as public representatives to put an end to this.

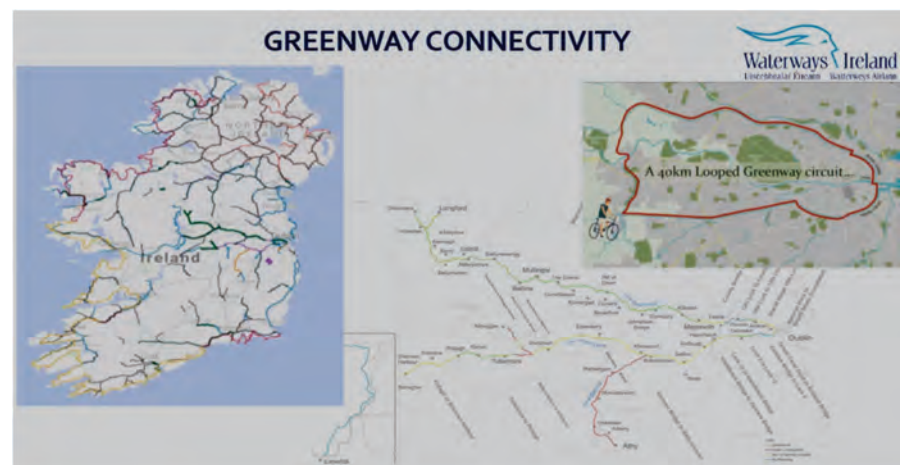
We have seen with COVID that when emergency legislation is required, it can happen overnight so Cllr Feeney argued that the housing crisis is an emergency situation and should be dealt with in the same way. Cllr Feeney suggested that there should be a condition or stipulation applied by the Council, that units in large housing developments granted planning cannot be bought in bulk by foreign investment funds because we need to address this and if we do not address it we are making a huge problem even worse. The County Development Plan is a mechanism that can be used for this purpose. Cllr Feeney welcomed the response from the Director of Planning and the publication of the very recent circular 'Regulation of Commercial Institutional Investment in Housing' at following link: [https://www.gov.ie/.../f422a-regulation-of-commercial-...](https://www.gov.ie/.../f422a-regulation-of-commercial-.../)

### Safe Routes to School

Cllr Feeney welcomed the good news that the Presentation Girls School is one of the five Kildare schools selected for the 'Safe Routes to School' (SRTS) programme to support walking and cycling infrastructure for primary and post-primary schools. The 'Safe Routes to School' programme will help reduce congestion outside the schools and create safer routes for walking, cycling or scooting to school which is of great benefit and fits in very well with the Council's Active Travel and Sustainable Transport objectives. The programme is funded by the Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority and supported by the Department of Education. An Taisce's Green Schools is co-ordinating the programme, while funding is made available to local authorities which will play a key part in delivering the infrastructure along access routes and at the school gate.

### Presentation by Waterways Ireland

Waterways Ireland made a presentation to councillors on the Blueway and Greenway development on June 23rd. Cllr Feeney welcomed the presentation and said that the Greenway is a great success and there has been an increased uptake since COVID. She said the Maynooth to Enfield section is a great success story and proof that if you build it they will come. Regarding the other direction of the Greenway from Maynooth towards the city, Cllr Feeney added that once you pass Pikes Bridge, it is not really safe to cycle.



There is great interest not only for leisure but for commuters for that section and Cllr Feeney asked about the timeline for delivery.

(Continued on page 15)





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



(Continued from page 14)

Waterways Ireland confirmed that the section from Maynooth to Confey is at design stage. Speaking to the strategic partnerships, Cllr Feeney suggested that engagement should take place between Waterways Ireland and the Council with St Patricks College Maynooth for the potential development of accommodation/camping and caravan park that would attract tourists both domestic and international. She also suggested that Waterways Ireland might look for support from Intel. Cllr Feeney also asked for clarity about the installation of defibrillators along the Greenway and how do First Responder groups get permission for these. Waterways Ireland confirmed that this is an issue that needs to be addressed and they will raise it at the higher level and they will get back with a response. Cllr Feeney praised the work of the Community Employment Project in Maynooth who have been very valuable over many years in Maynooth with the maintenance along the Maynooth Harbour and she hoped this would continue and be supported.

### Free Courses and Training

Springboard+ provides 10,000 free courses for unemployed, self-employed or returners to work, from Level 6 (Certificate) to Level 9 (Masters) and delivered by public and private higher education providers around the country. Courses are free for the unemployed, previously self-employed and returners to the workforce. They are also free for employed people on NFQ Level 6 courses, for level 7 – 9, 90% of the course fee is funded by the state, with participants required to contribute just 10% of the fee. If you are interested in Springboard+ 2021 you can find full details on the approved courses on the dedicated

information and applications website [www.springboardcourses.ie](http://www.springboardcourses.ie)

**Applications open on Wednesday 16th June, and a helpline for applicants will be available on 1800 303523.**

### Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney since last Newsletter

June 2nd: Board of Management of Gaelcholáiste Mhá Nuad at 7:00 pm (online)

June 3rd: Maynooth Community Crèche Action Group at 8:00 pm (online)

June 4th: Council MD at 10:00 am (online)

June 9th: Briefing on Maynooth Parking Bye-Laws at 11:00 am (online)

June 14th: Maynooth Community Council at 7:00 pm (online)

June 21st: Board of Management of Maynooth Post Primary School at 5:00 pm

June 23rd: Presentation by Waterways Ireland on Blueway and Greenway at 10:30 am (online)

June 25th: AGM of Council at 3:00 pm at Newbridge Town Hall

June 28th: Plenary Council Meeting at 3:00 pm at Newbridge Town Hall

June 29th: Meeting to Consider the Chief Executive Report at 9:30 am (online)

## Plant of the Month The Coleus Plant

Coleus plants are grown for their velvety foliage that comes in combinations of bright red, burgundy, yellows, green, pink, brown and bronze.

They are usually grown as annuals planted out in May when there is no threat of frost. To keep plants from year to year, bring them indoors in autumn, or take cuttings in summer that can be grown on for new plants the following spring.

While coleus can be planted successfully in the ground in early spring, it's actually easier to grow in containers, as it thrives in the loose texture of good potting soil. Container gardening with coleus is not difficult, but it requires a bit of preparation—it's slightly different than traditional outdoor gardening, mostly due to different maintenance requirements. Coleus can be grown in containers both indoors and outdoors, where pots of coleus work well to decorate a deck, patio, or window box.

Make sure your pot is large enough to comfortably accommodate the mature size of the coleus. Choose something that the plant can "grow into"—coleus is fast-growing, and you don't want to have to be replanting it constantly when it outgrows its container. From there, maintain moist soil conditions consistently and keep the plant out of the sun.

### Light

Coleus is a full shade plant—while recent cultivars have made it more tolerant of sunlight, it still does not like direct, sustained sunlight and needs either shade or partial shade in order to thrive. If you notice the colors of your coleus plant look washed-out and dull, that's a good indicator that it might be getting too much sun. Likewise, if your plant starts to lose leaves, it usually means that it's in a spot that's either too dark or too cold.

When it comes to growing coleus in containers indoors, a lack of light is usually not a problem. However, during cold winter months, coleus plants grown indoors may have trouble getting just enough light. To help, place your pots somewhere where they'll receive filtered sunlight through windows, or provide them with supplemental lighting.



### Water

Coleus plants are not very drought tolerant, so it's important to keep your coleus well-hydrated but not soggy. In hot months, coleus plants grown in pots outdoors will need watering once or twice a day. If grown indoors, watering every two or three days is usually sufficient unless the air inside your home or grow space is especially dry. If you pot in a porous material like terracotta or clay, consider lining them with plastic to keep the soil moist.

### Temperature and Humidity

As a tropical plant, coleus loves warm weather. It does not tolerate cold weather or cold soil well. If you notice the leaves of your coleus blackening, chances are it's beginning to die because of cold temperatures and you should take

it inside. Indoors, keep your coleus plant in a warm room with ambient sunlight.

### Fertilizer

Like many plants with colorful foliage, coleus plants need regular feeding. To keep your coleus thriving, mix a slow-release fertilizer into the potting soil when you are starting your plant's container. Then, feed it a diluted liquid fertilizer every week or two as it continues to grow. Because the plant needs frequent watering, any nutrients you provide it with are typically washed away quickly and it will need more frequent feeding than it would in a garden bed.

### Pruning

Without regular pruning, coleus plants can become "leggy" and unattractive. If you prune and cut them back faithfully, your coleus should stay bushy and full. Shear the tops of plants that grow too tall to encourage outward growth and denser foliage. Excessive legginess is typically caused by too little sun, so if this is a continuing problem, move the container to a spot that receives a little more sunlight. A coleus plant grown indoors, especially in winter months, is more susceptible to this, so you might need to supply your plants with some supplemental light.

### Propagating

To propagate your coleus, cut several sprigs from your favorite mature plant (each sprig should contain several good, healthy leaves). Place each cutting into a clear glass vase or jar filled with water, making sure to pluck off any leaves that fall below the water level. Place the vases in a bright, warm area and allow the cuttings to root themselves—roots will generally appear within a few days, and over a period of a month or two will develop into a thick mass of roots. Keep the vases filled with water as it evaporates and is consumed by the plants' roots. If the water grows cloudy or brownish, replace it with fresh, room-temperature water. As soon as the roots have formed a tangled mass, they can safely be planted in potting soil. Immature potted coleus plants will need plenty of light, either from a south-facing window or from supplementary lighting. An important note: some varieties of coleus root more easily than others. More exotic varieties with large, unusual leaves can be a bit temperamental about rooting, so it's a good idea to take plenty of cuttings in case some fail to root. Smaller, more traditional types of coleus root themselves very easily.

### Is Coleus Plant Toxic?

While not all varieties of the coleus plant are toxic to animals, a few do possess a toxic compound found in the oils and sap of the plant. As a general rule of thumb, it's a good idea to keep all coleus plants out of reach of pets. If ingested, call your vet immediately.

Source: [www.thespruce.com/growing-coleus-in-pots](http://www.thespruce.com/growing-coleus-in-pots)

**"He who plants a garden, plants happiness"**







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

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

### Question:

Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Minister for Transport the status of the progress made to date on establishing a greenway from Leixlip to Maynooth along the royal canal; if he will provide the amount funded and or granted to that section in 2021; and if he will confirm if that section will be designated as an official greenway on the Dublin to Galway national cycle route.

### Answer: Minister for Transport



I am pleased to inform the Deputy that Kildare County Council are progressing the section of the Royal Canal Greenway between Maynooth and Leixlip, through funding administered by the National Transport Authority (NTA). An allocation of €3,750,000 has been granted for the project in 2021. The design phase of the project is nearing completion and it is anticipated that the tenders for the construction contract will be sought

in the coming months with construction to begin in Q4 2021.

In relation to the second part of the Deputy's question, the Royal Canal Greenway will be part of the Dublin to Galway route as far as Mullingar where the Old Rail Trail will take it to Athlone. The Royal Canal Greenway from Maynooth in Kildare to Cloondara in Longford opened on 21 March 2021, and the Old Rail Trail has been opened for some time. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have recently been engaging in public consultations with a view to progressing the Dublin-Galway Greenway from Athlone to Galway and are managing the project that will take it across the Shannon at Athlone and onto Galway.

### Question:

Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the specific planning enforcement measures in place with respect to the quarry sector; if he plans to introduce new planning and enforcement measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter.



### Answer: Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Under planning legislation, enforcement of unauthorised development is a matter for the relevant planning authority, which can take action if a development does not have the required permission, or where the terms of a permission have not been met.

There are extensive enforcement provisions provided for in Part VIII of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act), with a view to ensuring that works pertaining to permitted developments are carried out in accordance with the planning permission granted and any associated conditions and that no unauthorised development takes place, including in relation to quarries. In addition, any person or a planning authority may seek a court order under section 160 of the Act in relation to unauthorised development with a view to ensuring that the development works in question are not carried out or continued.

Provision for the recoupment of costs arising from enforcement action taken by planning authorities is provided for under section 154 of the Act. Section 154(5)(b) provides that an enforcement notice shall require that such steps as may be specified in the notice be taken within a specified period, including, where appropriate, the removal, demolition or alteration of any structure and the discontinuance of any use and, in so far as is practicable, the restoration of the land to its condition prior to the commencement of the development.

Section 154(5)(c) further provides that if the steps specified in the enforcement notice are not taken within a specified period (not being more than 6 months), the planning authority may enter on the land and take such steps and may recover any expenses reasonably incurred by them in that behalf.

Furthermore, section 154(5)(d) provides that an enforcement notice shall require the person or persons served with the notice to refund to the planning authority the costs and expenses reasonably incurred by the authority, including costs incurred in respect of the remuneration and other expenses of employees, consultants and advisers.

Section 154(7) further provides that if required, any expenses reasonably incurred by a planning authority may be recovered as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction from the person or persons on whom the notice was served. Alternatively, the costs incurred by a planning authority may be secured by charging the land under the Registration of Title Act, 1964, or where the person on whom the enforcement notice was served is the owner of the land, an instrument vesting the ownership of the land in the authority subject to a right of redemption by the owner within five years.

Section 156 sets out the penalties that may be applied in relation to non-compliance with specific sections of the Act. In this connection, 156(1) provides that a person who is guilty of an offence shall be liable, on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €10,000,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or to both. It further provides that a person who is guilty of an offence shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding €5,000, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to both. Under section 156(2) of the Act, where a person is convicted of an offence and there is a continuation by him/her of the offence after his/her conviction, he or she shall be guilty of a further offence on every day on which the contravention continues and for each such offence shall be liable.

Accordingly, as indicated, there are already extensive enforcement powers available to planning authorities in relation to non-compliance with planning legislation. This planning legislation is in compliance with EU law and applies to all forms of development, including the operation of quarries. Under section 157(4)(AA), enforcement

action may be taken against unauthorised quarrying at any time.

Under section 30 of the Act, I am specifically precluded from exercising any power or control in relation to any particular case, including an enforcement issue, with which a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála is or may be concerned.

While I do not envisage that any further actions are required in relation to planning enforcement at this time, I will continue to keep this matter under review.

### Question

Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the new measures that are required to ensure the construction sector is regulated in view of the issues that have arisen in terms of building defects with both pyrite and Mica; the initiatives he plans to take; and if he will make a statement on the matter.



### Answer: Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the very stressful circumstances which the owners and residents of buildings face when defects occur in their homes.

I believe that the ongoing building control reform agenda, with its many initiatives, already provides a comprehensive roadmap for embedding a culture of real compliance within the construction industry. The reform agenda includes:

- Amendments made to the Building Control Regulations;
- Establishment of a shared services National Building Control Management Project; and
- The ongoing development of new legislation through the Building Control (Construction Industry Register Ireland) Bill

Specifically relating to product legislation, since 2013, the Construction Products Directive (CPD)- 89/106/EEC has been replaced by the Construction Products Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 (CPR). It sets out rules for the marketing of construction products in the EU. Where a construction product covered by a harmonised standard is being placed on the EU market, the CPR requires the manufacturer to draw up a 'declaration of performance' and affix a 'CE' marking to the product. In order to do so, manufacturers must test and declare the performance of their construction products using a common technical language prescribed in the harmonised standard.

The manufacturer is responsible for compliance with the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) and in particular for the Declaration of Performance/CE marking of the construction product he/she is placing on the market, having full knowledge of the raw material (as is legally required by the CPR via the relevant harmonised European Standards) and having regard to the end product's suitability for use in construction works in accordance with the relevant Standard Recommendations published by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

Under the European Union (Construction Products) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No.225 of 2013), each of the building control authorities have been designated as the principal market surveillance authorities for construction products that fall within the scope of the CPR, within their administrative areas. In addition, Dublin City Council has been appointed as a competent authority for the carrying out of market surveillance functions across the country and has created a Market Surveillance Unit within Dublin City Council -National Building Control Office, (DCC-NBCO). Building control authorities will liaise with DCC-NBCO national market surveillance unit to support compliance with the CPR and to determine appropriate action on enforcement matters, as they arise.

The National market surveillance programme 2021 provides specific details on the market surveillance of construction products and outlines a market surveillance campaign led by DCC-NBCO, which has recently commenced, to perform risk assessments of selected quarrying and pit operations, follow-up inspections, sampling and testing as appropriate to ensure compliance with the CPR.

Separately, the Programme for Government sets out a number of commitments in respect of the important policy area of building defects and provides for an examination of defects in housing, having regard to the recommendations of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing report, "Safe as Houses".

In this context, I established a working group to examine defects in housing. The group's terms of reference have recently been adopted and include:

1. Examine defects in housing having regard to the recommendations in Item 4 "Addressing the legacy of bad building and poor regulation" in Chapter 4 of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Planning and Local Government report - 'Safe as Houses? A Report on Building Standards, Building Controls and Consumer Protection'.
2. Establish the nature of significant, wide-spread fire safety, structural safety and water ingress defects in purpose built apartment buildings, including duplexes, constructed between 1991 – 2013 in Ireland through consultation with affected homeowners, homeowner representative organisations, owners' management companies, relevant managing agents, public representatives, local authorities, product manufacturers, building professionals, industry stakeholders, insurance providers, mortgage providers and other relevant parties. Including such matters as;

- Identification and description of defect,
- Nature of defect – design, product, workmanship,
- Non-compliance with building regulations or actual damage,
- Severity/risk to life or serviceability of dwelling,
- Period of construction affected,
- Type of dwelling affected,

(Continued on page 17)





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

(Continued from page 16)

- Location of dwellings affected.

3. Establish the scale of the issue – estimate number of dwellings affected by the defects identified including those already remediated.

4. Consider a methodology for the categorisation of defects and the prioritisation of remedial action.

- In the case of defects with fire safety implications, consider how the framework for enhancing fire safety in dwellings can be applied to mitigate the risks arising from fire safety defects pending the remediation of defects and the Code of Practice for Fire Safety Assessment of Premises and Buildings, which is currently being developed by National Directorate of Fire and Emergency Management.

5. Suggest mechanisms for resolving defects, in the context of the legal rights, duties and obligations of developers, builders, building professionals, insurers, mortgage providers, building control authorities, fire authorities, owners' management companies, owner occupiers, renters and landlords, including:

- Technical options for the remediation of dwellings,

- Efficient means of carrying out work,

- individual dwellings or whole building approach

- routine maintenance/refurbishment or remediation

- Structures or delivery channels needed to facilitate resolution – advice and support.

6. Evaluate the potential cost of technical remediation options.

7. Pursue options on possible financial solutions to effect a resolution, in line with the Programme for Government commitment to identify options for those impacted by defects to access low-cost, long-term finance.

8. To report to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the Examination of Defects in Housing.

### Question:

Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the cost to date for pyrite remediation; the projected cost into the future; the average remediation cost; and if he will make a statement on the matter.



### Answer: Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage

The pyrite remediation scheme is a scheme of "last resort" applicable to dwellings, which are subject to significant damage attributable to pyritic heave. The full conditions for eligibility under the Scheme are available on the Pyrite Board's website at [www.pyriteboard.ie](http://www.pyriteboard.ie).

€20m was provided under Budget 2021 to cover the implementation of the pyrite remediation scheme in 2021. This allocation will facilitate the remediation of some 300 additional dwellings in 2021 and is a clear signal of the continuing importance attached by Government to addressing the issue of significant pyritic damage in private dwellings. This will bring to approx. €166m the total funding provided under the scheme since 2014.

The latest figures available indicate that 2,889 applications have been received under Scheme and, so far, 2,413 dwellings have been included. A further 108 applications have been validated and referred to the Housing Agency for the Assessment and Verification Process, 108 applications are at the initial Application and Validation Process and 260 applications were not successful. Of the 2,413 dwellings included, the works in respect of 2,148 are complete with the rest at various stages of progress.

It is projected that approx. €62.5m will be required under the scheme between 2022 and 2026. Projected expenditure is under constant review and is updated regularly. It is unlikely that applications will cease entirely post end-2026 but its expected they will reduce at a gradual rate over time.

The average all in cost of remediation of dwellings under the Scheme ranges from €65,000 to €70,000 per dwelling.

### Question:

192. Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the amount granted and-or drawn down in the context of the additional €5 million fund established to tackle littering, by each local authority, in tabular form; the heading under which each application was made (details supplied).



### Answer: Minister of State at the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

I propose to take Questions Nos. 192 and 202 together.

A Circular issued to local authorities on 5th May 2021 informing them of the additional €5 million to be provided in support of their anti-litter efforts in the context of the easing of Covid 19 restrictions and the

consequent need to provide additional anti-litter facilities in support of a predominantly outdoor summer season. The Circular set out the broad range of activities that could be supported under the programme and asked the local authorities to appoint a litter prevention lead in each local authority by 14th May 2021 to act as a contact point with the Department to assist with the development of specific funding proposals. The Department then circulated a questionnaire to the nominated litter leads for return by 28th May 2021 in order to better understand the precise infrastructure and servicing requirements of the individual LAs. These questionnaires have now all been received and are being collated by the Department. A further Circular relating to the exact nature of the scheme and detailing individual local authority allocations, which have yet to be finalised, will be issued in the coming weeks.

In advance of the June Bank Holiday weekend, local authorities were informed by email that the additional servicing of existing bins and the funding of a visible staff presence at main litter pressure points would also be supported under the scheme as an interim measure.

### Question:

Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications the amount granted to each local authority in respect of anti-littering, clean-up and recycling initiatives in the past five years to date, in tabular form.

The table below provides a full listing of the amounts granted to each local authority under the Local Authority Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant

Local Authority Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Carlow County Council	15,000	19,000	19,000	16,600	16,600
Cavan County Council	15,000	19,000	19,000	16,600	16,600
Clare County Council	18,000	23,000	23,000	20,000	20,000
Cork City Council	28,000	36,000	36,000	31,400	31,360
Cork County Council	28,000	36,000	36,000	31,500	31,500
Donegal County Council	20,000	25,960	26,000	22,700	22,700
Dublin City Council	56,000	72,000	72,000	63,000	52,257
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co.,Co.	27,442	35,960	35,938	31,500	31,500
Fingal County Council	28,000	36,000	36,000	31,500	31,500
Galway City Council	28,000	36,000	36,000	31,400	31,400
Galway County Council	20,000	26,000	26,000	22,700	22,700
Kerry County Council	20,000	26,000	26,000	22,700	22,700
Kildare County Council	18,000	23,000	23,000	20,000	20,000
Kilkenny County Council	17,850	23,000	23,000	20,000	20,000
Laois County Council	15,000	19,000	19,000	16,600	9,996
Leitrim County Council	12,500	16,000	16,000	14,000	14,000
Limerick City & County	40,000	51,000	51,000	44,500	44,500
Longford County Council	12,500	16,000	16,000	14,000	14,000
Louth County Council	18,000	23,000	23,000	20,000	20,000
Mayo County Council	18,000	23,000	23,000	20,000	20,000
Meath County Council	20,000	26,000	26,000	22,700	22,700
Monaghan County	15,000	18,900	19,000	16,600	16,600
Offaly County Council	14,630	13,860	19,000	16,600	16,600
Roscommon County	15,000	19,000	19,000	16,600	16,600
Sligo County Council	15,000	19,000	19,000	16,600	16,600
South Dublin County	28,000	36,000	36,000	31,500	31,500
Tipperary County	33,000	42,000	42,000	36,500	36,500
Waterford City & County	33,918	35,391	48,793	42,700	33,320
Westmeath County Council	15,000	19,000	19,000	16,600	16,600
Wexford County Council	22,000	28,000	28,000	24,400	24,400
Wicklow County Council	18,000	23,000	23,000	20,000	20,000

### Scheme over the past 5 years.

### Question:

Deputy Catherine Murphy asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage the status of a review of siting and size conditions for rooftop solar panels on homes and a review of exemptions for educational and community buildings as part of the current development of interim planning regulations; if he will provide information on the stated need to consider environmental assessment reporting before finalisation; and when the interim planning regulations will be submitted to the Houses of the Oireachtas.



### Answer: Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

I propose to take Questions Nos. 608, 612 and 629 together.

Under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended (the Act), all development, unless specifically exempted under the Act or associated Regulations, requires planning permission. Section 4 of the Act and

Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended (the Regulations), set out various exemptions from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Any such exemptions are subject to compliance with any general restrictions on exemptions set out in the Act or the Regulations and to the specific conditions set out in each class of exempted development in Schedule 2 of the Regulations. Included in the planning exemptions set out in the Regulations are those applying to the installation of solar infrastructure on a variety of building types, including houses, businesses, industrial and agricultural to which specific conditions are attached.

As part of the Climate Action Plan 2019, my Department is currently undertaking a review of the solar panel exemptions, and is actively engaging with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications as well as other key stakeholders, with a view to finalising a proposal for draft amending Regulations to reflect, inter alia, technical developments in the sector. One of the key considerations of the review is to ensure that solar panels can be erected on prescribed development - subject to certain siting and size conditions - without the need to obtain planning permission, to facilitate the generation of renewable energy for self-consumption. Also included in this review are solar panel exemptions for educational and community buildings.

The main outstanding issue that remains to be addressed in the current review is the potential for "glint and glare" impacts for aircraft and the need to ensure that they do not

(Continued on page 18)





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

(Continued from page 17)

result in any real or potential threat to aviation safety. Accordingly, my Department has been engaging with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications as well as the Irish Aviation Authority, in order to find a safe and workable solution in relation to this particular aspect of the review. The Department has begun the tendering process for this project, which will involve the development of aviation safeguarding maps for each airport/aerodrome in the country, and has received feedback from potential tenderers estimating a timeline of up to 9 months for its completion.

In recognition of the length of time that it is expected to take to complete the aviation safeguarding maps, my Department has decided to adopt an interim measure which would allow revised regulations to be introduced prior to the completion of these maps, but with defined exclusion zones around airports and aerodromes for solar installations. My Department has consulted with the Irish Aviation Authority on this matter, and has developed draft interim regulations in this regard.

These draft regulations have now been reviewed under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC, and it has been determined that they are likely to have significant effects on the environment, necessitating the undertaking of a full SEA on the draft proposals, which will include public consultation as part of the process. This process is expected to take between four and five months to complete.

Following the public consultation and consideration of any submissions received, and as required under planning legislation, the proposed exempted development regulations must be laid in draft form before the Houses of the Oireachtas and receive a positive resolution from both Houses before they can be made and the SEA process concluded.

The process for finalising the interim solar panel planning exemptions as referred to above, with exclusion zones around airports and aerodromes, is now expected to be completed in Q4 2021. These interim regulations will allow for the vast majority of the country to be covered by the solar panel exemptions apart from those areas in close proximity to airports and aerodromes.

Work on the development of the aviation safeguarding maps for airports and aerodromes is expected to be completed by Q4 2021. The final supplementary set of regulations will be prepared thereafter and, subject to environmental reporting considerations, will subsequently be laid in draft form before the houses of the Oireachtas for approval in a timely manner.

### Robert Watt Refusing To Release Review Of Children's Hospital To PAC

Mr Watt's intervention has ensured this debacle has gone from tragedy to farce. The Department of Health is refusing to release details of a review into the new

Children's Hospital to the PAC, according to Social Democrats co-leader, and vice-chair of the PAC, Catherine Murphy.

"A comprehensive review of this project, by the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board and the Department of Health, has been ongoing since last year. The Minister was given their draft report in January.

"In February, the PAC was told that report would be concluded within weeks – at which point there would finally be clarity about the hospital's budget. But there appears to be a new approach now there is a new Secretary General.

"Earlier this month, Mr Watt sent the PAC a letter which states:

*"There is an extremely high likelihood that any discussion on costs or dates, however hypothetical, even from the draft stages of the process, would prejudice enforcement of the existing contract and very likely undermine the role of the Development Board in its ongoing engagement with the main contractor".*

According to Mr Watt, all of the most controversial information about this project – the cost and timeline – is suddenly too sensitive to publish. What a stroke of luck for the Department.

"The PAC is the State's public spending watchdog. How on earth is it supposed to do its job if Departments won't tell us how much they are spending? Mr Watt's intervention has ensured this debacle has gone from tragedy to farce.

"This latest review is at least the 13th into this omnishambles. Between 2017 and 2019, 11 separate reviews were undertaken at a cost of €700,000. An additional report was then sought from PwC at a cost of €450,000.

"After 12 reports costing €1.15 million, what did we learn? That the taxpayer would be lucky to emerge with any change from €1.7 billion for this project.

"Now, there is another report, the details of which are apparently too explosive to publish. What is the Department trying to hide?

"We know there have been more than 800 claims submitted by the contractor and the Hospital Development Board has been without a chairperson, and two members, since January.

How much is this project going to cost the Irish people; when is it going to be delivered and who is in charge of delivery?

"It is incredible that we still don't have answers to these basic questions."

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## Winners of the 2021 Intel Pride of Place competition are revealed

### 11 local community projects awarded With funding from Intel



The Pride of Place competition invites community organisations located in Leixlip, Celbridge and Maynooth, to share their project ideas to help improve their organisations whilst also benefiting the local community. The project ideas are then reviewed by a panel of judges, made up of business professionals and community representatives, who selected a number of the submissions to receive grants as part of the initiative which is funded by Intel. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the Pride of Place competition and once again there was a fantastic response from community groups in the local area with a large number of diverse project ideas being submitted.

This year 11 different local projects were selected to receive funding as part of the competition. A total of €39,000 was distributed amongst the winning projects. Normally, winning organisations are invited to come together to be presented with their awards, but the results of the competition this year were again shared online. Organisations were invited to each individually receive their cheque at the Wonderful Barn in Leixlip, a distinctive corkscrew-shaped building that dates back to 1743. Presenting the awards to the winning projects were the Pride of Place 2021 judging panel which included Rebecca Doolin who is the Director of External Relations at Maynooth University, Michelle Lee who is the Head of Technical at General Paints Group who are based in the Celbridge famine workhouse since 1953, Lisa Harlow, the External Relations Manager at Intel and Mark Rutherford, the Environmental Health and Safety Manager at Intel.

The winners of the 2021 competition are as follows;

#### **Maynooth Educate Together – €5,000**

The grant will be used to support the creation of an “Inspiration Zone” in the school. The flexible space will support the children by giving them access to resources that will inspire them to learn about topics beyond the curriculum. The zone will include reading materials, science and technology resources and IT facilities that will be used to advance the teaching capacity of the school.



**Paul Croghan (L) and Marie Hand (R) from Maynooth Educate Together are pictured with competition judge Rebecca Doolin**

#### **Derrybeg Farm, Celbridge – €1,500**

The farm will benefit from using their prize to install a rainwater harvesting and irrigation system into a large polytunnel. Growing vegetables in a polytunnel is water intensive so a rainwater harvesting system will enable the farm to meet their water needs independently.

#### **St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band, Maynooth – €5,000**

Celebrating their 90th Anniversary this year, St Mary's Brass and Reed Band are creating “Junior Band” which will consist of young and potential musicians between the ages of 8 and 18. The grant will aid in the purchase of much needed equipment to get the group started.

#### **ACRE Project, Celbridge – €2,000**

The ACRE Project – an eco-friendly community based project in Celbridge – has set up a Lawn Bowls Club to better serve the needs of people in the area. This project, which began development last year, is currently at an advanced stage and will soon be ready to launch. The Pride of Place award will support the funding of new equipment for the club.

#### **Tea Lane Graveyard, Celbridge – €2,500**

Tea lane Graveyard Committee is updating the floor in the Conolly Mausoleum at Tea Lane to enhance access for all visitors to the Mausoleum. The Pride of Place award will go towards the support of relaying the concrete floor in the Mausoleum.



**Pat Boyd (L) and Francesca Sheridan (R) from St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band are pictured with competition judge Michelle Lee**

#### **Celbridge Festival – €5,000**

The Pride of Place award is going towards the purchase of specific lights to be used on the two main churches in Celbridge. These lights will have the ability to change colour to mark specific days of celebration in the calendar, such as lighting purple for International Day of Persons with Disabilities or green on St. Patrick's Day.

#### **Maynooth Kilcock Lions Club – €1,000**

As part of their provision of Community Services Programme, the Maynooth Kilcock Lions have installed 10 Automatic External Defibrillators (AED), which are always publicly available, in towns throughout North Kildare including Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip. They need to service these on an ongoing basis. The Pride of Place funding will support the service of these AEDs.

#### **Leixlip Community First Responders – €5,000**

Leixlip Community First Responders is a volunteer driven community group whereby local volunteers are trained to provide emergency care, including defibrillation if necessary. Pride of Place funding will be used to train a cohort of volunteers as well as run community open days to give adults and young people information about emergency community first response.

#### **Leixlip Youth and Community Centre – €4,500**

The organisation provides a hub for the youth and community of Leixlip in a purpose-built Community Centre allowing everyone to take part in leisure, fitness, educational and recreational activities. The Pride of Place award will support the development of a permanent outdoor seating areas at the Centre with the purchase of sustainable, maintenance free, furniture made from recycled plastic.

#### **Celbridge Camera Club – €2,500**

The Pride of Place award will support the Celbridge Album 2021 – Celbridge Past, Present and Future. The album is an expertly generated archive of past and present photographs of Celbridge and environs prepared especially for educational/historical and public interest purposes and to create a legacy for the enjoyment of future generations. The production will include a comprehensive and carefully curated collection of c. 450 high-quality images of Celbridge and nearby towns reproduced in a high-quality coffee table style book.

#### **Scoil Chearbhaill Uí Dhálaigh, Leixlip – €5,000**

The school are receiving funding to support a renovation of their grass area located within the school grounds by installing free standing weather canopies. The area will be used for outdoor classrooms, lunch area, activity zone for paintwork/arts and crafts and for an activity area for school sports activities.

The judging panel were impressed by the wide range of creative projects ideas submitted to the 2021 competition and were excited to reveal the range of initiatives that were selected for funding.

Rebecca Doolin, Director of External Relations at Maynooth University said; “This year's Pride of Place contenders exemplified the vital role that community organisations play – not only in normal times, but particularly when crisis hits. They adapt, they bring isolated populations together, and they innovate to help their neighbours. On behalf of Maynooth University, I am proud to congratulate the winners of this year's competition and I'd like to express our gratitude to Intel for its continued support of the communities of Celbridge, Leixlip and Maynooth”. Michelle Lee from the General Paints Group added; “Once again, I am proud to have been part of this years judging panel for Intel's Pride of Place awards. It was a pleasure to read the diverse number of applications ranging from educational support, music, biodiversity to life saving initiatives – all demonstrating the amazing work that our local community do and plan to do! I would like to congratulate and wish all the winners the best of luck and every success with their projects. Thank you Intel for continuing to support our local communities”.

Intel's Environmental Health and Safety Manager Mark Rutherford added his congratulations; “Intel is very proud to call North Kildare our home and to have the opportunity to work so closely together with our surrounding communities. The Pride of Place competition is a fitting way for us to acknowledge, encourage and support the wonderful work of organisations in these communities. These organisations, through their tireless efforts, are the backbone of our local communities and we have been reminded of just how important their work is in these most recent difficult times. I would like to congratulate the winning projects and I would also like to acknowledge the time and effort that all participants have put into their Intel Pride of Place applications, demonstrating such strong commitment to their local areas.” Since the Pride of Place competition began in 2014, some 60 community projects have been supported with over €240,000 of funding. The 2021 winning projects will now be completed over the coming months by the recipient organisations.

To view all of the photos from the event go to:

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/intel\\_irl/albums/72157719413043484](https://www.flickr.com/photos/intel_irl/albums/72157719413043484)

Source: <https://www.intel.ie/>



**Maynooth University Town F.C.**

# **FAI Intermediate Cup**

**Preliminary Round**

**Maynooth Town F.C.**

**Town**

**Vs**

**Bonagee United**

**(Letterkenny)**

**Saturday 10th July 2021**

**Venue: North Campus Astro**

**K.O. 2.00pm**

**Please Note: The number of spectators at Matches will be  
limited in line with Government COVID 19 Restrictions**



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**Stay safe everyone.**





### Portrait of Lady Emily Mary Lennox Duchess of Leinster

A portrait of Lady Emily Mary Lennox by Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792) was brought by the OPW in 2019 and is on display in Castletown House, which was the home of Emily's sister, Lady Louisa Conolly.

Emilia Mary was born on 6 October 1731, the second of the seven surviving children of Charles Lennox, 2nd Duke of Richmond and Lennox and Sarah, daughter of William Cadogan, Earl Cadogan. Lady Emily Lennox, as she was known, was also a god-daughter of George II. She spent her early years at Goodwood House in Sussex.

Lady Emily was married at the age of 15, to James Fitzgerald, Earl of Kildare. After their wedding in London in 1744 they moved back to Ireland living in Carton House, Maynooth, Frescatti House, Blackrock, and Leinster House.

Emily was very influential in promoting and developing her husband's career through her interest in current affairs. She was the most intellectual of the Lennox sisters. She read widely and had strong interests in British politics, philosophy, and theology. All of which played their part in obtaining Kildare a Marquessate in 1761, and the Dukedom of Leinster in 1766.

It was because of her involvement in these areas that for many years Emily was known as 'the Queen of Ireland'. She was particularly drawn to the new Enlightenment philosophies of such writers as Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Lady Emily had 19 children with the Duke. She caused a scandal when she married her children's tutor, William Ogilvie, after the death of her husband in 1773. They had three children.

The portrait of Emily by Sir Joshua Reynolds was painted in 1774, when she was in London visiting her dying sister, Caroline, Lady Holland. She was 43 at the time. Emily died on 27 March 1814 aged 82 in Mayfair London and is buried at Westminster Abbey in the Duke of Richmond's Vault.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) together with the Castletown Foundation, and with support of the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland, acquired a portrait of Emily FitzGerald, the Duchess of Leinster. The painting originally hung in the dining room of Carton House.

Joshua Reynolds (16 July 1723 – 23 February 1792) was an English portrait painter. John Russell said he was one of the major European painters of the 18th century. He promoted the "Grand Style" in painting which depended on idealization of the imperfect. He was a founder and first president of the Royal Academy of Arts, and was knighted by George III in 1769. Joshua Reynolds also painted portraits of other family members: - Charles Lennox, 3rd Duke of Richmond, Lady Caroline Holland, Lady Sarah Bunbury, and Thomas Conolly, husband of Lady Louisa.



**Portrait of Emily Mary, Duchess of Leinster, bust-length, in a pink dress and ermine shawl, within a painted oval.**  
**By Sir Joshua Reynolds :**  
**Oil on canvas 86.2 x 62.6 cm.**



Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792)

### Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group Update

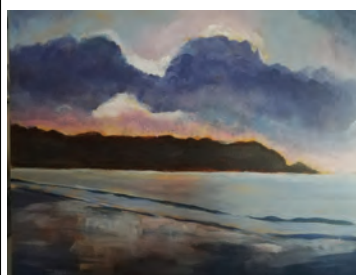
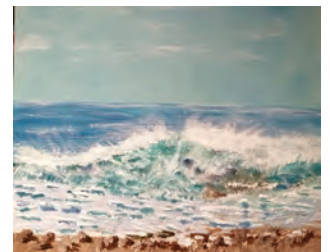
The Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group is taking its usual summer break. Now I know our followers and supporters will be thinking that we have been on a break for the last year as we have had not been able to have our Annual Art Exhibition. But we were not deterred, and in our efforts to keep in touch and to keep painting we have been having weekly zoom art meetings.

In the beginning these took the form of members of the group giving demonstrations to the rest of us, then we mixed this with sourced free tutorials on Youtube and eventually we met and did our own work for an hour and a half each week. The results were surprising. Giving demonstrations to the group e.g. how to paint waves, clouds, dealing with light and shade, still life, landscapes, composition and perspective was a great experience all round - an enjoyable, and fun learning curve.

The online tutorials were also good, but we had to be very choosy on ones that had good, clear, well paced delivery and which could be more or less done in our time frame. We became experts on picking these examples and they were gems. Painting our own work on zoom also meant that our output of individual work increased and it could be argued that we produced more work this way, little and often as they say. So we are on a wee break for now. We hope to meet up later in the summer for an outdoor painting session, so you might see us out and about. Will keep you informed when we are back and with possible real exhibition news. We have not gone away.

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR YOUNGSTERS TO SUBMIT ART WORK TO THE CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION ADVERTISED IN THE NEWSLETTER.**

The Castle Keep Group is sponsoring prizes. In the meantime here are some images of the art work we have covered in the last year.







## James Lawless T.D. Kildare North

Phone: 01-6183587 - e-mail: james.lawless@oireachtas.ie - Web: www.jameslawless.ie



### Free courses for unemployed, self-employed or returners to work

- Minister of State for Skills and Further Education Niall Collins TD launched 10,158 places on 294 courses under Springboard+ 2021.
- In addition, 1,101 places on 1 and 2 year ICT graduate conversion courses are also on offer under the initiative.
- Springboard+ courses are at Level 6 (Certificate) to Level 9 (Masters) on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and are delivered by public and private higher education providers around the country.
- Now in its tenth year, over 75,000 people have benefitted from the programme to date. The Springboard+ programme is managed by the Higher Education Authority, on behalf of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.
- Funding is allocated to Springboard+ from the National Training Fund (NTF) on an annual basis, with over €290m of funding provided since it commenced in 2011.
- In addition, 1,869 courses will be funded for graduates under The Human Capital Initiative (HCI). The initiative provides additional capacity across the Higher Education Sector to meet priority skill needs for enterprise. Graduate Conversion Programmes under the HCI offer incentivised places for graduates to reskill in areas of skills shortage and emerging technologies. These are being run alongside, and complementary to, the Springboard+ offerings.

The application portal is now open and candidates who wish to participate can find full details at [springboardcourses.ie](http://springboardcourses.ie)

### LAWLESS RECEIVES CONFIRMATION NEW GOVERNMENT DATA CENTRE WILL BE BUILT IN CELBRIDGE

Local Fianna Fáil TD James Lawless received an important update directly from the Minister of Public Expenditure and Reform Micheal McGrath TD in the Dáil regarding the proposed new Government Data Centre.

I have just received the positive news that the new Government Data Centre will be developed here in North Kildare.

It will be developed at the Government's Backweston Laboratory Campus in Celbridge, Co. Kildare, which currently comprises various facilities for the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the State Laboratory. It will be operated and managed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on behalf of the State.

This project is part of the Government's ICT strategy which is focused on creating ICT shared services to support integration across the wider public service to drive efficiency, standardisation, consolidation, reduction in duplication and cost control. The Data Centre will provide the foundation and platform on which our digital reforms and transformations will be built. It will also help facilitate a more environmentally efficient use of technology across Government.

I also asked Minister McGrath in the Dail to clarify whether there is a renewable energy plan to accompany this particular centre. The Minister confirmed that it has been designed to be at least twice as efficient as most existing data centre facilities and that this represents a large saving of power in the new purpose-built facility. He also confirmed to me that in conjunction with the construction of the data centre, a sustainable energy project is being pursued on the site by the Office of Public Works.

I also raised with the Minister that in light of the recent cyberattack on the HSE, we must also be alert to cybersecurity concerns. Minister McGrath stated that the review of the National Cyber Security Centre has now been completed and its contents will be taken on board in the final plans for the development of this data centre and cyber-security will be a key priority."

The site at Blackweston here in Celbridge continues to host a variety of government services and this is another vote of confidence in North Kildare.

### Investment of €16 million in Expressway services and coaches

- The investment will include 30 Expressway coaches for use nationwide.
- The new coaches meet the latest Euro VI low emissions standards and will support the company's commitment to reducing emissions, enabling a reduction of at least 70% in hydrocarbon emissions and at least 88% reduction in nitrogen oxide compared to the 30 vehicles they will replace. Bus Éireann published its first sustainability strategy last month, targeting a halving in greenhouse gas emissions and a 30% increase in passenger numbers by 2030.

## MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES

### National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI)

Recently, Maynooth Cycling Campaign made a submission as part of Public Consultation on NIFTI. The full submission is available on our website but one of the points made was that while government is committed to decarbonising transport by 2050 which implies a reduction in the use of private cars, roads designers plan roads on the basis of continual growth in traffic.

One of the scenarios Irish road designers envisage is a doubling of traffic by 2050. This depends on future estimates of economic and, consequently, traffic growth but in recent years the actual growth of traffic on national roads is even higher than estimated. Many Maynooth people talk about supporting increased cycling but oppose the reallocation of space from cars to walking or cycling. Where are all these extra cars going to go?

### Reallocation of Road Space - Main Street, Maynooth

Maynooth Cycling Campaign calls on Kildare County Council to remove car parking from Main Street. Vehicle parking is available in adjacent side and back lanes and few, if any, deliveries use the parking bays. The Council should also replace the "structure" marking the opening of the motorway at the junction of Main Street and the Straffan Road with something that takes up less space. It is ironic that a monument to a motorway takes up nearly half the space of a footpath.

Covid-19 has given an opportunity to communities to reimagine how to travel in a more sustainable manner. More people are walking and cycling but in the past we have seen that increased cycling is only a temporary phenomenon.

Main Street is a key location for north-south and east-west travel in Maynooth as well as for accessing shops and restaurants there. As we have pointed out before, Kildare County Council's proposals for Main Street will actually worsen conditions for walking and cycling. We welcome expanded space for cafes and restaurants but it should not be at the expense of active travel.

### Community Council Meeting

At last month's meeting of the Community Council, one speaker complained about the widening of the footpath in front of the entrance to Carton Walk. He argued that a reduction in the footpath width would allow a dedicated turn left lane for traffic travelling towards Leixlip. In other words the speaker was arguing in favour of reallocating more space to vehicles which is totally contrary to DMURS, the Irish road design standard and contrary to what governments across Europe (and progressive Irish local authorities) are trying to achieve.

### Maynooth Cycling Campaign - Public Meeting

At the recent public meeting of Maynooth Cycling Campaign it was revealed that, of the approximately 70 (out of some 1640) students who cycle to Maynooth Educational Campus nearly 40% do not use the Moyglare Road shared path and choose the road instead. The reasons why are obvious – there is no room for them and raises the questions what level of cycling did the designers plan for and what account did the designers take of future increased cycling due to climate action.

### Traffic Calming

At the May meeting of Kildare County Council's Transport Strategic Policy Committee, there was discussion of a new document on Traffic Calming. Any discussion of traffic calming is to be welcomed but the document ignores the simple step of reducing speed on new roads by minimising lane widths. This could have been done on the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road but the opportunity to do so was not taken.

*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.*





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## SUMMER SATURDAYS EN PLEIN AIR PAINTING

Paint & Picnic With Irish Artist Nina Patterson

### ENJOY A TREAT DAY OUT

Experience this One Day Outdoor Painting Workshop.  
Unwind & Relax with Lots of Hands-On Help & One-to-One Tuition.



Stroll through Beautiful Surroundings Enjoying Peace & Tranquillity.  
Burtown House & Gardens Athy Co. Kildare R14 KF63 Saturday 24th July 10.30am - 4pm  
Tullynally Castlepollard Co. Westmeath N91 HV58 Saturday 7th August 10.30am - 4pm

### All Levels

No Need to Bring Any Materials - The Whole Kit & Kaboodle Is Supplied!!  
Choose your preferred medium. Sketch or Paint. Oil, Acrylic, Watercolour, Pastel, Charcoal.

Demonstrations Given - Lunch & Refreshments Included

**BOOK EARLY PLACES ARE LIMITED**

For Full Information & Booking see  
<https://bookwhen.com/ninapattersonart> or email Nina at [ninapattersonart@gmail.com](mailto:ninapattersonart@gmail.com)

## ART COMPETITION SPONSORED BY MAYNOOTH CASTLE KEEP ART GROUP



The *Maynooth Newsletter* in conjunction with *Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group* invite children up to the age of 12 to draw and design a composition with a butterfly or butterflies. We have included some basic butterfly shapes to help with the drawing. We would like to see you make up your own butterfly designs. You can use whatever medium you choose, crayons, colouring pencils, paint, markers, pastels or make a collage. A4 size. Please sign, confirm your age, and contact details.

Send scanned images to [office@maynoothcep.com](mailto:office@maynoothcep.com). Or you can drop in the art work to the Maynooth Community Employment Office, Unit 10, Tesco Shopping Centre, Maynooth. Closing date July 20th. There will be 3 prizes and the winning images will be included in the August Newsletter. We hope to make an online exhibition of all the entries.





- ### Clues down

- Difficult**

**Super Difficult**

1.	World Wide Web
2.	50 meters
3.	Germany, Italy, and Japan
4.	Australia
5.	Fear of dogs
6.	A period or exclamation point
7.	Ferdinand Magellan
8.	12
9.	Four, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Somalia
10.	Pierre Omidyar
11.	Samsung
12.	Horse
13.	Henry VIII
14.	Marie Curie
15.	Robert Cawdrey



# Junior Puzzle Corner



## Children's Colouring

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.

### Kids fun corner

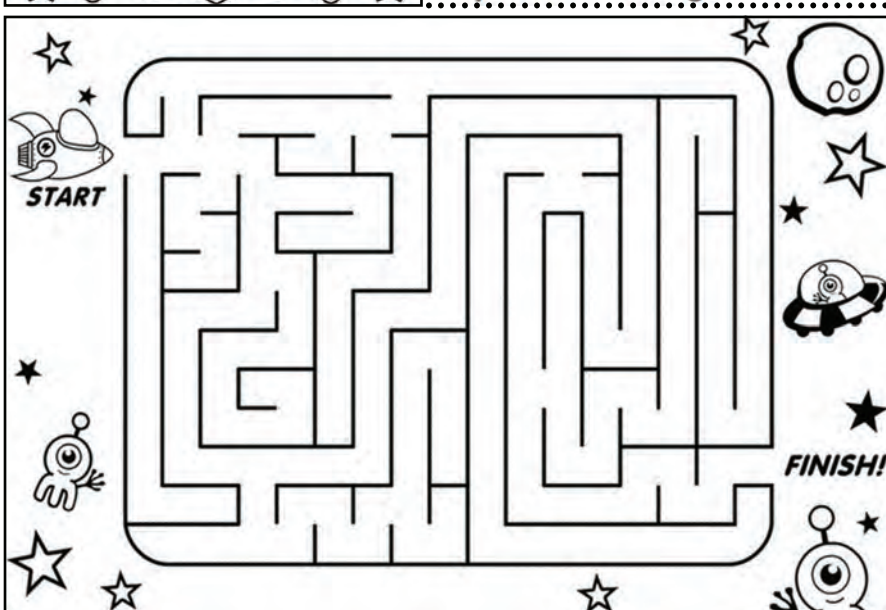


**COLOR WORD SEARCH**

y	b	r	b	p	g
e	l	e	r	i	g
l	u	d	o	n	r
l	e	s	w	k	e
o	r	a	n	g	e
w	h	i	t	e	n

HINT: The first letter of the word begins with it's color!

red	green	brown
blue	pink	white
yellow	orange	



Read the sentences and choose the correct animal.

1. It is green.  
It can jump.  
It can't fly.



2. It is black.  
It can fly.  
It can't sing.



3. It's brown.  
It can walk.  
It can't climb.



4. It is yellow.  
It can walk.  
It can't climb.



I have a long stem  
I have yellow petals  
People eat my seeds  
What am I?



grass

I have thorns on my stem  
My petals can be many colors  
I smell very pretty  
What am I?



sunflower

I have flat leaves  
I drop acorns  
I am very tall  
What am I?



Oak tree

I am green  
People step on me  
I get cut.  
What am I?



rose



## July Events at **Maynooth Community Library**

For further information contact: [www.kildare.ie/library](http://www.kildare.ie/library) [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) Ph.: 01-6285530



[facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService](https://facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService)



[twitter.com/kildarelibrary](https://twitter.com/kildarelibrary)

### Adults

#### Poetry Picnic: Taste of Summer

**Thursday 15 July at 6.30 pm, via Zoom**

Join us for a spread of poetry for a summer's evening, hosted by Maynooth Library.

Some of you may wish to read a poem aloud, and others might like to just listen, either way we'll join together for a taste of your favourite poetry.

All welcome. Booking via Eventbrite

[https://poetrypicnic\\_maynoothlib.eventbrite.ie](https://poetrypicnic_maynoothlib.eventbrite.ie)

#### German 'Stammtisch', informal conversation meet-up.

**Thursday 22 July at 6.30pm, online via Zoom**

Maynooth Library hosts a monthly informal German conversation meet-up, for anyone with an interest in the language and culture in German speaking countries. All levels from learners to native speakers are welcome. Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of the month.

For more information please contact Maynooth Library at [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) or 01 6285530.

Audience: Adults and Young Adults

**Monday 26th July**

**11.30 am – 12.30 pm**

**Water colour painting class for Adults with Florence & Milly online via Zoom**

Join artist Laura Barry from Florence & Milly for a guided Watercolour Painting session for beginners. Explore different techniques while having fun incorporating some items from home such as a crayon, salt, clingfilm and then take some time to paint your own masterpiece. Packs with the materials required for the class will be available for collection from Maynooth Community library from the week beginning the 12th of July. Places are limited

Booking required through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/160940969773>.

### Young Adults

#### Teen Writing Group: For Ages 12-15

**Last Wednesday of the month at 12pm/ On Zoom**

Are you a young writer or a parent to a young writer? Or do you like stories but often don't know where to begin? Maynooth Library has some space in its online Teen Writing Group that could be just the place for you. We share work, have some quiet writing time and your fellow members are always ready to help you out of writer's block or uncertainty about character names or plots. We meet once a month on Zoom.

Library Assistant Niamh runs this group and has multiple years experiences facilitating writing workshops with Fighting Words.

Contact Maynooth Library at 016285530 or email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) for more information.

### Children

#### Maynooth Summer Stars Craft Bags - Theme: Bookish Crafts

**Wednesday July 21st at 3.30pm/4.30pm**

When you sign up for Summer Stars at Maynooth Library in July, you receive a craft bag! With different bags for ages 5-7 and 7+ there's lots of bookish fun to be had. There will be Hunger Caterpillars for the younger members and Paper Plate Hedwigs for the older kids. Niamh will demo the crafts from the bag on Zoom in late July but bags can be collected from 5th July. Please only book once you have signed up for Summer Stars and collected your craft bag.

Booking Through Eventbrite:

Ages 5-7 at 3.30pm <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/maynooth-summer-stars-craft-ages-5-7-tickets-160036697069>

Ages 7+ at 4.30pm <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/maynooth-july-summer-stars-craft-ages-7-tickets-160037212611>

#### **We're All Wizards! Maynooth Magical Craft Packs - Age 7+ (Limited Number)**

**July 30th at 4pm**

Calling all Maynooth Wizards! Join Niamh for some magical crafts on Zoom to celebrate a special somebody's birthday July 31st. Design your own Magic Shop and make a Rainbow Wand to kick off your Bank Holiday Weekend with

sparkle!

Suitable for ages 7+.

The craft bag associated with this event must be collected from MAYNOOTH LIBRARY by 19th July. Please do not book this event if you cannot collect from Maynooth Library as demand will usually be larger than supply.

Booking Through Eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/maynooth-library-were-all-wizards-magical-crafts-are-for-everyone-tickets-155946723849>

### Summer Stars Writing Competition Workshop

**August 4th at 2.30pm**

This year Summer Stars can enter a short story writing competition to win Ipads and book vouchers!

Whether you've already started your story and want some help rounding it off or don't know where to start, Niamh in Maynooth Library will be hosting a session to talk to you about short story writing and help you with any writers block or editing issues you've been having.

Limited places and booking is through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/summer-stars-writing-competition-workshop-with-maynooth-library-tickets-160281746017>

### Regular Events

#### Regular Events & Groups

**Live Story Time & Sing Along Nursery Rhymes for 2-5-year olds Every Friday 10-10.30am**

Join the Staff of Maynooth Library for some story-telling and nursery rhymes! Please be aware that a parent/guardian must be present for the duration of the event.

Booking through Eventbrite

Friday July 2nd <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/160931160433>.

Friday July 9th <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/160931583699>.

Friday July 16th <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/160931569657>.

Friday July 23rd <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/160931665945>.

Friday July 30th <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/160931740167>.

### Book Busters Children's Book club

**Friday 2nd July at 4pm**

The book busters children's book club will be having their last meeting before they break for the Summer on Friday 2nd July. For more information, please contact [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) or tel: 01 628 5530.

### Ciorcal Comhrá/ Irish Language Conversation group via Zoom

**Every Wednesday at 11am / Gach Céadaoin ar a 11 a Chlog.**

Join us online every Wednesday morning at 11am for an informal chat as Gaeilge. If you have a log of Irish or the cúpla focal, this an opportunity to practice your Irish and learn some Irish all from the comfort of your own home. To register, please call Maynooth Community Library or email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

Beidh Ciorcal comhrá ar siúil ar líne via Zoom gach Céadaoin ar a 11 a Chlog. Má bhíonn an-chuid Gaeilge agat nó an cúpla focal agat, tapaigh an deis seo le do chuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh agus Gaeilge a fhoghlaim as do bhaile féin. Le clárú, cuir ríomhphost chuig [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) nó cuir glaoch ar 01 628 5530.

### Bookclubs

#### Readers of the Lost Ark SciFi Bookclub.

The Maynooth Library SciFi/Fantasy bookclub meet virtually via zoom on the second Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th of July at 6.30pm. If you are interested in joining the bookclub, please email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) or telephone 01 628 5530.



## JULY GARDENING

Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt. Autumn-flowering bulbs can be planted now such as crocuses and amaryllis. Cutting back plants in hanging baskets then following it with a feed can encourage new growth and revive displays. Cut back delphiniums after the first flush of flowers, this will encourage a second flowering. Not forgetting to feed them after. Most importantly keep weeding as soon as you see one appear remove it before it has time spread.

For recently planted large shrubs or trees, leave a hose trickling around the base for an hour. This may also apply to rhododendrons, azaleas and hydrangeas because if they get too dry they might not flower next season. It's a great time to trim hedges. Keep tying in climbing and rambling roses horizontally. Don't forget to keep greenhouses well ventilated and make sure the plants in there are well watered and feed. Spray the floor of the greenhouse with water in the morning to create a humid atmosphere - this is ideal for the plants.

Deadhead borders often as this will prolong flowering. Place conservatory plants outside now that it is warm. Water tubs and new plants if dry. Cuttings can be taken now from patio and container plants for next year. Make sure that all tall plants are propped up. Mulching borders can help retain moisture and has the extra benefit of keeping down weeds. Make sure the layer of mulch is thick 2-3 inches. Watch for aphids on flowers and black spot on roses. Mow lawns regularly unless there is a drought. When the weather is hot, set the mower at a slightly higher level. This will be the last time that you will have to apply a liquid fertilizer to the lawn. New areas of grass will need extra watering to keep them going through the first summer.

Raspberry plants can be tied into a frame now for better control and also it will be easier to harvest. Late lettuce should be planted out now. Don't forget to keep greenhouses well ventilated and make sure the plants in there are well watered and feed.

Tomatoes are now starting to ripen. Keep removing side shoots to prevent bushing as this will reduce fruit yield. Why not train courgette, cucumber and squash plants with vertical twine - this will free up a lot of space. Don't forget to check plants for greenfly and whitefly. Strawberries should be cropping also.

Peg down runners into pots to increase the number of plants. If you have enough plants then pinch them out near their origin. Protect your soft fruit from the birds by placing netting over them otherwise you might end up with no fruit. Prune apple and pear trees to encourage fruit. Sow salads little and often - in short runs every two weeks as this will ensure a continuous crop. Sow carrots, peas, spring cabbages and turnips. Also Brussel sprouts, winter cabbages and broccoli. Harvest your courgettes now to get the best flavour. Keep digging your potatoes!

Keep your pond topped up with fresh water also - a build up of algae in warm water can be toxic or fatal to animals. An equipment check on pumps, skimmers, filters, etc. should be performed at time to ensure a beautiful pond all the way through the season. Remove any dead foliage from aquatic plants and water lilies. They could pollute the pond if left there. To lower the amount of future dead foliage you can also cut back any marginal plants which have grown out of hand.

Not forgetting to continue to feed the birds as the ground is getting harder and it becomes more difficult for them to get food.

### Potato salad

Prep time: 25 minutes  
Serves: 5 / 6 people (as a side)

Ingredients:

- 500g/1 lb small new potatoes
- 1 tbsp. butter
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- Salt and a little freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp. chopped fresh chives to garnish

Method:

- I. Put the potatoes on the boil for 20 to 25 minutes. Until they fall off the knife.
- II. Strain them and cut them into bite-sized pieces if needed. Pour into bowl.
- III. Add butter and stir until melted.
- IV. Add mayo, and salt and pepper and stir until potatoes are coated.
- V. Garnish with chives.
- VI. Clean off the side of the bowl and add a spoon to serve.

**Burgers with melted cheese and tomato salsa recipe**  
Serves 4  
Burger ingredients:

- 450g (1lb) lean minced beef or lamb
- 1 large onion, finely chopped, sautéed in oil until golden and cooled
- 1 tbsp. scallions, chopped
- 1 tbsp. chili oil, optional but nice (see recipe)
- Salt and black pepper

Tomato Salsa ingredients:

- 16 approx. cherry tomatoes, chopped
- 1-2 red onions, finely chopped
- Handful chopped coriander
- 1 tablespoon chili oil
- Lemon juice to taste
- Salt and black pepper

Method:

- I. Mix the mince, onion, scallions, chili oil, and seasoning well together
- II. With wet hands shape into four burgers
- III. Flatten each one down with the palm of your hand until you have a nice even shape. This way they will cook more quickly and evenly
- IV. Keep in the fridge until ready to cook
- V. Grill, barbecue, or cook on a black ridge pan, until fully cooked, approximately 4-5 minutes on each side.
- VI. Meanwhile, mix all the salsa ingredients together. Then place a spoonful of salsa on top of each burger and top with a slice of cheese.
- VII. Grill, or cover the barbecue or pan, and continue to cook for another minute until the cheese has melted.
- VIII. Serve on a bap with some salad leaves and the remaining salsa

**Peanut butter and Jam flapjacks**

Ingredients:

- 5 tbsp. salted butter , plus extra for the tin
- 250g crunchy peanut butter
- 8 tbsp. strawberry or raspberry jam
- 80g light brown soft sugar
- 200g rolled oats

Method:

STEP 1  
Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Butter and line the base and sides of a 20cm square cake tin with baking parchment.

STEP 2  
Put 3 tbsp. each of the peanut butter and jam in separate small bowls and set aside. Tip the remaining peanut butter, the rest of the jam and the butter and sugar into a pan set over a medium heat and stir until everything has melted together. Quickly stir in the oats, then leave to cool for 5 minutes.

STEP 3  
Spoon the mixture into the prepared cake tin and gently press down with your hands. Dot over the reserved peanut butter and jam, then bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Leave to cool completely in the tin, then turn out onto a board and cut into squares.



After a tough fifteen months due to Covid 19, Maynooth GAA are looking forward to a bright future with some exciting new developments afoot. While the restrictions due to Covid put a stop to action on the fields, there was plenty of activity occurring in the background.



The new Astro pitch (currently under construction) at our clubhouse was the brainchild of John Brunnock from the Maynooth Club and was initiated towards the back end of last year. This significant infrastructure project took was a complex undertaking from a planning, financial and building perspective and it received fantastic support from the local business community and also club volunteers. Covid delays notwithstanding we hope to open in the next couple of weeks. Hopefully by the next edition will have shots of some of our players enjoying the new surface with the fantastic ball wall!



The new Astro – a great addition to the ball wall.

### Floodlights

A further addition to the Club for the dark wintry winter months will be that floodlights being commenced at Moyglare pitches. This will allow the opening of a second floodlit pitch facilitating training for junior and senior players alike. Watch this space for developments!

### Walkways

Maynooth GAA have also made the walkways around the playing fields in Moyglare open to the public. There are plans in train also to light this walking space which will make it a fantastic accessible resource for all the community; members and non-members alike.

### Brew Abú Café and Beer Garden

We are delighted to announce the opening of our new outdoor Brew Abú Café at Maynooth GAA Club on the Moyglare Road. The club have invested in a new pergola, outdoor furniture, heaters, and a smashing barista machine which will provide an excellent range of hot and cold coffee drinks. There is also be delicious range of smoothies, iced drinks and snacks available to purchase in the café. Brew Abú has had a great start and has proven popular with club members, walkers, cyclists, dog owners and students all interested in popping in for a tasty treat or a delicious coffee.

The café is open tri Bhearla agus Gaeilge from Monday to Sunday from 9am to 9pm and Friday to Sunday from 9pm to 10:30pm.

We are also taking bookings for parties etc. subject to COVID restrictions being lifted. Mail: [secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie) in you are interested!

This has been a brilliant project supported by local businesses and volunteers alike. Special mention goes to the following for their contributions:

**Darren Lee Construction** for the extensive interior re-modelling. Fantastic contribution Darren!

**Eoin Byrne** and his team for the Pergola.

**Outdoorliving.ie** for sponsoring all the beer garden furniture – tables and chairs.

**Glamdolls.ie** for the beer garden lighting.

**Dave Mahoney** for the plumbing.

**Brian Higgins, Lara Electric** for the electrics.

**Frank McNulty** for the help on carpentry.

**Maynooth Garden Centre** for Planters filling and the

Hanging Baskets.

**Ciaran Coyle, Building Supplies** for sourcing all materials.

**Classic Hardware** for all the paint.

**Brooks Builders Providers** for the interior building supplies.

**Allied Shop Fitters** for support with the shutters and units.

**Jim Fields at CWE Electric** for external heaters & lighting.

**Darren Mooney** from Quickstitch for all his support.

**Matts Sheds** for the barrels, planters and outside bar.

**Club Members** that need a special mention include:

**Brian Meaney** for the wiring, cabling and re-engineering of the super-fast (400MB+) Internet & WIFI and TV.

**Paul Hynes and Paul Kiniron** for power-washing.

The numerous volunteers from all the senior teams who cleaned and painted the clubhouse to have it looking sparkling for the summer months.

**Fiona Fitzgerald** for the fantastic work on branding and logos.

The clubhouse sub-committee including: **Theresa Hurley, Paul Duffy, John Brunnock, Derek Carroll and Ciarán Coyle.**

Maynooth GAA chairman **Pascal Ennis** and club treasurer **Frank O'Connor** for their hands-on support.

And lastly, but most importantly the BREW ABÚ Crew, led by **Katie Merrick** and also comprised of **Katie Carroll, Caoimhe Casey, Jessica Ennis, Ciara Hynes, Sara-Rose Merrick, Leah Noonan and Paddy Merrick.**

They're looking forward to seeing you all dropping in for a coffee or refreshments over the course of the next few weeks.

Brew Abú, Crom Abú!



Annemarie and Mick Hill modelling the furniture sponsored by outdoorliving.ie



Frank McNulty working away, while other volunteers "supervise"



LGFA Senior Team getting "stuck in". Maith sibh calíni!!!



Flowers and plants sponsored by Maynooth Garden Centre really augmenting the beer garden



The final product: Brew Abú, tastefully lit by glamdolls.ie has proven a popular spot for club members meeting in the evening.



The original Brew Abú Crew: Katie, Jessica, Caoimhe and Ciara.



# BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



## Brady's Bar, Lounge & Restaurant

**We are currently open for outdoor service**

**We look forward to welcoming all our customers back for indoor service as per the Government Guidelines.**

**Thank You to All Our Customers for their Continued Support During these Difficult Times.**

**Stay Safe & Well**

**e-mail: [info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie](mailto:info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie) Web: [www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie](http://www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie) - Tel: 01-5054725**



**<https://www.facebook.com/BradysClockhouseB2/>**





# Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the People of Maynooth

Find us on Facebook



Local News

August 2021

Issue No. 504

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**



## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band 90th Anniversary 1931-2021

This year marks the 90th Anniversary of the reforming of St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band in 1931 and to celebrate the occasion they have produced a Souvenir Calendar (in Academic Year Format) which includes photos and a potted history of the Band over the years. These calendars are available from the Maynooth Bookshop Main Street, Donovan's Centra in Greenfield and the Maynooth Newsletter Office in Carton Retail Park. For those living outside Maynooth postal copies can be arranged through e-mail at [calendarsales90@gmail.com](mailto:calendarsales90@gmail.com).

In recognition of this outstanding achievement the Maynooth Newsletter Editorial Committee are giving the Band additional space over the next month or two to record events, photos and historical information which could not be included in the calendar, the first of which is on page 4 of this month's issue.



Four of the original members of the 1931 St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band at the Golden Jubilee Band Festival in May 1981  
(From L-R): Gerry Coyne, Jim Doyle, Tommy Tracey and Mick Murphy.

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# Maynooth Newsletter

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*Registered as a Charity in Ireland RCN # 20100063 - CHY # 21086*

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

The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter,  
Unit 10, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park,  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare. W23CT59  
Tel: 01-6285922

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

With two weeks of very warm and sunny weather in July, let's hope that August brings the weather that we expect for Summer time. Because of Covid the National Tidy Towns Competition was cancelled in 2020 but Minister Humphreys announced in May this year that the competition will take place in 2021. I regularly read the very positive comments about the work carried out by the volunteers from Maynooth Tidy Towns committee on social media and indeed they are well deserved. They continue to undertake projects that enhance many areas in the town. However, it is litter that makes it difficult for Maynooth to make a significant break-through as a winner in the National Tidy Towns Competition. Therefore for August it would be great if people who could easily send a social media message thanking the volunteers would instead take a walk around their own areas of the town and remove litter from the footpaths or hedges. We all have a part to play in keeping our local environment clean and tidy. Judging in the National Tidy Towns Competition generally takes place in July and a second visit from the judges in August. Watch out for a person walking around the town with a clipboard in their hands.



**Tidy Towns volunteer Vinny Mulready out and about.**  
(image courtesy Maynooth Tidy Towns)

With over 70% of the adult population in Ireland having received their two vaccines and with plans to vaccinate young people 12 years old upwards, we are now getting closer to living with Covid. I am sure that this represents Maynooth as well. With much of our local economy now open again including indoor dining all be it with some requirements and the intention to bring students back on Campus in Maynooth University for the next academic year the town will be more like what we remember. There is no doubt that some people will have made life changes during the pandemic that they would like to keep so hopefully we can at least have a blend of the before and after in our lives. I met quite a number of people in the past year who told me that they knew little about Maynooth before the pandemic and simply spent their time commuting to work in Dublin and spending many of their weekends away. They discovered things about and places around Maynooth that they never knew existed despite the fact that some of them had lived in Maynooth for over twenty years.



**M4 West near Maynooth**  
(image courtesy clonmelent.com)

Every August we mark National Heritage Week and this year it is from August 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. All public heritage sites that are open will be free entry which as far as I know is the case generally for 2021 anyway.

It is a great opportunity to check out some of the hidden treasures in the area. You can check on all the activities for National Heritage Week in Maynooth and elsewhere at [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)

Paul Croghan  
Editor



**Maynooth Castle**  
(image courtesy of castles uncovered)

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 23rd August 2021**



# MAYNOOTH DRESSES

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 GLENROYAL HOTEL 



## The Revival of the Maynooth Brass & Reed Band in 1931

Following more than 10 years of inactivity St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band emerged from the ashes, so to speak, in 1931 through the efforts of local Curate Fr. Tom Grogan and Senior Band members. One of the fund-raising events was a concert held in the Leinster Hall at the corner of Main Street and Mill Street and with the help of some borrowed instruments they led a huge crowd to the Concert and raised a considerable amount of money towards buying instruments and uniform. The uniforms, costing £5 each, were all handmade by a Tailor in Dawson Street and the instruments came through a newspaper advert from a British Army Band which was being dissolved. The photo, below left, shows the Band looking quite resplendent posing in the garden of the Curate's House in the Harbour which unfortunately is no longer standing.

The Eucharistic Congress in 1932 was a special occasion for the Band as they were the only Band present at the Congress Mass in the Phoenix Park and were again present at the Mass on O'Connell Bridge on the Sunday of Congress week. The Band's Conductor at the time was Thomas Devlin who also worked as a shipwright at Alexander Basin in Dublin but in March 1936 he lost his life in a tragic accident when a boiler on the ship "The Ben Edgar" blew up in his face killing him instantly. His successor was a German Clarinettist Adolf Gebler and one of his favourite phrases when a musician had difficulty with a piece was "it is in der the maaachine, you play it".

Between 1932 and 1944 the Band rehearsed in the hut beside the CYMS Hall which was reputedly given to it by the GAA and which is now occupied by the Ladies of the ICA. It was a wooden structure then and many a fine Summers evening found locals sitting in the Harbour listening to the strains of the Band rehearsing. In 1944 the building in Pound Lane, which previously served as the Boys' National School, became vacant and following representations made to Lord Brocket, the owner of Carton Estate at that time, the Band moved in to its new Bandroom where the Band still rehearses. **Watch out for the later years of the Band's history in the September edition of the Newsletter.!!**



**Band in Uniform in 1932**

**Front Row (L-R):** Christy Melia, Oliver Graham, Robert Burke, Eddie Tracey, Tommy Tracey, Bernard Farrelly.

**Second Row (L-R):** Jack Troy, Tommy Farrelly, Davey Coyne, Jack Thompson, Joe Coyne, Jim Waldron, P.J. Weafer, Joe Hanlon, Michael Monaghan, Michael Carey, Sean Kavanagh.

**Thrid Row (L-R):** Paddy Dunne, Joe O'Neill, Kit Dunne, Ned Kenny, Christy Waldron, Bartle Grady, Johnny Byrne, Tim Carr.

**Back Row (L-R):** John Nolan, Edward Farrelly, James Doyle, John McElroy, Peter Farrelly, Charlie Thompson, Martin Nolan, Tom Waldron.



**1959 Band**

**Back row (L-R):** T. Dempsey, J. Nevin, M.C. Dempsey, J. Boyd, J. Murphy, M Dempsey, N Farrelly, T. Farrelly.

**Middle row (L-R):** P. Boyd, S. Nevin, B. Kelly, M. Kelly, C. Dempsey, P. Waldron, K. Boyd, N. Dempsey, J. Dunne.

**Front row (L-R):** M. Dempsey, M. Murphy, P.J. Weafer, G. Bannister (Bandmaster), N. Keely, G. Bannister Jnr, B. Grady, C. King, M. Murphy.



**Between 1932 and 1944 the Band rehearsed in what is now the ICA Hall.**



**St Mary's Brass & Reed Band at St. Lomans in 1964**

### THE OLD VILLAGE BAND

FINOLA WATCHORN

As I slowly draw near to this place I hold dear,  
The quaint little town of Maynooth,  
The sound, rich and grand, of the old village band,  
Takes me back to the days of my youth.

I remember with joy when I stood as a boy,  
While the brass band marched cheerfully past,  
I thrilled just to hear the trumpets so clear,  
And the big drum that always came last.

Sure the whole town was gay, when the band came to play,  
And the children so eager for fun,  
Danced sprightly along to some popular song,  
While the instruments gleamed in the sun.

With a feeling of pride which none tried to hide,  
The old folk would hasten to tell,  
How, in funeral array, the band came to play  
A last farewell hymn for Parnell.

I was still in my youth when I left old Maynooth,  
'Twas a silent and colourless dawn,  
As my eager young feet echoed through the main street,  
While the whole town slept peacefully on.

From the seas of the north to a far eastern port,  
And southwards by way of Cape Horn,  
A life thus passed 'neath a ship's towering mast,  
till alas! too late I return.

If I make my way down through the streets of the town  
Sure, a stranger I'll be there, I know,  
For the folks I love best will have gone to rest,  
And my friends will have scattered and so—

When the trumpets clear call bids me come and leave all,  
Sure, I won't mind leaving this land,  
If they bear me away on some bright's summer's day,  
To the sound of the old village band.



**Father Fergus O'Higgins speaking after his return from Armagh after a 370-mile sponsored cycle ride in September 1970. Tom Flood Senior is on the left and Band Chairman Phil Brady on the PP's right and beside him is Conductor Cliff Murphy .**



# Online Office

## Here to help with

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- \* 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



**Cllr. Angela Feeney**

**Tel. 087 238 1962**

**Email. [angelafeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelafeeney@gmail.com)**

**Stay safe everyone.**







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

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

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# 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*



## **New MABS website is live**

The new MABS website [mabs.ie](http://mabs.ie) is now live. Please have a look and send any feedback to [website@mabs.ie](mailto:website@mabs.ie).

## **COVID-19 vaccinations**

People aged 16 or over can now register for the COVID-19 vaccine online or by phone. Alternatively, you can get your first dose of the vaccine at a walk-in vaccination clinic without an appointment. This service is available for everyone aged 16 or over, whether you have registered online or not. You cannot get your second dose at a walk-in clinic. The Government has announced it will extend the vaccination programme to children aged 12-15. Details of the roll out are expected in the coming days.

## **Indoor dining recommences**

Restaurants, cafés and pubs can now serve meals and drinks to seated customers indoors, provided the customers show that they have been vaccinated, or that they have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 6 months. Table numbers are capped at 6 diners aged 13 or over, and up to 15 when children aged 12 and under are included.

The EU Digital COVID Certificate can be used to show vaccination or recovery status, but other forms of proof (for example, HSE vaccination card) are also acceptable. Customers must carry ID to show that the proof belongs to them. Accompanying children do not have to prove they have been vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19.

## **EU Digital COVID Certificate (DCC)**

DCCs based on vaccination are being sent out by email and post. An emergency DCC helpline has been set up for queries on 1800 807 008, or +353 76888 5513 if calling from outside Ireland. You can request the certificate based on recovery from the helpline or by completing an online form. If you submit a form online, you will get your certificate by email within 5 days. You can use the DCC to access indoor dining services in restaurants, cafés and pubs.

## **Mandatory hotel quarantine**

Changes have been made to the designated countries list.

## **Driving abroad if your licence has been extended due to COVID-19**

If you are travelling abroad with a driving licence with an extended expiry date due to COVID-19, you can request a 'Driver Statement/Letter of Entitlement' from the NDLS. This shows the new expiry date of your driving licence. To make a request, call 076 108 7880 or email [info@ndls.ie](mailto:info@ndls.ie).

## **Passport services**

Passport Express for paper-based applications has reopened. The turnaround time is estimated at 8 weeks. These applications cannot be expedited. Passport Online is open to all applicants and applications are being processed as a priority. Applying online is the fastest way to get your passport. You can track the progress of your passport online.

## **Public holiday social welfare payments**

Social welfare payments due to be paid on Monday 2 August will be paid on Friday, 30 July instead. All Intreo Centres and Branch Offices will be closed on Monday, 2 August. They will open as normal on Tuesday, 3 August.

## **Disability Stakeholder Group**

Individuals and organisations can submit an expression of interest to join the Disability Stakeholder Group which monitors the implementation of the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2022.

## **School Transport Scheme refunds**

Bus Éireann will issue refunds to families who paid for school transport but could not use it due to school closures. You will get an email from Bus Éireann if you are due a refund.

From 30 July 2021, eligible families who have not received a refund can email Bus Éireann at [covid19refunds@buseireann.ie](mailto:covid19refunds@buseireann.ie).

## **Schools and third-level education 2021/2022**

The Government plans for a full reopening of schools at the end of August and start of September 2021. Third-level education will return on-site in September 2021 in line with public health advice.

## **Online sexual consent support hub for students**

A new website providing information and resources to students on sexual consent will be available when universities return in the autumn.

## **Tusla online portal**

Tusla's online portal for referrals has re-opened for the first time since the HSE cyberattack. People can use the portal to report any child protection or welfare concerns, or alternatively, contact the Child and Family Agency local duty social work office.

## **Reopening of ex gratia scheme for childhood sexual abuse**

The criteria to qualify for a payment in respect of abuse in a day school has been widened. Under the revised scheme, eligible applicants may get an ex gratia payment of €84,000. Where a person has previously settled with the State for a sum which is less than the €84,000 award under this Scheme, that person can now apply for the difference up to the limit of €84,000.

Applications are now open. For more information, contact the Department of Education on 09064-83625 or email [exgratia\\_queries@education.gov.ie](mailto:exgratia_queries@education.gov.ie).

## **Changes to Rent Pressure Zone (RPZ) system**

Changes to the RPZ system came into effect on 16 July 2021 following the commencement of Section 6 of the Residential Tenancies (No. 2) Act 2021. Annual rent increases in RPZs are now capped in line with general inflation instead of at 4% per year. RPZs have also been extended until 31 December 2024. They were due to expire on 1 January 2022.

## **Parent and toddler group grants**

Parents and not-for-profit community groups can apply for funding for a new or an existing parent and toddler group. Contact your local City/Council Childcare Committee for more information.

## **Workplace Relations (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021**

The Workplace Relations (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2021 is now in effect. The Act amends the Workplace Relations Act 2015 to:

- Allow for public hearings
- Remove the default anonymisation of adjudication cases
- Provide WRC adjudicators with statutory powers to administer an oath or affirmation
- Provide for an associated penalty for giving false evidence

## **Affordable housing**

The Affordable Housing Act 2021 has been signed into law. Provisions include:

- Affordable housing purchase arrangements
- A statutory footing for cost rental schemes
- A Purchase Equity Share scheme, which provides funds to help people purchase shared equity properties

## **Climate action**

On 23 July 2021, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 was signed into law. The Act contains measures that commit Ireland to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. It also aims to reduce emissions by 51% by 2030.

(Continued on page 8)



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS Cont/....

*Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth*

*(Continued from page 7)*

## Upcoming

### Upcoming changes to COVID-19 restrictions

From 5 August up to 100 guests can attend a wedding, an increase from the current limit of 50. Baptisms can also go ahead, but social gatherings afterwards are not recommended.

### Business Resumption Support Scheme

A new Business Resumption Support Scheme (BRSS) will begin in September. The BRSS is a single payment based on a percentage of average weekly turnover for 2019, up to a maximum payment of €15,000. The BRSS will be administered by Revenue and will operate in a similar way to CRSS. Applications can be made between 1 September and 30 November 2021.

### Fair Deal Scheme

The Nursing Homes Support Scheme (Amendment) Act 2021 has been signed into law. The Act will extend the '3-year cap' to:

- Family-owned and family-run farms or businesses
- Proceeds from the sale of a family home

After 3 years, the value of family-owned farms and businesses or proceeds from the sale of a home will not be assessed when calculating the cost of nursing home care. This will come into effect 90 days from the enactment.

### New technological university

From 1 October 2021, the Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands and Midwest will replace Athlone and Limerick institutes of technology.

## Ones to Watch

### Return to work

RTÉ reports that current Government advice on working from home unless absolutely necessary is likely to change from September, with a staggered and gradual return to offices planned.

### Launch of Government's new housing plan delayed

The publication of the new Housing for All plan has been delayed until the end of August. It sets out Ireland's housing policy and plans up until 2030. The plan was due to be published on 26 July.

### Strategic Housing Development (SHD) system to be replaced

The Government has announced that streamlined arrangements for large-scale residential developments (LSRDs) which restore decision-making to local authorities will be introduced to replace current Strategic Housing Development planning arrangements. It is intended that the new arrangements will come into effect in the autumn. published on 26 July.

### Moneylending

The Government has approved the drafting of the Consumer Credit (Amendment) Bill 2021 to limit the interest rate on moneylending loans.

### Undocumented migrant scheme update

A scheme to allow undocumented migrants in the State to apply for immigration status is on track to open before the end of the year. It is expected that it will be available to migrants who have been in Ireland for at least 4 years and their dependent family members. A fee will apply, and it is expected that successful applicants will receive permission to work without an employment permit. Details of the scheme were discussed at a recent stakeholder briefing.

## "Let's Talk about Parenting" August 2021 Programme

The 'Let's talk about Parenting' Programme is a FREE series of talks and workshops for Parents and Professionals working with children and young people in County Kildare.

The programme is provided by Kildare Library Service, is funded by Kildare County Council, and is supported by Kildare CYPSC and members of the multi-agency Kildare & West Wicklow Parenting Forum. For more information on the Parenting Forum and the supports available in County Kildare visit [www.parentingsupport.ie](http://www.parentingsupport.ie). Presently all our talks are being provided online.

### Starting 'Big School'

Presented by Dr Mary O'Kane - Thursday 12th August 7pm

Your child is starting in 'Big School' in September, this means new experiences, new friends and a whole new identity as a Junior Infant. Naturally you want to support them in making this transition a success. How should you best prepare your child for this transition in their lives? In this session, Dr Mary O'Kane offers some very practical advice on the most important skill sets for children during this transition, and how best to support your child over the next few weeks in developing these skills. This talk will take place online via zoom.

**Book your place on eventbrite via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/starting-big-school-with-dr-mary-okane-tickets-161902509765>**

### The Transition from Primary to Secondary School

Presented by Dr Mary O'Kane - Monday 16th August 7pm

The move from primary to secondary school can result in both anxiety and excitement and that is just for the parents! This is one of the most significant transitions our young Teens face. The changes are social, academic, as the move from being 'seniors' in their primary school, to the 'juniors' in this new educational environment. In this talk Dr Mary O'Kane outlines some of the challenges faced during this transition and offers very practical advice on how we can support students on this new educational journey. This talk will take place online via zoom.



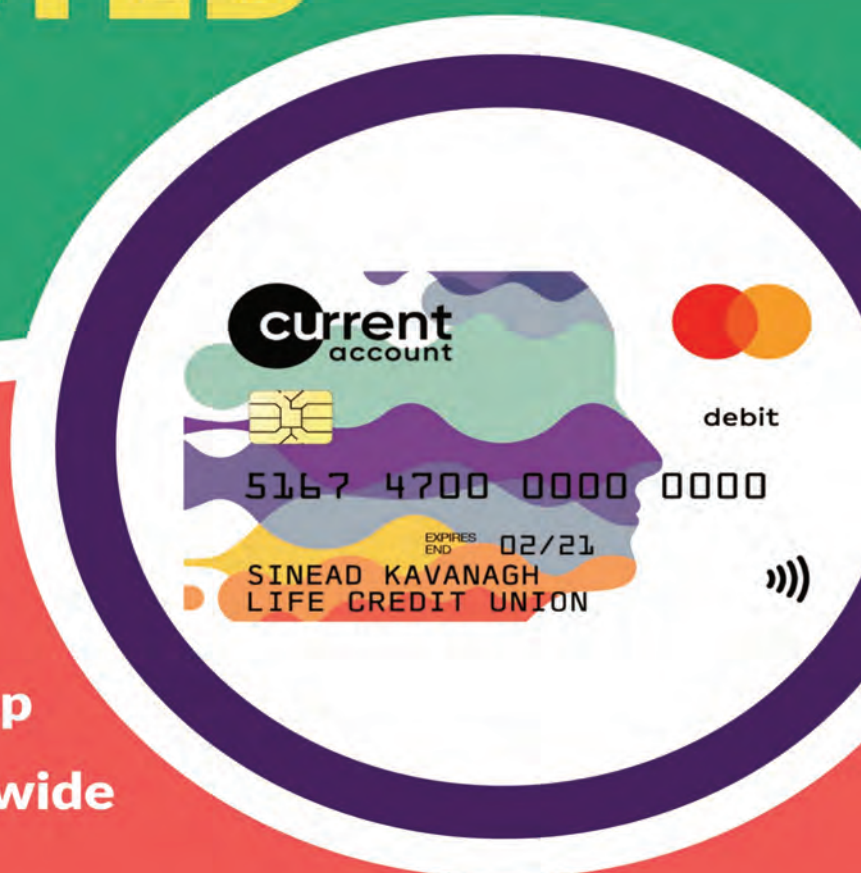
**Book your place on eventbrite via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/the-transition-from-primary-to-secondary-school-with-dr-mary-okane-tickets-161905137625>**

**A reminder that recorded talks are also available on our Parenting Vimeo Channel Online at - <https://vimeo.com/channels/letstalkaboutparenting>**

including - 'Healthy Sleep Habits for Babies up to 3 years' – Babogue Sleep Solutions 'School Children & Teenage Sleep' – Babogue Sleep Solutions 'Children & worry during Covid 19' – Dr Mary O'Kane 'Resilience during Covid and in a Digital Age' – Dr Colman Noctor 'Building Self-esteem in Children and Teens' – Foroige 'Sibling Bullying' – Dr Emma O'Friel 'Starting Secondary School' – Dr Mary O'Kane



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

## Ethnic Fault Lines

We saw them as different,  
Usually having grander houses  
With well-maintained front gardens  
That might sport among sweet pea  
And roses, a bed of orange lilies;  
They were invariably polite,  
Though most didn’t send their children  
To the local national school  
But drove them to a Church of Ireland  
Primary, and in their later years  
Sent them to posh boarding schools  
In Sligo or Enniskillen.

They didn’t put on airs and graces  
And since there was a dearth  
Of eligible young ladies  
Some bachelors wed local Papists.  
I remember one such maverick,  
A tall, soft-spoken, handsome man,  
Expert at ploughing, mowing, reaping;  
One harvest day when a local farmer  
Teased him for his Protestant upbringing  
We couldn’t tell the loudmouth to be quiet  
Lest intervention indicate  
Such crassness deserved notice.

Today there’s a burgeoning host  
Of foreign-born and bred minorities,  
People from Europe, Africa, Asia,  
Who usually chose cities and towns  
As their preferred new destinations;  
But some have been assigned to villages  
Where they have also put down roots.  
As for Christianity, it’s mostly  
Older people who now go to church  
While newcomers worship in novel ways  
Or not at all – so what’s the point  
In those outmoded ethnic labels?

By Colin Scott

## Of Songs and Poems

You know how a song or poem sticks in your memory,  
seemingly perfect, and then one day you hear a slight  
variation, it may be just a word or phrase, but it’s enough  
to set you thinking. Take, for example, ‘The Homes of  
Donegal’. For years I was enjoying the line, ‘And then to  
see prepared for me a cup that’s far from small’ until one  
day a singer crooned to his radio audience, ‘And then to  
see prepared for me a shakedown by the wall.’ Right away  
I had an image of armfuls of straw or rushes being  
proffered as a bed, which suggested quite a traditional and  
humble sleeping arrangement. The question is, which line

was the original one?

Another song, this time in Gaelic, poses a similar  
conundrum. In *Eileen A Rúin*, the poet declares, *Caith mé  
mo rogha leath*, ‘I threw my choice to you’, or more  
simply, ‘You were the one I chose.’ Another version,  
however, states, *Caith me mo bhróga leath*, ‘I wore out my  
boots with you’, a touching admission in a time when most  
Irishmen went barefoot. I’ll leave it to the reader to decide  
which version is most likely to be the original.

Staying with Gaelic examples, here’s another one. In the  
beautiful, 17<sup>th</sup> Century song, *Fol- Í- Ó -Hó –Ró*, the singer  
declares that the cheeks of his beloved are *chomh dearg le  
subh*, ‘as red as jam’ – or, possibly, *chomh dearg le sú*, ‘as  
red as juice’ - (my hearing could be at fault) - but in a  
printed version in *Abair Amhrán*, (Sing a Song), published  
by *Comhaltas Uladh*, they’re *chomh dearg le fuil*, ‘as red as  
blood’. Now which version sounds the more authentic?

Before I leave *Abair Amhrán* it might be relevant to  
discuss a song included in Part V, *Aird a’ Chumhaing*,  
which our school textbook, *Filidheacht na nGaedheal*,  
rendered as *Áirdí Chuain*, a place near Cushendun in  
County Antrim, now anglicized as Ardicoan. Under the  
title, ‘The Quiet Land of Erin’, singers, including Mary  
O’Hara and Sandy Denny, have popularized this touching  
lament by *Seán Mac Ambrois* (John Mc Cambridge), an  
Ulster protestant living for a time in Scotland in the mid-  
19<sup>th</sup> century. Given the present opposition by the D.U.P.  
and U.U.P. to the proposed Irish Language Act, it’s  
interesting to speculate what *Mac Ambrois* would have  
made of their distaste for his mother tongue. He even  
misses *Ag iomáin ar an tráigh bháin*, playing hurling on the  
white strand, probably near Cushendall.

At this point it seems only fair to point out that most songs  
or poems in Gaelic were not written down until years after  
they were composed. That’s why Thomas Costello’s  
famous 17th century *Úna Bhán*, his heartfelt dirge for Una  
Mac Dermott, exists in various versions, some of them  
most likely spurious. Scholars aren’t even sure if Una was  
the daughter of Mac Dermot of Lough Key or of his  
relative, Mac Dermot of Dungar, now Frenchpark.  
According to Dr. Douglas Hyde, ‘The country people say  
the verses, ‘are in "cramp-Irish" and that they never yet  
found a piper or a fiddler to play them on the pipes or the  
fiddle.’

Does that mean that we had no learned people composing  
our songs? Of course not, but before 18th century hedge  
schools and the establishment of the first national primary  
schools in the 19th century, the availability of elementary  
education, let alone higher education, was the preserve of  
the rich and the clergy. That is why the beautiful Gaelic  
song *Cill Chais* was almost certainly written by an

educated person, supposedly Fr. John Lane:  
‘*Cad a dhéanfaimíd feasta gan adhmaid, / Tá deire na  
gcoillte ar lár.*’  
‘Now what will we do for timber, / With the last of the  
woods laid low?’  
in Thomas Kinsella’s translation.

At this point it may seem that it was chiefly men who were  
composing our songs and poems but there is one notable  
exception, Eibhlín Dubh Ní Conaill, Dark Eileen  
O’Connell. Her 1773 lament for her 26 year-old husband,  
Art O’ Leary, shot by English soldiers in County Cork  
because he would not sell his mare to a neighbour for five  
pounds (the maximum value of a horse a Catholic could  
own) is justly famous:

*Mo ghrádh go daingean tú!  
La dá bhfeaca thú  
Ag ceann tighe an mhargaidh...*

In Eleanor Hull’s translation:  
My closest and dearest!  
From the first day I saw you  
From the top of the market–house...

Like most traditional compositions it was preserved orally  
in different versions, but the strength of feeling is palpable:  
*Do chuid fola leat ‘na sraithibh;  
Is níor fhanas le h-í glanadh  
Acht í ól suas lem’ bhasaibh.*

In my translation:  
Your blood flowing in waves;  
And I didn’t wait to clean it  
But drank it from my palms.

In Frank O'Connor's version, however, these lines with  
their reference to blood become the more proper:  
‘I did not wipe it,  
I dipped my hands in it.’

Before I leave this critical glance at our traditional trove of  
songs I have to mention Tennyson’s poem, ‘The Splendour  
Falls on Castle Walls’, inspired, it’s been said by his visit  
to Ross Castle, Killarney in 1848. He writes of the echoes  
of the bugle, most likely blown by a local guide near The  
Eagle’s Nest, dying in ‘yon rich sky’. By contrast, he  
asserts that our echoes will, ‘roll from soul to soul / And  
grow forever and forever.’ Now this is a lovely conceit, but  
is it realistic? No doubt the echoes of literary geniuses such  
as Shakespeare and even Tennyson himself will persist for  
centuries, but will they live on, never mind grow, ‘forever  
and forever’? Compared to them, the half-wild strains of  
our Gaelic troubadours battling the deluge of Hip-Hop,  
Rap, K-pop, etcetera, not to mention more highbrow genres  
such as *bel canto* and arias, hopefully will continue to  
charm the common people, at least in translation, for a long  
time to come.

By P.G.Nerney

## The Great First Century Hoax!

"Sure they were all crazy, stark, raving mad and no one more disillusioned than Jesus  
himself. He was so far gone that he was able to persuade hundreds, maybe thousands,  
rabble, of course, to address him as Rabbi and come on their knees pleading with him  
to do miracles for them. And they were so much under his hypnotic spell that they  
thought that it was his "divine" power that enabled them to see again and to walk  
again and what have you? And then there was his greatest miracle of all, his own  
resurrection, executed with a nod here and and a wink there and Pilate mumbling to  
himself "sure what harm can he do? He has caused no trouble to anyone up to now  
but to his own crowd and it would be worth anything to see a little dollop of egg on  
their faces!"

And following on that, the gigantic delusion of his "disciples" going around telling  
the poor misguided people that he had ascended into heaven but that he would  
definitely be coming back again. They hadn't a clue when but they were "absolutely  
certain" that it would happen. It could be any day but it would happen, so the people  
had to keep believing it and share out whatever they owned with those who had little  
or nothing, the disciples themselves, of course, and they would be rewarded one  
hundredfold in due course.

And then there was the famous scoop when Saul got tired of his tent-making and  
instead of harassing the "disciples" decided that he could live a far more cushy life by  
getting in on this share-and-share-alike lark and began peddling the hoax with great  
enthusiasm by claiming that Jesus had appeared to him personally on the road to  
Damascus. He travelled all over the Roman world convincing everyone that the  
original story, as put out by the twelve, was true.

Saul was a smart guy and knew Greek very well, having been brought up with the  
language so he began writing all about Jesus of Nazareth whom, according to  
himself, he met but briefly. Then the others, Mark & Co, got in on the writing act and  
churned out to an unsuspecting world the "eyewitness" accounts upon which the  
whole hoax was based".

*A disciple of Richard Dawkins might have written just such a summary of the stories  
told in the New Testament! Would you believe it?*

If you would you'd believe anything!

GM.



# Experienced Health Care Assist Required

*Support Worker for young man with physical and intellectual disability*

Experienced Health Care Assistant to deliver day to day support to a young man with physical and intellectual disability in his own home. Assisting the client with personal care and practical needs. Swimming, physical exercise and transporting to day service would be some of the key requirements of the role.

Must be honest, caring, patient and have experience in either a professional or family capacity. Have excellent English and a level 5 QQI training in Social Care or currently working towards a qualification. Maynooth/Straffan area. Car owner would be beneficial as rural location.

Over 25 with full clean Irish licence a requirement for this role for car insurance purposes.

Hours: 35 per week max. Split hours Monday to Friday and occasional Saturday. Salary and hours discussed at interview. Garda vetting and references required. Please send CV with cover letter to: meehanm410@gmail.com



Gold Medal  
Winner 2019



First of all I would like to thank all the volunteers who have religiously turned out every week since restrictions eased last May. We have 27 members on our team with at least 12 of them volunteering every week. Maynooth is very lucky to have this cohort of people both male and female. Thanks also to all the locals who have requested to join Tidy Towns over the last few weeks, unfortunately due to restrictions we are not looking for new members at the moment.

Lots of work going on at the moment. Trying to keep our plants and flowers alive due to the unprecedented hot weather we are experiencing at the latter end of July. Our Tidy Towns application has been submitted, judging is virtual this year but I'm sure if we were in the running for a shot at the All Ireland the judges would pay a visit, just our opinion.

Since the restaurants have opened up for outdoor dining there has been a noticeable decrease in litter all around the town we can spend less time collecting rubbish and more time enhancing the town with flowers and plants promoting biodiversity.

Well done to all the Residents' Associations who give up their time, some of our estates especially the entrances are looking pristine with flowers.

We have applied to An Taisce for the Green Flag for our Sensory Garden, at the moment we are waiting on a date to show the judges our creation.



Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more information, if you have any questions just send us a message on WhatsApp. Button on our Face book page.

**Mary Molloy Secretary**  
**Maynooth Tidy Towns**





## Maynooth University Town Football Club Results



After a busy preseason of friendly games we have finally got into the serious business of league and cup games. Some results to date are as follows.

### Leinster Senior League Senior Division Sunday

#### Town 2 Wayside Celtic 0

A good opening start to the season with this win over old foes Wayside. Eoin O'Neill opened the scoring in the 66th minute. When he expertly placed his shot into the top corner of the net. This looked to be the winner going into added time but a quick break by Jackson Ryan saw him out speed the Wayside defense to place his shot in the bottom corner of the net to secure the three points.

### F.A.I Senior Cup Preliminary Round.

#### Town 3 Bonagee Utd 1

Our Letterkenny visitors were chastened by this spanking by an impressive home side. Town were in control throughout and ran out deserving winners. Town led throughout with goals by Cillian Duffy (2) and Jackson Ryan (1). A late Bonagee goal failed to take the shine off a solid performance.

### Leinster Senior League Major Division Saturday

#### Town 1 Bangor GG 2

A superb goal by Matt O'Donnell was not enough to take the points in this hard fought game. Town were good value for their opening goal but let Bangor into the game soon after and were punished by two late goals from the visitors.

### Leinster Senior League Major Division Sunday

#### Sacred Heart 2 Town 1

Town opened brightly in this tough away fixture. The ever alert Jackson Ryan pounced on a loose pass by the Sacred Heart midfield to speed through and place his shot wide of the keeper.

The sending off of Jack O'Connor had a major impact on the game. The searing heat took its toll on Town who were unable to withstand the Sacred Heart's constant onslaught and conceded two goals in the last twenty minutes.

### F.A.I Senior Cup 1st Round

#### Town 4 Malahide Utd 0

Last years league winners and beaten cup finalists Malahide came to town with high expectation of a good run in this years FAI Senior Cup competition.

Where does one begin in describing this performance. The side was superb in every aspect of the game. Stars were plentiful but none more so than midfielder Paddy O'Sullivan. O'Sullivan bagged a hat-trick in the first half which left Malahide shell-shocked. Town were in their faces right from the kick-off and took control. This was far from a one man show with star performers throughout the home side.

Defence and midfield gave nothing away and provided our front men with plenty of ammunition. Paddy was presented with the match ball after the game in recognition of his hat trick feat. There are not many who can boast of scoring a hat-trick in an F.A.I Senior Cup.



**Paddy O'Sullivan with the match ball after his FAI Cup hat-trick**



## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

**E mail: [angelaemfeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelaemfeeney@gmail.com) - Phone: 0872381962**



### Signage Needed at Doctor's Lane Car Park

At the July Council MD, Cllr Feeney asked the Council to confirm when signage will be put in place at the Doctor's Lane car park. Regarding the response received from the Council to her question, Cllr Feeney stated that she was confused as the response refers to the Maynooth Town Centre Renewal scheme. Cllr Feeney clarified that the issue had nothing to do with the Renewal Scheme; the car park in question on Doctor's Lane was to be opened as part of a condition of planning for a nearby restaurant and Cllr Feeney has been pushing on this for quite some time now.

This car park is necessary to assist businesses on main street particularly now that in recent months parking spaces have been removed as part of COVID cycling and walking enabling measures. Cllr Feeney welcomed the fact that, on foot of her representations on the matter, cars are being parked in the car park. However, she said that, for the general public, it is still unclear as to whether it is operational or not and if it is operational, that signage should be put in place to notify the public of its existence and the charges that are applied. The key point is that spaces are made available in the car park to the public as approved as part of the planning process and then normal signage to be put in place. The area engineer said that he would liaise with the roads and planning departments about the matter.

### Good News as Cuckoos Fly Away

Cllr Feeney welcomed the recent news that the developer of the Mullen Park estate in Maynooth is to offer the remaining homes at the scheme for individual sale rather than proceed with a deal to sell them in their entirety to a UK-headquartered property investor, Round Hill Capital. The change of direction will see a total of 115 three and four-bedroom houses being brought to the market in three phases between now and early 2022.

The first phase of the Mullen Park houses will be opened to intending purchasers shortly when show houses are ready for viewing by appointment under the Government's Covid-19 safety guidelines. Cllr Feeney stated that this is great news for prospective first-time buyers and other owner-occupiers looking for a home in the county and that it shows how public pressure can make a difference.

### Flood Alleviation Mullen Park

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to confirm if all the flood alleviation measures conditioned in Planning Applications (18/761 and 18/762) for Mullen Park, Maynooth have been put in place, now that all of the foundations for the housing have been laid. The Council said that the surface water drainage network pertaining to the Mullen Park Development is still under construction.

Cllr Feeney is aware that residents in the estates adjoining Mullen Park are concerned about the specific flood alleviation measures for the estate, not the general surface water drainage network that applies to all housing estates, Cllr Feeney stated she will continue to monitor the issue as construction concludes and to liaise with the Council on the matter.

### Grants and Funding Opportunities

The Community Enhancement Programme 2021 is now open for applications. The application process has moved to online submissions only. The closing date for submission is Friday 27th of August at 3pm. Here is the link to community/voluntary groups and organisations that may want to make an application <https://kildare.ie/.../CommunityEnhancementProgrammeGran.../>

### Expansion of the Grant Scheme for Non-Food Hospitality

The Grant Scheme for Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses has been expanded to non-food serving pubs. These grants were originally only available to hospitality establishments where food is produced and sold for consumption on the premises. The grant scheme is now open to include non-food serving pubs. This extended scheme will now provide a level of financial support to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses or other establishments where food is produced and sold for consumption on the premises and now pubs (including non-food serving) to purchase or upgrade equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and, therefore, increase their outdoor capacity for the summer of 2021.

Funding under the scheme is only available to existing

businesses. Where a business wants to use public footpaths/space the business must apply for a Section 254 licence. The S254 application form and information about the licence is available at <https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/Forms/Planning/> The Planning Department will accept applications by email or by post. The application fee is being waived to support businesses while Covid 19 restrictions continue. It should be noted that the sale of alcohol requires a separate licence. To apply for the Extension to the original Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Businesses, for pubs not in possession of a food licence all applicants must adhere to the following application process: Application here: <https://leokildare.submit.com/show/148>

### Meetings attended since last Newsletter

*July 1st Migrant Council Internship Meeting at 6:00 pm (online)*  
*July 2nd: Council MD at 09:45 a.m. at KCC*  
*July 5th: Naas Local Area Plan 09:30 a.m. (Online)*  
*July 6th: KWETB Board at 10:30 a.m. (Online)*  
*July 20th: MPPS Board of Management at 7:00 p.m. (Online)*  
*July 22nd Presentation by Waterways Ireland on Blueway at 11:00 a.m. (Online)*  
*July 26th Council Plenary at 3:00 pm in Newbridge Town Hall*  
*July 28th DART West Briefing at 2:30 pm (Online)*  
*July 28th and 29th at 7:00 p.m. Disability Training Awareness (Online)*

### Contact

If I can assist in any issue or you wish to bring my attention to local or county matters please get in touch: [afeeney@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:afeeney@kildarecoco.ie)

*Slán tamall,  
Angela*



## Historic connections—Waterford and Maynooth

While on a recent getaway to the oldest city in Ireland, Waterford, we had the chance to visit the wonderful Bishop's Palace to view the exhibition of Waterford Treasures. It was where we discovered some Maynooth connections.

First to come to my attention was a small portrait of Thomas Hussey (1746-1803). This rang a bell, as Thomas Hussey was involved in the establishment of St. Patrick's College Maynooth and was its first president in 1795. He later became bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Waterford and Lismore in 1797. Hussey officially opened the first monastery and school of Edmund Ignatius Rice at Mount Sion in Waterford on July 7, 1803. He studied in Salamanca in Spain. Maynooth College holds the Salamanca Archives which date from 1592.

A section on Waterford Volunteers in the 1916 Rising mention Liam Ó Raogáin and Sean Ó Griobhain both from the Rinn Gaeltacht in Co. Waterford and then working in Maynooth, Co. Kildare. They joined the Maynooth 15 on Easter Monday "evading capture they arrived at the GPO early Tuesday morning to the resounding cheers of the rebel garrison".

The present Bishops Palace, built on the site of several previous palaces was commissioned by Bishop Charles Este in 1743 to the design of Richard Cassel, who left the project to build Leinster House. He also made large alterations to Carton House between 1739 and 1745.

The Bishops Palace project was taken over by a Waterford architect-builder "Honest" John Roberts who built many of Waterford's fine buildings. There is a Maynooth connection here to John Roberts' eldest son, the landscape artist Thomas Roberts (1748-1777). From 1770, Thomas Roberts travelled throughout Ireland, particularly in the north-west, painting general and demesne landscapes. One of his patrons was William FitzGerald, 2nd Duke of Leinster who commissioned him to paint a series of six views of Carton. He completed four. His career was cut short by his death at the age of 29. Following a period of ill health, Roberts travelled to Bath in 1776 to take the spa waters and other medical treatment. On the advice of his doctor, he continued to the warmer climate of Lisbon, dying there just a few months after he arrived in March 1777.

The other two paintings in the series was completed by William Ashford in his own style.

Susan Durack



Thomas Roberts (1748-1777).  
National Gallery of Ireland.



The Sheet of Water at Carton Park, Co. Kildare, with the Duke and Duchess of Leinster out walking, and gardeners rolling a serpentine path in the foreground



The Bridge in the Park at Carton with workmen landing logs from a boat



The Park at Carton with Ivory Bridge in the Foreground

Sources

[The Experience at bishops palace - Waterford Treasures](#)

[John Roberts \(architect\) - Wikipedia](#)

[Thomas Roberts, Irish Landscape Artist: Biography, Paintings \(visual-arts-cork.com\)](#)

Images: MutualArt.com, Gallery of Masters and National Gallery of Ireland

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## Maynooth University announces new study on impacts of Covid on commuting patterns



Maynooth University is leading major new research to examine how new remote work patterns sparked by the pandemic will change home life, local business and community environments.

The research by the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) at Maynooth University will collect information through case-studies to assess the impacts -- economic, social and spatial -- of pre- and post-COVID commuting on communities and districts across Ireland.

The two-year study is supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage as well as the Office for the Planning Regulator (OPR), the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and Clare County Council. It represents a unique research collaboration between Maynooth University, Ulster University, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, University College Dublin, and the University of Maryland in the US.

The study, *'InPLACE: Investigating Place, Planning and Commuting'*, will initially focus on three locations: Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow; Maghera, Co Derry/Londonderry; and Ennistymon-Lahinch, Co Clare.

Its findings will have significance for a range of public policies, many of which are within the remit of local authorities, and all of which directly influence local communities, such as health, housing, environment, community development, social policy, transportation and spatial planning.

The research additionally aims to inform the Government's rural action strategy, *Our Rural Future*, which is focused on planning for changed living and working patterns, including revitalising town centres, job creation, and local green economies. The Government also has launched a *National Remote Working Strategy* to make remote working a permanent option for life after the pandemic. Welcoming the commencement of this timely study, **Minister of State for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke, TD**, said: "The COVID 19 pandemic has taught us many lessons and made us re-examine many daily habits and tasks that went hand in hand with a pre-pandemic lifestyle. While the need to switch off and disconnect has been an issue for many whose home has now also become their workplace, we have seen the huge benefits that come with removing long commute times and expense from our daily lifestyle."

The Minister continued: "I welcome this research which will be important as we chart our way out of the pandemic, hopefully keeping some of the good habits and lessons learned over the preceding year. Within the Department, we soon hope to launch a report and implement recommendations on a Town Centre First approach, with many smaller towns now feeling the benefits of increased footfall. From a planning policy perspective, the research will be of significant importance, and I look forward to studying the results of the research when available."

The researchers will invite community groups, local businesses and commuters, and local government employees to share their experiences of travel and transport since the arrival of COVID-19 in 2020, and the impact on their quality of life and well-being. It will investigate similarities and divergences between short and long-distance commuters, with a long-distance commute defined as lasting in excess of 45 minutes.

**Chief Executive and Planning Regulator at the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), Niall Cussen**, said: "The learnings from the pandemic are already having profound impacts on planning. This ICLR research proposal fits very well with the role of the OPR and will be of great value in informing future planning thinking and practice."

**Dr Bernie O'Donoghue Hynes, Head of Research with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)**, said: "All change brings with it positive and negative benefits to a variety of stakeholders. In the context of an increase in remote working, local authorities want to try to understand the full implications of this shift in order to anticipate the potential consequences for our communities, our businesses and our environment. This will enable us to plan to maximise the opportunities and address the challenges."

**Prof Brian Donnellan, Vice President for Engagement and Innovation at Maynooth University and Executive Director of ICLR** said: "During the pandemic, we had to restrain mobility and promote social distancing. The mobility restrictions at local, regional and national levels may have pervasive effects on the way people interact and travel in the future. This study will help us explore and understand the effect of the pandemic on changes in commuting behaviour in post-COVID-19 times."



Photo credit: Jacek Dylag on Unsplash

## Maynooth University records highest number of CAO applications



Maynooth University has received its highest-ever number of applications for admission in September 2021. Almost 17,000 applicants have applied to the University, according to figures released recently by the Central Applications Office (CAO), an increase of 12% year on year.

The University plans to admit more than 3,500 students in the coming year, with the level of interest demonstrating the popularity of Maynooth University for undergraduate studies.

The increases in applications are noteworthy in areas such as Computer Science (34%) Biological & Biomedical Science (22%), Social Science (13%), Science (5%), Business (4%) and Law (4%). Maynooth's Bachelor of Arts degree continues to be the most popular course in the CAO, attracting more applications and first preferences than any other CAO course, and again this year has had an increase of 4% in applications.

Commenting on the CAO applications to the University, Prof Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, said: "These CAO figures, along with Maynooth University's unique position as the highest-ranking Irish university in the Times Higher Education 100 Best Young Universities in the world, are indicators of the successful steps the University has taken to offer 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. In choosing Maynooth University, they will join one of the leading universities in the world, with strong international connections and a lively, dynamic, and rapidly growing campus."

Prof Nolan added: "Construction of our new teaching and learning building is near completion. This will provide additional teaching space, and study space. We are now starting construction of a new Student Centre which will provide a unique space for students, underlining the University's reputation for outstanding student experience, a strong sense of community, and a rich social and cultural life."





## Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 29/06/2021 to 27/07/2021 - 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
211058	Kildare County Council	Anne Gallagher	26 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	20/07/2021
211065	Kildare County Council	John O'Dwyer	66 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 N6D9.	20/07/2021
211048	Kildare County Council	Breezy Point Capital Limited	Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	19/07/2021
21310865	Kildare County Council	Cairn Homes	Maynooth, Co. Kildare	16/07/2021
211029	Kildare County Council	John O'Dwyer	66 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	13/07/2021
211028	Kildare County Council	Mary Mooney	Toolstown, Maynooth, County Kildare, W23 YX05	13/07/2021
21993	Kildare County Council	Michael Donovan & Maeve Donovan	Maynooth Road, Straffan, Co. Kildare	06/07/2021

### Some of the top places to visit in County Kildare

#### Donadea Forest Park

There are three beautiful walking trails in Donadea Forest Park worth visiting. For a short 30minute stroll, there is the Lake Walk which is a lovely looped walk around the lake. The 1.6km Nature Trail is another, one which winds its way through some of the impressive architecture of the estate. Finally, the Aylmer Walk is a 6km Slí na Slainte trail which takes you all around the park.

#### Canal walks

For a bigger challenge, there are the two beautiful canal walks, the Grand Canal and the Royal Canal. The Grand Canal is a 117km long route running from Adamstown, Co Dublin to the Shannon Harbour. Take on some of the shorter Kildare sections along grassy towpaths by picturesque locks and lock-keepers cottages. The Royal Canal Way is the other canal. A 144km long route runs almost parallel to the Grand Canal from Ashtown, Co Dublin to Abbeyshrule, Co Longford.

#### Paddle your own canoe

With two canals and the River Barrow flowing through Kildare, kayaking is an obvious choice. Kayaking.ie will take you on a gentle kayaking tour of the Royal Canal Blueway. The two and a half hour tour is suitable for complete beginners. If you are a seasoned kayaker, you can hire a double kayak and go it alone from Leixlip Confey to Clonsilla or Castleknock. Or if you have some annual leave to use up, you should take a few days and spend four days canoeing from Athy to St. Mullins with Paddle Your Own Canoe. You can hire all your equipment (including camping gear) for €35 per person per day. If you live in Kildare, they do have their own kayaking and canoe club called Salmon Leap Canoe Club that you can join.

Source: [outsider.ie/ireland/things-to-do-kildare/](https://outsider.ie/ireland/things-to-do-kildare/)

A Canal Barge trip is a fun, relaxing and the original way to discover the Grand Canal. Get on board and discover the scenery, culture and history of the canal with the skipper as your guide.

See [Bargetrips.ie](https://Bargetrips.ie)



#### The Kildare Maze

Leinster's largest hedge maze located just outside Prosperous in North Kildare. Activities include the Hedge Maze, the Wooden Maze, Crazy Golf, Assault Course, Picnic Area and Zip Wire. A great day of fun can be had by all the family. Open seven days July & August. Online booking required morning and afternoon slots available.



#### Clonfert Farm

There are over 60 types of wonderful and exotic animals to see on the farm. A coffee shop, walkways, a picnic area, outdoor play area and indoor play area and mini golf for your enjoyment. Due to covid restrictions all tickets must be pre booked on the website and they are currently offering two hour visits.

#### Japanese Gardens & National Stud

Visit the beautiful gardens & National Stud. A great day out for all the family. All visits need to be pre-booked in advance.



#### Cycling

Take out your bicycles and get active. Follow an established cycle trail or find an off-road route. You can find other "off road" places to go on the Coillte Outdoors Website.

#### Redhills Adventure

For a seriously fun work out, you've got to try Redhills Adventure Military Style Obstacle Course. Pit yourself against your family, friends and foes as you take on cargo nets, monkey bars, balance the beams, navigate the minefield and meander the laser beams. But why stop there? Make a day of it at Redhills Adventure and spend it ziplining, orienteering, playing airsoft or archery and taking on a number of awesome team challenges.

Source: [outsider.ie/ireland/things-to-do-kildare/](https://outsider.ie/ireland/things-to-do-kildare/)

There are so many places of interest to visit in Kildare, Castletown House and grounds in Celbridge, Maynooth Castle, Kildare Town Heritage Centre, the list is endless. Enjoy some great days out with all the family.

**Please check with venues before travelling to confirm if any restrictions are in place.**



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Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and prayer & favour, will be granted no matter how impossible.  
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Plant of the Month  
How to grow, plant & care for Lavender

Lavender is a bushy, strong-scented perennial plant from the Mediterranean. Here’s how to plant, grow, and harvest lavender in the garden!



Prized for its fragrance, medicinal properties, and beautiful bluish-purple color, Lavandula angustifolia is a valued plant across the world. It also attracts pollinators to the garden. The plant is not picky and will survive in a wide range of soils, even poor soil. Its main requirements are lots of sun and good drainage. Plant lavender along the entrance to your home, or near a seating area and enjoy the beautiful colour and scent.

Where to Plant

Lavender is best planted as a young plant in the spring, after the soil has warmed up to at least 60°F (15°C) and the threat of frost has passed. If planting in the Autumn choose larger, more established plants to ensure their survival through the winter. Lavender thrives in most soil qualities, from poor to moderately fertile. If you have compacted or clay soil, add some organic matter to improve drainage. Keep away from wet, moist areas, which could encourage root rot.

Lavender isn’t easy to grow from seed, it is best to purchase small starter plants from a garden nursery. Seeds may take up to three months to germinate and seedlings will need to be overwintered indoors in cool climates. You can try taking a cutting from a mature plant, too. Take a softwood cutting of several inches in the spring or later in the summer when stems are more mature. Plant lavender 2 to 3 feet apart. Plants typically reach between 1 and 3 feet in height.

Add mulch (rock or pea gravel work particularly well) to keep weeds to a minimum. Keep the mulch away from the crown of the lavender plant, however, to prevent excess moisture and root rot.

How to care for Lavender

Water once or twice a week after planting until plants are established. Water mature plants every two to three weeks until buds form, then once or twice weekly until harvest. In colder growing areas, plants may need extra winter protection. Cover the plants with a winter mulch of evergreen boughs or straw, which will insulate from freezing winds and temperatures. Another option for cold areas is to grow lavender in a pot, keeping it outdoors in the summer and indoors in winter. While indoors, place the pot in a south-facing window with as much light as possible. Water sparingly, as the plant will be dormant at this time.

Pruning Lavender

In warm climates: all pruning can be carried out in the autumn. In cooler climate: Prune established plants in the spring when green leaves start to emerge from the base of the plant. Remove approximately one third of the top to keep the plant from becoming leggy and bare at the base. It’s important not to cut back into old wood however, as it won’t regrow from this. Leave the foliage over the winter to protect new growth from frosts, Also, the flowering stems can be harvested while in bloom or snipped off after the flowers fade to keep the plant tidy.



If you wish to harvest lavender, it’s a wonderful herb for drying. Although edible, lavender is little used in recipes. Leaves can be chopped and added sparingly to some sauces or used in shortbread biscuits

- Harvest the lavender stems when approximately half of the flower buds have opened.
- Harvest in the morning hours when the oils are the most concentrated.
- Snip off the stems just before the flowers open.
- Cut stems as long as possible. Gather into bundles and secure them with rubber bands.
- Dry the bundles of lavender by hanging them someplace sheltered, ideally a cool, dark place where there is good air circulation.

After a few weeks the flowers will have dried fully, and can be shaken gently from the stems into a lidded jar. Or, use your lavender to make lavender sachets—a lovely gift. Use your lavender sachet to keep your sheets or towels smelling sweet, to repel moths and insects, and even under your pillow for a restful night.

Lavender Scones

Ingredients

- 2 cups flour
- 2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon grated orange zest
- 2 teaspoons fresh lavender flowers, or 1 teaspoon dried
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 egg slightly beaten
- 2/3 cup buttermilk



Instructions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. In a large bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, sugar, salt, zest, and lavender. Cut in butter until mixture resembles cornmeal. Stir in egg and buttermilk with a fork. Turn dough onto a floured board and knead gently but briefly (don’t overknead).

Divide in half and pat each piece into a ¾-inch-thick round. Cut each round into six wedges and place them 1 inch apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake for 20 minutes, or until golden. Serve hot or at room temperature. Garnish with fresh lavender flowers.

**If you don’t have fresh lavender flowers, use 1 teaspoon dried. Make sure it says culinary-grade lavender (no pesticides).**

Source: [www.almanac.com/recipe/lavender-scones/](http://www.almanac.com/recipe/lavender-scones/)

[www.almanac.com/plant/lavender](http://www.almanac.com/plant/lavender)

Rozzers Restaurant at the Killeen House Hotel named Ireland’s best restaurant

Aghadoe restaurant tops TripAdvisor’s list of the top 10 best fine dining restaurants in Ireland

Killarney, July 21 –Rozzers Restaurant at the Killeen House Hotel has been named Ireland’s number one fine dining restaurant in TripAdvisor’s annual Travellers Choice Awards. The well-known travel-review website announced the winners of its annual Travellers’ Choice awards in London on Wednesday and in a top 10 list that included some of Ireland’s best-known restaurants. It is the only Hotel to feature on the list.

The restaurant is lead by Head Chef Paul O’Gorman who has been with Rozzers Restaurant for over 25 years. The restaurant combines modern Irish and classical French culinary styles, with items like Ring of Kerry lamb, Dingle Bay lobster, a variety of daily changing fresh fish dishes and Chateaubriand being constant features.

Geraldine Rosney, owner of the Killeen House Hotel and Rozzers Restaurant said: “Since we opened in 1992, we have always focused on creating memorable dining experiences using the highest quality local produce. Against the toughest year we’ve ever experienced in the Irish hospitality sector, the feedback from all those who took the time to review us on TripAdvisor is a great endorsement of the hard work and commitment of our team who share our passion in serving up incredible and memorable dining experiences at Rozzers Restaurant.

“The entire team are beyond thrilled with the news. In 2020 Rozzers Restaurant was only open for 13 weeks due to lockdown restrictions. The fact that the people who

dined with us during that time had such a positive dining experience is very special and very important to us. We could not have done this without our head chef Paul O’Gorman. For 25 years he has been a vital part of Killeen House Hotel and Rozzers Restaurant. Like a fine wine, he just gets better with age!”

In line with government guidelines, The Killeen House Hotel and Rozzers Restaurant reopened in June last month, serving dinner to residents only on a very popular “Come For Dinner, Stay For Breakfast” package which proved popular with locals.

Rozzers Restaurant will be reopening for non-residents on Monday, July 26th and Dinner is priced at €39.50 for two courses, €49.50 for three and €55.50 for four courses.

Michelle Rosney who runs the hotel alongside her mom Geraldine said: “Tuesday was one of those special days for us. Mom was busy checking in our first American guests at Killeen House Hotel since 2019 which was a real moment of optimism. With the vaccine rollout going strong and the world, and most importantly Killarney starting to open up again to get the call that we had won this accolade was incredible. We don’t have a dedicated sales and marketing team. Instead, we have a super team of real people who show up to work and take immense pride in doing their job to the best of their abilities. Awards are great but as always we aim to look after our guests and send them home happy even after they have paid the bill!”

DUBLIN CHEF SUPPORTED BY KERRYS BEST

Paul is flanked in the kitchen with Chris Scully from Beaufort and Noreen Kissane from Listowel. Both are

exceptional young chefs that have been at his side for over 7 years.

Front of house is the remarkable Valerie Callaghan O Shea from Farranfore who looks after our guests for breakfast and dinner. She has also been with the team for 7 years.

TripAdvisor's Traveller's Choice 2021 Best Fine Dining Restaurants in Ireland:

• Rozzers Restaurant, Aghadoe.

• Mulcahy's Bar and Restaurant, Kenmare.

• Paradiso, Cork.

• The Chart House, Dingle.

• Dax Restaurant, Dublin.

• SOLE Seafood and Grill, Dublin.

• Mulberry Garden, Dublin.

• Chapter One, Dublin.

• A Port Mor, Westport

• Campagne, Kilkenny

The Travellers’ Choice awards are based mainly on “the quality and quantity of traveller reviews and ratings for restaurants on Tripadvisor” and the time frame used for the 2021 awards was January 1st, 2020, to April 30th of this year.





### Summer Stars 2021

Summer Stars 2021 is in full swing across Kildare Libraries and this August is jam-packed with children's online activities for ages 0-14 years. All events are online and are listed below. If your child has not already signed up for the Summer Stars reading challenge then there is still plenty of time to do so. Summer Stars is a public library national reading incentive programme that is available free of charge for children and runs until the end of August. The programme encourages children to keep reading during the summer holidays and there will be lots of fun rewards and incentives for kids along the way. Children are invited to take part by registering in their local library where they will get a Summer Stars reading card to track their reading progress. Stamps are awarded for every book read and there are lots of great prizes to collect from pencils and bookmarks to cotton bags and notebooks. Children can complete the cards by reading themselves or being read to. There are also lots of fun events and other competitions taking place over the holidays to promote the challenge. Book Review Competition: Children can email / hand a book review into their local Kildare library and one winner from the county will be chosen every week to win a book token. A selection of entries will also be published in the Leinster Leader each week.

**Story competition:** As well as enjoying the amazing world of books, Summer Stars is also celebrating children's imaginations by running a [short story competition](#). There are three age categories with great prizes for all the winners and runners-up.

**Books:** Kildare Libraries are open so you can call in to stock up on Summer reads and register for Summer Stars! To book a browsing slot for your local library go to <https://www.kildare.ie/library/OnlineBookingSystem/>

**Summer Stars BorrowBox:** Browse, borrow, read and listen to the Summer Stars collection of children's e-books and e-audiobooks through the library's BorrowBox app. This is free for all members to use from anywhere, anytime. Non-members can join online for free at <https://www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library>

### Summer Stars Events

A Harry Potter Event for all the Family—Interview with Neil Paul, former lighting and special effects expert on the Harry Potter movie franchise

**Thursday, 29th July, 7pm**

Calling all muggles and wizards. Join us for a very special behind-the-scenes talk with Neil Paul, a former lighting and special effects expert on the Harry Potter movie franchise. It was a very important day in the life of Harry Potter – the day that Sirius Black was killed by Voldemort. What happened when Neil arrived at the Leavesden Studios in London, to help with the filming on that fateful day? All will be revealed on 29th July, when you visit (virtually) Tertulia, a bookshop in the west of Ireland like no other, where Neil Paul now works. The interview will be filmed from the amazing Harry Potter corner, with a cupboard under the stairs and lots of memorabilia from the sets of Harry Potter. There'll also be plenty of opportunity for questions and answers about Harry Potter and how the magic of the books was translated to the big screen. Suitable for all Harry Potter fans young and old.

Booking Via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/161015001203>

### Take and Make Treasure Box Kit

**Tuesday 3rd to Saturday 7th August**

Your very own treasure box! This step-by-step craft kit has been prepared by Sheila from Leixlip Library for you to make at home. These kits can be collected from Leixlip Community Library from the 3rd to the 7th August. Ring Leixlip Community Library at 01-6060050 to place a hold on a kit. First come first served. Suitable for 6-9-year-olds.

### Ears, Teeth, Tails and Feet – A Workshop with Dublin Zoo for 6-8-year-olds

**Thursday August 5th at 10am via Zoom**

Join Dublin Zoo for an exciting workshop – over the session children will learn the following and much more:

- How to differentiate between predators and prey.
- Key features of big cats – dentition, carnivorous and shape.
- How to understand the topic of camouflage and how animals are adapted to different environments.

An adult must be present for the duration of the workshop which will take place through Zoom.

**Booking via Eventbrite below, one booking per person attending, not per screen:** <https://5augustsummerstars.eventbrite.ie>

### Find a Story “Interactive Storytime with Sarah Sparkles”

Friday 6th August at 10am Suitable for ages 5+

Can you solve the clues, sing the songs, find some objects in your home and help Sarah create a unique story before the time runs out? This event will be facilitated via Zoom.

Booking via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/163176207429>

### Whodunnit? Drama Workshop - The Art Heist Edition with Bombinate Theatre

**Saturday August 7th, 10.30am-12pm Suitable for ages 9-12**

Mamma Mia! The precious and much-loved Shona Lisa has been stolen from our very famous art gallery. We are calling all young detectives to this online workshop to help us solve this heinous crime. This workshop is an hour and a half long, taking place over Zoom. First we will play some drama games. Then your child will be sent a unique character in the Zoom chat function. Each child will have time to find a costume and practice their introductions. When they return to the Zoom they will cross-examine one another and try to figure out whodunnit. Facilitated by Bombinate Theatre, the award-winning creators behind Half Light and Susie and the Story Shredder years. Booking via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/163428650493>

### Take and Make a Card for Someone Special Kit

Monday 9th to Saturday 14th August Suitable for 7-10-year-olds.

Sheila from Leixlip Library has put together a fun card making kit for you to do at home. These kits can be collected from Leixlip Community Library from the 9th to the 14th August. Ring Leixlip Library at 01-6060050 to place a hold on a kit. First come first served. Summer Stars: Yoga & Storytime Camp

**Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th & Thursday at 12th of August, from 10.00am-11.00am**

Must be available to attend all 3 days Suitable for ages 3-9 years

Yoga through story telling is a great way to support children's wellbeing. Yoga can assist in enhancing a child's physical, social and emotional development. Some of the benefits include: strength and balance, an increase in self-esteem and a decrease in anxiety. The storytelling aspect of the workshops enriches the children's imagination and provides both a visual and audio learning experience. This event will be facilitated via Zoom.

### Outline of workshop

Begins with breathing exercises which provide children with an awareness of the breath and the calming effect it can have when they are faced with difficulties.

A warm-up rhyme with actions.

Yoga through storytelling.

Song with actions. Ends with a relaxation/meditation.

**Booking via Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/161197906277>

### Twinkle Kids Art & Music Workshop for 0-6-Year-Olds

**Tuesday 10th August at 3pm**

Let's get creative through storytelling, songs and art! Katie from Twinkle Kids will lead your family through a fantastic story "The Rainbow Fish" using her fun Story Sack. We will then create a beautiful masterpiece using simple items you have at home! Our art project can be adapted for any age so the whole family can be involved!

**Book your place via Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/twinkle-kids-art-music-workshop-for-0-6-year-olds-tickets-160542138859>

### Code Your Own Computer Game Workshop with Bricks4kidz

**Wednesday 11th August, 11am-1pm Suitable for ages 9-12 years**

Join us for a fun 2-hour workshop with Bricks4kidz where you'll learn how to use Scratch coding to build and play your very own video game. Kids will need access to a PC, Laptop, Tablet, or iPad for the workshop.

**Booking via Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/163423140011>

### Writing Workshop with Emma Jane Leeson

**Wednesday 11th August at 12pm Suitable for ages 7-13 years**

During this workshop we will discuss the basics of story writing and will then have lots of fun writing and creating short stories using text and visual prompts. This is very interactive, and children will read their stories out loud in a supportive and encouraging environment. This workshop will be facilitated via Zoom. A downloadable worksheet will be provided.

**Booking via Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/163507367939>

### Amazing Avocado Interactive Magic Show for 3-6-Year-Olds

**Wednesday 11th August at 3pm**

A fun, interactive Zoom magic show aimed at children aged three to six. Sit back and laugh at 30 minutes of magic and mayhem. See objects appear and disappear and the children can join in too. Very fun. Very interactive. A flight of fancy into imagination and beyond. The Amazing Avocado is performed by Jeff Keough. Jeff has been performing professionally for over 25 years, regularly tours Ireland and Northern Ireland as a performer and writes his own shows. Jeff is a graduate of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey's Clown College, has performed at The White House, Leinster House, and his daughter's Senior Infant Class. Jeff is skilled at magic, juggling, clowning, and loves to make people of all ages laugh.

**Book via Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/amazing-avocado-show-interactive-magic-show-for-3-6-year-olds-tickets-160536455861>

### Ice-pop and Smoothie Cooking Class with the Cool Food School

**Monday 16th August at 11am Suitable for ages 6-11 years**

Join us for a fun, interactive summer cooking workshop. Deirdre from The Cool Food School will be making healthy smoothie ice pops and BBQ bananas! Deirdre has been

(Continued on page 20)



(Continued from page 19)

teaching fun food education and cooking for children since 2018. Health coach and mum of three, Deirdre loves nothing better than a dance around the kitchen, sharing fun food facts and teaching children to make healthy, delicious food! Adult supervision required. This event will be facilitated via Zoom.

**Booking via Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/163722244641>

**Furry Friends and Feathery Fiends Family Event (also ASD Friendly)**  
**Tuesday 17th August at 10.30am Suitable for all children aged 6+**

**This event is suitable for children with ASD also.**

Join author and illustrator Alan Nolan in this family event as he talks about feathery fiends from his last book, 'Sam Hannigan and the Last Dodo', and furry friends from his new book (with Sarah Webb) 'Animal Crackers'. Learn how to draw some cool animals, and play along with Alan's hot new quiz show Alive, Extinct or Just Plain Stinky! Please note children will need paper and a pencil and /or colours.

**Book via Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/furry-friends-and-feathery-fiends-family-event-also-asd-friendly-tickets-161135950967>

**Twinkle Kids Storytime & Rhyme**

**Tuesday 17th August at 3pm Suitable for 0-3-year-olds**

Twinkle Kids will bring you and your little one all the fun virtually in our storytime and Rhyme session designed for 0-3-year-olds. Snuggle up for storytime with Katie as she transports you through a world of imagination and endless possibilities through storytelling, songs, props and puppets.

**Book via Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/twinkle-kids-storytime-and-rhyme-for-0-3-year-olds-tickets-160817903679>

**The Wizards Dagger - Magical Mystery workshop with Fiona Sherlock**  
**Friday 20th August at 2pm Suitable for children aged 10+.**

Jippity Umlot is the world's leading authority on wizardry, and he has been found murdered with his own dagger on the night before he is due to be awarded the community's most prestigious award, the Golden Feather. Join the leading figures from the world of wizards and witches to solve this murder mystery and discover who wanted him dead? Join Fiona Sherlock for an interactive detective workshop that will have children solve puzzles together to work out the clues and solve the mystery of the wizard dagger. This workshop will be conducted via zoom and each participant will have a script that they will need to be able to read on another device or have printed beforehand in the session. Scripts will be sent out a few days before the event. An adult must be present.

**Booking via Eventbrite below, one booking per person attending,**  
**not screen:** <https://summerstars20august.eventbrite.ie>

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## Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee pays tribute to Josephine Moore



Many of you will now be aware that Josephine Moore has stepped down from her role as Chairperson of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee. Jo has been the longest serving Chairperson by far having taken on the role in 1993 until the present. On behalf of the committee, I would like to express our thanks to her not only for her commitment to the organisation but also for her development of it bringing it to what it is today.

Maynooth Senior Citizens was founded in 1965, designated as the "Year of Old People". The Maynooth branch of the Red Cross and the County Medical Officer instigated the move and on 31 May 1965, the new committee was formed. The core value of the group was to help senior citizens, who wished it, to remain in their own homes. Isolation, loneliness, cold and poor diet were identified as the main threats to older people living alone. Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee under the guidance of Jo has put in place measures to address these issues at the time and enhanced the services on behalf of our senior citizens.

The Committee worked with two main aims in mind. Activities that underpinned social inclusion and those that addressed security and safety concerns and as with any organisation there was always fundraising activities to fulfil the aims and objects.

There is the organizing of the monthly tea dances, the Club activities on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, outings, Christmas Shopping night, (Supervalu) and the annual Christmas Dinner (Glenroyal Hotel). Security of senior citizens in their own homes is a key priority. In 1994, a survey was undertaken of older people's homes and as a result, many smoke alarms, safety chains, door and window locks were installed. Up until now Jo has been our representative on the Senior Alert Scheme under the auspices of Pobal. There is also a fuel provision arrangement, and transportation is organized for the weekly club and other outings.

In terms of fundraising, the committee through Jo had built up strong relationships with the community over the years and they have been consistent supporters of the organisation. Their financial support and personal efforts on behalf of Maynooth Senior Citizens is never taken for granted. Another example of fundraising activities is the Annual Sale of Work, a mammoth task in itself. Again, so well organized by Jo, and it is a real community "meitheal", a social event that is marked in everyone's calendar and it raises the much-needed funds to carry out the activities mentioned.

Jo's leadership and organisational skills shone out. She was instrumental in creating a committee that runs like a well-oiled machine. Her breadth of

experience from her career in the HSE was also a great benefit to the committee. Jo believed in the group and was passionate about it.

Jo was not content to let it go at that. As a true local social historian, she made sure the history of the organisation was recorded in publications. One of her first endeavours on becoming chairperson in 1993 was the publication *Recollections: Memories by Maynooth Senior Citizens* to mark the European Year of Older People. What a great way give voice our senior citizens. In 1995, for the 30th anniversary of the organisation Jo oversaw the publication of *The Pearl Jubilee Souvenir Booklet* written by Mary Cullen again with contributions from the Committee. 1999 was designated the International Year of the Older Person and to mark that, Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee published *Independent Living for Older People: a study*, encompassing the theme "towards a society for all ages". And finally, for now, in 2015 there came *Celebrating the Past: Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee Shaping the Future: The Golden Years 1965-2015* for which Jo secured the sponsorship of Blue Insurance.

Around 2010/2011 The 8th Kildare Scouts applied for tenancy of the Geraldine Hall to KCC. This involved the support of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee under Jo's leadership and which led to Maynooth Senior Citizens having a formal base in the Hall for the morning Club and committee meetings since 2015.

A lot of initiatives and developments have been undertaken taken since 1993. Speaking on behalf of our now Chairperson Patricia Cusker, Catherine Mulready (Treasurer), myself and the Committee we thank Jo, Josie, Josephine (known by all three) for her passion, integrity, commitment, enthusiasm, and practical "can do" approach.

We are glad to say Jo will stay on the committee for the present which will be invaluable as the current Committee settles in. We are seeking new members to join our committee as those who are there have given long years to it. If it is to survive and to develop, we need more people to contribute their time and energy to share in what is fulfilling and rewarding experience.

On behalf of the Committee, we thank Jo for her years of service to our senior citizens in the leadership roles she occupied, which no doubt has enriched and benefited the lives of so many.

From Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.  
Susan Durack,  
Secretary.



Josephine Moore



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Co. Kildare

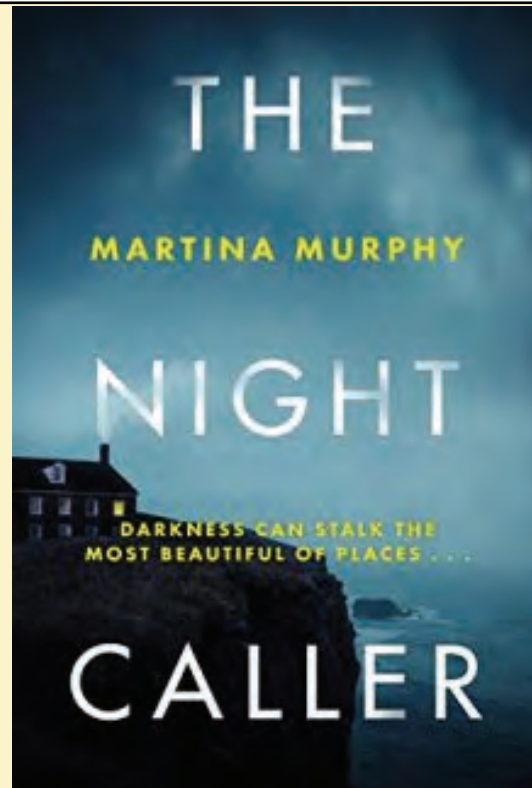
**Tel: 087 8046168**  
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**[www.topdogsgroom.com](http://www.topdogsgroom.com)**

## Congratulations to local author Martina Murphy on the publication of her novel *The Night Caller*.

On Doogort East Bog, Achill Island, a body is found. The close community is stunned to learn that it's Lisa Moran, a popular teacher who disappeared two days earlier.

DS Lucy Golden is assigned to the case. For her, it's personal. As an Achill native, she knows that sometimes great evil can lurk in plain sight. Having moved back from Dublin, she has spent the last ten years trying to prove herself to her colleagues after her husband was jailed for fraud. This is her chance to put the past behind her. Her teenage son Luc's behaviour, however, is increasingly troubling and Lucy doesn't have time for distractions.

When another body is found in an abandoned property on the bog, with links to a murder 20 years ago, the stakes are raised - but a pattern is emerging. Can Lucy put the pieces together? Or will her family crisis mean the murderer claims his next victim?



*The Night Caller is Martina Murphy's twenty-first book. She has previously written under the name of Martina Reilly and Tina Reilly. Her YA novel, Dirt Tracks won a Bisto Book merit award while another YA book Livewire was awarded an International White Raven award. Something Borrowed, a commercial fiction book – also starring a Lucy! – was long-listed for an IMPAC award.*

*Her books have been on best-seller lists they have been translated into many languages and she has adapted some of them for the stage.*



# Water Safety

## Water safety tips

- Learn to swim and learn lifesaving skills (including CPR).
- instructions are available from approved training providers. See [www.safetyzone.ie](http://www.safetyzone.ie) for more information.
- When entering an aquatic environment ensure you are experienced or you are with somebody who is experienced. Inform others on shore of your plans and time of return.
- Note the location of the nearest ringbuoy in case of emergency.
- When engaging in aquatic activities, do not drink beforehand.
- Swim at designated, lifeguarded waterways and beaches, between the flags, where possible. Stay within your depth.
- Follow all orders from lifeguards, and pay attention to all signs.
- Ask locals and lifeguards for advice about hazards and dangers in unfamiliar aquatic settings.
- Always wear a personal flotation device/lifejacket when boating or angling and ensure that it has correctly fitting straps.
- Wear suitable clothing such as a wet suit or warm water-proof clothing.
- Shore and beach walkers should stay away from the edge and be vigilant to the dangers of stranding by incoming tides.
- Always carry a mobile phone, and in an emergency ring 112 or 999 – ask to speak to the Coast Guard.
- Check the weather forecast and time of tides before going into or near water.
- Never enter the water at night or when darkness is approaching.
- Do not use inflatable toys in open water or swim out after anything drifting.



## Safe swimming

Swim at designated bathing areas where lifeguards are on duty. See listings at [www.watersafety.ie](http://www.watersafety.ie). If there are no designated bathing areas near you, then swim at known safe traditional bathing areas where there are ringbuoys erected. Always ensure that the ringbuoy is in its yellow box before entering the water. Make sure that the edges are shallow shelving so that you can safely and easily enter and exit the water:

- Know the tides and be conscious of currents.
- Never jump or dive in case of hidden hazards.
- Stay within your depth and swim parallel to shore.
- Never put pressure on others to take risks.
- Learn to use equipment before trying it out.
- Enter cool water slowly allowing your body to acclimatise.
- To escape a rip current sweeping you out to sea, remain calm and swim parallel to shore until free.
- Never swim when you are hot or tired.
- Don't swim in Quarries, ESB Reservoirs and tail races.

## Cold water Immersion/Shock

When cold water makes contact with your skin, the cold shock response causes an immediate loss of breathing control, possible dizziness and panic. This dramatically increases the risk of sudden drowning even if the water is calm and you know how to swim. For those who survive this, but are unable to get out of the water, progressive body cooling leads to hypothermia and muscle cooling, making swimming more difficult or impossible. Children cool even faster than adults.

If you fall in to cold water avoid swimming, stay calm and relax. Float or tread water and if possible get as much of your body out of the water. To lessen heat escape keep your legs together and elbows by your side.

## Hypothermia

Coastal walks present a high risk of stranding as people may become trapped by incoming tides. Avoid walking on sandbanks and keep children at a safe distance from the edges of rivers, canals and inland waterways. Water temperatures can be cold, which puts people at risk of cold shock and hypothermia if suddenly immersed. For more information about symptoms, prevention and follow up hypothermia techniques go to [www.watersafety.ie](http://www.watersafety.ie).

## How to use a ringbuoy

- Stand back from the shore edge and establish voice contact with the person, shouting 'Kick your legs!'.
- Look for the nearest ringbuoy (yellow box).
- Secure the end of the rope or hold it in your hand.
- Holding the ringbuoy, swing back, then release forward with an under-arm throw, shouting 'Ringbuoy! Ringbuoy! Ringbuoy!'.
- Aim to land the ringbuoy beyond the person, so the ringbuoy can be pulled into their grasp.
- Instruct the person to hold the ringbuoy. Slowly pull them to land, reassuring them.
- Get others to help you, if available.

## Rip currents

Rips are strong currents that start near the shore and rush out seaward, quickly taking you out of your comfort zone, from the shallows to deeper water. Rip currents are the leading surf hazard for all beachgoers. They are particularly dangerous for weak or non-swimmers. Rip currents most typically form at low spots or breaks in sandbars, and also near structures such as groynes, jetties and piers.

How to identify rip currents:

- A channel of churning, choppy, green, deeper water.
- An area having a notable difference in water colour, normally dark green or blue in sunshine.
- A line of foam, seaweed, or debris moving steadily seaward.
- A break in the incoming wave pattern.

Rip currents are often not readily or easily identifiable to the average beachgoer. Polarized sunglasses make it easier to see the rip currents. Ask a lifeguard for advice.

Remember: Green water is mean; white water is nice.

Tips for surviving a rip current:

- If caught in a rip current, remain calm to conserve energy and think clearly.
- Do not try to swim against the current. Swim out of the current in a direction following the shoreline. When out of the current, swim towards shore.
- If you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water. When out of the current, swim towards shore.
- If you are still unable to reach shore, draw attention to yourself by facing the shore and calling for help.
- If you see someone in trouble, get help from a lifeguard. If a lifeguard is not available, have.
- Throw the rip current victim something that floats and yell instructions on how to escape.
- Remember, many people drown while trying to save someone else from a rip current.

## Water Quality

Bathers should check the EPA's bathing water website, to find out which beaches have safe water quality. The website shares the latest information on over 200 bathing waters sampled by local authorities during the bathing water season, which runs from 1st June to 15th September. Information on weather, tides and amenities are also available.

(Continued on page 23)



(Continued from page 22)

Water safety in and around the home

Each year, children die in drowning accidents in or near their home. Children are most at risk because they feel that their house is safe but there are many dangers.

Remember drowning can occur in very shallow water, in such places as:

- Streams.
- Drains at the end of a garden.
- Fish or garden ponds.
- Play pools or swimming pools.
- Wells.
- Barrels or water tanks.
- Septic tanks or slurry pits.

Know the dangers around the home:

- Adults should fence off any rivers, streams or drains running near the home.
- An adult should always supervise playtime in paddling pools.
- Paddling pools should be emptied straight away after use.
- Holes or drains left exposed after building work should be closed.
- Private swimming pools should be fenced in.
- Swimming pools should have covers that can be firmly secured.
- If your home is on a farm, keep away from slurry pits.
- Rain barrels, water tanks, wells and fish ponds should be covered with wire mesh or metal grids.
- Ensure pets are adequately catered for during warm weather.

Learn how to help:

- If you see someone in difficulty dial 999 or 112 and ask for the Coast Guard.
- You, your family and your friends can learn water safety swimming, lifesaving and rescue skills at [www.watersafety.ie](http://www.watersafety.ie).

Water Safety Information is translated into Irish, Belarusian, Chinese, Czech, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian and Slovakian. See [www.watersafety.ie](http://www.watersafety.ie).

Coastal And Water Based Activities

The Coast Guard has overall responsibility for coordinating Search and Rescue at sea, on Ireland’s coast and on designated inland waterways. The Coast Guard also assists with inland search and rescue and provides a 24/7 service.

Coast Guard services can be contacted by:

- Dialling 112/999 and asking for the Coast Guard.
- Marine VHF radio.
- Activating a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB).

All those planning to go to sea on any craft are urged to carry marine VHF equipment as the primary means of distress and safety communication. In addition, the carriage of an EPIRB and/or PLB as a secondary means of distress alerting is strongly advised. Mobile telephones should NOT be considered as a suitable substitute.

Before considering any water-based or coastal activity during the summer months, the Coast Guard recommends that you first, ‘PAUSE’.

Plan your activity carefully, detail where you are going and how, what clothing (or PPE) may be required to stay protected from the sun, from the water and for any sudden change in weather, and who you will inform of your intentions (e.g. Where you’re going, Who you’re with and When you’re due to return).

Always bring a means of effectively communicating your distress, sufficient water and the correct equipment for the activity you’re

considering. Know how to use your equipment in an emergency and always wear a Personal Flotation Device/Lifejacket when near or on the water.

Use readily available sources of information to check the environmental conditions (weather and tides) in advance of your trip.

Seek help immediately if you or someone you observe is possibly in difficulty by calling 999/112 or using VHF Radio - Ch: 16 and asking for the Coast Guard.

Enjoy Ireland’s wonderful outdoors safely and act responsibly.

Remember: if in doubt - shout!

Be Water Smart

All year round, but especially in summer, we should all be mindful of the amount of water we use, and try to use only what we need.

In the bathroom

Have a shower instead of a bath. Showers use only half the amount of water required for a bath. Spend less time in the shower. An average shower uses 10 litres of water per minute, so taking a shorter shower will save water.

Remember to turn off the tap when brushing your teeth. A running tap can use up to six litres of water per minute.

In the kitchen

Make sure your washing machine and dishwasher are always fully loaded before putting on a wash to save water and money on energy bills.

Use a basin in the sink. A basin is useful for washing dishes by hand or collecting the water you use to rinse fruit and vegetables, which can then be used for watering plants. Keep a jug of water in the fridge. Waiting for a tap to run cold water to drink can waste more than 10 litres of water in a day.

In the garden

Use a rose head watering can in the garden and a bucket and sponge to wash your car. A hose uses more water in one hour than the average family uses in a day. Water your plants in the early morning or late evening. This saves water evaporating and avoids scorching your plants too. Add layers of plant material, like bark or straw, to your garden soil to help it retain more water.

The story of water

For more general information on the critical value of our most precious natural resource. See the story of water documentary here. It presents a unique perspective on the ongoing national project to upgrade the country’s drinking water supply and wastewater treatment.

For business

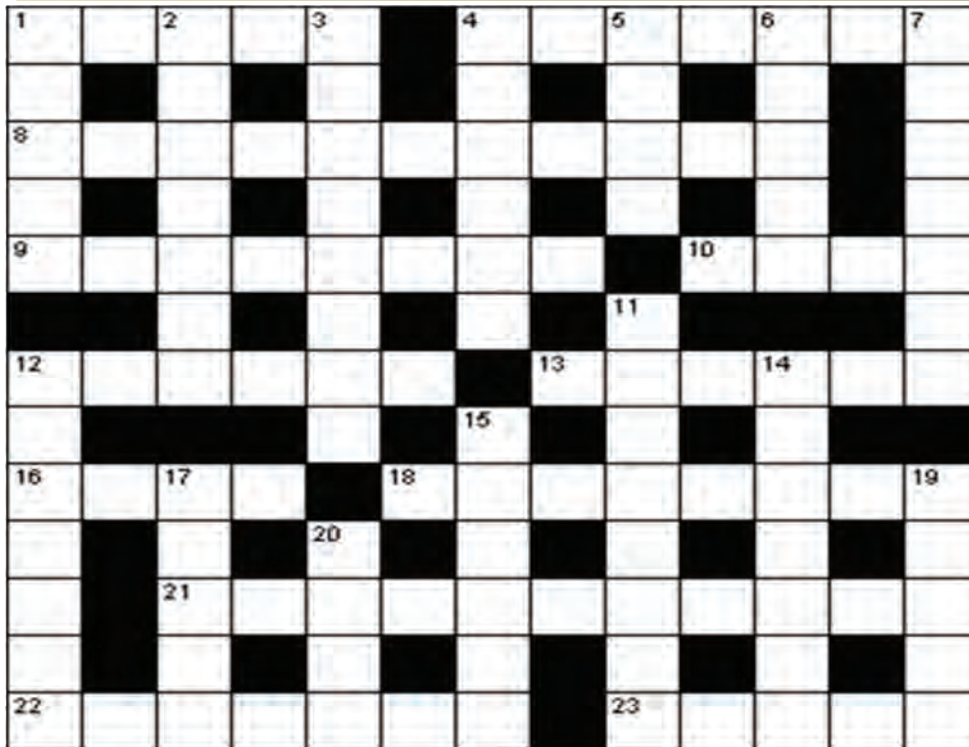
You can consider upgrading to more water efficient appliances. For example water efficient taps, shower heads, toilets, and dishwashers can make a big difference. Choosing to implement waterless processes can dramatically reduce your company’s water footprint. This can include air-vacuums, high-pressure air jets, and dry sweeping.

There are cheaper alternatives too. You can retrofit a dual flush system into older toilets or invest in toilet cistern bags. Businesses with showers may also wish to invest in shower timers. Find out more at [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie). If there are plants within the building, try to choose ones that need less water i.e. cacti, peace lilies, aloe vera and jade plants. If you have outdoor plants, water them in the morning before the sun gets too hot and evaporates the water.

Source: <https://www.gov.ie/>



## July 2021 Crossword - No. 503



## Solution to Crossword No.502



### Clues Across

1. Young person (5)      16. Movable barrier (4)  
 4. Sharp pointed implements (7)      18. Drover (8)  
 8. Butterfly larva (11)      21. Glorious (11)  
 9. Exhilarated (8)      22. Scaling devices (7)  
 10. Yield (4)      23. Surface boundaries (5)  
 12. Humble (6)  
 13. Ineffectual (6)

### Clues down

1. Luxury craft (5)      11. Sudden unexpected event (8)  
 2. Articulated (7)      12. Sorcerous (7)  
 3. Innocuous (8)      14. Mass of frozen water (7)  
 4. Disturbances (6)      15. Furniture items (6)  
 5. Snakelike fish (4)      17. Diffident (5)  
 6. Big (5)      19. Days of the month (5)  
 7. Earnest (7)      20. Fiend (4)

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 (27) only.

### Difficult

### Sudoku Challenge

### Super Difficult

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

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

### Phrases we use every day sourced from the book Red Herrings and White Elephants by Albert Jack

**All In the Same Boat** is an expression used to illustrate a group of people all facing exactly the same benefit, or adverse affect, of a particular event. The phrase has a nautical origin and alludes to sailors in high seas all facing exactly the same peril should the ship go down, regardless of whether they were the captain or a lowly deck hand. Everybody faced the same risk.

**To Pay Through The Nose** is an odd expression. It is taken to mean we have paid a price far too high for goods or services. The origin of this lies in the Viking invasion of the British Isles during the ninth century. The Danes had particularly strict tax laws, which were applied with relish every time

they invaded a foreign land. In Ireland the Vikings levied an especially high tax which they called the 'Nose Tax'. The reason for that was any citizen failing to pay had their nose either slit open or cut off altogether. This charming behavior continued until the genial Viking leader, Eric Bloodaxe, was killed by the English warrior King Edred at the Battle of Stainmore in 954.

**To Win Hands Down** suggests a very comfortable victory. This is a wisely used expression in the world of sport and its roots can be found in the sport of kings, horse racing. Even today, when a jockey is winning comfortably he can gallop down the finishing straight without using his whip to encourage the nag along. Instead he can place both hands back on the reins, canter to the line and 'win with his hands down'.



## Junior Puzzle Corner



### BEACH CROSSWORD



### MAYNOOTH CASTLE KEEP ART GROUP ART COMPETITION

Winner: Ruth Paun Age 8



### Children's Colouring

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.

#### Riddle Corner

1. What can you catch but not throw?
2. If a brother, his sister, and their dog weren't under an umbrella, why didn't they get wet?
3. What goes up but never comes back down?
4. What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
5. What travels around the world but stays in one spot?
6. When things go wrong, what can you always count on?
7. What is full of holes but still holds water?
8. What begins with a "E" but only has one letter?
9. How can a leopard change its spots?
10. What is easy to get into but hard to get out of?

Answers: 1. A cold; 2. It wasn't raining; 3. Your age; 4. Shorter (Short + "er"); 5. A stamp; 6. Your fingers; 7. A sponge; 8. An envelope; 9. By moving from one spot to another; 10. Trouble.





# August

If the weather is dry, there is no need to spray for Blackspot disease of roses. If it does rain - it might be an idea to spray them. If you have early flowering shrub roses and ramblers that have finished flowering could be pruned. Take cuttings off shrubs such as Cistus,



Lavender and Weigela. Start saving seeds. Remember to label them when storing them. Remove any diseased foliage now before it ends up in the compost heap. Begin dividing perennials. Don't forget to continue to water the plants especially check containers and hanging baskets as they tend to dry out quicker. Also feed them too. Water Hydrangeas with Hydrangea colorant for true blue Hydrangeas next year.



Prune climbing and rambling roses. Some bulbs can be planted now such as Daffodils and Madonna lilies. Hebes and Lavenders can be lightly pruned after flowering. Don't forget that hedges can be given a final trim now. Raise the blades on your lawnmower before cutting lawns that are fine. It will help reduce drought stress. Lawn weedkillers are not as good this time of year, it works better in cooler, damper autumn weather. Keep pulling those weeds as soon as they appear.

Plant trees, shrubs and perennials now, so they can take root and also keep them well watered. Re-pot indoor plants in fresh soil. Bring any houseplants indoors therefore getting them used to limited sun and humidity. You can also bring some outdoor plants inside to over-winter. Towards the end of this month sow seeds of hardy annuals directly into borders.

Check that your mulch hasn't decomposed and add more if necessary. Keep deadheading and harvesting flowers and vegetables. This will encourage them to keep growing. Begin planting vegetables for the winter such as green onions, Carrots, Beets, Lettuce, Spinach, Radishes and Winter Cauliflower directly into the garden early this month.

Continue to cut out old fruited canes on Raspberries. Lift and pot up Strawberry runners. Apples are nearing ripeness. Tip - hang old CD's from fishing line in trees to discourage birds from attacking fruit. Pick herbs for drying. Harvesting them will keep them growing longer. If it is hot and humid beware of potato blight, spray with a chemical fungicide if the weather looks ominous. Harvest Blackberries, Raspberries, Gooseberries, Redcurrants and Blackcurrants.

Paint fences, sheds and any wooden structures with a preservative. Clean patios and hard surfaces to get rid of any moss and algae. This will prevent them getting slippery in the winter months. Fix any broken glass and check the guttering in the greenhouse. Keep ponds topped up and don't forget any water features too. Remove faded flowers and yellow leaves. Cut back the foliage. Clearing out fallen debris often will help keep algal growth down.



*To plant a garden - is to believe in tomorrow!!*

## Herbed ricotta and fresh tomatoes tart

### Ingredients:

- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry (from 17.3-oz package), thawed
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- Kosher salt
- Pepper
- 1 lemon
- 2 scallions, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
- 1 lb. heirloom tomatoes (various colours and sizes), sliced or halved
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1/4 cup small fresh mint leaves
- Flaky sea salt, for sprinkling



### Directions:

1. Heat oven to 200°C and place oven rack in lower third of oven. Unfold pastry onto piece of parchment paper and roll 1/2 inch bigger on all sides. Slide parchment (and pastry) onto baking sheet.
2. Using paring knife, score 1/2-inch border all the way around pastry. Lightly brush border with egg. Using fork, poke middle of pastry all over, then bake until golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, in medium bowl, combine ricotta and 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper. Finely grate zest of lemon into bowl and squeeze in 2 teaspoon juice; mix to combine. Fold in scallions and parsley. Spread onto middle of pastry.
4. Arrange tomatoes on tart, drizzle with oil and sprinkle with mint, sea salt, and freshly ground pepper.

## Apple cake

### Ingredients:

#### For the cake:

- 3 cup plus 3 tbsp. all-purpose flour, divided
- 1 tbsp. baking powder
- 3/4 tsp. Kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. ginger
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. ground all spice
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground nutmeg
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) cold butter, cut into small cubes
- 3 large eggs
- 3/4 cup heavy cream
- 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 lb. (3 large) granny smith apples, thinly sliced into 1/4-inch pieces
- 3 tbsp. brown sugar, for topping



#### For the custard sauce:

- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 4 large egg yolks
- 1 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1 vanilla bean, halved (or 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract)

### Directions:

#### Make the cake:

- Preheat oven to 180°. Butter a 9" spring form pan and line the sides and bottom with parchment.
- In a medium bowl, whisk together 3 cups flour, baking powder, salt, spices, and sugar. Add cubed butter and incorporate with your hands until you have no large pieces left and mixture resembles sand. Whisk in eggs, heavy cream, and vanilla.
- Toss sliced apples with remaining 3 tablespoons flour until evenly coated, then fold into batter. Transfer cake batter to prepared pan and sprinkle evenly all over with brown sugar. Bake until apples are very tender and a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean, about 1 hour and 20 minutes. Let cool completely in the pan before removing.

#### Make the custard sauce:

- In a heatproof bowl, whisk sugar and yolks until lightened in colour, about 6 minutes. In a medium, heavy-bottomed sauce pan over medium-low heat, add vanilla bean seeds and pod and heavy cream. (If using vanilla extract, add once custard is removed from heat.) Cook mixture, watching carefully, until just boiling. Remove from heat, and whisk a few tablespoons of hot cream into sugar-yolk mixture. Gradually add in remaining cream, whisking constantly.
- Return custard to pot and continue to cook over medium-low heat, stirring constantly until just thickened (do not boil!) — check consistency by dipping a wooden spoon in, then running a finger along back; the streak should stay intact.
- Immediately remove from heat and pour through a fine-mesh strainer into a bowl. Let cool.



# FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

## Robin Williams: A Tribute



Robin Williams would have celebrated his 70th Birthday on 21 July but for his untimely and tragic passing in 2014. The loss of Williams left a huge void in the entertainment industry; that spark of creative genius, and his own special brand of manic energy sadly extinguished forever.



Known for his legendary improvisation/mimicry skills, Robin Williams was one of the most beloved comedians/actors of the modern era. Robin was also a kind, generous man and humanitarian, a larger-than-life persona who left an indelible impression on everyone he met.

- ♦ Williams graduated from Redwood High School where he was voted "Least Likely to Succeed." When Robin began training at the prestigious Juilliard School, he was told to focus more on his stand-up comedy rather than waste time in acting classes. Thankfully, this early criticism did not deter Williams from pursuing his acting dreams.
- ♦ To make money as a struggling actor, Williams would perform mime acts on the streets outside of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



- ♦ During his audition for the role of Mork, producer Garry Marshall asked Williams to sit down for the interview. So, Williams sat on his head. Marshall hired him almost immediately because, "He was the only alien who auditioned."
- ♦ Robin Williams was so good at improvisation that the writers of *Mork & Mindy* would deliberately leave gaps in the screenplay for him to fill in.
- ♦ Williams was considered for the lead role in the horror movie *The Shining* but, after seeing *Mork & Mindy*, Stanley Kubrick rejected the idea because he considered Williams "too psychotic."

- ♦ Ironically, Williams's favourite celebrity to impersonate was Jack Nicholson. While the actor reckoned that *Saturday Night Live* comedian/impressionist Dana Carvey did the best take-off of him.
- ♦ Robin Williams's first movie breakout role came from his starring role in Barry Levinson's *Good Morning Vietnam*. The movie earned Williams an Oscar nomination for Best Actor. Interestingly, Williams was allowed to play the role without a script, improvising most of his lines. Over the microphone, Robin let his creative juices flow and created voice impressions of many celebrities and politicians.



- ♦ Williams had studied acting with *Superman* actor Christopher Reeve. The two remained good friends until Reeve's death in 2004. A week after Reeve's horse-riding accident, Williams turned up at the hospital, dressed from head to toe in scrubs, spoke with a Russian accent, and had a surgical mask on. Reeve stated that his friend's antics was the first time he had laughed following the accident, and that it prevented him from sinking into a deep despair.
- ♦ Actor Ethan Hawke recalled how, while working on *Dead Poets Society*, Williams was hard on him. "I really wanted to be in character, and I really didn't want to laugh." He related how Robin made fun of him. "Oh this one doesn't want to laugh." Hawke had assumed Williams hated him during filming. After the production ended, Hawke received a phone call from Williams's agent, who (at Williams's suggestion) wanted to sign Hawke. Hawke said he still has the same agent today.



- ♦ Director Steven Spielberg shared that Williams would call him once a week during the filming of *Schindler's List*. "Robin knew what I was going through (making this movie) and once a week, Robin would call me and he would do 15 minutes of stand-up on the phone," Spielberg found it a great release

from the tension of filming his Holocaust movie, and would laugh uproariously at Williams.

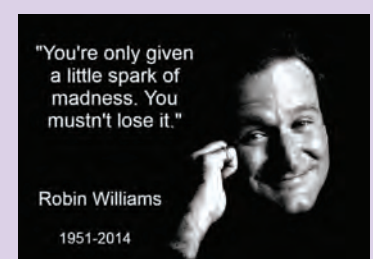
- ♦ The 1992 success of Disney's *Aladdin*, in which Williams voiced Genie, was revolutionary in that it led to more celebrities voicing animated characters. Previously, the profession of voice acting was centred on artists specifically trained to provide voices for animated characters. Since *Aladdin*, big actor names have attached themselves to more animated films, such as *The Lion King* and *Toy Story*.



- ♦ When filming the weepie drama *Awakenings*, Robin Williams accidentally hit his co-star Robert De Niro in the face with his elbow, breaking De Niro's nose. De Niro later commented that his nose had been broken before, in the opposite direction, and this injury straightened it back out!
- ♦ Williams was nominated for an Oscar several times. In March 1998, Robin was rewarded with a Best Supporting Actor Award (for the first and only time) for his amazing performance as the therapist in the popular drama *Good Will Hunting*. In all the excitement, Williams forgot to mention his mother in his acceptance speech as she sat in the audience.



- ♦ Robin Williams's own son did not recognize him in his *Doubtfire* outfit until he started speaking. Robin Williams did interviews as *Mrs. Doubtfire* to promote the film, and sometimes played the interviewer too. During the restaurant scene when *Mrs. Doubtfire's* teeth fell into the wine glass, the cast didn't know Robin Williams would do that, so the actors' looks of surprise on screen were genuine.





# BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



## Brady's Bar, Lounge & Restaurant

**We are NOW offering In-door services STRICTLY in line with Government Guidelines. Customers requesting In-door services will be requested to show the relevant documentation in line with the official advise.**

**We will continue to offer Outdoor Service as weather permits.**

**Thank You to All Our Customers for their Continued Support During these Difficult Times.**

**Stay Safe & Well**

**e-mail: [info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie](mailto:info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie) Web: [www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie](http://www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie) - Tel: 01-5054725**



**<https://www.facebook.com/BradysClockhouseB2/>**







## Local News September 2021 Issue No. 505 Online Version

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



### Town progress to FAI Senior Cup Quarter-Finals

Another notable milestone in maintaining this push to the pinnacle of being one of the best teams to grace Leinster Senior League football, having won the FAI Intermediate Cup in 2018 and had a number of promotions, our sights are now set on a bigger prize, the FAI Senior Cup. Having performed admirably in past ventures at this level against such opposition as Cork City and Waterford F.C we now found ourselves pitted against more Cork opposition in Cobh Ramblers. We savoured the chance to take on League of Ireland opposition at this stage of the competition and measure our progress over the past few seasons.



#### F.A.I Senior Cup 2nd Round. Town 3 Cobh Ramblers 2

With recent injuries cleared up Town were confident of a good show in this eagerly awaited 2nd round encounter. Town settled quickly and took the game to Cobh right from kick-off. Following good pressure Town took the lead in the 17th minute when S. Kenny smashed a cross into the Cobh area which was turned into the Cobh net by J. Kavanagh. Town kept control for long periods and were looking in control but a knee injury to winger Cillian Duffy meant a reshuffle to the Town front line. Cobh drew level in the 4th minute of added time with a powerful header.

Cobh came more into the game in the second half and were putting Town under heavy pressure. Town would not buckle and a superb back four were insurmountable. Darragh Gannon, Conor Dunne, Jack Corrigan and Alex Fitzgibbon can feel proud of their parts with Shane Fagan adding extra security between the post. The introduction of Jack O'Connor in the 73rd minute added more pace to the Town strike force and it proved a wise move. O'Connor made room for himself soon after and placed his shot into the bottom right hand corner. Six minutes later Cobh drew level when a harshly awarded penalty was converted. With the game seemingly heading for extra time Jackson Ryan had other ideas when weaving his way into Cobh penalty area slotting home what proved to be an unbelievable winner. We now look forward to next game in our quest for further honors.

This was a total team of Heroes

Team : (1) Shane Fagan could not be faulted for the Cobh goals and oozed confidence throughout. (2) Darragh Gannon must vie for man of the match with a five star performance, his defensive qualities and ability to push forward made him something special. (3) Alex Fitzgibbon had big boots to fill when taking over from Jake at left full who moved into the center and filled them with no bother. (4) Conor Dunne was an inspiring captain who led his troops with great determination and showed this great heading ability in a super performance. (5) Jack Corrigan Mr. Varsity himself. There are no superlatives that can describe this guy, moving to centre-back from left back has been no problem to him. (6) Alex Kelly; The silken skills of Alex and his ability to break up opposition are a major factor in protecting his defense. (7) Jackson Ryan pushes Gannon for man of the match with another five star performance, taking the ball under control and setting up Jack O'Connor to score was something special. (8) Conor Foley the quiet man of the engine room who was the maestro of the orchestra. Not a big lad in stature but boy what a engine he's got. (9) Sven Biensumba, or Svenny as he is affectionately called, put in his usual Trojan performance before firing his shot across goal that brought about the Cobh own goal. (10) Paddy O'Sullivan another who enhanced his reputation with another busy performance. Always snapping at the opposition, he was a major player in midfield. (11) Cillian Duffy was his usual super self until a knee injury midway through the first half saw him depart the game, he has played a major part in our progress to this stage.

The bench always has a major role to play. Our bench was solid and the substitutions



**Front Row L to R: Parker Colgan, Alex Kelly, Jackson Ryan, Jake Corrigan, Conor Foley, Paddy O'Sullivan, Ryan Colgan.**  
**Back Row L to R: Darragh Gannon, Conor Dunne (C), Cillian Duffy, Shane Fagan, Alex Fitzgibbon, Sven Biensumba**

made in no way diminished the quality of the side. Dylan Pierce slotted in nicely when introduced and played his part with great pace. Sean Traynor was brought into midfield when legs began to tire and helped to keep the midfield steady in a good show.

Conor Delahunty showed his obvious talent with a classy contribution to this top show. Eoin O'Neill was a classy performer who was unlucky not to bag himself a goal late in the game which would have made victory easier. Jack O'Connor's mobility was a source of torment to Cobh defense and he expertly put away his goal, lively all round and more to come.

Shane Harte (Team Manager) new to the ranks of team management and homing his side into a well drilled machine. Players responding to his attention to detail and reaping the benefits. Ciaran Kilduff (Coach) Ciaran needs no introduction following a career that saw him ply his skills with several League of Ireland sides.

Gavin Kinsella a valued member of the back room team who ply's his skills between coaching and playing. Elaine Farrell (Physio) Elaine had to work hard to get a number of players fit for the game following recent injuries. A clean bill of health on the day was testimony to her expertise.

Sincere thanks to Declan, Dave and crew at Brady's for laying on our customary pre-match meal and thanks also to Barton Coaches for sponsorship of our team coach. To our loyal fans who turned out on the evening to lend enormous support to the lads, remaining to applaud the players off at end of game was an indication of there pride in their side.

### St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band 90th Anniversary 1931-2021

The 2nd installment of the Band's history is on page 4





# 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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## 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

With almost 90% of the Irish population vaccinated for Covid 19 the end of most of the remaining restrictions for people to gather socially are expected to be lifted this month or certainly by next month. In Maynooth, we see the return of students to Maynooth University with some on campus activities such as "Orientation Week" and some lectures beginning on September 20<sup>th</sup>. We welcome all students whether starting out on their university education journey or continuing following the blended model of on line lectures and onsite practicals during Covid.

We would want all students to enjoy these important years in their lives, but it is important that students remember that living in residential areas where most of their neighbours will not be students and are at a different stage in their lives needs to be respected. I have also said before that it would be great if more Maynooth University students would take an active role in community activities while living in the town. Without naming any organisation I am sure that they would welcome new members at any time to help out with their activities. Many students have been active in their local communities before moving to Maynooth so why not get involved during the years in Maynooth.

Talking about important community groups "The Maynooth Kilcock Lions Club" was established forty years ago in 1981 so congratulations to them on reaching this milestone. Their mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding. The range of projects that they have undertaken over the years are a testament to their ability to attract volunteers and raise funding. On September 3<sup>rd</sup> they are holding their 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Shay Curran Golf Classic and the funds raised will be used for their "Buy the Bus Campaign" for St. Raphaels in Celbridge. If you want to sponsor a tee box or take part in the event check out their Facebook page where they give contact details for this event.

This month we have part two of our feature to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the St Mary's Brass and Reed Band. The band is as strong as ever and they are currently working to expand their junior band as of course many young people who continue in the band progress to the senior band. The people of Maynooth are very proud that the town has our own band who are based in the Band Hall in the centre of the town. With the growth in the population of the town the St Mary's Brass and Reed Band can continue to grow in numbers and I have no doubt that they will attract the resources and support to prepare for their second century which is only a decade away. With Covid they have not been able to perform as much because of the restrictions but they have brought out a 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Calendar for the academic year September 2021 to August 2022. As well as being very useful the calendar is also charts the history of the band over those 90 years. You can pick one up for ten euro at a number of locations in Maynooth including at Maynooth Newsletter office.

Lastly, "Culture Night" is taking place on Friday September 17<sup>th</sup> and of course the St Mary's Brass and Reed Band will be doing a performance in Maynooth Square with the programme beginning at 8pm for an hour.

This event is free and will include a selection of music to suit all tastes including marches, music from the shows, ABBA and The Beatles and many more so go along and enjoy it. There are a number of other events in Maynooth to mark Culture Night 2021 and you can find the details at <https://culturenight.ie/events/>

**Paul Croghan**  
Editor



Image courtesy of Maynooth Kilcock Lions Club



I have picked up a few Calendars for myself and some friends



St Mary's Brass and Reed Band in Maynooth Square in August.

Image courtesy of Pat Boyd

**Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be Monday 27th September 2021**



# MAYNOOTH DRESSES

**Maynooth Dresses are NOW Open**

**Find us at Unit 3 San Feliu, Fagan's Lane, Maynooth  
(Behind EBS Main St)**

**Suppliers of All your Specialty Formal Wear**

**Now stocking Fascinator Headpieces for that Special Event**

**White/ Ivory Girls' Communion Dresses, Accessories & Shoes**

**Boys' 3 Piece Suits, Blazers, Chinos, Boys' Dickie Bow Sets**

**Girls' & Boys' Christening Gowns and Accessories.**

**Debs Dresses**

**NEW Confirmation Range of Dresses**

**Flower Girl Dresses**

**Bridesmaids Dresses**

**See our websites:**

**[www.maynoothcommuniondressers.ie](http://www.maynoothcommuniondressers.ie)**

**[www.maynoothdresses.ie](http://www.maynoothdresses.ie)**

**Contact us on:**

**01 6293585 - 086 8260825 - 085 7471039**



## BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



**We are NOW offering In-door services STRICTLY in line with Government Guidelines. Customers requesting In-door services will be requested to show the relevant documentation in line with the official advise.**

**We will continue to offer Outdoor Service as weather permits.**

**Thank You to All Our Customers for their Continued Support During these Difficult Times.**

**Stay Safe & Well**

**e-mail: [info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie](mailto:info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie) Web: [www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie](http://www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie) - Tel: 01-5054725**

**<https://www.facebook.com/BradysClockhouseB2/>**





## St. Mary's Band Maynooth - Looking to the Future

September 1955 marked a turning point in the Band's history with the formation of a Boys' Band. With the loss of many of the original Band members this initiative proved to have far reaching and positive results for the continued existence of a Band in Maynooth. Further progress was made in 1959 with the introduction of female members to the Band. There have been many highs and lows along the way, both numerically and financially, but thanks to the efforts of dedicated Committee members the Band now has 45 members in the Senior Band as well as 16 in the Junior Section.

One of the main costs associated with running a Band is uniforms and over the years the public will have seen many different styles, samples of which can be seen in the photographs below. The ones in the St. Loman's Hospital photo were second-hand Garda uniforms with braid added, while the uniform worn in the 1981 Golden Jubilee photo was purchased from a High School Band in the US where the cost of transport and fumigation far exceeded the \$100 paid for the uniform itself. The most recent uniform, including the crest, shown in the Croke Park GAA photo was designed by the Committee and made to measure at a cost of 480 euros per uniform. Fortunately the Kildare Leader Partnership was a huge help in providing some of the finance towards the overall cost of 21,000 euros. Apart from uniforms the cost of running the Band is extremely high with insurance, electricity, heating, conductors' fees, rates and supplying the more expensive instruments. The Band is fortunate to have had excellent support from the people of Maynooth but it still has to find other ways of covering its costs and over the years has organised various and unusual ways of fundraising. Among these were wastepaper collections, weekly whist drives where the only heat in the Band room was from an open fire and a potbellied stove, race nights, musical marathons, sponsored cycles and even a Gymkhana in Carton Estate.



**Front Row (L-R):** Seamus Nevin, Nicholas Dempsey, Cliff Murphy, Tommy Moore, Ned Kealy, Jim Murphy, Tony Dempsey, Barney Boyd, Kevin Boyd.  
**Back Row (L-R):** Brian Redmond (Staff Major); Johnny Boyd, Sean Nolan, Paddy Boyd, Michael Dempsey, Mr W. Timmons (Conductor); Bartley Grady, Michael C. Dempsey.

(Photograph taken in 1964 in St. Loman's Hospital)



### Golden Jubilee of the Reforming of the Band in 1981

**Back Row (L-R):** K. Boyd, B Boyd, P. Boyd, P. Brazil, M. Dempsey, C. Dempsey, G. Power, P. Dempsey, T. Lettis.  
**Middle Row (L-R):** J. Byrne, D. Grant, P. Murray, U. Ennis, L. Higgins, J. Boyd, M.C. Dempsey, T. Kearins, G. Farrell, E. Bean, W. Boyd, T. Lynch.  
**Front Row (L-R):** C. Power, C. Power, E. Nolan, U. Byrne, C. Murphy, N. Kearins, G. Bright, D. Grant, E. Bean.

More recently there were the sales from our two CDs and our 90th Anniversary calendar to fall back on. This was an enormous help as we have had absolutely no income from Parades, Concerts or Collections since December 2018 while we still have our normal outgoings to deal with.



St. Mary's Band in Croke Park



The calendar is available from the Maynooth Bookshop Main Street, Donovan's Centra in Greenfield and the Maynooth Newsletter Office in Carton Retail Park. For those living outside Maynooth postal copies can be arranged through e-mail at [calendarsales90@gmail.com](mailto:calendarsales90@gmail.com).

The Band is now looking forward to, and planning for, its Centenary celebrations in 2031. Part of that plan is to have, like the Artane Band, both a Senior and Junior Band to cater for the growing population of Maynooth and the surrounding areas. Our particular focus at present is on our Juniors and, in partnership with Music Generation Kildare, we hope to encourage young musicians between 8 and 18 years of age to take up instruments and join our Juniors if they so wish. They can then graduate to the Senior Band, like Laura Diamond in the photo alongside, has done when she reached the appropriate standard.

We are taking names at present and would love to hear from interested children through our Facebook page or by calling 087 2537 906 or 087 716 8369 with all your details.



Laura Diamond



# 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



**Cllr. Angela Feeney**

**Tel. 087 238 1962**

**Email. [angelafeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelafeeney@gmail.com)**

**Stay safe everyone.**





# Maynooth Ladies GAA teams in the County League

August 7th was Ladies Day at Maynooth GAA with two senior ladies teams contesting County Finals. The first 15 were up against Na Fianna in the Division 3 final while the Division 8 final was between Maynooth and Confey.

As can be seen from the accompanying photographs, both teams were successful on the day, both winning by comprehensive score lines.

2021 is the first year that Maynooth have fielded two senior teams in over 10 years and illustrates the strength of Ladies Football in the club. Both teams now go forward into September hoping for continued success, the 1st Team in the Senior Championship and the 2nd team at Junior C.

Maynooth Ladies GAA caters for all ages and abilities, from nursery up to adult level. There is also a Gaelic for Mothers & Others group. If you are interested in playing Gaelic football with Maynooth GAA Ladies please contact [maynooth.kildare@lgfa.ie](mailto:maynooth.kildare@lgfa.ie) and you will be put in touch with the relevant team coaches.



Captains Orlaith and Roisin with the trophies.



Orlaith Kirwan gathers the ball with Niamh Hayes supporting.



Siofra Dunne attempts an interception.



Emma Tilly breaking out of defence.



Anne Dempsey takes dead aim



No stopping Martha Gilligan.



Si le Flood gets her pass away as Ciara Hynes looks on.



Orlaith Kirwan converts another 20m free.





# CULTURE NIGHT

FRI 17 SEP 2021

[www.culturenight.ie](http://www.culturenight.ie)

Search Kildare/Maynooth for live links

## Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad



## Ceardlann Amhránaíochta le Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh

Online

Bí linn do cheardlann amhránaíochta ar líne do dhaoine fásta le Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh ó Ghaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne.

Amhránaí, ceoltóir, agus craoltóir is ea Muireann go bhfuil a cáil roimpi ar fuaid an domhain. Is mó gradam a bronnadh uirthi ina saol proifisiúnta, mar shampla Amhránaí na Bliana ag Gradam Ceoil TG4 2011 agus Rian Traidisiúnta na Bliana ag Gradaim Cheoil Tíre RTÉ 2018.

Seo deis iontach chun foghlaim ó bhanríon na n-amhrán. Fáilte roimh chách, ach is gá clárú roimre [nua.ghaeilge@mu.ie](mailto:nua.ghaeilge@mu.ie) mar tá spásanna teoranta.

Time: 4pm - 5.30pm

Genres: An tOireachtas / Language / Music / Performance

Features: Gaeilge

Website: <http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/nua-ghaeilge-modern-irish>

Phone: 01 708 3666

## Agallamh, Amhráin agus Ceol le Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh

Online

Beidh Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh, banríon na n-amhrán agus na bhfeadóig, linn d'oíche speisialta chuileachtan ar líne á cur i láthair ag an Ollamh Tríona Ní Shíocháin.

Tá Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh ar dhuine d'amhránaíthe agus de cheoltóirí móra Chorca Dhuibhne agus is minic le clos í ar RnaG, RTÉ, TG4, agus BBC Alba.

Ina teannta don oíche seo beidh Tríona Ní Shíocháin, Sailí Ní Dhróighneáin, Nada Ní Chuirrin, agus Máire Ní Churraoin ó Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad.

Bainfear macalla as an seomra fíorúil seo le geabaireacht agus le ceol! Fáilte roimh chách ach is gá clárú roimre ag [nua.ghaeilge@mu.ie](mailto:nua.ghaeilge@mu.ie)

Time: 7.30pm - 9pm

Genres: An tOireachtas / Dance / Music / Performance / Talk

Features: Gaeilge

Website: <http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/nua-ghaeilge-modern-irish>

Phone: 01 708 3666

[Book Now](#)

## St Mary's Brass and Reed Band



## St Mary's in The Square

Offline

On Culture Night, St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band will be playing a selection of music to suit every taste including marches, music from the shows, Abba, The Beatles and many other numbers guaranteed to entertain.

Time: 8pm - 9pm

Genres: Music / Performance / Sober

Features: Family friendly / Wheelchair accessible

Address: Court House Square, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Website: <http://stmarysbandmaynooth.ie/wp/>

Phone: 087 2537906

No Booking Required

## Kasia Elias



## Kasia sings Brazilian Music

Online

On Culture Night, explore Brazilian music with Kasia Elias, live from her home studio in Maynooth. Joining her on the night, will be Brazilian guitarist, Gustavo de Moraes and during their performance you will hear some Bossa Nova, Samba and MPB.

Brazilian music has had widespread influence on musicians in various genres all over the world and during the event listeners will enjoy a lot of standards played alongside recently released tunes. Let them take you on a Brazilian trip in the comfort of your own living room! The concert will be streamed live through Facebook and Instagram.

Time: 7pm - 8pm

Genres: Heritage / Music / Other / Performance

Features: Family friendly

Website: <http://www.kasiaelias.com>

Phone: 083 834040

No Booking Required

## Maynooth Library



## Maynooth University Library and Russell Library



## Treasures from the Historic Collections at Maynooth University and Russell Library

Online

On Culture Night, join staff at the Russell Library for this wonderful opportunity to get a close-up, virtual look at some of the rare books and archives from their magnificent collections.

The Russell Library houses a treasure trove of historical works in St Patrick's College, Maynooth with approximately 34,000 printed works dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century across a range of subjects including: theology, mathematics, science, geography and history. Other important collections include: medieval and Gaelic manuscripts, archival material and incunabula (pre-1501 printing).

Booking essential.

Time: 4pm - 8pm

Genres: History / Language / Literature / Museum

Features: Family friendly

Website: <http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>

Phone: 01 7086445

[Book Now](#)

## St. Mary's R.C. Church / Maynooth Gospel Choir



## Culture Night with Maynooth Gospel Choir

Offline

Following Maynooth Gospel Choir's highly successful 2020 Virtual Culture Night, they are delighted to be back providing an in-person performance. For their 14th annual Culture Night concert, expect a night of positivity and feel-good energy, guaranteed to have you dancing in your seat.

Join them and clap along while enjoying the rich dynamic harmonies of gospel classics and modern hits! Places limited. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Time: 7pm - 8.30pm

Genres: Music / Performance

Features: Family friendly / Wheelchair accessible

Address: St. Mary's R.C. Church, Moyglare Rd, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Website: <http://www.maynoothgospel.com/>

Phone: 085 7871814

[Book Now](#)

## Online Poetry Event hosted by author and poet Enda Wyley for families/adults and young adults aged 12-14 years

Online

Enda Wyley, author and poet, will host, in participation with Maynooth Community Library, an online poetry event for families/adults and young adults aged 12-14 years where people will be invited to read a favourite poem or a poem they have written themselves.

Enda Wyley will also read from her own poetry and discuss writing poetry and creative writing. Places are limited.

Registration through Eventbrite.

Time: 5pm - 6pm

Genres: Literature / Poetry / Workshop

Website: <http://www.kildare.ie/library/library/maynoothlibrary/>

Phone: 01 6285530

[Book Now](#)



## MU Students Crowned Champions of Irish Times Debate Competition 2021



Maynooth University congratulates BCL students, Rí Anumudu and Chikemka Abuchi-Ogbonda for their success in the 61st Irish Times Debate team competition.

The two Law students were crowned team champions and awarded the Demosthenes Trophy at an outdoor black-tie event in the gardens of the Museum of Literature Ireland, St Stephen's Green, Dublin, on Saturday night.

The motion for the debate was "This House Believes privacy is dead", and was chaired by Liam Herrick executive director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties.

Prof Aidan Mulkeen, Deputy President and Registrar, said: "Maynooth University heartily congratulates Chikemka Abuchi-Ogbonda and Rí Anumudu on winning the Irish Times Debate team competition.

It is an award that is richly deserved and a tribute to the dedication and scholarship of students and colleagues in the Department of Law."

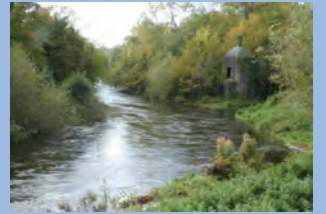
The runner-up speakers comprised a team from TCD Philosophical Society.



Photo@ Editor of The Irish Times Paul O'Neill (left) presents awards to The Irish Times Debate team winners Chikemka Abuchi-Ogbonda (centre left) and Rí Anumudu. Debate chair Liam Herrick is also pictured. (Photo credit: John Ohle)

## Stories From the Rye Podcast Series

In 'Stories from the Rye' we invite you to take a walk with broadcaster Liam Geraghty along the banks of the River Rye in Kildare to explore the Rye River, with all its twists and turns. The 4-part podcast series includes perspectives from biologists and conservationists that help uncover the story of this unique waterway through history.



Podcast link below or scan QR code with your Smart phone.

<https://www.intel.ie/content/www/ie/en/company-overview/stories-from-the-rye.html>

Episode 1 - John Sweeney on understanding the Rye

In this episode of Stories from the Rye Liam is joined by emeritus Professor John Sweeney, at Maynooth University to talk about the history of the Rye River.

Episode 2 - Jan Robert Baars & Gavin McDermott on looking after the Rye

In this episode of Stories from the Rye Liam is joined by Jan Robert Baars from the school of biology and environmental science in UCD and by Gavin McDermott of Kildare County Council to talk about looking after the Rye River.

Episode 3 - Éanna Ní Lamhna and Richard Collins on Wildlife of the Rye

In this episode of Stories from the Rye Liam is joined by Éanna Ní Lamhna and Richard Collins to talk about the wonderful and varied wildlife who call the Rye home.

Episode 4 - Fergal Caffrey & Aidan Crean on the fish of the Rye

In this episode of Stories from the Rye Liam is joined by Aidan Crean - Chairperson of Leixlip and District Anglers Association and Inland Fisheries' Fergal Caffrey.

Proudly produced by Intel Ireland.

Source: [www.intel.ie](http://www.intel.ie)



## Quick & Easy Healthy Back to School Lunches

Packing lunches can take time and planning but packing a lunch can save money and boost nutrition. Here are a few easy and cheap school lunches for you to choose from. A lunch full of wholegrains and fibre will release energy slowly throughout the afternoon, so kids are alert and not falling asleep during the day.

**Keep it simple** and find items that are easy to put in a lunchbox and can be used multiple ways such as wraps, leftover pasta, veggies, fresh fruit, hard-boiled eggs, deli cuts, and grilled chicken are all great ways to keep it simple while without sacrificing flavor or nutrients.

Starting with a compartmentalized lunch container and filling in the compartments with healthy options is key to quick packing.

For healthy lunches always try to include fruit and vegetables, even if it's just carrot sticks, sweetcorn or cucumber in a sandwich.

Kids are building bones so try to include dairy or another calcium-rich food. Plain yoghurt with their favourite frozen berries or granola topping is delicious.

Use wholegrain bread, wraps and pasta as it is more nutritious than white.



Sandwiches and wraps are great options and can be cut in various interesting ways with lots of different fillings: grated cheese carrot, tuna and sweetcorn, leftover roast chicken with pesto, or simple sliced boiled eggs and tomato. Leftover cold meatballs also make a really good

sandwich.

Healthy homebakes - wholemeal cheese scones make an excellent change from sandwiches. Healthier, nut-free flapjacks can be made with a limited amount of added sugar and a dose of fibre. Crackers and oatcakes are another alternative to the usual sandwich.



### Drinks

A bottle of water for the day is a must-have. Staying hydrated helps with concentration.

You could provide 150ml of juice – it counts as one of their 5-a-day. Buy juice in large cartons and pour it into your own bottle, diluting as much as you can get away with.

Whole fruit – pots of grapes or cut up melon/pineapple, strawberries or a mixture of their favourite fruits make a change from the usual banana.

These are great pots for your children that tastes like a sweet treat but are full of various nutrients and vitamins.

Schools are a breeding ground for germs that lead to infections. One way to reduce the chances of getting a cold is by eating foods that boost the immune system.

The benefits of healthy lunches that include vitamins C, E, and Omega 3 fatty acids will contribute to achieving this goal. There are countless fresh fruits and vegetables that contain these properties like strawberries, broccoli, and certain fish.

*There are plenty of different combinations that you can try with your child for a winning lunch experience.*







## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

E mail: [angelaemfeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelaemfeeney@gmail.com) - Phone: 0872381962



While there were no formal MD or Plenary Council meetings in August Cllr Feeney has still been making representations on behalf of the public as well as attending briefing sessions on the Transportation Strategy and attending training.

### Transportation Strategy for Maynooth

Cllr Feeney welcomes the fact that the Transport Department in Kildare County Council is beginning the process of developing a transport strategy for Maynooth which will contain a phased implementation plan for transport measures and will deliver benefits to Maynooth in the short, medium and long term. The plan will address traffic congestion, parking, traffic management, road safety, public transport, walking and cycling and support the decarbonisation goals for Maynooth.

The delivery of the measures in the plan should help to make Maynooth a more attractive place to live, work and visit. An introduction meeting was held for Councillors on Monday August 23<sup>rd</sup> and public consultation and surveys will take place in the coming weeks, before the end of September. Cllr Feeney encourages everyone to engage with this very important process for our town.

### Disability Awareness Training

Cllr Feeney successfully completed Disability Awareness Training offered by Kildare County Council in August and gained valuable insights into ways we can

all be more inclusive. Cllr Feeney intends making some submissions to the Council on foot of the training received.

### Upcoming Motions and Questions for the September MD Meeting:

#### Motions:

That the Council provide an update on the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road.

That the Council carries out a review of the disabled car parking spaces in Maynooth.

#### Questions:

Can the Council inform the members as to the maintenance plan for the trees at Carton Avenue Maynooth.

Can the Council update the members as to the progress on joining up the cycle lanes in Maynooth.

As always, please get in touch if I can assist in any way, [afeeney@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:afeeney@kildarecoco.ie)

*Beir Bua!*

## September Gardening Article Klaus Laitenberger

### Dear Fellow Gardeners,

August and September are lovely months in the garden. You can sit back and reap the rewards from all the hard work you put into it. So many crops are ready now with the endless gluts of courgettes, perpetual spinach, salads and if you have a tunnel or greenhouse you will enjoy your tomatoes, cucumbers etc. Root crops for winter storage, however, are not ready for harvesting until late September at the earliest.

### Sowing:

There are still a few vegetables you can sow now: lettuce (especially loose-leaf types or Little Gem), scallions, radishes, baby turnips, annual spinach. August is also a good month to sow all your winter salads. They prefer to grow in the latter half of the year. The best ones are rocket, mizuna, mustard 'Red Frills' and 'Green Frills', pak choy, claytonia, tatsoi and corn salad.

### Planting:

You can still plant out lettuce, scallions, kohlrabi, turnip, Chinese cabbage, Florence fennel.

### Summer green manures:

As soon as you have harvested and cleared a bed you should consider replanting it or sowing a green manure crop.

Soil should not be left bare for prolonged periods. In nature you will never find bare soil unless it has turned into a desert. After a forest fire plants such as the fireweed (rosebay willowherb) will quickly recolonise the ground. A bare soil is bad for the soil structure, the soil life and it will quickly lose its nutrients.

So anytime your beds are empty and you don't have any follow on crops ready, you can sow a green manure crop. All you do is to prepare a nice weed free seed bed and sprinkle (broadcast) green manure seeds at the recommended seed rate onto the beds and rake them in.

My favourite summer green manure is phacelia. The German name for this plant is 'Bee's Friend'. It's a fantastic and very pretty plant that attract a myriad of beneficial insect including hoverflies, lacewings, beetles and obviously bees.

The purpose of a summer green manure is to quickly cover the soil and the growing plant will absorb and use the available nutrients that are still in the soil and thus prevent them from being washed out. A green manure should ideally be dug into the soil just before flowering, but with phacelia you have to make an exception and let it flower. It will be slightly less beneficial for the soil but absolutely fantastic for wildlife. Studies have shown the massive increase of carabid beetle populations under a phacelia crop and these beetles eat slugs!

Other summer green manures include summer vetch and buckwheat. I would stay away from all the brassica green manures such as mustard, rape etc. as they would interfere with your crop rotation. You can sow phacelia until the middle of September. From then onwards you should use winter green manures.

### Launch of on-line gardening course

I'm starting to run an online gardening course aimed at complete beginners to semi-advanced gardeners who want to grow some of their own food – vegetables, salads, herbs and fruit.

The online course runs fortnightly or weekly depending on growing season.  
10 sessions from September to February – Cost €70 (open for bookings)  
10 sessions from March to May – Cost €70

To book the course, please email me on my new email: [klauscourse@gmail.com](mailto:klauscourse@gmail.com) and write "Course Booking".  
(Some of you may already have received the booking form)

I will then send you the booking details. This is a dedicated email just for this course. All Q&A's will be posted on this email and shared via Mailchimp.

The course will be professionally filmed and live-streamed. If you can't join at that time you can watch it later. I have been working with Mark Megahy – the film-maker for the last two years on Poly tunnel courses with NOTS. Some of you may have taken part in it?

Proposed Course Dates  
(Saturday mornings – these are not yet fully confirmed)

18th September  
2nd October  
16th October  
30th October  
14th November  
28th November  
11th December  
8th January  
22nd January  
6th February



Each session consists of about 45 minutes gardening demonstrations, interesting plant facts, gardening tips and includes vegetable, salad, herb and fruit growing. Following each session you can email me questions on any topic. I will answer the questions and collate them and distribute them to all course participants. The purpose of this course is to accompany you throughout the gardening year.

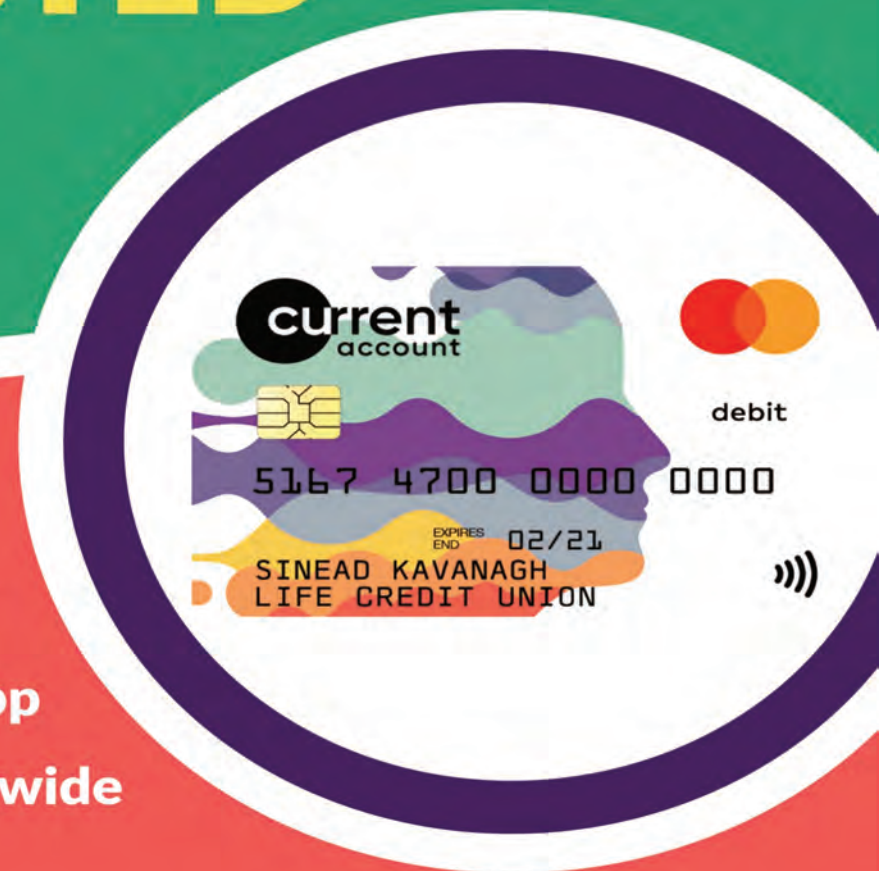
I'm also considering visiting a couple of the participants' gardens to give some advice if there are some participants interested. This will also be filmed. However, this should be within an hour's drive from Rossinver, Co. Leitrim.

It's also aimed at families who want to garden with their children as my two young children will join me for some of the sessions on their own allotments. Bookings for this course are now open. Please send me a quick email on [klauscourse@gmail.com](mailto:klauscourse@gmail.com) and ask for the booking details.

**Visit: [www.greenvegetableseeds.com](http://www.greenvegetableseeds.com)**



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

### *The Three Pets* *A Folktale*

In a little cottage up in the hills a girl lived with her granddad. Her name was Evelyn and she was beautiful, with dark shiny hair and bright eyes. During her final year in school Evelyn's parents had died in a car crash and her granddad had agreed to look after her. He had only a few acres of land, on which he kept half a dozen goats and some hens. It was Evelyn's job to milk the goats and feed the hens. Since the cottage was miles from the nearest village Evelyn seldom met young people. If it weren't for her three pets, Frisky the Squirrel, Dozy the Pidgeon and Snapper the Turtle she would have felt very lonely.

When not making cheese or gathering firewood, Granddad was usually busy picking herbs and brewing them to obtain bitter-tasting drinks, which cured aches, pains and various diseases. On Saturdays he would drive down the narrow, winding road to the village in his battered van, park near the church gate and sell his goat cheeses and bottled cures. Sometimes he asked Evelyn to come with him but more often she had to remain behind to look after the house.

When she was on her own Evelyn enjoyed telling her pets about the great, exciting world of shops and motorcars. She would also relate how she had found the three of them: Dozy had fallen out of her nest in an ivy-covered bush; Frisky had been attacked by a magpie after he had ventured out of his drey, and had then toppled to the ground and Snapper had been taken from the lakeshore by an eagle that had dropped him while carrying him back to her hungry chicks. The three pets listened wide-eyed to their foster mother. They loved her and would do anything to make her happy.

If Granddad arrived home depressed, having sold very little, he would complain that the pets were a nuisance: the squirrel was always climbing onto the table, especially at mealtimes, the pigeon made him dizzy flying about the kitchen and as for the turtle, he was a menace the way he got underfoot, tripping him up.

'You'll have to get rid of him,' he told Evelyn one morning after Snapper bit his finger while he was lifting him out of the way. 'In fact, why not get rid of them all? I'll find you a nice cat that'll earn his keep by killing mice?'

On seeing her distress, however, he relented. 'All right, Snapper can stay but you'll have to keep him in a box. My sight isn't what it used to be and I can't be watching my every step. The same goes for the other two; I'll make cages for them.'

'No, Granddad!' Evelyn protested. 'That would be like putting them in jail.'

'Well, if they're the cause of me breaking my neck, who'll look after you?' Granddad demanded.

'I'll paint Snapper's shell bright pink,' she offered. 'That way you'll be certain to see him.'

'Oh, do whatever you want!' Granddad waved his hands impatiently because deep down he loved his granddaughter and didn't want to make her unhappy.

So life on the hillside continued its slow, uneventful rhythm. The trees put on new leaves, the goats had kids, swallows returned, wildflowers bloomed, the kids grew strong and were sold, the swallows left, the leaves turned brown and yellow and darkness fell earlier and earlier. One evening it began to snow but Evelyn and her granddad didn't mind. They had firewood to burn along with slack purchased in the village, the hens were safe in the henhouse and the goats had hay to eat in their open shed. While granddad listened to his battery-operated radio after supper, Evelyn talked to her pets, telling them stories like ones she had read in school. Their favourite story was about a handsome prince who would arrive on his white horse to bring her – and, of course them – away to his castle. 'You don't think they understand you?' Granddad remarked once, at which Evelyn smiled, adding that of course the prince would take him also.

One night there was a blizzard, which piled snow up about the cottage so

that by morning it was above the windowsills. Granddad had to dig a path out to the open shed where he kept the firewood. Imagine his surprise when he found a young man half buried in snow lying against the stack of wood. He was wearing goggles and was dressed in a fleece-lined leather jacket, thick woolen trousers, calf-high boots and a leather cap with side flaps. It was probably because of this warm outfit that he had not frozen to death.

With Evelyn's help, Granddad dragged the young man into the house. Laying him on a rug before the fire they removed his boots and frozen outer clothes and covered him with blankets. Granddad heated one of his herbal remedies and while Evelyn held up the young man's head, he began to spoon the liquid into the young man's partly open mouth. At first the liquid ran down the young man's chin then he swallowed some and began to splutter. When Evelyn tapped his back he opened his eyes and she could hardly believe how beautiful they were, bright and clear like the sky in summer.

'Who are you?' Granddad asked but the young man just looked at him blankly then closed his eyes again.

'We'd better let him rest,' Granddad whispered, so Evelyn lowered the young man's head onto the rug.

After that they searched through the pockets of his coat and trousers to learn who he was. Evelyn found a penknife, some coins and a wallet with banknotes, while Granddad found a pen, a pencil and a small pad with sketches of birds.

'He's probably an artist who's staying in a hostel somewhere,' Granddad said. 'He must have been hiking in the hills when he got caught in the blizzard. If the snow wasn't so deep I'd drive him to the hospital.'

'Will he be alright?' Evelyn looked anxiously at the young man's drawn face.

'I don't know,' Granddad admitted. 'His pulse is very faint. If I could only make my special potion – but I don't have the ingredients.'

'What ingredients?' Evelyn tried to keep her voice calm.

'Well, I'd need mistletoe berries and the root of a drowning lily,' Granddad told her, 'but with this snow I might as well be looking for the pot of gold'

'I've an idea,' Evelyn hurried to her room. Returning with crayons and sheets of paper, she drew mistletoe berries and the oak tree on which they grew. On another sheet she drew drowning lilies growing from the lake bottom near its shallow end. When the pictures were finished she showed the first one to Frisky and told him to bring back mistletoe berries and the second one to Snapper and told him to bring back a drowning lily root. Then, opening the door, she let the squirrel and turtle out and begged them to hurry.

'They'll never make it,' Granddad shook his head. 'That snow's far too deep.'

'But they're so light they won't sink,' Evelyn told him, while secretly fearing he was right. Then an idea struck her and on a third sheet of paper she drew a picture of the police station in the village. Next she wrote an S O S note with her granddad's name and address on it, wrapped it in cling film and tied it to the pigeon's leg. Having shown Dozy the picture and telling her to hurry, she carried her outside. Dozy circled the cottage three times before flying away.

An hour dragged by, then another, and there was no sign of any of the pets, so to keep herself from becoming frantic with worry, Evelyn began to prepare a meal of pea soup, bread and cheese for her granddad. All this time she kept glancing at the young man or placing her palm on his forehead to check his temperature. He was now as pale as a corpse and when she felt his wrist she could barely detect a pulse.

Just as Granddad was half way through his meal Evelyn heard a scratching at the door and on opening it, Frisky scurried in with a bunch of white mistletoe berries in his mouth. About two hours later Snapper arrived with

(Continued on page 12)





## Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers Cont/....

*(Continued from page 11)*

a muddy brown root in his mouth. Granddad immediately set to work and in no time had a saucepan with the berries, the cut-up root and a few other ingredients sitting on the fire. When the mixture was boiling he strained it into a bowl, which he placed outside the door.

As soon as the bowl cooled Granddad asked Evelyn to lift the young man's head, then forcing his teeth open with his thumb, he began spooning the brew into his mouth. At first he spluttered then finally he swallowed a little, then five or six spoonfuls.

'That'll do for now,' Granddad said. 'I'll give him more later.'

During the afternoon they made the young man drink every half hour or so, after which he would close his eyes. Then as daylight was fading and she lit the oil lamp, Evelyn noticed the young man watching her. At once she rushed over and knelt beside him.

'Are you alright?' She held his hand.

'Where am I?' he muttered, gazing into her face.

'In our cottage?' She told him.

'And where is...?' His eyelids began to droop.

'We'll let him sleep,' Granddad whispered. 'I bet he'll have a good appetite when he wakes up.'

In the early morning Evelyn was awakened by sounds of somebody blundering about. On coming into the kitchen with a lighted candle, she found the young man with a blanket wrapped about him eating a slice of bread.

'Oh, I'm sorry if I woke you.' He looked like a small boy caught stealing. Quickly she lit the oil lamp and told him to put on the clothes her granddad had left out for him as his own were still airing. While he dressed slowly in the ill-fitting trousers, sweater and jacket, she boiled an egg, sliced some cheese, made tea and toasted bread for his breakfast. He ate hungrily, now and again pausing to gaze at her, his eyes shining. At such times she felt as if her heart would break with happiness.

In a cultured accent he told her that he had been flying over her area in his single-engine plane. Suddenly he had got caught in the snowstorm and had to crash-land. His had left his phone on the plane but when he tried to get it, the cockpit burst into flames. He had been wandering through the hills for hours and was about to lie down in the snow when he glimpsed the cottage's lighted window. On reaching the woodshed he had collapsed. After that all was blackness.

'Then I opened my eyes and saw you.' He spoke earnestly. 'You looked so beautiful and calm I thought you might be an angel.'

Evelyn blushed and dropped her eyes.

'Have you a boyfriend?' he continued.

'You shouldn't be asking me that when I don't even know your name.'

She smiled to soften the rebuke.

'My name is Val,' he said. 'And what, if I may ask, is yours?'

Just as she told him, Granddad emerged from his bedroom. On seeing the young man eating, his face lit up. When Evelyn introduced them, he said, 'You may thank my granddaughter, Val, for saving your life. If she hadn't sent her pets, Frisky and Snapper, for the ingredients I needed, you'd be as dead as a doornail by now.'

'If she saved me, she must marry me.' Val gave a boyish grin.

While Evelyn made breakfast for Granddad and herself, Val told them about his life. Just as Granddad had guessed, he was indeed an artist who painted birds and wild animals. His hobby was flying. Unfortunately, he had ignored weather warnings before taking off from the city. Now he was glad that he had, otherwise he would not have met them.

As he spoke there was a fluttering sound at the window. Quickly Evelyn opened the door and Dozy flew inside. The pigeon had a different note tied to her leg. When Evelyn read it she learned that the police had received her S O S and would send a patrol car out as soon as the road was passable.

'Let's hope it snows for a week – no, for a month,' Val told them, 'that way I will have plenty of time to draw Evelyn and her three little friends who saved my life.'

'And what about Granddad?' Evelyn asked.

'Oh, forgive me.' Val smiled at Granddad. 'Of course, you'll be included.'

'By the way, you haven't told us about your family,' Granddad reminded him.

'Well,' Val looked sheepish, 'I'm actually the president's youngest son – Not that I want people to know. I prefer to be treated like everybody else.'

'You're saying that now, but you'll soon forget us when you return to your family.' Evelyn was trying to hold back her tears.

'Of course, I won't forget you.' Val laid his hand lightly on her shoulder.

'Now that you've saved my life it belongs to you.'

And he was as good as his word because a year after that he and Evelyn were married. They took Granddad and the three pets to live with them in their beautiful mansion outside the city, though every summer they all returned for a few carefree weeks to the little cottage up in the hills.

**By P.G. Nerney**

### **SHOW ME A COIN**

The scribes and the chief priests watched him and sent spies who pretended to be honest, in order to trap him by what he said, so as to hand him over to the jurisdiction and authority of the governor. So they asked him, "Teacher, we know that you are right in what you say and teach, and you show deference to no one, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth.

Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But he perceived their craftiness and said to them, "Show me a coin. Whose head and whose title does it bear?" They said, "Caesar's". He said to them, "Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were not able in the presence of the people to trap him by what he said; and being amazed by his answer, they became silent. (Lk, 20)

The people behind this piece of skulduggery were the religious leaders of the people. These were the individuals entrusted with teaching God's truth to the ordinary people. But here they show themselves to be liars, to be deceivers. They sent people who "pretended to be honest" to try and get Jesus into trouble with the Roman authorities. But he used the occasion not only to unmask their guile but to remind them of what they should have known by heart, that they were created in the image and likeness of God as is written in the first chapter of Genesis:

"Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness;" (Gen. Ch 1, 26) The coin for Caesar: their hearts for God!

The pharisees, the scribes and the priests had their knives in Jesus because his teaching differed so much from theirs; because of his miracles, and because the ordinary people followed him wherever he went. The chief priests even wanted to kill him when he raised Lazarus from the dead because, as they said, "the whole world is running after him"! Eventually, they did have him put to death, of course. Why did they want to get rid of Jesus? He showed up their own falsity. His goodness was an embarrassment to their duplicity. As Christians, we too often reject Jesus? We leave him away down in our hierarchy of importance. He should be number one on our list! More important than the Olympics! More important than our country, than our county, than our parish and even more important than our families! "

While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers want to speak to you." Jesus replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." Mt. 12, 46-50.

A Thiarna, déan trócaire orm!

**By GM**



## Joe's Jotter: ACE Tips for Transitioning into 1st Year (Part 1)

There are so many genuine concerns for students as they make the leap into the big pond that is secondary school. Over the next few weeks, I will provide some Information and direction to help you as a parent to reduce the stress of this unique transition. This feature article comes in two parts. Firstly, I will analyse the differences between Primary and Secondary School followed by my Top twenty tips for Transitioning from one to the other. A further instalment of this feature will follow online in two weeks' time. There will also be a feature article to aid Parents (of Secondary School students) who have children with a Special Educational need (SEN) to follow soon.

### The Main Differences Between Primary and Secondary School Subjects and Settling into Secondary

- All first year students will take Irish, English, Maths, Science, History and Wellbeing (excluding exemptions).
- Students may get a chance to sample subjects in first year before committing to them.
- Various extra-curricular activities such as debating, drama, science club etc available.
- It is a great idea for students to join clubs and make new friends. Remind them about some of the skills of making friends; good eye-contact, smiling, showing interest in other children and reciprocal conversational skills. Making friends is a key element to settling into secondary school.
- The more exercise that students get the better. I did a little study of a panel of footballers I coached previously, and they performed better on average academically compared to those in their year. This is another reason to get active and stuck into clubs and sports.
- If your child enjoys a specific sport/club, it is a good idea to get to know the teacher who co-ordinates this.
- It will be exciting for your child to start new subjects – woodwork, home economics and metalwork etc.
- Students should give each subject an equal amount of homework time for the first few weeks to give each one a chance.
- It is wise for students to complete the homework of their less favoured subjects first each evening. This will ensure their concentration is at its maximum for these subjects.
- The better your child's teachers know them, the better working relationship in class they will have with them. This feeds back into what extra-curricular activities they sign up to. Personally, I find that the better I know my students, the more I am able to help them.
- Advise your child to enjoy their secondary school experiences. This takes any early pressure off them.

### Secondary School Structure

- The Subject Teacher – most teachers teach two subjects and may spend up to six classes per week with your child.
- The Tutor/Form/Home Room Teacher – involved in attendance, day to day and possibly some pastoral care or discipline work.
- The Year Head - Home room teachers report to this person. They usually deal with serious discipline or pastoral care issues also.
- Deputy Principal and Principal – Admin, Organisation, Events, Final decisions etc.
- Students are usually divided into 4/5 groups of 25/30 (depending on the size of the school) with possible class names being: 1a, 1b., 1c, 1d, 1e. They stay with this base class for core subjects: Irish, English, Maths, Wellbeing etc. The majority of schools have mixed ability classes in first year. This helps with socialisation. "Mixed-ability groupings in first Year leads to improved progress in literacy and numeracy and can give students more confidence as learners" (Moving Up -ESRI/NCCA 2004).
- Students are usually mixed based from Information from their Education Passport from primary school and performance in their entrance tests.
- Streaming may occur in some subjects in second year. This is where students are grouped by their ability – Higher and Ordinary. e.g. Maths
- The student council body suggests ideas and raises student related issues with school management. Usually one student is nominated from each class or year. This is the students' vehicle for discussion and influencing change. The schools' head girl/boy and deputy head girl/boy are usually elected by the school's student council.

### Day to Day School Routines

1. It's important to have a substantial breakfast each morning e.g. Porridge with fruit and yoghurt or a healthy cereal. Students will need something ample to sustain them until little break when they can have a snack. Advise them on the sensibility of not eating their packed lunch at 11am (the first small break) and being hungry for the afternoon then as a result.
2. Roll call, locker access and lunch are at certain times. If your child is a bit scatty, make sure to advise and help them to be organised for these situations. Ask them to speak to their class tutor or mentor/buddy if any early issues emerge here.
3. Get them to copy out their timetable into their journal in order to get familiar with it. Colour coding subjects on this timetable can help them track their progress for the week.
4. In some schools, the students travel to the teacher's base rooms. In other schools, the teachers move around, and each class has their own base. Movement may be reduced from now on. Having the correct materials for each class every day will be important. Being good at this will greatly help the transition to secondary school.
5. Moving around a new building can be disconcerting for a child. They can get lost and



that's upsetting for them. Advise them to tag on to one person from the class for the first few days or weeks until they get their bearings.

6. Many schools have gone to hour long classes to facilitate the new Junior Cycle. During the first few weeks settling in, they will be tired each evening. It may be an idea to plan ahead so that extra-curricular activities outside school are minimised during this period. After this 'fitting in' period is over, plough on with these important pastimes as normal.

### Twenty ACE Tips for Transitioning into 1st Year

1. Talk with your child, listen to their views and concerns and answer any questions they may have about the planned move. Talk to them about individual subjects. Help them plan their evenings and the fact that each one will now be different.
2. Many students get anxious about assessments. You can explain that they are to help the school to learn more about the supports that they may need. Advise them to speak with the individual subject teacher if they are concerned in any way about a subject or a test.
3. Try and bring them inside the school building before term starts. This is to familiarise students with the school at a time when there are fewer students in the building. They can learn about the layout of the school, get to know some of their new teachers and become familiar with the operation of the school including the frequency of bells, the location of lockers, where their base room and other key practical rooms are.
4. Involve your child in buying schoolbooks, uniform, P.E. gear etc. Involve them in more decision making from now on. Empowerment works.
5. Talk to your son/daughter about the length of the school day, how a timetable works and how they are going to travel to school. Trial runs are good. Leave early for school each morning to minimise this anxiety. Anticipate where they may get anxious during the day.
6. Talk regularly over the next few weeks about the new school rules, P.E. arrangements, the canteen, lunch breaks, uniform, and the timetable. Make yourself familiar with the policies of the school, regularly checking the school's website for updates.
7. Ensure as many of their subject teachers know about their exact strengths and difficulties. i.e. The information on their 'Education Passport'.
8. During the first term, if possible, visit the school every so often to meet their subject teachers, tutor, and year head. Always keep an eye on their journal for teachers' notes.
9. Get your hands on or draw up a map of the school to promote familiarisation.
10. Consider that it may take your child time to adapt to a new classroom, new activities, and new subjects. Ensure they build in down time each evening to maintain freshness and enthusiasm for the next set of challenges ahead. Unlike Primary School, every week differs.
11. Organising Issues: Purchase materials for each subject. School booklists and stationary lists (from their website) are the first port of call here. The website theschoolrun.com is useful for an insight into each subject and Introductory worksheets.
12. If possible, show them a few little skills around note-taking. Most of their subject teachers may not get the opportunity to work on this vital skill.
13. Talk about and help clarify the Locker process. Many kids get bogged down with this.
14. Advise them to use their mentor/buddy and class tutor as best they can.
15. Getting clever at knowing what equipment is required for each class is important: i.e. protractors, setsquares, colours, stencil sets, rulers, pens, calculators etc. A good tip is to remind them to write down each teachers' instructions during week one about what is required in each subject. There is no need to carry all of their books all of the time. Put their Timetable and Calendar on the fridge at home as a family reminder to all.
16. Encourage them to sign up to a few clubs and society's on 'club's day' in September.
17. Re-enforce the Important habit of recording Information, especially in relation to homework. Check their Journal weekly to ensure homework is being recorded properly.
18. Get the 3-way communication going i.e. Teachers-Parent-Student. In primary school, it was more about the Teacher-Parent link. Start including your child in more conversations as appropriate from now on. This allows them to be involved and take more ownership.
19. Do as much preparation for the next school day the night before as you can. Get them into the habit of having the uniform out, bag correctly packed by the door, lunch ready etc. This again will reduce stress levels for all involved in the morning madness.
20. At secondary school, the days are longer. Encourage them to start their day with a healthy breakfast or give them some dried fruit or yoghurt to eat in the car if in a hurry.

Do contact me if I can advise in any way. Click #JoesJotter for more.

More details about Joe as a [Maths Tutor](#) for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate (2022), ACE Maths Assessments, and his Award winning ACE Maths Solution Books can be found via the links below.

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## Joe's Jotter: ACE Tips for Transitioning into 1st Year (Part 2)

### Practical steps to smooth the Transition into Secondary School

There are loads of steps and initiative's both you and your child can take as they start Secondary school. In Part 2 of this feature, I will discuss three key areas for you to consider in order to ease this transition: One, the importance of learning support; two, your awareness of how the first few weeks are actually going for them; and three, practical tips for both you and your child to consider at school and at home.

### The Importance of Learning Support

- Secondary Schools will have learning support for your child. If your child's new school are missing any key Information around this, ensure they get it as soon as possible. Many schools will have a staff meeting (in September), where your child's year head will outline important strengths and weaknesses of each student.
- Learning support at Secondary is different to that at Primary school level. Contact the school if they had been receiving any type of support at Primary that their new school may not be aware of.
- Flag any difficulties that your child had in primary school, so that it is entered onto their personal file. The class tutor and year heads will then have access to it from there. Ensure to always request the correct learning supports that your child is entitled to.
- If your child has complex special educational needs, they may need a transition plan to assist them to transfer to their new secondary school. You and your child will be involved in developing this plan. Other people may be involved, as necessary, including relevant teachers from their primary and post-primary school, NEPS psychologist, health professionals etc.
- As appropriate, a support plan may also include information on your child's learning, social and communication, care, (for example: dressing, toileting, mobility, and medication), sensory (such as over sensitivity to noise, textures, lights) and physical needs that require environmental adaptations such as adaptations to the school building, adapted seating or other specialised equipment.
- Most post-primary schools will have links with their feeder primary schools. This allows for an easier transfer of information between them. Usually, there is contact between the 6th class primary/resource teacher and the receiving post-primary school. This will help to overcome any disconnect between what was taught in primary and the starting point in certain subjects at second level.
- For all parents, I would recommend writing a one page profile about your child noting the difficulties and barriers they faced at primary school. Include in it the strategies that worked and that didn't work for them. This would be valuable Information for their tutor, year head and individual subject teachers should you like them to have it. I know that as a teacher, I am always pleased to get Insights like this, should parents be willing to present them. It gives us as teachers a deeper understanding into how each child interacts and learns, allowing us to support and get to know our students better. Outcomes are always better with Informative Insights like these.

You may also wish to ask the school some key questions at the start of the school year...

1. Where can my child go if they are struggling, anxious or having a meltdown?
2. What happens at break and lunch time? i.e. unstructured time
3. How can my child get help with reading, spelling, Maths, or homework?
4. How will support during class assessments work in each subject?

### Awareness of how they are Settling In

1. Watch out for any early signs of bullying by regularly checking in with your child. Tune in from day one to see whats going on and whats being said. A lot of bullying goes on via their phone; so ask them to pass on any issues or concerns they may have e.g. a hurtful comment, message, or mean social media post.
2. With things being a little unsettled for the first few weeks, establishing a routine is really important. I would try to maintain the dinner, bed, study, training, and recreational routines at home as best you can. Kids that are going through change crave some kind of routine and they will look to you for that stability.
3. After the Initial settling in period is over, keep an eye out for disturbed sleep, anxiety, and poor eating habits – it may be a sign of something not being quite right at school.
4. Watch out for emerging red flags i.e. Not wanting to do activities they enjoy, spend time with friends or worse, an unwillingness to go to school. Teach your child to talk to you.
5. Ask them what classes they like?, Who are they sitting beside? Who are you hanging around with? What clubs have they? Always try and get an honest conversation going.
6. Try to listen to them if they have had a bad day.
7. In general, if you get them into good habits in 1st year, 2nd year will be way more straightforward (A major ACE tip here) especially from a communication viewpoint.

### Practical Tips for things to do.....together at home

1. Make a few copies of their subject timetable.
2. Photocopy the bus ticket, keeping a spare one in their locker and at home.
3. Help them get organised with colour co-ordinated folders (available in most stationary shops). Give each subject a colour, so for example, English goes in the blue folder. Put a blue sticker on the English textbook/copies and colour 'English' blue on the timetable. If you have a map of the school, the room where English class is on would be blue also.
4. Have a morning reminder checklist on the fridge for: PE gear, lunch, keys, jacket etc.
5. Know the system. If they can view their books on a laptop, this may sometimes allow them to leave books in school. Most secondary school textbooks now come now with a code where you can upload them onto their laptop. Handy to know this Information.
6. Making a distinctive mark on their belongings will give them a better chance of them not being lost or stolen, especially during the upheaval of the first few weeks.

### Practical Tips for things they can do.....at school

1. Having a safe person they can approach for help or advice, more than one if possible.

2. Carefully minding their colour coordinated timetable, the spare key/code and bus-ticket.
3. Trying to build a good relationship with their class tutor and year head.
4. Having a notebook that they can write in during the day if they find something challenging. It is advisable not to expect them to talk immediately after school. Giving them some quiet processing time will allow you to get the chat going as the night progresses.
5. Getting to know a friend in each class that they can text to find out what homework or revision they have for the next day. Classmates will vary depending on the subject.
6. Getting to know the school secretary, should any issues or concerns arise.

To view part one of this feature article on 'Transitioning into first year'. click [here](#). Joe More details about Joe as a [Maths Tutor](#) for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate (2022), ACE Maths Assessments, and his Award winning ACE Maths Solution Books can be found via the links below.

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### Joe's Jotter: Secondary Maths – Some Useful Insights for Parents

I think it may be interesting for both students and parents to consider the following observations I have become aware of in Maths over the last number of years. Maths is a very emotive subject, and everyone has their own way of understanding and practicing it. This presents its own set of difficulties. The below insights and observations may help you as a parent to reach out and help your child with Maths in a more positive way.

### The Second Year Dip

Firstly, in general, I have noticed that some of my students (and those of my colleagues) experience a slight dip in performance in Maths during their second year in secondary school. This is partly due to workload and the fact that the first-year common course is quite basic. This dip for girls is not as pronounced as for boys. There is also a drop off in fifth year, but it isn't as extreme as the second year one. If your child is heading into second year, you need to be aware that this could be the case for them. I believe that working diligently on their algebra, fractions and general numeracy would be a big help in overcoming any barriers that block their path. These topics are the three main pillars of Junior Cycle Maths and underpin and are linked to many other topics on the course.

We all need to keep in mind that online learning has not suited some students and that they have missed out on that key face-to-face contact with teachers, especially in Maths. As a parent, it is important that you encourage positivity around this subject and remind them that every student in the country is in the same boat. From a personal point of view, I noticed that last year's Junior Cycle class did struggle (more than usual) with some topics, but it did eventually come together for them in the end. I expect that the incoming third year cohort will take a while to settle back (through no fault of their own) this year. In fairness, it may take many of them until after Christmas before they settle down into a pattern of revision and work across all subjects. It is understandable that they may not hit the ground running this year and we all need to be cognisant of this.

### Girls – Go for it!

From the students I have taught since Project Maths was introduced, I have noticed another trend in my classes. I have spotted that female students are less likely to take risks when attempting past exam questions. The new phrasing of questions on Maths papers suit boys better, as they are less conscious of what they are writing down and are less afraid of being wrong. In my opinion, it is important for girls to express their opinions freely and openly and we, as teachers, need to help them develop this skill. I think it is important for all students not to get unduly perturbed if they cannot get a certain part of a question out perfectly. In Maths now, it is more important to go onto another question (within the allotted time), instead of looking to complete every single question part absolutely perfect. I feel that Churchill's (not the dog) quote is quite apt for our modern day Maths syllabus.

*“Perfection is the enemy of Progress”.*  
*Winston Churchill (Former Prime Minister of the UK)*

One does not really have time for absolute perfection on a Maths paper as they tend to be quite long, and unlike other subjects, there isn't as much time for admiring your work. Students should apply this principle across the board to all their Maths tests in 2021/22.

### The New Practical Style Questions

Thirdly, girls especially need to practice more exam questions involving engineering and mechanical parts. My reasoning for this is that, in general, most of the student cohort studying Engineering, Construction studies and Design/Communication Graphics (DCG) at Leaving Certificate are boys, and girls are not being exposed to this specific type of learning. With more everyday life practical questions being the order of the day in Maths, it is inevitable that more technical and mechanical questions will appear in years to come, and girls and parents of girls need to be aware of this. This trend will slowly become more pronounced if the Governments' promotion and focus on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects continues and I expect it will.

### Follow Your Passion

Lastly, in a recent survey, twenty-nine percent of Irish parents surveyed thought that technology subjects weren't suitable for girls and fifty-three percent of girls in secondary school dropped STEM subjects due to pressure from their parents. These statistics may be contributing to the lack of representation of females working in STEM. Students and parents need to be aware of the excellent third level courses and future career opportunities available in these areas for both genders. Students need to be encouraged to explore all avenues of interest and follow their career path of choice. Pursuing some spinoff of the subjects that a student enjoys each day in school won't set them too far wrong. Joe More details about Joe as a [Maths Tutor](#) for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate (2022), ACE Maths Assessments, and his Award winning ACE Maths Solution Books can be found via the links below.

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## Joe's Jotter: Navigating Secondary School as a Student with SEN

Students who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) can struggle with a variety of tasks each day at Secondary School. As teachers and parents, we want to make their transition to Secondary School as smooth as possible. This feature article gives some tips on how you can help your child navigate their day-to-day engagements more seamlessly. It also contains some useful advice and informative recommendations for Parents of Students with SEN that are already attending Secondary School (2nd Years upwards).

### The 'Home' Support

- Photocopy their timetable, have copies in their locker, on the fridge, in their journal and for their pocket.
- Photocopy their bus ticket. Have a spare ticket in their school bag, at home and in their school locker in case it is misplaced.
- Get colour coordinated folders. Give each subject a colour. For example, all English related work and notes goes into a green folder. Put a green sticker on the English textbook and English copies and colour code 'English' green on their timetable. If you have a map of the school, then the room where English class takes place should be shaded green also. Everything 'English' is green and so on.
- If using a locker key, make multiple copies and get a springy key chain so that they can attach it to a loop on their pants or skirt. Alternatively, use a combination lock and get them to memorise the code between now and the start of school. Mark with nail varnish or spray paint to make it brighter and easier for them to see their property from a distance.
- Have a stash of spare copies and stationery material in a cupboard. Let them know where it is, so that they can draw on it as things go missing or get filled up.
- Have a morning checklist on the fridge for: books, lunch, key, jacket, PE gear etc.
- If possible, arrange for them to tour the school before day one. It is also a good idea to do a trial run of their trip to school with them, to get an idea of the route and timing. This will avoid any travel trauma's during week one.

### The 'School' Support

- If possible, arrange that they meet as many of their subject teachers and year head prior to starting back or as soon as is possible. This gives them certainty

about who they will be working with and helping them this year.

- Look into having a safe and reliable person that they can approach for help and advice in school on a daily basis.
- If they have an SNA, make sure that person also has a copy of their colour coordinated timetable, a spare key/combination code and bus-ticket.
- Make it your business to get to know your child's Assistant Principals and Class Tutor as soon as the year commences.
- Have a notebook that they can write in during the day in case they find something challenging. Both of you can reflect on it together when a suitable time during the week arises to see what challenges might need to be overcome.
- For the first hour each evening, allow them to breathe and relax when they get home. Do not expect them to talk immediately after school. It is advisable to allow them some quiet wind-down time first.
- Advise them to choose a Locker at eye level. This is so important, as all their classmates and other classes may be scheduled to go to their lockers together, leading to mayhem at times. Having to reach down with people blocking their path can be especially challenging for someone with social or communication difficulties. This is definitely one practical suggestion that will ensure they are on time for each class and that they bring the correct materials to each class also.
- Encourage them to link up with a buddy or designated person in each subject class, so they can text them to find out what homework they have, should the need arise.
- If they are using a laptop, most Secondary School books now come with a code written inside to allow the eBook version of it to be uploaded digitally. This means they can leave more books at school each day, lightening their load.
- Getting to know the school secretary, for both you and your child is definitely worthwhile, as they will have an awareness of who they are and their challenges etc. Any extra support or eyes around the Secondary School environment can help greatly for those who struggle in various practical ways.

More details about Joe as a Maths Tutor for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate (2022), ACE Maths Assessments, and his Award winning ACE Maths Solution Books can be found via the links below.

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### Upgrading lines



### Upgrading lives



If you live in Kildare or Meath, you may know EirGrid is planning an upgrade to the grid in your area, so that we can continue to provide a safe, secure and sustainable electricity supply now and in the future.

As part of our ongoing consultation, we have identified four potential routes for the new 400kV underground cable which will connect Dunstown station in Co. Kildare to Woodland station in Co. Meath – and we want to hear your views.

You can find more details and have your say on the four options at [www.eirgrid.ie/KildareMeath](http://www.eirgrid.ie/KildareMeath). You can also email [kildaremeath@eirgrid.com](mailto:kildaremeath@eirgrid.com) or call Grainne on 085 887 4798.

**EIRGRID**  
Delivering a cleaner energy future

## Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

We are delighted to say that Maynooth Senior Citizens' Committee will be resuming its monthly meetings from September. We will keep our members informed as to when we are able to resume our activities. We will be guided by HSE guidelines and recommendations as the safety of our members is the number one priority. We would welcome more volunteers to join our committee. Currently the committee is made up of 15 people. If you feel you can commit some time and energy, please contact us.

Our activities in "normal circumstances" include a Tuesday and Thursday morning Club where we have activities such as bingo, art and other activities. There is a monthly Tea Dance (Sunday afternoon) at which the whole committee helps with the setting up, providing teas, sandwiches and cakes. Transport is organised to bring members to Mass on Saturday evenings and committee members are present to ensure safe delivery of our members. There is the annual Sale of Work where the whole committee and volunteer supporters ensure that the event is carried out successfully. This event requires commitment of time and involvement leading up to and during the event. At the moment it is the main fundraiser for Maynooth Senior Citizens. We are part of the Senior Alert Scheme and liaise with Pobal in regard to carrying out the requests for Security Alarms. We also have a fuel provision scheme which is organised locally. Unfortunately we have not been able to carry out most of these activities during Covid.

Many of our existing committee have given years of their lives to this organisation and continue to do so. Their experience has been of great benefit to the organisation and they have grown it to what is has become today. However, new committee members are required to bring new energy and ideas – it could be you.

Please contact: [maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com](mailto:maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com)

Susan Durack  
Secretary/PRO Maynooth Senior Citizens







Gold Medal  
1 Winner 2019

You may have noticed this signage at 3 sites in Maynooth - Meadowbrook Link Road, Carton Avenue and The Green. All three are designated Research Sites for research work being undertaken by Kildare County Council in conjunction with Maynooth University, Trinity College Dublin, Teagasc and the National Biodiversity Data Centre.



The purpose of the research is twofold and to assess over the coming years the effects these measures are having on pollinating insects:

1. To find alternatives to Roundup-trials will be undertaken on some of the road side verges and public parks using a number of alternatives to Roundup.
2. To increase biodiversity across KCC public parks and road side verges by introducing different plant species and reduced mowing regimes.

The reduced mowing regimes are already underway on the designated research sites in Maynooth. It is important that as much information and data as possible is gathered over the coming years to assist in the research. Maynooth Tidy Towns is delighted to be associated with this research project. A number of MTT volunteers are assisting with data collection by participating in the Flower Insect Times (FIT) counts which runs between April and September each year. The data collected is submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre which contributes to understanding insect abundance and distribution in our locality and across our island.

Work continues around the town every Saturday morning with our many volunteers who continuously turn out every week, we are a very lucky group to have so many people who are interested in making Maynooth a better place to live. We did a clean up of the Royal Canal in July from The Harbour to the 14th Lock, it was a very well attended event, 60K of litter was retrieved from that area of water.

Under normal circumstances we would be waiting for our invitation to The Helix for the Tidy Towns results, it may happen in October.



Please like our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter for more updates.

*Mary Molloy, Secretary Maynooth Tidy Towns*

### *The Canal in Autumn*

Russet leaves glide onto dark water  
Bereft of bird and insect life  
Except for a wild duck and his mate.  
Further on metal paddleboats,  
One with jutting, bladed arms,  
The other with a toothed scoop,  
Remove the summer weeds,  
Tipping them along the tree-lined bank.

The yellow water lilies are gone  
And the ducklings trailing in a line:  
Now that our children have all left  
We too must cut the choking weeds  
And like this pair of tranquil ducks  
Venture among the vagrant leaves.

By Colin Scott

### *Gossamer*

Half lost in an autumn wood  
We came upon a leaf-strewn path  
Above which ash and beech trees towered.  
No sound except our muffled footsteps  
Broke the stillness of the morning  
So were it not for badgers' scrapes  
We might have thought all nature dead.

Then right before us at eye height  
We saw a russet leaf suspended,  
A magic form, distinct, apart  
From bole or branch, in empty space.

Without a sign of gossamer  
It twirled and floated endlessly  
As if some hidden force attested  
That falls from grace can be arrested.

By Colin Scott

### *Phrases we use every day*

Source: *The Book Red Herrings and White Elephants* by Albert Jack

To find somebody **As Drunk As A Newt** is never a pleasant experience, but at least they will be all right in the morning. But no one has ever found an intoxicated newt ricocheting up the High Street on a Saturday night, so why the reference? It seems that during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries 'newts' was the nickname gentlemen gave boys who looked after their horses while out on the town for the night. As they spent their evening in gaming houses, bars and opium dens our forefathers were good enough to send out 'warm up' drinks to the newts who would then usually be found rolling drunk by the time the horses were collected hence the saying.

To **Carry the Can** means to take reluctant responsibility for something, usually that has gone wrong. Originally a military term, the saying stems from the duty of one man to carry a large can (bucket) of beer between the mess and a group of men. The one carrying the can was responsible for both the beer and for the returning the empty bucket. The phrase was in regular use by 1936 but a second theory dates further back. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, explosive was regularly used in coal and tin mines. One person would be given the unenviable task of carrying a can of explosives to the mine face each day, hence a reluctance to 'carry the can'.



# Hope you are keeping safe and well We are working to support you through COVID



For Constituency Clinics

**Telephone: 089 2444 793**

**Monday to Friday  
Or,**

**Email:**

**Catherine.Murphy@oireachtas.ie**

**Our local Social Democrats  
team working in the area  
for you!**

**Contact us for any queries  
you might have**

**Aidan Farrelly**

**Nuala Killeen**

**087 61 4540**

**087 183 2322**



**Catherine Murphy, Your Kildare North  
Social Democrats TD**

**Honest Politics, Strong Economy, Fair Society**

## MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES

### **Bikeweek 2021**

This year, rather than nine days in June, Bikeweek is in September and runs for seven days from 12th to 18th.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign has applied for funding to run a number of events both public and in local schools. They will however require the support of Kildare County Council but at the time of going to press, we do not know the Council's response. Check out the Bikeweek.ie website to see the outcome!

### **Report by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report warned world governments that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach. The government target is a reduction in carbon emissions of 51% between 2018 and 2030 and to net zero no later than 2050. If this is to be achieved, this will involve change by everyone including car drivers.

### **Kiss the Gates Goodbye**

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is taking part in a national campaign to #KissTheGatesGoodbye. In order to remove barriers to towpaths and recreational areas for users of non-standard bikes and people with disabilities. We have invited the new Director of Services to see the problem for herself.

### **Speed Limits**

We are disappointed at Kildare County Council's use of Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland, which was published in 2015, to justify the widespread increase in speed limits. We instead call on councillors to Implement the Stockholm Declaration which the Government signed in 2012 by introducing a default maximum road speed of 30 km/h in urban areas, and to reduce the speed limit to 60km/h for tertiary (rural) local roads.



In urban areas, it will not preclude elected members from deciding on higher (or lower) speed limits as they see fit but will enable more active travel ie walking and cycling as well as reducing congestion and pollution. It is also designed to initiate a discussion on the culture of urban speeds. The reduced speed limit on rural roads is designed to reduce the risk to walkers and cyclists on low trafficked country roads.

### **Strand Road**

Last month, Dublin City Council was instructed to stop work on temporary cycle tracks on Strand Road, Sandymount following court action by objectors to the scheme. Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the announcement by Dublin City that they will be appealing the decision. Following the release of the IPCC report, the provision of safe cycling facilities is even more important now in reducing carbon emissions. We commend the City Council councillors who put the common good before the rights of drivers by voting to trial the scheme. After this summer's extreme floods and widespread fires in Europe, Maynooth should reconsider the decision not trial one way traffic on Parson Street. Burying your head in the sand is not a climate strategy.

### **New Team in Charge of Transportation in Kildare County Council**

There has been significant changes at the top of the management of the Transportation Department of Kildare County Council. Evelyn Wright has been appointed as Director of Services and Donal Hodgins has been appointed as Senior Engineer in charge of Sustainable Transport. We congratulate them on their appointments and look forward to working with them in the future.

**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.**





# Maynooth Community Library Events

## September Cleverreach blurbs

### Children

#### Wed 22 September 3:30pm: Minecraft Build Challenge

Do you like to create and build in Minecraft? Sign up for our Zoom discussion and take part in our build challenge which will be sent to you in advance! Suitable for ages 6-10. Children must be accompanied on the video call by an adult. Places are limited and booking is essential.  
backtoschoolminecraft.eventbrite.ie.

### Adults / Families and Young Adults aged 12- 14 years

#### Friday 17th September 5-6 pm

#### Culture Night : An evening of Poetry with Poet and Author Enda Wyley

People will be invited to read a favourite poem or a poem they have written themselves. Enda Wyley will also read from her own poetry and discuss writing poetry and creative writing.  
12- 14 year olds attending the event online must have a parent/guardian present with them for the duration of the event.

Enda Wyley was born in Dún Laoghaire, Co Dublin. She is a poet and a teacher and member of Aosdána, the Irish affiliation of artists. She has published six collections of poetry with Dedalus Press, most recently Borrowed Space, New and Selected Poems and The Painter on his Bike, 2019. Places are limited.

Booking Essential through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/166058169455>.

#### Wed 29 September 8:15pm: (Face)Book Club

Our (Face)Book Club returns in September and is always welcoming new members, where we will discuss a new book from BorrowBox every month over Zoom. Join our Facebook group or email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) for the details.  
[facebook.com/kildarelibrariesbookclub](https://www.facebook.com/kildarelibrariesbookclub).

### Summer Stars Certificates

A Huge Well Done ! to all the children who participated in our Summer Stars Reading Challenge and well done to all the children who wrote some lovely reviews of the books they read as well. We had over 200 participants in the

Summer Reading Challenge this year. Certificates of participation will be available to collect in Maynooth Community Library from Monday September 13th for each child who took part in the Summer Stars Reading Challenge.

### Regular Events

#### Ciorcal Comhrá/ Irish Language Conversation group via Zoom

#### Every Wednesday at 11am / Gach Céadaoin ar a 11 a Chlog.

Join us online every Wednesday morning at 11am for an informal chat as Gaeilge. If you have a log of Irish or the cúpla focal, this an opportunity to practice your Irish and learn some Irish all from the comfort of your own home. To register, please call Maynooth Community Library or email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

Beidh Ciorcal comhrá ar siúil ar líne via Zoom gach Céadaoin ar a 11 a Chlog. Má bhíonn an-chuid Gaeilge agat nó an cúpla focal agat, tapaigh an deis seo le do chuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh agus Gaeilge a fhoghlaim as do bhaile féin. Le clárú, cuir ríomhphost chuig [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) nó cuir glaoch ar 01 628 5530.

### Online Story and Nursery Rhymes Time for 2-5 year olds

Join the Staff of Maynooth Library for some story-telling and nursery rhymes! Please be aware that a parent/guardian must be present for the duration of the event.

#### Every Friday at 10am – 10.30 am

Friday 3rd September <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/167872066871>.

Friday 10th of September <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/167872303579>.

Friday 17th of September <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/167872518221>.

Friday 24th of September <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/167872783013>.

### Bookclubs

#### Readers of the Lost Ark SciFi Bookclub.

The Maynooth Library SciFi/Fantasy bookclub 'Readers of the Lost Ark' meet virtually via zoom on the second Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th of September at 6.30pm. If you are interested in joining the bookclub, please email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) or telephone 01 628 5530.

### Book Busters Children's Bookclub

Maynooth Childrens Book Club "Book Busters" will meet up via Zoom on Friday 24th September @3.45pm. Now accepting new members. Suitable for ages 7-12 years. Contact Maynooth library on 01 6285530 or by email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

## Plant of the Month - Geraniums

Geraniums are a longtime favorite of gardeners. They are easy to grow, colorful, and emit a lovely scent. They provide a burst of colour and fragrance throughout the summer. They're easy to grow and thrive in terracotta pots as well as traditional bedding displays.

### Here's how to grow geraniums in your home and garden!

Some types of geranium are perfect for growing in hanging baskets. As well as offering beautiful blooms, some geraniums, known as scented-leaf geraniums, have fragrant leaves. Choose from apple, orange, lemon, spice or lavender. They're often sold as herbs as the leaves are edible.

Geraniums may be grown as houseplants or as annual flowers. During the warmer months of the year (between your local frost dates), they can be kept outdoors in a sunny location.

If keeping geraniums as houseplants, be sure to bring them indoors in late summer or early fall, when nighttime temperatures start to regularly dip below 55°F (13°C).



When buying geraniums, pay close attention to colour and size. Healthy leaves will have no discoloration on or below them and stems will be sturdy, not straggly. Be sure to avoid any plants with obvious signs of pests as well. Common houseplant pests include mealybugs, whiteflies, and spider mites. Place plants in pots with drainage holes to avoid root rot.

Use a well-draining potting mixture (not heavy, clayey soil) when planting in containers. Geraniums do not like to sit in soggy, compacted soil. For maximum bloom, place the plants in an area where they will get 4-6 hours of sunlight.

### How to care for Geraniums

Allow soil to dry to some extent between waterings, then water thoroughly. During the winter, water much less, but do not let the roots dry out entirely. Geraniums do best when given a period of dormancy through the winter months, during which they use less water and do not grow much.

To encourage blooming, deadhead regularly. To promote bushiness pinch back the stems. During active growing months, fertilize every 2 weeks or so. Use a water-soluble fertilizer at half strength. Don't fertilize in winter, when the plant should be dormant. Geraniums can be re-potted in spring to encourage new growth—or if they look like they need to be refreshed.

### Over wintering Geraniums

Geraniums that have spent the summer outdoors can be kept as houseplants, provided they get lots of sun. Before the first frost, lift the plants and, using a sharp, clean knife, cut the stems back in a shapely fashion to about 6 to 8 inches. They should not have to support great masses of leaves in the low-sunlight environment they are about to enter. Save a few stems as cuttings to root—an easy way to multiply your plants.

Transplant the "mother plant" to the smallest pot possible—enough to just fit the roots—using regular potting soil to fill. Keep the plants in shade for a week, then place them in a sunny spot (they need all the sun they can get) and keep them cool.

During winter, geraniums grow best with night temperatures of 50° to 60°F (10° to 16°C) but will survive if they drop to 32°F (0°C) and/or rise above 80°F (27° C), as long as they are kept relatively dry.

When new growth appears in the spring, cut off all the old leaves.

Common problems can be low light or over- or under watering. The leaves will turn yellow as an indication you are watering too little or too much. In this case, try to even the watering out and move the geraniums to a brighter place.

Geraniums may cause indigestion or vomiting in young children and pets (cats, dogs), so keep the plants out of reach of curious pets and children.

Source: [www.almanac.com/plant/geraniums](http://www.almanac.com/plant/geraniums)





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### THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and prayer & favour, will be granted no matter how impossible.  
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## Joe's Jotter: Secondary Maths Some Useful Insights for Parents

I think it may be interesting for both students and parents to consider the following observations I have become aware of in Maths over the last number of years. Maths is a very emotive subject, and everyone has their own way of understanding and practicing it. This presents its own set of difficulties. The below insights and observations may help you as a parent to reach out and help your child with Maths in a more positive way.

### The Second Year Dip

Firstly, in general, I have noticed that some of my students (and those of my colleagues) experience a slight dip in performance in Maths during their second year in secondary school. This is partly due to workload and the fact that the first-year common course is quite basic. This dip for girls is not as pronounced as for boys. There is also a drop off in fifth year, but it isn't as extreme as the second year one. If your child is heading into second year, you need to be aware that this could be the case for them. I believe that working diligently on their algebra, fractions and general numeracy would be a big help in overcoming any barriers that block their path. These topics are the three main pillars of Junior Cycle Maths and underpin and are linked to many other topics on the course.

We all need to keep in mind that online learning has not suited some students and that they have missed out on that key face-to-face contact with teachers, especially in Maths. As a parent, it is important that you encourage positivity around this subject and remind them that every student in the country is in the same boat. From a personal point of view, I noticed that last year's Junior Cycle class did struggle (more than usual) with some topics, but it did eventually come together for them in the end. I expect that the incoming third year cohort will take a while to settle back (through no fault of their own) this year. In fairness, it may take many of them until after Christmas before they

settle down into a pattern of revision and work across all subjects. It is understandable that they may not hit the ground running this year and we all need to be cognisant of this.

### Girls – Go for it!

From the students I have taught since Project Maths was introduced, I have noticed another trend in my classes. I have spotted that female students are less likely to take risks when attempting past exam questions. The new phrasing of questions on Maths papers suit boys better, as they are less conscious of what they are writing down and are less afraid of being wrong. In my opinion, it is important for girls to express their opinions freely and openly and we, as teachers, need to help them develop this skill. I think it is important for all students not to get unduly perturbed if they cannot get a certain part of a question out perfectly. In Maths now, it is more important to go onto another question (within the allotted time), instead of looking to complete every single question part absolutely perfect. I feel that Churchill's (not the dog) quote is quite apt for our modern day Maths syllabus.

*"Perfection is the enemy of Progress".*

Winston Churchill (Former Prime Minister of the UK)

One does not really have time for absolute perfection on a Maths paper as they tend to be quite long, and unlike other subjects, there isn't as much time for admiring your work. Students should apply this principle across the board to all their Maths tests in 2021/22.

### The New Practical Style Questions

Thirdly, girls especially need to practice more exam questions involving engineering and mechanical parts. My reasoning for this is that, in general, most of the student cohort studying Engineering, Construction studies and Design/Communication Graphics (DCG) at Leaving Certificate are boys, and girls are not being exposed to this specific type of learning. With more everyday life practical questions being the order of the day in Maths, it is

inevitable that more technical and mechanical questions will appear in years to come, and girls and parents of girls need to be aware of this. This trend will slowly become more pronounced if the Governments' promotion and focus on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects continues and I expect it will.

### Follow Your Passion

Lastly, in a recent survey, twenty-nine percent of Irish parents surveyed thought that technology subjects weren't suitable for girls and fifty-three percent of girls in secondary school dropped STEM subjects due to pressure from their parents. These statistics may be contributing to the lack of representation of females working in STEM. Students and parents need to be aware of the excellent third level courses and future career opportunities available in these areas for both genders. Students need to be encouraged to explore all avenues of interest and follow their career path of choice. Pursuing some spinoff of the subjects that a student enjoys each day in school won't set them too far wrong. Joe

More details about Joe as a Maths Tutor for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate (2022), ACE Maths Assessments, and his Award winning ACE Maths Solution Books can be found via the links below.

W: [acesolutionbooks.com/ace-maths-tuition](http://acesolutionbooks.com/ace-maths-tuition)

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

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### Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review 2021

#### Notice of proposal to make Road Traffic (Special Speed Limit) Bye Laws

Following requests to extend the Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review 2021, Kildare County Council has now decided to extend the Public Consultation Period beyond the summer holiday period.

Any submissions made in response to the notice published on 27th July 2021 remain valid and will inform the next stage of the process.

Submissions can be made on-line and it is an important opportunity to have your say. The speed limit review proposes to make changes to some national regional and local roads. The link to make a submission is here: [Kildare County Speed Limit Review 2021 - Public Consultation | Kildare County Council \(kildarecoco.ie\)](https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/kildare-county-speed-limit-review-2021-public-consultation)

Any proposed changes will be advertised in advance of the change. It is important to take some time to have a look as some of the speed limits will be revised down and some speed limits rise.

There is a specific volume in respect of the roads in and surrounding Maynooth. The announcement in respect of the speed limit review is here:

Kildare County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 9, subsection (4), of the Road Traffic Act, 2004 hereby gives notice of its proposal to make Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws in respect of public roads within the administrative area of the County of Kildare.

Particulars of this Speed Limit Review are available to view on Kildare County Council's website at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/kildare-county-speed-limit-review-2021-public-consultation> and on [www.speedlimits.ie](http://www.speedlimits.ie) from **Wednesday 18th August 2021 to Thursday 16th September 2021.**

Particulars of the Speed Limit Review are also available for inspection at the offices of Kildare County Council, Level 4, Aras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X77F **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**. Appointments must be made in advance at <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/>

Submissions or observations with respect to the Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review 2021 can be made online at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/kildare-county-speed-limit-review-2021-public-consultation>

#### OR

**in writing to: A/Senior Executive Officer, Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X77F on or before 16th September 2021.**

Please make your submission by one medium **only** i.e. in hard copy or online. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions should be headed: **"Kildare County Council Speed Limit Review 2021"**

All comments, including names of those making comments, submitted as part of this review will be included in the statutory report to be presented at a meeting of the elected members. Accordingly, they will also be included in the minutes of that meeting and may appear in the public domain.

Kildare County Council is subject to the provisions of Freedom of Information (FOI Acts 1997 and 2014) and the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018.

The Public Consultation Number 2 on the preferred Option for DART+ West has been extended until 29th September

The long awaited Dart upgrade has an open consultation period and the time for submissions is extended to 29th September 2021.

The first of the infrastructural projects of the DART+ Programme to be delivered will be the DART+ West project. This rail improvement project will provide a sustainable, electrified, reliable and more frequent rail service to our customers, improving capacity on Maynooth and M3 Parkway to city centre rail corridors.

#### The project will see:

- Increase train capacity from the current 6 trains per hour per direction up to 12 trains per hour per direction subject to demand. Passenger capacity will increase from 5,000 in 2019 to 13,200 passengers in 2025.
- Reduce carbon emissions through the deployment of new electric trains.
- Support growing communities, businesses, and future development by providing high-quality integrated public transport service in line with Government policy including the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.
- Your local knowledge will inform the design, help us to improve the project and ensure it will be a success for you and the communities it will serve.

Delivery of this DART+ West will support existing communities and support future sustainable development. It will serve all existing stations along the railway corridor

between Maynooth Station and M3 Parkway Station to Connolly Station and to the proposed Spencer Dock Station using electrical power, which has a lower carbon footprint than the current diesel trains. The frequency and quality of service will provide a viable transport alternative for surrounding communities other than private car travel. This will assist in Ireland reducing road congestion and greenhouse gas emissions from transport, thereby helping to combat climate change.

The electrification of the rail line will predominantly follow the existing railway corridor. Works outside of Iarnród Éireann lands will be required at a number of locations for some of the scheme elements such as:

- Level crossing replacements;
- Proposed depot, including rail and road realignment;
- Proposed new Spencer Dock Station;
- Bridge reconstruction and/or improvements;
- Construction of substations (to facilitate the provision of power to the line), and
- Use of land for temporary construction/storage compounds and all ancillary works required for the project.

Take some time to review the proposed project and detailed plans. The maps and details are available here: [DART+ DART+ West \(dartplus.ie\)](https://dartplus.ie)

The closing date for submissions is the 29th September.

#### House prices rise by 6.9%

According to the CSO, house prices rose by 6.9pc in June – the fastest level of growth in two and a half years. Meanwhile, a report from property consultants Turner and Townsend has revealed that Dublin is now the most expensive city in Europe in which to build. Yet, when it comes to building materials and the cost of construction labour, Ireland is no more expensive than comparable European countries.

"The key to addressing skyrocketing house prices is tackling the cost, and supply, of development land."

A 2020 European Commission report on Housing Affordability in Ireland identified the concentration of development land, in the hands of a small number of large developers and investment funds, as a key factor in reducing competition and fuelling inflation. This cartel of large developers and funds, which have squeezed out smaller builders, must be broken. We cannot allow a small number of developers to continue to monopolise the control of development land and drip feed the supply of much-needed housing into an overheating market.

"It has been reported that Housing Minister Darragh O'Brien will include a taxation measure, to capture a portion of rezoned land value increases, in his Housing For All strategy. This will not go far enough. The State needs to take an assertive role and use Compulsory Purchase Orders to ensure a consistent supply of land at affordable prices for housing, as originally proposed in the Kenny Report of 1973."

"There must also be a renewed focus on increasing our pool of skilled construction workers and apprenticeships, especially in wet-trades, and increasing productivity, by accelerating the use of modern and sustainable building technologies."

House prices rose at an annual rate of 6.9 per cent in June, the fastest level of growth seen in 2½ years. This was up from 5.4 per cent the previous month.

[Central Statistics Office](https://www.cso.ie/en/pressroom/central-statistics-office/) (CSO) figures show the State's property market continues to be stoked by pandemic-related factors, such as increased savings and lower-than-anticipated supply.

Prices in Dublin rose by 6.4 per cent on an annual basis in June, the fastest level of growth seen in the capital in three years, while prices outside Dublin rose 7.4 per cent. Many had predicted property values would decline as a result of the pandemic but a number of factors – increased savings, home working and expatriates returning from London after Brexit – have led to an acceleration in prices.

#### Transactions

The CSO said the number of property transactions in June rose month on month by 8.3 per cent to 3,473. The total value of transactions filed with Revenue was €1.1 billion. Existing dwellings accounted for 85 per cent of the homes purchased, while the balance of 15 per cent were new dwellings.

The figures show households paid a median or middle-range price of €265,000 for a home in the Republic over the past year. The Dublin region had the highest median price at €395,000.

Within the Dublin region, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown had the highest median price (€555,000), while Fingal had the lowest (€360,000).

The highest median prices outside of Dublin were in Wicklow (€365,000) and Kildare (€329,950), while Leitrim and Longford had the lowest (€120,000).

IPAV, the Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers, said the rising prices of recent months are likely to continue for the foreseeable future until supply improves. Breaking the cartel on development land is the key to tackling sky-rocketing house prices

(Continued on page 22)





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

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*(Continued from page 21)*

### Rental crisis impacts students returning to College

The government's failure to tackle the rental crisis means rents have continued to surge. A recent [daft.ie](https://www.daft.ie) report reveals the abject failure of this government to tackle the rental crisis. Rents climbed by an average annual rate of 5.6pc in the second quarter of this year, but the rates of increase were even higher in many areas. For instance, rents in Kerry, Leitrim and Roscommon surged by more than 16pc while rents in Donegal, Cavan, Clare, Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Waterford all increased by more than 14pc.

"The unprecedented nature of this crisis is evident in the fact that it is now cheaper to repay a mortgage than pay rent in nearly every region of the country. In fact, the only two places where a mortgage for a three-bed home is more expensive than rent is in Dublin 4 and Dublin 6."

"Taoiseach Micheál Martin has said housing is this government's 'number one priority'. Despite this, after more than a year in government, we have yet to see Housing Minister Darragh O'Brien's housing plan. Last month it was announced that the publication of Housing For All was being delayed until at least the end of this month. While the Minister dithers, the crisis deepens".

"The Minister may not have a plan to help renters, but the Social Democrats do. As a matter of urgency, we now need to introduce a ban on rent increases, an end to evictions into homelessness, create a rent register and ensure renters have security of tenure by removing no fault evictions. These are among a suite of measures included in our Renters' Charter."

"The Minister has repeatedly promised to address the housing crisis. However, there is no evidence of any of his measures having any discernible positive impact. In fact, under his watch, the crisis is worsening."

"Runaway rents are out of control – and the government has no plan to stem them. This is clearly unsustainable. Renters are tired of the litany of empty promises from this government. What they need are credible solutions."

### Cllr Aidan Farrelly Update

### Maynooth Transport Strategy Update

In August 2021, the members of the Clane Maynooth Municipal District received a

presentation from Aecom and Kildare County Council, who together are beginning the process of developing the Maynooth Transport Strategy. At this preliminary meeting, a discussion was focussed around three main questions; In your opinion, what are the main transport issues facing Maynooth? Which transport infrastructure changes would you like to see proposed in respect to roads, parking, walking, cycling and public transport? How can we get people to drive less for short trips within Maynooth?

During the meeting, I proposed to the Council and Aecom to host an introduction workshop with community groups, residents associations, sports clubs and the Community Council as the questions being posed could be best answered by such groups at this early stage, as opposed to waiting on a formal public consultation for feedback. Kildare County Council committed to doing this, and we will await word on dates/times in September 2021.

Some of the main issues discussed at this meeting included population increases, capturing the purpose of travel, traffic congestion, segregated cycleways and other infrastructure. We would urge you to engage in the future public consultation processes on this important strategy document, and if you have any questions please feel free to get in touch.

### Maynooth Local Area Plan

Following a question I raised with Kildare County Council earlier this year, it was suggested that the Local Area Plan process would begin for Maynooth in late 2021. I have sought a more specific timeline for this and will update as soon as I hear.

### Kildare Meath Eirgrid Upgrade

As some of you may know, Eirgrid is embarking on a significant development to add a high capacity underground electricity connection between Dunstown substation in Co. Kildare (near Two Mile House) and Woodland substation in Co. Meath (near Batterstown). I am a member of the Eirgrid Community Forum, who will receive a presentation on the preferred route options for this upgrade on August 30th. Following this, the preferred routes will go to public consultation, and once again I would encourage you to read the preferred options, and engage with the public consultation process that begins in the first week of September. More details can be found:

<http://www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/capital-project-966/the-project/>

## Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

**Planning Applications received from 27/07/2021 to 30/08/2021 - 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
211214	Kildare County Council	Colm & Edel O'Muire	17 Woodlands, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 F6X5	24/08/2021
211184	Kildare County Council	Máire Ni Scannaill,	19 Leinster Cottages, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	17/08/2021
211180	Kildare County Council	Robbie Frayne,	2 Elm Court, Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare W23 RC03.	16/08/2021
211161	Kildare County Council	Liam Foran & Katrina Costello	58 Newtown Court, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 T2H6	12/08/2021
211141	Kildare County Council	Ray Tyndall	Clonagh, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	09/08/2021
211142	Kildare County Council	Breezy Point Capital Ltd.,	Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	09/08/2021
211143	Kildare County Council	Michael & Irene O'Shea	31 Parklands Place, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	09/08/2021
211127	Kildare County Council	Moldovan Estates,	Bistro 53, Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 D2T9.	06/08/2021
211129	Kildare County Council	Anne Gallagher,	26 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	06/08/2021
211122	Kildare County Council	Michael Burke,	Barrogstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	05/08/2021
211115	Kildare County Council	Karina and John Brunnock,	3 Parklands Place, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	04/08/2021
211112	Kildare County Council	Maria and Tom Ashe,	Curramore, Leinster Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 E6P2.	03/08/2021
211107	Kildare County Council	Elaine Doyle and Eoin Doyle,	Johninstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	30/07/2021
211108	Kildare County Council	Heathcote Holdings Limited,	Parklands Grove, Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23V5D4.	30/07/2021



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**Information for Students**

We look forward to having you back on campus from September. We are planning for a resumption, as close as possible, to full on-campus teaching, assessment, research, clubs and sports activities in September, while ensuring that overall numbers attending on-site continue to be monitored and controlled.

In the first semester, lectures of up to 250 students, practicals, and tutorials will be held on campus. Most lectures over 250 will be taught remotely but will, wherever possible, include a weekly on-campus experience such as a tutorial.

You can read more details in [Studying at Maynooth University in Academic Year 2021-2022](#)

We will ask you to continue to protect each other by following our health guidelines. We will be providing updated guidance closer to the start of the semester, but we expect that:

1. You should not come to the campus if you have symptoms or a diagnosis of COVID-19.
2. You should continue to observe the hygiene measures, including frequent hand washing and cough etiquette.
3. You should continue to observe the social distancing and mask wearing protocols that are in place. These measures may vary from time to time in response to the public health situation.

**Key dates for the next semester**

- Semester 1 begins on 20 September 2021. Most courses for continuing students will begin on this date.
- First year undergraduate students in most programmes will have an orientation week from 20-24 September, and formal teaching will begin on 27<sup>th</sup> September. This start for first year students is later than usual, because of the late release of Leaving Certificate results.

**Over the summer**

- **Research:** Postgraduate research students will be able to return to the campus with the permission of their Head of Department.


**Support**  
Please remember that Student Services are open and available to assist you with any support needs you may have, and you can [find further information here.](#)

**Accommodation**  
If you are seeking accommodation on campus, please see the accommodation information at: [maynoothuniversity.ie/accommodation](http://maynoothuniversity.ie/accommodation)

**International Students**  
See the International Office website at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/international>

**Covid Cases - What to do**  
[What you should do in response to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19](#)

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





## Free Online Sewing Workshop Series 2021



Looking for a way to improve your impact on the planet? Looking after your clothes by mending them and giving them another life is a fantastic way to reduce your household waste.

The clothing industry just feels like a mess when it comes to its responsibility for and response to the climate emergency. While the usual suspect of fast fashion tends to get a lot of blame, it goes all the way to the high street and up to the luxury brands. The sheer volume of waste created, virgin plastic used for items that get so little use and a lot of time end up in landfill. Also that landfill tends not to be on our door but shipped off somewhere else.

**The good news is that we all can make a difference** and that can start with learning skills on how to take care of clothes so that they last longer. Keeping our clothes for longer is absolutely a winner when it comes to our impact on the environment. It isn't anything new. Caring for what we have was essential to our parents, grandparents' generation and before.

To follow on from our Ladies Clothes Swap Shop, we are delighted to announce that we are hosting **a series of free online workshops for the remainder of the year on sewing and saving your textiles**. It is for anyone wishing to learn or improve their skills. It is free of charge and will be online as a zoom group class. A week after the event there will be a video on our website with the demonstration for those who could not join us on the day or if you wish to view certain skills again.

We are thrilled that the local creative businessperson, Vanessa of The Craft Corner will be the teacher for all 5 workshops. The cherry on top is that Vanessa is passionate about living a green life. Vanessa will provide step by step instructions for the class and as mentioned above will have a supporting video for after the class.

The first workshop is **Visible Mending: How to fix, repair and give your clothes another lease on life**. Vanessa mentioned 'this hand sewing workshop takes inspiration from the Japanese art of visible mending to show you how to darn, embroider and applique'

**Date:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 11am – 12noon

**How to join:** Register here <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/visible-mending-with-zero-waste-maynooth-the-craft-corner-tickets-168014167899> link also on [www.zerowastemaynooth.ie](http://www.zerowastemaynooth.ie)

**Cost:** Zero!

**Impact:** Helping to save the earth! Yes really it does!

**Materials:**

- Clothes, socks, tops (any item of clothing with a hole in need of mending)
- Scraps of fabric (for larger holes and applique style mending)
- Needle and thread
- Threads: Embroidery yarn, wool, thicker threads. (I think wool socks need wool thread)
- Scissors and pins
- Darning mushrooms or circular bowl, curved surface to put inside your hole

**Dates for other workshops – come to as many as you like! Share these dates with friends –**

- 11am Saturday 16th October – How to make your own Halloween Costumes
- 11am Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Stitched baskets using material scraps
- 11am Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November – DIY Christmas decorations for your home and tree
- 11am Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Zero Waste gift wrapping both paper and material options

This series of workshops is kindly sponsored by Kildare County Council.

## Free Online Sewing Workshops

Zero Waste Maynooth is delighted to present a series of 5 workshops to share skills on how to repair, mend and repurpose your clothing.

**Saturday 18th September  
11am – Visible Mending**

Visible Mending: How to fix, repair and give your clothes another lease on life.

This hand sewing workshops takes inspiration from the Japanese art of visible mending to show you how to darn, embroider and applique.

### Dates for your diary

Saturday 16th October – How to make your own Halloween Costumes

Saturday 20th November – Stitched baskets using material scraps

Saturday 27th November – DIY Christmas decorations for your home and tree

Saturday 11th December – Zero Waste gift wrapping both paper and material options

**Book a spot at Eventbrite or  
[www.zerowastemaynooth.ie](http://www.zerowastemaynooth.ie)**

Events hosted by Vanessa at The Craft Corner  
Funded by Kildare County Council



## Healthy Flapjack Recipe

Basic Flapjack Ingredients (makes about 9): each provides 90 calories, 1.5g fat, 15g carbohydrate, 3g protein

150ml milk – or a milk alternative e.g. soya, almond, rice milk etc.

2 mashed bananas – the riper the better as sweeter and easier to mash

150g porridge oats (about 2 handfuls)

### Ideas for optional extras:

- a handful of whole/chopped/ground up sunflower or pumpkin seeds
- 1 heaped teaspoon of cinnamon
- a tablespoon of cocoa powder
- a handful raisins or cranberries
- a few tablespoons of dessicated coconut
- 1 cup frozen berries (defrosted)
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon peanut butter
- 2 tablespoons ground flaxseed with a little extra milk (very good for constipation!)



For extra protein e.g. as post exercise snack, you can add a scoop of protein powder. Mix all the ingredients together. Put in to cake tin lined with greaseproof paper, or silicone bun cases. You can also make them in to cookies by placing the mixture in cookie shaped blobs on the greaseproof paper.

It can sometimes be a bit tricky to peel the greaseproof paper off, so you can grease the paper first with some oil. Bake for about 40 minutes at 170 degrees C. Or until they are browning and you can smell the lovely aroma...



### Here's why they are so great:

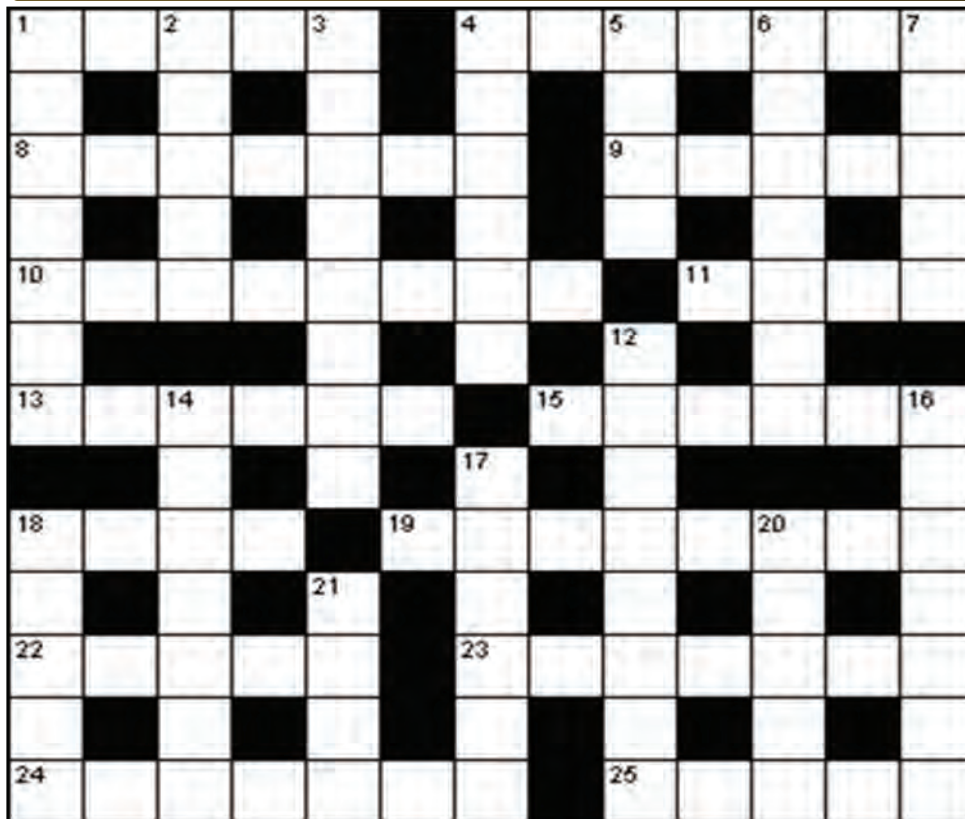
- Super quick to prepare the mixture
- No sugar, syrup or butter.
- Ripe bananas and raisins add the sweetness.
- If you feel the need for some extra sweetness, you can some honey, but you really don't need too much.
- Oats provide soluble fibre to keep you feeling full up, reduce cholesterol, keep your digestive system healthy and blood sugar.

Source: [www.sarahdietitian.com/2016/03/30/super-healthy-flapjack-recipe-no-butter-sugar/](http://www.sarahdietitian.com/2016/03/30/super-healthy-flapjack-recipe-no-butter-sugar/)

*If you are including flapjacks in your child's lunchbox make sure they don't contain any type of nuts as some children in the class may have an allergy to nuts.*



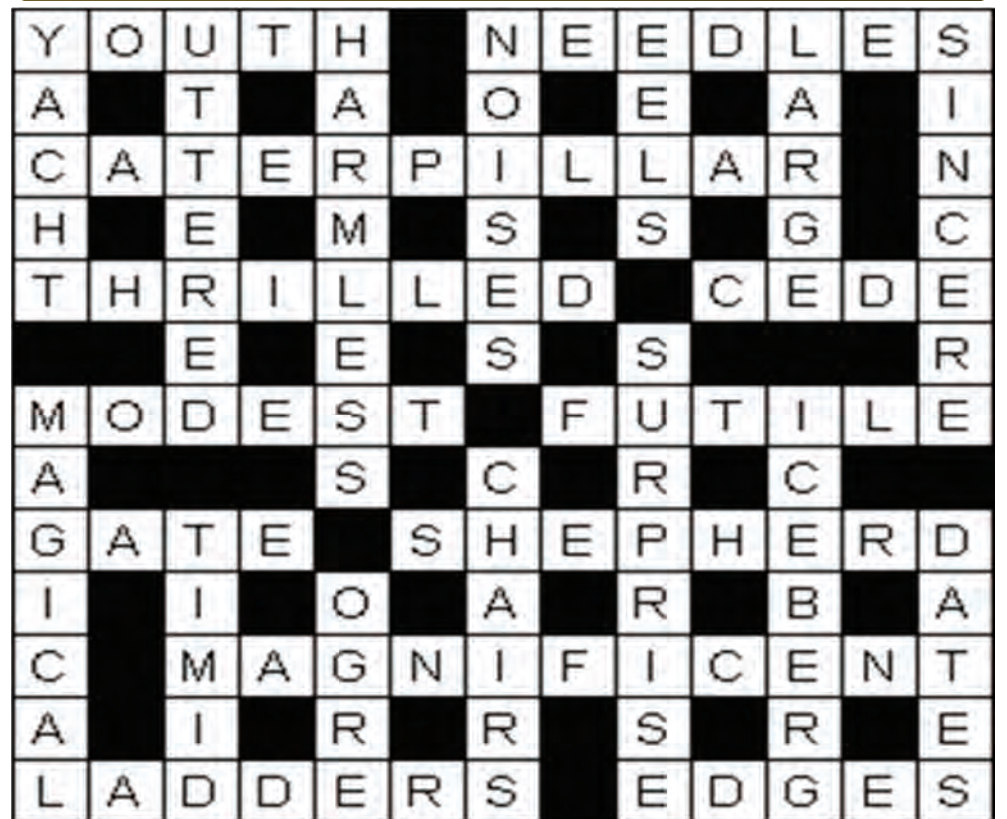
## September 2021 Crossword - No. 505



### Clues Across

- |                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Direction (5)        | 18. Large and scholarly book (4) |
| 4. Equilibrium (7)      | 19. Precise (8)                  |
| 8. Brass instrument (7) | 22. Tooth (5)                    |
| 9. Fruit (5)            | 23. Inactivity (7)               |
| 10. Beamed (8)          | 24. Family name (7)              |
| 11. Singing couple (4)  | 25. Laconic (5)                  |
| 13. Kind of lake (6)    |                                  |
| 15. Movie house (6)     |                                  |

## Solution to Crossword No.504



### Clues down

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Notation cancelling a previous flat or sharp (7) | 12. Venomous (8)             |
| 2. A regular route (5)                              | 14. Risk taker (7)           |
| 3. Seven-sided polygon (8)                          | 16. Norm (7)                 |
| 4. Dairy product (6)                                | 17. In operation (6)         |
| 5. Jump (4)   | 18. Domesticates (5)         |
| 6. Planet (7)                                       | 20. Theatrical performer (5) |
| 7. Choose by vote (5)                               | 21. Song for solo voice (4)  |

### Difficult

### Sudoku Challenge

### Super Difficult

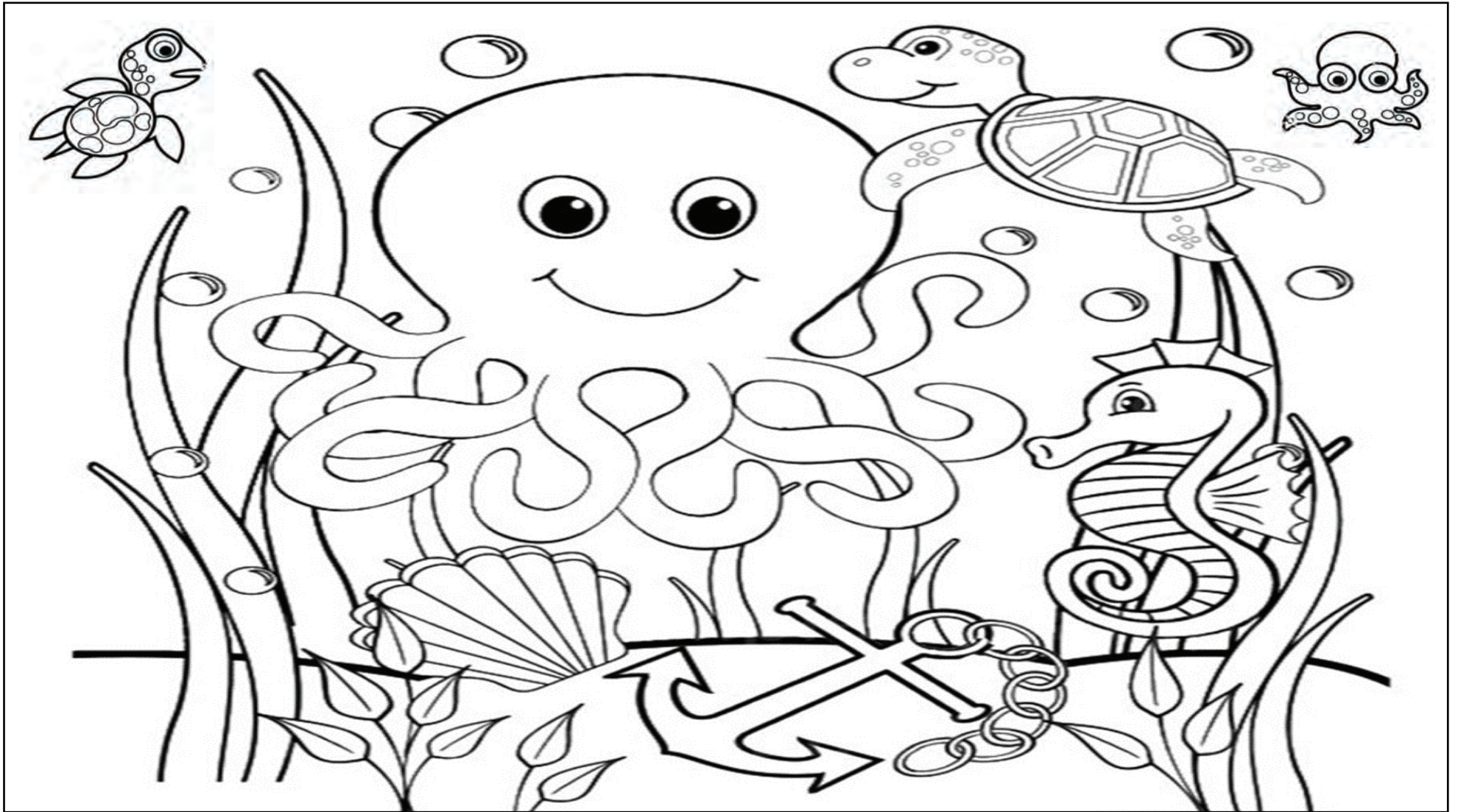
			6				5	
					8	9	4	
				2		7	6	
3			7	4				6
	9	7				1	8	
6				9	5			2
	2	6		5				
	7	4	2					
	5				6			

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

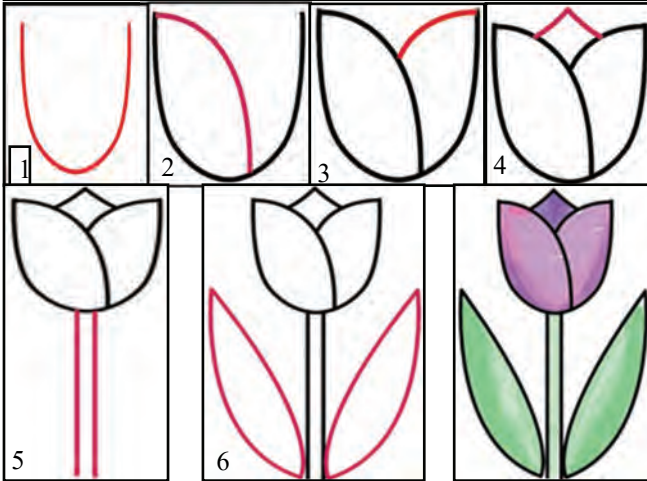
If you have access to a printer and wish to complete the Crossword and/or Sudoku for fun you can print the single page by going to File > Print and print the single page number only.



## Junior Puzzle Corner

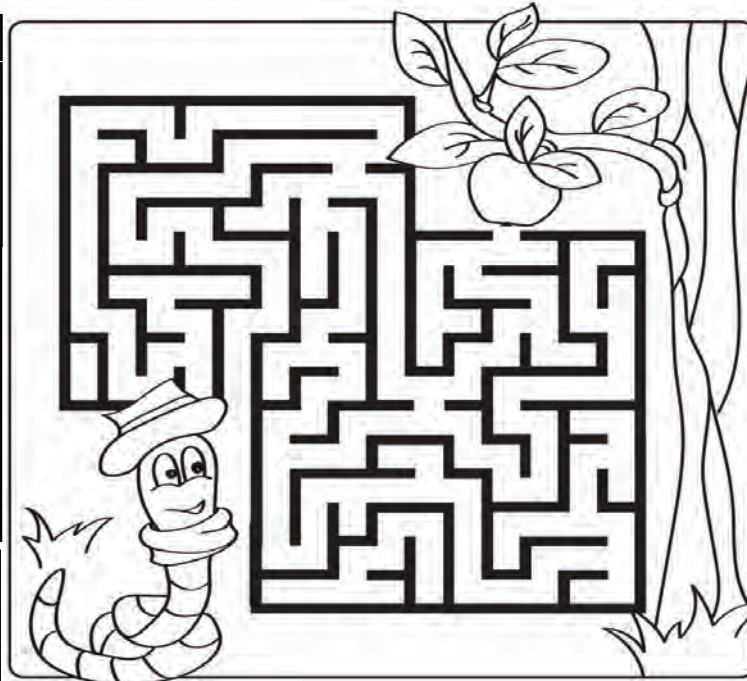


### HOW TO DRAW A TULIP

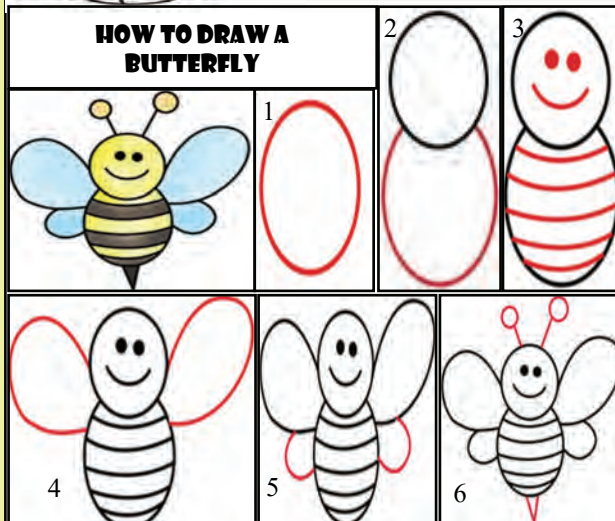


### Children's Colouring

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.



### HOW TO DRAW A BUTTERFLY

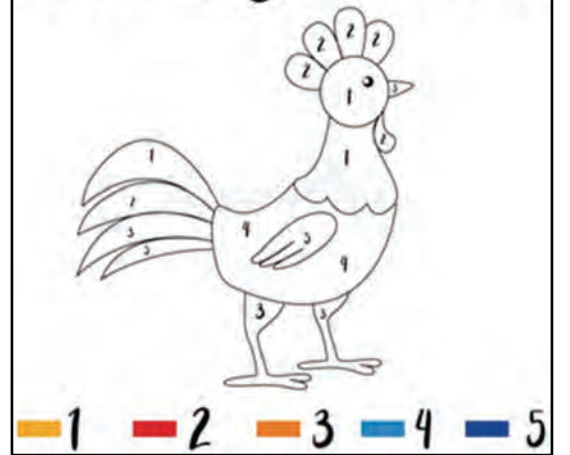


### HOW TO DRAW A BABY CHICK



### Kids fun corner

### Color by numbers







## September gardening



Autumn has started to creep in. It is now time to get ready for the start of the next season. Autumn is one of the best planting seasons as the roots of new plants will have time to establish before the onset of winter.

### Flowers

Buy spring bulbs and plant them as soon as possible, the fresher they are going into the ground, the better they will flower. Take cuttings of tender plants such as geraniums, marguerites, fuchsias and argyranthemums to carry over winter. Conditions are usually ideal with heat in the soil and adequate moisture to encourage rooting immediately. Continue feeding and watering baskets and other containers on a regular basis.



### Shrubs & Roses

Shrub roses and ramblers could now be pruned by removing some of the shoots that flowered. Roses that were pruned after flowering and were given some rose fertilizer will be showing a new crop of late buds and flowers - these can even flower into early winter if there is no frost. Evergreen shrubs could be moved now if they need to be given more space.

Finish clipping hedges as soon as possible, all kinds of hedge can be clipped at this time and they will stay neat longer if clipped now. Prepare ground for planting trees and shrubs, including hedging, if not already done.



The planting itself can take place now for evergreens or in two months for bare-root deciduous trees, or planting can be delayed until spring if the weather is wet and the ground becomes sodden. Do not plant until spring in an exposed area as the young trees will be damaged by strong winds before they get a chance to get established. Check that trees recently planted are properly staked and stake any old shrubs that appear top-heavy. Check on wall trained climbers that their support is solid.

### Fruit & Vegetables



If you have a fruit or vegetable patch, you will be busy harvesting. It is time to get out and start planting spring-flowering bulbs.

- Dig up remaining potatoes before the slugs damage them.
- Plant spring cabbage into ground vacated by early potatoes.

- No fertilizer is needed because the potatoes would have been adequately fed. This ground is also usually nice and open after potatoes – just the conditions that spring cabbage needs to make some growth before winter.

- Clean out cold frames and greenhouses so they are ready for use in the autumn.
- Cover leafy vegetable crops with netting.

### Making Potpourri from the Garden

Potpourri allows you to bring not only some of the flowers, leaves and pods inside with you, you can bring some of the scents of the season. It's not hard to make your own potpourri. Look for flowers that hold onto their colour and still look good when dry, like geraniums, lavender, peonies, and roses.

Add in interesting seed pods, like sweetgum and rose hips. Pinecones make a nice chunky addition.

For more colour, include berries like beautyberry and holly. You can include leaves, but they tend to fall apart quickly when dried. Look for thicker leaves, like leather-leaf viburnum and the lacy leaves of scented geraniums. Dried citrus peel and dried apple slices add fragrance and nice texture. For extra scent add some essential oils.



No matter how you make your potpourri, do not use metal bowls or utensils. These can react with your ingredients and alter the fragrance. Glass, ceramic and wood are the safest materials. Plastic is fine too, but the scent will linger in it for weeks. A quick and easy way to mix up a batch of potpourri is to add a few drops of essential oil to your fixative, cover and set it aside for 3 - 5 days, so that the scent is completely infused. Then add your dry ingredients and stir everything together.

Cover again and allow to steep for about 1 month.

Check it occasionally, to make sure the scent is strong enough for you. If not, add more oil.

*A garden always gives back more than it receives!*

### Tomato and basil soup

#### Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp. butter or olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 5 soft sundried tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 3 x 400g cans plum tomatoes
- 500ml turkey or vegetable stock
- 1 tsp sugar, any type, or more to taste
- 142ml pot soured cream
- 125g pot fresh basil pesto
- basil leaves, to serve



#### Method:

1. Heat the butter or oil in a large pan, then add the garlic and soften for a few minutes over a low heat. Add the sundried tomatoes, canned tomatoes, stock, sugar and seasoning, then bring to a simmer. Let the soup bubble for 10 min. until the tomatoes have broken down a little.
2. Whizz with a stick blender, adding half the pot of soured cream as you go. Taste and adjust the seasoning – add more sugar if you need to. Serve in bowls with 1 tbsp. or so of the pesto swirled on top, a little more soured cream and scatter with basil leaves.

### Courgette and tomato soup

#### Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp. butter
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1kg courgette, sliced
- 1kg tomato, chopped
- 2 tbsp. plain flour
- ½ tsp turmeric
- 2l low-sodium chicken or vegetable stock from cubes
- crusty bread, to serve (optional)



#### Method:

1. Melt the butter in a large pan, add the onions and courgettes, and cook for 5 min. on a medium heat, stirring occasionally.
2. Add the tomatoes and flour. Cook for a couple of min., stirring around to stop the flour from becoming lumpy. Add the turmeric and stock, cover and simmer for 30 min.
3. Purée with a stick blender, then sieve if you want a really smooth texture. Serve hot with crusty bread, if you like, or chill, then freeze for up to 2 months.

### Plum and almond recipe

#### Ingredients:

- 8 ripe plums, quartered and stoned
- pinch cinnamon
- zest 2 lemons
- 4 tbsp. brandy (optional)
- 100g soft butter
- 100g light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 100g self-raising flour
- 50g ground almonds
- 3 tbsp. flaked almond

#### Method:

1. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Toss the plums, cinnamon, lemon zest and brandy, if using, together in a bowl, then leave to macerate while you make the batter.
2. Cream the butter and sugar with an electric whisk until pale and fluffy, add the eggs one at a time, then tip in the flour and ground almonds. Mix until completely combined.
3. Tip the fruit into a buttered shallow baking dish, spoon over the cake batter, then sprinkle over the flaked almonds. Bake for 35-40 min. until browned and cooked through. Test if the pudding is ready by inserting a skewer. If it comes out clean, the pudding is ready; if there is some batter on the skewer, then give it a few min. more. Remove from the oven and serve warm.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Apple Crumble

#### Ingredients:


- 3/4 c. (1 1/2 sticks) butter, melted, plus more for pan
- 1 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 c. chopped pecans, plus more for serving
- 1 c. lightly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 6 large apples, cored and cut into wedges
- 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- Vanilla ice cream, for serving.

#### Directions:


1. Preheat oven to 350° and grease a large baking dish with butter.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, pecans, brown sugar, and salt.
3. Stir in melted butter until texture is coarse and sandy.
4. Add apples, sugar, cinnamon, ginger, and lemon juice to baking dish and toss to combine.
5. Spread in an even layer, then press crumb mixture on top of apples.
6. Bake until apples are bubbling and topping is golden, about 50 minutes.









**Local News October 2021 Issue No. 506 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.*





## Maynooth University Town F.C

### *A Bridge too Far*



### FAI Senior Cup Quarter-Final

#### Bohemians F.C. 4 - Town 0

Our quest for F.A.I Cup honours came to an end against League of Ireland side Bohemians F.C. at the quarter final stage of the competition. Whilst performing admirably for long periods of the game, the greater guile and expertise of Bohs was just too much for us in the end. Although going one behind in the 17th minute, we still matched Bohs until the half hour when Alex Kelly was sent off. Before we could circle the wagons, Bohs hit us with two quick goals in four minutes to leave us three goals down at the interval. It looked an ominous task in the second half but the Town put up a heroic second half performance to match Bohs and to only concede one further goal.

The Bohs goalkeeper denied us at least two goals with some top class saves. The game closed out with us still taking the game to Bohs in inspired fashion. Our large band of supporters helped swell the attendance to almost two thousand and create a real cup tie atmosphere. The team showed their appreciation for the support received by going to our end and applauding the fans who remained until the team had left the pitch. A wonderful lift despite the heartbreak of a gallant effort. Once again our appreciation to Bradys Clock House, Bartons Transport and Chef Dave for their valued support.

**Bohemians F.C.:** James Talbot, Andy Lyons (James Finnerty, 46), Rory Feely, Ciaran Kelly, Tyreke Wilson, Keith Buckley (c) (Roland Idowu, 46), Conor Levingston, Jamie Mullins, Dawson Devoy (Robbie Mahon, 46), Keith Ward, Aaron Doran (Cole Kiernan, 63).

**Maynooth University Town:** David Sterio, Darragh Gannon, Conor Dunne (c), Jake Corrigan, Alex Fitzgibbon, Conor Foley, Eoin O'Neill, Alex Kelly (Sean Traynor, 37), Jackson Ryan (Conor Delahunty, 59), Jack O'Connor (Sven Biansumba, 59), Patrick O'Sullivan (Janabi Amour, 77).

**REFEREE:** Adriano Reale.

## Maynooth University Town F.C

### L.S.L Senior Division

#### Bluebell Utd 1 - Town 2

We shook off the disappointment of our F.A.I Cup defeat with this workmanlike performance against a stubborn Bluebell side who made victory hard to achieve. A tight first half provided no goals but it would not have been so but for the fantastic goalkeeping of Town keeper David Sterio. He defied everything thrown at him to keep us in the game.

Town deservedly took the lead in the 58th minute when Jack O'Connor swivelled in the area and expertly placed his shot wide of the Bluebell Keeper. Bluebell were back on terms 10 minutes later when converting a penalty. With time running out and a draw looking likely, Town were awarded a free kick 22 yards out. Paddy O'Sullivan expertly placed his shot wide of the keeper to ensure victory. A valuable three points to move us up the table.

## Maynooth Community Employment Project

### Secretarial Services

**Unit 10, Tesco Shopping Centre Maynooth**  
(Beside Mulcahy's Butchers)

**Tel: 01 6285922**  
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# Maynooth Newsletter

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

***Registered as a Charity in Ireland RCN # 20100063 - CHY # 21086***

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

The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter,  
Unit 10, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park,  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare. W23CT59  
Tel: 01-6285922

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

October is here and with the change to winter time at the end of the month is a recognition of shorter hours of daylight and of course lower weather temperatures are on the way. In Ireland the issue of climate change is never far from the news and it is a particularly important issue with our younger people. In more recent times we have warnings from a number of national bodies that there is a risk that Ireland will experience electrical power shortages this winter when demand increases because of shorter daylight hours and of course the lower temperatures will mean that the heat will need to be turned on.

We have ambitious carbon reduction targets and Ireland is playing our part in tackling climate change. The Ardnacrusa Hydro Electric power station on the Shannon River in Co. Clare was built in two phases between 1925 and 1934 and provides clean energy power.



*Ardnacrusa Hydro Electric power station on the Shannon River in Co. Clare (image courtesy ESB)*

However, more capacity for power generation has been created as Ireland's power demands increased in the decades since Ardnacrusa was built but these newer power stations were fuelled by coal and gas. But demands continue to increase with the increasing population and the development of new industries in Ireland that are heavy users of electric power the fears of adequate supply continues especially as the decommissioning of peat and coal power stations driven by our need to reduce carbon emissions is planned.

So what can we do in Maynooth? I know that I can do some small things to further reduce my electricity usage such as turn off unnecessary lights, change more bulbs to LED and turn off the things left on stand by and of course take the phone off the charger when it is charged. If we all reduced our demand for electricity we would help to ensure that leave the power for others that need it and by not wasting power we of course reduce our own bills.

Talking of waste food is another area where we could all be accused of making a contribution. October 16<sup>th</sup> is World Food Day, every year the day is marked in about 150 countries where events from marathons, hunger marches, exhibitions and cultural events are held. The main objective of marking World Food Day is to heighten public awareness of the problem of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. As consumers every day we depend on food production to provide what we want to eat.



**Image courtesy fao.org**

The food you choose and the way you consume it affects our health and that of our planet. It has an impact on the way agri-food systems work so just like the demand for electricity we as consumers are part of the solution in the problem of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. To learn more see <http://www.fao.org/world-food-day>

Here in Maynooth University there is an online event on October 14<sup>th</sup> entitled Kildare women in the food and climate crisis with talks from pioneering women who live and work in Kildare talk about how they are changing Kildare and the wider world and discuss and demonstrate how they are addressing the food and climate crisis.

**Paul Croghan  
Editor**

**Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be Tuesday 26th October 2021**





# MAYNOOTH DRESSES

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(Behind EBS Main St)

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See our websites:

[www.maynoothcommuniondressers.ie](http://www.maynoothcommuniondressers.ie)

[www.maynoothdresses.ie](http://www.maynoothdresses.ie)



Contact us on:

01 6293585 - 086 8260825 - 085 7471039



## BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



We are NOW offering In-door services STRICTLY in line with Government Guidelines. Customers requesting In-door services will be requested to show the relevant documentation in line with the official advise.

We will continue to offer Outdoor Service as weather permits.

Thank You to All Our Customers for their Continued Support During these Difficult Times.

Stay Safe & Well

e-mail: [info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie](mailto:info@bradysbarmaynooth.ie) Web: [www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie](http://www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie) - Tel: 01-5054725

<https://www.facebook.com/BradysClockhouseB2/>







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**CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN**  
KILDARE AND WICKLOW  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

# Celbridge

Further Education & Training Centre



087 397 7750



celbridgefetc@kwetb.ie



www.celbridgefetc.ie

**Unemployed and want to update your skills?  
Considering a new career?**

**Enrolling now for upcoming courses**

**Full-time courses in**

**eBusiness Studies** including Digital Marketing, Web Authoring

**General Studies** (University Access) including Communications, English Literature, Computer studies

**Business Studies** including Bookkeeping, Word Processing, Spreadsheet Methods, Accounting

**Computer Studies** including Spreadsheet Methods, Communications

**Healthcare Support** including Care Support, Health & Safety at Work, Communications

**Part-time courses in**

Computer Studies (including Microsoft Office), Career Preparation, Communication Skills, English as a Second Language



**Who is eligible:** People who are over 18 years of age and in receipt of (or a dependent spouse in receipt of) an eligible social welfare payment are eligible for the full time courses.

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

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

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

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

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

**Email:** celbridgefetc@kwetb.ie

**Mobile:** 087 397 7750

**Web:** www.celbridgefetc.ie

**Facebook:** @CelbridgeFETC

**Location:** Unit A11, M4 Business Park, Celbridge



An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Scileanna  
Department of  
Education and Skills



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your Future

European Social Fund



Ireland's European Structural and  
Investment Funds Programmes  
2014-2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government  
and the European Union



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# 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



**Cllr. Angela Feeney**

**Tel. 087 238 1962**

**Email. [angelafeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelafeeney@gmail.com)**

**Stay safe everyone.**





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# Arkle Date Night Dining Experience

Treat yourself and a loved one to a romantic getaway this Autumn

Overnight stay with full Irish Breakfast

Signature Cocktail in ARKLE Bar by our in-house Mixologist  
 Delicious 4-Course Dinner in ARKLE Restaurant showcasing  
 the talents of our Executive Head Chef, Bernard McGuane

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Bring your  
own  
blanket, be  
weather  
ready!



**MAYNOOTH TODDLER GROUP**

PLAY LEARN GROW

**Outdoors Thursday 7th, 14th & 21st**

**October- 10 am to 11am**

Join us for some Toddler Fun with Musical Tots or Playball

Harbour Field, beside the Playground

No booking needed

This group is run by volunteers, please bear with us while we  
start back in a new environment.

Fee:  
€5 per  
family



**Comhairle Contae Chill Dara**  
**Kildare County Council**

Kildare County Council Proudly Present a Live  
Panel Discussion on

**Women  
And  
Diversity  
In Local Government**

**Wednesday 13th October 2021  
11am to 12pm**

**Register for this free webinar event now!**

**<https://bit.ly/2XPK4ZK>**



## Halloween Cup Cakes



### Ingredients

200g butter, softened  
300g golden caster sugar  
200g dark chocolate, melted  
2 eggs  
250g self raising flour  
¼ tsp baking powder mixed with 100ml boiling water  
50g cocoa powder  
200 ml milk  
1-2 tsp black food colouring (optional)

### For the buttercream

- 300g unsalted butter softened, 500g icing sugar, 1 tsp vanilla extract & Black food colouring

### For the decorations

- Pack of Smarties
- Black icing pen
- 1 pack mixed coloured fondant icing (you'll need pink, green, blue and white)
- liquorice and strawberry laces and other sweets such as jelly fangs and liquorice allsorts
- icing eyes (see tip, below)

### Method

- Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line two 12-hole cupcake tins with cases. Beat the butter and sugar until the mixture is creamy. Beat in the chocolate and the eggs until combined, then stir in the flour and baking powder, cocoa powder, milk and food

colouring, if using. Spoon the mixture evenly between the cupcake cases, levelling the tops.

- Bake for 20 mins or until the cakes are risen and springy to the touch. Cool for 5 mins in the tin, then lift out onto a wire rack to cool completely.
- To make the buttercream, beat the butter until soft, then stir in the icing sugar a little at a time. Beat in the vanilla and some black food colouring, then transfer to a piping bag fitted with a plain nozzle.
- For the cat face, pipe the black buttercream in an even swirl onto the cupcake and smooth with a palette knife. Pipe two ears by making a blob for each and pulling the icing bag upwards to a point. Add two eyes on each with Smarties and use the black icing pen to paint a pupil onto each. Add a triangle nose made of pink fondant icing and create whiskers with sweets.
- For the monster faces, cut circles of green and blue fondant to fit the tops of the cupcake and fix them in place with a little buttercream. Add eyes, noses and mouths made of sweets or use icing eyes (see tip, below). For skeletons, cut out shapes with white fondant and fix in place with the buttercream.



### Tips

To make icing eyes, mix up a batch of fondant icing and pipe rounded blobs, for the eyeballs, onto baking parchment. Leave to dry. Then, either add pupils to the eyes with a small brush and black colouring, or make up a batch of black icing and pipe dots on top.

Source: [www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/halloween-cupcakes](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/halloween-cupcakes)

## Mystic Magination Night!



On one mystic, magic night,  
Jack O Lanterns glowing bright,  
Kids with bags of candy sweet,  
roam door to door and street to street,  
all dressed up for trick or treat!

Wizards with wands, pirates with hooks,  
Monsters and clowns with spooky looks,

Kings and queens with capes and crowns,  
a princess in her royal gown,

Witches with warts and fairies with wings  
movies stars with sparkling rings,

Vampires with fangs that bite,  
ghost that boo all dressed in white.

Imaginations taken flight,  
on that one mystic, magic night.

Oh, the fun of Halloween,  
be young or old or in between!

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/mystic-magination-night>



## Halloween Night

When days grow short and nights get cold  
And autumn trees turn red and gold,  
Move, we may, through sun drenched days  
'Midst leaves and berries and bales of hay.

In our hearts we feel the lure  
Toward darkness, shivers, and things not pure,  
While ghostly shadows creep slowly by,  
Spying on witches and brooms that fly.

Icy fingers that grab their prey  
And do bad things 'til night turns to day.  
Heed this plea to stay inside.  
Find covers and blankets and sheets to hide.

Slowly this night will fade to day  
And fiends and monsters will crawl away.  
Once a year, on this dank night,  
We'll shake and shiver 'til morning light.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/halloween-night-4>

## Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



We are glad to announce that the Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee has resumed its monthly meetings. There are administrative tasks that have to be completed and we are considering how we might move forward. Many factors need to be considered as we go into the Winter months. We have to be mindful of adhering to HSE recommendations and other safety concerns for everyone concerned. At this point, we cannot say when the Club and other activities will resume, but they will in due course. We will get there. Thank you to all who have supported us throughout the year. Anyone who thinks they would be interested in joining our group please contact 0877974582 for more information.

**Susan Durack PRO.**

## Halloween Jokes

- Why don't skeletons ever go trick or treating? Because they have no-body to go with.
- Where do ghosts buy their Halloween candy? At the ghost-ery store!
- What do owls say when they go trick or treating? "Happy Owl-ween!"
- What do ghosts give out to trick or treaters? Booberries!
- Who did Frankenstein go trick or treating with? His ghou! friend.
- What Halloween candy is never on time for the party? Choco-LATE!
- What do witches put on to go trick or treating? Mas-scare-a.
- What does Bigfoot say when he asks for candy? "Trick-or-feet!"
- Which type of pants do ghosts wear to trick or treat? Boo jeans.
- What makes trick or treating with twin witches so challenging? You never know which witch is which!
- What happens when a vampire goes in the snow? Frost bite!
- What do you call two witches living together? Broommates



Source: [www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/halloween-ideas/a32998753/halloween-jokes/](http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/halloween-ideas/a32998753/halloween-jokes/)

## Free Online Sewing Workshops

Zero Waste Maynooth is delighted to present a series of workshops to share skills on how to repair, mend and repurpose your clothing.

**Saturday 16th October 11am - Make your own Halloween Costume** 🎃

Using what you have at home, let's make a Halloween Costume in a low waste way! Check out our Facebook & website for more!

### Dates for your diary

Saturday 20th November - Stitched baskets using material scraps  
Saturday 27th November - DIY Christmas decorations for your home and tree  
Saturday 11th December - Zero Waste gift wrapping both paper and material options

**Book a spot at Eventbrite or [www.zerowastemaynooth.ie](http://www.zerowastemaynooth.ie)**

Events hosted by Vanessa at The Craft Corner  
Funded by Kildare County Council







## MU unveils iconic 'Freedom' sculpture on North Campus, loaned by AIB

The stainless steel 'Freedom' sculpture by Alexandra Weichert has been installed on the North Campus of Maynooth University under a long-term loan agreement between AIB and the University. Commissioned by the bank in 1985, the stainless-steel sculpture stands at 11.5 m (37 ft) high and was considered among the most ambitious large-scale exterior sculptures in Ireland. Following the relocation of the AIB headquarters from Ballsbridge, the sculpture required a new site and is now a defining feature on the landscape of Maynooth University, as a publicly accessible exterior artwork for the community and the wider region. The event marked an important milestone for Prof Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, who retires next month after a decade in this role.

Welcoming the installation, Professor Nolan, said: "Maynooth University is honoured to become the guardian of this exceptional artwork which serves as a metaphor for hope and freedom in what have been unprecedented times for us all. Maynooth University is committed to fostering art and culture, a commitment that is not only an ethos but also underlined in our Strategic Plan. We have a long-standing relationship with AIB and are delighted to have the opportunity to add such an important piece of sculpture to our campus. It is especially fitting that we have installed this striking sculpture as we prepare to welcome students back on campus at the start of the academic year."

Colin Hunt, Chief Executive Officer of AIB, said: "AIB is delighted to find such a fitting home for Freedom in Maynooth University, where it will be cared for, and enjoyed by the staff, students and the public. The bank has an extensive art lending programme with galleries, public spaces, community buildings, colleges and State institutions so that the maximum numbers of the public can access some of the most important works from its collection."

The unveiling represents another landmark event for Maynooth campus development, as construction continues on a €57 million project, the Technology, Innovation & Society Building, due to be completed early next year. Also on North Campus, a planned new Student Centre will serve as a hub and workspace for students engaged in cultural events, clubs and societies, and a wider variety of activities. The University intends to further enhance the intellectual and cultural life of campus and the wider region through deeper engagement with the arts.



## Webinar Series: Interculturalism, Literature and the Arts in Ireland

When: Thursday, October 7, 2021 - 16:30 to 17:30

Where: Online

You are all warmly invited to the English Department's 'Interculturalism, Literature and the Arts in Ireland' autumn webinar series, organised by Dr Rita Sakr.

The webinars will explore the connections among literary/artistic practice and the promotion of diversity, intercultural awareness and dialogue, human rights, and equality in the creative sector.

Guest speakers:

7th October, 4.30 - 5.30 pm: Mary Moynihan, Artistic Director of Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts & Equality

11th November 4.30 - 5.30 pm: Sinéad Mac Aodha, Director of Literature Ireland (a conversation co-hosted with Oisín Fagan, MU English Writer-in-Residence)

18th November 4.30 - 5.30 pm: Alison Lyons, Director of Dublin UNESCO City of Literature

The first conversation on 7th October will feature Mary Moynihan, award-winning writer, director, theatre and film-maker, interdisciplinary artist, Artistic Director of Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality and Artistic Curator for the annual Dublin Arts and Human Rights festival implemented by Smashing Times and Front Line Defenders in partnership with organisations including Amnesty International, Fighting Words, NWCI, Irish Modern Dance Theatre and Poetry Ireland.

Please click on the link below to book for the first event on 7th October with Mary Moynihan.

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/news-events/webinar-series-interculturalism-literature-and-arts-ireland>

**A series of Zoom talks and Q&A organised by**  
**Rita Sakr MU English**  
**For more information, contact [rita.sakr@mu.ie](mailto:rita.sakr@mu.ie)**



**7th October 4.30 - 5.30 pm**  
**Mary Moynihan**  
**Director**  
**Smashing Times International**  
**Centre for the Arts & Equality**



**11th November 4.30 - 5.30 pm**  
**Sinéad Mac Aodha**  
**Director**  
**Literature Ireland**

**REMINDER DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCK.**  
**SUMMER TIME ENDS 31ST OCTOBER PUT CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR**  
**Sunday, October 31, 2021, 2:00:00 am clocks are turned backward 1 hour to**  
**Sunday, October 31, 2021, 1:00:00 am local standard time instead.**







## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

E mail: [angelaemfeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelaemfeeney@gmail.com) - Phone: 0872381962



### Update on Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

Cllr Feeney requested an update on the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road at the September MD meeting. Cllr Feeney stressed that this is a key issue for Maynooth and long overdue. While acknowledging that COVID has delayed many projects, Cllr Feeney stated that this project has been in the pipeline for almost 30 years and that realistically no further development is possible in Maynooth until this road is built, the town is already at a standstill, we have had and will continue to have, huge population.

The Council stated that the road is currently at detailed design stage and that the next step is the Statutory Process Stage, which includes the compulsory acquisition of lands (CPO stage). Cllr Feeney said that while she appreciated the reply she felt that it was short on detail and timelines, which she requested. Cllr Feeney welcomed the fact that the MD Director agreed to meet with the Director for Transportation and Roads and get back with more details and timelines. Finally, Cllr Feeney asked for the issue to remain on the MD Progress Report so that she is not required to table motions and questions in order to access the information, especially since it is such a key issue for Maynooth and without this piece of critical infrastructure very little development can or indeed should happen.

### Joining up the cycle lanes in Maynooth

Cllr Feeney requested an update on the joining up of cycle lanes in Maynooth funded by the National Transport Authority. This is a six phase process, and Cllr Feeney welcomed the detailed report from the Council which showed that many of the routes are at an advanced stage and these will add to the town and encourage more cycling and very importantly, safer cycling.

**Maynooth North-South Corridor (Mill Street)** – Currently at Phase 5 (Detailed Design and Tender) and consultants have been appointed. Next Stage 6 is the Construction phase will be in (2022);

**Meadowbrook Road Cycle track Scheme** – Currently at Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants have been appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022)

**Celbridge Road Cycle track Scheme** - Current Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022); • **Kilcock Road Cycle track Scheme** - Current Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022)

**Royal Canal Greenway Scheme** – Current Phase 5 (Detailed Design and Tender) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 6 : Construction (Quarter 4 2021).

### Review of Disabled Parking Places Badly Needed

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to carry out a review of the disabled car parking spaces in Maynooth. She stated that many of the spaces are not fit for purpose and need attention. The Council said that this review of the disabled car parking spaces will be carried out as part of the upcoming Pay Parking Bye Law review

### Maintenance of Trees on Carton Avenue

Cllr Feeney requested an update on the maintenance plan for the trees at Carton Avenue. The Council said that the trees at Carton Avenue are maintained as required and that they will be reviewed with any necessary works to be considered for inclusion as part of the forthcoming tree programme in the coming weeks. Cllr Feeney welcomed the reply saying that the Avenue is a very special historical amenity, there is a preservation order on these trees so the Council needs to mind them, some are very old and overhang adjoining houses too so we need to ensure they are safe too.

### Unfinished Estates Motion

At the Council plenary in September Cllr Feeney submitted the following motion: “That the Council assigns a full-time Unfinished Housing Development Co-ordinator to tackle the problem of unfinished estates in the county”. Cllr Feeney raised this issue as she feels the residents in unfinished estates need to have this matter addressed and that in other local authorities where such coordinators were appointed there was an incremental and marked decrease in the number of unfinished estates. Cllr Feeney welcomed the response from the Council, which contained the positive news that “in June 2021, the Development Control Section submitted a business case requesting additional staff to tackle the Taking in Charge (TIC) of legacy problematic estates (where the Developer and/or the Bond monies are no longer available). Internal council approval was received for an Executive Engineer and an Executive Technician in July 2021.

Subsequently a sanction request was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with approval coming through in September 2021. It is now planned to recruit for these two posts from the existing panels. It is hoped that the successful candidates will commence before the end of the year”.

### Car Park Open on Doctor's Lane

At Last! You all know that Cllr Feeney has submitted motion after motion on this issue to the Council for the last few years! Finally, the car park at Doctor's Lane is now open for public use and designated as such, with signs and parking machines-as Cllr Feeney suggested, this will serve businesses, customers and parents of school-going children and anyone visiting the town.

### Shortage of GP places

Cllr Feeney wishes to congratulate Dr. Maurice Cowhey and Dr. Christopher O'Rourke

on their recent retirements. Both have given decades of service and care to our community and she wishes them the very best. Such retirements have added to many concerns about the growing shortage of GP places for the growing population of the town. Cllr Feeney contacted the HSE about this issue as well as an update on the planned Primary Care Centre for our town. In its response (see below) the HSE informed Cllr Feeney that Stage 3 of the Competition (i.e. the priced offer) is being progressed and a preferred provider will be chosen in the coming weeks, at the latest, by the end of December.

Dear Councillor Feeney,

With reference to your recently received representation, I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In 2019 Health Service Executive (HSE) Estates advertised in respect of Maynooth Primary Care Centre in the national press under the HSE's Primary Care Operational Lease Mechanism. This advertisement sought submissions of interest from parties who are developing or planning to develop Primary Care health facilities. A number of Expressions of Interest were received and Stage 2 of the competition has been completed. Stage 3 of the competition (Priced offer) is being progressed through the summer of 2021, and it is anticipated that a preferred provider will be selected in Q3 / Q4 2021.

With respect to GP services in Maynooth, the HSE does not restrict the number of GP's in an area. Neither does the HSE restrict the number of GP's who wish to take on a contract to deliver GMS services to Medical Card holders, provided they meet with the criteria. If a medical card holder is experiencing difficulty in accessing services of a GMS contracted GP, the HSE Primary Care Unit can assist. If the medical card holder will provide documentary evidence of refusal of acceptance from 3 practices, the Primary Care unit will assign a GP to the individual. Below are relevant contact details:

### Kildare County Council supports 'Make Way Day' Campaign

Every corner of Ireland will be put to the test for basic access facilities and obstacles on Friday, September 24th when the Make Way Day campaign returns, with a testing twist! The campaign, organised by the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI), will test the local access facilities and obstacles via an online survey that participants can use to test and rate their local area. Kildare County Council, in conjunction with Local Access Groups from across Kildare will take part in the online survey on Make Way Day and are encouraging others to get involved and become more aware of the access challenges for people with disabilities.

Michael Hurley, Access Officer, Kildare County Council said, “Make Way Day focuses on individual responsibility, on looking at what we can all do to help our fellow citizens get from A to B, something we can take for granted. We in Kildare County Council are delighted to work with DFI and support Make Way Day across County Kildare.” At the centre of the Make Way Day campaign are people with disabilities. However, obstacles on paths can have an impact on all members of society. Consider an elderly person using a walking aid or a young child learning to ride a bicycle and how much more difficult their journey becomes if blocked by obstructions such as parked cars, wheelie bins or overgrown vegetation.

This online survey empowers people to survey their area for obstacles and rate its accessibility. It will provide an opportunity to share their experiences and challenges. The survey will be available to download at [www.makewayday.com](http://www.makewayday.com) on Friday the 24th of September, Make Way Day.

The aim is to compile all of the surveys from across the country to provide one comprehensive map of access across Ireland and use this to help address these challenges and make the necessary access improvements.

### Home Energy Grants

A free home energy upgrade service is available for qualifying homeowners. If you receive any of the following you can apply-

- Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme.
- Job Seekers Allowance for over six months and have a child under seven years of age
- Working Family Payment
- One-Parent Family Payment
- Domiciliary Care Allowance
- Carers Allowance and live with the person you are caring for
- Type of work this covers:
- Attic insulation
- Cavity wall insulation
- External wall insulation
- Internal wall insulation
- Secondary work such as lagging jackets, draught proofing and energy efficient lighting
- New heating systems and windows are occasionally recommended

### How to apply:

<https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/free-upgrades-for-eligible-homes/>

Call me or email me if you need any help on this.

(Continued on page 10)





## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News Cont/....



*(Continued from page 9)*

### 9/11 Twentieth Anniversary Memorial Service

Cllr Feeney was honoured to attend the very moving 9/11 20th anniversary memorial at Donadea, remembering all who died that sad day among them our local hero fire-fighter Seán Tallon who sadly lost his young life that day, saving the lives of others. Never Forgotten.

### Cllr Feeney's Motions and Questions for the October Council MD:

That the Council carries out a traffic management review on Parson Street, Maynooth

That the Council writes to the OPW calling for improvement, repairs and enhancement of Conoly's Folly (The Obelisk).

Can the Council confirm how many people are currently on the housing list in Maynooth, Clane and Kilcock classified by one, two, three bedroom units, single person and families.

Can the council provide the works schedule for hedge cutting in the Municipal District?

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

September 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Policy Committee at 2:00 pm in Kildare County Council

September 10<sup>th</sup> Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement Training for Councillors at 11:00 am (online)

September 11<sup>th</sup> 9/11 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial 3:00 pm at Donadea Forest Park

September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm Maynooth Community Council (online)

September 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm Eirgrid Upgrade Presentation to Councillors (online)

September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 pm KWETB Audit and Risk Committee (online)

September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 pm Carlow I.T. Governing Body (online)

September 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am MD Budget Meeting (online)

September 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm Council Plenary in Newbridge Town Hall

September 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am ETBI AGM (online)

September 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm KCC Finance Committee (online)

October 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am Council MD meeting at Kildare County Council

## Preparing your Home for Autumn & Winter

The nights are getting darker earlier and the temperature is falling. It's time to start thinking about how you can get your house prepared and ready for the colder days and nights ahead. There are a number of things you can do that will help keep your home warm and cozy throughout the autumn and into the winter.

Giving your grass one last cut will keep your lawn looking trim in the autumn months. Wait until the grass has grown to a sufficient length and then trim back. Though it may need to be cut again it won't need to be done as regularly as in the summer. Also clear all weeds & spread some mulch around the plants as this will give them some protection from frost.

Give the windows a good clean, wipe down the skirting boards, and dust commonly forgotten areas like the top of cupboards and shelves. These are all jobs which will make your house ready for winter. Clean the oven.



Clean the gutters those Autumn leaves are falling, and can lead to the potential for clogged gutters and drains. To Avoid a flooded interior and damaged exterior take a close look at your roof. If there are any damaged tiles or cracks as well as leaves and debris. Fix it up and you'll be set for the winter.

Check that your boiler is working you don't want to wait until it breaks during the coldest night of

the year- be proactive and take care of it now.

Stock up on fuel - heating oil, fire wood and other fuels. This is the perfect time to

inspect and clean out your chimney. A professional can inspect the chimney for cracks and other possible issues and repair them before you need to use it. Your chimney should also be cleaned professionally at least once a year. Not only does this help keep your home warmer, but it will also reduce your chances of a chimney fire.

Make sure that all of your smoke and CO2 detectors are in perfect working order. Check to see if they all have fresh batteries. In the event of a heating or ventilation problem, your detectors can save your life.

Seal all draughts from windows and doors. Bleed the radiators if a radiator takes a long time to heat up, or the top section feels a lot colder than the bottom.

If you haven't already done so insulate your attic. Insulate all pipes also to prevent burst pipes which can cause serious water damage to your home. Attic insulation protects the area from freezing temperatures and improves the heat throughout your home.

Bring out some new throws and cushions, with deeper, richer Autumn colours. Change the curtains or window dressings for heavier fabrics which help keep the home warmer. Adding comfy cushions and throws to your seating will allow you to curl up on the sofa with a nice cup of hot tea and feel very relaxed.



**Remember these easy checks and repairs will save you money on expensive emergency repairs and wasted energy costs. Now you're ready for Winter too!**

## Colourful Winter Window Boxes & Containers

Autumn has well and truly arrived. With the change in seasons there comes a need to change your bedding plants too. The evenings are getting darker and what better way to brighten your day then to add colour and interest to your window boxes and containers.

Empty out all the compost and give the pots a good wash to ensure they are ready for the new plants. Starting off with new compost will give your plants a better chance of surviving the months ahead. If you have a terracotta window box, lining it with a plastic bag is probably a good idea as it will reduce the need to water it. Make sure to pierce plenty of holes around the plastic bag. A good window box has some height and structure, a trailing element and of course colour. Proper drainage is essential during autumn and winter when plants are more prone to water logging. You could include some gravel in the bottom of your containers to increase drainage.

**Winter flowers** If possible use strongly scented plants near windows that will be left open to spread a pleasant smell around your home.

**Winter pansies and violas** are easy plants to add colour to your window boxes. They come in all different colours and will grow from now right through until March. Make sure you keep removing any faded flowers before they go



to seed as this will encourage the growth of more flowers. It is also important to feed the flowers over the winter months.

The **Cyclamen** is one of the best winter plants and will survive outside all year round and provide you with lots of colour. The Cyclamen plant comes in a variety of different shades including pink, lilac, red and white. You could also add some trailing Ivy plants to fill your window box.



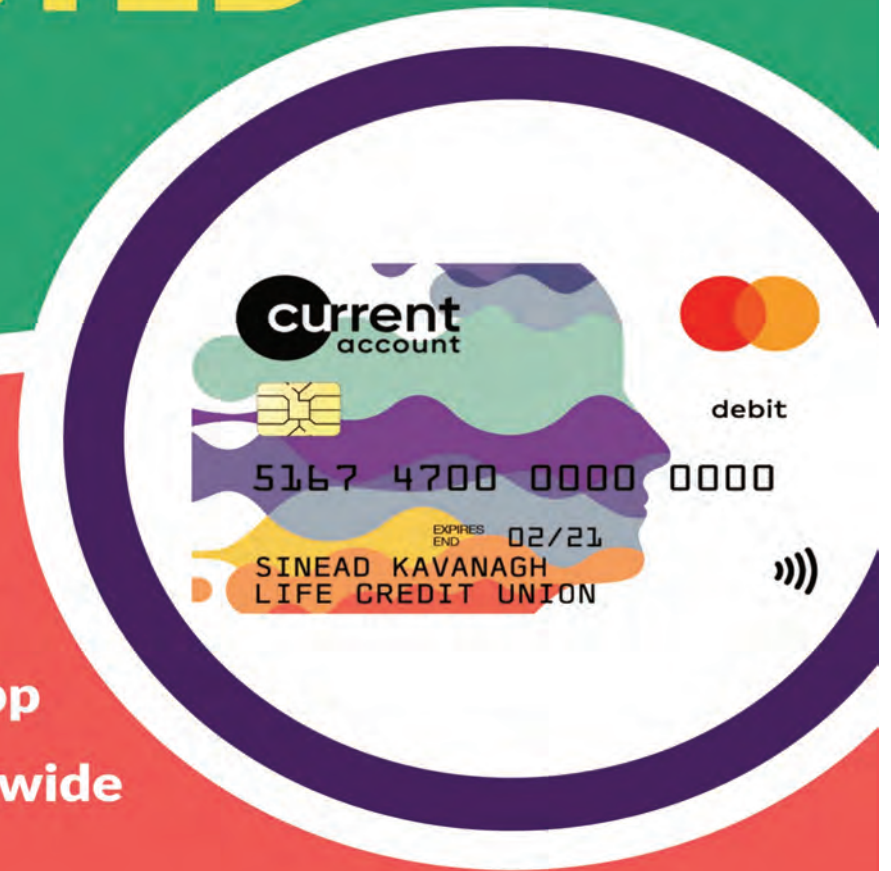
**The Chrysanthemum plants** are another great plant for this time of year. One of these in a pot near your front door will brighten the entrance of your door for months during autumn and winter. They will produce flower for a long time and need little water when outside in a cool climate.

Plant a window box full of herbs. **Herbs** such as Swiss chard, kale, parsley and mint will all thrive through a frosty autumn. You can also prepare your containers and window boxes for spring. Snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells are a great choice to ensure you have a colourful collection throughout spring.

**"The hum of bees is the voice of the garden."**



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Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Sea Bass

After a spell of weekend eating in the local greasy spoon in Queens, New York, my Irish roommate, Jack, pointed the way to healthier meals. He would throw a steak on the grill, put a few potatoes in a saucepan, pop a frozen block of string beans into another saucepan and within half an hour be enjoying a wholesome dinner. It wasn’t long till I had mastered this *haut cuisine* and with a bottle of Chianti to complement the steak, would wonder why it had taken me so long to become a master chef.

Not that I always ate dinner in the apartment. During weekdays my workmates and I dined at various Manhattan restaurants: Italian, French, German and, usually on a Thursday, Irish, where we enjoyed the American version of “authentic” Irish food, corned beef and cabbage! But my favourite entree was grilled bass, the speciality of a Jewish seafood restaurant near Rockefeller Center: this delicacy, topped with a sprinkling of sliced almonds, was, in my opinion, far superior to wild salmon or even lobster. Not surprisingly then when the time came to invite some friends to dinner, I decided that the *pièce de résistance* would be Sea Bass. It would be easy to cook and, in any case, nobody would expect culinary marvels from a bachelor. The friends were an Irish couple, Mike and Annie O’Brien, distant relatives of mine, from Brooklyn, their daughter Molly and her German-American husband Karl Becker, and – if they could persuade her to accompany them – their gorgeous granddaughter, Lindy.

By this time Jack had moved to Arizona so I had the whole apartment to myself. I purchased a good dinner set and even splashed out on an Irish linen tablecloth. With a bottle of Champagne in the fridge and three bottles of Bordeaux white on the sideboard I felt ready for the main purchase, the fish. Now at this time the firm of electrical contractors for which I worked had a field office in downtown Manhattan, where a new courthouse was being built. Since this was close to the Fulton Street fish market, I reckoned it would be a simple matter to nip over there during lunchtime and acquire some sea bass fresh off the boat. This part of the plan went without hitch but when I arrived back in the office with a bulging plastic bag, Scotti, a fellow draughtsman, pointed out that fish needed to be gutted: if this weren’t done pronto they would be stinking by quitting time. Borrowing his penknife, I went into the bathroom, took one plump slippery fish out of the bag, slit open its belly and let the intestines drop into the toilet bowl, then washed the gaping cavity under the cold-water tap. Hoping the boss wouldn’t come by till the rank smell had subsided, I repeated the operation with the other five fish. After I had hidden the bag of wet corpses in my drawer, I phoned Mrs O’Brien with news of the treat that awaited her. To my surprise she didn’t sound overjoyed.

“Have you scaled them?” she asked. Scale them? What on earth was she on about? She explained that before cooking you had to rub a knife repeatedly against the fish from tail to head while holding it under a tap to remove all the scales. Fair enough, I reckoned I could manage that, though it did seem a lot of unnecessary fuss – who ate the skin anyway? That evening the O’Briens and Beckers duly arrived and, to my nervous delight, Lindy, looking fabulous in platform shoes and a red mini skirt, was with them. When her father, in his blunt manner, asked what was for dinner, I proudly informed him that there were half a dozen sea bass just waiting to be grilled. “What!” he exclaimed. “You mean you’ve made us drive all the way from Brooklyn just to eat grilled fish?” “But these are fresh sea bass.” I felt the ground opening under my feet. “Big deal!” He was relentless. “Have you a casserole dish and tomato purée?” “No,” I confessed, getting as red as a tomato myself. “Then you’d better go out and buy them,” he advised. “Boy, are you some chancer!” “Don’t mind him, Danny,” his wife Molly came to my rescue. “Just because he’s a cook with the New York Fire Department, he thinks we should all be experts.” “Listen to her!” Karl scoffed. “You Irishers always stick up for one another.”

Deciding that a drink might cool the atmosphere, I hastily took the bottle of Champagne from the fridge. When I prized off the cork a foaming pink cascade drenched the sleeve of Lindy’s sweater. “You -!” She didn’t finish but her expression spoke volumes. “Here, I’ll pour it out,” Molly volunteered, as Lindy hurried to the bathroom. A few minutes later she emerged and calmly accepted a drink. At Karl’s urging, I was heading for the door when, to my surprise, Lindy said she’d drive me. “You don’t mind if I take the car, Daddy?” She gave her father a coy grin. “Sure, Sugar,” he handed her the keys, “but be careful.” “She’s just passed her driving test,” Molly gave me a mischievous grin, “so don’t distract her, Danny!” “Thanks, mother.” Lindy glared at her. “Do you drive yourself, Danny?” Mike asked. “I used to back home,” I said, “but with the buses and subway who needs a car here?” “If two cars are following one another in Dublin, what time is it?” Karl had on his comic’s grin. I shook my head.

“Tin after tin!” he cracked, enjoying his own joke. “Now hurry back before we all starve – and get some *aluminum* foil.” With an apologetic smile, I followed Lindy out to the family Chevrolet. We pulled away with her parents watching unobtrusively from the apartment door. Everything went fine till, almost within sight of the main avenue, a car suddenly shot out before us. Lindy jammed on the brakes and the engine stalled. Though she turned the ignition key repeatedly the engine refused to start. She let the car roll alongside the sidewalk, put on the hand brake and began to step furiously on the gas pedal while turning the ignition. “It might be better to let it rest for a while,” I advised. “ You’ll only flood the engine.” “What would you know?” she snapped, her voice laden with contempt. I didn’t reply. Obviously somebody who hadn’t a clue about how to entertain guests could hardly be relied on when it came to automobiles. What a fool I’d been to imagine this All-American girl could ever have been interested in a klutz like me?

Leaving her to continue her efforts, I got out and walked to the supermarket. Wouldn’t you know it? They were clean out of tomato purée! Cursing my luck, I bought a large bottle of catsup, together with the casserole dish and *aluminum* foil. When I got back to the car Lindy had given up her efforts to restart it. “I’ll get a taxi,” I suggested. Since there was nothing else to do, she locked the door while I put money in the nearest parking meter. All the way back in the taxi she refused to talk. You’d think everything was my fault, though it was she who had suggested driving. Once he knew that the car wasn’t illegally parked, her father took the news of the breakdown with unexpected equanimity. “Don’t let it bother you, Sugar,” he soothed. “I’ll see what I can rustle up with this catsup and the fish, and then we’ll go for the car – You’re sure they didn’t have purée?” He fixed me with an exasperated glance. “They didn’t,” I repeated, watching him empty the entire bottle of catsup over the bass in the casserole dish, pour in some water and then cover the lot with tinfoil. He placed the dish in the oven, adjusted the temperature and left instructions about watching the vegetables.

“It’s a queer day when you’re invited to dinner and then have to cook it yourself,” he joked as I phoned for a taxi. While waiting for the taxi, I served the first course: honey dew melon with glacé cherry. Thank goodness, the melon couldn’t have been better, sweet and succulent. I was refilling everybody’s glass with wine just as the taxi rang the doorbell. As soon as Karl and Lindy left the atmosphere eased. Mike began regaling us with stories about his youth in Ireland and Molly helped me to keep an eye on the vegetables, even placing some of the boiled potatoes on the grill to roast. Mrs O’Brien complimented me on the lovely way I had decorated the apartment and told me I would make some girl a fine husband. “Don’t listen to her,” Mike joked. “Women can’t bear to see a man making do on his own.” “For all the help you give me about the house I might as well be on my own,” Annie riposted. “Did you hear about the time, Danny, that I got

him to wax the floors?” “Now, you two stop your squabbling and let Danny tell us more about his work,” Molly admonished. “You’re designing the electrical system for the courthouse, aren’t you?” “Indeed, I’m not,” I assured her. “I’m only doing the working plans for the electricians.” “He’s just being modest,” her mother said. “In a few years he’ll be a fully fledged engineer. Isn’t that right, Danny?” I was spared from explaining my slow progress in City College night school by the ringing of the doorbell. Karl had succeeded in restarting the car so he and Lindy were in a jovial mood. When he took the casserole dish from the oven and removed the aluminum foil a delicious aroma wafted into the dining area. He tested the fish with a fork and pronounced them ready. In no time we were all enjoying a meal that even Karl had to admit was delicious. “This is better than corned beef and cabbage any day, eh, Danny?” he said, taking a mouthful of Sea Bass.

“Did you ever hear of *potatoes and point*?” Michael broke in, and began to tell us about how the Irish in famine times used rub their spuds on a piece of bacon hanging from the ceiling to give them flavour and then, when the bacon was all used up, pointing to the spot where it used to hang. “Mike, you’ve told that old chestnut a thousand times!” Karl stuffed another forkful of sea bass into his mouth. Next minute he made choking noises. “Are you all right, Daddy?” Lindy clapped his back. “What is it, Karl?” Molly rose to assist her daughter. For answer Karl opened his mouth wide, rolled his eyes and clawed at his throat. Oh no! One of my guests had a bone stuck in his gullet. Why couldn’t I have kept to beefsteak? “Dry bread might clear it.” I ventured, handing Karl a slice. Lindy gave me a withering glance as if to say, “You’ve done it again, you klutz!” Karl broke off a piece of bread, popped it in his mouth then a big grin spread across his face. “Gotcha!” he crowed. The son of a gun had just been pretending. “You shouldn’t have given us a fright like that!” Molly scolded. “And poor Danny looked so upset.” “Sorry, Danny Boy!” Karl winked.

After that I relaxed. The wine and food were making a warm glow in my stomach and like a genial host I smiled and nodded at all the banter and corny jokes. Lindy helped me to distribute the dessert, apple pie and butter pecan ice cream, while hinting that for their next visit she would show me how to cook her father’s favourite dish, *Wiener schnitzel*, but despite her change of attitude, I had no intention of changing the menu. If it weren’t for the sea bass I might never have seen behind that beautiful, smiling mask till I was well and truly hooked!

By P.G. Nerney

Studio Visit

Knives and forks arranged in jugs, a patterned display of spectacles, a napkin pleated like an open fan, pumpkins on a kitchen table, folded blue-edged Foxford blankets, a group of sturdy watering cans, still lives worthy of established masters had their palette warmer colours or items fit for Dutch interiors if some humans could be added –

but look!

at last the eye finds solace by skipping mundane household objects: a clear-glass vase with snow-white daisies, their pollen centres sun-hued ochre, one with violet and magenta sweet-peas, delicate as young girls’ summer dresses, and here, sweet-peas on teepee cane supports, bent sideways by repeated breezes, and, still in grow bags, three wind-blown saplings; outdoor riches that ignite the senses.

By Colin Scott



## MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES



### Traffic in Maynooth

Maynooth has had a buzz about it since mid-September with the return of university students. With the relaxation of Covid-19 restriction, however, traffic appears to be getting worse. There were hopes that we would not return to the “old” normal of car dependency but these appear to be dashed. At lunch time on Sunday 26th September, traffic on Parson Street was backed up from the junction at Mill Street to entrance to the former Rectory.

### Bikeweek 2021

At the end of August, Kildare County Council invited Maynooth Cycling Campaign to take part in Bikeweek. We proposed a number of actions including advance publicity, two organised cycles around Maynooth and engagement with secondary schools in Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip as well as Maynooth primary schools. We submitted an estimate of costs and added a percentage to cover the cost of our insurances and time in preparing and running the events. We also looked for clarification on a number of conditions but as we did not get a reply, we reluctantly decided not to proceed. Maynooth Cycling Campaign has been involved in Bikeweek since 2012 and have used Bikeweek funding to buy from local shops so we were disappointed not to be able to do so again this year.

Although Bikeweek is funded by the Department of Transport and organised in conjunction with the local authorities, voluntary groups are expected to pay the cost of insurances. Furthermore although prompt payment legislation ensures that invoices must be paid promptly, Kildare County Council has forced Maynooth Cycling Campaign to wait two lengthy periods – 8 months before being reimbursed for costs of over €1000.

As Maynooth Cycling Campaign does not have its own bank account, we informed Kildare County Council that we wanted funds to be temporarily transferred to us via Dublin Cycling Campaign CLG/Cyclist.ie (rather than an individual’s private account). Dublin Cycling Campaign CLG/Cyclist.ie is a company approved by the Irish Charity Regulator and the intention was to improve the campaign’s cash flow. When Kildare County Council failed to reimburse Maynooth Cycling Campaign in a prompt manner, the effect was therefore to effectively retain money intended for a charity.

### #KissTheGatesGoodbye

Following an invitation to meet the Director of Services for Transportation on site, Maynooth Cycling Campaign met with Kildare County Council’s Access Officer on site in Sallins to see the problems for access by disabled people and cyclists with non-standard bikes due to Kissing Gates and similar barriers. A more detailed account of the issues and our asks is available on our website.

### Speed Limit Review

Maynooth Cycling Campaign made a detailed submission on Kildare County Council’s Review of speed limits. A copy is available on our website.

*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.*



**James Lawless T.D. Kildare North**

Phone: 01-6183587 - e-mail: [james@jameslawless.ie](mailto:james@jameslawless.ie) - Web: [www.jameslawless.ie](http://www.jameslawless.ie)



### Social Media and Transparency Bill

I re-introduced my Social Media and Transparency Bill to the Oireachtas so that it can advance to the next stage. The bill attempts to bring our laws into the 21st century and apply similar rules to online and social media political advertising that have applied for years to print and broadcast media. Currently if I put a poster on a lamppost or a leaflet in a letterbox, under the law I have to make clear who is the source. This is to stop anonymous campaigns and to prevent abuses of campaign spending limits so that the richest candidate doesn't have a free for all. But none of these checks and balances apply online which is largely unregulated still. The US elections in 2016, the Brexit vote, the Cambridge Analytica scandal and many more sparked a democratic crisis worldwide. And in Ireland where reports of former FB managers running campaigns from Serbia along with increased growth of far-right groups organizing protests online, it is essential we bring some transparency to the online political arena. We must continue adapting to technology and that includes our laws and regulations.

### The Introduction of “Coco’s Law” on cyber bullying

On being appointed as Chair of the Justice Committee, by An Taoiseach, I immediately prioritised the passage of “Coco's Law” into force. This legislation lends it name to a girl who tragically took her own life as a result of Internet bullying and harassment. I met her mother outside Leinster House and other groups campaigning on this such important issue. The bill also outlaws cyber-stalking and sharing of intimate images online without consent. Digital offences are just as sinister, and sometimes more, than their offline equivalent and I am very pleased we have now made this Law.

### My opposition to closing down of historic inquiries

I joined representatives from across the island at Belfast City Hall last to express our unified opposition to British Government proposals to close down historic inquiries and grant general amnesty. Families of victims deserve the truth and to know what happened to their loved ones. Politicians from all the main parties on both sides of the Border have signed a document rejecting the UK government’s plans to introduce an amnesty for Troubles-related killings.

Irish Senators and TDs, as well as representatives from the five parties in the Northern Executive, met a cross-community group of victims campaigners at Belfast City Hall on Monday. We signed a document stating that we “totally reject the British government’s proposals for ‘dealing with the past’, including amnesties for those who committed murder” and supported the victims’ campaigners in their efforts to stop the proposals.



# Kildare Readers Festival 2021

Kildare Readers Festival is brought to you every year in October by Kildare County Library and Arts Service. We are delighted to partner with Kildare Readers Festival once again this year and live events at Riverbank Arts Centre are BACK! These events are all FREE, but booking is essential.

## Tuesday, 5th October at 7pm – SHELIVING

Why do artists and writers shelve or abandon particular projects – books, artworks, ideas? What does this tell us about how artists and writers work? What does it tell us about the systems in which they work, the expectations placed upon them, the kinds of work considered viable, valuable, worthwhile? For this event as part of Kildare Readers' Festival, a number of practitioners from literature and the visual arts have been invited to present and talk about works they've previously shelved, abandoned, cannibalised, lost, forgotten, or reconfigured.

SHELIVING will feature presentations/performances by three writers and artists: Darran Anderson, Claire-Louise Bennett, and Suzanne Walsh. This event is curated by the outgoing Maynooth University/Kildare Arts Office writers-in-residence Nathan O'Donnell and Susan Tomaselli.

## Friday, 15th October at 8pm – John Bowman in conversation with Abie Philbin Bowman

With a shared love of history and debate John Bowman and Abie Philbin Bowman are ideal interviewer and interviewee. KRF are delighted to bring you this exclusive interview as they discuss John Bowman's book Ireland the Autobiography: One Hundred Years in the Life of the Nation, Told by its People. This absorbing and highly acclaimed book which has been researched over decades draws on eyewitness accounts, diaries and memoirs from the perspective of people who lived in these times, how they felt, their personal and societal experiences. These stories reflect how people were feeling whereas an official account can only tell us what happened. The power of personal testimony continues to influence.

## Saturday, 16th October at 10:30am – 10 Books You Should Read

10 Books You Should Read continues to be a favourite event at Kildare Readers' Festival. Its format is a simple one – the guests choose five titles each – conversation ensues, as recommendations – and the advocacy of same – volley back and forth. On this occasion KRF thought to have the conversation be amongst the keepers of our cultural collections. Simon O'Connor is the Director of the Museum of Literature Ireland and Jason McElligott is the Director of Ireland's oldest public library, Marsh's Library.

## Saturday, 16th October at 8pm – Luke Cassidy's Iron Annie Cabaret

The Iron Annie Cabaret is a celebration of music, theatre and literature. Based on Luke Cassidy's debut novel Iron Annie, it tells the story of Aoife, a major figure in Dundalk's small-town underworld, and her fatal attraction to Annie, a magnetic and elusive force that barged into her life. Think Reservoir Dogs meets Thelma and Louise meets the Rocky Horror Picture Show. This production features performances by Eleanor McLoughlin as Aoife, accompanied by musical performances by folk duo the Dandelion Few and newly-formed rock band The Pickled Onions. Directed by Peter Moreton, artistic director of the Applegarth Arts Centre (London), it is produced by Luke Cassidy, with production design by Marianne Thibault. The production is made possible with the support of the Arts Council of Ireland and Louth County Council.

## SUNDAY, 17 October at 3pm – The Alphabet of Birds

Sunday Mass and sea swimming; bird alphabets and stone collecting; Goya and Monet; the Stations of the Cross and the Sacred Heart of Jesus; bedrooms and bedsits; insomnia and parental love. Writer and artist Sara Baume covers wide ground in this spellbinding audio-visual essay. Ultimately, it's a show about our obsessions and passions – the multitude of rituals that fill our daily lives with meaning. Live readings of Baume's new essay are interspersed with four short documentaries from Jamie Goldrick that feature artists Gary Coyle, Laura Fitzgerald, Sara Baume and Natalia Beylis. The essay and films are live scored by musicians Irene Buckley and Elaine Howley (Howlbux). The Alphabet of Birds is the second stage show from annual arts magazine Holy Show, who tour a new literary-hybrid production each year. Holy Show is generously funded by the Arts Council of Ireland. This production was also funded by the Western Development Commission as part of a project developed by Spot-Lit.

To see all Kildare Readers Festival events (online and in other locations), go to: [www.kildarereadersfestival.ie](http://www.kildarereadersfestival.ie)

**Please note, in line with new Government guidelines, you will be required to show your EU COVID Certificate and Valid ID for entry to the auditorium for this event. Due to COVID safety and social distancing requirements, audience capacity for this event is reduced. The seats on sale for this event are individual tickets (or groups of 2 or 4 people.) If you have any particular seating requirements please contact us at [boxoffice@riverbank.ie](mailto:boxoffice@riverbank.ie) or telephone (045) 448327 Please see our [Covid Safety information](#) before your visit to Riverbank Arts Centre.**





## PETER OUR GUIDE! LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." When the Jews, the ones with all the answers, murmured among themselves and declared that such teaching was impossible to accept Jesus restated what he had already said only in stronger language. At this many of his disciples, unable to accept this teaching, withdrew and walked no more in his company. And the twelve? Perhaps they had been murmuring somewhat too but Jesus didn't water down what he had said. On the contrary, he challenged them with the direct question, "Will you also go away?" Peter spoke for himself and his colleagues: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." Yes, they had doubts but their faith was stronger than any doubts! And anyway, they had long given up on the chief priests and the pharisees. So Jesus was their only hope!

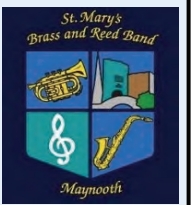
We too have our doubts! Not because of Jesus' words but because of the words and behaviour of some of his modern day disciples. We are gutted by the clerical child abuse scandal, the Magdalen laundries, the Mother and Baby Homes. And then we hear of Cardinals and Bishops living like worldly princes in far greater opulence than the worldly wealthy, and still others having been involved either directly or indirectly in child abuse. We may be tempted, as many of Jesus' early followers were, to say with them, "Enough is enough. We cannot follow Jesus anymore". But we should be mindful of Peter's question, "To whom can we go?" And mindful also that the answer to Peter's rhetorical question is the same as the answer to our own, "You have the words of eternal life"! Why should we think of going anywhere for help but to the one we know is the answer to all our problems and doubts, Jesus himself? He, indeed, has the words of eternal life and we can do nothing better than put everything in his hands and take to heart his liberating words, "Do not be afraid. I will be with you until the end of time."

GM.

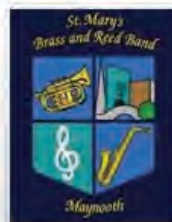
## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band Maynooth

The highlights of the Band's programme for last month were our visit to Castletown House in Celbridge and Culture night in the Square in Maynooth. Both recitals were blessed with dry weather and brilliant audiences and it was great to see so many comments from people who appreciated Live Music being back after the long shut down. We're almost at the end of the outdoor recitals for this year which depends so much on the weather but we will see if we can squeeze in one more in October if we get a dry Sunday, keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates. One positive outcome from our recitals is that some musicians living locally have come to us asking if they could join the Band and we are always delighted to welcome these people.

The sign over our entrance gate (see below) welcomes both musicians and beginners showing our contact details. You can also call 087 2537 906 if you need further information. We are hoping that we will be able to get back to our Bandhall after the social distancing restrictions are lifted on 22nd October and we are really looking forward to it. Despite all these restrictions we have managed to keep the Band going with outdoor rehearsals and recitals but as they say there's no place like home as it's been a long 19 months since we saw the inside of the Bandhall.



Culture Night in the Square 17th September



St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band

E-mail [sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie](mailto:sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie)

[www.stmarysbandmaynooth.ie](http://www.stmarysbandmaynooth.ie)

Musicians and beginners welcome at all times

## Upgrading lines

Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade



## Upgrading lives

If you live in Kildare or Meath, you may know EirGrid is planning an upgrade to the grid in your area, so that we can continue to provide a safe, secure and sustainable electricity supply now and in the future.

As part of our ongoing consultation, we have identified four potential routes for the new 400kV underground cable which will connect Dunstown station in Co. Kildare to Woodland station in Co. Meath – and we want to hear your views.

You can find more details and have your say on the four options at [www.eirgrid.ie/KildareMeath](http://www.eirgrid.ie/KildareMeath). You can also email [kildaremeath@eirgrid.com](mailto:kildaremeath@eirgrid.com) or call Grainne on 085 887 4798.

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## Hymenoscyphus fraxineus Ash Dieback

Like a sentinel in time ash trees have been an iconic part of which make the landscape in Ireland, along laneways, roadsides, field boundaries, as individual trees in fields and specimen trees in parks. Its one of the latest trees to come into leaf in the spring, the wood is very dense stronger than oak and is very important as a biodiversity resource.

Sadly the days of the Ash may be numbered. In 2012 a localized infection was found in Co. Leitrim, since then it has rapidly spread throughout the whole of Ireland and continues to do so as there is no means of controlling this virulent fungus disease.

The photo of this ash tree was taken in mid August 2021 along the L2214, the local road which links towards Maynooth. This tree was healthy two years ago and now is in decline, the disease has spread across the road to another ash tree which is already showing signs of decline and is just one of many along the road. Travel along the R156 Dunboyne is almost surreal as vast number of trees are showing signs of infection.

Will any show resistance, hopefully the answer is Yes. Its good to see the proactive approach being taken by COFORD Council Forest Genetic Resources Working Group towards Breeding for tolerance to Ash Dieback disease.

As of now Ash Disease will have a dramatic impact on the Irish Landscape for years to come.

Peter W Cuthbert BSc Agr (Hort) MILI





## MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS

### October Clever Reach

#### Children

##### Children's Online Halloween Art& Craft workshop for 6-7 year olds with Florence & Milly

**Tuesday 26th October 2- 3pm**

Join Laura from Florence & Milly in this fun Art& Craft workshop to get you all ready for Halloween ! Packs with the materials needed for the workshop will be available for collection from Maynooth Community Library from Monday 11th October. Children participating in the workshop must have a parent/guardian present with them during the workshop.

Booking through Eventbrite : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176401099437>.

##### Kids Cook-A-Long via Zoom with East Coast Cookery School

**Thursday October 27th 12pm**

Dress up and join Tara for this interactive Zoom Class and learn how to make some tasty treats! Easy step-by-step instruction with a bit of fun and a tasty meal to enjoy. Receive the recipes, equipment and ingredients list plus Zoom link via email in advance as well as any preparation needed. Approx. 1hour long.

Booking essential :<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/kids-halloween-cook-a-long-with-east-coast-cookery-school-tickets-177016058797>.

##### Dog Zombie Drawing and Art Workshop

**Thursday October 28th 3.10pm - 4.00pm**

As part of the Children's Book Festival and to tie in with Halloween festivities Niamh from Maynooth Library will run her yearly Tom Gates inspired drawing and art workshop. Have you ever been reading about Tom's band Dog Zombies and wondered just what a Dog Zombie might look like? This is a fun Zoom workshop to explore the possibilities and design your very own rock band poster. This is a workshop with Tom Gates fans in mind, but having read these books is not essential. Open to children aged 7+, all participants require is some paper and something to draw and colour with.

Booking required: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/cbf-halloween-dog-zombies-drawing-workshop-inspired-by-tom-gates-tickets-171886997637>

#### Family

##### Mid-Week Meals Cooking Demonstration via Zoom with East Coast Cookery School

**Thursday October 7th 6pm**

Join Tara from East Coast Cookery School for an interactive Zoom Class the whole family will love. Easy step-by-step instructions with a bit of fun and a tasty meal to enjoy, featuring delicious meals to get you through the week. Receive the recipes, equipment and ingredients list plus Zoom link via email in advance as well as any preparation needed. Approx. 1hour long.

Booking essential: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/mid-week-meals-cook-a-long-demonstration-with-east-coast-cookery-school-tickets-174670061857>.

##### Good Food, No Stress Cooking Demonstration via Zoom with East Coast Cookery School

**Thursday October 21st 6pm**

Join Tara from East Coast Cookery School for an interactive Zoom Class the whole family will love. Easy step-by-step instructions with a bit of fun and a tasty meal to enjoy, featuring simple no stress food that you and your family will enjoy. Receive the recipes, equipment and ingredients list plus Zoom link via email in advance as well as any preparation needed. Approx. 1hour long.

Booking essential <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/good-food-no-stress-cooking-demonstration-with-east-coast-cookery-school-tickets-176347679657>

#### Adults

##### Autumn themed online painting with water colours class with Florence&Milly

##### Monday 11th October 2- 3pm

Join artist Laura Barry from Florence & Milly for a guided Watercolour Painting session with an Autumn theme for beginners. Packs with the materials needed for the class will be to collect at the library from the first week in October.

Places are limited.

Booking through Eventbrite : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176366556117>.

##### Fall for Poetry: An evening of sharing autumn themed poetry.

**Thursday 4th November at 6.30 pm, via Zoom.**

Join us for an evening of poetry readings. Some of you may wish to read, and others might like to just listen, while we enjoy the colourful palette of your favourite poems.

Hosted by Maynooth and Ballitore Libraries.

All welcome. Booking via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/fall-for-poetry-tickets-176563424957>

#### Regular Events

##### Ciorcal Comhrá míosúil ar líne san Oíche / Evening Ciorcal Comhrá ar líne

**Máirt 19ú Deireadh Fómhair 7 i.n.**

Beidh Ciorcal míosúil ar líne thar Zoom ag tosú ar a 7 a chlog i.n. ar an Máirt 19ú lá déag Deireadh Fómhair. Seo deis iontach Gaeilge a fhoghlaim agus a chleactadh trí chaint agus chomhrá in atmaisféar réchúiseach ó chompord do bhaile féin. Fáilte roimh chách. Má bhíonn suim agat páirt a ghlacadh, cláraigh ag an nasc thíos

Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/173463673517>

Nó cuir ríomhphost chuig Maynooth Community Library, [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

##### Irish Language Conversation Group Tuesday 19th October 7 pm

Monthly evening online Ciorcal Comhrá starting on 19th of October at 7pm. This is a great opportunity to learn and practice Irish through chat and fun in a relaxed atmosphere from the comfort of your own home. All welcome. If you are interested, please book through the Eventbrite link

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/173463673517>

or email: [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

##### German 'Stammtisch', informal conversation meet-up.

**Thursday 28th October at 6.30pm, online via Zoom**

Maynooth Library hosts a monthly informal German conversation meet-up, for anyone with an interest in the language and culture in German speaking countries. All levels from learners to native speakers are welcome. Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of every month.

For more information please contact Maynooth Library at [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) or 01 6285530.

Audience: Adults and Young Adults.

#### Bookclubs

##### Readers of the Lost Ark SciFi/ Fantasy Bookclub

The Readers of the Lost Ark SciFi fantasy bookclub meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. The next meeting of the bookclub will be on Tuesday 12th October at 6.30pm.

If you are interested in joining the bookclub, please email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) or telephone 01 628 5530.

##### Live Story Time & Sing Along Nursery Rhymes for 2-5-year olds Every Friday 10-10.30am

Join the Staff of Maynooth Library for some story-telling and nursery rhymes! Please be aware that a parent/guardian must be present for the duration of the event. Booking required through eventbrite.

Friday 1st October : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176373466787>.

Friday 8th October: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176375171887>.

Friday 15th October: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176375733567>

Friday 22nd October: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176378291217>.

Friday 29th October: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176384128677>.



Hope you are keeping safe and well  
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Or, email:

[Catherine.Murphy@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Catherine.Murphy@oireachtas.ie)

We anticipate changes towards the end of October,  
so please feel free to check in with us.

**Catherine Murphy, Your Kildare North  
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**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**



## Fuel Allowance

The 2021-2022 [Fuel Allowance](#) season starts Monday, 27 September 2021. The Allowance is €28 per week for 28 weeks. It can also be paid in 2 lump sums. The first lump sum of €392 will be paid the week beginning 27 September 2021. The second lump sum of €392 will be paid the week beginning 3 January 2022.

## Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

The closing date for applications for [Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance](#) is 30 September 2021.

## PUP and self-employed PRSI

People who were [self-employed immediately before getting PUP](#) will be awarded their annual PRSI contributions when they make their annual tax return, including any S Class payment due.

## New redundancy measures

The suspension of the right to claim redundancy under Section 12A provision of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967 (as amended), will [end on 30 September 2021](#). After 30 September, workers will be able to claim redundancy and to access redundancy payments in the usual way. A special payment of up to a maximum of €1,860 will be available to workers who have lost out on reckonable service while temporarily laid off during the pandemic and who are made redundant. Payments will become operational in the first half of 2022.

## Return to workplace

From 20 September, [workers can return to the workplace](#) on a phased and staggered basis, initially for specific business requirements only. After 22 October, the requirement to work from home will be removed. A return to physical attendance in workplaces will be allowed on a phased and cautious basis.

## The Government has issued:

- A [Guidance note on Returning Safely to the Workplace](#) with information on the use of staggered arrangements and other considerations around attendance levels
- An [updated Work Safely Protocol](#) with technical amendments on new symptoms associated with the Delta variant of COVID-19 and additional information on face coverings, ventilation, and vaccinations

## Changes to close contact rules in schools and childcare

From Monday, 27 September, children under 12 who are a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 [in school or childcare will not need to restrict their movements or get a COVID-19 test](#) if they have no symptoms. This does not apply to children in special education.

## Vaccination week in third-level colleges

From 27 September 2021, [walk-in vaccination clinics](#) will run for one week at 11 colleges. The clinics will provide first and second doses to students and staff.

## CAO offers

On 28 September 2021, the [CAO](#) will make Round 3 college offers to students. Students have until 30 September 2021 to accept their offer. Round 4 offers will be issued on 5 October 2021.

## Indoor group activities permitted

[From 20 September](#), indoor group activities including indoor training, fitness and other classes, bingo, and leisure centres recommenced with restrictions on the number of participants. Up to 100 people can take part where everyone is either fully vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19. Otherwise, pods of up to 6 people are permitted. The number of pods permitted depends on the size of the venue.

All remaining restrictions on outdoor group activities have now been lifted.

## Day service placement deferral

From September 2022, young people with disabilities who are leaving school or rehabilitative training can [defer their placement in a day service for up to 3 years](#). This follows feedback from young people and their families, who were reluctant to try non-HSE options in case a day place would not be available should they require it after the year they leave school or rehabilitative training.

## Deaf Awareness Training videos

CIB has launched a series of [Deaf Awareness Training videos](#) developed with the Irish Deaf Society (IDS). These videos provide an understanding of Deafness, the Deaf community, Sign languages and other topics related to the Deaf community, including how to engage and communicate with Deaf people in a Deaf-friendly way.

## Interest rates reduced for local authority mortgages

On 10 September, interest rates on the [Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan](#) were reduced by 0.25% for new borrowers.

## Immigration permissions extended

Immigration permissions that are due to expire before 15 January 2022 [will be automatically extended](#) to 15 January 2022. This includes immigration permissions that were previously extended.

Immigration permissions have been automatically renewed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is expected to be the final extension.

## Short-stay visa processing resumes

The [processing of all short-stay visas](#) recommenced on 13 September 2021. Prior to this, only certain categories of short-stay visa were being processed.

## Scam warning

ComReg has [issued a scam warning](#) about recent scam calls where the callers are using official Garda numbers and impersonating members of An Garda Síochána.

## Dublin M50 speed limits

Variable speed limits will be introduced on the M50 in the coming weeks. Digital signs will be switched on to slow traffic in response to driving conditions on the motorway. More information is available on the [RSA website](#).

## Upcoming

### COVID-19 vaccines

An additional single dose of a mRNA vaccine has been [recommended for the following groups](#):

- People aged 65 years and older living in residential care facilities
- People aged 80 years and older living in the community
- People who are immunocompromised

[The Independent reports](#) that these groups will begin to receive invites for their additional dose from Monday, 27 September.

### COVID-19 business supports

The [closing date](#) for the Outdoor Service Enhancement Scheme is 30 September 2021.

### New technological university

On 1 October 2021, Athlone and Limerick Institutes of Technology will be replaced by the new [Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands and Midwest](#).

**Leaving Certificate appeals** The Leaving Certificate 2021 [appeals results](#) are expected to be issued the week starting 4 October 2021.

### Guidelines on reduced school days

From 1 January 2022, if a school restricts a child's full attendance at school, the school must notify [Tusla](#) and follow the [Department of Education guidelines on reduced school days](#).

### Rights of way

The 30 November deadline for registering a private right of way under the old rules [is to be extended](#). The Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009, which brought in a requirement to register certain rights of way, will be amended by upcoming legislation. Under this amending Bill, the law about how a private right of way is established will revert back to how things worked before the 2009 Act, and registration will be optional.

### Budget 2022

Budget 2022 will be announced on Tuesday, 12 October 2021

## Ones to Watch

### Licensing laws

A major [reform of licensing laws](#) has been announced. New laws, if enacted, would streamline the licensing system and possibly create Dáil Éireann resumed on Wednesday, 15 September. A [daily schedule](#) is available online.

### Legislation

Seanad Éireann resumed on Tuesday, 21 September and a [detailed schedule](#) is available online. New categories of licence for the hospitality and night-time economy.

**Freedom of Information (FOI)** A [review of Ireland's freedom of information laws](#) is underway with the aim of improving and modernising the FOI system.



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Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and prayer & favour, will be granted no matter how impossible.  
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## Catherine Murphy T.D. Social Democrats, Kildare North.

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

Catherine Murphy TD sought an update in relation to the status of an appeal submitted to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Kildare County Council in respect of a grant from the large-scale sport infrastructure fund for a swimming pool in Maynooth, County Kildare. As per the response below, the Minister proposes a review. Catherine welcomes the proposed review and will revisit the matter in due course.

### The Minister responded as follows:

The Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) was launched in 2018 to provide Exchequer support for larger sports facility projects, including swimming pools, with at least €100m being made available over the period to 2027. An application was received from Kildare County Council in respect of the project referred to by the Deputy. All applications under the LSSIF were assessed in accordance with the published scoring criteria. The scores were awarded based on factors such as the priority given to the project by the relevant NGB and/or local authority, the level of funding being provided by the project sponsor and how the project was likely to increase participation. The total funding applied for under the scheme significantly exceeded the amount available to allocate and the project referred to by the Deputy did not score sufficiently highly to be awarded a grant under this first set of allocations.

All unsuccessful applicants were given the opportunity to appeal the Department's decision if it was felt that an error was made in the assessment process. Six appeals were received including one in respect of the application referred to by the Deputy. The appeal was assessed by officials who were not involved in the initial assessment process. While no significant errors were discovered in the scoring to warrant a grant award in this case, my Department is currently undertaking a review of progress on all existing LSSIF grants. As part of this work my Department is examining, inter alia, progress on all projects awarded funding to date. The scope for awarding new grants to projects which missed out under the first set of allocations is also being considered as part of this review. As part of the review, my Department is also considering the timing of any new call for proposals and it is expected that the review will be completed in the coming months.

### The Dart + West

The second round of public consultations on the DART+ West Preferred Option is now open and will continue until 6th October 2021. Your feedback on this preferred option is important. Visit the DART+ West section for further details on the project.

<https://www.dartplus.ie/en-ie/projects/dart-west>

The second round of public consultation on the DART+ West Preferred Option has been further extended until Wednesday 6th October 2021.

In line with this extension, Iarnród Éireann is hosting some additional public webinars to give communities along the route another opportunity to pose questions to the project team. This will be an open mic forum with no presentation, simply an opportunity for questions and answers.

Please see details of the webinars below:

- Residents from Connolly/Spencer Dock – Ashtown area: Monday 27th September 19:00hrs
- Residents from Coolmine - Castleknock area: Tuesday 28th September 19:00hrs
- Residents from Clonsilla – Maynooth/M3 Parkway area: Thursday 30th September 19:00hrs

To register to attend one or more of these webinars email [DARTWest@irishrail.ie](mailto:DARTWest@irishrail.ie) and state which webinar(s) you would like to attend. You will then be issued with a link to join.

View the ways in which you can send in your submission on the [How to Engage page](#) on [dartplus.ie](http://dartplus.ie).

Catherine Murphy TD is working on a community submission with members in the community and will be seeking to ask that the Dart + West be extended to Kilcock. To get in touch in respect of this submission, please contact her on [Catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie) In preparation for the submission, a request was made to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport what engineering assessment that was done on the extension of DART west to Kilcock; the findings of the assessment; the estimated cost of provision of a double track or a siding between the proposed new depot located on the outskirts of Kilcock; if he has discussed this matter with the NTA;

The Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan responded as follows;

I have responsibility for policy and overall funding in relation to public transport. The National Transport Authority (NTA) has statutory responsibility for the planning and development of public transport infrastructure in the Greater Dublin Area, including the development and implementation of the DART+ Programme of which DART+ West is one element. Noting the NTA's responsibility in the matter, I have referred the Deputy's question to the NTA for a more detailed reply to the specific questions asked.

That response is summarised below:

There are a number of constraints along the section of rail line between the proposed depot location and Kilcock train station:

- Insufficient width on the existing rail corridor to accommodate double tracking, particularly on the approach to Kilcock town;
- Proximity Limited horizontal and vertical clearance at exiting bridge structures;
- to the Royal Canal;
- Turnback facilities and layout of existing train station at Kilcock, which would require reconstruction to facilitate the turnback capacity.

At present no engineering feasibility assessments have been undertaken and the impact of these constraints have not been assessed on the feasibility of the twin track arrangement. In this regard the cost of this section of double track versus the benefits has not yet been estimated)

### Kildare County Council commences Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2021

Kildare County Council is required to conduct a Social Housing Assessment (SSHA 2021), a summary of social housing needs in Kildare.

Only applicants registered and approved with Kildare County Council as in need of social housing support between the 1st of January 2011 and 31st of December 2015 are required to complete this form.

The Summary of Social Housing Assessment 2021 forms and an introductory letter will be posted to relevant housing applicants in the coming days.

Applicants can also access the Summary of Social Housing Assessment 2021 forms online – <https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/AllServices/Housing/>

[HowtoapplyforSocialHousing/](#)

If you are a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) tenant, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) tenant or Transfer tenant you do not need to complete this form.

The closing date for receipt of the Summary of Social Housing assessment forms is Monday 18th October 2021.

Under the departmental directive, failure to submit fully completed SSHA 2021 form, along with relevant documentation, will result in the file being closed and the applicant being removed from the housing list.

### Catherine Murphy TD welcomes the proposed review to the Primary Medical Certificate Scheme

The Disabled Drivers & Disabled Passengers Scheme provides relief from Vehicle Registration Tax and VAT on the purchase and use of an adapted car, as well as an exemption from motor tax and an annual fuel grant.

The Scheme is open to severely and permanently disabled persons as a driver or as a passenger and also to certain charitable organisations. In order to qualify for relief, the applicant must hold a Primary Medical Certificate issued by the relevant Senior Area Medical Officer (SAMO) or a Board Medical Certificate issued by the Disabled Driver Medical Board of Appeal. Certain other qualifying criteria apply in relation to the vehicle, in particular that it must be specially constructed or adapted for use by the applicant.

To qualify for a Primary Medical Certificate an applicant must be permanently and severely disabled, and satisfy at least one of the following medical criteria:

- be wholly or almost wholly without the use of both legs;
- be wholly without the use of one leg and almost wholly without the use of the other leg such that the applicant is severely restricted as to movement of the lower limbs;
- be without both hands or without both arms;
- be without one or both legs;
- be wholly or almost wholly without the use of both hands or arms and wholly or almost wholly without the use of one leg;
- have the medical condition of dwarfism and have serious difficulties of movement of the lower limbs.

The medical criteria were included in Section 89 of the Finance Act 1989 by way of an amendment in the Finance Act 2020. This amendment arises from legal advice in light of the June 2020 Supreme Court judgement that the medical criteria in secondary legislation was not deemed to be invalid, nevertheless it was found to be inconsistent with the mandate provided in Section 92 of the Finance Act 1989 (primary legislation).

While I am very aware of the importance of this scheme to those who benefit from it, I am also aware of the disquiet expressed by members of this house and others in respect of the difficulties around access to the scheme.

The minister has asked his officials to undertake a comprehensive review of the scheme, to include a broader review of mobility supports for persons with disabilities, and on foot of that review to bring forward proposals for consideration.

Department officials have been carrying out preliminary work, including an examination of the main issues which will frame the scope of the review. Officials have also been engaging with other Departments in the context of other ongoing work in mobility supports.

(Continued on page 21)





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

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

*(Continued from page 20)*

In particular, the Department has engaged with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in the context of a working group established early last year by the Minister for Justice before the work was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The group, under the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021, was tasked with a review of transport supports encompassing all Government funded transport and mobility schemes for people with disabilities, to enhance the options for transport to work or employment supports for people with disabilities and to develop proposals for development of a coordinated plan for such provision.

It is envisaged that the review group will be established shortly and will include stakeholders from other Departments, the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal and other representative groups.

**A number of questions and concerns have been raised with Catherine Murphy TD in relation to the condition and upkeep of the Obelisk in Leixlip, otherwise known as The Conolly's folly.**

1. Boundary fencing has been damaged and to date, as far as we know has not been reinstated;
2. CCTV and lighting not in operation;
3. General surface underfoot is not up to standard;
4. Upkeep of area is not up to standard.

Catherine asked in a Parliamentary Question to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to outline the plans by the Office of Public Works to address a number of issues in respect of the site. Catherine also sought details of the amount spent on the restoration of the site.

The response was as follows:

Conolly folly is a National Monument in the care of the Office of Public Works.

It is considered that, in recent times, a vehicle of some type struck the boundary iron fence causing the visible damage. Temporary barriers have been put in place until such time as the necessary repairs to the permanent fence can be undertaken.

The CCTV system on site is a closed circuit system maintained on a bi-annual basis. OPW has received no reports of malfunction but will make further enquiries in this regard. Further enquiries, as they pertain to the lighting, are also necessary and have already commenced. The general surface area of the space, which includes gravelled pathways, within the remit of the OPW is maintained by workstaff on a regular basis. While there is no doubt that restrictions related to COVID-19 impacted greatly on the National Monuments general maintenance program in the last eighteen months, the program has resumed and OPW would consider that the general upkeep of the area of the site within its remit is up to standard.

In the years 2007-2011, approximately €775,000 was expended by the OPW on conservation works at the Obelisk, the vast majority of which related to the Pay of the skilled workstaff involved.

**No Excuse for Inaction On Student Accommodation Crisis  
This crisis is a direct result of a failed student housing policy**

The government is refusing to act on the student accommodation crisis, according to Social Democrats Catherine Murphy T.D.

"There are reports of students sleeping in cars, packed into hostel dorms, couch-surfing, commuting for up to five hours per day. Others are dropping out. This is horrendous. It needs to be at the top of the Minister's agenda.

"The Taoiseach's comments that this crisis can't be solved overnight are an attempt to evade responsibility. It also ignores the fact that this crisis has built up over several years. The No Keys No Degrees protest is not the first USI protest on this issue. Year after year, students have told the Government that there is a huge problem with affordable student accommodation. Nothing was done.

"Over the last year, more than 1,000 purpose-built student accommodation places in Dublin have been converted to short term tourist lets. This must stop. These applications should not have been approved. The Housing Minister must immediately issue planning guidelines to ensure that any new applications, to take purpose-built student accommodation off the market, are rejected.

"The shortage of affordable student accommodation is not an accident. It is a direct result of a failed student housing policy that has relied on private providers. This must change. We need to see urgent and effective action. Higher Education Institutes must be supported to directly provide affordable accommodation for their students.

"Spiralling student rents must be brought under control. The Minister's attempts to curb sky-rocketing rents, by linking them to inflation, have already failed. He must introduce what the Social Democrats have long called for – a three-year ban on rent increases."

**Minister Fails To Respond To Escalating Energy Crisis**

**We now have a tripartite energy crisis – in cost, demand and antiquated infrastructure**

The Dáil urgently needs to set aside time for a debate on surging energy prices, according to Social Democrats Catherine Murphy, who has written to the Business Committee requesting time to debate this matter at the earliest opportunity.

"The wholesale price of natural gas has nearly tripled already this year – and that's before peak winter demand sets in. As a consequence, consumers are experiencing enormous hikes in their energy bills.

"These increases in prices will have a hugely disproportionate impact on people on fixed incomes, including pensioners and those in receipt of social welfare payments.

Environment Minister Eamon Ryan urgently needs to come to the Dáil and answer questions on this escalating crisis.

"Budget 2022 is just a few weeks away. It is important we know what measures the government proposes to take to insulate the most vulnerable members of our community from the negative impact of these soaring prices.

"The Minister regularly speaks of a just transition, when it comes to achieving our climate action targets. These words will sound very hollow unless increases in social welfare payments are introduced to help people manage the increased burden of rising energy prices.

"We now have a tripartite energy crisis – in cost, demand and antiquated infrastructure.

The annual increase in energy demand, from data centres, in the last four years was equivalent to adding 140,000 households to the power system each year. This is not sustainable – and is now threatening our energy security, billions of euro in investment and thousands of jobs.

"Coupled with warnings that we may miss our renewable energy targets for 2030, there are serious questions to be asked of the Minister's handling of this energy crisis. I am hopeful the Business Committee will assent to my urgent request for Dáil statements on this topic."

As the Dáil resumed, Catherine Murphy TD sought to get an update into the increased staffing for the ODCE. Catherine also contributed to the debate on the second stage of the Companies (Corporate Enforcement Authority) Bill 2021

To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise; Trade and Employment the estimated full-year cost of recruiting five additional full-time professional accountants grade 1 and two additional full-time solicitors for the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement.

**REPLY**

In preparation for the establishment of the Corporate Enforcement Authority my Department sanctioned 14 additional staff at civil service grades. This was based on assessment of the new Authority's staffing needs by the Director of Corporate Enforcement. It represents a 35% increase in civil service staff. These additional posts will ensure that the Authority is adequately equipped to assume the additional responsibilities that accompany Agency status and to further enhance its investigative capacity.

A number of key senior positions have recently been advertised. These positions include a Director of Governance & Support Operations, Director of Finance & ICT and Director of Legal. A new position of Digital Forensics Manager has also been advertised.

The minimum estimated full-year cost of recruiting five additional full-time Professional Accountants Grade 1 and two additional full-time Solicitors for the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement is €500,914.

This estimate is calculated using the first point of the salary scale for Professional Accountants Grade 1 of €72,578 and the first point on the salary scale for Assistant Principal Officers of €69,012 which is the grade equivalent to a Solicitor in the ODCE

**Companies (Corporate Enforcement Authority) Bill 2021: Second Stage (Resumed)**

I welcome this debate. Simply put, we do not currently have an effective means of preventing, investigating and prosecuting corruption. There is no overarching or consolidated approach to combating corruption in the private sector or the public sector.

A look at the State's anti-corruption website gives us a clear picture of the fragmented approach, with 16 bodies listed as responsible for tackling corruption. Our anti-corruption response is incredibly fragmented by international standards. A 2020 survey conducted by the French Anti-Corruption Agency in partnership with the Group of States Against Corruption, GRECO, the OECD, and the Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities, NCPA, found that 84 of 114 countries surveyed had a single-agency approach, one which the Social Democrats has been championing since it was founded.

It is difficult and rare to see successful prosecutions of corrupt practices in business life in Ireland. Even after costly and lengthy tribunals of inquiry, there have been few consequences for those against whom negative findings have been made. There is a strong public perception of a golden circle in Irish society, the members of which are accountable to no one and who regard themselves as untouchable. The EU Commission's 2017 Eurobarometer on corruption found that 68% of Irish people believe that corruption is widespread across society, with a particular lack of confidence in the banking and financial sector and An Garda Síochána.

The creation of an independent statutory agency to oversee white-collar crime without doubt is welcome.

*(Continued on page 22)*





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

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The ODCE has remained in the purview of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for far too long and its effectiveness has been constrained as a result, with a lack of independence over its budget and the hiring of staff. Globally, anti-corruption agencies have only ever been effective where there is a significant and consistent political commitment to tackle anti-corruption and where those agencies are allowed to operate free from political influence and, by extension, free from the type of lobbying that Deputy O'Dea talked about in terms of watering down sanctions.

The effectiveness of the anti-corruption agency is heavily dependent on the support and institutional co-operation between other agencies that address the broader issues of corruption, integrity and ethics.

In this instance it is very clear this co-operation has been lacking between the ODCE and An Garda Síochána. The ODCE had to wait nearly a year to be allocated six detectives from An Garda Síochána and there were successive delays and a lack of communications from the Garda. Emails released under freedom of information to Ken Foxe of Right To Know show the frustration within the ODCE, with its director, Ian Drennan, stating the Garda clearly had no intention of transferring the officers in the foreseeable future. He contacted the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and was told the Tánaiste had been in touch with the Minister for Justice and that the first allocation of two detectives to the ODCE had taken place in April, to be followed by two more in June, with the final two arriving later in the year. In response, Mr. Drennan said the appointments were temporary and did not address the need for a permanent additional investigative staff. Mr. Drennan told the justice committee he wants a memorandum of understanding between the new corporate enforcement authority and the Garda Commissioner, Mr. Harris, over the allocation of Garda resources to that agency.

I had a priority question with the Minister of State last week on this very topic and it is very clear from what he has told us that there will not be a memorandum of understanding but what is in place is a letter from each to the other. That is not good enough. It is better than what we had but it is not anywhere near good enough. It is a bare minimum to have that memorandum of understanding between the corporate enforcement authority and the Garda Commissioner prior to the agency getting up and running. The proposed corporate enforcement authority retains a reliance on secondment of gardaí at the discretion of the commissioner and we simply cannot assume this process will go smoothly. The delay in the provision of investigative staff to the ODCE in the past year is unacceptable and hampers its ability to conduct a vital public service. Protections must be put in place to prevent the same from occurring within the corporate enforcement authority. We cannot criticise an agency for not doing its job if it has not got the resources to do it.

Looking at the proposed make-up of the corporate enforcement authority, the level of independence is questionable. While the authority will be removed from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, the Minister will appoint three full-time members based on recommendations from the Public Appointments Service, PAS, choose which member will act as chairperson and can fire them at any point due to ill health, stated misbehaviour or where the removal of a member appears to the Minister to be necessary for the effective performance by the authority of its functions. The Minister also has the sole authority on picking acting members to fill vacancies as they arise. The appointment of the chairperson by the Minister in this particular instance is completely unacceptable. This is supposed to be an independent anti-corruption agency and must be free from political influence.

The Minister - that could be any Minister in the future - potentially could be able to guide the authority in a certain ideological direction by hand-picking the chairperson. That is over-reach. The proposed number of full-time members for the corporate enforcement agency is also too low. The justice committee recommended the minimum number of members on the authority should be increased to two, with the maximum number being increased to five. If this Government aims to be serious about tackling corruption in the private sector it must be serious about it from the very beginning. We must build up this authority in the way we mean it to continue rather than creating a system we know will be under-resourced in a few short years.

Another example of this is not providing the corporate enforcement authority with investigative powers, something for which the ODCE has been calling for some time now. I cannot understand why it would not be awarded those powers. The current system of leaving expert civilian staff outside the room while gardaí conduct interviews is completely ineffective. This must be all one piece. I am trying to imagine a scenario where you have temporary secondments of people who have the knowledge and they cannot be brought in. They are instead in and out trying to figure out just exactly how the interview should be conducted. When an individual is arrested there is, as we know, very limited time to conduct interviews. These interviews often contain a vast amount of intricate detail, particularly in this area, which requires expert knowledge. Valuable time is wasted by gardaí having to ferry information and questioning back and forth between the suspect and ODCE staff. As such, a big mistake is being made here on that. This is an absolutely essential power the CEA needs to work effectively, a power which has been called for by the ODCE and Transparency International Ireland. We have an historical tendency to be reluctant to grant State agencies further powers after they have been established. The Minister of State might outline what exactly his plans are on the provision of this power and why it is not intended to include it in this Bill.

According to global studies by Transparency International, budget allocations and independence over budget decisions have been proven to be a good indicator of a Government's willingness to tackle corruption. In the past few years there has been an increased move towards multi-annual funding as a budget method, allowing organisations to plan ahead, secure in the knowledge they will have sufficient funds in the next budget round. It is also essential for this agency to reduce the political involvement by reducing the Minister's ability to cut funding. I am not talking just about the current Minister or Government. This is a piece of legislation that will have a lifespan, so it is really important that is done. Multi-annual funding would provide the security and confidence needed to tackle big corruption cases within the private sector.

International research has shown it is large-scale public corruption cases which impact most strongly on the public's confidence. They are very visible and they send out a message so it is really important there is the confidence to take them on. In other jurisdictions the inability to prosecute some corrupt individuals with political and financial clout has led to declining public confidence and a lack of trust that anti-corruption agencies can perform their role diligently and objectively without fear or prejudice. The corporate enforcement authority must be ready and able to take on the most high-profile cases of anti-corruption in this country. The ODCE has experienced an increase in funding in the past few years, with €6.1 million allocated last year. However, the agency is currently underspending its budget allocation by €1.8 million. This underspend was largely due to vacancies, delays in recruitment and a failure to complete procurement processes by the year end, all of which speak to a critical lack of human resources within the office which cannot be solved by money alone. To properly measure the effectiveness of the corporate enforcement authority we must have the data to do so. The Director of Public Prosecutions and An Garda Síochána should publish disaggregated data under a new category which allows for analysis of enforcement of corruption-related offences. Prosecutions are currently categorised under fraud offences.

The formation of the corporate enforcement authority, though I would argue it is imperfect, is a welcome step forward to address white-collar crime but corruption in the public sector must be also tackled. Comprehensive and intelligence-led policing is essential if warning signs and suspicious activities are to be identified. That really protects the public service, just as a good corporate enforcement authority protects the private sector and gives confidence to the people of integrity we want to be working in both the private and public sector. The sharing of data among many existing agencies is unlikely to be enough to expose the complex and politically-sensitive cases. It was stated earlier that this whole world is well resourced and that people are well connected. When one starts looking at the tiny amounts of money available here, at how gardaí have to be seconded in - you might get them and you might not - and the fact that one might not or might not have multi-annual budgeting, it all shows that we are creating a David-and-Goliath scenario when we do not have to.

An independent anti-corruption agency with jurisdiction over the public sector is also necessary. The Social Democrats have argued that one large agency with real power and resources would be more likely to be effective. We should start to look at matters like reputational damage. This was something we were always told about after the financial crash. We should look at this matter from the point of view of reputational damage. However, we should also look at it from the point of view of inculcating good practices. Having an effective agency to facilitate that would build public confidence. There are things in this in this agency, as it has been set up, that are deficient. There needs to be a re-examination in the context of embedding the law enforcement element into it and a reconsideration of the resourcing and budgeting involved. We must examine the possibility of having a bigger agency, as opposed to having many fragmented agencies that do bits and pieces, rather than the totality of the work that is required.

To ask the Minister for Finance if he will review the eligibility criteria for those in need of a primary medical certificate; his plans to include persons impacted by stroke to be included in the eligible criteria; and if he will expand on the eligibility of the certificate



**Paschal Donohoe** (Dublin Central, Fine Gael)

The Disabled Drivers & Disabled Passengers Scheme provides relief from Vehicle Registration Tax and VAT on the purchase and use of an adapted car, as well as an exemption from motor tax and an annual fuel grant.

The Scheme is open to severely and permanently disabled persons as a driver or as a passenger and also to certain charitable organisations. In order to qualify for relief, the applicant must hold a Primary Medical Certificate issued by the relevant Senior Area Medical Officer (SAMO) or a Board Medical Certificate issued by the Disabled Driver Medical Board of Appeal. Certain other qualifying criteria apply in relation to the vehicle, in particular that it must be specially constructed or adapted for use by the applicant.

To qualify for a Primary Medical Certificate an applicant must be permanently and severely disabled and satisfy at least one of the following medical criteria:

- be wholly or almost wholly without the use of both legs;
- be wholly without the use of one leg and almost wholly without the use of the other leg such that the applicant is severely restricted as to movement of the lower limbs;
- be without both hands or without both arms;
- be without one or both legs;

*(Continued on page 23)*





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

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(Continued from page 22)

- be wholly or almost wholly without the use of both hands or arms and wholly or almost wholly without the use of one leg;  
- have the medical condition of dwarfism and have serious difficulties of movement of the lower limbs.

While I am very aware of the importance of this scheme to those who benefit from it, I am also aware of the disquiet expressed by members of this house and others in respect of the difficulties around access to the scheme. With this in mind I have asked my officials to undertake a comprehensive review of the scheme, to include a broader review of mobility supports for persons with disabilities, and on foot of that review to bring forward proposals for consideration.

As I am sure the Deputy appreciates, until those proposals are received and considered I cannot comment on the specifics of any possible reforms of the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme.

Catherine Murphy TD sought the further extension of the Community Employment Schemes due to the continued public health restrictions that were imposed on many aspects of the operations of her Department

Community Employment (CE) is an active labour market programme providing eligible long-term unemployed people and other disadvantaged persons with an opportunity to engage in useful work within their communities on a temporary, fixed term basis.

As the Deputy is aware, as with most other sectors of society, CE schemes were impacted by the public health restrictions introduced since the onset of COVID-19. My priority was to ensure CE schemes and participants were fully supported during this period. While some schemes were able to maintain services while complying with public health restrictions, this was not always the case.

In both scenarios, CE participants, whose contracts were due to end during periods of public health restrictions, had their contracts extended on a number of occasions, most recently up to end October 2021. With the successful roll-out of the vaccine programme and in line with Government's plans for the full re-opening of the economy, under 'Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting' my priority and the priority of the Department is to have all CE and Tús schemes back providing normal services and supports to unemployed participants while delivering vital services to local communities.

As part of this return to normal operations, a phased and planned schedule of exits for CE and Tús participants, some of whose contracts have been extended for up to year, will commence in November 2021. I can reassure the Deputy that the exits will be carried out in a phased basis between November and May 2022. This means that many participants' contracts will be extended beyond the end of October. These final contract extensions will provide all CE participants with an opportunity to complete any outstanding training while also benefitting from further work experience on CE. The coordinated and phased exit approach will also support the recruitment of new CE participants while ensuring the ongoing delivery of important local community services.

In order to ensure that all employment and activation programmes have the best outcome for participants, CE will continue to be made available to support those who are long term unemployed and furthest removed from the labour market, including those whose employment has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 emergency. New places are also being assigned to a number of CE and Tús schemes, delivering on a key Government commitment under Pathways to Work. I trust this clarifies matters for the Deputy.



Gold Medal  
Winner 2019

Maynooth Tidy Towns Saturday morning clean ups at 9am are still continuing into October. We have many tasks to complete before we finish up for the year. Bulb planting, trimming trees etc.



We hosted some very special guests from Castlebar Tidy Towns last Saturday morning, they were on a fact finding mission to see our Sensory Garden behind the Pastoral Centre as they are contemplating building one for themselves in Castlebar.

We are waiting results from the green flag judges about our status on acquiring the green flag for the Community Sensory Garden.



On September 18th we did a clean up on the Royal Canal from our Harbour to Pike Bridge in conjunction with Clean Coasts and An Taisce. We retrieved many items from the Canal including a Wheelie Bin which was returned to its owner.

We noticed an increase in litter all over the town this last week as our population has almost doubled with the return of Maynooth University students. Please be mindful and use the many bins that are positioned in all areas around the town.

I would like to thank our many Volunteers all though these difficult times for their attendance every Saturday morning, its been phenomenal. Our group gets bigger by the week.



*Please follow us on Facebook for updates on our work about the town.  
Mary Molloy, Secretary Maynooth Tidy Towns*



### Joe's Jotter: Performing Well in A Subject You Find Difficult (Case Study - Maths)

As you settle into the new year, teachers and parents totally understand that even though you are making great strides, you still have plenty of fears. From speaking with students over the years, I find it's not the full set of exams that cause concern; it is usually only one or two subjects. Naturally everyone has their own talents and subjects they prefer. Personally, I was better at the Sciences than the languages, but I persevered and got the grades I wanted in the languages I chose.

Sometimes subjects you are not looking forward to are the ones that have you on guard and you end up doing better in; A paper on the day can go well in an exam you were dreading. I regularly hear welcome surprise coming from students on results day, with comments such as "I didn't expect that result in xxxxx". The moral of the story here is that too much concern about a subject could end in false worry and be draining you of energy; energy you need for revising and getting your head right.

Preparing for one of your less favoured subjects is a blatant case of having to 'get on with it'. Of course, it is easier to revise and work on subjects you enjoy and are good at, but you must not ignore the others. Studying and preparing the 'frog subjects' is probably the biggest challenge you will face in school. You must prioritise these subjects on your 'Lifestyle Study Timetable'. I will detail how to setup this timetable in a later blog feature. Author and reconstructive surgeon, Jack Penn, once said:  
*"One of the secrets in life is making stepping stones out of stumbling blocks"*.

Maths is one of those subjects that many students find difficult. To me Maths is about grafting to understand the basics, building your confidence and not being prepared to give up easy. Always start by attempting the easier topic questions (usually the part a's and b's) and subsequently graduating to the part c's and d's. You should check your work as you go against a good quality solutions book and thus be constantly 'learning by doing'. Here are some of my top tips to improve your performance in Maths (and its exam) at any level.

#### ACE Maths Tuition's Top Tips for Success

1. Put formulas, explanation of words and keynotes into a little pocket notebook.
2. Practice as many past exam questions as you can and check your answers against a fully developed and explained solutions book.
3. Challenge yourself to try and come up with a second method of doing questions.
4. Try to approach each question from different angles. Always write down something. Do not be afraid of making a mistake.
5. Draw a diagram (if possible) and label it to simplify a question.
6. Be familiar with what is and what is not in your log tables.
7. When studying, exhaust all attempts to answer an exam question before referring to your solutions book. Do not give up easily.
8. Read each question in Maths carefully underlining the key words and phrases.
9. At all levels, if you feel overwhelmed by the length and difficulty of the course – start with basic Algebra.
10. Find yourself a study buddy to share questions and resources with. Discuss problems with each other and encourage.
11. Use various Internet sites as a companion to

- improve your Maths skills.
12. Consult your teacher about problems with topics or specific Maths questions during and after class.
13. Start by attempting basic questions for each topic, building up to a full exam question. Answer the exact question being asked.
14. The word FAIL in Maths for me means First Attempt In Learning.
15. Do not be afraid to explain a solution to a question with words if you cannot do so with numbers and symbols.
16. Spend five to ten minutes daily going over what you have learned in class.
17. Every time you write down a formula, draw a box around it to help you remember it. Check if this formula is in your log tables. If not, you need to memorise it.
18. Anything that you type into your calculator (related to a question) must be written on your answer book/copy also.
19. Have all resources present when doing Maths questions i.e. Full Maths set, pencil, calculator, and log tables.
20. 3rd and 6th Years, practice as many previous exam questions as you possibly can.
21. Rewrite sample questions from your textbook to get an understanding of the basics.
22. It is ok to look at a solution to a question if you have tried your best to solve it alone. Use the answer to figure out the exact method for the question.
23. Work with groups of friends on harder Maths questions. Bounce ideas off each other in order to understand and learn from their thinking.
24. Always write out every single step of your answer. This will be easy to look back, revise and follow later.
25. Talk positive about subjects you find difficult. Don't throw away your shot at success by talking your way into failure.

In next week's Joe's Jotter, I will advise 2nd and 3rd year students on how to restart a revision routine. Don't miss it. To view last week's feature article on 'How to Efficiently Review your Exam Scripts', click here. Get in touch if I can help you in any way. Joe.

#### Joe's Jotter: Tips for 2nd and 3rd Years to Make the Most of their Evenings

Students, as we come towards the end of the first few weeks back in Secondary School, it is important now that you get into a routine of homework and revision, both during the week and at the weekend. Breaks are important for all students who are putting effort in at home each night, as well as giving yourself some wind down time before bed also. Over the next few months, try and improve the standard of your homework. Always take pride in how you complete written homework. Doing homework like a mini exam is the best form of preparation for your any upcoming tests. Here are four more practical tips you can try to get the more out of your evenings.

#### Be positive

Being positive will vastly improve your attitude towards study and therefore its quality. You should always focus on what you have studied, what you have learned or what you know as opposed to continually looking at what needs to be done. When you come across an awkward question, you need to box it off properly in your mind. Instead of thinking, "we haven't covered this!" or "how is this relevant to what I know?", you need to reflect on how it links into your subject, topics within the subject and what your Teacher has taught you in class.

The same goes for studying prior to the exam. Take

control by changing the way you speak about your preparation. Instead of saying "I should be studying more"; be good to yourself and say, "Well I did a solid two hours this morning and will go back to it tonight". Change "I should be..." to "I'm going to..." Research has shown that positive language can lead to more positive results. If you say: "I can't climb that wall", you are less likely to succeed in the task, as your brain has almost been auto programmed to fail. As a Maths teacher, I love this equation of positivity: Positive attitude + Positive actions = Powerful results

#### Look after your eyes

You will be doing plenty of reading from textbooks, summary notes, post-its, flashcards, and the likes over the next few years, so it is important to look after your eyes during this period. The expert's advice on reducing eye strain is to apply the twenty-twenty-twenty rule. That is to take twenty seconds to look at something twenty feet away and repeat this every twenty minutes. Going outside on your breaks will get some fresh air to the eyes. Another good exercise is to simply rest your eyes in the palm of your hands for a few minutes, making sure that no light gets through. Too much time on devices wouldn't be great for keeping your eyes fresh. Just saying!

#### Rotate your learning

The brain can only concentrate on a subject matter for a certain time period. At times, when I was penning my ACE book, I needed to get away and come back to it in order to maintain my focus. Rotate your work between memorising content, writing, oral work, audio, Internet research and watching documentaries. Most importantly, rotate your subjects. We all enjoy discovering about subjects we find interesting, but it is so important not to forget the subjects you find difficult or the ones you are just not as interested in. Rotation of stimulus will trick the brain into performing better and going for longer.

#### Become an active learner

During study sessions, always have a pen and a highlighter to hand. You should mark the key points onto your textbook, write brief comments at the side of the page or underline the important sentences. This information should be transferred to a summary page later. I really like this method of revision as it reduces the quantity (amount) of notes you have to analyse and there shouldn't be a need to revisit that part of your textbook again. Active learning is a great way to keep yourself tuned into what you are studying. Spend time thinking about how you can use your life experiences and places visited to enhance essays or answers with a few extra bells and whistles. Individuality and drawing on your personal experiences are what every Teacher and examiner is looking out for. You need to try and stand out a bit from your fellow students.

Joe's Jotter next week will provide students with six ACE pointers to settle them back into revision. Don't miss it. To view last week's feature article on 'How to Perform Well in Subjects you Find Difficult', click here. Get in touch if I can help you in any way. Joe. More details about Joe as a Maths Tutor for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate (2022) and his Award winning ACE Maths Solution Books can be found via the links below.

W: [acesolutionbooks.com/ace-maths-tuition](http://acesolutionbooks.com/ace-maths-tuition)

FB: [facebook.com/JoeMcCormackEducationalExpert/](https://facebook.com/JoeMcCormackEducationalExpert/)





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### Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 25/08/2021 to 28/09/2021 - 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
211375	Kildare County Council	Garrett Kelly	2 Parklands Place, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	27/09/2021
211362	Kildare County Council	Deirdre Quinn	Laragh Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/09/2021
211298	Kildare County Council	John and Marie Healy,	1 The Drive, Moyglare Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	13/09/2021
211280	Kildare County Council	Colm & Edel O'Muire	17, Woodlands, Maynooth, Co. Kildare., W23 F6X5	08/09/2021
211272	Kildare County Council	Paul Browne	No 17 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co Kildare., W23 X9T1	07/09/2021
211252	Kildare County Council	Colette McMahon,	346 Old Greenfield, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	02/09/2021
211244	Kildare County Council	Colm and Edel, O'Muire,	17 Woodlands, Maynooth, C9o. Kildare W23 F6X5.	31/08/2021



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

1. Extremely cold (5)	20. Irritated (5)
4. Out of fashion (5)	22. Spear (5)
8. Communication channel (7)	23. Acute (7)
9. Crown scene actor (5)	24. Stringed instrument (5)
10. Part of a church (5)	25. Overheads (5)
11. Unlawful (7)	
12. Natural abilities or qualities (6)	
14. Conundrum (6)	
18. Malleable (7)	

**Difficult**

## Sudoku Challenge

**Super Difficult**

[illegible]

**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 (27) only.**



## Junior Puzzle Corner



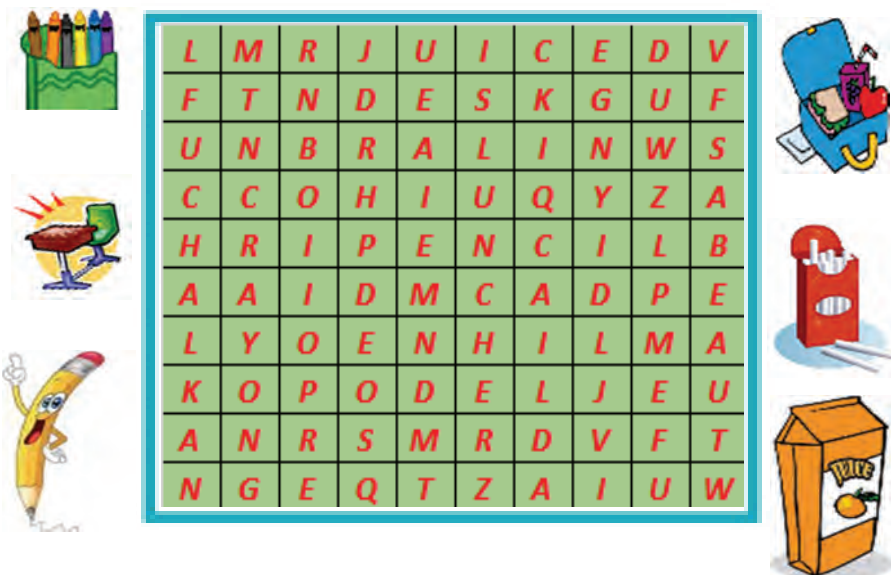
### Children's Colouring

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.

### Word Search

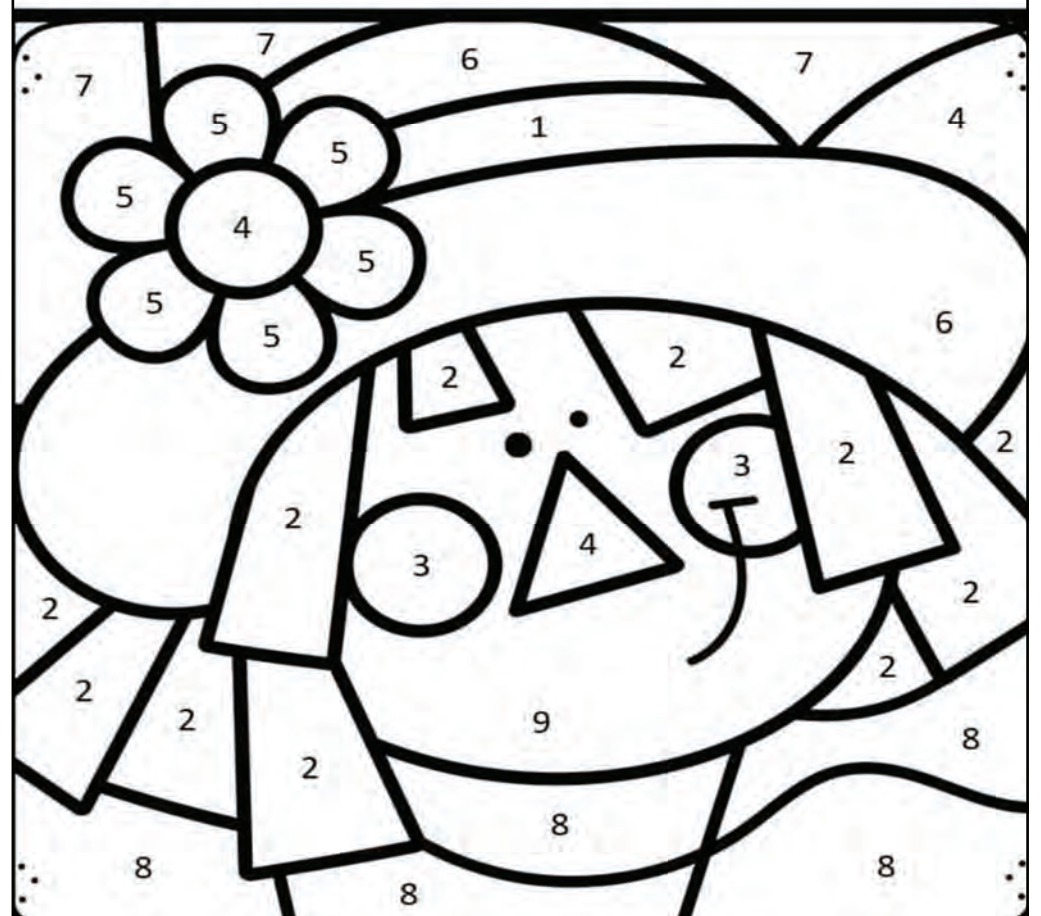
**CHALK DESK CRAYON  
PENCIL LUNCH JUICE**  
Please find words and circle



### AUTUMN COLOR BY NUMBER


Directions: Color the picture according to the code

1 - Purple    3 - Pink    5 - Red    7 - Blue    9 - Peach  
2 - Yellow    4 - Orange    6 - Brown    8 - Green




Sona Oíche Shamhna






# October Gardening



Autumn is approaching. While there are still sunny days to enjoy, there is also a crisp in the air that is the herald of the changing seasons. The wild growth evident during the heyday of summer is over now. Although the weather in autumn is often drier than some of the summer months, it is important to remember that winter is coming.

While the grass is still growing, keep mowing once a fortnight with the blades on high for the final few cuts. Carry out an autumn lawn care programme - scarify (rake out the old dead grass and moss) the lawn, spike to improve drainage again either by hand with a garden fork, add a top dressing of soil/sand/compost mixed according to your soil type (ask for advice at your garden centre) and feed with autumn weed and moss killer. This low-nitrogen preparation strengthens grass for winter.




Clear any debris and diseased material from your garden. Fallen leaves can be left to rot down or collected for leaf mould, but be sure to remove any diseased material. Pests and diseases that overwinter in your garden will reappear next spring with a vengeance so get rid of them now.

If your soil is heavy clay, start digging it over now - add plenty of organic matter to improve the quality and pea shingle to improve the drainage. Your soil has had a lot taken out of it during the busy growing season, and now is the best time to replace that goodness by digging in a lot of organic matter. The earlier you start, the better, especially if your soil is heavy. It can be left in a pretty rough state over the winter when the cold will break the lumps down, making spring planting infinitely easier.


Resist the temptation to do a thorough cleaning of the garden until spring, though, and try to leave some winter cover for wildlife as the weather starts to cool. Our feathered friends will be starting to build their reserves for winter, so do please put out food and fresh water for them.

Don't waste fallen leaves – given time they decompose into fabulously rich leaf mould, the best natural soil conditioner there is. Rake up fallen leaves and dump them into a simple frame to make leaf mould (black bin liners spiked with air holes will also do if you can bear the visual offense, but remember to dampen the leaves first).




If leaves are left lingering on the lawn, the grass will turn yellow. Leaf mould takes about a year to mature (2 in the case of oak leaves), makes a great top dressing for woodland plants such as rhododendrons and is an excellent and free home-grown substitute for peat.

Remove any diseased, spindly, old and unproductive stems from roses and remember to burn any diseased material. Tie new shoots onto some form of support to prevent their thrashing about in autumn winds.



Trim your lavender if you haven't already done so. Prune tall shrubs such as levanter and buddleia by about half to protect them against wind rock. Trim conifers again if necessary, making sure you do not cut into the old wood.

With the ideal planting conditions of autumn (warm moist soil), now is the time to plant container-grown shrubs, trees, fruit bushes, perennials and bulbs. Even in damp conditions, it is worth checking that the root balls of shrubs and trees are adequately moist when planting - heavy rain will not necessarily penetrate a root ball that has been allowed to dry out. If it feels light, plunge into a bucket of water before planting.




Finish planting spring bulbs such as narcissi and crocuses; tulips can wait until November. Plant hardy perennials so their roots have a chance to become established before winter. Replace summer bedding with winter and spring bedding.

Plant out violas, wallflowers and primulas now for cheery colour in the coming months. Winter colour comes in all shapes and sizes; hardy cyclamen and heathers, dwarf conifers, winter pansies, violas and trailing ivy all make wonderful displays.

*~To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow~*

## COLCANNON CAKES



- \* 450g potatoes peeled
- \* 40g butter
- \* 3 scallions finely chopped
- \* A little salt and freshly ground black pepper
- \* 50g savoy cabbage (shredded)
- \* A little plain flour for dusting
- \* Olive oil for frying
- \* 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- \* 4 large eggs

Method:

1. Place the potatoes in a pot of water and bring to the boil. Cook until tender.
2. Drain and mash until smooth and beat in the remaining butter.
3. Meanwhile, heat a knob of butter and one tablespoon of water in a heavy based pan with a lid over a high heat. When the butter has melted form an emulsion, add the scallions, cabbage and a pinch of salt. Cover, shake vigorously and cook over a high heat for 1 minute. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Fold this mixture into the mashed potato and form into patties. Fry for 3/4 minutes each side until golden brown.

Serve with a poached egg on top and cover with hollandaise sauce.


\*\*\*\*\*

## POACHED EGG

Gently poach an egg by bringing a pot of water to the boil. Let the water simmer, then add a dash of vinegar. Crack egg into a ramekin and create a gentle whirlpool in the water before dropping the egg in white first. Cook until the white is set and the yolk is a nice soft consistency.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HOLLANDAISE SAUCE




- \* 3 egg yolks
- \* 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- \* 1/2 teaspoon cayenne
- \* 10 tablespoons butter

Method:

1. Melt the butter slowly in a small pot. Try not to let it boil so as to prevent the moisture steaming from the butter.
2. Add egg yolks, lemon juice and cayenne into blender. Blend the egg yolk mixture until it lightens in colour 20/30 seconds.
3. Drizzle in the melted butter slowly with blender still going until all is incorporated.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ROAST SALMON FILLETS WITH IRISH WHISKEY




- \* 2 tablespoons of honey
- \* 1/4 cup of cider vinegar
- \* 1/4 cup of Irish whiskey
- \* 2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme
- \* 1 1/2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
- \* 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- \* Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- \* 4 salmon fillets (6oz)

Method:

1. Mix together honey, vinegar, whiskey, thyme, lemon zest, oil, salt and pepper.
2. Pour over salmon and marinate for 1 hour at room temperature.
3. Pre-heat the oven to 230C.
4. Remove salmon from marinade and place on rack over pan.
5. Bake 10/12 minutes basting once until cooked.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PUMPKIN BREAD



- \* 2 cups of plain flour
- \* 1/2 teaspoon of baking powder and 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- \* 1 teaspoon of ground cloves
- \* 1 teaspoon of cinnamon
- \* 1 teaspoon of ground nutmeg
- \* 2 cups of sugar
- \* 3/4 cups of butter (softened)
- \* 2 large eggs
- \* 1 (15)oz can of pumpkin puree

Method:

1. Heat the oven to 160C and grease two 2lb loaf tins.
2. Combine flour, salt, baking powder, soda and spices in a bowl and set aside.
3. Beat the butter and sugar until just blended.
4. Add eggs one at a time beating well after each addition. Continue beating until very light and fluffy.
5. Beat in the pumpkin. At low speed beat in flour mixture until combined.
6. Turn batter into prepared tins and bake for 65/75 minutes.

Let loaves cool in pan for about 10 minutes.





# FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

## HALLOWEEN MOVIES QUIZ



1) What is the name of the killer clown in Stephen King's IT?

- a) Bozo
- b) Pennywise
- c) Captain Spaulding
- d) Mr Mime



2) What is the name of the main villain in the original Texas Chainsaw Massacre?

- a) Leatherface
- b) Pinhead
- c) Ghostface
- d) Slicey McStabby



3) When Hooper cuts open the shark in film classic Jaws, what surprising object does he find?

- A watch
- A high heel
- A licence plate
- A whisky bottle



4) Before he was burned to death by angry townspeople, Freddy Krueger was a serial killer known as the:

- a) Elm Street Murderer
- b) Ohio State Stabber
- c) Springwood Slasher
- d) Kiddy Killer



5) Michael Myers' mask in Halloween was famously made from a mask of which actor?

- a) Harrison Ford
- b) Jack Nicholson
- c) William Shatner
- d) Robert De Niro



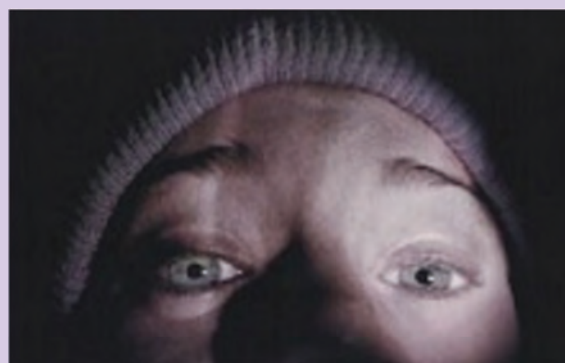
6) In Jaws, what fear does Chief Brody have?

- a) Sharks
- b) Snakes
- c) Water
- d) Fire



7) Silence of the Lambs won five different Academy Awards. Which category did it not win an Oscar for?

- a) Best Actor
- b) Best Actress
- c) Best Supporting Actor
- d) Best Picture



8) What modern cult horror movie is this image from?

9) If you watch the cursed videotape in The Ring horror movie, you get a phone call. What does the voice on the other end say?

- a) You're doomed.
- b) Thank you for watching.
- c) Seven days.
- d) Help me.



10) Dr. Hannibal Lecter helps the FBI track down which serial killer in Silence of the Lambs?

- a) Tennessee Ted
- b) Kentucky Kyle
- c) Florida Fred
- d) Buffalo Bill



11) The Conjuring franchise contains a possessed doll, who went on to have its own series of spin-off movies. What was the doll's name?

- a) Chucky
- b) Samara
- c) Annabelle
- d) Madeline



12) John Carpenter is one of the most famous horror directors. Which movie did he not direct?

- a) The Fog
- b) Halloween
- c) The Fly
- d) The Thing



13) Long before he wears the iconic white mask and jumpsuit, who does Michael Myers of the Halloween movies kill as a boy?

- a) His sister
- b) His mother
- c) His brother
- d) His childhood friend

14) Which classic Alfred Hitchcock horror film featured the iconic "shower scene"?

- a) The Birds
- b) Psycho
- c) Rear Window
- d) Frenzy



15) Name the actor and the classic horror movie.

16) What is the profession of Bruce Willis' character in The Sixth Sense?

- a) Psychologist
- b) Teacher
- c) Priest
- d) Actor



17) True or False: The Exorcist is based on a real-life story

- a) True
- b) False

The Answers to the Halloween Movies Quiz will be in the November edition of the Newsletter



# Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the people of Maynooth



## Local News November 2021 Issue No. 507 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.



### CEANN COMHAIRLE OPENS NEW FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRE IN CELBRIDGE

Celbridge Further Education and Training Centre was officially opened last Monday, 18 October 2021, by the Ceann Comhairle of Dáil Éireann, Mr Seán Ó Fearghail TD.

The centre, which is run by Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB), is located in the M4 Business Park. The centre caters for full-time, part-time and evening learners looking to upskill or reskill. Learners study QQI subjects in areas such as Healthcare Support, Information Technology and Business Studies.

The bright and colourful facility includes eight classrooms equipped with the latest audio-visual and IT equipment. The centre also has a social area for learners and facilities for career guidance, counselling, language learning and evening classes.

The ceremony was hosted by Eilis Clare, centre coordinator, and attended by representatives from KWETB, Maynooth University, the Local Employment Services, learners and centre staff. Ms Clare talked about the importance of adult education and the commitment of KWETB to meet the needs of learners while matching current employment demands.

She described how the courses offered over the last 30 years have changed as needs arose. She also thanked everyone involved in the move, in particular the staff, the landlord Pat Purcell and Brenda Lynch, Adult Education Officer with KWETB.

The Ceann Comhairle spoke of his long-time involvement in education and training and congratulated KWETB on having secured "one of the finest, if not the finest, further education centres in the country." He warmly praised learners on their brave decision to return to education and spoke of his admiration for those willing to take a chance in looking for new learning opportunities.

Speaking about the significant changes to the further education and training sector over the last 30 years, Brenda Lynch said "[the] further education and training sector has come such a long way from the humble beginnings of the early activists, mainly women, meeting in the dingy backrooms of pubs or in people's houses to offer literacy and numeracy classes, to where we are now with a



Photo: Éilís Clare, Brenda Lynch, Seán Ó Fearghail, & Ken Seery

Government Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, with capital funding for adults in education, with our role as education providers being recognised."



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA  
CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN  
KILDARE AND WICKLOW  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

She said that these changes are "beyond the dreams of those thousands of community volunteers and dedicated educators who paved the way to becoming where are now: the fourth pillar of education. This is a very exciting time for Further Education and Training."

The student body was represented by Lorena Stoica, a Business Studies student in her second year, from Transylvania in Romania. During her inspirational speech she spoke of her experience of returning to education. She encouraged the audience not to "impose limitations on your personal goals, no matter how difficult the road ahead may seem to be, because you can always choose to build a brighter future."

Leixlip VTOS (now Celbridge Further Education and Training Centre) was set up in 1993. The first class had 20 learners in a rented classroom in Scoil Eoin Phóil, Leixlip. Since then, over 2,000 adults from the North Kildare area have achieved certification from FETAC (now QQI), City and Guilds, NCVA and the ATI. Celbridge Further Education and Training Centre continues to attract learners from school-leaving age to retirement age – true life-long learning. Learners have gone on to study in higher education, pursue other further education courses, find employment in many sectors and of course work in the home. Some former learners have even returned to teach in the centre after completing their teaching qualifications.

This new centre will ensure that KWETB continues to provide exceptional learning opportunities for adults in North Kildare well into this new decade and beyond.

**For more information:**  
**Phone:** 0873977750/016275673  
**Website:** [www.celbridgefetec.ie](http://www.celbridgefetec.ie)  
**Email:** [celbridgefetec@kwetb.ie](mailto:celbridgefetec@kwetb.ie)

For further information feel free to contact Michael Deegan or Eilis Clare on [Michaeldeegan@kwetb.ie](mailto:Michaeldeegan@kwetb.ie) or [Eilisclare@kwetb.ie](mailto:Eilisclare@kwetb.ie).



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# Maynooth Newsletter

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*Registered as a Charity in Ireland RCN # 20100063 - CHY # 21086*

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

The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter,  
Unit 10, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park,  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare. W23CT59  
Tel: 01-6285922

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.

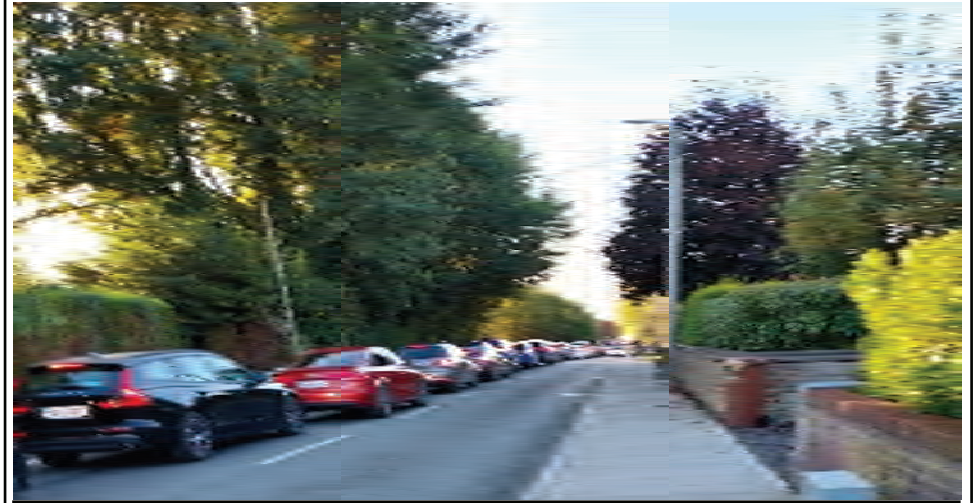
The Archive provides an important historical footprint of the Town and records the community profile of Maynooth from the mid-seventies to the present day. We hope you enjoy using it and that it brings back memories of people, places and times and that it equally provides an interesting insight to the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

**Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter**

## Editorial

With students back on the University campus and hospitality and other businesses reopened after the lifting of restrictions imposed because of the Covid 19 pandemic, Maynooth seems more like the place we knew before March 2020. Unfortunately Covid infection case numbers are still relatively high but thankfully the high rate of vaccinations achieved, people getting Covid are more likely to be able to fight the infection and make a full recovery. However, we must remember that unfortunately people are still dying from the infection. Hopefully the roll out of the third vaccination to people who are more vulnerable or were initially vaccinated early in vaccination schedule will help.

In Maynooth, there are some unexpected impacts of Covid such as the very high level of traffic particularly at peak times. Additionally with the shortage of student accommodation somewhat impacted by the fact that people are reluctant to bring additional people into their homes because of Covid infection fears has meant that more students are making a daily driving commute to Maynooth. With the lack of adequate parking for people coming to work or study in the town there are serious concerns about the impact of these cars only finding parking in residential areas.



**Traffic on the Moyglare Road**

With the opening up of activities that were closed because of Covid people are very keen to get back involved with their hobbies or indeed take up a new one. One group that is growing in members post Covid is Maynooth Town Football Club. At their facility on the Rathcoffey Road they cater for children and young people of all ages. The club continues to develop and have ambitious plans for the future. If you have a young boy or girl that wants to play football you should check out this club which has been active in the town for over fifty years.

November 16<sup>th</sup> is "International Day for Tolerance" and this annual day was declared by the United Nations in 1996 by adopting Resolution 51/95 which confirmed support for the UNESCO Declaration of Principles on Tolerance proclaimed in 1995. The declaration recognises universal human rights and fundamental freedom acknowledging that people are naturally diverse and that only being tolerant of and respecting others that are different to us in many aspects of their lives can ensure the survival of the increasing number of diverse communities. So as we continue to be impacted by Covid let us not look to blame others and instead do our personal best to support us getting this virus under control.

[www.toleranceday.org](http://www.toleranceday.org)

Paul Croghan  
Editor



**Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be Friday 26th November 2021**





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### Opening Hours

Monday – Friday: 9:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday – Bank Holidays: 12:00 noon – 4:00pm

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# Royal Canal Notes

November 2021

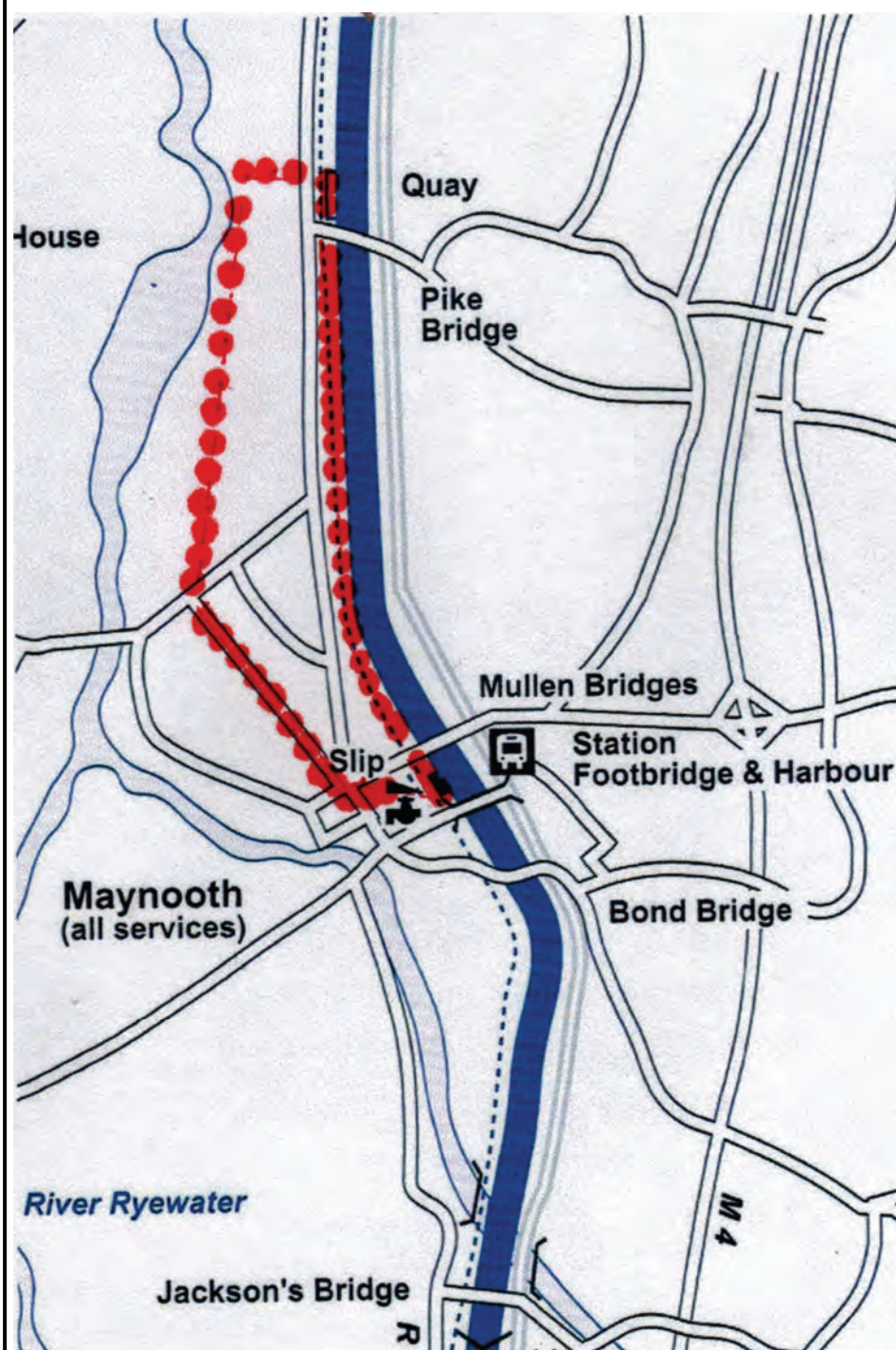
## Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

### ROYAL CANAL WALKS

It has been decided to restart our walks with the post Christmas Jumper walk on Monday the 27th December 2021

This walk starts at the Harbour, travels up town, through Carton Avenue, into Carton proper, across to Pike Bridge and back along the canal.

Please feel free to wear your colourful Christmas Jumper on this occasion. It is, after all, known as the Christmas Jumper Walk.



Post-Christmas walk route

It is a very enjoyable walk and a good way to walk off the Christmas excesses. As always light refreshments will be available after the walk.

Exact starting times and other important information will issue in next month's publication

Four+ other walks are pencilled in for 2022 including the now famous mid-summer walk, Ashtown to Castleknock and a 'country walk' further down the canal. We would also hope to be involved in the heritage walks, should they go ahead.



Royal Canal Hill of Down

### ROYAL CANAL AGM

This year's AGM will take place in the group's headquarters at Mongey's Buildings, Enfield, Co. Meath on Thursday 30th Nov 2021 commencing at 3pm.

This will be the first full meeting since the pandemic outbreak and normal Covid regulations will apply

### FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ

Elsewhere in this illustrious publication you can read the first part of a new five part article 'Open All The Way'. Written by D.M. Hartford, author and canoeist, it describes a trip along the canal by canoe undertaken in 1955. Written in a very readable style it should appeal to readers, young and old. The trip was made in a two seater canoe by the author and a lady friend. A children's book based on the trip was written and published shortly after the trip and is still used in many primary schools around the country





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### THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail



# Online Office

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- \* 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



**Cllr. Angela Feeney**

**Tel. 087 238 1962**

**Email. [angelafeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelafeeney@gmail.com)**

**Stay safe everyone.**







## Wellness Programme

- Are you male & living in Northwest Kildare?
- Are you stressed, lonely or isolated?

Would you like to attend a 4-week Wellbeing Programme (2 hours - one day a week) in ACDAL, Allenwood in November

Contact Sinead at 086 7702907  
 headsupwellbeing@countykildarelp.ie  
 lorna@countykildarelp.ie





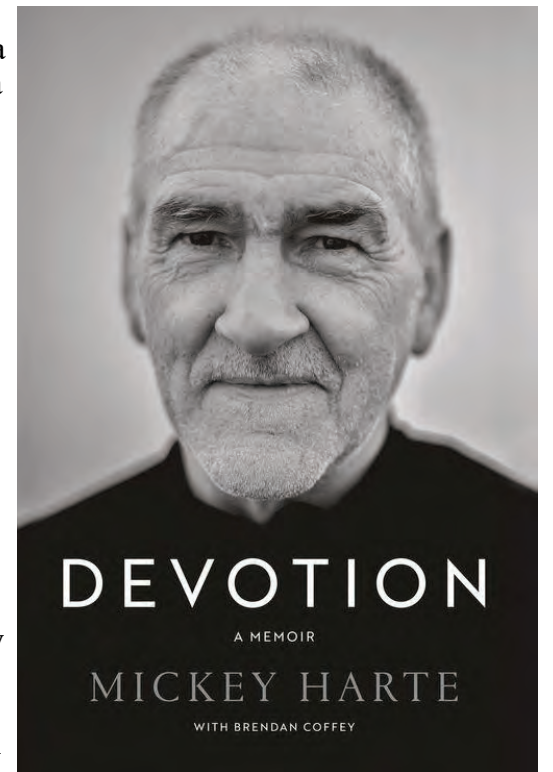


The Healthy Ireland Fund, supported by the Department of Health and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

A moving and lyrical memoir about life, love and loss, from a true giant of Gaelic games. In a frenetic seven-year spell at the outset of his senior managerial career, Mickey Harte led Tyrone to four Ulster Championships and three All-Irelands. It was a run that shifted football's balance of power, changed the way the game would be played for over a generation, and cemented his reputation as one of the most transformative figures in GAA history.

Then, in January 2011, the visitation of a shocking tragedy changed everything: Mickey's daughter Michaela was murdered while on honeymoon in Mauritius, and the Harte family, grief-stricken, awoke to find themselves at the centre of an international news story.

Devotion, the product of a collaboration between Mickey and Maynooth author Brendan Coffey, is many things. The story of a family's decade-long struggle to come to terms with an almost unimaginable loss. A meditation on the ways in which faith, community, and sport can sustain us in our most difficult moments. And, finally, a portrait of one of Irish sport's true icons, as he brings one legendary era to a close and steels himself for a final assault on the history books.



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## MAN UNITED LEGENDS COME TO MAYNOOTH !



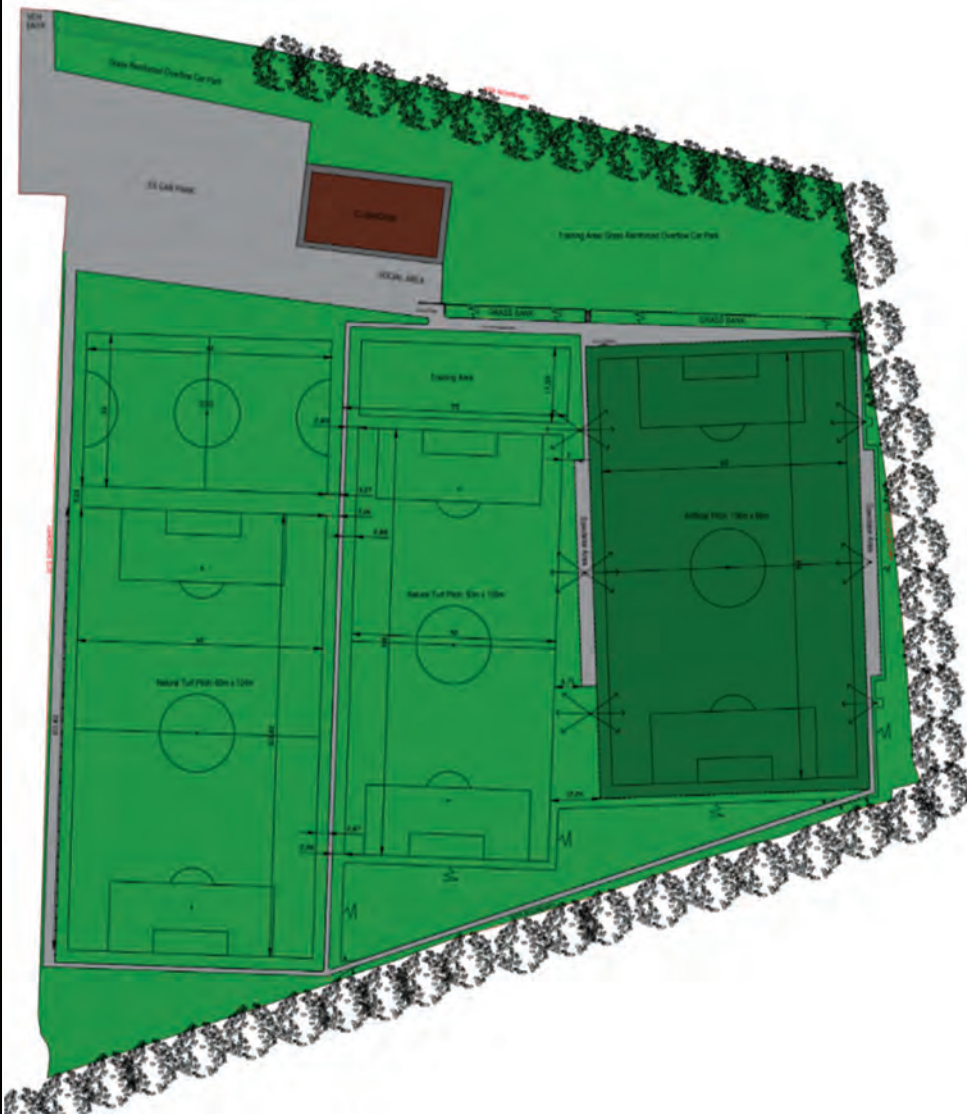
**Maynooth Town FC have announced the first in a series of exciting events to support fund raising to develop the club facilities. On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November, they will be holding a Q&A evening with Manchester United legends, Brian McClair and Wes Brown, in the Glenroyal Hotel in Maynooth.**

Maynooth Town FC provide and support the opportunity for young players in the Maynooth area to participate in soccer in a safe and encouraging environment and have been doing this for over 50 years. It is crucial that the club has sufficient facilities to continue to accommodate it's members. Membership numbers have grown strongly in recent years due to general population growth in the Maynooth area, increased participation by female players and the retention of teenage and young adult players. Membership is expected to continue to grow as Maynooth is designated as a large growth town within various county and regional development plans.

To meet this growing demand, the club are setting out on an important and exciting journey to invest in new playing facilities for the future. Including the nursery, Maynooth Town has already grown to 800 underage players (570 boys and 230 girls) and 40 Over-35 players. The existing playing facilities at Rathcoffey Road are reaching full capacity in supporting these teams while the partnership with Maynooth University supports three men's teams at senior level.

### Development Plan

Phase 1 is to maximise the capacity of the existing grounds at Rathcoffey Road in the short term and the key development will be the conversion of an existing pitch into a floodlit, 11-A-Side all-weather pitch. This will enable the club to make better use of the existing grounds, particularly for winter training and matches when grass pitches are unplayable. The planning permission process for the all-weather pitch is at the final stages and the club hope that permission will be granted in the coming weeks. This would enable the work to be carried out in the first half of 2022.



### Fundraising & Man United Legends

The first fundraising event will be a Q&A evening with **Manchester United Legends**, Brian McClair & Wes Brown, in the Glenroyal Hotel on the evening of Thursday 25-November at 8pm. After 4 successful years at Celtic, Brian was Alex Ferguson's second signing for Man United in July 1987. He was there while Sir Alex rebuilt United making 471 appearances and scoring 127 goals over 11 seasons. Brian won four Premier Leagues, two FA Cups and the European Cup Winners Cup. Wes followed the Class of 92 out of the Man United academy into the first team in May 1998. Wes made 362 appearances over 14 seasons winning five Premier Leagues, two FA Cups and two Champions Leagues before going on to play with Sunderland.

Brian & Wes will share stories and memories from their time playing with and against some of the top players of the past 35 years. Pete Boyle, the famous Manchester United song writer, will MC the event and ensure that attendees enjoy a selection of memorable stories from the two legends. It promises to be an entertaining evening for all soccer fans regardless of their allegiance! There will also be a limited VIP Meet & Greet event in advance of the Q&A that will provide an opportunity to meet Brian & Wes, to get jerseys signed and/or have photos taken with the players and replica Premier League & Champions League trophies.

The Q&A evening will be the forerunner for a larger event on the weekend of 25-June-2022 when a team of **Manchester United Legends** will come to Maynooth to play an exhibition match against **Maynooth Town** teams. The Legends names will be announced over the coming weeks and months and could feature well known names such as Brian McClair, Wes Brown, Denis Irwin, Frank Stapleton, David May, Andy Cole, Keith Gillespie and Arthur Albiston amongst others. The details for the second event are being finalised and will be provided as soon as they are available.

**MAYNOOTH TOWN F.C. PRESENTS**

**Q&A EVENING WITH MANCHESTER UNITED LEGENDS**

**WES BROWN & BRIAN MCCLAIR**

**GLENROYAL HOTEL MAYNOOTH**

**THURSDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2021**

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**Meet and Greet**

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Tickets for the Q&A evening on 25-November are already on sale and may be purchased from [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie).

Check out the Podcast & Facebook post below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKdxW2RvxvY>

<https://www.facebook.com/101571584607/posts/10158850726064608/?sfnsn=mo>





# Maynooth University Town F.C



Recent results have been good lately and our league position has improved enormously with a number of good results.

## L.S.L Senior Div Sun Cherry Orchard 0 Town 1

An inspired performance by keeper David Sterio helped to ensure us of there valuable points in this close encounter. Town were finding it hard to break down a very tight home defense and a draw seemed the likely outcome. Jackson Ryan unlocked the door with 15 minutes remaining when breaking trough the home rearguard before being scythed down by an Orchard defender in the penalty area. Jack o' Connor cooly tucked away the spot-kick which proved to be the winner.

## F.A.I Intermediate Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Greystones Utd 1 Town 3

Town opened in whirlwind fashion and were three up within twenty minutes. Goals by Jay Amour, Conor Foley and Conor Delahunty laid the foundation for this victory. Some over physical play by the home side necessitated a number of subs by Town which disrupted the normal rhythm of Town's usual free flowing game. Town were still strong enough to hold out for a good victory despite a late home goal.

## L.S.L Senior Div Sun Town 3 St Mochtas 1

With the cold evenings creeping in this was a game to warm the cockles of ones heart. Town attacked right from the kickoff and opened the scoring in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute. Neat interplay by Jackson O'Connor and Conor Delahunty set up Paddy O'Sullivan to score one of his specials in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute Eoin Mc Dermutt was taken down in the Saints penalty area and Jackson O' Connor placed his kick wide of the keeper to go two up. Six minutes later Jackson O'Connor stretched the lead when Paddy o' Sullivan opened up the Saints defense with a through pass for O'Connor to slot home. Town kept control in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half but were dealt a blow in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute when Jay Amour was sent off following a clash with a Saints player. Saints pulled one back after this but Town regrouped and held out for a deserved win.

We extend best wishes for a speedy recovery to Cillian Duffy following his recent ACL operation which will sideline him for a prolonged period. Cillian received his injury in the historic win over Cobh Ramblers in the F.A.I Senior Cup on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August.



LSL Senior Sunday									
#	TEAM	PL	W	D	L	F	A	DF	PTS
1	Malahide United AFC	11	7	4	0	23	7	16	25
2	St. Mochtas FC	11	7	1	3	27	17	10	22
3	Liffey Wanderers	13	6	3	4	19	19	0	21
4	Crumlin United FC	10	6	1	3	22	11	11	19
5	Bangor GG FC	11	5	4	2	20	19	1	19
6	Maynooth University Town	11	5	2	4	17	13	4	17
7	Home Farm FC	11	4	4	3	14	10	4	16
8	Bluebell United	11	4	3	4	19	19	0	15
9	Wayside Celtic	13	4	3	6	19	23	-4	15
10	Killester Donnyrne FC	9	4	1	4	20	19	1	13
11	Kilnamanagh A.F.C.	11	3	3	5	17	23	-6	12
12	Sacred Heart Firhouse Clover	10	2	2	6	15	26	-11	8
13	Edenderry Town FC	10	2	0	8	14	22	-8	6
14	Cherry Orchard FC	10	1	1	8	7	25	-18	4

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## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

E mail: [angelaemfeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelaemfeeney@gmail.com) - Phone: 0872381962



### Parson Street Traffic Management

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to carry out a traffic management review on Parson Street, which she believes is very dangerous and poses a great risk to all who use this busy road, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike, and is not fit for purpose. Cllr Feeney described it as “survival of the fittest” for two cars to pass safely and stated that there has been an increase in the number of accidents there recently. The Council responded stating that the Maynooth Transport Strategy will include a review of Parsons Street and Cllr Feeney said that she would certainly feed into that process. However Cllr Feeney added that because of the safety concerns, she is of the view that this issue needs to be addressed sooner than that.

### Hedge Cutting Schedule

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide the works schedule for hedge cutting in the Municipal District. The Council in its response said that the Municipal District Office undertakes routine hedge cutting on strategic junctions to ensure sight lines for road safety and that the Council does not have a schedule but undertakes the works as part of routine maintenance as needs dictate and resources allow. Under Section 70 of the Roads Act, 1993 the owner or occupier of land shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on the land is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road. Kildare County Council has recently published notices in a number of local and national newspapers outlining these obligations.

The Council will also be inspecting locations throughout the municipal district and liaising with landowners as necessary to remind them of their obligations. Cllr Feeney responded stating that as a public representative, she receives requests particularly at this time of the year and while she totally understand that, as the report mentions, the schedule is determined by ‘needs and resources’, if members could have sight of planned works, as with the tree programme, it is very helpful in replying saying it is or is not on the list and that it can be suggested or added to next year’s schedule.

### Social Housing Lists

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to confirm how many people are currently on the housing list in Maynooth, Clane and Kilcock, classified by one, two, three bedroom units, single person and families. The Council provided the data in the table below showing the numbers that have listed Maynooth, Clane or Kilcock as an area of choice in their housing application.

Area	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed
Maynooth	554	491	283	67
Kilcock	144	178	96	25
Clane	356	244	121	25

There is a total of 2,584 applicants for the three towns of which 1395 are for Maynooth alone. Cllr Feeney said these were stark statistics and behind each statistic is an individual, a lone parent or a family, and it is heart-breaking to see the pro forma reply that an applicant receives saying that they will have to wait an average 10 to 12 years to be housed. Cllr Feeney said that the pace of delivery is very frustrating, Kildare is such a large and growing county council and yet grossly underfunded by government.

### The Office of Public Works (OPW) and The Obelisk

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to write to the OPW calling for improvement, repairs and enhancement of Conolly’s Folly (The Obelisk). Cllr Feeney said that this historic monument is very much under exploited and it is so sad to see it fenced off and almost unwelcoming. There is huge potential and lots of scope there. Cllr Feeney said that it is bad enough that the Folly is under exploited when it should be showcased but to see it fall into disrepair is even sadder and a further step in the wrong direction. Cllr Feeney added, that it was sad to state, that maintenance has seriously deteriorated: recently, a heavy vehicle hit the railings to the front of the site.

Furthermore, the site is fitted with lights and cameras, however the lights and the camera do not work. Cllr Feeney concluded that urgent attention and rectification is needed to protect this key heritage building. It was agreed by the members that the Council’s Senior Executive Officer will write to the OPW calling for improvement, repairs and enhancement of Conolly’s Folly (The Obelisk) and to hold a meeting at the site with herself and the Council officials.

### Cllr Feeney calls for an Amendment to the Social Housing Application

Cllr Feeney submitted a motion to the Plenary Council in October, supported by her Labour colleague, Cllr Anne Breen as follows: “That Kildare County Council calls on the Department of Housing to permit Affidavits sworn before Peace Commissioners to be acceptable. The present situation is that Affidavits from Commissioners of Oaths or Solicitors are only accepted, for the Housing Waiting List. This in many cases is causing additional hardship on applicants trying to access the housing list and accommodation”.

The Council replied stating that the application form for Social Housing support requires separated/divorced couples to provide a copy of their separation/divorce agreement. If there is no agreement in place, the applicant is required to provide a letter from their solicitor or a legal affidavit signed by a practising solicitor. The Council said it had no discretion to amend this requirement, as the form is a national form provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Cllr Feeney called on the Council to correspond with the Department on this matter and it was agreed by all members to do this as it is causing difficulties and adding unnecessary costs to applicants.

### Local Live Performance Programming Scheme

The Kildare Local Live Performance Programming Scheme for Maynooth and Celbridge/Leixlip is open for applications until Monday, November 8th, at 12:00pm. Following the success of the initial programme this summer, Kildare County Council invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified candidates to the Kildare Local Live Performance Programming scheme, Phase 2.

This scheme is funded through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to assist producers, promoters and venues to provide support for people in the live performance industry to facilitate programming of live performances in the Municipal Districts of both Celbridge/Leixlip and Maynooth, Co Kildare. At least one event must take place in each Municipal District, on or before 31st December 2021, should public health considerations permit.

The scheme aims to support the creation of employment opportunities for local professional artists and musicians of all genres, performers, designer, technicians, crew, lighting and sound engineers and other support staff working in the live commercial arts and culture sectors in County Kildare. Performances can be recorded or streamed if health restrictions prevent live events, or as the local authority deem appropriate. The Kildare Live Performance Programming Scheme Phase 2 offers an award of €143,000, include VAT and all other expenses. It is envisaged that one application only will receive funding under the scheme.

Applications are welcome from established Event Producers, Promoters and/or Curators with a proven record (minimum 3 years) in the creation and presentation of events in the live performance sector. Applicants should have demonstrated experience of managing projects with a similar budget. Applications can be made via the online application form in link below.

<https://kildarecoco.submit.com/show/62>

### Cllr Feeney’s Upcoming MD Council Motions and Questions:

**Motion:** That the Bridge beside Maynooth Castle and the entrance to St Patrick’s College, currently unnamed, be named Droichead Ua Buachalla/Buckley’s Bridge in honour of Domhnall Ua Buachalla.

**Motion:** That the Council assesses the safety of the Clane/Barberstown Road Junction at Richardstown Cross.

**Question:** Can the Council provide an update regarding the re-opening and planned management of the Community Space in Maynooth?

**Question:** Can the Council provide an update on the assigning of a school warden to serve both primary schools on the Celbridge Road Maynooth?

### Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney since the last newsletter:

October 7th, 2pm KCC Finance Committee (online)

October 11th, 7pm, Maynooth Community Council (online)

October 13th, 11am, Panel participant on the theme of ‘Gender and Diversity in Local Government’ in Aras Chill Dara, Naas

October 14th, 7pm, Maynooth Access Group (online)

October 16th, 9am, meeting with Maynooth Tidy Towns sub-committee

October 18th, 10am, MD Budget Meeting (online)

October 18th, 3pm, Council Plenary, Newbridge Town Hall

October 21st, 10.30am, Naas Local Area Plan, Newbridge Town Hall

October 21st, 3pm, Twinning Liaison Committee (online)

October 22nd, 11am, MD Joint Policing Committee (online)

October 25th, 3pm, Teresa Brayton Heritage Group Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque, Kilcock





Gold Medal  
Winner 2019

We are still continuing to have our meet ups every Saturday until at least the end of November. We have our Annual General Meeting on Thursday December 9th at 7.30pm in The Glenroyal Hotel. Everyone welcome.



Thanks to everyone who has supported us over the past year especially our volunteers who religiously turned out every Saturday morning at 9am hail, rain or shine. We did some tremendous work around the town this last month, beds at Rail Park were revamped with new timbers and plants. We painted the ICA over 2 Saturdays and were well rewarded with lovely cups of tea and coffee, scones and chocolate cake.

We did lots of work in another bed at Parsons Court and scuffling on Bond Bridge for the 3rd time this year. Lots and lots of litter picking all around the and in our rivers. Our Councillors joined us one Saturday in October on a walking trail with members of one of our sub-committees. More about that in the future editions.

Some of us have signed up for Kildare Co.Co's first ever Kildare Climate and Energy Week from the 26th-29th October. Our team is called Maynooth Sweep Cleaners.



*We hope to get the Tidy Towns Competition results sometime in November so fingers crossed for a good result. No matter what the result we will still continue with our weekly meet ups for now and in to the future.*

*Mary Molloy, Secretary Maynooth Tidy Towns.*



## Maynooth Cycling Campaign Notes

### Maynooth Transport Strategy

Kildare County Council is inviting submissions from the public on a transport strategy for the town. Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes this proposal but we are concerned about the lack of ambition for cycling in corresponding transport strategies for Naas and Kildare Town. This is a wider problem than just Kildare as similar poorly designed strategies have also been produced for the cities of Cork, Limerick and Galway. One of the essential elements of a transport strategy which has been sadly lacking is monitoring and reporting on progress. We shall see how it develops. The closing date for submissions is the 17th November.

### UN Climate Change Conference - COP26

The UN Climate Change Conference is taking place in Glasgow from Sunday 31st October to Friday 12th November. This is the latest and probably last conference in which governments from around the globe will come together to try to limit the warming of the climate to 1.5 degrees.

There has been a lot of talk and promises from the first world about what they (and we) were going to do but actions have not matched the words. Ireland's past record has been very poor. In 2018, the then Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, described Ireland as the laggards of Europe. Since the last election, however, there has been a new emphasis on climate by the three parties in government but because we have left it so late in the day, it will now be extremely challenging to meet our international commitment for a 51% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.

Transport is one of the three key areas along with energy and agriculture which produces carbon emissions. At the time of writing, the government has not decided the carbon

allocations between the three areas. One of the inevitable consequences of decarbonising transport is that there must be a reduction in car use – especially in the 50% of car journeys which are less than 5km in distance. However, in Maynooth we have seen three times in the recent years how improved cycling facilities has been opposed by local people who want to preserve the status quo. We have seen too the devastating effect on climate change on the polar regions as well as floods and/or droughts resulting in forest fires in developed countries such as the USA, Australia, as well as closer to home in Germany and Belgium. Ireland and its future generations will not escape the consequences of failure.

### #KissTheGatesGoodbye

As part of this campaign, Maynooth Cycling Campaign has asked our four North Kildare T.D.s to submit a question to the Department of Transport on the substandard provision of access gates to the Royal Canal Greenway. We would like to thank Catherine Murphy (Social Democrats), James Lawless (Fianna Fáil) and Bernard Durkan (Fine Gael) for submitting questions on our behalf. We believe that people with disabilities and cyclists on non-standard bikes should be able to access our greenways.

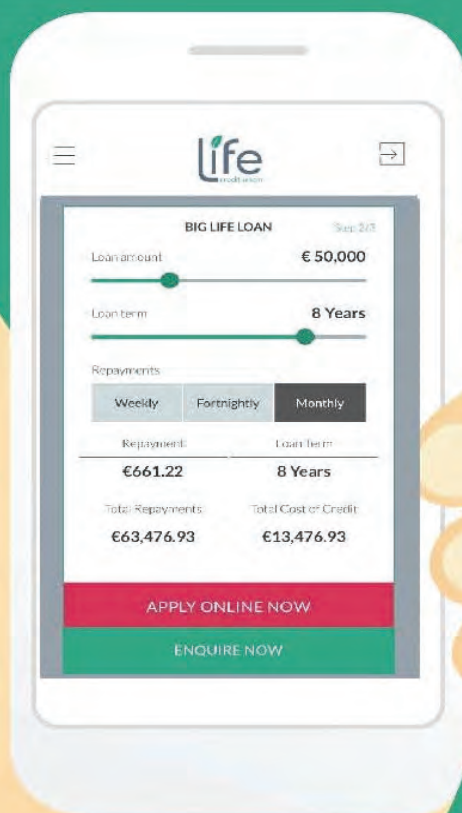
**Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political cycling advocacy group. Further information on the campaign is available on our website. We are affiliated to Cyclist.ie, the Irish Cyclist Advocacy Network and through it to the European Cycling Federation.**





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

### *From the Bogs*

A former putdown in Ireland was to say that somebody was from the bog. Today with the decline in rural communities such comments are rarely heard, which leads to the question, was living in bogs once common? The answer is yes. During the era of the Penal Laws Catholics were not allowed to own land, then in 1771 the Bogland Act was passed; this allowed them to lease not more than fifty acres of poor land for up to fifty years. Naturally many people availed of this concession. The era of the small tenant farmer, often a bog dweller, had commenced.

In my youth there was a raised bog, as distinct from the blanket variety found on mountains, within walking distance of our home. A family, 'The Monks' as they were locally known, lived there in the cutaway west end. Their house was a low, thatched cabin with rough, unmortared stone walls, probably much like those lived in during the Famine, except that it had two small windows, one for the kitchen the other for a bedroom. It would be nice to think that their neighbours respected them but, unfortunately, in rural Ireland it was always a case of 'a penny-halfpenny looking down on a penny'.

The only livestock 'The Monks' had was a donkey a cow and some hens. They grew potatoes behind the cabin in lazy beds dug with a loy. They had three small outhouses, a stable, a cowshed and a henhouse, all thatched. Every weekday Josey, the eldest, travelled four miles with a load of good-quality black turf to the town, where he sold it to various housewives. The journey out to the public road was by an unpaved, rutted track that necessitated constant shouted encouragement

to the donkey, invariably audible from a distance. This track passed a grass-grown mound on the east end, site of a former bog dwelling. Apart from occasional work on nearby farms undertaken by his brothers, Kevin and Charlie, those turf sales comprised the family's main income.

There were two other siblings: Hugh, a heavyset, silent man, and Molly, a frail, shy woman. I visited the cabin a few times, more out of curiosity than for any other reason. The cramped interior was dim, the window and fire providing inadequate light, but it was cozy enough. Hugh would be seated near the hearth and Molly was usually washing or cooking. If either of them suspected that I was just being nosey they didn't betray it. On Sundays Molly walked two miles across fields to mass in the village but Hugh seldom, if ever, ventured outside.

Charlie, who had the gift of storytelling, was the most popular of 'The Monks'. He could hold us children enthralled with accounts of the fellow with the cloven hoof or the leprechaun that he had glimpsed entering a ring fort overlooking the bog. He would hide a smile at our wide-eyed fascination when begging for more of such tales.

It may be illuminating to draw a parallel between this close-knit family and an indigenous covey of grouse. The grouse were reliant on the bog for food and cover, eating heather shoots and roosting on dry hummocks. Though shot at by 'sportsmen', enough of them managed to escape each open season to perpetuate their species for one more generation.

*Of course 'The Monks' did not produce a new generation, though at one stage Josey became infatuated with a woman living in the next town-land. The notion of this attractive lady returning his interest afforded great amusement to the locals, myself included. Meeting Josey one day, I told him that she might be won if he had hair on his chest, whereupon he meekly opened his waistcoat and shirt to reveal some wispy growth. I immediately regretted my ignorant behaviour and, nodding shamefacedly, walked away.*

They only member of the family to escape the bog was Charlie, who was given a County Council bungalow by the public road. This soon became a rambling house for local fellows, often with boisterous carryon. For the most part Charlie tolerated such behaviour but one Halloween things really got out of hand. A prankster climbed onto the roof and blocked the chimney with a hessian bag, whereupon smoke poured into the kitchen. Incensed, Charlie knelt down and prayed that God would wreak every sort of vengeance on the culprit's head. Despite their initial amusement, this invoking of divine retribution duly sobered those present.

One by one 'The Monks' passed away, often the cost of their burials being met by local collections. They were an anachronism in the changing world of cattle marts and tractors, a reminder of a past that everyone was hell bent on leaving behind. Still, I regret our former readiness to be amused by their simplicity, their closeness in lifestyle to the generations that preceded us when survival was as precarious as it was for the hunted grouse.

*By P.G. Nerney*

### *To a Childhood Neighbour* i.m. Jimmy Butler

There were hedgerows of whitethorn  
cloudy with blossom about me then,  
a scent of honey and clover,  
mild as summer's breath,  
and the choired joy of meadow bees.

I ran:  
there was no care to chain me to the earth.  
I floated with each white cloud in the sky,  
caught love from all the varied eyes of life,  
which, cleansed in dew, begged me to pause,  
then smiled me on.

There are no hedgerows now,  
no blossoms dewy in the sun,  
no happy bees.  
All have passed like morning haze  
from some rain-sodden field  
Where black mud rises round my feet  
And time puts heaviness on my head.  
Against the grey sky you rise,  
an oak tree, old as this land.  
You see the earth grown bare  
and my dejected progress through the waste,  
yet you with patience wait.

Some voice from that lost time  
sings faint of you,  
sings of blossoms and fragrant fruit  
the passing seasons dissipate,  
then of beauty nurtured deep  
in the strong cells of an oak tree,  
sings of roots stretched below the frost  
to a dark, enduring heart  
which primes the green leaf.

**By Colin Scott**

### *Maynooth University welcomes new President, Professor Eeva Leinonen*



Maynooth University warmly welcomed Professor Eeva Leinonen, who took office as the new President, on Monday October 1<sup>st</sup>, succeeding Professor Philip Nolan, who has led the university for the past 10 years.

Professor Leinonen, an international researcher and former Vice-Chancellor of Murdoch University in Perth, Australia, was appointed by the Governing Authority of Maynooth University in March this year.

She is the first female president of Maynooth University.

Professor Leinonen has held the role of Vice Chancellor of Murdoch University, 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.

Professor Leinonen said she was honoured to have the opportunity to lead Maynooth University in the next stage of its development. The new President said that Maynooth University can play an outsized role in next-generation Ireland.

"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," she said "Next year

Maynooth celebrates its 25th anniversary. This affords us an opportunity to pause, reflect and plan for the years ahead. Due to its rapid enrolment growth, its diverse student population, its youthful and collegial attitude toward multi-disciplinary research, and its strengths in fields that are critical to Ireland's economic future, I believe Maynooth University can play a significant role in preparing for next-generation Ireland.

"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."

The Chairperson of the Governing Authority, Dr Mary Canning, said she was delighted to welcome Professor Leinonen.

"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.

I wish Professor Leinonen well as she takes up her new role."



**Professor Eeva Leinonen,  
President of Maynooth University.**



## OPEN ALL THE WAY CANOEING ON THE ROYAL CANAL IN THE 1950s

### By D.M. HARTFORD

#### About the Author

Diana Mary Hartford nee Barton was born in 1918. The trip described here was undertaken in 1955 just after Douglas Heard completed the last official boat trip before closure of the canal. The trip was undertaken in two stages; Clondra to Mullingar and Dublin (Blanchardstown) to Mullingar. The city centre areas of the canal were not navigable at this time. This article was originally published in a number of Royal Canal Newsletters in the 1970s. The author had a children's book published after this trip, which is still widely used in primary schools today. The author of a number of other books, Diana passed away in 2002.

#### PART 1 Blanchardstown to Hill Of Down

If you have seen Douglas Heard's film of the Royal Canal, taken in 1955, you will know that it was then still navigable from Dublin to the Shannon. He made the voyage in the Hark, a converted ship's lifeboat; but what was it like for canoe? I can tell you what it was like, that is provided one went in the month of May before the weed grew thick, for we followed six weeks after Hark considerably lower on the water in a two-seater 17ft canvas canoe. The memory of Hark was still fresh in the mind of lonely canal side cottagers who had not yet got over the excitement of a passing vessel (one woman telling me it was as big as the Mail-Boat) so little was the traffic by that time on the Royal Canal.

The first day we paddled from Blanchardstown and got to Maynooth about 5 p.m., and after tea on the bank against the College wall pushed on again westwards. The rose tipped buckbean flowers still lined the edge of the water, and all the way there were marsh marigolds and, showing further out on the water the first tips of what would later be dense Mares Tails. We had only two more obstacles before Kilcock, the 14<sup>th</sup> lock at Jackson's Bridge and the 15<sup>th</sup> at Chamber's Bridge. At one of them a grandfather and a string of small children helped us carry our canoe and bits of luggage up the bank, across the road, and down to a grassy place to launch again on the far side of the lock. Soon after lock 15 we were glad to see the straight

stretch of canal that runs beside the road into Kilcock, where we spent the first night. The next morning the canal wound prettily west of Kilcock and there were plenty of swans, and we soon found that they were frightened of the canoe and quite harmless.

Paddling on after a stop at Enfield we were disappointed with the aqueduct over the River Blackwater, for we were too low on the water to see over the edge and after the stone-flanked entrance there were only tree tops instead of hedges to show we were crossing a valley. Later on it was the same crossing the Boyne aqueduct, but between the two was a sylvan interlude. Just before Moyvalley station we passed into a long bend of beautiful trees; beeches, willows and others dropping pink and cream sepals on the water and giving dappled shade. In this shade we stopped and lay down on the bank and almost immediately a bicycle almost ran over us. We found the towpaths used quite a lot and passed an old man peddling ash-plants, several carts whose horses we alarmed, school children and men going home on bicycles, like the one in whose track we had settled.

A stiffer breeze soon pushed us along the miles after the Boyne aqueduct, and I remember that when the hump of the Hill of Down came in sight we decided we needed more sustenance and landed on a burnt and brambly sort of heath. A perishing wind we had no idea of down on the canal was blowing up there, so that we ate and drank stamping around. After this we did the last half-mile to the house at Hill of Down. There the station ones have their backs to the water on the left and the Post Office (which we sought) is set at an angle on the other side with a neat concrete-edged garden. Here we left our canoe for the night.

*To be continued.....*

The Royal Canal Amenity Group are grateful to Diana for submitting this article for publication at the time.

Hope you are keeping safe and well  
We are working for you in the area throughout this time



Daily remote constituency clinics

Monday to Friday Telephone: 089 2444 793

Or, email:

[Catherine.Murphy@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Catherine.Murphy@oireachtas.ie)

We anticipate changes towards the end of October,  
so please feel free to check in with us.

**Catherine Murphy, Your Kildare North**  
**Social Democrats TD**  
Honest Politics, Strong Economy, Fair Society



# Be Winter Ready

## Take Extra Care

Everyone, especially older or more vulnerable people should remember to take extra care during a cold spell. Elderly people should not venture outdoors in severe weather if possible. The public are asked to make a special effort to keep in contact with their neighbours and relatives, particularly those living alone.

### Remember:

- keep warm, eat well and avoid unnecessary travel
- call on elderly relatives and neighbours and ensure they have sufficient supplies of food and of any prescription drugs they may need
- ensure that older people have sufficient fuel supplies to maintain adequate heating in their homes



If your water supply is disrupted due to severe weather, you will find health advice on drinking water supplies and more information on keeping well this winter on [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie).

## Preventing falls & trips

Emergency Departments around the country can be busy in severe weather, dealing with sprains and fractures as a result of slips and falls on icy roads and footpaths. While both young and old present to Emergency Departments as a result of falls on ice, as we get older a fall can result in broken bones, a loss of confidence, loss of mobility and fear of leaving the home. Many falls can be prevented and by making small changes we can reduce the chances of falling. Accidents do happen but many slips, trips and falls are preventable. You can contact your Local Health Office for more advice.

### Fall prevention in your home:

- leave a low energy light on at night time, preferably one with a high light output
- use a non-slip shower or bath mat
- make sure wires or cords, such as from lamps or telephones, do not trail where you walk
- arrange furniture so that you can easily move around all your rooms
- keep the floors clear from items such as papers and books that could cause you to trip
- remove rugs or use non-slip tape or backing so rugs will not slip Consider installing hand rails on both sides of the stairs

### Personal safety—staying safe

- In icy weather, wear well-fitted shoes with non-slip soles if you have to go out but try to limit walking during the cold weather. Have your vision checked. Your eyesight changes as you get older; poor vision can increase your chances of falling

### Advice on medication

As you get older you may need to change the dose of your medicines – check with your doctor. Some medicines or combinations of medicines may make you feel faint or light-headed which could lead to a fall. Consider wearing a personal alarm so that family or neighbours are alerted if you fall. Eat

regular hot meals and drink plenty of fluids, this will keep you warm and will give you energy to keep active. If you have a fall, even a minor one, make sure you visit your doctor for a check up.

## Winter ready health advice for people with disabilities

If your disability is affected by a drop in temperature try and be aware of the weather forecast in order to allow you plan for pain management. Wear the correct amount of layers to try and maintain your body temperature at the required level. Individuals with reduced mobility should take extra measures to protect their hands, feet and other areas of the body that are particularly subject to cold. Eat well and avoid unnecessary travel. You should eat regular hot meals and drink plenty of fluids, this will keep you warm and will give you energy to keep active.

### Food Supplies

Ensure you have sufficient supplies of food and of any prescription medicine you may need. If you have some mobility try and keep active indoors. Have sufficient fuel supplies to maintain adequate heating in your home. Ask your relatives and neighbours for help if you need it. Keep their phone numbers on a list beside your phone. If you cannot talk to people on the phone, make sure you have a relative or friend you can text for assistance if you need it, and register with the emergency services so you can contact them via text if necessary.



### Medical equipment

If you have to use medical equipment or a powered mobility device every day please make sure that you always have access to a power supply. Ensure that you are on the vulnerable customer registers for the energy companies and Irish Water. If you have an assistance dog, be sure to keep them warm as well. Be sure to always have a blanket for the animal to rest on. Keep the animal indoors as much as possible.

### Keeping an eye on vulnerable people

If possible, make yourself aware of a relative or neighbour’s disability and ask them how best you can help them if required. Try to call on relatives and neighbours who have a disability, and offer to assist them in severe weather:

- ensure that they have sufficient supplies of food and medications
- ensure that they have sufficient fuel supplies to maintain adequate heating in their homes
- ensure that they have access to power and water
- arrange regular visits or phone calls so they don’t feel isolated

If you have any doubts about the safety of someone you know who has a disability seek the assistance of [An Garda Síochána](http://www.an Garda.ie) or [local health and social services](http://www.local health and social services).

Source: gov.ie health advice from the HSE

## Stay Well – Stay Safe

## Getting your Car Ready for the Winter Months Ahead

As temperatures start to fall it's time to start thinking about getting your car ready for winter. A properly maintained car can weather winter temperatures and now is the perfect time to start preparing. Ideally a pre-winter service means checks to your tyres, battery, wiper blades and anti-freeze and your car given a thorough inspection. But if your budget doesn’t stretch to this a few simple steps can keep your vehicle in good working order this winter and go a long way to preventing breakdowns.

### Check your Tyres

1.6mm is the legal limit for thread depth but during winter, 3mm is recommended for driving. Make sure to check the spare tyre and ensure that your tyres are properly inflated to get the best possible traction with the road. If you do a lot of driving, especially early in the morning or late at night when temperatures are at their lowest you should consider switching to all season tyres.

### Battery

Battery failure is one of the most common causes of breakdown during the winter months. Despite what people may think, they don’t actually last forever. Replacing them when necessary can save you a lot of time and inconvenience. Cold temperatures reduce the capacity of any battery and if it is more than three years old it is worthwhile having it checked.

### Fuel

Don’t let the fuel levels drop too much as you risk your fuel tank freezing – make sure to fill up before you set off on a long journey. If you do get stuck at least you’ll be able to stay warm. Check that all the light bulbs are working and that headlights are clean and aimed correctly. All external lights should be cleaned regularly, especially when roads are salted.

Ensure coolant is topped up regularly to ensure a healthy engine as overheating is a common cause of breakdown.

Don’t forget to top up the windscreen washer fluid, ensuring it contains an anti-freeze agent. Check the vehicle handbook for the recommended ratio.

### Emergency Kit

Some of the items you should include are a torch, spare AA batteries for your torch and bulbs, screen scraper/de-icer, jump leads, warning triangle, first-aid kit, mobile phone, warm blankets, extra water, shovel (to clear snow if necessary) and road maps.

### Car Windows

Wiper blades should be replaced regularly, so check them out as winter approaches for wear and tear. Clean windows are essential for safe driving. Stock-up on de-icer and a plastic scraper to help make frosty mornings that bit easier. Keeping a can of de-icer or WD-40 on hand to de-freeze frozen locks. Do not pour hot water on frozen locks as this will only increase the amount of water inside and result in the problem reoccurring. Never force the key to turn a frozen car lock.

Source: [www.aviva.ie/insurance/car-articles/getting-your-car-ready-for-winter-months](http://www.aviva.ie/insurance/car-articles/getting-your-car-ready-for-winter-months)





# Things to do in the Garden in November

Things are slowing down in the garden come November, but there are still plenty of plants that need sowing and growing in time for spring. Here are the flowers, vegetables and fruits that can be sown and grown this month.

## Seasonal things to sow and grow in the garden this month:

### In the greenhouse/indoors

Sow sweet peas in a cool greenhouse or cold frame for an early display next year. Try growing perennials such as laurentia, delphinium, verbascum, foxglove and lupin from seed in the greenhouse this month.

### Plant Outdoors

- Plant spring flowering bulbs. Consider investing in a bulb planter to speed up the process or to naturalise bulbs into grassed areas of your garden.
- Plant tulip bulbs and remember to avoid shallow planting as this can reduce the winter cold period that tulip bulbs need to produce flowers in spring.
- Plant Christmas roses (hellebores) now for beautiful winter flowers.
- Continue to plant daffodil bulbs.
- Plant up a terracotta pot of hyacinth bulbs for a simple but stunning display next spring.
- Plant a magnolia tree now for a beautiful spring display.
- Start to plant bare-root roses — they can be planted any time between now and March.
- Plant heathers, grasses and trailing ivy in pots for winter colour.
- Plant out spring bedding displays of pansies, violas and primulas.

Now is the perfect time to plant hedging! With plenty of different varieties to try out, bare-root colourful hedging, fast growing hedging, slow growing hedging, and tall hedging which ever suits your garden.

### Fruit to sow & grow

#### Plant outdoors

- Plant rhubarb crowns now in well-prepared soil. Add plenty of organic matter — they are hungry feeders!



- Plant out strawberry runners and plants.
- Plant raspberry canes and blackberries now and remember to put a support system in place for the canes before planting.
- Plant gooseberries and currants now for a vigorous start to next season.
- Plant blueberry plants this month. Blueberries prefer a slightly acidic soil, but do very well in patio containers if your garden soil is not acidic.



### Lawn Care

Aerate your lawn and clear fallen leaves. Give your lawn a last cut on a high setting, and trim border edges to give your garden a crisp, neat look for winter. Clear away any blackspot-infected fallen leaves and burn or compost them. Cut back herbaceous perennials. Collect leaves for leafmould.

Move any shrubs that are in the wrong position. Spread manure on vegetable beds, and leave it to work into the soil over winter. Prune roses by a third to reduce the effect of wind rock. Lift dahlia, gladiolus and begonia tubers and store them in a cool, dry place until next spring. Tidy up strawberry plants by removing old leaves and stray runners.

### Protect your Plants

Cold wet winters can be disastrous for many plants. A thick layer of mulch on beds will help protect plants against winter wet, as well as improving the soil over time. Wrap pots in hessian or bubble wrap to insulate them against frosts, and raise them up on pot feet to improve drainage. And don't forget your garden wildlife. Birds need all the help they can get in winter, so put up a bird feeder and fill it regularly with high-energy foods like sunflower seeds or suet balls. If you have a birdbath, keep it filled and free of ice so that birds can keep their feathers clean, which helps them to stay warm through icy weather.



Source: [www.thompson-morgan.com/what-to-sow-and-grow-in-november/](http://www.thompson-morgan.com/what-to-sow-and-grow-in-november/)  
[www.ahernnurseries.ie](http://www.ahernnurseries.ie)

## Upgrading lines

## Upgrading lives

Our consultation process closes soon. So, if you live in Kildare or Meath, don't miss the chance to have your say on the four potential routes for the new 400kV underground electricity cable in your area.

This will connect Dunstown station in Co. Kildare to Woodland station in Co. Meath, upgrading the grid so that EirGrid can continue to deliver a safe, secure and sustainable electricity supply.

Have your say by November 22nd.

Go to [www.eirgrid.ie/KildareMeath](http://www.eirgrid.ie/KildareMeath), email [kildaremeath@eirgrid.com](mailto:kildaremeath@eirgrid.com) or get in touch by post to EirGrid, The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

Scan this QR code to have your say

## MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

Unit 10, Tesco Shopping Centre Maynooth  
(Beside Coyne's Butchers)

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Our Newsletter is now an online version  
It's immediately accessible and convenient



# 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*



## Budget 2022

Budget 2022 was announced on 12 October 2021. All updates and changes are in our [full overview of Budget 2022](#). These updates have also been implemented in the relevant pages across [citizensinformation.ie](http://citizensinformation.ie). Many changes require legislation before they come into effect.

### Some of the key changes include:

- The [Help to Buy scheme](#) was extended until 31 December 2022. It was also announced that the scheme will undergo a full review in 2022
- The [Fuel Allowance](#) increased by €5 per week from 12 October 2021. The increased payment will be backdated for the weekly and the lump sum payments in the first week of November
- A [Christmas Bonus](#) of 100% will be paid in early December 2021 to people getting a long-term social welfare payment (minimum payment €20)
- Weekly social welfare payments will increase by €5 with proportionate [increases for qualified adults](#). The weekly rate for a [qualified child](#) will increase by €2 for children aged under 12 and by €3 for children aged 12 and over (January 2022)
- The earnings limit for a person on [Disability Allowance](#) will increase by €25 and the income disregard for [Carer's Allowance](#) will increase to €350 for a single person and €750 for a couple (June 2022)
- The Living Alone Increase will increase by €3 from €19 to €22 (January 2022)
- The national minimum wage for people aged 20 and over will increase by 30c to €10.50 from 1 January 2022. Board and lodging rates will also increase from this date
- The Drugs Payment Scheme threshold will be reduced to from €114 to €100 per month
- [Free contraception](#) will be available for women aged between 17 and 25 from August 2022
- The reduced VAT rate of 9% for the hospitality sector [will continue until the end of August 2022](#), and commercial rates due to local authorities are waived until the end of 2021
- The [EWSS](#) will remain in place in a graduated form until 30 April 2022, with some changes to the rates from December 2021
- [Carbon tax](#) increased by €7.50 per tonne, from €33.50 to €41 per tonne

## Social welfare payments and the October public holiday

The Department of Social Protection has published its [October public holiday payment arrangements and opening hours](#).

## Reporting sexual harassment in higher education

[Speak Out](#), an online tool for students and staff to anonymously report incidents of violence, bullying and sexual harassment will be rolled out across 18 higher education institutions during this academic year 2021-2022.

## Changes to COVID-19 restrictions from 22 October 2021

Hospitality, entertainment and night-time economy can fully reopen with protective measures in place including:

- Use of a vaccine or recovery certificate for indoor events
- Social distancing
- Face masks (when not eating, drinking or dancing)
- Contact tracing
- No limits on numbers for weddings or religious services
- Audience must be seated for indoor events such as live music or sport

## Return to offices

On 19 October 2021, it was announced that [workers should continue to return to the workplace on a phased and cautious basis for specific business requirements](#). Further guidance on the full return to offices is expected soon.

## EU Digital COVID Certificate (DCC)

From 15 October 2021, if you are an Irish citizen who has been vaccinated in Great Britain, you can [request a DCC](#) through the [online portal](#). You must have a valid COVID-19 vaccination certificate with a QR code and hold a valid Irish passport.

## Changes to the Fair Deal Scheme

Family-owned and operated farms or businesses and proceeds from the sale of your home are [now included in the '3-year cap' under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme](#). This means the value of your farm or business or the net proceeds from the sale of your home will not be taken into account for the financial assessment after 3 years in care.

## Booster vaccine dose

A booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been [recommended for people aged between 60 and 79](#) who have completed their primary course with any COVID-19 vaccine.

## Immigration reform

The [end-to-end review of international protection processes](#) has been completed. A [Digitisation Strategy for the Immigration Services](#) has been developed and the new website [irishimmigration.ie](http://irishimmigration.ie) is now fully operational.

## Anti-human trafficking awareness initiative

On 18 October 2021, a [public awareness initiative](#) was launched to coincide with EU anti-trafficking day. There is a social media campaign with the hashtag #AnyoneTrafficked and a [website with more information](#).

## New greenhouse gas regulation

The Government has [approved a regulation under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development \(Amendment\) Act 2021](#). The regulation states that Ireland will follow UN and EU guidelines when calculating and managing carbon budgets in the future. A second regulation under the Act, including greenhouse gases in carbon budgets, will be published shortly.

## Free EU rail travel

The European Commission is [giving free travel rail passes](#) to 60,000 Europeans aged 18-20, for travel in 2022. Applications are open now, and will close on 26 October 2021, at 12 noon.

## UPCOMING

### Deadlines for tax returns

- 31 October 2021 for taxpayers using the [pay and file system](#)
- 17 November 2021 for taxpayers using [Revenue Online System \(ROS\)](#)
- 31 October 2021 for Capital Gains Tax returns and Capital Acquisitions Tax returns

### Antigen testing

COVID-19 antigen testing will be introduced for fully vaccinated, asymptomatic close contacts of a positive case.

### Emergency passports

On 22 October 2021, the [Urgent Appointment Service](#) in the Cork Passport Office will reopen.

### LPT deadline

The valuation date for the [2022 LPT payment](#) is 1 November 2021. The tax due is calculated on a [self-assessment of the market value](#) of the property. You must [submit your valuation by 7 November](#) and [arrange to pay the tax](#).

### Housing webinars

From 8-12 November 2021, the Housing Agency is running [daily webinars on the Government's 'Housing for All' strategy](#).

### CAO applications

On 5 November 2021, [applications for CAO 2022-2023](#) will open at 12 noon. Students will be able to apply for university courses and get information about further education courses and apprenticeships through a new single CAO portal.

## ONES TO WATCH

### International travel

On 19 October 2021, the Government announced the following measures:

- People who do not have a PCR test on arrival into Ireland (unless exempt) will need to [take a test within 36 hours of arrival](#) and present evidence to An Garda Síochána.
- The Passenger Locator Form will continue to be used, but passengers will no longer need to provide updated address and contact details

### Road Traffic and Roads Bill 2021

The [Road Traffic and Roads Bill 2021](#) aims to enhance safety on roads. It includes:

- Legislation for e-scooters and scramblers
- Legislation to support traffic management on the M50
- Amendments to existing legislation to directly link licensed drivers to registered vehicles, as well as to combat uninsured driving

### Review of remission for prisoners

A [review of how remission](#) (reduction of sentences) is applied to prisoners has been announced as part of the penal policy review.



## November Events at Maynooth Community Library

For further information contact: [www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](http://www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) Ph: 01-6285530



[facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService](https://www.facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService)



[twitter.com/kildarelibrary](https://twitter.com/kildarelibrary)

### Children

**Wednesday 1st December 3:30 - 4.30 pm**

#### **Building Worlds: Minecraft Winter Wonderland for 6-10 year olds**

Do you like to create and build in Minecraft? Sign up for our Zoom discussion and take part in our build challenge which will be sent to you in advance! Suitable for ages 6-10. Children must be accompanied on the video call by an adult. Places are limited and booking is essential. This month we want you to start building a Winter Wonderland!

<https://winterminecraft.eventbrite.ie>

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 12.00- 12.45 pm**

#### **Storygate Online workshop for 5-7 year olds**

#### **Story-Map: Discover the Tales of Your County!**

In this new storytelling venture, the tellers of StoryGate dive deep into the UCD Schools' Collection to discover tales from your county. How would you like to have no homework for a year? Back in the 1930s, school children of a certain age didn't get any homework. Instead, they collected stories, local cures and wisdom from their grandparents, neighbours and friends. Spooky stories, funny stories and nearly forgotten witchcraft were collected by these children. We want to tell those stories! Join us for stories that were collected in Maynooth and the wider Kildare area. Please be aware that a parent/guardian must be present with children attending the workshop.

**Booking Essential through Eventbrite :** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/194594787247>.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 3.30- 4.15 pm**

#### **Storygate Online workshop for 8 – 12 year olds**

#### **Story-Map: Discover the Tales of Your County!**

In this new storytelling venture, the tellers of StoryGate dive deep into the UCD Schools' Collection to discover tales from your county. How would you like to have no homework for a year? Back in the 1930s, school children of a certain age didn't get any homework. Instead, they collected stories, local cures and wisdom from their grandparents, neighbours and friends. Spooky stories, funny stories and nearly forgotten witchcraft were collected by these children. We want to tell those stories! Join us for stories that were collected in Maynooth and the wider Kildare area. Please be aware that a parent/guardian must be present with children attending the workshop.

**Booking essential through Eventbrite :** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/194603583557>.

### Family

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 6.00 pm – 7.30pm**

#### **Winter Warmers Cooking Demonstration with East Coast Cookery School**

An interactive Zoom Class the whole family will love. Easy step-by-step instruction with a bit of fun and a tasty meal to enjoy.

Join Tara from East Coast Cookery School for an interactive Zoom Class the whole family will love. Easy step-by-step instruction with a bit of fun and a tasty meal to enjoy. Featuring delicious meals to help starve off the cold as the long nights start creeping in.

Receive the recipes, equipment and ingredients list plus Zoom link via email in advance as well as any preparation needed. Approx 1hour long.

**Booking Essential through Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/winter-warmers-cooking-demonstration-with-east-coast-cookery-school-tickets-176360006527>.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 6.00 pm – 7.30pm**

#### **Family Christmas Treats Demonstration with East Coast Cookery School**

An interactive Zoom Class the whole family will love. Easy step-by-step instruction with a bit of fun and festive treats!

Join Tara from East Coast Cookery School for an interactive Zoom Class the whole family will love. Easy step-by-step instruction with a bit of fun and festive treats that you can keep to yourselves or share with family and friends.

Receive the recipes, equipment and ingredients list plus Zoom link via

email in advance as well as any preparation needed. Approx 1hour long. Booking essential through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/family-christmas-treats-demonstration-with-east-coast-cookery-school-tickets-194997682317>.

### Adults

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 6.30pm – 7.30pm**

#### **Poetry evening**

An evening of sharing poetry. Maynooth and Ballitore Libraries will host an evening of poetry readings and recitations in which all are welcome. Some of you may wish to read, and others might like to just listen, while we enjoy your favourite poems. If you wish to read a favourite poem which can be read in three minutes or less, please let us know in advance. This event will be hosted via Zoom, you will receive the link to join in a separate email. **Booking Essential through Eventbrite :**

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/187711037767>.

### Bookclubs

#### **Readers of the Lost Ark Scifi/ Fantasy Bookclub**

The Readers of the Lost Ark Scifi fantasy bookclub meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. The next meeting of the bookclub will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm. If you are interested in joining the bookclub, please email Maynooth Community Library at [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) or telephone 01 628 5530.

### Regular Events

#### **Ciorcal Comhrá/ Irish Language Conversation group via Zoom**

#### **Every Wednesday at 11am / Gach Céadaoin ar a 11 a Chlog.**

Join us online every Wednesday morning at 11am for an informal chat as Gaeilge. If you have a lot of Irish or the cúpla focal, this an opportunity to practice your Irish and learn some Irish all from the comfort of your own home. To register, please call Maynooth Community Library or email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie).

Beidh Ciorcal comhrá ar siúil ar líne via Zoom gach Céadaoin ar a 11 a Chlog.

Má bhíonn an-chuid Gaeilge agat nó an cúpla focal agat, tapaigh an deis seo le do chuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh agus Gaeilge a fhoghlaim as do bhaile féin. Le clárú, cuir ríomhphost chuig [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) nó cuir glaoch ar 01 628 5530.

#### **Evening Ciorcal Comhrá for adults ar líne /Ciorcal Comhrá míosúil san oíche do dhaoine fásta ar líne /**

**Márta 23ú Mí na Samhna 7.00 – 7.45 i.n. / Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 7.00- 7.45 pm**

Beidh Ciorcal míosúil ar líne thar Zoom ag tosnú ar a 7 a chlog i.n. ar an Máirt 23ú lá Mí na Samhna. Seo deis iontach an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim agus a chleachtadh trí chaint agus chomhrá in atmaisféar réchúiseach ó chomhord do bhaile féin. Fáilte roimh chách. Má bhíonn suim agat páirt a ghlacadh, cláraigh ag an nasc thíos eventbrite : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/191103534817> nó sheol ríomhphost chuig [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

There will be a monthly online evening Ciorcal Comhrá on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 7.00- 7.45pm. This is a great opportunity to learn and practice Irish though conversation in a relaxed atmosphere from the comfort of your own home. All welcome. If you are interested in taking part, please register at the Eventbrite link below <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/191103534817>. or email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie).

#### **Live Story Time & Sing Along Nursery Rhymes for 2-5-year olds Every Friday 10-10.30am**

Join the Staff of Maynooth Library for some storytelling and nursery rhymes! Please be aware that a parent/guardian must be present for the duration of the event. Booking required through eventbrite.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/190915211537>.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/190932573467>.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/191091789687>.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/191106995167>.





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

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### GP Availability

Catherine has been looking into the issue of GP's availability locally. Some private practices are full and patients are having difficulty accessing GP services. Catherine has been advised that persons who are not in receipt of Medical Cards nor registered with a GP may be allocated to a GP via their local health office, in order to obtain Primary Health Care Services. If you are having difficulty registering with a GP and are not a medical card holder, please contact your local medical centre.

Catherine sought the number of GPs in North Kildare who accept Medical Card and GP Visit Card patients. The number of GPs with medical Card patients in the Kildare / West Wicklow area as data is captured by the LHO / CHO are:

LHO	LHO Description	Number of GPs
6	Kildare/West Wicklow	94

### Rise in the number of scam callers of late

There has been a worrying rise in scam callers of late and people are reporting concerns. Please be vigilant in respect of giving out your personal information. Always seek confirmation from your Bank or delivery agent separately. Avid clicking on any links

In response to the rise in scam calls experienced by constituents of late, Catherine Murphy TD wrote to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment about his engagements with his Ministerial colleagues and the Commission for Communications Regulation regarding the issue of cold calls and or potentially fraudulent activities by telephone to persons living in Ireland. Catherine asked if his attention has been drawn to the various media reports on the matter; and the progress to date with telecoms providers in respect of this issue.

Minister Ossian Smith responded as follows:

I am aware of phone customers in Ireland recently experiencing an escalated level of nuisance scam calls and smishing and that they can cause considerable distress and anxiety, in addition to causing some customers to incur additional charges. It is not possible, from a telecoms point of view, to assess the level of scam call activity or to quantify it with any accuracy. While operators may notice an upsurge in traffic or change in patterns of traffic, this might not be related to scam calls.

While I understand that it is not possible to identify scam call numbers in advance, which can resemble normal, familiar geographical or international numbers encountered on a daily basis, the Regulator has published information for consumers in relation to this issue ([www.comreg.ie/consumer-information/mobile-phone/scam-calls-2/](http://www.comreg.ie/consumer-information/mobile-phone/scam-calls-2/)). This provides advice urging vigilance at all times on the part of consumers and listing suggestions for the proactive steps to be taken by those receiving scam calls, and in particular, advising people not to answer, or to call back any number which they do not recognise or where there is a bland or no voicemail left. The notice also provides a phone number for consumers to contact and the Regulator also offers a text call back service and other facilities to assist consumers.

I understand that An Garda Síochána has also raised public awareness to warn phone users on the need to remain continually alert with respect to calls and text messages. I understand that industry operators are actively analysing the position at network level and the matter continues to be monitored by the Regulator. The advice to the public remains focussed on the importance of being vigilant.

### GaelColaiste Maigh Nuad

Catherine Murphy TD sought an update from the Minister for Education and Skills seeking when the appropriate practical rooms will be provided for the students at the Gael Colaiste, the status of the overall project; and the timelines for the completion of works.

Minister Norma Foley advised Catherine that the Department has approved funding to the patron of the school in question to undertake refurbishment works in the property to facilitate the school's access to additional specialist accommodation. This accommodation includes science, woodwork and home economics rooms. The delivery of the project has been devolved to the patron for delivery. The patron has advised my Department that a consultant has been procured to oversee this project with the scope of works agreed and the patron is currently in the process of obtaining quotes to carry out the works and determine the schedule.

### Closure of Bank Branches

Catherine Murphy TD sought an update from the Minister for Finance in respect of the engagement he had prior to the closure of Bank branches. The response is as follows:

Officials from my Department contacted the Central Bank of Ireland regarding the Deputy's question and received the following response:

"The Central Bank cannot comment on its engagements with individual regulated entities, due to supervisory confidentiality obligations.

The Central Bank expects Banks to take a consumer-focused approach in respect of any decision that affects their customers. On 25 June 2021, the Central Bank issued an industry letter regarding its consumer protection expectations in the changing retail banking landscape. The letter is available to view on the CBI website.

Banks are required to notify the Central Bank when they intend to close, merge or move a branch. The Central Bank's focus regarding branch closures is to ensure that banks adhere to the relevant requirements in the Consumer Protection Code 2012 (the Code) and how banks communicate the closures to their customers.

When notification is received in accordance with Provision 3.12 of the Code, the Central Bank engages with the bank to ensure the impact of the decision has been carefully considered across its full customer base and at the appropriate levels. Any decision by a bank board to close bank branches must be supported by an analysis and understanding of the impact the decision will have across its customer base.

In respect of changes to the operations of branches, the focus of the Central Bank is on ensuring that the change is communicated to customers and that customers retain access to services, albeit in different locations or through alternative means. Decisions relating to the business model of regulated firms are for the boards of those firms alone. In relation to Banks, the Central Bank has no role in approving the closure of branches or the change in operations of branches

### Transport Strategy For Maynooth

Submissions are open for the new transport Strategy for Maynooth until Wednesday 17th November 2021. If you would like to discuss or require any assistance with making a submission, please feel free to contact me.

Details of the strategy:

Kildare County Council has recently begun the process of developing a Transport Strategy for Maynooth and its environs and have commissioned consultants, AECOM to assist in developing the Strategy.

The Transport Strategy will contain a phased implementation plan for transport measures which will deliver benefits for the study area in the short, medium and long term. The plan will address traffic congestion, parking, traffic management, road safety, public transport, walking and cycling. The delivery of the measures in the plan should help to make Maynooth a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

As part of this project, we are conducting a first stage consultation with relevant stakeholders and the public. A public survey will begin today, Wednesday, 06th October 2021 and will run for six weeks until Wednesday, 17th November 2021.

The public survey can be accessed through Kildare's County Council Consultation Portal, please see link below: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/content/maynooth-transport-strategy-public-consultation-no-1>

Furthermore, we will engage with a list of identified stakeholders (such as the Department of Transport, tidy towns, schools and the University to name a few) to gather their views on transport issues we should take into consideration in the development of this transport strategy. We are keen to ensure that the data collection process we are undertaking to inform the development of the Transport Strategy is comprehensive and supports the creation of an effective Transport Strategy which addresses local needs.

As such, your input is therefore invited on any transportation related issues which you would like us to consider at this stage. I have attached a document on current transport trends in Maynooth for background information.

Please submit any comments via email to: [maynoothtransportstrategy@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothtransportstrategy@kildarecoco.ie) by Wednesday 17th November 2021.

Your input would be greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

### Supports available to victims of crime

Catherine Murphy TD sought an update from the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality in respect of the schedule of the supports and services available to the plaintiff following a court case that involves persons that suffered physical violence, psychological abuse and sexual assault; and if she plans to enhance the supports to persons that are victims of crime following the verdict of a court case

The minister responded as follows:

My Department provides funding to promote and assist the development of specific support services to victims of crime within the criminal justice system. The services that receive funding offer a wide range of support to people who become a victim of crime. Some of these organisations offer support to victims of any type of crime, such as the Crime Victims Helpline or Victim Support at Court, while others provide specialist services for victims of specific types of crime, such as AdViC or Support after Homicide, who work with families who have lost someone close to them as a result of a homicide.

These services provide important information and support such as emotional support, court accompaniment, and accompaniment to Garda interviews, to sexual assault treatment units and referral to other services.

While services that provide support of victims of domestic and sexual violence receive funding under the Victims of Crime fund, it is important to state that Tusla, the Child and Family Agency under the aegis of the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth has statutory responsibility for the care and protection of victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence

*(Continued on page 20)*





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

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*(Continued from page 19)*

(DSGBV) and are the primary funders of organisations that deliver frontline services. Tusla is currently undertaking a review of its services.

In addition, some services for victims of sexual violence, such as Sexual Assault Treatment Units and counselling services fall under the remit of, and are funded by, the Department of Health. A list of the organisations in receipt of funding from my Department made available to support victims of crime is set out below. As the Deputy is no doubt aware, my Department is currently implementing a program of reform in our criminal justice system to better support vulnerable victims through the implementation of *Supporting a Victim's Journey*- our detailed and ambitious plan to implement the recommendations of the O'Malley Review.

To date, a number of key actions have been delivered including:

- Legislating for the introduction of preliminary trial hearings.
- The nationwide rollout of Divisional Protective Services Units (DPSU).
- The first cohort of staff at new sexual offences unit in the Director of Public Prosecutions office formally took up their roles in April.
- Work to advance the training for all personnel who come into contact with vulnerable victims is underway.
- Funding for NGOs providing court accompaniment and related information and support services has been increased.
- A review of grants for organisations supporting victims has been undertaken to identify gaps in service provision.
- An improved Victims Charter website which provides a comprehensive repository of information for victims has been created.
- The University of Limerick has been commissioned by my Department to develop the framework for the operation and training of intermediaries and they will soon be engaging with stakeholders to develop this.

In addition, my Department has undertaken a review of the supports and funding of civil society organisations providing frontline services in order to identify where gaps may exist and how to bridge them. Specific geographical areas and categories of victims that are not adequately covered by NGO supports have been identified and my Department is engaging with relevant NGO partners to agree revised funding to ensure that we meet the gaps identified. This piece of work will be completed shortly.

This work is in addition to the audit of how domestic, sexual and gender-based violence policy and services are organised which was published by my Department in July. The recommendations of this audit, as well as the Tusla Review and the Supporting a Victim's Journey mapping exercise will play an important role in the development across Government of the Third National Strategy on DSGBV. This new strategy will place a priority on prevention and reduction and will include a National Preventative Strategy.

The new strategy will be published before the end of the year and will be the most ambitious to date.

### Victims of crime organisations currently funded by Department of Justice:

Adapt Domestic Abuse Services (Limerick)  
AdVIC  
Amal Women's Association  
AnyMan  
Aoibhneas  
Ascend  
A.S.S.C.  
Barnardos  
Beacon of Light Counselling Centre  
Bray Women's Refuge  
CARI

Carlow Women's Aid  
Clare Haven Services  
Connect Family Resource Centre  
Cope Galway Waterside House  
Crime Victims Helpline  
Cuan Saor Women's Refuge Ltd.  
Dignity 4 Patients  
Domestic Violence Advocacy Centre (Sligo)  
Domestic Violence Response Galway  
Donegal Women's Domestic Violence Service  
Drogheda Women's Refuge and Children's Refuge Centre  
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre  
Dundalk Counselling Service  
Esker House Women's Refuge  
Greystones Family Resource Centre  
Hope Trust  
Immigrant Council of Ireland  
Kerry Women's Refuge and Support Services (Adapt)  
Kilkenny Women's Refuge Ltd (Amber)  
Laois Domestic Abuse Service  
Le Cheile  
Letterkenny Women's Centre  
Lifeline Inishoven  
Living Life Voluntary Counselling Centre  
Longford Women's Link  
Meath Women's Refuge  
Missing in Ireland Support Services  
Mna Feasa Domestic Violence Project  
Newpark Close Community Development Limited  
OASIS HOUSE WOMEN'S Refuge  
Offaly Domestic Violence Support Service  
One in Four  
OSS Cork  
Rape Crisis Network  
Roscommon Safe Link  
Ruhama  
SAFE Ireland  
Sage Advocacy  
Samaritans of Kilkenny and Carlow  
Samaritans Newbridge & Kildare  
Saoirse Housing Association  
Sexual Violence Centre Cork formerly known as Cork Rape Crisis Service.  
Support After Crime  
Support After Homicide  
Teach Tearmainn Housing Association Company Ltd.  
Tearmann Housing Association  
Victim Support at Court  
West Cork Women's Project  
Westmeath Support Service against Domestic Abuse  
Wexford Women's Refuge  
Women's Aid Dublin  
Women's Aid Dundalk  
You are not alone

### District Court Judges Appointed in Kildare

354. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality the number of District Court judges appointed in County Kildare; the number of cases that are in a backlog to date in 2021; and the plans to increase the provision of judges at District Court level in 2021 and 2022. [48963/21]



**Heather Humphreys** (Cavan-Monaghan, Fine Gael)

Link to this: [Individually](#) | [In context](#) | [Oireachtas source](#)

The Deputy will appreciate that, as Minister, I have no role in the scheduling of individual court cases and the allocation of court business. These are entirely matters for the Presidents of the Courts and the presiding judges who are independent in the exercise of their judicial functions, under the Constitution. Furthermore, management of the courts is the responsibility of the Judiciary and the Courts Service, which are independent in exercising their functions under the Courts Service Act 1998.

Throughout the pandemic, the Judiciary and the Courts Service have worked closely and innovated through the use of technology to maintain the highest level of court activity possible, with a particular focus on families, victims of domestic abuse and people who are most vulnerable at this time. I expect that the progress made on new ways of working will be maintained into the future. Since the easing of restrictions in May, the Courts Service informs me that courts have returned to normal sittings and are dealing with all business again.

To be of assistance to the Deputy, I have made enquiries with the Courts Service and I am advised that while the District Court throughout the country remained open for business during the Covid-19 pandemic, non-essential work was postponed due to Government public health restrictions. Unfortunately, this impacted on waiting times across the country including in Kildare. Waiting times can vary between Districts and within District Court areas. The assignment of District Court Judges to Districts, including Kildare, is a matter for the President of the District Court. I understand there is one Judge currently assigned to District No. 25 (Co. Kildare).

A Working Group has been established in line with the Programme for Government to consider the number of and type of judges required to ensure the efficient administration of justice over the next five years. That Group is examining the wider judicial resource needs within all courts, and is expected to report in the Spring of next year.

The Government is committed to ensuring adequate resources for the courts in order to maintain access to justice for all citizens. The Courts Service received a €10 million increase in its capital budget last year, which has given flexibility for strategic infrastructural investment including in relation to ICT and accommodation. This commitment was reinforced with the highest ever budgetary allocation for the justice sector including €158.8 million for the Courts Service for 2021 including €8 million for the new Courts Modernisation Programme, and an additional provision of €5.7m for COVID measures to enable court sittings take place in a safe environment.

143. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth the position regarding adopting the Optional Protocols to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. [50197/21]



**Roderic O'Gorman** (Dublin West, Green Party)

Link to this: [Individually](#) | [In context](#)

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has three Optional Protocols:

- an Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
- an Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
- an Optional Protocol on a communications procedure.

Ireland has ratified the first and third protocols in 2002 and 2014 respectively. Ireland signed the Second Optional Protocol on the 7th September 2000 but it has not yet been ratified. A number of significant pieces of legislation had to be passed to ensure that Ireland is in complete compliance with the obligations of the Second Optional Protocol. The enactment of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 and the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017 constituted key steps on the pathway to the ratification of this Optional Protocol.

I am strongly committed to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. My Department made a comprehensive

*(Continued on page 21)*





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

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(Continued from page 20)

submission to the Attorney General's Office in 2019 seeking confirmation as to whether Ireland was in a position to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The advice received from the AGO stated that while Ireland is largely compliant with the terms of the Protocol, there are some outstanding issues that need to be resolved before the State can proceed to ratification. My Department has been liaising closely with the Department of Justice as the outstanding issues identified by the AGO fall within their remit.

The main outstanding issues relate to determining what if any legislative measures may need to be put in place to ensure that the full range of offences covered by the Protocol can be prosecuted on an organised and transnational basis in line with Article 3.1 of the Protocol.

There is close engagement between the Department of Justice and my Department while we await their determination on the legislative requirements. Once the Department of Justice has concluded this process, the next step will involve the development of measures that may be necessary to enable ratification.



**Catherine Murphy** (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

Link to this: [Individually](#) | [In context](#)

211. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide additional funding for cancer services and support improvements in the wider health sector. [50334/21]

213. To ask the Minister for Health the amount provided to date for the implementation of the National Cancer Strategy; and the date on which it will be fully Implemented. [50336/21]



**Stephen Donnelly** (Wicklow, Fianna Fail)

Link to this: [Individually](#) | [In context](#)

I propose to take Questions Nos. 211 and 213 together.

New development funding of €20m was provided for the implementation of the National Cancer Strategy this year. On top of that, additional funding of €12m was allocated in 2021 for the restoration of cancer services in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This funding is being used to support hospitals in addressing backlogs, extending clinic times, providing additional clinics, increasing diagnostic capacity and providing locum/temporary support.

I have now secured a further €20m in Budget 2022 to progress the delivery of the National Cancer Strategy and this will have a significant impact on access to cancer diagnostics, treatment and support to patients across their cancer journey.

212. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of the way in which his Department is working towards reducing in-patient charges in the health system. [50335/21]

**Stephen Donnelly** (Wicklow, Fianna Fail)

Link to this: [Individually](#) | [In context](#)

The Health Act 1970 (as amended) provides that all persons ordinarily resident in the country are eligible, subject to certain charges, to public in-patient hospital services including consultant services. All persons, irrespective of illness or condition, accessing public in-patient (including day case) services in a public hospital are liable for the statutory in-patient daily charge of €80 up to a maximum of €800 in any period of 12 consecutive months, subject to a number of exemptions which include;

- medical card holders.
- people receiving treatment for prescribed infectious diseases - including Coronavirus (Covid-19).
- people who are subject to 'long-stay' charges.

-children referred for treatment from child health clinics and school board examinations.

-people who are eligible for hospital services because of EU Regulations.

-women receiving maternity services.

-children up to 6 weeks of age.

-people with hepatitis C who have a Health Amendment Card.

-people who are part of the Redress Scheme for Women Resident in Certain Institutions.

As announced in Budget 2022, funding has been provided for measures to alleviate the financial burden of hospital charges incurred for children accessing care. Further details of the proposed amendments to hospital charges for children will be announced in due course.

It should be noted that patient charges are a key element of the overall funding envelope of the Irish health system and are taken into account when agreeing the Annual Estimates and the subsequent preparation of the annual National Service Plan.

**Catherine Murphy** (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

Link to this: [Individually](#) | [In context](#)

214. To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a schedule of the amounts directly collected by all HSE hospitals and primary care centres in respect of car parking charges for visitors and patients in 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021; if he will also provide the amounts collected by contracted companies to run and manage car parking facilities at HSE hospitals and primary care centres for the same time period; and if he will provide the dividend received by the HSE from private car parking management companies in respect of car parking at HSE sites in 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021. [50337/21]

**Stephen Donnelly** (Wicklow, Fianna Fail)

Link to this: [Individually](#) | [In context](#)

As this is a service matter, I have asked the Health Service Executive to respond to the deputy directly, as soon as possible.

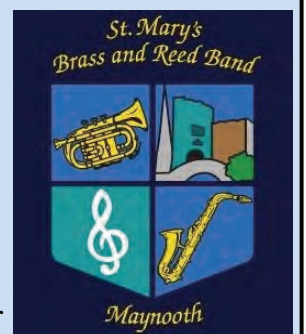
*Christmas Melodies  
from Maynooth*

**St. Mary's  
Brass and Reed Band**

with Special Guests  
**Maynooth Parish Choir  
Presentation Girls' School Choir**

## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

The biggest disappointment of the year for the Band was the postponement of the Anniversary Reunion planned for 12th November due to the concerns around the surge in Covid numbers which have risen even more dramatically since the decision was taken. Hopefully the Band will be in a position to celebrate in 2022 when everything is back to normal.



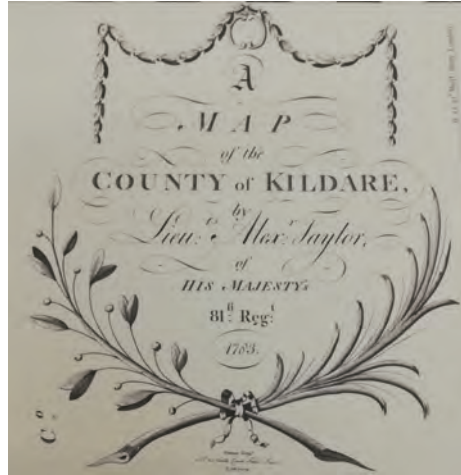
The Covid restrictions are also affecting our Annual Mass for Deceased Members which normally takes place at this time but there will be a scaled down tribute to former members who have passed away on Sunday 21st November at the 10'clock Mass. We are still hoping that Covid numbers will allow our December Christmas Concert to go ahead but we will be in a better position to update you on this in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The one piece of good news this month is that the Maynooth Bookshop on the Main Street have kindly agreed to sell our Christmas CD from 1st November and if you cannot get to them just call 087 2537 906 and we will organise a copy for you. It's a particularly good Christmas Present for anyone living abroad to remind them of Maynooth at this time of the year.



## Alexander Taylor's Map of Kildare 1783

Alexander Taylor (1746–1828), military engineer, surveyor, and cartographer, was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. He first worked as a land surveyor in Scotland, after which he joined the army in 1777 and served as a lieutenant in the 81st Foot before moving to Ireland and transferring to the Royal Irish Engineers in 1778. His brother George (1748–1836) also worked as a surveyor and cartographer and Alexander collaborated with him and Andrew Skinner in surveying Irish roads for their book *Maps of the roads of Ireland* (1778); he also worked with them in their survey of Co. Louth, also published in 1778. In March 1780 he published a prospectus in the *Dublin Evening Post* proposing to survey Co. Kildare and draw a new two-inch map of the county. During the next two years he raised 630 guineas (£661. 10s.) in subscriptions for 400 copies of the new map, finally going to print in 1783.



Similar proposals in 1785 and 1792 for Co. Down and Co. Longford respectively did not materialise due to the pressure of work when Taylor was promoted to work with Charles Vallancey on the military survey of Ireland. In 1800–09, Taylor was commissioned by the government to survey and lay out a new road which became commonly known as “the Military Road” (36 miles long, from Mount Venus, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin through the Dublin and Wicklow mountains to Aghavannagh, Co. Wicklow). In 1805 he was appointed under the Mail Coach Roads Act of that year, at a salary of £500. Over the following 10 years, he planned and supervised surveys of over 2,000 miles of roads which formed the backbone of the Irish main road network for almost 150 years.



Duke of Leinster Crest

Major Taylor also had his own business interests. In 1787, along with his brother George, he became a member of the Kilcullen turnpike road committee and commissioned a new survey of the road. Under their administration, the return from this toll road improved dramatically. Taylor also had rights to the mail contract, which he exchanged for Anderson's interest in the toll-road (1804). This left the administration of the Kilcullen toll-road in the hands of the two brothers, who prospered as a result.

Alexander married Elizabeth Bonner of Naas and the couple lived there in 1787 before eventually moving to Charlemont Street in 1796. It is not believed that they had any children. When he died in 1828, his sole heir was his brother, George, and in 1826 he had signed over his interest in the Kilcullen toll-road to his godsons. He was buried in the cemetery at Maudlins, Naas, Co. Kildare, where a headstone records

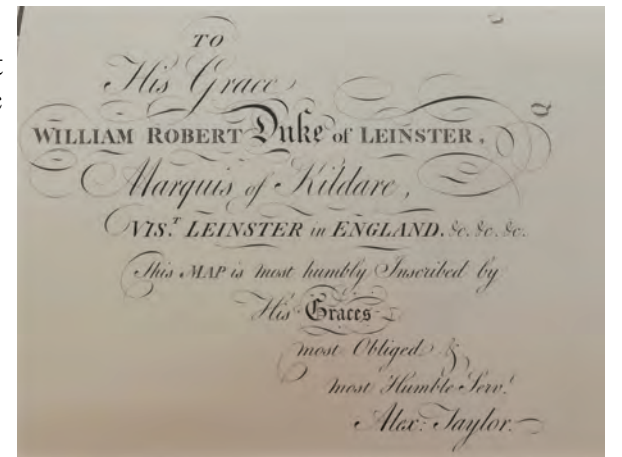
his name, army rank and his association with the Irish corps of engineers. It gives his age as 82 years. Some of his manuscript maps are in the NLI and also in the British Museum, which holds his draft map of the Wicklow military road.



A facsimile of the map of Kildare was produced by the Royal Irish Academy in 1982. An essay by John Andrews (consultant editor of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas project) accompanies the map which gives a detailed account of Taylor's career, surveying methodology and the production of the map.

The finance for the project was subscription based, with a view to

producing 400 copies of the map, although it is not known how many were sold. While it appears that Taylor was the publisher of the map it was the local landowners and Dublin businessmen who undertook the financial responsibility. The Grand Jury also had a role in giving monies, and having oversight of the project with the surveyor. All of the conditions were laid down by Taylor which are detailed in Andrew's essay. The beautiful engraving of the map was carried out by Mr. Downes of Fetter Lane, London.



It is not surprising that the map of Kildare was dedicated to the Duke of Leinster and includes two views of the historic castle of Maynooth. The Duke of Leinster of Carton as well as being the most important nobleman in Ireland at the time, was also one of the people in charge of subscriptions for the map.

**Sources: Dictionary of National Biography: Alexander Taylor by Brendan O Donoghue and David Murphy.**

**J.H Andrews: Taylor's Map of Kildare (Royal Irish Academy, 1982)**

**Article by Susan Durack**



Maynooth, Barony of North Salt, Kildare



## Joe's Jotter: Six ACE Pointers to Help Settle you Back into Revision

### Students,

As we reach the end of our first month in school, you may be struggling to return to some kind of a revision routine. Here are six useful signposts for all students to get you back into the swing of completing homework and revising classwork.

#### 1. Take regular breaks.

Yes, really! Taking short five-minute breaks every thirty minutes should keep you fresh and focused. However, make sure that five minutes doesn't turn into an hour! Go for a short walk, call up a friend or have a snack and then come back to your work on time. Some studies have found that having a natter with friends can have a positive effect on memory and laughing increases serotonin (the body's chemical that makes you happy). It is important to leave your study area during your breaks to get a change of perspective and return with renewed energy for the next session. Enjoyable breaks will allow you to become more efficient with your study blocks. Setting mini targets like completing a long exam question followed by a prolonged break is a smart way to operate.

#### 2. Stay alert and interested.

When reading, it is a good idea to make notes or highlight key terms. I believe you should always revise with a pen at hand. I feel that just by reading a piece of text, you are not actively engaging with it. In my experience, you will remember more by summarising it or even just by making markings with a red or green pen on the page. This method keeps the brain tuned in to the task at hand. Other learning methods you might consider for variety include YouTube videos, online quizzes, or creating mind maps. If you find yourself struggling to stay alert, you are probably tired, and it may be time for a break or retirement for the evening.

#### 3. Be ruthless with your notes.

Many students go to educational institutions after Christmas to boost their store of materials and, of course, their confidence. However, I have seen many students over the years become overwhelmed with too much material and they just end up getting swamped not knowing where to start. In subject areas you find difficult, reduce your material into manageable, thought provoking snippets. If you take notes in class, make sure to date and keep them for revision later. Dig out last year's material requiring revision at this point. It is important to keep a record of what topics you have done in class and how long your teacher has spent on them. This will ensure you are clear on what has been covered and what still needs to be investigated. Being persistently consistent in relation to your notes is a big factor in doing well in exams.

#### 4. Set goals and keep records.

Setting goals will help you monitor your study and will give you something to work towards. If you under perform in a class test, set a mini goal for your next test to improve by a certain percentage. In your school journal, write down all your goals and check them off as you complete them - name it a 'Junior Cycle or Leaving Cert

bucket list'.

Ultimately, use long-term goals to motivate you to ACE the short-term ones. Long-term goals might include a points target in your Leaving Certificate, a possible trip to third level or scoring that rewarding job later. A short-term

goal will help you get where you want to be long term. Reviewing the success of your short-term goals every two weeks will give you a sense of achievement. An example of a short-term goal could involve summarising and understanding a chapter from your book and completing a past exam question relating to it. All successful students do a small plan and set goals for themselves.

#### 5. Earn your rewards.

Don't forget to 'have a life' as you develop a routine that works for you. Reward yourself after a long study session with a trip to the cinema or visit to your friends. Ultimately, reward yourself with breaks, taking a reasonable one after every good hour's work. There is nothing wrong with the odd bar of chocolate, ice-cream, or packet of gummy bears; everyone who has done something constructive deserves a little thank you. Earn rewards with each thorough revision session you complete. This will increase motivation and improve your overall revision output.

#### 6. Start thinking about Past Exam papers.

Those of you in Exam years: Are you familiar with the layout of each exam paper and its marking scheme? If not, you need to get checking. You can source all the past exam papers in the 'Examinations Material Archive' section of the [examinations.ie](http://examinations.ie) website. If you are doing exams in 2022 and haven't a set of exam papers for each subject, don't delay, get them today.

A large part of your revision should be to assess and practice answering questions from past exam papers (under time pressure) on the topics you have covered in class. Remember also that each subject's exam paper is different, so you need to get familiar with each one. You need to find out the exact layout and style of each individual paper. Is there a choice in sections? How many questions do you need to attempt in each section? Are there short/long questions or both? And most importantly, how long can you plan to spend on each individual question? Being super familiar with paper layout is key.

More details about Joe as a [Maths Tutor](#) for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate (2022), ACE Maths Assessments, and his Award winning [ACE Maths Solution Books](#) can be found via the links below.

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## Joe's Jotter: How to become more Successful in Maths 2021

Grasping a subject of difficulty is always a big challenge for even the best students. One of those subjects is too often Mathematics. Maths seems to have developed a 'bad boy cred' over the last twenty years, but I feel things are getting better slowly and I know students feel more positive about it since the introduction of Project Maths in 2008. In general, I think students are enjoying the more practical approach in the subject since the changes. The existing course is however still quite long, and you need to box clever in order to pin it down. Many students are still trying to come to terms with the amount of words on Maths exam papers and indeed how they link to the concepts. I totally get this. However, I still believe you can learn to grasp key concepts without being born a Maths genius.

### Can Anyone Be Successful at Maths?

People regularly ask me about this hypothesis, and I believe Maths is a subject everyone can do well in by being more open minded and willing to try different methods. For sure, your parents have a role to play here, so make sure and get them involved. Parents can get involved in homework from an early age and should be encouraged to send notes to the teacher if there is a particular area their child is struggling with. Above all, it is imperative that Parents pass on a positive attitude about Maths early in their child's development. A 'can do' attitude gives the student belief that they can face problems in the subject and come through them. Encouragement and positivity are the most constructive way any parent can help boost their child's 'Maths conviction'.

### Maths is Learning by Doing

To me, Maths is a subject where you need to be continuously 'learning by doing' and the importance of attempting exam style questions cannot be underestimated. Reading through questions and text like you do in other subjects will not work in Maths and having access to a structured solution book for exam questions is important. Inevitably with some challenging questions in the subject, you will run into difficulties getting started and this is where having the first line or two of the

solution can be extremely helpful; a detailed solutions book is ideal for this. I believe that referring to the first part of a solution and then revisiting the question yourself is a very efficient way of developing key Maths skills. This technique isn't one much practiced in other subjects.

### Skills That will Improve Your Maths

You must adopt different approaches in Maths; it is unique. A genuine attempt to start a question in Maths will allow you to gain momentum and progress to apply the concepts you have learned in class. In my experience, the biggest stumbling block to achievement in Maths is getting the question started; but a single grain of rice can tip the scales. In general, if you are finding it difficult to get started and feel lost in Maths, start by practicing the part (a) questions in your past exam papers and work your way upwards to part (b) and so on. If you are an exam student, go back on your 2nd or 5th year notes to refresh those key basics. The majority of students just fire notes from previous years in a corner. Past notes should be stored carefully for easy access later. It's amazing how much you will recall about what you wrote down and what advice your teacher gave you back then. Re-do some questions from then to start a Maths revision session. As you always hear me say, Algebra is jewel in the crown at all levels. Maths is about having a go, knowing the tricks, when to use formulae, consistent practice and really believing in your ability and the work you have done.

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## Joe's Jotter: Guidance on How to Improve Your Motivation

Students, did you find being at home all the time during lockdown with no teachers or fellow students to encourage and motivate you challenging? Most did in fairness. Even us adults struggled greatly with the situation. The reality, however, is that a good chunk of your preparation will be done 'home alone' no matter what the circumstances. There are plenty of things you can do to maintain high spirits and decent motivation levels, both for home and school time. Have a read of this feature article and pick out two or three things you can implement that might improve your motivation levels and your attitude towards schoolwork and the homework/revision you do each evening.

Firstly, set up a Lifestyle (Study) Timetable with all different subjects, different subtopics, and different ways of learning each day. Start with a trial run for three days and tweak it as you go along. Secondly, challenge the brain to perform different types of tasks every thirty minutes, whether that be taking notes, writing bullet points, watching a YouTube video, listening to an audio file, or discussing a sub-topic on the phone with your friend. Variation in stimulus will trick the brain into maintaining concentration for longer. Mixing the above with regular breaks will alleviate boredom and increase productivity. These are definitely two starting points to drive the desire to be more successful, whether that be in a small class test or the final state exams for exam years.

### Improving your Motivation at Home

Maintaining high motivation levels is an important element of getting any task completed. The first thing to realise is that you can achieve any goal by discovering ways to motivate yourself. The way we converse can sometimes reflect our motivation levels and can also increase them intrinsically, without us even knowing. Highly motivated individuals will use words like 'could', 'will', 'may', 'like to' as opposed to 'must', 'won't', 'can't' and 'need to'. Writing, considering, and repeating positive sentences out loud can improve motivation and reset a positive mind-set. Here are some examples of these sentences in the context of your exam year. You should re-write these into the back of your journal to reflect your own current situation and attitudes:

- I want to start preparing myself for the upcoming exams.
- I need to put a structured timetable in place.
- I'd like to get into Third level when I complete school.
- I should get my head in the books this week.
- I must start working hard to reach my short-term goals.
- I can achieve whatever I want through hard work.
- I will deliver brilliant exam scripts in this year's Junior/Leaving Cert.
- I will get organised and sort this out step by step.
- I know that I have plenty of ability.
- I must organise to share study notes with my friends.
- I can be as positive and as focused as anyone in my year.
- I am a good all-rounder.
- I am well able to take on this challenge.
- I am a force to be reckoned with.
- If it's meant to be, it's up to me.

Hearing about the study habits of others on Instagram or Snapchat can be a positive thing. Instead of feeling guilty about not being currently highly driven; use it to motivate

yourself.

The fact that there is someone out there competing against you, who wants your college place, should get you going and make you more determined.



Another motivating factor in your exam year is its length. The length of the school year is nine months, and with only a few months of that left now, you only really need to raise your game for that short period. Do you fancy repeating the year while your friends head off to college or employment? Not too appealing I would imagine. Again, don't ignore these thoughts; instead use them as the driving factor every morning to 'get started', while always remembering It's never too late to step into your own greatness!

It's a nice idea to copy down your motivations into the back of your school journal, having a glance at them whenever you find yourself losing interest in your work. Having a role model friend who is very driven can also help you to fulfil your potential. Talk to as many former exam students as you can to find out how they navigated their path. Above all, I want you to compete against yourself and not anyone else. Use your previous results, grades, and recent comments from your teachers to strive for something more.

### Accept the Things You Currently Cannot Change

As this point in time, you need to reflect a little about what kind of a start you have made to the year. Ask yourself now, "Am I on track to deliver a performance when the big day arrives?", "Will I feel better or worse if I do absolutely nothing over the next week?" It is worth remembering that you cannot change the past and it shouldn't limit you either. This week is a good time to start. I always remind my students that you can only shape your future through present actions. Start again tomorrow if today didn't go so well. Move on and accept. For me, the prayer of serenity comes to mind here:

**"Accepting the things, I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference"**

Having a bad day may commence a negative thought process: "I'll drop down to pass or foundation to concentrate on other subjects". You need to guard against one lapse destroying your desire to achieve at a given subject. A bad day is not a bad week and remember that this is a long-term project. However, there are things that you can control, including, keeping yourself as healthy as possible by eating well, exercising, and completing those timetabled revision blocks you put in place.

In summary, find out what motivation techniques work for you and repeat them. Try not to worry about what you cannot control. At the minute, you have no control of when the exams will happen or even when you will be back in school. Your job now is to settle into a good revision routine at home. You can only do your best so try not to be too hard on yourself.

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## Joe's Jotter: The ACE Guide to Exam Preparation at Home (Feature 1 of 6)

Being able to work alone is becoming an even more important skill, as third level institutions increasingly develop their online learning platforms. Getting used to notetaking and revising at home, however, is proving challenging for many students. In school, your subject teachers are present to keep you on task, class-by-class each day. This contrasts sharply with the amount of distractions and 'extra-curricular' activities vying for our attention at home.

This feature article contains recommendations and practical advice to get that revision routine going at home. Preparing notes and revising at home is alien to most students unless they have been home-schooled. These guidance articles, which come in six parts spread over the year, will provide you with tools and ideas to help you get organised, advise you on motivation and explore the role your parents may have during 'home revision' periods.

### Next Day's Plan

From an exam student's point of view, the first thing you need to look at each night is your plan for the next day. If your plan is to 'do a bit of study', a large part of the day could well pass you by. At this stage you need to develop your own workable home routine. To do this, I would recommend getting up at the same time, showering and having a structured plan for revision, meals and breaks to facilitate that pattern you need. Organising yourself the night before is key. Knowing what to expect the next day will increase your productivity.

### Learning Successfully at Home

To learn successfully at home, you need to investigate new ways of finding and using material online, including being familiar with new software and websites. You will definitely need to be more self-disciplined and more efficient at managing your time than ever before. Planning next day's 'Revision timetable' each night with thirty minute blocks for each sub-topic will certainly help. Use breaks and little rewards to motivate yourself.

With your teachers not around, you will need to challenge and motivate yourself minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour. Hopefully you will look back later and view these changes you have made at home as a positive period in your life. Without knowing it, you will effectively be turning yourself into independent thinkers and learners, and these skills will stand to you at third level and in the world of work to come. Even during term time, there is only so much your teachers can do for you. You must do the bulk of your summaries, testing, revision, and keynotes at home alone.

### Your Study Area

Ask yourself the following questions: Is my revision area free from distractions, comfortable, and spacious? Is there natural light in the room and is the desk and chair I am using the right height for me? Is my study desk full of 'non educational material' or is it clutter free? Is this a place to prepare notes and learn? Your answers to these questions will indicate if you need to make changes to this area or not. Up to now, your study area was only used for three to four hours each evening, but now it may be required more, and you need to ensure you are happy with how it is setup. Ideally, I would locate my revision area outside the bedroom, in order to disassociate revision with sleep. Depending on your circumstances, all of the above may not even be possible - but just do what you can. Link in with your parents to try and get as many of these elements in place as possible. I will publish the five subsequent parts of this feature at Christmas, February Mid-term, Easter and just prior to June's State Exams. Stay tuned for more useful Insights on 'Revising at home' as time progresses.

More details about Joe as a [Maths Tutor](#) for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate (2022), ACE Maths Assessments, and his Award winning [ACE Maths Solution Books](#) can be found via the links below.

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## Joe's Jotter: Parents and Primary School Children: Working in Harmony

With Primary school students having spent much time recently learning from home, parents are now taking a greater role and interest in their children's education. This is a difficult task, as many parents are working from home and trying to support their child's learning also. Creating a consistent routine, keeping positive, keeping calm, putting rules and consequences in place, allowing time for your child, talking to and reassuring them are all factors that will contribute to producing a more harmonious learning environment. I have worked with a Primary Teacher to develop this feature and I hope you will find it helpful as we move to a new normal and different ways of learning and communicating. In this feature I have included some areas we consider important to you as a parent at difficult times like these. I hope they are of some help and create a safe, happy and loving environment for your child.

It is important to plan a daily structure and involve your child in this process. With your child, sit down together and draw up a balanced timetable of learning, fun and breaks. A child will follow a timetable better if they help plan it and this will also build their confidence. In doing this you are giving them a level of ownership to attempt to improve their daily routines.

### Tips on planning a routine and timetable

- Set times to get up and go to bed
- Agree a timeline including structured work, recreational/practical activities, and breaks
- Choose activities the child enjoys
- Plan short sessions e.g. 20 mins and always allow flexibility. There is no set time if the learning is balanced and varied
- Identify times you can work with them and times they can work independently
- Aim to include movement breaks regularly throughout the day
- Ask your child what they like to do and include this in the daily schedule
- Introduce a positive reward system e.g. choice time, sticker chart, treats etc
- Decorate the timetable and display it at your child's eye level

### Supporting Schoolwork at Home

#### Junior Infants – 2nd Class

The best way to support children of this age is to:

- Sit with them as they work
- Work for short intervals
- Take movement and snack breaks
- Use the outdoors to break away from tabletop tasks
- Use a reward system
- Encourage your child to focus on the task in front of them
- Read words/questions carefully
- Form letters correctly
- Check correct pencil grip
- Have concrete materials readily available for number work
- Provide practical experiences for Maths work, e.g. Shapes around me, weighing food from the cupboard, counting, checking etc
- Challenge them by asking different types of questions in various subject areas
- Try and relate topic areas to your child's own experiences
- Always give praise and encouragement

#### 3rd Class – 6th Class

- Allow children to work independently as much as possible
- Offer support and assistance as needed
- Assess learning by observing, questioning, and correcting work

- Monitor presentation of work and handwriting
- Look at their school workplan beforehand to familiarise yourself with the different subject areas
- Use age appropriate actions from the 'Junior Infants - 2nd Class' list above



### Outside the Classroom

It is important for your child to enjoy free time and activities they have fun with. Here are a range of activities that you and your child can choose from:

- Practice how to keep safe during Corona virus spread
- Exercise, sport, games
- Imaginative free play
- Fine motor skills: Lego, play dough, beading, building blocks and cutting
- Linking in with loved ones and friends on voice calls and video calls as social interaction is very important
- Learn life skills: indoors and outdoors (Choose jobs that children can do)
- - Baking, cooking, gardening, (planting, weeding), setting the table, emptying the dishwasher, making their bed, tidying their room, folding clothes, sorting clothes, hanging out the washing, farming (safely) etc

### Media and Online Time

It is important that your child has access to recommended online facilities during any school closures where possible. Ensure your child's safety online and set up parent controls on devices to monitor child's activities online. Below I will list some of the more useful websites you can work on with your child.

It's a good idea to link with the school and class teacher through email, in order to give and receive feedback and to send on work samples for assessment.

### Twelve Useful Websites to Support You as Parents

helpmykidlearn.ie (Learning for all Age Groups)  
 PrimaryScience.ie (Science)  
 twinkl.ie/offer (enter the code IRLTWINKLHELPS)  
 webwise.ie (Online safety)  
 vooks.com (Literacy)  
 starfall.com (Literacy)  
 scoilnet.ie (All curricular areas)  
 topmarks.co.uk (Maths)  
 learn.khanacademy.org/khan-academy-kids (Words and Numbers)  
 askaboutireland.ie (SESE)  
 krokotak.com (Arts and crafts/colouring)  
 positiveparentingsolutions.com (Parental Advice)

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### WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

I give a few bob to various charities from time to time. Anonymously, there's no problem but if I identify myself I'll very soon be put under pressure to give more and not any "more" but the "more" that they'll specify. €14 a month will do this and €21 will do that and so on. Even when I set up a "standing order" they'll be back looking for more. Am I a soft touch? I'm not rich and it would be improper of me and an injustice to my family not to keep an eye on my own rainy day. A little aberration in one of those myriads of neurons, blood vessels or synapses in my brain might well leave me in need of permanent nursinghome care! And that's not inexpensive.

So what am I getting at? I'm wondering if these charities pooled their efforts and lobbied governments, companies, the United Nations and any organization where they can identify money and see what *they* might be willing to give to the starving in Tigra, in Afghanistan, in Yemen and forty other unfortunate countries or regions around the world. Get them to lobby politicians at home, in Europe. Let them find out where all the money being spent on arms, illegal arms, is coming from. As if arms should ever or could ever be really legal. Are any of my few shillings helping to prolong misery in any way? The cost of the begging mail that I get in the post cannot be inconsiderable! Why not direct it to areas of greater

promise for their various causes?

There is also, of course, the fact that a few of these charities have abused the confidence of their donors and money given in good faith has not had the donors' best intentions as its object. This tends to cause subscribers to think twice before handing over precious euros!

What kind of a world are we promoting anyway where war and arms and rockets and nuclear submarines appear to be far more important than food and drinkable water and basic medicine? It's certainly not the world that Jesus envisaged. By the way I notice Médecins Sans Frontiers needs a year's donation of €21 a month to send a doctor into the field for 3 days! I would like to see that expense itemised.

About time all this was looked at globally by some very keen-eyed rebel. Of course, maybe I am a mean fellow and don't come near to giving as much as I should to those who have nothing. Perhaps I'll write to Dennis O'Brien or Jeff Bezos or Elon Musk? Or even to Frank Hanna 111 or Tim Busch. The latter two spend so much money trying to undermine Pope Francis, possibly they could diversify? But then would my letter be opened? It's worth a try!

GM



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## Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 29/09/2021 to 27/10/2021 - Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
211545	Kildare County Council	Sarah Hanlon	512 Newtown Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	27/10/2021
211531	Kildare County Council	Patrick O'Flaherty	Kilmacredock Upper, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	22/10/2021
211504	Kildare County Council	Peter Robinson	Crinstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	18/10/2021
211498	Kildare County Council	Roger Satchwell	Maynooth Fisheries, Mariavilla, Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.W23 VF40	18/10/2021
211489	Kildare County Council	Greenshannon Developments Ltd	279 & 280A Old Greenfield Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	15/10/2021
211494	Kildare County Council	Matthew Carey	Ballygoran Road, Moneycooley, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	15/10/2021
211452	Kildare County Council	Ronfar Limited,	Units 30A & 30B, Carton Retail Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	08/10/2021
211440	Kildare County Council	Mason Homes Limited	Castlepark, Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	06/10/2021
211441	Kildare County Council	Aislinn Mooney	No. 22 Parklands Court, Maynooth, Co. Kildare., W23 F8N9	06/10/2021
211415	Kildare County Council	John O'Sullivan	4 The Lawn, Moyglare Abbey, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	01/10/2021
211402	Kildare County Council	Paul Browne	No 17 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. , W23 X9T1	30/09/2021
211397	Kildare County Council	Mr James Hoare	Dowdstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	29/09/2021



## November 2021 Crossword - No. 507

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8						9						
10								11				
12				13				14			15	
17		18						19				20
21								22				
23								24				

## Clues Across

- |                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Chronicle (7)              | 17. Hackneyed (5)                   |
| 5. Proverb (5)                | 19. Facets (7)                      |
| 8. Graphic (5)                | 21. Gullibility (7)                 |
| 9. Cautionary advice (7)      | 22. One of the senses (5)           |
| 10. Help grow and develop (7) | 23. Larceny (5)                     |
| 11. Free of impurities (5)    | 24. Unprocessed or manufactured (7) |
| 12. Neckband (6)              |                                     |
| 14. Systems of principles (6) |                                     |

## Solutions to Crossword No. 506

G	E	L	I	D		P	A	S	S	E		M
A		E		I		E		H		N		E
L	I	A	I	S	O	N		E	X	T	R	A
L		D		C		C		L		I		N
A	I	S	L	E		I	L	L	I	C	I	T
N				R		L				E		
T	A	L	E	N	T		R	I	D	D	L	E
		A				M		D				N
D	U	C	T	I	L	E		I	R	K	E	D
E		O		D		R		O		I		L
L	A	N	C	E		I	N	T	E	N	S	E
T		I		A		N		I		G		S
A		C	E	L	L	O		C	O	S	T	S

## Clues Down

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Oasis (5)                               | 12. Piece of furniture (7)       |
| 2. More than two or three but not many (7) | 13. Complaint (7)                |
| 3. Of long duration (3)                    | 15. Tooth (7)                    |
| 4. Gaped (6)                               | 16. Ravine formed by a river (6) |
| 5. Fruit (7)                               | 18. Racket (5)                   |
| 6. Stage whisper (5)                       | 20. Hex (5)                      |
| 7. Machines (7)                            | 22. Toddler (3)                  |

## Difficult

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

# Sudoku Challenge

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

## Super Difficult

**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 (27) only.**



## Junior Puzzle Corner



### Children's Colouring

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.

### COLOR WORD SEARCH



HINT: The first letter of the word begins with it's color!

red	green	brown
blue	pink	white
yellow	orange	



*When the World turned upside-down*

*The day when the world  
turned upside down:  
when a frown became a smile  
and a smile became a frown.*

*When the mice chased the cats  
the cats chased the dogs.  
The dogs laughed out loud  
at the pink and yellow frogs.*

*When you went to bed in the daytime  
and got up at night.  
When birds caught the school bus  
and the cows took flight.*

*When the moon came out  
in the middle of the day  
and all of the ocean's fish  
rolled around in the hay.*

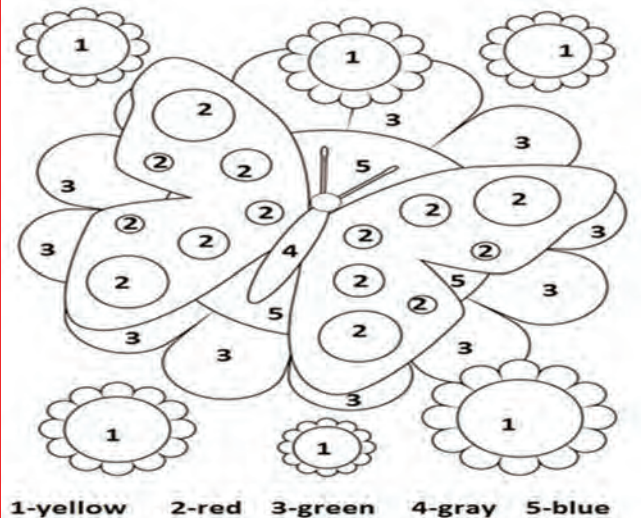
*When the children ruled the world  
and ice cream was for free  
and the elephants shrank  
to the size of a flea.*

*When the grass rained lollipops  
up to the sky.  
When you wanted to laugh  
but could only cry.*

*When magic beans were real  
and giants very small,  
you would eat spiders legs  
so you could creep up the wall.*

*This all happened when the  
world turned upside down  
after I went to bed  
with a smile - not a frown.*

(Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/when-the-world-turned-upside-down>)



Help the spaceship to fly  
to the Moon and then return to the Earth





# November Gardening

## Our leaves are falling as well as our temperatures

Isn't there always something to be doing in our gardens, be it pruning, tidying or sowing/planting. Nevertheless, there is something easy about our gardens in November, it's our time for reflection but with one eye on the forthcoming year. Some people think that Autumn is the time to hack everything back before winter really sets in, however, it's actually not a good time to prune many trees and shrubs, better done in late winter or early spring.



Cherries if pruned are vulnerable to silver leaf disease, then evergreens are usually tackled in early spring after flowering. Beech, Hawthorn, Hazel, Climbing and Shrub Roses like to be pruned right now.

I think, being out there in the garden is therapeutic in itself even if one achieves nothing. Honestly, I simply cannot imagine life without plants and flowers, even one single beautiful bud to look at, to admire near you, on your desk speaks volumes. Different plants and different scents evoke different emotions.



## Early November

Try to finish off bulb planting soon. In fact this is a great time to be planting tulips but if your soil is heavy put some coarse grit into the planting holes.

## Mid November

Check tree stakes and ties before winter winds cause damage. Plant bare root hedging plants. Grass growth generally slows down a little this month, so only give your lawn a light mowing if the grass is dry.



If you have not already done so, treat the lawn to a dose of autumn lawn fertiliser and aerate it. This treatment will pay dividends in the spring.

If your garden is lacking colour plant some winter flowering shrubs now. Sow fast maturing carrots, radishes, winter hardy salad onions etc. in the greenhouse for April harvest. Clean patios and concrete paths to remove potentially slippery moss and algae.

## Late November

Garden birds benefit from extra feeding all year round, but it is especially important in the winter months. Try to put out appropriate food for the species living in your garden and make sure that water is readily available too.



Prune free standing apple and pear trees after leaf fall. Begin washing pots and trays in disinfectant ready for the new sowing season.

## November Gardening Tips

Shorter days, darker evenings mean only one thing its officially Winter!

We hope you will find these November gardening tips helpful to guide you through the beginning of Winter!

## In General

Rake leaves and make leaf mould or compost. Clean, sharpen, and oil garden tools.

Finish *winterizing* you water garden.

Start *forcing* bulbs like *paper whites*, *hyacinth* and *amaryllis* for the holidays.

Add *organic* matter to beds.

Cover *compost* so that rain doesn't flood and leach the nutrients.

## Keep weeding

Check that indoor plants are receiving enough water, humidity and air circulation. Cut back the yellowing foliage of *herbaceous perennials*, and lift and divide overcrowded clumps to maintain their vigour.

Now is a great time to prepare a perennial vegetable bed which can be planted up with *rhubarb crowns*, *asparagus crowns* and now is the ideal time to plant *currant bushes* whilst they are dormant. Once plants are dormant, it is a good time to **lift and relocate** any plant that you want to move.



Sweep paths and surfaces regularly. In "Open" gardens you have to do this on a daily basis. In winter try and do all the surfaces visible from the house fairly regularly to avoid the drab, neglected look.

Chopped or left whole, leaves make an excellent mulch for vegetable crops, they suppress weeds and retain soil moisture.

Gather up fallen leaves from around the base of rose bushes which suffered from blackspot or rust this summer, to reduce the chance of infection next year.

## Chicken Stew

### Ingredients

- \* 2 tbsp. butter
- \* 2 large carrots, peeled and sliced into coins
- \* 1 stalk celery, chopped
- \* Kosher salt
- \* Freshly ground black pepper
- \* 3 cloves garlic, minced
- \* 1 tbsp. all-purpose flour
- \* 1 1/2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts
- \* 3 sprigs fresh thyme
- \* 1 bay leaf
- \* 3/4 lb. baby potatoes, quartered
- \* 3 c. low-sodium chicken broth
- \* Freshly chopped parsley, for garnish



### Method:

1. In a large pot over medium heat, melt butter. Add carrots and celery and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring often, until vegetables are tender, about 5 minutes.
2. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds.
3. Add flour and stir until vegetables are coated, then add chicken, thyme, bay leaf, potatoes, and broth. Season with salt and pepper. Bring mixture to a simmer and cook until the chicken is no longer pink and potatoes are tender, 15 minutes.
4. Remove from heat and transfer chicken to a medium bowl. Using two forks, shred chicken into small pieces and return to pot.
5. Garnish with parsley before serving

## Chicken Schnitzel

### Ingredients

- \* 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- \* Kosher salt
- \* Freshly ground black pepper
- \* 2 large eggs, beaten
- \* 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- \* 1 cup breadcrumbs
- \* 1 lemon, cut into wedges
- Parsley, optional



### Method:

1. Cut each chicken breast lengthwise until you have two thin halves of chicken breast.
2. Place one breast in a large plastic bag or under plastic wrap, and pound with a tenderizer or heavy bottomed pot until the chicken breast is about 1/4 inch thick. Repeat this for each breast until you have 8 cutlets. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Fill a large saucepan with about 1/4-inch of oil and heat to 350°. To set up your dredging station, have one plate full of each of the three breading ingredients: flour, eggs, and breadcrumbs.
4. Moving quickly, place one cutlet into the flour and flip, covering the cutlet with flour, then move to the egg and do the same. Finally, place the cutlet into the breadcrumbs to coat, but do not press breadcrumbs into the meat—classic schnitzel has very light breading. Repeat this with as many cutlets will fit in your pan without overcrowding. Do not bread all of your cutlets at once, or the breadcrumbs will become oversaturated with egg and keep the cutlet from becoming crispy.
5. Carefully drop the cutlets into your oil and fry 2 to 3 minutes on both sides or until the cutlet is crispy and golden brown. Move to a paper towel lined plate and immediately season with kosher salt. Repeat with the remainder of the cutlets.

## Quick and Easy Brownie

### Ingredients

- \* 1 cup butter, melted
- \* 2 cups white sugar
- \* 1/2 cocoa powder
- \* 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- \* 4 eggs
- \* 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- \* 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- \* 1/2 teaspoon salt
- \* 1/2 cup walnut halves

### Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 175 C. Grease a 9x13 inch pan
2. Combine the melted butter, sugar, cocoa powder, vanilla, eggs, flour, baking powder and salt.
3. Spread the batter into the prepared pan.

4. Decorate with walnut halves, if desired.
5. Bake in preheated oven for 20-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out with crumbs, not wet.
6. Cool on wire rack.







**FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON**

# Must-See Movie Classics



## CASABLANCA (Michael Curtiz, 1942)



Set in wartime Casablanca, Rick Blaine's (Humphrey Bogart) nightclub is an oasis for refugees of all kinds. But things take an unexpected turn for Blaine when an ex-lover (Ingrid Bergman) and her Resistance fighter boyfriend show up. **Casablanca** is an instant classic combining patriots, Nazis, romance, heroism, music and humour to spellbinding effect. The Bogart/Bergman magic - 'We'll always have Paris' - is the glue that holds it all together to make a memorable movie classic.

## SCHINDLER'S LIST (Steven Spielberg, 1993)



In German-occupied Poland during World War II, industrialist Oskar Schindler gradually becomes concerned for his Jewish workforce after witnessing their persecution by the Nazis. A movie about the Holocaust is almost guaranteed to be poignant. The sadness and symbolism build throughout the film so that you become engrossed in what happened and why it matters so much. The black and white photography is powerful & evocative of the era. Spielberg introduces colour in one brief, devastating and unforgettable moment half-way through the film. Liam Neeson gives a stunning career-best performance as Schindler. The haunting soundtrack will stay with you forever, as will this heart-wrenching classic film.

## SINGING IN THE RAIN (Gene Kelly, 1952)



This MGM musical classic is a glorious, feel-good, toe-tapping tribute to the silent era of cinema. Comden and Green's screenplay is upbeat, funny, sparkling and there's never a dull moment in the movie. It was the vivacious Debbie Reynolds' film debut, and makes the most of every

moment she's on screen. Dance maestro, and director, Gene Kelly guides the 19-years old Reynolds through the energetic and demanding musical numbers with stylish aplomb! Donald O'Connor makes up the trio of stars and is a delightful scene-stealer whenever he's on screen. Special mention must be made to Jessica Cogan also, who's turn as the croaky silent film star, Lina Lamont, is frequently hilarious. Of course, the title number where Gene Kelly, sings and dances in the rain has become an evergreen classic. **Singing in the Rain's** sheer *joie de vivre* will bowl you over!

## CITY LIGHTS (Charlie Chaplin, 1931)



Charlie Chaplin's genius and creative vision as a filmmaker remains awe-inspiring and unparalleled. He wrote, directed, produced, edited and starred in all his movies, which he also scored with an orchestra. **City Lights** follows the Tramp (in a series of comic pantomime skits) as he resorts to various hapless schemes to make money. Chaplin, unwilling to give up the visual techniques he'd mastered, insisted on making **City Lights** a silent film even as 'talkies' were becoming the norm in the 1930s. As ever, the star had the last laugh: not only was the film a huge commercial success, it also ended on the most heart-breaking close-up in cinema history - no dialogue required to convey lacerating pathos. A genuine must-see classic.

## LA LA LAND (Damien Chazelle, 2016)



**La La Land** takes place in the city of dreams and single-handedly revived the flagging musical genre. It tells the love story of two aspiring LA artists, a musician (Ryan Gosling) and an actress (Emma Stone). It's a joyous homage to the musicals of the golden age of Hollywood. Kicking the film off on a high note is a dazzling six-minute song-and-dance number that goes down in the middle of freeway traffic. It's pure cinema at its exuberant best! Emma Stone won an Oscar for her superb performance as the struggling actress with dreams of Hollywood fame. Stone and Gosling have amazing chemistry on screen and Justin Hurwitz's gorgeous, exhilarating upbeat score gives the actors plenty of opportunity to show off their irresistible dance moves and vocals throughout the film. It's a shame the movie missed out on a Best Picture Oscar though, as it was easily the best movie of 2017. A modern classic.

## THE APARTMENT (Billy Wilder, 1960)



No classic movies list would be complete without a Billy Wilder movie. This 60s romantic-comedy follows the tangled world of insurance clerk C.C. Baxter (Jack Lemmon), who lets executives at his work place use his apartment for affairs, as a means to climb up the corporate ladder. However, things take a complicated turn when Baxter's boss (Fred MacMurray) brings home a girl (Shirley MacLaine) for whom Baxter has feelings of his own. **The Apartment** features sparkling, comic performances from both Lemmon and MacLaine, at the height of their acting powers. It even spawned a Burt Bacharach musical. During filming, Wilder only gave MacLaine 40 pages of the script so she wouldn't find out how the story ended. The corker of an ending is sublime, making it one of the best in cinema history.

## VERTIGO (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958)



**Vertigo** is one of Alfred Hitchcock's most psychological and beautiful movies in his canon of thrillers. Nothing is as it seems in **Vertigo**. The story involves a police detective (James Stewart) who is hired to trail a friend's wife (Kim Novak) who's been acting strangely and may be at risk of harming herself. The otherwise routine job goes haywire as Stewart becomes increasingly obsessed with the woman. The likeable actor was cast against type as the troubled policeman. We practically see Stewart unravelling before our eyes in his sexual, romantic neurosis and fixation with Novak's character. At times, it can feel like we are on a hallucinatory trip aided by Hitchcock's stunning visuals and swirling camera work. The policeman's fear of heights provides many heart-stopping moments in the film. Bernard Herrmann's spiralling, haunting score is perfect for the story of obsession that unfolds. This Hitchcock classic will reverberate with you for a long time after the closing credits.

## Answers to October's Halloween Quiz

1 b) 2 a) 3 c) 4 c) 5 c) 6 c) 7 c)

8 *The Blair Witch Project*

9 c) 10 d) 11 c) 12 c) 13 a) 14 b)

15 Robert Shaw

16 a) 17 a)





With best wishes for a Happy Christmas  
& A Prosperous New Year from

# Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the people of Maynooth



## Local News - Dec'21/ Jan'22 - Issue No. 508 - 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.*



### **Problems with Christmas Shopping**

*Internet Fraud, Delivery Delays, Import Duties & Climate Change.*

**Solution: Shop Local & Buy Green**

### **Keep your Business in Maynooth to Keep Maynooth in Business Christmas 2021**

Christmas, the season of giving and receiving is upon us once again. This year in particular offers us a perfect opportunity to support our local shops and businesses in Maynooth. Small in size but huge in character, Maynooth comes alive with festive atmosphere for Christmas. The support of the public and local businesses in contributing to the funding of extra Christmas lights is most welcome and is a beacon of hope, showing the goodwill and tenacity of those involved. It gives us all that extra incentive to get out and shop local to give back to the community and its economy.

Lets buy our Christmas presents from our local businesses and self-employed people. If the goal is for money to flow back into the local economy, we must commit to choosing wisely. Driving an hour out of our town or shopping online does not contribute to the community we live in. This beautiful town is packed full of specialised shops, pretty boutiques and a variety of restaurants and cosy cafés where you can drop in for a hot chocolate to warm chilly fingers. You will find exceptional value for money is to be had in the smaller local shops where you get a more personalised service and friendly atmosphere.

Maynooth is a lively town with plenty of heart and history— many would say it has more going for it than other places on the commuter belt. It is also a pretty place with family-friendly housing. It hosts many walkways canal side, University grounds, the Avenue and Carton, and a main street that hasn't been hollowed out by retail parks. There is ample car parking in Maynooth and customers can park (check parking fees and time allocated) while shopping in Carton Retail Park, Manor Mills, Glenroyal, Greenfield and Beaufield Shopping Centres. There is also ample customer car parking in the Aldi and Lidl stores. Pay Parking is also available within the town enabling customers to enjoy the many retail shops, pubs and restaurants in and around the Town.

Maynooth has been described as the “Gastronomic Capital of Kildare” There are vast amounts of establishments in the town that offer the most sophisticated cuisine and the most appealing food and beverages. Maynooth is also a “Purple Flag” destination which indicates that Maynooth has earned this award for a town where a well-managed and

enjoyable night out can be had.

Stay local this year and take the stress out of shopping, avoid the cost of travel and expensive parking fees. When all the shopping is done there is a multitude of restaurants, bars and coffee shops to visit and enjoy the gastronomic delights and Festive atmosphere of Maynooth. Walking to the shops and doing your gift shopping a little bit at a time gives you time to think about the person and the gift. And meeting people along the way is a bonus. As they say it is the thought that counts.

Christmas Shopping is important to small-town retailers. It's a great opportunity to focus on your own business and give your customers a pleasant experience. Retailers need to say, “**Stay in Maynooth**”, we have lots to offer. Support our community, our businesses, our schools, our organizations. Everyone working together will continue to make Maynooth a great place to live in.

### **Shop Local, Eat Local, Spend Local & Enjoy Local in Maynooth this Christmas 2021**





# Maynooth Newsletter

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

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

The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter,  
Unit 10, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park,  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare. W23CT59  
Tel: 01-6285922

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

At the end of this year and the beginning of the next, we publish the December 2021/January 2022 edition of the Maynooth Newsletter. As a resource for the entire community the "Maynooth Newsletter" is a record of the successes and tribulations of the people of the town. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people that support the "Maynooth Newsletter". To our many advertisers, by supporting the production of this publication you are playing your part in the provision of employment and supporting many community groups to get their information out to the wider community of Maynooth, the care of our environment in Maynooth Harbour and the youth of Maynooth using Maynooth Town Soccer Club. Many thanks also to our many regular contributors with material and notes.

Everyone involved in the management of the Maynooth Newsletter give their time and skills for free and would always welcome others who are willing to get involved and likewise bring their skills and experience to support this important local resource. The Directors and Management involved in the sponsoring of Maynooth Community Employment Project who publish the Maynooth Newsletter as well as the other project work in Maynooth Harbour and Maynooth Soccer Club are unpaid and so give of their time and skills to the service of the local community.

Behind every community organisation there are people who volunteer their time and skills for the greater good of others. On behalf of the entire community I would like to acknowledge all volunteers who have been involved in the ongoing community groups. Just to call out two groups who are helping to bring a festive feeling to the town. The Maynooth Christmas Lights group and Maynooth Tidy Towns committees brings us the festive street lights and the Christmas tree and crib and I know that these groups need to fundraise and call in some favours to deliver these annual festive commitments.

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

Paul Croghan  
Editor



**Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be Monday 22nd January 2022**





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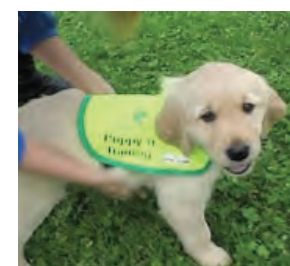
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December

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Social distancing essential.





# Royal Canal Notes

## December 2021

### Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

#### ACCOLADES

The Chairman, committee and board of directors would like to extend thanks to a number of people and groups for their help and support during the year.

First up are those on the 'scheme', staff and supervisor who: tidy the Harbour, trim the grass and carry out minor maintenance.

We would also like to thank the Maynooth Tidy Towns Committee who do some cleaning in the Harbour area as well as emptying the bins. They also provide additional bins and assistance when we run functions in the Harbour

We also appreciate the efforts, assistance and kindness shown by the MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER staff and supervisor with regards to publishing matters.

Finally the Chairman and Committee take this opportunity to wish our loyal readers and supporters,

**'A peaceful Christmas and a safe, healthy new year'.**



**A Peaceful Christmas and a  
Safe healthy New Year to  
All those who support us**

#### ANNUAL MASS

Each November the Committee organises a mass for those who lost their lives in a canal boating accident in 1845 during the active business days of the Canal. This mass, took place at Porterstown Church near Clonsilla in Dublin, on Friday 26th of November last after which a wreath was laid at the canal bridge which is close to the accident site. Proceedings were in full compliance with Covid 19 regulations and because of social distancing was only attended by a few members.

**May they all rest in peace.**



RCAG members lay the wreath at the canal bridge adjacent to the accident site

#### POST CHRISTMAS JUMPER WALK

As mentioned in the November issue this walk takes place on Monday 27th December commencing at 12 15 pm. Intending walkers are asked to assemble at the Harbour in Maynooth

The route will be via: Main St., Dukes Avenue, Carton Estate, Pike Bridge and back along the canal. Refreshments will be available after the walk.

##### Trains:

Departs Connolly Stn. 11.15am Arrives Maynooth 12.00  
Departs Longford 10.15am Arrives Maynooth 11.45am

**Be sure to wear your Christmas Jumper and enjoy the walk**

As always the Chairman and Committee are grateful to the management at Carton for graciously affording permission for the walk to go through the estate.





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**Closed Sundays**





## The Treaty

**London 6th December 1921**

At a meeting of the British-Irish conference held in Number 10 Downing Street London, Tuesday 6th December at approx. 2.am - a Treaty was agreed. These talks beginning on 11th October, were made possible by the July 11th truce in the War of Independence. The Treaty was approved by Dáil Éireann on Jan 7th 1922 by 7 votes –64 in favour, 57 against. Under of the terms of the Treaty, all prisoners (over 4,000) were to be released. Patrick Colgan, Maynooth was released on the 9th December. On October 17th 1921 he was caught heading south after he escaped from the Ballykinlar Internment camp in County Down, he was court-martialled and sentenced to six months hard labour.



**Delegates to the British-Irish Conference; Ministers Arthur Griffith TD. Home Affairs, Robert Barton TD. Agriculture and TDs Eamon Duggan and George Gavan Duffy with supporters at Hollyhead.**



**Missing from photo above, Michael Collins, he may have travelled separately with his bodyguard Eamon Broy from Rathangan**

### Count down to the Treaty

- July 11th-Truce/War of Independence
- July 14th- Eamon de Valera, Austin Stack, Arthur Griffith and Erskine Childers in London for talks with Lloyd George.
- Sept 14th-5 delegates selected by Dáil Éireann to negotiate with Lloyd George
- Oct 11th- Talks begin.
- Dec 6th- Anglo Irish Treaty agreed.

*Compiled by Gerry Quinn*

Final text of the Articles of Agreement for a Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland was signed London, 6 December 1921.

1. Ireland shall have the same constitutional status in the Community of Nations known as the British Empire as the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa, with a Parliament having powers to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Ireland and an Executive responsible to that Parliament and shall be styled and known as the Irish Free State.

2. Subject to the provisions hereinafter set out the position of the Irish Free State in relation to the Imperial Parliament and Government and otherwise shall be that of the Dominion of Canada, and the law, practice and constitutional usage governing the relationship of the Crown or the representative of the Crown and of the Imperial Parliament to the Dominion of Canada shall govern their relationship to

the Irish Free State.

3. The representative of the Crown in Ireland shall be appointed in like manner as the Governor-General of Canada and in accordance with the practice observed in the making of such appointments.

4. The oath to be taken by Members of the Parliament of the Irish Free State shall be in the following form: - I do solemnly swear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the Irish Free State as by law established and that I will be faithful to H.M. King George V., his heirs, and successors by law, in virtue of the common citizenship of Ireland with Great Britain and her adherence to and membership of the group of nations forming the British Commonwealth of Nations.

5. The Irish Free State shall assume liability for the service of the Public Debt of the United Kingdom as existing at the date hereof and towards the payment of War Pensions as existing at that date in such proportion as may be fair and equitable, having regard to any just claim on the part of Ireland by way of set-off or counter-claim, the amount of such sums being determined in default of agreement by the arbitration of one or more independent persons being citizens of the British Empire

6. Until an arrangement has been made between the British and Irish Governments whereby the Irish Free State undertakes her own coastal defence, the defence by sea of Great Britain and Ireland shall be undertaken by His Majesty's Imperial Forces, but this shall not prevent the construction or maintenance by the Government of the Irish Free State of such vessels as are necessary for the protection of the Revenue or the Fisheries. The foregoing provisions of this article shall be reviewed at a conference of Representatives of the British and Irish governments to be held at the expiration of five years from the date hereof with a view to the undertaking by Ireland of a share in her own coastal defence.

7. The Government of the Irish Free State shall afford to His Majesty's Imperial Forces  
(a) In time of peace such harbour and other facilities as are indicated in the Annex hereto, or such other facilities as may from time to time be agreed between the British Government and the Government of the Irish Free State; and  
(b) In time of war or of strained relations with a Foreign Power such harbour and other facilities as the British Government may require for the purposes of such defence as aforesaid.

8. With a view to securing the observance of the principle of international limitation of armaments, if the Government of the Irish Free State establishes and maintains a military defence force, the establishments thereof shall not exceed in size such proportion of the military establishments maintained in Great Britain as that which the population of Ireland bears to the population of Great Britain.

9. The ports of Great Britain and the Irish Free State shall be freely open to the ships of the other country on payment of the customary port and other dues.

10. The Government of the Irish Free State agrees to pay fair compensation on terms not less favourable than those accorded by the Act of 1920 to judges, officials, members of Police Forces and other Public Servants who are discharged by it or who retire in consequence of the change of government effected in pursuance hereof. Provided that this agreement shall not apply to members of the Auxiliary Police Force or

to persons recruited in Great Britain for the Royal Irish Constabulary during the two years next preceding the date hereof. The British Government will assume responsibility for such compensation or pensions as may be payable to any of these excepted persons.

11. Until the expiration of one month from the passing of the Act of Parliament for the ratification of this instrument, the powers of the Parliament and the Government of the Irish Free State shall not be exercisable as respects Northern Ireland, and the provisions of the Government of Ireland Act 1920, shall, so far as they relate to Northern Ireland, remain of full force and effect, and no election shall be held for the return of members to serve in the Parliament of the Irish Free State for constituencies in Northern Ireland, unless a resolution is passed by both Houses of the Parliament of Northern Ireland in favour of the holding of such elections before the end of the said month.

12. If before the expiration of the said month, an address is presented to His Majesty by both Houses of the Parliament of Northern Ireland to that effect, the powers of the Parliament and the Government of the Irish Free State shall no longer extend to Northern Ireland, and the provisions of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, (including those relating to the Council of Ireland) shall so far as they relate to Northern Ireland, continue to be of full force and effect, and this instrument shall have effect subject to the necessary modifications. Provided that if such an address is so presented a Commission consisting of three persons, one to be appointed by the Government of the Irish Free State, one to be appointed by the Government of Northern Ireland and one who shall be Chairman, to be appointed by the British Government shall determine in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants, so far as may be compatible with economic and geographic conditions, the boundaries between Northern Ireland and the rest of Ireland, and for the purposes of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, and of this instrument, the boundary of Northern Ireland shall be such as may be determined by such Commission.

13. For the purpose of the last foregoing article, the powers of the Parliament of Southern Ireland under the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, to elect members of the Council of Ireland shall after the Parliament of the Irish Free State is constituted be exercised by that Parliament.

14. After the expiration of the said month, if no such address as is mentioned in Article 12 hereof is presented, the Parliament and Government of Northern Ireland shall continue to exercise as respects Northern Ireland the powers conferred on them by the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, but the Parliament and Government of the Irish Free State shall in Northern Ireland have in relation to matters in respect of which the Parliament of Northern Ireland has not power to make laws under the Act (including matters which under the said Act are within the jurisdiction of the Council of Ireland) the same powers as in the rest of Ireland, subject to such other provisions as may be agreed in manner herein after appearing.

15. At any time after the date hereof the Government of Northern Ireland and the provisional Government of Southern Ireland hereinafter constituted may meet for the purpose of discussing the provisions subject to which the last foregoing Article is to operate in the event of no such address as is therein mentioned being presented and those provisions may include:-

*(Continued on page 8)*



(Continued from page 7)

- (a) Safeguards with regard to patronage in Northern Ireland.
- (b) Safeguards with regard to the collection of revenue in Northern Ireland.
- (c) Safeguards with regard to import and export duties affecting the trade or industry of Northern Ireland.
- (d) Safeguards for minorities in Northern Ireland.
- (e) The settlement of the financial relations between Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State.
- (f) The establishment and powers of a local militia in Northern Ireland and the relation of the Defence Forces of the Irish Free State and of Northern Ireland respectively, and if at any such meeting provisions are agreed to, the same shall have effect as if they were included amongst the provisions subject to which the powers of the Parliament and the Government of the Irish Free State are to be exercisable in Northern Ireland under Article 14 hereof.

16. Neither the Parliament of the Irish Free State nor the Parliament of Northern Ireland shall make any law so as either directly or indirectly to endow any religion or prohibit or restrict the free exercise thereof or give any preference or impose any disability on account of religious belief or religious status or affect prejudicially the right of any child to attend a school receiving public money without attending the religious instruction at the school or make any discrimination as respects State aid between schools under the management of different religious denominations or divert from any religious denomination or any educational institution any of its property except for public utility purposes and on payment of compensation.

17. By way of provisional arrangement for the administration of Southern Ireland during the interval which must elapse between the date hereof and the constitution of a Parliament and Government of the Irish Free State in accordance therewith, steps shall be taken forthwith for summoning a meeting of members of Parliament elected for constituencies in Southern Ireland since the passing of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, and for constituting a provisional Government, and the British Government shall take the steps necessary to transfer to such provisional Government the powers and machinery requisite for the discharge of its duties, provided that

every member of such provisional Government shall have signified in writing his or her acceptance of this instrument. But this arrangement shall not continue in force beyond the expiration of twelve months from the date hereof.

18. This instrument shall be submitted forthwith by His Majesty's Government for the approval of Parliament and by the Irish signatories to a meeting summoned for the purpose of the members elected to sit in the House of Commons of Southern Ireland and if approved shall be ratified by the necessary legislation.

(Signed)  
**On behalf of the British Delegation,**  
D. Lloyd George.  
Austen Chamberlain.  
Birkenhead.  
Winston S. Churchill.  
L. Worthington-Evans.  
Hamar Greenwood.  
Gordon Hewart.

**On behalf of the Irish Delegation.**  
Art Ó Griobhtha.  
Micheál Ó Coileain.  
Riobárd Bartún  
E. S. Ó Dugain.  
Seórsa Ghabháin Uí Dhubhthaigh  
6th December 1921.

**ANNEX.**  
1. The following are the specific facilities required:-  
Dockyard Port at Berehaven.  
(a) Admiralty property and rights to be retained as at the date hereof. Harbour defences to remain in charge of British care and maintenance parties. Queenstown.  
(b) Harbour defences to remain in charge of British care and maintenance parties. Certain mooring buoys to be retained for use of His Majesty's ships. Belfast Lough.  
(c) Harbour defences to remain in charge of British care and maintenance parties. Lough Swilly.  
(d) Harbour defences to remain in charge of British care and maintenance parties. AVIATION.  
(e) Facilities in the neighbourhood of the above ports for coastal defence by air. OIL FUEL STORAGE.  
(f) Haulbowline [and] Rathmullen[:] To be offered for sale to commercial companies under guarantee that purchasers shall maintain a certain minimum

stock for Admiralty purposes.

2. A Convention shall be made between the British Government and the Government of the Irish Free State to give effect to the following conditions :-  
(a) That submarine cables shall not be landed or wireless stations for communication with places outside Ireland be established except by agreement with the British Government; that the existing cable landing rights and wireless concessions shall not be withdrawn except by agreement with the British Government; and that the British Government shall be entitled to land additional submarine cables or establish additional wireless stations for communication with places outside Ireland.  
(b) That lighthouses, buoys, beacons, and any navigational marks or navigational aids shall be maintained by the Government of the Irish Free State as at the date hereof and shall not be removed or added to except by agreement with the British Government.  
(c) That war signal stations shall be closed down and left in charge of care and maintenance parties, the Government of the Irish Free State being offered the option of taking them over and working them for commercial purposes subject to Admiralty inspection, and guaranteeing the upkeep of existing telegraphic communication therewith.

3. A Convention shall be made between the same Governments for the regulation of Civil Communication by Air.



Photo: Praying for peace, Downing St, 14 July 1921

## OPEN ALL THE WAY CANOEING ON THE ROYAL CANAL IN THE 1950s

By D.M. HARTFORD

### About the Author

Diana Mary Hartford nee Barton was born in 1918. The trip described here was undertaken in 1955 just after Douglas Heard completed the last official boat trip before closure of the canal. The trip was undertaken in two stages; Clondra to Mullingar and Dublin (Blanchardstown) to Mullingar. The city centre areas of the canal were not navigable at this time. This article was originally published in a number of Royal Canal Newsletters in the 1970s. The author had a children's book published after this trip, which is still widely used in primary schools today. The author of a number of other books, Diana passed away in 2002.

### PART 2 HILL OF DOWN TO MULLINGAR

The next morning we did not resume our journey west on the Royal Canal until after 10 o'clock because the three postmen did not arrive on duty until that time and our friend the postmistress insisted they launched the 17ft. canoe for us ladies. It was so damp a day I recall we were glad of the dryness under D'Arcy's bridge to eat some chocolate. Just before the bridge we had enjoyed the long curve of beautiful beeches above the towpath hedge on our right that bounded Hyde Park, Colonel D'Arcy's demesne. Immediately the other side of the bridge we saw two more dark hulks drawn up which, we learnt from a C.I.E. man who helped us at a lock, carried gravel or sods for repairing the bank. We had seen one of these heavy boats tied up and

inhabited the day before.

Soon the first lock came. Our helper explained how these eight Killucan locks (Nos. 18 – 25) ascended with a short pound between each from the wide harbour covered with duckweed at Thomastown. Our hearts sank at the thought of portage at each and we decided to take turns walking the bank while the other paddled to the next lock. There was, however, the encouraging thought of the pub and shop near the fifth one at Killucan Station and it was very pleasant walking the smooth turf with a real Westmeath smell of turf and wet thatch in the air. Also, a little old very deaf man left off earthing up his potatoes and walked with us to help at the two locks after our pause at the licensed shop and the cottage at the last one was held by a blind lock-keeper whose wife was lonely and glad of a talk.

It was a long pull after that into Mullingar, including a beautiful stretch of open bog and then a long cutting through rock. When the town was finally in sight the canal curved high round one side of it, and we went along beside small houses with many Children on the towpath until we came to the ideal combination of a grassy bank, small boys to help us to land, a garage and a kind foreman who let us leave the long canoe there for the night.

To be continued.....



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- \* Employment Concerns
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Phone



E-mail



**Cllr. Angela Feeney**

**Tel. 087 238 1962**

**Email. [angelafeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelafeeney@gmail.com)**

**Stay safe everyone.**



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year





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## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

E mail: [angelaemfeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelaemfeeney@gmail.com) - Phone: 0872381962



### Speeding Issues

Cllr Feeney supported the residents at Pikes Bridge, Grangewilliam and Ballygoran with their 'Go Slow Day' to raise awareness on the issue of speeding on their very busy and dangerous road. There has been a huge increase in the volume of traffic on this particular road. Thanks to An Gardaí Traffic Unit for their support.

### Motion on the Lack of Childcare Education Provision

Cllr Feeney submitted a motion to the Labour Party National Conference in November calling for the issue of the lack of childcare education provision to be addressed by government, particularly in ensuring planned facilities in large housing developments are delivered. The motion received the full support of the delegates who attended in person or online.

### School Warden Assigned

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide an update on the assigning of a school warden to serve both primary schools on the Celbridge Road Maynooth. The Council confirmed that the school warden is now in place.

### International Day of Awareness of Disability

To mark and support International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3rd Cllr Feeney requested the Council to turn the runway lights at Courthouse Square Maynooth purple. The Council said the Square and Main Street are due to be revamped in the near future and the Council will install filters in the new light fixtures to allow for different colours to mark such days by lighting up Council owned spaces. Cllr Feeney is a member of the Maynooth Access Group and she praised the work of the group in turning the town purple to mark this important event.

### Community Space Maynooth

Cllr Feeney asked the Council for an update regarding the re-opening and future management of the Community Space in Maynooth. Council Feeney explained that the many groups that used this space such as the Mother and Toddler group and other community groups are missing the use of this space. It can be very costly having to rent a meeting space.

The Council replied saying that its Facilities and Community team are currently working on opening Newbridge Town Hall to the public for one event before Christmas. If this event is successful, it is hoped to open other Community Halls throughout the county in the new year in accordance with the COVID-19 guidelines that are in place.

### Planning Update

An Bord Pleanála has approved the Cairn Homes planning application at Dunboyne Road Maynooth, for 194 units. It is positive to see that the concerns expressed by myself and other Councillors about any proposed opening onto Carton Avenue were taken into account. The Bord ruled that no access onto the Avenue would be permitted on the grounds that there was insufficient "supporting information in relation to the potential impacts on Carton Avenue, which is of historical and landscape significance". Cllr Feeney is also happy to see that the Bord has locked out culture funds from bulk buying and the houses can only be sold to individual purchasers.

### Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Public Meeting

Kildare Joint Policing Committee Annual Public Meeting will take place at The Glenroyal Hotel from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00p.m. on Monday 6th December. Guest Speakers at the meeting include Garda Commissioner Drew Harris along with Sarah Benson, Chief Executive Officer, and Women's Aid. The Kildare Joint Policing Committee provides a forum where Local Authority and senior Garda Officers responsible for the policing in Kildare, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting policing in Kildare. Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting and to do so, you can register here - <https://bit.ly/3F6kYVX>. In the interest of public safety, pre-event registration is necessary as numbers of attendees are limited.

### Teresa Brayton Memorial

Cllr Feeney was delighted to attend the unveiling of the Decade of Commemoration 1913-1923 Plaque by the Teresa Brayton Heritage group in Kilcock. Well done to the committee for its great work and for the inspiring words spoken at the ceremony. Teresa Brayton was an amazing and formidable woman. The one and only Mr. Thomas O'Keefe also spoke so well and performed the unveiling of the beautiful plaque at his premises. Maith sibh go léir.

### Little Way Cancer Support Centre

Cllr Feeney is supporting Little Way Cancer Support Centre in Clane with their annual Christmas Calendar fundraiser. She encourages people to call in and buy a calendar or some of the beautiful Christmas decorations and gifts they have for sale. You will be supporting a great cause. Thanks @LWCSC for all the great work your volunteers do.

### Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney since last Newsletter

November 4th: 7.00pm KCC Community Awards at Westgrove Clane

November 5th: 10.00 am, Council MD Meeting, Aras Chill Dara

November 9th: NTA Briefing (online)

November 10th: 7.30pm BOM, Colaiste Chiarain (online)

November 11th: 5.00pm BOM, MPPS (online)

November 15th: 3.00pm KCC Meeting -Draft Budget (online)

November 17th: 2.30pm KWETB Audit and Risk Committee (online)

November 22nd: 3.00pm KCC Meeting-Budget (online)

November 23rd: 10.30am KWETB Board Meeting (online)

November 29th: 3.00 pm Council Plenary (online)

***Please Remember to Shop Local to support our businesses and workers.***

***Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and  
Best Wishes for 2022.***



## Maynooth University Town F.C



### Leinster Senior League - Senior Division Sunday Town 3 St. Mochtas 1

With the cold evenings creeping in, this was a game to warm the cockles of one's heart. Town attacked right from the start and opened the scoring in the 12th minute. Paddy O'Sullivan scored a cracker following good play by Jack O'Connor and Conor Delahunty. Eoin McDermott was taken down in the Saints penalty area and Jack O'Connor neatly converted. Six minutes later Paddy O'Sullivan split the Saints defence to set up Jack O'Connor to stretch our lead. Town were in control now but were dealt a severe blow in the 68th minute when Jack O'Connor was sent off following a clash with a Saints player. Saints pulled one back shortly after but town remained solid and held out for a deserved win.

### Leinster Senior League - Senior Division Sunday Town 3 Kilnamanagh F.C. 3

We continued our recent unbeaten run of late with this hard fought draw in a high scoring game. Goals by Jack O'Connor and Josh Hogan to two by the visitors had this game on a knife edge going into added time after a pulsating 90 minutes. It seemed all over for Town in the 92nd minute when Kilnamanagh scored what looked like the winner. Town were having none of it and swept down field for Macker to grab a dramatic equaliser.

### F.A.I Intermediate Cup. 3rd Rd. Ardmore Rovers (Bray) 2 Town 3

On a pitch which was not conducive to good football, Town struggled to come to grips with the poor underfoot conditions. Town fell behind when failing to clear a high ball and the Rovers Striker tapped home. Town were struggling and conceded again to a good goal by the Rovers winger. A number of changes at halftime saw Town emerge with greater intensity for the second half. Macker pulled one back following good play down the left. Continuous pressure by Town forced a Rovers defender to head into his own net for the equaliser. Rovers were desperately defending and conceded a penalty with 10 minutes remaining for Jack O'Connor to settle the game and book our place in the next round.

### Leinster Senior League - Senior Division Sunday Town 5 Crumlin Utd 0

This must rank as one of our best performances for some time. Highly rated Crumlin were swept aside by a town side who displayed all their talents in a five star performance. Town led 3- 0 at the break with a goal by Darragh Gannon following a raid down the right. Conor Dunne then swept home a corner before Paddy O'Sullivan scored with one of his specials. Town continued the trend in the 2nd half when subs Sean Traynor and Conor Delahunty rowed in with two goals to put the icing on a very rich cake. Our recent good run continues with a rich vein of form.



# MAYNOOTH Tidy Towns

CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT



Gold Medal  
Winner 2019

Welcome to the December edition of Maynooth Tidy Towns Newsletter 2021. Since we were in touch with you we have again retained our Gold medal status in the Tidy Towns Competition, that is 5 gold in a row, scoring 342 points, five more than 2020 and we came 4th in the County rankings out of 39 entries. Well done to the Committee members who completed the application form that we call the thesis - incredible work. We had cake to celebrate with the Volunteers. We will be presented with our Gold medal at a ceremony later in the year.



On the 17th of November we were awarded The Green Flag for our Sensory Garden from An Taisce. We were one of 19 volunteer green community groups to receive the award in Ireland for 2021. Thanks is expressed to Stephen Seaman, Maynooth University Head Grounds man, for all his help completing the application. We will erect the flag at a ceremony later in the year or early 2022.

It is with regret that we have postponed our AGM which was due to take place on the 9th December in The Glenroyal Hotel. This was due to the new restrictions that were introduced on the 18th of November by An Taoiseach Mr. Martin. We would like to acknowledge and say thank you to local residents, Debbie and Tony Kelly who donated a large bag of Nerine Bulbs for use by Tidy Towns. We will plant them around the town at various locations.



Our volunteers were very busy during the month of November. We cleared the rotten timbers from the Meadowbrook Link Road. Scuffling, bulb planting and litter picking were high on the agenda every Saturday since making our return to our streets last May. We are truly blessed with all the new volunteers who have joined us especially our young citizens. Our Christmas Tree will be delivered on Saturday the 27th November and lights should be turned on the 28th November at a ceremony in the Square.



*We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Volunteers and everyone who has helped us during 2021, a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. If you would like to volunteer please contact us on Whatsapp from our Facebook Page. Please follow us for up to date information on Facebook and Twitter.*

*Mary Molloy, Secretary, Maynooth Tidy Towns Association.*

## Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group

Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group wishes all our friends a happy and peaceful Christmas and may 2022 re-energise us, bring us hope and joy. We are working towards an exhibition for Easter 2022, conditions permitting. Watch this space.....



Winter Berries by Eamon Burke

## Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

2021 has been yet another year of waiting patiently to see if we could open up our Club again, but unfortunately that did not happen. On a positive note the Committee has resumed monthly meetings since September 2021 which gives a glimmer of hope - to be ready when we are permitted to return to our normal activities activities, but it will not happen just yet.

In the meantime we have been attending to the necessary administrative responsibilities and thankfully the delivery of our fuel scheme was not affected by Covid restrictions. Also on a positive note, we are delighted by the continued generous support shown by individuals and businesses from our local community. It is clear and heartening to see that Maynooth still has a sense of the importance of and takes pride in looking after its community, in particular our senior citizens. A big thank you to all involved.

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas. We are acutely aware that this Christmas will be a time of sadness and reflection for many families who have lost loved ones in the last year. We think of Lima Higgins who was a steadfast supporter of member of our committee. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

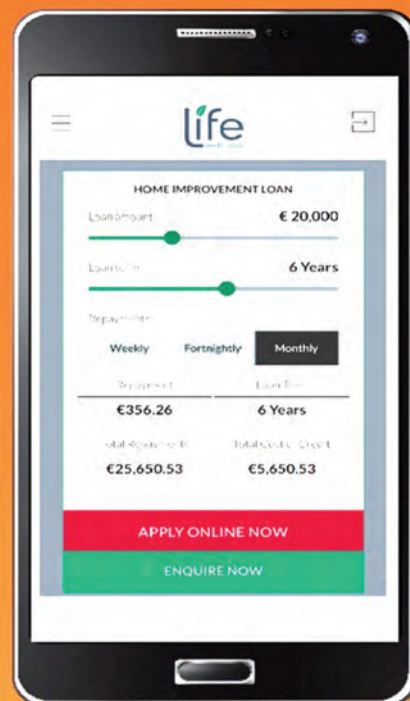
May 2022 bring hope and joy to all.

Patricia Cusker  
Chairperson - Maynooth Senior Citizens.





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**- A. Fitzpatrick**

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Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

“Did you get toys at Christmas?” a friend asked recently. “Yes,” I answered, “we always got toys, not as many as children get nowadays, but that made them all the more special. Back then there was no electricity, no television, no central heating, no motorcars for private use, and no supermarkets. Tea, butter and sugar were rationed but that didn’t affect us children: we drank cocoa, our mother churned her own butter and if there was a shortage of sugar, we weren’t aware of it. World War I was far off and unreal, except when the seldom-heard drone of an aeroplane made us exclaim, “Hitler is coming!”

In our thatched, four-room farmhouse we looked forward to Christmas as a time of school holidays and the arrival of Santy. Actual preparations for the festival didn’t start till about the third week of December.

It’s only now that I recognise how many of our creature comforts were the products of our parents’ diligence, especially our mother’s. Our father certainly worked hard, mending fences, mucking out the cowshed or carrying back-loads of hay to the cattle. When he had finished, however, he sat before the open-hearth fire with his pipe and newspaper. Our mother, meanwhile, was constantly on the go, washing, cooking, baking, ironing, milking the cows and feeding the hens. As time went on we children lent a hand, bringing in turf from the rick and buckets of water from the well. In cold weather, every time the front door opened, a chill draught invaded the kitchen. We reluctantly made way at the hearth as our mother hung a kettle of water on the iron crane above the fire or with the tongs replenished coals on the lid of the oven. In this oven the Sunday roast was cooked and soda bread baked daily, shop loaves being then a luxury.

As darkness increased, Mam lit the paraffin lamp on the wall over the table – the only other light was the small red one under a Sacred Heart picture on the chimneybreast – and we children did our homework. There was no radio to distract us, though our neighbours had a battery-operated set that, whenever an inter-county football match was being played, drew men and boys from the entire neighbourhood.

When we were all indoors together there was little room to spare, though the fact that the smaller children sat on low, homemade stools helped. We had a cat and Ben, a much-loved Old English sheepdog that at night slept in the hayshed.

The first harbinger of Christmas was the arrival of a Switzers’ catalogue. Why it was posted to us annually is not clear, since Dublin seemed as far away as Mars.

Anyway, I used to pour over the pictures of toys with more enjoyment than any actual toy could ever give. Switzers was an Aladdin’s cave I could enter inside my head.

Excitement grew with the postman’s delivery of an early card from some relative and then one day our Uncle John and Aunt Kate would arrive in their big shiny car. Uncle John was my mother’s brother and, since he was the county engineer, he was given a petrol allowance. He always brought a large round tin of sweets for our eldest sister Molly, a treasure throne that she shared out, one or two a day. The rest of us were given pennies and even sixpences, precious money, which we stored in cocoa tins.

At this stage preparations for Christmas were well under way. Since we only kept hens and occasionally a few ducks, our mother bought a turkey that would have to be dispatched, plucked and gutted. Thought she was a kind-hearted person she had no qualms about killing poultry. My father purchased groceries in the village and brought them home in the well of our horse-drawn sidecar. A fruitcake was baked, Mam allowing us to seed the raisins and sultanas and eat the occasional one. Apple pies and oatmeal griddlecakes were also part of her cuisine. It was up to us boys to obtain holly, which the girls placed on windowsills and alongside pictures.

About a week before Christmas Aunt Lizzie, our mother’s sister, would arrive, having taken the train to our local

town and then cycled out the four miles to Droimeen. She enjoyed chatting to my father and they would sit before the fire discussing events in the big world. Her many presents always included the Dublin Opinion. She and Dad used to laugh over the jokes, most of which were inexplicable to us.

Aunt Lizzie slept with my mother and the girls in the bedroom below the kitchen, while my brother slept in the bedroom at the other end of the house and I shared the press-bed in the parlour with my father. On some mornings I might listen to a rat racing across the wooden ceiling or watch a mistle thrush gobbling berries on the cotoneaster by the window. When the parlour was used for entertaining the press bed could be folded up to look like a cupboard. On those occasions a fire was lit in the grate, a rug made from hare pelts laid on the hearth and an ornate oil lamp lit on the oval mahogany table, where its light was reflected from the sideboard mirror so that the whole room was transformed.

On Christmas Eve we went outside to see stars dancing in the eastern sky, though we were always called for bedtime before that happened! Not that we were too disappointed since we were sure that Santy and his reindeers would now be travelling south past the moon towards Droimeen. We did not hang up stockings, since we knew that he would leave the toys by our pillows. Undressing was done by candlelight and, since the bedrooms had no fires, we lost little time in getting under the blankets.

What delicious anticipation filled our heads as we lay down, determined to stay awake to get a glimpse of Santy with his red, fur-lined cloak and bulging bag but sleep always overcame us. Then at first light the delighted discoveries! “Daddy, look what Santy brought me!” I would chortle to my just-awakened father. There would be more excited outbursts as my brother and sisters arrived to compare their toys and display them to our parents. My mother would already be dressed, as, in order to prepare breakfast, she had to get the kitchen fire going by raking coals from the ashes and adding turf sods.

We didn’t get many toys, maybe a picture book and metal wind-up car or cap- gun each for us boys and a picture book and soft toy or doll each for the girls. One Christmas I got a shiny plane with circles on its wings that I later realised was a small replica of the Spitfire being used by the RAF to fight the Luftwaffe.

Our mother cycled to first mass in the village, then, when she returned to begin preparing dinner, our father harnessed the horse to the sidecar and drove us to second mass. Once out on the main road, he might urge the horse to a faster trot so that our neighbours in their trap wouldn’t overtake us. The three girls sat on one side of the car, while my brother and I sat with Dad on the other side, facing in the opposite direction. Since the car swayed when travelling at speed I was always afraid of falling off unless my father let me sit on top of the well, facing forward. On reaching the village we unhooked the horse at the creamery and tied him to an iron side gate before hurrying to the chapel.

In the crowded nave we divided, my brother and I kneeling with our father and the bare-headed men on the right-hand side, our sisters kneeling with the hat-wearing women and girls on the left. Father Charlie, a plainspoken man, said the mass in Latin: ‘Introibo ad altare Dei’ (I will go to the altar of God), to which the boy servers replied, ‘Ad Deum, qui laetificat juventutem meam’ (To God who gives joy to my youth). At intervals, the male choir in the gallery sang with lusty voices carols such as Adeste Fidelis and ‘Silent Night’. After mass we would hurry to admire the infant Jesus in his holly-decorated crib.

Outside the chapel we passed men who thronged the footpath, surveying the emerging congregation. Many of these would call out greetings to my father as he led us proudly past the few shops, blacksmith’s forge and police barracks to the sidecar.

Once home we played with our toys while waiting in the aroma-filled kitchen for dinner. The table was moved to the centre of the floor, where it was covered with a linen tablecloth, and our sisters laid out plates, knives and forks. Then with mounting tension Mam transferred the turkey from the oven to a large oval dish, which she carried to the table. Dad did the carving, and led us in reciting the grace-before-meals. Served with boiled or roast potatoes, peas, carrots and applesauce, the turkey was the main item of a meal fit for royalty. We children preferred breast meat to a wing or leg but what we really liked was the stuffing. There was always lots of banter over who would get the “Pope’s nose”, as the turkey’s tail end was called. The highlight of the feast was the custard and homemade trifle; we always wanted more and competed for the privilege of scraping the last pieces of trifle from its glass bowl.

After the fruitcake had been devoured there was the leisurely washing up, with Molly lending a hand, while my brother and I accompanied by Ben trailed behind our father as he carried hay out to the cattle. If the weather was good the girls and we might play ‘tip-and-tig’ around the hayshed while bats flitted overhead or bring in baskets of turf and cans of water. Then it was back to the fireside to look at picture books and play with our toys.

That evening our mother would treat us children to biscuits and let us sample her hot claret, which we sipped more out of curiosity than enjoyment. Later, we all knelt on the floor, arms resting on chairs, to say the rosary, my father, mother, Molly and, when older, my brother and I, leading us in turn through one of the mysteries, Joyful, Sorrowful or Glorious. Mam would then usher us to bed, she herself remaining behind to tidy up. Perhaps she sat down for a few moments of peaceful reflection, serenaded by a cricket chirruping in the hearth, before covering the fire with ashes to keep it alive.

Meanwhile, as we snuggled under the blankets we knew that tomorrow was St Stephen’s Day, when wren boys with their mouth organs, jew’s-harps and outlandish disguises would be arriving to dance before our front door and sing raucously for “money to bury the wran.” We might even be dreaming of a snowfall so that we could build a snowman just like the ones in our picture books.

By P.G. Nerney

Nativity Scene

Outside the Church of Ireland a large and roughly fashioned stable with full size, handmade, figures: three wise men – two with crowns –, Joseph, Mary, shepherds, faces tautened linen cloth; a donkey made of straw; the crib as yet without an infant.

Glimpsed on chill, December nights, this floodlit tableau raised all people’s hearts – or so we thought.

One Sunday morning walkers found the tableau smashed and flattened, figures trodden into mud, the cradle filled with rotten leaves. Believers – non-believers too – determined not to disregard an age-old, cherished emblem, reconstructed Bethlehem.

By Colin Scott





## Maynooth University President Eeva Leinonen Congratulates new graduates at on-campus conferring ceremonies

Wednesday, October 27, 2021: Maynooth University President Eeva Leinonen has congratulated over 800 new graduates who are being awarded undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and diplomas over two days this week – Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th October.

The occasion marks the first conferring ceremonies for new President, Professor Eeva Leinonen, as well as the first on-campus conferring since the introduction of Covid-19 restrictions.

In her conferring speech, Professor Eeva Leinonen paid tribute to the graduates as they embark on their new journey, and saluted their accomplishment during a particularly difficult time.

“Moments like this can pass all too quickly, and their true meaning and full importance can slip past us unconsidered. Let us not let that happen, as your achievements are simply extraordinary, and even more so given the context in which you have completed your studies, a global pandemic, that has changed many of our lives beyond recognition. You have all shown most extraordinary resilience, creativity and humanity,” Prof Leinonen said.

“I was in Australia, with no Covid in the community, for the past 18 months. I was in awe, hearing what you went through. What touched me most was the spirit in which you confronted the challenge. You looked out for your loved ones, you looked after others in your community. This is a very special thing about Ireland, your community matters and you look after each other. It is something to be truly cherished. I urge you, as you venture from our beautiful campus, do hold onto that sense of empathy for one another. It will stand you well.”

A total of 823 graduates are receiving their parchments in the Aula Maxima across a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and diplomas. In total, just over 337 degrees and 190 diplomas are being conferred. Additionally, 254 Master’s degrees and 17 Doctorates are being conferred across five ceremonies. All ceremonies are being live-streamed for those who are unable to attend.

The occasion marks the first conferring ceremony for four new programmes offered, including a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Analytics, a Master of Social Science (Social Work), a Postgraduate Diploma in History, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education, Teaching and Assessment, which is open to staff of the University.

Graduates of the Class of 2020 and 2021 conferred in virtual ceremonies hosted by the University will be invited back to the campus for an in-person ceremony with family and friends in late January 2022.



( Photo: President Prof Eeva Leinonen, Megan Deacon, Bachelor of Science and Shane Brady, Bachelor of Science, pictured at the Maynooth University on-campus conferring ceremony.)



Photo: Empower Director, Prof Markus Helfert, MU

## Christmas Houseplants

Winter is a time when a lot of the color of the outdoor world has faded away. The leaves have fallen and white snow and grey skies are becoming more frequent. Winter is also a time of happiness and cheer; a time that you spend with your loved ones.

Having festive plants in your home is a great way to brighten the atmosphere and bring a feeling of love, laughter, and joy to your Christmas gathering. This article will touch on some of the most popular Christmas houseplants and give you a few tips to help you properly care for these plants.

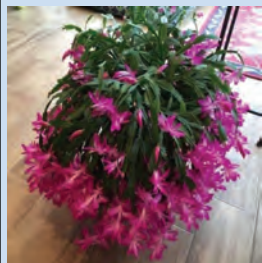
### Poinsettia

A poinsettia is a pointed red flower that is often associated with the Christmas season. It is most commonly seen in red, but this plant can also bloom in shades of pink and soft yellow. Since these tropical plants are forced to bloom during the holiday season, they need a little bit of extra care to get the plants to re-bloom. They grow best in direct sunlight and humid temperatures that remain between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit.



### Amaryllis

Amaryllis is a plant that has been seen in homes around Christmas time more and more each year. The bell-shaped blooms are often beautiful shades of red that create a welcoming warmth in your home. Since these lovely plants are tropical, they do require relatively warm temperatures and humidity in the air. This is a plant that requires bright sunlight, but it should not be placed in direct sunlight though because this can hinder the bloom and result in a lack of color for your Christmas gathering.



### Christmas Cactus

Christmas cactus is a tropical plant that originates in the tropical rainforests of southern Brazil. The flat, segmented stems of the plant remain green the majority of the year, but around the holidays, colorful red, orange, pink, purple, and white blooms form. They grow best with moist soil and a lot of indirect sunlight. If you want to ensure that your Christmas cactus will bloom during the holiday season, then be sure to provide the plant with 12 hours of darkness each night for six to eight weeks before Christmas.

### Holly

Holly has been a part of the holiday season since it became part of the classic Christmas carol “Deck the Halls” nearly 150 years ago, but holly and berries have been a favorite to brighten the desolate winter since ancient times. The holly shrubs that we all know as traditional Christmas plants have pointed leaves, red berries, and small white blooms. Holly is a plant that requires full sun and well-drained soil that is a bit on the acidic side to grow properly.

### Mistletoe

Mistletoe is a symbol of love that we typically hang in our homes during the holiday season, but this plant is actually a parasitic plant, so growing it indoors means that you will need a host for the mistletoe to grow. Seeding can occur in soil, but once roots form, the plant will need to be placed in a host tree’s bark. It will take about four years for a mistletoe plant to mature, and male plants will not produce white berries.

### Paperwhite Narcissus

This is a delightful plant that stems from the Mediterranean. It is a close relative of the daffodil, and it is also a plant that creates bell-shaped blooms that are extremely fragrant and perfect for your home during the holiday season. The stalks of this houseplant are typically about a foot to a foot and a half in height, and the blooms are star-shaped delicacies that are pure white in color. The blooms can be yellow or orange, but these varieties are often more rare.



### Winter Cherry

Winter cherry is a plant that blooms small white flowers in the summer, but they are mostly known for their tomato-like berries that can be seen near the Christmas holiday season. The longer the berries are on the stem, the redder they will become. These plants adore bright sunlight, but nothing that is too direct. They also need relatively cool temperatures, but nothing too drafty. In addition, this plant is also toxic so be careful if pets or small children are in your home.

### The Christmas Berry

The Christmas berry is a shrub that can be found along most of the California coast. The leaves of the plant are dark and glossy, and star-shaped flowers that are white and beautiful are produced in the summer months. During the winter season, the plant will yield fruits that are plump and red. The plant requires several hours of direct sunlight a day, and it also prefers to grow in warm temperatures with a high level of humidity.

### Cyclamens

Cyclamens plants are lovely Christmas plants that make your home feel more festive. It is a plant that originates from Europe and the Mediterranean area, and the blooms are often delightful shades of red that match the rest of your holiday décor. This plant is very particular when it comes to the temperature; in fact, temperatures below 40 degrees Fahrenheit or above 50 degrees Fahrenheit during the night or 68 degrees Fahrenheit are not tolerated at all.

### Azaleas

Azaleas are evergreen shrubs that produce bright red blooms that vary in hue. The plant is loved during the holiday season because it blooms during the winter months and continues into early spring. It is not a plant that likes a lot of direct sunlight; in fact, it actually likes to grow in partial shade conditions. This plant enjoys relatively cool temperatures that do not rise above 68 degrees Fahrenheit, which is why it is such a great plant to have in your home during the winter months.

Source: [blog.gardenloversclub.com/houseplants/christmas-houseplants/](http://blog.gardenloversclub.com/houseplants/christmas-houseplants/)



**Wishing You and Your Family a Safe and Happy Christmas  
and all the best for 2021**



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## ***Empower puts Ireland on track for data governance leadership***

A new academic and industry research programme, designed to future proof EU data flows and drive innovations in data protection internationally, was launched today by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD.



The Empower programme will develop systems to protect citizens and work to their advantage while streamlining data exchange in the European business ecosystem. The programme represents research of almost €10 million focused on Data Platforms, Data Governance and Ecosystems, and will involve researchers from four SFI Research Centres: Lero, the programme lead, Insight, ADAPT and FutureNeuro, coordinated by Empower Director, Professor Markus Helfert, based in Maynooth University.

Speaking at the launch of Empower, Minister Harris said: “One of this Government's core ambitions is to build competitive advantage and to foster enterprise development through a world-class research and innovation system. Empower clearly demonstrates that when we combine talent and investment, we here in Ireland can undertake cutting-edge, impactful research. We can compete with the very best internationally and we can contribute solutions to global challenges. Empower is an important strategic research project for our country and I'd like to congratulate and wish everyone involved the very best for the project.”

Professor Helfert, Maynooth University, said the research would focus on developing a data ecosystem that benefits all users while defining and safeguarding the rights of data sharers.

“Data ecosystems, such as smart cities or connected health networks, present new challenges that require a fundamental reconsideration of how we manage and use data. While an effective data ecosystem can empower the exchange of knowledge from organisations and individuals, data movement can also give rise to risks that need to be managed from a socio-ethical perspective,” he added. “It is crucial that organisations offer individuals transparency and accountability of their user data to ensure they are truly empowered by data flows in new systems such as smart homes and smart cities.

“Empower will explore how we design and implement intelligent systems that leverage ‘shared’ data within the data ecosystems. Solutions need to respect the rights and freedoms of users while turning personal data into an asset for the population and society,” added Empower Director Professor Helfert.

Empower brings together multidisciplinary research in data governance from across the participating SFI Research Centres to achieve this goal. Lero, FutureNeuro, Insight and ADAPT, share a strong culture of academic-industry collaboration with companies across sectors experiencing disruptive transitions to data and AI-driven business models, such as software development, health, biotech, fintech, medtech, agritech, smart city, mobility, media and publishing, sports performance, automotive, and construction. Empower’s academic researchers will work together with a number of companies including Meta, Siemens, Huawei, Trüata, Trilateral Research, Genesys, P4ML, RedZinc Services and Analog Devices (ADI) to develop innovations in data governance that will have the potential to benefit individuals and companies.

Speaking at the launch, Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government, said: “We are pleased to be supporting Empower, which brings together leading expertise from four SFI Research Centres with industry. Empower provides significant opportunities for Ireland both in terms of research reputation and economic impact. Empower will enable Ireland to take advantage of new opportunities provided by advances in data management and governance across multiple sectors.”

Professor Brian Fitzgerald, Director of Lero, the SFI Research Centre for Software, said: “World-class research is urgently

required to ensure that this transformation truly empowers individuals and that organisations can offer individuals transparency and accountability of their ‘shared’ data.”

Professor Vincent Wade, Director of the ADAPT Centre for AI-Driven Digital Content Technology said: “We live in a world where people are anxious about how their data is used and rightly concerned that it is not misused, yet wish to benefit from a digitally enhanced living and working world. In ADAPT we are applying our expertise in AI and data governance to research technology to address the worldwide problems of data control and privacy, in partnership with some of Ireland’s leading research centres. Empower is an international game changer, a flagship research and industry innovation programme that develops techniques and technology for protecting your data, and crucial information. As part of the Empower programme, ADAPT is committed to supporting the research spectrum from Ethics to AI-driven technology so that we all have the necessary protection and security in a 21st century technological world.”

Professor Noel O’Connor, CEO of the Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics, said: “Given its value to society, data is often referred to as the new oil. Like oil, it needs to be refined, which is the role of data governance, ensuring that the highest quality data is available as the basis for making important decisions. Unlike oil, the amount of data in the world continues to grow, presenting ongoing challenges for citizens, governments and industry. Empower is a critical national initiative that ensures Irish research leaders in data governance are at the forefront of addressing these challenges.”

Professor David Henshall, Director of the SFI FutureNeuro Centre for chronic and rare neurological disease based at RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences said: “As a health-focused research centre, we welcome Empower as a national forum to drive the safe and ethical use of health data. The forum will create a community of interest, bringing together healthcare consumers, patient groups, clinicians, health policy-makers and managers, academic researchers, industry partners and data protection regulators.

The launch of Empower is an important milestone to facilitate collaborative, transparent and citizen-centric opportunities that will support continuous improvement in health diagnostics, therapeutics and models of care for the benefit of society.”

### **About Empower:**

The vision for Empower is to develop a global data ecosystem that will effectively govern the vast amounts of data that move among actors within complex global information supply chains. The research will advance an alignment between business goals and societal needs to develop methodologies and tools addressing challenges around key areas such as reliability/reproducibility, privacy, provenance, consent, explainability, inclusiveness and avoidance of unfair bias. [www.empower-datagovernance.ie](http://www.empower-datagovernance.ie)

Empower is supported through the SFI Spokes Programme. This programme is a vehicle to enable the addition of new industrial and academic partners and projects to a SFI Research Centre, so allowing the Centre to expand and develop in line with new priorities and opportunities. It is expected that the Spokes Programme will enhance the ability of SFI Research Centres to deliver significant economic and societal impact for Ireland. The Spokes programme also provides a vehicle to link together different Research Centres, in a meaningful and relevant way. As part of the SFI Spokes Programme, a mechanism designed to support SFI Research Centres to work together on projects of strategic national value, these are funded equally by industry and the Exchequer. Empower can leverage the expertise from the Centres, forming a unique hub of knowledge, likely to position Ireland as the leader in AI-driven data governance internationally. Empower forms part of Ireland’s National AI Strategy (<https://bit.ly/2ZedgtB>), published in July by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. It is also guided by principles of the European Commission Data Strategy 2020 (<https://bit.ly/3ndI1qq>), which prioritises the development of common European data spaces to allow safe and seamless data sharing between companies of all sizes across the EU.

### **About Maynooth University**

Maynooth University is ranked #1 in Ireland and the only Irish university to be named in in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) 100 Best Young University Rankings. Tracing its origins to the foundation of the Royal College of St Patrick in

1795, Maynooth University was formally established as an autonomous university in 1997. Maynooth is Ireland’s fastest growing university with more than 14,000 students, including almost 1,800 taught postgraduate and professional students and 530 research students.

### **About Lero**

Lero, the SFI Research Centre for Software, brings together expert software teams from universities and institutes of technology across Ireland in a co-ordinated centre of research excellence with a strong industry focus. The Centre is ranked second among software research centres worldwide for citations, and it partners with many of the top technology companies in the world.

Lero’s research spans a wide range of application domains from driverless cars to artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, fintech, govtech, smart communities, agtech and healthtech. Hosted by the University of Limerick, Lero’s academic partners include Dublin City University, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, Maynooth University, National University of Ireland Galway, University College Cork, Munster Technological University, Technological University of the Shannon, Waterford Institute of Technology, Dundalk Institute of Technology and GMIT. [www.lero.ie](http://www.lero.ie)

### **About ADAPT**

ADAPT is the world-leading SFI Research Centre for AI Driven Digital Content Technology hosted by Trinity College Dublin. ADAPT’s partner institutions include Dublin City University, University College Dublin, Technological University Dublin, Maynooth University, Munster Technological University, Athlone Institute of Technology, and the National University of Ireland Galway.

ADAPT’s research vision is to pioneer new forms of proactive, scalable, and integrated AI-driven Digital Content Technology that empower individuals and society to engage in digital experiences with control, inclusion, and accountability with the long-term goal of a balanced digital society by 2030. ADAPT is pioneering new Human Centric AI techniques and technologies including personalisation, natural language processing, data analytics, intelligent machine translation, human-computer interaction, as well as setting the standards for data governance, privacy and ethics for digital content. [www.adaptcentre.ie](http://www.adaptcentre.ie)

### **About FutureNeuro**

FutureNeuro is the SFI Research Centre for Chronic and Rare Neurological Disease, hosted by RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences. Its partner institutions are Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, National University of Ireland, Galway, Waterford Institute of Technology, University College Cork and University College Dublin.

The FutureNeuro objective is to change the patient journey through research informed by the needs of both patients and neurologists. This includes developing rapid and accurate tools for diagnosis, the development of therapies to correct damaged brain networks, technologies to enable patients to monitor their own health and well-being, and linking this to Ireland’s national imaging, diagnostics and eHealth infrastructure.

FutureNeuro connects national and multinational industry with key academics and clinicians based in Ireland’s leading hospitals to provide diagnostic, therapeutic and eHealth solutions. Its projects with industry partners bring diagnostic supports to market, a pipeline of new drugs, and connected health solutions that enable patients to monitor and report their health better than ever before. Visit [www.futureneurocentre.ie](http://www.futureneurocentre.ie) to learn more.

### **About Insight**

The Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics is a joint initiative between Centre leaders DCU, NUI Galway, UCC, and UCD. Insight also has researchers in MU, UL, TCD and the Tyndall Institute. Insight comprises over 450 data and AI researchers across a range of areas from data capture and storage to data mining, analysis and modelling. The sites collaborate in teams of researchers advancing projects in application domains such as Connected Health, Smart Enterprise, Smart Communities and Sustainability. Insight is one of the largest data research centres in Europe and is part of a network of industrial partnerships and European funding collaborations that puts the Centre, and Ireland, at the forefront of AI innovation in the EU. [www.insight-centre.org](http://www.insight-centre.org)



## How to bake Gingerbread Men

### Ingredients

- 1 cup Plain Flour
- 1 tsp Bicarbonate of Soda
- 1 tsp of ground Ginger
- 1 tsp of ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp of cinnamon
- 1 pinch of salt
- 50g unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg - beaten
- pre-heat the oven to 190 degrees C



### Method

- sift the flour, bicarbonate of soda and ground ginger, nutmeg and cinnamon together in a mixing bowl
- chop the butter into small pieces, and rub into dry mixture until the consistency of fine breadcrumbs, then add the sugar and mix together
- mix the beaten egg and add to the mixture, mixing together to form a dough
- Roll out on a floured surface (ensure you flour both the rolling pin and the table very well as this helps when cutting into shapes once rolled) to about 3mm thick, then cut out what ever shapes you want. Put onto a tray lined with baking paper.
- cook for approximately 15 minutes depending on size of biscuit.
- When they are cooked, leave on the baking sheet for a few minutes, then transfer to a cooling rack, and leave to cool completely.

Decorate with icing sugar, sweets or just a good sprinkle of cinnamon sugar.

[www.bbcgoodfood.com/user/214470/recipe/gingerbread-cookies](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/user/214470/recipe/gingerbread-cookies)



## How to make a Christmas Garland

At Christmas time, we all want our homes to look perfect. There's nothing nicer than a natural garland at this time of year and knowing how to make a Christmas garland is a must. You can add to it with traditional festive pieces like pine cones, or even dry oranges just wire them in with a few cinnamon sticks for added holiday scent. You can also use baubles and bows.

**Double up the greenery.** Most pine garlands are too thin to look expensive. It's a simple fix... just wind two or three together for a luxe look and spend plenty of time fluffing out all of the branches.

**Add lights.** String them on thick and try to tuck the wires into the branches as much as possible. If your garland came with lights, you still might want to add more so it's extra bright and twinkly at night. You can use two different types of lights— mix standard lights with larger bulb lights or star-shaped lights. It adds dimension and interest to the finished garland. One other thing to consider with lights is whether your garland will be near a plug. If not, there are lots of battery-operated light strings that will work.

**Add ribbon.** The trick to getting ribbon to look great on a garland is to buy wired ribbon and to use florist wire. Prep your ribbon by twisting an eight inch piece of wire around the ribbon every 12 inches. Then use the florist wire to attach the ribbon to the greenery. You can also add a second, contrasting ribbon.

**Add details.** This is the fun part! Now you get to add all of the cute ornaments, floral picks and other accessories that take your garland to the next level and really make it special. You can use anything you'd like for this part. Just make sure to attach anything breakable securely with florist wire.

[www.thecraftpatchblog.com/diy-christmas-garland/](http://www.thecraftpatchblog.com/diy-christmas-garland/)



## Maynooth Cycling Campaign Notes



### Road Safety

At a recent meeting of Kildare County Council's Strategic Policy Committee, there was a brief discussion about legislation currently going through the Dáil which included the legalisation of e-scooters. Cllr. Joe Neville, Chair of the Committee, expressed concerns which had been raised with him about scooters "killing" elderly people on footpaths. The EU recently publish data on road fatalities, specifically what road users were involved in fatal collisions. In 2019, 33 fatalities occurred as a result of cyclist/pedestrian collisions. However, the real threat to pedestrians is shown by the 4484 fatalities as a result of collisions with a motorised vehicle.

### Aftermath of UN Climate Change Conference - COP26

The UN Climate Change Conference took place over early November. During the first week, there was a lot of news coverage from RTE with the presence of leading politicians from around the world. There was less media coverage during the second week but RTE "celebrated" the reopening of the USA to European travellers with the Ryan Tubridy Show offering the prize of a luxury weekend in New York. It begs the question did anyone in RTE question whether this was an appropriate response to the warnings of climate change at COP26?

### Customer Care (1) at Kildare County Council

Like many other local authorities, Kildare County Council's website offers a centralised email address [customer care@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customer care@kildarecoco.ie) to which the general public can forward queries. They will then ensure that the query is forwarded to the appropriate department/section. Maynooth Cycling Campaign has used this facility on a number of occasions.

One instance was a question to the Public Realm Team on how many projects were they managing and how many involved segregated facilities for cyclists. We had heard that they had approximately 60 schemes of various sizes and at various stages. The purpose of the question was to uncover the extent of "shared space" ie where schemes are designed with cyclists sharing the paths with pedestrians or sharing the road with motorised traffic – both of which suppress the number of cyclists as well as the former annoying many elderly pedestrians. Neither is good international practice.

To be fair, the Public Realm Team is under a lot of pressure to deliver but the question posed was one that could be answered in a single sentence and one to which the Public Realm personnel should know the answer without any research. More than three months and three emails later, Maynooth Cycling is still awaiting a response.

### Customer Care (2) at Kildare County Council

The second instance of contacting Customer Services was in relation to Hayfield. Maynooth Cycling raised the issue of ponding at the main entrance from the Meadowbrook Link Road. To minimise a response to the query, a photograph was attached showing the ponding. Two weeks later, a response was received – the Area Office would send out an overseer to check the location. Maynooth Cycling does not expect the local office to drop all that it is doing in order to prioritise queries from the public. However, if the policy is to send out a letter of acknowledgement, we would expect it to be sent within a day or two.

If responding to a query, we would expect something more informative after two weeks than that an overseer would be sent out to look at the problem. The location is less than a kilometre from the Area Office in Leinster Street and it is likely that staff pass it on a daily basis. We were later informed that it would be "included for routine maintenance" and that "No major works are currently planned". What the relevance of the latter part to the former is anyone's guess. The more important question is why is Kildare County Council carry out the reinstatement works if the problem was caused by a private contractor?

### Joint Policing Committee - Council

Just a reminder that on Monday 6th December there is a public meeting of the Joint Policing Committee in the Glenroyal Hotel at 8:00pm.

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

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





## December Events at **Maynooth** Community Library

For further information contact: [www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](http://www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) Ph: 01-6285530



[facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService](https://www.facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService)



[twitter.com/kildarelibrary](https://twitter.com/kildarelibrary)

### *December Clever Reach*

#### Children

**Saturday 4th December 12.00- 12.45 pm**

**Christmas theme stories and songs in English and Irish with Storyteller Helene Byrne for 5-8 year olds**

Nollaig shona daoibh go léir! Christmas is almost upon us, so join storyteller Helena Byrne for this wonderful show in English agus as Gaeilge, with tales of Christmas adventures, interactive games, treasure hunts agus 'Amhráin Na Nollag' to bring you and your wee ones right into the festive spirit.

Booking required through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/211042623167>.

**Wednesday 15th December 3.30pm – 4.30 pm / Ages 7- 10**

**Christmas at Hogwarts; Craft Session with Maynooth Library on Zoom**

Join Maynooth Library's resident Potterhead for some Hogwarts themed Christmas decorations and cards. Whether you are a Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff or a Ravenclaw, in this session you will get to make a Christmas bauble with your unique decoration and some Hogwarts themed Christmas cards for the loved one or bestie of your choice. Please note that this craft is specifically for library users in Maynooth and nearby as there is a craft pack to collect to take part. The only other thing you will need are some painting supplies. Places are limited so book your tickets now over on Eventbrite! <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/christmas-at-hogwarts-crafts-session-maynooth-library-zoom-tickets-212459350637>

#### Adults

**Wednesday 15th December 11am - 12pm**

**Watercolour Christmas Cards Art Workshop Online**

Join Laura from Florence & Milly for a wonderfully festive watercolour Christmas card painting workshop online on the 15th December at 11am. Let's get in the festive mood and paint together online to create some winter landscapes or Christmas characters. Packs with materials needed for the workshop will be available to collect from Maynooth Community Library before the workshop.

Booking Essential through Eventbrite  
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/212558567397>.

#### Family

**Thursday 9th December 6.00 pm – 7.30pm**

**Family Christmas Treats Demonstration with East Coast Cookery School**

An interactive Zoom Class the whole family will love. Easy step-by-step instruction with a bit of fun and festive treats! Join Tara from East Coast Cookery School for an interactive Zoom Class the whole family will love. Easy step-by-step instruction with a bit of fun and festive treats that you can keep to yourselves or share with family and friends. Receive the recipes, equipment and ingredients list plus Zoom link via email in advance as well as any preparation needed. Approx 1hour long. Booking essential through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/family-christmas-treats-demonstration-with-east-coast-cookery-school-tickets-194997682317>.

#### Adults

**Celebrating December: An evening of sharing poetry.**

**Thursday 2nd December at 6.30 pm, via Zoom.**

Join us for an evening of poetry readings. Some of you may wish to read, and others might like to just listen, while we celebrate December and the season with your favourite poems.

Hosted by Maynooth and Ballitore Libraries.

All welcome. Booking via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/celebrating-december-an-evening-of-sharing-poetry-tickets-187711037767>

**German 'Stammtisch', informal conversation meet-up.**

**Thursday 16th December at 6.30pm, online via Zoom**

Maynooth Library hosts a monthly informal German conversation meet-up, for anyone with an interest in the language and culture in German speaking countries. All levels from learners to native speakers are welcome. For more information please contact Maynooth Library at [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) or 01 6285530. Audience: Adults and Young Adults.

#### Regular Events

**Live Story Time & Sing Along Nursery Rhymes for 2-5-year old's Every Friday 10-10.30am**

Join the Staff of Maynooth Library for some storytelling and nursery rhymes! Please be aware that a parent/guardian must be present for the duration of the event. Booking required through eventbrite.

Friday December 3rd <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/212459320547>.

Friday December 10th <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/212461777897>.

Friday December 17th <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/212471346517>.

**Ciorcal Comhrá san Oíche / Evening Irish Language Conversation Group**

**Tuesday 7th December 7.00 - 7.45 pm / An Mháirt 7ú Nollag 7.00 – 7.45 i.n.**

Beidh Ciorcal Comhrá ar líne thar Zoom ag tosnú ar an Máirt 7ú lá Mí na Nollaig ag 7.00 i.n. Seo deis iontach an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim agus a chleactadh trí chaint agus chomhrá in atmaisféar réchúiseach ó chompond do bhaile féin. Fáilte roimh chách. Má bhíonn suim agat páirt a ghlacadh, cláraigh ag an nasc thíos eventbrite :

nó sheol ríomhphost chuig [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

There will be an online evening Ciorcal Comhrá on Tuesday 7th December from 7.00- 7.45pm. This is a great opportunity to learn and practice Irish through conversation in a relaxed atmosphere from the comfort of your own home. All welcome. If you are interested in taking part, please register at the Eventbrite link below :

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/211075802407>

or email Maynooth Community Library at [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

**Ciorcal Comhrá/ Irish Language Conversation group via Zoom**

**Every Wednesday at 11am / Gach Céadaoin ar a 11 a Chlog.**

Join us online every Wednesday morning at 11am for an informal chat as Gaeilge. If you have a lot of Irish or the cúpla focal, this an opportunity to practice your Irish and learn some Irish all from the comfort of your own home. To register, please call Maynooth Community Library or email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie).

Beidh Ciorcal comhrá ar siúil ar líne via Zoom gach Céadaoin ar a 11 a Chlog.

Má bhíonn an-chuid Gaeilge agat nó an cúpla focal agat, tapaigh an deis seo le do chuid Gaeilge a chleachtadh agus Gaeilge a fhoghlaim as do bhaile féin. Le clárú, cuir ríomhphost chuig [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie). nó cuir glaoch ar 01 628 5530.

**Readers of the Lost Ark Scifi Book club**

**Tuesday 14th December 6.30pm – 7.00 pm**

The Readers for the Lost Ark Scifi book club meet currently online via Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. The December meeting will be on the 14th December 6.30pm. The club will be discussing 'Project Hail Mary' by Andy Weir, author of 'The Martian'. If you are interested in joining please contact Maynooth Community Library on 01 628 5530 or email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)





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

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

This has been a month where significant developments in Transport are occurring. On November 28th Bus Connects was rolled out for customers on the C-Spine. I did a formal submission to the NTA at the public consultation phase and not all of the feedback was taken on board.

Details of all of the new routes are available here: <https://www.transportforireland.ie/c-spine/>

If you access the journey planner section you can plot your route from start to finish here: [Plan A Journey | Transport for Ireland](#)

For the first week of the service, the NTA will have ambassadors on site to deal with any queries that customers might have.

New routes have been added and there is the introduction of a regular night service and a 90 minute fare where you can change buses within that time.

Booklets with further information have been sent to all households. Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

The NTA will be collating feedback and we would ask that people interact with the NTA to advise about how the roll out of the C Spine is working for you.

At a recent briefing with the NTA, I raised the issue of the lack of connection to the Moyglare Road. The W6 which will provide this connectivity is not being commenced for a year to 18 months. I asked the NTA to put on an interim route but the declined to do so.

Insert details of routes from this NTA Booklet / Info

### The new BusConnects network is rolling out in West Dublin and East Kildare

#### Launching November 28, 2021.

C1 and C2: Adamstown Station – City centre – Sandymount.

C3: Maynooth – Leixlip – City centre – Ringsend Road.

C4: Maynooth – Celbridge – City centre – Ringsend Road.

Plus other new services.

#### Operators:

**Dublin Bus and Go-Ahead Ireland.**

#### We are now entering Phase 2 of the Network Redesign

Phase 2, which commences on the November 28, involves the introduction of the C-Spine (C1, C2, C3, C4), route 52, eight peak only routes (P29, X25, X26, X27, X28, X30, X31 and X32) and six local routes (L51, L52, L53, L54, L58 and L59). The Express routes have significant changes, particularly for inbound services.

Two night-time routes (C5 and C6) will also be introduced. These night-time routes will follow a similar routing to the C3 and C4, but will operate via Chapelizod instead of the Chapelizod bypass. The C5 will also serve River Forest and Green Lane. In addition, the C1 and C2 will operate 24-hours a day.

**Phase 2 routes will be operated by Dublin Bus, with the exception of the L51 and L52 which will operated by Go-Ahead Ireland.**

#### Other changes from November 28:

Route 1 will run between Santry and the City centre and will no longer serve Sandymount

Route 26 will be significantly enhanced to ensure capacity for Chapelizod and Islandbridge

Routes 15a, 15b, 15d will no longer operate to Ringsend Road, and will instead terminate/commence at Merrion

#### Definitions:

**Spine:** Spines are very frequent routes made up of individual bus services that are timetabled to work together.

**C1 + C2 + C3 + C4 = C – Spine**  
(C5 & C6 are night-time services only)

#### Radial:

Other city bound services that operate into Dublin City centre. These services are not part of any Spine and operate to their own timetable.

#### Local:

Local routes are services that provide important connections within local areas, linking to local retail centres and to onward transport connections.

Phase 2 is introducing several new local routes for the first time. These will significantly increase bus coverage serving more areas, with better frequency. Brand new links are being introduced around Adamstown Station, Hazelhatch Station, Lucan, Leixlip and Celbridge.

**Routes L51 and L52** together provide a service from Adamstown Station via Dodsboro to Lucan Village and on to either Liffey Valley (L51) or Blanchardstown (L52). This provides a new connection to rail at Adamstown Station and upgrades the current link to Blanchardstown.

**Route L53** will provide a half-hourly service between Adamstown Station and Liffey Valley passing through residential areas in South Lucan including Balgaddy and Fonthill Road.

**Route L54** is new and will serve Leixlip (River Forest), Lucan, Clondalkin and the Red Cow Luas stop.

**Routes L58 and L59** provide a joint service between River Forest and Hazelhatch Station via Leixlip village and Hewlett Packard (L58) or Celbridge (L59). This provides long-requested links to rail at Hazelhatch and the first-ever all-day service in the residential areas of Celbridge.

Route Number (until 27.11.21)	NEW Route Number (from 28.11.21)	Journey Details
1 & 25a	C1	From Adamstown Station via Lucan Road, Chapelizod bypass and City centre to Sandymount
1 & 25b	C2	From Adamstown Station via Lucan Road, Chapelizod bypass and City centre to Sandymount
66	C3	From Maynooth via Leixlip, Lucan Road, Chapelizod bypass and City centre to Ringsend Road
67	C4	From Maynooth via Celbridge, Chapelizod bypass and City centre to Ringsend Road
66x	X25	From Maynooth (Straffan Road) via Green Lane, Leixlip and City centre to UCD
66x	X26	From Maynooth (Straffan Road) via Leixlip to Leeson Street
67x	X27	From Celbridge (Salesian College) via Aghards Road and City centre to UCD
67x	X28	From Celbridge (Salesian College) via Celbridge Main Street to UCD
25x	X30	From Dodsboro via Lucan Village to UCD
66x	X31	From River Forest, via Leixlip and Lucan Village to Earlsfort Terrace
66x	X32	From Hewlett Packard via Leixlip and Lucan Village to Earlsfort Terrace
25d	P29	From Adamstown Station via Newcastle Road, Chapelizod bypass and City centre to Ringsend Road
26	26	Route 26 will be significantly enhanced to ensure capacity for Chapelizod and Islandbridge
66e	52	From Intel via Leixlip, Green Lane, Chapelizod bypass and City centre to Ringsend Road
239	L51	From Adamstown Station to Liffey Valley, operated by Go-Ahead Ireland
239	L52	From Adamstown Station to Blanchardstown, operated by Go-Ahead Ireland
(N/A) New Routes	L53	From Adamstown Station to Liffey Valley via Fonthill Road
(N/A) New Routes	L54	From River Forest to Red Cow Luas via Lucan Village, Balgaddy and Clondalkin
(N/A) New Routes	L58	From River Forest to Hazelhatch via Hewlett Packard
(N/A) New Routes	L59	From River Forest to Hazelhatch via Green Lane

(Continued on page 21)





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

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(Continued from page 20)

## C-Spine – Summary of stops served

### C1:

Dumhach Thrá / Sandymount  
An Baile Gaelach / Irishtown  
Bóthar na Rinne/ Ringsend Road  
Ceantar na nDugaí Theas / South Docklands  
Lár na Cathrach / City centre  
Stáisiún Heuston / Heuston Station  
Seachbhóthar Shéipéal Iosóid / Chapelizod bypass  
Baile Phámar / Palmerstown  
Gleann na Life / Liffey Valley  
Br Bhaile Eoghain / Ballyowen Road  
Br Bhaile an tSionnaigh / Foxborough Road  
Bóthar an Ghrífin / Griffeen Road  
Bóthar an Ghrífin / Castlegate Way  
Stáisiún Bhaile Adaim / Adamstown Station

### C2:

Dumhach Thrá / Sandymount  
An Baile Gaelach / Irishtown  
Bóthar na Rinne/ Ringsend Road  
Ceantar na nDugaí Theas / South Docklands  
Lár na Cathrach / City centre  
Stáisiún Heuston / Heuston Station  
Seachbhóthar Shéipéal Iosóid / Chapelizod bypass  
Baile Phámar / Palmerstown  
Gleann na Life / Liffey Valley  
Br Bhaile Eoghain / Ballyowen Road  
Br Bhaile an tSionnaigh / Foxborough Road  
Bealach Gheata an Chaisleáin / Griffeen Avenue  
Bóthar an Ghrífin / Castlegate Way  
Stáisiún Bhaile Adaim / Adamstown Station

### C3:

Dumhach Thrá / Sandymount  
An Baile Gaelach / Irishtown  
Bóthar na Rinne/ Ringsend Road  
Ceantar na nDugaí Theas / South Docklands  
Lár na Cathrach / City centre  
Stáisiún Heuston / Heuston Station  
Seachbhóthar Shéipéal Iosóid / Chapelizod bypass  
Baile Phámar / Palmerstown  
Gleann na Life / Liffey Valley  
Sráidbhaile Leamhcáin / Lucan Village  
Léim an Bhradáin Stáisiún Dhroichead Louisa / Leixlip  
Louise Bridge Station  
Bealach isteach Intel, Léim an Bhradáin / Leixlip Intel  
Entrance  
Maigh Nuad, an tSráid Mhór / Maynooth, Main Street  
Bóthar Theach Sraifáin / Maynooth, Straffan Road

### C4:

Dumhach Thrá / Sandymount  
An Baile Gaelach / Irishtown  
Bóthar na Rinne/ Ringsend Road  
Ceantar na nDugaí Theas / South Docklands  
Lár na Cathrach / City centre  
Stáisiún Heuston / Heuston Station  
Seachbhóthar Shéipéal Iosóid / Chapelizod bypass  
Baile Phámar / Palmerstown  
Gleann na Life / Liffey Valley  
Sráidbhaile Leamhcáin / Lucan Village  
Cill Droichid / Celbridge  
Stáisiún Mhaigh Nuad / Maynooth Station

For more information please contact:

**Dublin Bus contact details:**

Phone number: 01 873 4222

Email address: [customercomment@dublinbus.ie](mailto:customercomment@dublinbus.ie)

Website address: [www.dublinbus.ie](http://www.dublinbus.ie)

## Maynooth Transport Strategy

### Maynooth Transport Strategy Submission November 2021

#### Background

Over a 20-year period (1996 to 2016), Kildare experienced a 64.8% (+87,512) increase in its population base - the second highest rate in the State. The more recent growth rate (2006 to 2016) of 19.4% is the fourth highest in the State. The Maynooth Municipal District (50,842) is the second highest in the County – with Maynooth Town the fifth largest settlement in Kildare.

The Maynooth Transport Strategy offers Kildare County Council an opportunity to not only identify and examine the current transport issues in Maynooth, but also provide a level of future-proofing in its planning.

#### The Issues

- Members of this branch have voiced significant concerns regarding the usability of Maynooth Town – with shops and services all but ‘out of bounds’ due to the consistent congestion on all roads serving the Town at all times between 8.00am – 8.00pm.
- This leads many to simply avoid the local businesses in the core of the Town, and instead travel to Leixlip / Celbridge and/or Liffey Valley for their custom.
- All public transport services are at their capacity, which adds further pressure on the road network.
- Maynooth is a University Town, and as such this brings heightened levels of congestion at certain times of the year. The Transport Strategy needs to reflect the times of peak issues.

#### The Solutions

- Identifying a series of ways to keep through traffic off the Main St. in Maynooth is imperative. Whilst we welcome the proposed Ring Road development in Maynooth, we would also propose a series of initiatives to be included in this Strategy:
- The Social Democrats Kildare North branch calls on this Transport Strategy to prioritise the development of a ‘Park and Ride’ facility on grounds to the perimeter of the Town to service both the Rail and Bus services.
- The Social Democrats also implores the Strategy to include a proposal to develop a new M4 Motorway Exit between Maynooth and Kilcock to service Maynooth University / Manor Mills / Shopping Centre / Dart+ Traffic. Data from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland website shows an average 34,206 vehicles go through the M4 junction at Maynooth.
- We need to think outside the box when it comes to school traffic – families find themselves in a precarious position where walking/cycling to school isn’t safe, yet taking the car adds to congestion and climate related concerns. We would propose a wrap-around shuttle service for all children and young people serving all schools in Maynooth.
- Safe, segregated pedestrian and cycle infrastructure within the core Town needs to be prioritised, considering schools, linkages to the Royal Canal Greenway and also local businesses.

## Metro

### Delays To Projects Like Metro A Catastrophe For Greater Dublin Area

Our climate action targets cannot be met without these large-scale public transport projects

The delay of Metrolink for at least ten years is a catastrophe for the greater Dublin region and means we are almost assured of missing our climate action targets, according to Social Democrats Transport Spokesperson Catherine Murphy.

“The revised Dublin transport plan will see costs more than

double and a wholesale dumping of previous deadlines for the delivery of critical infrastructure projects like Metrolink and Dart+. This is a catastrophe for the greater Dublin region.

“Between 1996 and 2016, population increases in the greater Dublin area and the commuter belt were largest in Fingal (41%), Meath (40%) and Kildare (39%). The areas which have the greatest amount of residential development, where people are most car dependent, are the areas that are not reflected in this revised plan.

“We need to get real about this. Our climate action targets cannot be met without these large-scale public transport projects. As it stands, the government is making very dishonest announcements at Cop26 – revealing ambitious targets, with no credible way to reach them.

“It is not tenable to say we will meet our targets by motorists swapping from petrol and diesel cars to electric cars. Over €250 million has been spent on Metrolink and the Dart interconnector without delivering anything.

“You can’t keep expanding the footprint of a city, which has happened in the greater Dublin area, without providing the requisite public transport capacity for people to be able to move around, quickly, at scale.”

“These delays are beyond disappointing. They are an abdication of responsibility by the government.”

## Response from NTA re

Catherine Murphy, T.D. Dáil Éireann Kildare Street Dublin 2 -

Dear Deputy I am writing to you concerning the matter you raised in Parliamentary Question No. 207 on 16 November last to the Minister for Transport, which has been referred to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for reply. The NTA Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035 and the National Development Plan 2018-2027, both make provision for the DART+ Programme (previously referred to as the DART Expansion Programme) and identify its south western extent as being the expansion of DART services to Hazelhatch/Celbridge. The current scope of the DART+ South West project includes the completion of four tracking between Hazelhatch and Heuston station.

The project will significantly increase train capacity from 12 trains per hour per direction at present to 23 trains per hour per direction, comprising the existing 12 services plus an additional 11 train services provided by the DART+ South West project. This will facilitate enhanced services at Sallins without the extension of the without the extension of the current DART+ Programme beyond Hazelhatch. The NTA recently published a draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2022-2042 for public consultation purposes. The draft document proposes to extend DART services to Sallins in the longer term. While further extensions of DART services may be considered in the future, these are outside of the current scope of the DART+ South West project. Therefore, to avoid delaying the Page 2 of 2 progression of the current proposals, the feasibility of the extension of DART services beyond Hazelhatch would be assessed and evaluated as a potential follow-on project at a later date.

## Passport

Over 300 temporary staff will be recruited between November 2021 and January 2022. Combined with recruitment carried out over the last number of months, this will result in an almost doubling of total staff numbers over a six month period, i.e. an increase from 463 to 920 by February next year. These increased staff levels will have a direct positive impact on improving processing times in 2021/22, particularly for First Time Applicants and applications for children.

This is in addition to a new office space that has been secured in North County Dublin for 140 staff from 1 December 2021. Measures have also been taken to allow increased numbers of staff to safely work on site in all passport offices.

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

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I would ask colleagues to urge citizens and parents applying for passports for themselves or for their children, particularly for first time passports, to ensure that they apply online in plenty of time. In the case of people planning to travel in 2022, whose passports are already out of date, I encourage them to apply now online. <https://passportonline.dfa.ie/Apply/Passport>

**For urgent passport enquiries, please book an appointment here: [Irish Passport Service \(dfa.ie\)](https://passportonline.dfa.ie/Apply/Passport)**

### **Urgent Passport Appointment Service Fee Schedule**

Total fee payable equals the Appointment Service

Fee **plus** the Passport Book Fee

[Appointment Service Fee](https://passportonline.dfa.ie/Apply/Passport)

Same-Day Turnaround Service Appointment Fee€150

Four/Five-Day Turnaround Service Appointment Fee€75

[Passport Book Fee](https://passportonline.dfa.ie/Apply/Passport)

Adult Passport Fee€95

Child Passport Fee€45

### **Terms and Conditions apply**

Please note that for the Same-Day Turnaround Service:

- your name must match that on your previous passport
- where the application is for a child, all of the child's guardians must be present for the appointment

### **Foreign Birth Registration**

Separately, I wish to inform you that as of Monday, 15th November, the processing of Foreign Birth Registration applications has resumed on a phased basis.

As you may be aware, operations at the Passport Service were severely disrupted by public health restrictions brought about by the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. During this period, Foreign Birth Registration staff were reassigned to assist in the delivery of essential services. Unfortunately, this resulted in a pause in overall Foreign Birth Registration processing. Throughout the pandemic, staff continued to provide an emergency service for Foreign Birth Registration in cases of exceptional urgency, such as expectant parents, or stateless persons. Over 5,000 such emergency Foreign Birth Registration applications have been processed to date in 2021.

Foreign Birth Registration applications on hand are now being processed in strict order of date of receipt. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the processing time for Foreign Birth Registration applications stood at approximately 2 years. The processing time is expected to remain at 2 years due to the number of applications currently on hand as a result of Brexit and the rigorous validation process which citizenship applications undergo.

### **Update on the Maynooth Greenway**

or Written Answer on : 24/11/2021

Question Number(s): 53 Question Reference(s): 57840/21

Department: Transport

Asked by: Catherine Murphy T.D.

### **QUESTION**

To ask the Minister for Transport the date on which work will commence on the Leixlip to Maynooth section of greenway in view of the fact that it was due to commence in Q4 2021 and the estimated duration to completion and opening.

### **REPLY**

As Minister, I have responsibility for the policy and overall funding in relation to Active Travel. The National Transport Authority, meanwhile, has responsibility for the allocation of funding to specific projects and oversight of their development, in cooperation with the local authorities themselves.

Noting their responsibility in this area, I have forwarded your question to the NTA for a more detailed reply. Please advise my private office if you do not receive a reply within 10 working days.

### **Vulnerable adults waiting up to 18 months for safeguarding assessment**

Almost 500 vulnerable adults are awaiting assessment from the HSE's safeguarding and protection team, it has emerged.

The HSE has confirmed a backlog across parts of Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow means some residents of disability and older persons' services have been waiting since March of last year to have their safeguarding plans reviewed. The figures were released to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy, who had asked for details relating to the current backlog of unreviewed safeguarding concerns in respect of the abuse of adults.

The HSE confirmed that one HSE region, CHO7, has a backlog with 499 people awaiting review.

Ms Murphy hit out at the "postcode lottery" to which patients and vulnerable people are subjected in accessing services and assessments depending on where they live in the country.

"There's an issue that needs to be dealt with nationally, rather than just one area, to make sure that there's a consistency of service.

We've been calling for an objective resource allocation rather than this postcode lottery, where over years we have seen in one place there is a two-month queue for something, and in another place it's a two-year wait. It can't just be about being unlucky, there is either a national service provided or there isn't."

Responding to Ms Murphy's parliamentary question, Tim Hanly, general manager of the HSE's National Safeguarding Office, said work to address the backlog that developed in CHO7 was under way and additional resources had been allocated to assist with this.

"In addition, current concerns are being processed in a timely manner with work on the backlog happening simultaneously."

However, Ms Murphy said: "Essentially, there isn't a service there, that's the only conclusion you can read into this. This is an example of the postcode lottery. You can't say that there is a national service being provided by the HSE when there's such a big gap."

Mr Hanly said safeguarding preliminary screenings are submitted by designated officers within each residential setting to the HSE safeguarding and protection teams for oversight.

"Where there is an outcome of reasonable grounds or further information required, each service would also submit a safeguarding plan which is then also oversight reviewed by the HSE safeguarding team.

"The safeguarding plans are considered on a triage priority basis and currently one safeguarding team in CHO7 has a backlog of safeguarding plans for review," he confirmed. Separately, Sinn Féin health spokesperson David Cullinane has called on the Government to urgently advance adult safeguarding legislation and amendments to the Patient Safety Act, to mandate reporting of suspected abuse and to introduce safeguards to prevent abuse of adults in vulnerable situations.

He also wants to ensure there is accountability for organisations and management that fail in their statutory duty to protect patients.

"From Leas Cross and Áras Attracta, to the Brandon case in Ard Greine, and the ongoing investigation into the Grace case, we are unfortunately all too familiar with cases of abuse, neglect, and dereliction of duty in the health and social care system," he said.

To ask the Minister for Health the number of palliative care teams and staff by CHO area. Dear Deputy Murphy, The Minister has requested the HSE to respond directly to you. Apologies for the delay in my response which is as follows:-Please see the table below for the information as requested. CHO Number of Specialist Palliative Care Community Teams Total Number of Whole Time Equivalents i.e.

Every region within the country has access to a Specialist Palliative Care Community Team. Teams within CHOs are organised in a variety of ways including geography, population clusters, proximity to acute or community services and/or the location of local palliative care outreach bases. Some Teams cover a whole county whereas in other areas they cover part of a county. Although the number of teams in each CHO varies his has no bearing on access to care.

The number of posts rather than staff has been provided as some posts are shared by staff members working part-time/ reduced hours.

Submission Dart+ West Catherine Murphy TD - Aidan Farrelly MCC - Nuala Killeen MCC Social Democrats – Kildare North The Social Democrats welcomes the DART+ West project which entails the electrification of Maynooth/Parkway Lines. We acknowledge the longer-term benefits of this project in terms of increasing the frequency of trains and changing the power source to electricity. It is essential this project incorporates the full potential of the upgrade and that challenges during construction phase are fully understood and disruption is minimised. Cope Bridge - Leixlip Cope Bridge is in the Confey Area of Leixlip. The bridge is a single carriageway controlled by traffic signals. The provision of a footpath necessitated this approach as a temporary measure in the 1990's and widening of the bridge has been a policy of Kildare County Council since then.

The 2017-2023 Leixlip Local area Plan identified a significant land bank in this area with the potential to accommodate 1,765 residential units. 12.7 of the Local Area Plan states: These lands present considerable opportunities for a new residential and community neighbourhood with supporting social infrastructure. The lands are strategically located near the Dublin-Sligo rail line and near the M4 and M3 motorways. Whilst this area presents significant opportunities for the future development of Leixlip, careful consideration must be given to the overall design. Therefore, in order to ensure that any future development is carried out in a sustainable manner an Urban Design Framework (UDF) has been prepared (refer to Appendix A of this plan). This document has informed the zoning of the lands at Confey and acts as the preliminary design guide for the future. The Urban Design Framework includes the upgrading of Cope Bridge. The Leixlip Local Area Plan also seeks to improve access/ egress to and from the train station and the following objective is part of the Local Area Plan. MT2.5 To provide for improved access to Confey railway station in consultation with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Irish Rail supporting the sustainable development of the Confey area. The proposal under Dart+ is to rebuild Cope Bridge as a single carriageway.

Given the level of disruption rebuilding the bridge will cause, the notion that it would remain a single carriageway is completely short-sighted and unacceptable. It is therefore essential that finances are identified to rebuild the bridge to accommodate two traffic lanes together with cycle and footpath facilities. During Construction Significant traffic volumes are evident particularly at morning and evening peak's but also throughout the day. It is essential that a traffic management system is put in place for the duration of this project. It is also essential that a strict timeframe for completion of this project once commenced is put in place

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and is part of any tender process. Consideration needs to be given to temporary pedestrian access to Confey GAA club which are essential facilities for the population of the area.

The Cemetery is located opposite the GAA club and caters for the whole Leixlip area, funeral arrangements during the time the bridge is out of commission needs sensitive and careful consideration as does access generally to the cemetery. Louisa Bridge A traffic management plan needs to be put in place for the duration of the enabling works at the bridge. It is acknowledged the extent of works required here are not extensive. Collinstown/Blakestown

The Leixlip Local Area Plan 2017-2023 includes the following objectives: MT2.6 To investigate the feasibility of local Park and Ride facilities in Leixlip in line with the principles set out in Section 5.10 of the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016- 2035. MT2.7 To liaise with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to consider the potential for the provision of a new railway station and strategic park and ride facility on lands at Collinstown. MT2.8 To liaise with the NTA to consider the potential for the provision of a new railway station and strategic park and ride facilities on lands at Collinstown. While the development of a new railway station is not part of Dart+ West project, it should be noted that a considerable land bank zoned Industrial/Commercial is located here and a new station should be an objective in this location as should a park and ride facility.

It is essential that sustainable modes of transport are integrated and the proposed removal of the level crossing at Blakestown will particularly impact walkers and cyclists. At the very minimum, a pedestrian bridge should be included as part of the Dart + West project. Concerns regarding the closure of Blakestown level crossing. Requests made for the consideration of a bridge for cyclists and pedestrians that can allow access to the Royal Canal Greenway in line with common cycling and pedestrian amenity routes in the town. Residents are opposed to the closure of XG014 Blakestown. The initial traffic assessment was undertaken in February 2019, a low season for pedestrians.

Closing the level crossing will increase the trips taken by car in duration and distance for many and this is not good for traffic levels overall in the area. The retention of this level crossing at Blakestown will have the least impact on the aim of DART+ West while relieving traffic congestion in the surrounding road network. Blakestown has the least number of closures of all level crossings selected in tables 3.4 and 3.4 of the technical Report. Option Selection Report - Volume 2: Technical Report (dartplus.ie) The closure times for Blakestown are also very low with under 24 minutes and 22 minutes respectively as per table 8-38 and 8-39. In the above Option Selection Report – Volume 2 Technical report item 3.5.3 Pedestrian and Cycle Counts demonstrates low pedestrian and cycle count numbers in Table 3-2. The count was undertaken on Tuesday 5th February 2019 between 07:00 to 10:00 in the AM, and 16:00 to 19:00 in the PM. This time period would indicate typically low usage due to the time of year and the cold weather on the day and the darkness of the afternoons and mornings at that time of year.

Since COVID 19 the level crossing usage has increased by a large margin and is now utilised by many more people walking and cycling to the areas of Leixlip and Maynooth. As you can see from the technical report it leads on to a large and busy interchange at Intel and enters on to the main road towards Maynooth and Leixlip which is incredibly busy at peak times. There is an additional housing estate at Westfield which is now mostly occupied, and another strategic housing development is planned for the Kilmacraedock area at Leixlip Gate. This will require residents have access to social infrastructure and amenities. The technical report at 5.6.10 indicates this is a mostly

rural area but does not include the linkage to populated areas and the planned future growth in residential units proposed for the adjacent sites. The “Do Minimum scenario” for level crossings considers the closure of the crossings with no alternative access provided and all traffic would be diverted to alternative routes around the crossing location including new expected traffic from the new housing developments. The Do Minimum option exhibits significant advantage as this option involves minimal initial investment and ongoing cost. – Where these assessments are underpinned by the cost of the interventions and not what is best for the people of Leixlip and future housing developments. See below 8.8.4.2.1

Economy Option 1 is rated Significant Disadvantage over the Do Minimum as it requires investment in physical infrastructure and commitment to ongoing inspection and maintenance costs associated with the proposed bridge. Such costs are not associated with the Do-Nothing Option. As part of the preferred option for the electricity substation at Blakestown it is indicated in Figure 5-32 indicates the requirement to create a road access from the existing road. The retention of the current road option would be more amenable to the needs of the community. (from technical report) 8.8.3.3.2 Integration the Do-Nothing option is rated as Some Disadvantage.

In terms of the Land Use Integration criteria, it would not support the Kildare County Development Plan Transport Objective PT07 which seeks to promote and support the upgrading of the Maynooth line and the Leixlip LAP 2020-2023 recognises the level crossing will be required to be removed therefore this option would not support these objectives or the DART+ Programme. The Do Minimum option and Option 1 are rated as Some Advantage as they would support the delivery if the DART+ Programme which is contained in the higher level national and regional planning policy documents. Both the Do Minimum option and Option 1 will reduce local permeability and reduce access to the Royal Canal Cycle Route. However, due to the Land Use Integration criteria, these options are the preferred options to consider in the MCA2 assessment 8.8.3.3.4

Accessibility and Social Inclusion Option 1, the pedestrian / cycle bridge with reduced diversion and designed to accommodate vulnerable users is rated Some Advantage as it maintains access to community facilities. All other options are rated Some Disadvantage as they effectively sever this access. The principal affected amenities in the vicinity of the level crossing include JM Motors south of the railway, the Business Barn, Intel and Jones Engineering Group, north of the railway. 8.8.3.3.5 Safety the Do-Nothing option is rated Significant Disadvantage as it does not secure removal of the level crossing from the railway network. The Do Minimum is rated Some Advantage as it diverts vulnerable road users onto longer more circuitous routes. The numbers affected are very low. Option 1 is rated Significant Advantage it provides local access for non-motorised users although it diverts vehicles onto longer more circuitous routes.

8.8.3.3.6 Physical Activity the Do Nothing and Do Minimum Options are rated Significant Disadvantage due to the curtailment of access over the canal and railway associated with them. Option 1 with reduced diversion and designed to accommodate vulnerable users is rated Significant Advantage as it maintains access to amenity spaces. The principal affected amenities in the vicinity of the level crossing include the Royal Canal and the agricultural zoned lands south of the level crossing. 5.6.10

Blakestown Electrical Substation The power study determined the requirement for an electrical substation in Blakestown, between Maynooth and Leixlip (Louisa Bridge) stations. See Figure 5-30 for an aerial view of the study area. Collinstown Industrial Park is located to the north of the study area. This area also includes residential

properties. South of the railway are the areas of Kilmacraedock, Grangewilliam and Glen Easton. In this area, both margins of the Royal Canal are connected via Deey Bridge. There is a level crossing over the railway at Blakestown, it is intended the level crossing will be removed as part of the project. The R148 runs east west along the northern extent of the study area. The area south of the railway is served by the R449 and the local road network which links to the both the R148 at Pikes Bridge and the R449. Most of the area of study is rural in character, with residential properties dispersed throughout. The assessment documents conclude that only closing Blakestown Level crossing and doing nothing will cost the project the least. This is the very basis of the decision and harms the access to historical and amenity sites and the permeability of the area. Proposed new residential at Leixlip Gate Adjacent to the site is a proposed strategic housing development at Leixlip Gate construction of 239 no. residential units (136 no. houses, 103 no. apartments), creche and associated site works.

Planning permission was granted with particular focus on the implementation of sustainable transport for residents and the development of cycling and walking infrastructure to enhance the development. Prior to the opening/ occupation of the Leixlip Gate development, a Mobility Management Strategy is required to provide for incentives to encourage the use of public transport, cycling, walking and carpooling. Closure of public access at Blakestown to the Royal Canal will impede this. In relation to S.37(2)(b) (i) the development is strategic in nature, as per the definition of Strategic Housing Development, as set out in section 3 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016. The proposed development is of strategic importance to the development of Leixlip in line with national policies to provide for compact growth within the Dublin MASP, and in proximity to public transport. Nearby to the road is the Historical entrance for Leixlip residents to Castletown House, the only Palladian mansion in Ireland. Adjacent is a famine project, Connolly's Folly.

The Level crossing is also part of the Famine way and leads on to the Canal an amenity that is due to be significantly upgraded as an amenity. Parking and Cycling The entire project needs to factor in facilities for cyclists this should include ease of access to stations, including from over bridges and places to safely park bicycles. Adequate car parking at railway stations is essential if commuters are to mix modes and reduce the dependence on the car. In the absence of car parks being provided significant nuisance parking occurs in the vicinity of train stations, this is particularly evident in locations where inadequate provision is made such as Confey and Maynooth Train Stations. Maynooth Railway Station Enabling works for Dart+ West at Maynooth Railway station needs to take account of the lack of alternative routes available. At detailed design and tender phases minimisation of disruption must be a central feature and careful timing of works must be considered in that context. The inclusion of a substation at the station will mean the loss of a small number of cars parking spaces as far as possible the number should be minimised. Because there are more frequent services to and from Maynooth than are available in Kilcock or Enfield, Maynooth is the chosen station of a wider catchment; this puts pressure on the limited number of car parking spaces.

**New Depot** The proposed new depot between Maynooth and Kilcock should be considered for a new station which could also accommodate large park and ride facility to serve the wider catchment. Sub Stations Where sub-stations are required sensitivity with respect to visual appearance and noise when such facilities are to be located in proximity to existing homes. River-forest in Leixlip is a case in point. M4 Traffic Counts / Congestion Between

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Maynooth and Kilcock Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Official data sourced from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Website shows a significant incremental increase in ADT between Junctions 9 Enfield, Junction 8 Kilcock and Junction 7 Maynooth on the M4. Enfield Kilcock Maynooth 2021 22,192 32,496 47,126 2020 19,432 31,877 42,333 2019 29,452 46,458 59,305 Between Junction 8 Kilcock and Junction 7 Maynooth 14,000+ additional vehicles are counted on the M4 in 2021.

This further supports the evidence of need for including the extension of the Dart+ West line to Kilcock at this point. We believe these statistics evidence an opportunity to remove a significant level of traffic congestion between Kilcock and Maynooth by extending the Dart+ West line. Extend Dart+ West to Kilcock The population of Kilcock has quadrupled since 1991 with growth accelerating in recent years.

According to the most recent census taken in 2016, the population of Kilcock stands at 6,093. Since 2016, several large new housing estates have been added with more under construction, and this figure is presumed to have increased significantly at the time of writing, to be confirmed in the 2022 census. The current proposal is to develop a new Dart Depot between the Kilcock and Maynooth Rail Stations. This proposal as planned will represent a missed opportunity in delivering a Station at the

Depot. Located a matter of metres from Kilcock, we believe it makes sense to plan for the inclusion of a station at the Depot.

This site should provide for a motor vehicle and bicycle parking solution to dramatically reduce the congestion at Maynooth Station, whilst offering the people of Kilcock the opportunity to utilise Dart services. Whilst the dual line is 2.75km from Kilcock station, the proposed Depot is located metres from the nearest housing estate in Kilcock. In view of the proximity to a residential area, the proposed Depot should undergo an impact assessment in the context of artificial light, noise and the hours of operations at the Depot.

Further to the above, it makes little sense to bring the line this far, without either: • Extending the dual line to Kilcock Station • Developing the Dart Depot with capacity to include a Station and Park & Ride facility. No engineering studies have occurred to consider the inclusion of Kilcock in this project, and we call for an Engineering feasibility assessment to be undertaken and this extension must come within the scope of this project. We estimate the approximate costs of including the dual line to Kilcock to be in the region of €1million per kilometre of track, a modest sum in the context of the budget for this project. We believe the proposals as outlined never considered Kilcock, but there's ample evidence to suggest now is the right time to include

Kilcock; from a financial and forward planning perspective, this should happen.

### Local News

#### ABP Decision in Maynooth

We welcome the condition attached to the Cairn Homes site in Maynooth by An Bord Pleanála recently, stipulating against institutional investors from buying bulk units at this development. Cllr Aidan Farrelly was the first to raise the issue of Mullen Park in Maynooth at Kildare County Council meetings, which had seen potential first time buyers being prevented from purchasing homes in this development. With such large scale development taking place in Maynooth and right across the County, it's important that these developments are available for affordable purchase by individuals and families seeking to live in the community.

#### Communication Boards

Cllr Aidan Farrelly has secured Local Property Tax funding for the installation of Communication Boards in playgrounds across the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District. Communication boards are a wonderfully inclusive medium for children to communicate with their peers through pictures. This project is currently at design stage, and it is hoped the signs will be installed in early 2022 in the playgrounds throughout the District.

### CHRISTIAN FAITH

I was about eleven or twelve when one November I was kept at home from school to pick the potatoes. We sold tons of potatoes back then so there was a great lot of them to be dug and picked. My father and my brother were the diggers and they didn't go out of their way to make it any easier for me. On the first day my father started digging at one of the field and if he did my brother started digging at the other. It was roughly a seven-score field, about 140 yards, and myself and the ass and cart had to traipse from one end of the field to the other to try and keep up with the pair. Fathers and grown up sons don't always work happily side by side!

Anyway we got the job done in about a fortnight or three weeks. Two-and-a-half acres, maybe, yielding about 30/40 tons of potatoes, every single one of which I had to handle. On the final day, with the last pit neatly covered with straw and clay, a method of storing potatoes well known to Patrick Kavanagh, my brother was first out the gate of the field and my father and I left together. He closed the gate and having secured it with whatever hoop was assigned to the job, he leant on the top spar and looking back over the field of brown clay and pits the words came from his heart: "What the hell is the use of it all?". My heart sank into my boots. I thought we had done a great job and I had played a notable part in it and now my father had rubbished the lot!

He was considered by all, I'm sure, to be an upstanding Catholic/Christian man, who wouldn't miss Sunday Mass if all the world were to fall in on top of him. But where was his «faith» that day? Or on any one of the other days when he said the same thing with no human ear recording his near despair? I wonder had he ever heard a homily on the purpose of human life and the nearness of God to each and every one?

Christian faith should be a vibrant influence on Christian lives. It is meant to colour everything one does as the sun transforms everything it shines on and everything should be seen in the light of Jesus' words: "I am the way, the truth and the life". The disciples on the road to Emmaus said that their hearts had been burning in their encounter with Jesus at the inn. Is that just an ancient, nice story? Is it not for today, for now, for moments when life's meaning is hard to fathom?

Christmas is an ideal time to enrich that faith. Not the Christmas of the major retail stores, but the Christmas of Luke and Matthew. They both recorded for the world the stupendous event of the birth of the Godman. God, who exists an eternity before the Big Bang which scientists tell us occurred 3.8 billion years ago, became one of us to formally introduce Himself to us, remind us of our divine origin and show us emphatically how much he is on our side. The next few weeks is the time to focus on that solid truth and put Christ back at the centre of Christmas!

GM.

## Maynooth Community Employment Project

## Secretarial Services

**Unit 10, Tesco Shopping Centre  
Maynooth  
(Beside Coyne's Butchers)**

**Tel: 01 6285922**

**Email: office@maynoothcep.com**

**Opening Hours for Public  
Monday—Friday  
9.00am – 4.30pm**

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## Christmas Potpourri

Make your home smell like Christmas all season long with homemade potpourris. There is no better combination than citrus and cranberry mixed with cinnamon and spices.

### Ingredients you can use for Christmas Potpourri

- Ginger fresh or ground
- Cloves
- Dried apple rings or slices
- Pine sprigs; clip a few from the base of your Christmas tree!
- Dry orange slices/lemon peel/grapefruit peel
- Small pine cones (painted or sprayed gold)
- Dried small crab apples
- Dried rosehips
- Dried acorns
- Cinnamon sticks
- Whole star anise
- Sparkly, red or gold decorations
- Cranberry



### Dry Potpourri

Make sure that everything is perfectly dry before you start mixing the ingredients together. As the fragrance starts to fade, add a few drops of your favourite oil to the mix and sprinkle some water on it and this refreshes the dry potpourri and carries on releasing fragrance.

To make the Christmas potpourri extra special, add few small Christmas tree ornaments, baubles or some glitter.

### Instructions

Slice the oranges, apples lemons or other fruits into medium to thin slices. Place the slices on a cooling tray set over oven baking tray and dry in the oven for 2-4 hours on about 100C. or you can dry them next to warm radiators. Just make sure you place them on something like a thick paper towel or baking cooling tray. Turn the slices of fruit regularly.

### To make the Christmas Potpourri

Gather all the potpourri ingredients and mix them carefully together. Place in a decorative bowl and display in the room.

Extra tip – if you have a golden colour spray, you can paint the cinnamon, orange or the star anise in gold to add a festive colour.

If you're giving your Christmas potpourri as a gift, arrange it in a pretty cellophane bag or jars and tie with a colourful ribbons and your personalised Christmas tag.

## Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad Comórtas Díospóireachta Uí Chadhain

The first round of Comórtas Díospóireachta Uí Chadhain, a debating competition for gaelcholáistí and gaeltacht post primary schools, took place on the 21st of October at 5pm in the Louis Fitzgerald in Dublin.

Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad debated against Gaelcholáiste an Phiarsaigh, Coláiste Íosagáin and Coláiste de hÍde and they progressed to the next round alongside Coláiste Íosgáin.

The team were against the motion " Ba cheart cosc a chur ar mhúinteoirí obair bhaile a thabhairt do dhaltai bunscoile"/Teachers should be banned from giving homework to primary school children.

The team, consisting of Caoimhe Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh, Niamh Másún, Aoibhinn Ní Chonalláin and substitutes Richard Ó Beacháin and Emma Ní Mhaonaigh, debated excellently and were delighted when it was announced that they had succeeded in progressing to the next round.

This is the first year that Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad has entered the competition and the school were very proud of the team for getting through.



Left to right: Niamh Másún, Caoimhe Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh, Aoibhinn Ní Chonalláin and their teacher Ciana Ní Tharlaigh.

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## The Legend of Robin Redbreast

The Legend Of Robin Redbreast is from A Christmas Stocking by Louise Betts Egan. It tells the story of how the robin got his red breast after burning himself on a fire he fanned to keep the baby Jesus warm.

Another legend says that the robin's breast is red because of his association with Christ's death and crucifixion. When Jesus was on the road to Calvary it is said that a robin plucked a thorn from Christ's temple and a drop of Jesus' blood fell on the robin's chest, turning it red.

On that first Christmas, it is said, the night was wrapped in a bitter chill. The small fire in the stable was nearly out, and the Mother Mary worried that her baby would be cold. She turned to the animals about her and asked them for help.

"Could you blow on the embers," she asked the ox, "so the fire might continue to keep my son warm?"

But the ox lay sound asleep on the stable floor and did not hear her. Next, Mary asked the donkey to breathe life back into the fire, but the sleeping donkey did not hear Mary either. Nor did the horse or sheep. She wondered what to do.

Suddenly, Mary heard a fluttering of little wings. Looking up, she saw a plain, brown-coloured little robin fly into the stall. This robin had heard Mary calling to the animals

and had come to help her himself. He went over to the dying fire and flapped his wings hard.

His wings were like little bellows, huffing and puffing air onto the embers, until they glowed bright red again. He continued to fan the fire, singing all the while, until the ashes began to kindle.

With his beak, the robin picked up some fresh, dry sticks and tossed them into the fire. As he did, a flame suddenly burst forth and burned the little bird's breast a bright red. But the robin simply continued to fan the fire until it crackled brightly and warmed the entire stable. The Baby Jesus slept happily.

Mary thanked and praised the robin for all he had done. She looked tenderly at his red breast, burned by the flame, and said "From now on, let your red breast be a blessed reminder of your noble deed."

And to this day, the robin's red breast covers his humble heart.

Source: [www.birdspot.co.uk/culture/the-legend-of-robin-redbreast](http://www.birdspot.co.uk/culture/the-legend-of-robin-redbreast)



## Facts about the Robin Redbreast

The robin is one of Ireland's favourite birds. With its striking red breast the robin is instantly recognisable. The robin is a plump bird with olive-brown upper parts and a white/grey belly. The legs and the beak are brown in colour. The male and female are very similar.

Juvenile robins do not have any red feathers and this may be a defence mechanism against attack from territorial adults. Until they reach adulthood immature robins have speckled buff-brown upper parts and underparts.

Resident robins are joined by immigrants from continental Europe birds from Scandinavia. The visiting robins are generally more pale than Irish residents and they tend to be less tame.



Robins are very territorial right throughout the year round. In the spring and summer this is for breeding purposes. During the rest of the year this is to protect feeding grounds. Robins will vigorously defend their territories to the point of death.

Although the average life span for a robin is just two years the longest lived robin was recorded at eight years and five months in 1977.

The Irish word for robin is Spideog.

A robin's diet is largely based upon insects and worms. They usually swoop down on their prey after watching from a perch or other vantage point. Robins are renowned for following gardeners to pick off larvae and grubs left in the human's wake.

They are also known to have a sweet 'beak' and will relish any confectioneries left out although mealworms are a healthier option. With a little patience robins will learn accept food from the hand.

Both male and female robins command separate feeding territories in the winter and they will defend them. By midwinter robins will have paired-off and will remain together until the following autumn molt.

A robin's nest is made from grass, moss and dead leaves. It will be lined with hair, wool, or any other soft materials. They usually build their nests in a hole in a wall, tree cavity, ivy, or a bank. Notoriously, robins will nest in less orthodox locations including sheds, garages, cars, post boxes and garden barbecues. They have even been known to build a nest in coat pockets. If you wish to encourage robins to nest in your garden use an open-fronted nest box. Robin's eggs are smooth, dull and are white or pale blue with reddish spots. Only the female incubates the eggs however the young are fed by both female and male.

Source: Robin : Irish Bird : Description : Habitat : Feeding : Nesting : Eggs : Range : Ireland (irish-birds.info)

***Our little red-breasted robin signals the coming of spring. The significance of seeing a robin is seen as a sign of new beginnings and renewal. Robins appear spiritually, reminding us to uncover happiness. These red-breasted birds are associated with entering a new chapter in life.***



## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

With Covid numbers increasing as we write these notes times are difficult for everyone and the Band Mass for deceased members was another casualty. Our playing numbers were reduced to just 7 in the Organloft and our Treasurer Miriam doing the readings. Despite the small number involved the music added to the Mass and was really appreciated by everyone both in the Church and on live streaming. Hopefully next year will see our full Band taking part in remembering our deceased members.

At this point in time we have no idea whatsoever if our Christmas Concert, planned for the Glenroyal Hotel at 8pm on Sunday 12th December, will be going ahead but please check for updates on our Facebook page. Something that will be going ahead though are our Christmas collections on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th where we will be shaking buckets to try to fill the holes that we have had to dig to keep the Band running throughout the year.

Having said all that we would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us through their donations at our outdoor recitals during the year as well as buying our CD's and Anniversary Calendars and to remind you that our Christmas CD will be on sale in the Maynooth Bookshop all through December. Finally can we wish our supporters at home and abroad a very Happy, Peaceful and Safe Christmas and hopefully we will see light at the end of the tunnel by this time next year.





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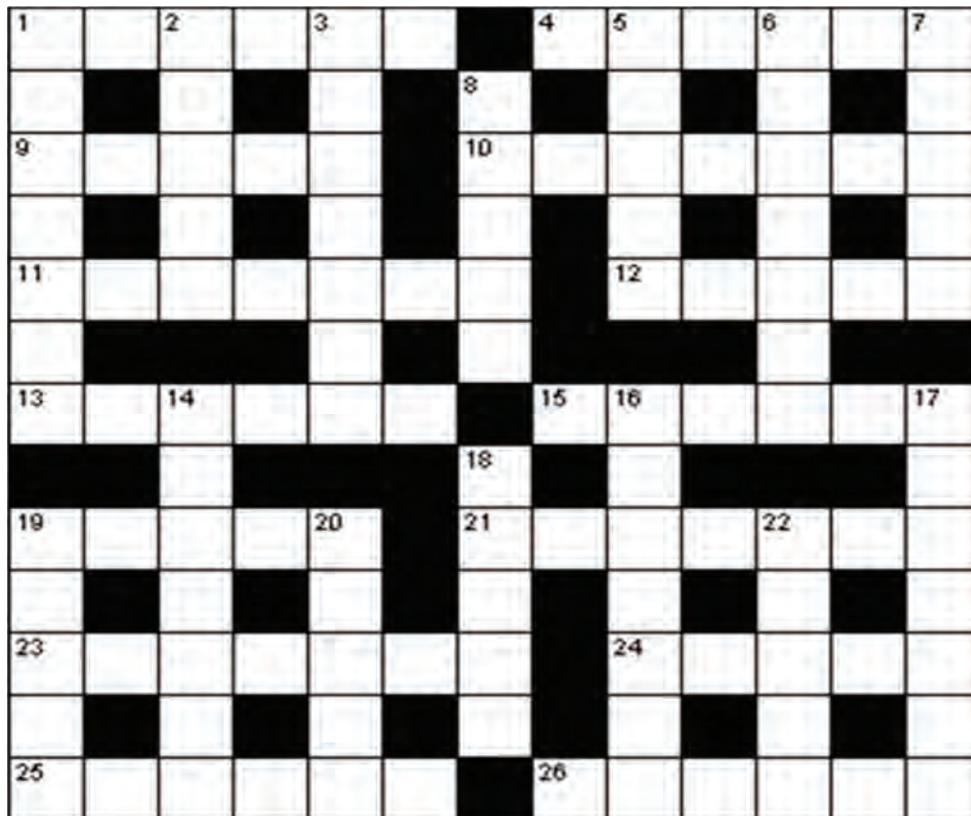
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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area				
Planning Applications received from 28/10/2021 to 29/11/2021 Information from Kildare County Council Website				
App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
21166 9	Kildare County Council	Kevin Farrell,	85 Griffinrath Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	25/11/2021
21163 0	Kildare County Council	MBCC Foods (Ireland) Ltd	Celbridge Shopping Centre, Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.	18/11/2021
21160 7	Kildare County Council	General Paints Limited	Maynooth Road Celbridge Co.Kildare W23 X7R8 AND , the adjacent Burlwood House, Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co.Kildare, W23 Y754	15/11/2021
21158 5	Kildare County Council	Philip Donnelly	18 The Arches, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. , W23 X8H7	08/11/2021
21158 6	Kildare County Council	Peter Robinson	Crinstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	08/11/2021
21155 4	Kildare County Council	Peter Robinson	Crinstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare., W23 A891	28/10/2021



## December 2021 Crossword - No. 508



### Clues Across

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Counting device (6)             | 19. Device in a brass wind instrument (5) |
| 4. A forceful consequence (6)      | 21. Oval (7)                              |
| 9. Deport (5)                      | 23. Slowly moving ice mass (7)            |
| 10. Relished (7)                   | 24. Large artery (5)                      |
| 11. Act of deliberate betrayal (7) | 25. Throws out (6)                        |
| 12. Movable staircases (5)         | 26. Sternutation (6)                      |
| 13. Easily handled or managed (6)  |   |
| 15. Lithe (6)                      |   |

## Solution to crossword No. 507



### Clues Down

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Turned away or aside (7)                | 14. Assemble in proper sequence (7)  |
| 2. Similar (5)                             | 16. Scoundrel (7)                    |
| 3. Kitchen implement (7)                   | 17. Promote (7)                      |
| 5. Commissioned military officer (5)       | 18. Prolonged period of time (5)     |
| 6. Unfathomable (7)                        | 19. Undefined (5)                    |
| 7. Periodic rise and fall of sea level (5) | 20. Live (5)                         |
| 8. Deceive by mock action (5)              | 22. Sum of money offered a prize (5) |

### Difficult

### Sudoku Challenge

### Super Difficult

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

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 current page only.



Junior Puzzle Corner

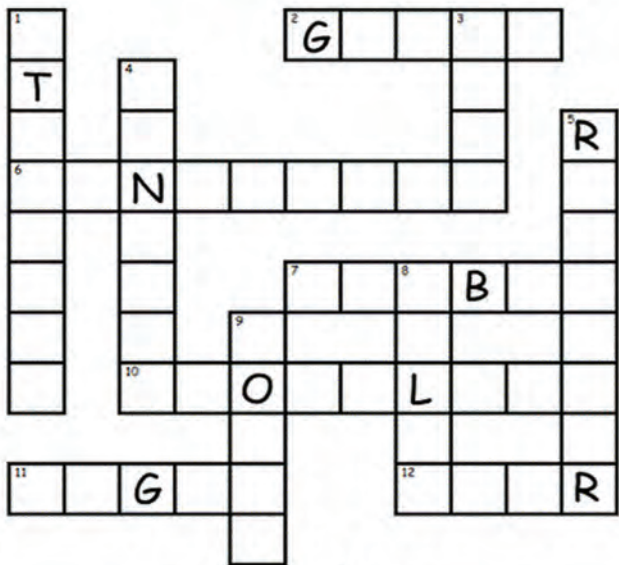


Children's Colouring

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.

'Tis the Season



Across

Down

2.	10.	1.	5.
6.	11.	3.	8.
7.	12.	4.	9.

Santa Strawberries



**Ingredients:**  
1 dozen strawberries  
1 cup whipped cream  
Handful of chocolate sprinkles

**Method**  
Using a paring knife, slice the leafy end off each strawberry so they stand up evenly. Then slice the tip off to make a little hat. **(Adult assistance required)**  
  
Using a spoon or a large icing tip, place a large dollop (about 1-2 tsp) of whipped cream on top of the strawberry base. Plop the little hat on top. Add another small dollop of whipped cream to the tip of the hat to make a mock pom-pom.  
  
Place two chocolate sprinkles in the Santa's "face" for the eyes. Using a toothpick, place two very small splotches of whipped cream down the front of the strawberry for buttons.  
  
You're done! It's that easy. If you don't eat them right away, store them in the fridge to keep them cold. Santa doesn't do well with heat.



## The Gingerbread Man

Once upon a time, in a land like yours and mine, there lived a baker. Her favorite thing to bake was gingerbread cookies. She was a friendly woman, but she had secret routines and some exciting animal friends.

One early morning, as she baked her daily gingerbread, she realized she had more flour, water, molasses, ginger, salt, and spice than she had anticipated. So, she decided to make a special gingerbread man for the local boy Billie to eat. You see, he delivered flour to her every afternoon.

On this day, the baker took a big lump of her smooth brown dough and shaped the gingerbread man's body, adding the silhouette of a neck and a round head on top. She drew on a couple of eyes with thick white frosting for good measure and a mouth.

Billie will surely love this gingerbread man, she thought. Before she placed her cookies in the oven, the baker added legs and arms with extra scraps of dough. She thought the little man might also need fingers and toes. But she had spent so much time adding other details to the gingerbread man that she had almost forgotten to put her cookies in the oven! By the time she got her mitts on and the cookie sheet in hand, the stove was scorching hot!

According to the baker, she thought she had prepared everything. She thought she knew to place the sheet precisely right so that the gingerbread man would have no chance of escaping when she opened the door.

There was magic in the spice, you see. And one had to be very careful when dealing with magic.

"Escape, you won't, little gingerbread man!" the baker cried out as she stared down at the uncooked doughy shapes before her. She giggled and began to sweep the bakery floor.

She swept and swept. She swept so much that she almost forgot to take her cookies out of the oven!

### BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

The lunch bell rang. It was well past time to take out her gingerbread.

"Oh, by golly!" she shouted to no one in particular. The bakery's cat, Bop, peeped his head out from behind a cozy blanket.



Oven mitts thrown on once more, the baker pulled the tray out of the oven. She had her eyes tightly shut, worried that her gingerbread was overcooked. The now-alive gingerbread man, realizing that the woman could not see him for a moment, peered out from his crouching position behind the cookie tray. He squealed.

Leaping from his perch and whizzing past the baker's head, he sang out: "Run, run, run..."

The baker had her eyes sealed shut in preparation for a ruined sheet of cookies. As she opened them to gaze upon her perfect golden-brown desserts, she saw

a flash of spice to her left.

"... As fast as you can..." the baker heard a tiny little voice continue.

It was time for her afternoon nap, you see, and she was exhausted. Luckily, she remembered the gingerbread man she had made for Billie—this surely woke her up.

Once the baker had turned to face the direction of all the commotion, she realized what the matter was: she had let Billie's gingerbread man escape! "I knew it. I knew it!" she shouted. "Bop, chase after the gingerbread man! Get him, get him!" she continued crying.

Bop looked up from his resting spot again, yawned, and stood up. As the cat stretched himself awake, the gingerbread man took his chance to escape through the bakery window and into the side garden. He had noticed a garden path that led somewhere. One giant leap and a cushy cat tail in his sights, the gingerbread man landed right on Bop.

The cat yowled and tensed straight up; the gingerbread man was flung high into the air. He raced out the window, singing:

"You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!"

Now recovering from his injury, Bop shifted slowly towards the garden door. The baker followed suit. She didn't like this commotion, you see, and she didn't want to run. Panting, she opened the door and cried, "Bop, please follow that gingerbread man! Billie mustn't lose his treat!"

Bop dashed out the garden path as fast as his little kitty legs could carry him. The Gingerbread Man was very quick, however, and the cat was soon left in the dust, literally. Coughing and sputtering in the Gingerbread Man's dirty wake, Bop let out a loud "MER-OW," catching the attention of the yard dog, Plop.

Plop was usually known for chasing Bop around. But the sight of the baker in the yard was unusual. Hearing the cat's yelp, the baker's hollers, and the strange

singing of a magical running cookie, Plop began to guess what must be the matter. While the dog had a little more stamina than the baker or Bop, as she saw that magical gleam of spice, she realized she was soon in for a real race.

Plop bounded into action. Bop followed closely behind her, catching the dog's draft and holding speed. The baker, however, was gasping in the distance. She did not like to run.

The Gingerbread Man loved to run. It was his favorite thing to do—all he'd ever known. The Little Man ran and ran and ran as fast as his legs could. He approached a large metal gate crawling with vines, (perfect for a little gingerbread man of his size to scale up).

Scaling up the vines, he peered over his broad-sculpted shoulder and saw the baker far in the distance. But the cat and the dog were now almost at the gate! He gasped!

Bop and Plop approached the gate. They began to yowl and howl. The gate loomed, but neither the cat nor the dog knew the best way to get out, and the Gingerbread Man was getting away.

They saw him leap from the latch to the ground, and as he did so, the lock undid just a bit. Tired of waiting for the baker, who was just now catching up, the cat jumped carefully from the dog's back to the top of the wooden door and, too, leaped off.

The Gingerbread Man fell to the ground and stumbled slightly forwards before keeping on his fast and merry way.

"Run, run, run, as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man," he sang as Bop meowed loudly, attempted to swipe the Man, and chased closely behind him.

The field was vast and dry. Dust flew up, causing quite a stir, and the Gingerbread Man traipsed the area as quickly as his little body could muster. A nearby tree emerged in the distance, and the Man jetted towards it in an instant.

"What is in that magic spice?" yelled the baker to no one in particular. She finally opened the gate for herself and Plop, and they ran together towards the dust trail, moving in the direction of the field willow.

Meanwhile, at a nearby rich man's menagerie, a teeny tiny monkey noticed a cloud of dirt and dust picking up in the baker's field. The monkey sprang herself out of her owner's plot and toward the fast-approaching disturbance.

The Gingerbread Man peered up at the large tree and grabbed hold of a single swaying willow branch. He giggled to himself: "I ran fast! They won't catch me!" He pulled himself high up the tree and leered down at the baker, cat, and dog who were now all gathered beneath him shouting, meowing, and howling.

"I am the Gingerbread Man!" he hollered from above and put his intricate gingerbread hands on his shapely gingerbread hips.

You see, the Gingerbread Man did not know what a monkey was. He quite honestly wasn't too sure what a baker, a cat, or a dog was, either, but he certainly thought he was the only one capable of climbing the large willow tree in the middle of the field.

As the monkey approached the tree, the baker cried out with glee: "Oh, Pip! What a wonderful surprise to see you! Please, can you climb the tree and catch that gingerbread man? We must get that treat for Billie!"

When the Man saw the monkey before him on the highest branch of the tree, he began to tremble just a bit.

I hadn't planned for this, he thought.

The monkey reached out and grabbed the Gingerbread Man. She smiled: this wasn't the first time someone had to catch one of Ms. Pastry's magical creations. The monkey had not expected Billie to have arrived right on-site to see what all the noise was.

"Send the cookie down!" shouted the baker.

"Drop him, Pip!" Billie called out.

Ms. Pastry, Bop, Plop, and Billie rallied below. Pip smiled brightly at them.

Without thinking twice, she dropped the cookie right into Billie's wide chompers! Before the Gingerbread Man could even shout, "I'm one-third, two-thirds, all-the-way gone," Billie had swallowed him up and was dancing with magical delight.







# December Gardening & Tips

## Caring for your Christmas Tree

When you buy your tree, recut the base – otherwise your tree will not take up water. Cut about an inch off the base and immediately place the tree in a stand that can hold at least 1 gallon of water. You should expect your tree to take up extra water. Water the new tree until the uptake stops.



Always keep the base of the tree in water. If the base dries out, resin will form over the end of the tree, preventing it from absorbing water again. Add a few spoons of sugar and it will help hugely! *Leave the faded flower heads* on your hydrangeas until the spring, as they will provide frost protection to the swelling buds further down the stems. If you still haven't planted your tulip bulbs there is still time, provided the ground isn't frozen.

Now is the perfect time to prune fruit trees to maintain an open, balanced structure and encourage quality fruit production. Plums, cherries and other stone fruits should not be pruned until the summer as winter pruning will make them susceptible to silver leaf fungus.

Make sure you use clean, sharp secateurs to avoid damaging your trees.

Avoid walking on your lawn when it is blanketed by heavy frost or snow, as this will damage the grass beneath.

If it's a mild winter, continue to cut the lawn if it's growing, but raise the height of the mower blades.

Choose a dry day to clear out the garden shed in preparation for the spring.

Group potted plants together in a sheltered spot in the garden to give them some protection from the winter weather.

Keep fleece to hand to protect hardy salad crops such as Lettuce 'Winter Gem', winter land cress, purslane, and corn salad on cold nights. Protect any remaining celery plants left in the soil by covering with straw or fleece. Cover heavy clay soil with polythene to keep it drier and allow winter digging.

If you are not quite ready to say goodbye to your Christmas Tree in January why not use it as a natural framework for other plants. A Christmas tree's beautiful conical shape makes it a perfect host for climbing plants such as the Nasturtium and Sweet Peas.



To turn your old tree into a frame for climbers is a really simple task. Simply place your tree in the garden with a stake for support and plant your seeds indoors to grow for a couple of weeks. The seedlings can be then transplanted outdoors at the end of February or early March. They should be planted around the base of your old tree allowing them to use the tree as a support while growing.

Your old Christmas tree provides a natural looking and attractive frame for these colourful plants. You can expect them to flower in June right through until November, and with a choice of many different colours in both plants they are a welcome addition to any garden. As well as this, sweet peas are perfect for cutting and bringing indoors for the summer months to add to your indoor display. You can expect the tree to last at least one and possibly two seasons before it deteriorates.

Fruit Trees: Gather and dispose of any remaining fruits or nuts on trees or the ground beneath them. This reduces pests and diseases next year.

## Layered Holiday Centrepiece

### Materials Needed

- \* One large oval-shaped tray (larger than 14", widest point).
- \* One 14" grape vine wreath.
- \* One pedestal based candle holder and candle.
- \* One cup faux berries.
- \* 5/6 evergreen and pinecone floral picks.
- \* Three Faux flower stems



### Position Wreath on tray - Position Candleholder

Add Evergreen and pinecones inside the wreath, around the base of the candleholder. Place a candle inside the candleholder. Place a cup of faux berries around the candle. Randomly tuck a few faux flowers into the evergreen sprigs around the base of the candleholder.

Wishing you a warm, merry flower-brightened Christmas Day with family and friends....and the promise of good things to come in 2022

## Shortbread biscuits

### Ingredients:

- \* 200g unsalted butter, at room temperature, cut into small cubes
- \* 100g sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
- \* 300g plain flour, sifted, plus extra for dusting



### Method:

1. Preheat oven to 160°C and line a baking tray with baking paper
2. Mix together the butter and sugar, either by hand or using an electric hand whisk, until pale and smooth. Gently mix in the flour until completely incorporated (try not to work the flour too much or the biscuits will not be so crumbly). Using your hands, squeeze the mixture together into a ball of dough.
3. Gently roll the dough out to about 5mm thick (dust the work surface with a little flour if the dough sticks). Cut into shapes using a biscuit cutter. Transfer the biscuits onto the baking tray and chill in the fridge for 15 minutes to rest.
4. Sprinkle each biscuit with a pinch of sugar. Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until pale golden brown.
5. Transfer the biscuits to a wire rack to cool and serve.

### Recipe tips:

- \* You can also roll the dough into a sausage shape, refrigerate until solid and then slice with a knife and bake.
- \* You can also add a sprinkling of your favorite fillings such as chocolate chips, nuts and orange zest for different flavors.

## Roast potatoes recipe

### Ingredients:

- \* 10 large potatoes, peeled and cut into large chunks
- \* 50g vegetable oil
- \* 2 pinches sea salt



### Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C.
2. Simmer the potatoes in a large pan of salted boiling water for 4-5 minutes, or until the outside of the potatoes are begging to soften.
3. Thoroughly drain the potatoes and briefly shake them around in the colander or pan to roughen up the edges.
4. Add the oil in a deep flameproof roasting tray on high heat and fry the potatoes on each side until they begin to brown.
5. Sprinkle with salt, to taste, and roast for 30 minutes, or until starting to color.
6. Turn the potatoes and return to the oven for a further 20-30 minutes, or until golden-brown and crisp.

### Tip:

You can add extra flavor to the potatoes by adding a few whole garlic cloves and sprigs of thyme or rosemary to the roasting tin before they are going in the oven.

## Roasted whole duck (Crispy Skin)

### Ingredients:

- \* Whole duck
- \* Boiling water
- \* 1 Tbsp. Kosher salt
- \* 1 and half tsp. Freshly Ground Black Pepper
- \* 1 tsp. Paprika
- \* 1 Orange, cut in quarters
- \* 1 head garlic, paper removed and top trimmed
- \* 2 celery stalks, cut into big pieces.



### Directions:

1. Start a large pot of water (deep enough for the duck to fit) on the stove, bringing to a rolling boil. Preheat oven to 220°C.
2. Remove giblets and neck from interior. Save them to make the stock. Remove excess fat from body cavity and neck. Rinse duck inside and out under cool running water. Pat duck dry. With a large sharp fork, prick the skin all over being careful not to pierce the meat. Carefully put the duck in the pot of boiling water and boil for 10 minutes. Remove the duck and let cool and pat it dry.
3. Mix the salt, pepper and paprika. Rub the duck inside and out with the spice mixture. Place the duck on a rack in a roasting pan breast side up. Stuff the orange quarters, whole head of garlic and put celery pieces into the cavity of the duck. Fold the neck skin under, covering the cavity and secure with skewer.
4. Place the roasting pan in the oven. After 15 minutes, lower the oven temperature to 180°C. After 35 minutes remove duck from oven. Remove any fat that may have collected. Carefully turn duck over, place back on the rack in roasting pan, and return to oven for 35 minutes. At the end of the 35 minutes, remove duck from the oven and carefully turn duck back over so breast side faces up. Return to the oven and cook for another 15 minutes.
5. Transfer duck to a cutting board and let stand for 15 minutes. Remove oranges and celery from cavity and throw away.
6. Carve duck and serve.



Whishing you all a wonderful Christmas!





# FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

## Best Christmas Movies



'Tis the season to be jolly! It's that time of year again, when our thoughts turn to Christmas festivities, and we have the perfect opportunity to indulge in some seasonal movie fun! So, on these dark, cold winter evenings, take a cosy seat by the Christmas tree, open that box of Roses or Quality Street and escape into the warmth and glow of your annual Christmas favourites!

### It's A Wonderful Life (1946)

For many families, this Frank Capra classic requires an annual viewing. James Stewart thinks his loved ones' lives would be better without him; his guardian angel Clarence (twinkly-eyed Henry Travers) turn up to show him how wrong he is. **It's a Wonderful Life** is a perennial Christmas favourite and on everyone's top ten list of seasonal movies to watch.



Frank Capra's enduring film is a life-affirming, emotional, funny and joyous masterpiece. It celebrates the triumph of the human spirit in the face of adversity. **It's a Wonderful Life** will remind you how important your family and friends are no matter the time of year. The perfect Christmas movie.

### Die Hard (1988)

Many have argued that **Die Hard** is just an action movie that happens to take place on Christmas Eve. However, **Die Hard** is not only a great action film but one of the best Christmas films too. If you look closely at the cinematic elements that make up **Die Hard**, it is undoubtedly a Christmas movie. The imagery, songs and themes all point to Christmas.



The heart of the film is based around a family coming together for the holidays. Director John McTiernan was convinced initially that his story of terrorists carrying out a violent heist was missing something extra. He had the ingenious idea to incorporate Christmas into the mix, making **Die Hard** the atypical classic festive movie. It has terrific break-out roles from Bruce Willis, as the cop trying to save his wife and hostages, and Alan Rickman, as the blackest of villains. Add in a dynamite script with heart and bullets to make **Die Hard** must-see Christmas viewing.

### Scrooged (1988)



A selfish, arrogant TV executive stages a live production of **A Christmas Carol**, and winds up living out a crazed variation of that very story in Richard Donner's amusing film update. No one does **Bah Humbug** better than Bill Murray's Scrooge-like, heartless and tight-fisted executive in this dark-comedy retelling of Dickens' classic tale. Nevertheless Murray, in his characteristic quirky way, manages to make his slimeball businessman funny and somehow relatable. **Scrooged** is the perfect prickly remedy to an excess of Yuletide sugary schmaltz.

### Home Alone (1990)

It doesn't get more quintessentially Christmas than this children classic, **Home Alone**. An eight-year-old must protect his house from a pair of burglars when he is accidentally left home alone by his family on a holiday trip to Paris. 90's kid star, McCauley Culkin plays the quick-witted Kevin with charm as he battles the hapless villains, played by Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern, who have invaded his home. The shenanigans that ensue are nothing short of riotous and it's great fun for both adults and kids to watch Culkin outsmart the dim-witted thieves. **Home Alone** is an enduring children's movie favourite from director Chris Columbus and writer John Hughes.



### Elf (2003)

Will Ferrell plays a clownish orphan raised as an oversized elf by Santa and his elves in the North Pole. He travels to New York City in an attempt to find his biological father (a cynical book publisher played by James Caan) in this comical, fish-out-of-water Christmas fantasy. Ferrell's performance as Buddy the Elf was hailed by both critics and audiences, with many calling it one of his best performances. Indeed, **Elf** benefits greatly from Will Ferrell's funny and charming performance as one of Santa's biggest helpers. The movie is loaded with heart, spirit, good-natured silly humour and is an entertaining Christmas box of a treat.



### White Christmas (1954)

**White Christmas** is probably the most famous Christmas movie ever. Legendary Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye star as a song and dance double act who become professionally and romantically involved with a charming sister-act (Rosemary Clooney and Vera Allen). This is the simple premise of **White Christmas** and basically just an excuse to stage a series of dazzling Irving Berlin songs in Michael Curtiz's sentimental festive classic.



Crosby, Kaye, Clooney and Allen invest the production numbers with great zest and vivacity and are a real joy to behold. The spirited musical number 'Sisters' is a particular highlight and provides great fun involving the quartet of stars. Of course, the classic song and film title, 'White Christmas' was a huge hit for Bing Crosby and is primarily the reason the movie is so well-loved and remembered by audiences today. **White Christmas** will warm the cockles of your heart on a cold winter's evening this Christmas.

### In Cinemas This Christmas

It's sadly timely, with the recent passing of musical legend Stephen Sondheim, that Steven Spielberg's eagerly anticipated reimagining of the former's masterpiece, **West Side Story** will hit Irish cinemas this December. Spielberg has described his new film version of the Bernstein /Sondheim classic about love and rivalry amongst the ethnic ganglands of 1950s New York as "that one haunting temptation that I have finally given in to." Ansel Elgort and newcomer Rachel Zegler reprise the roles of star-crossed lovers Tony and Maria, played in the original 1961 movie by Richard Beymer and Natalie Wood. Sondheim had the opportunity to view Spielberg's film before he died and was seemingly impressed by what he saw. He said the screenplay has some really 'imaginative' and 'surprising' things in the way the songs are interpreted in the story. According to Sondheim the film has a 'real sparkle and energy' to it, 'it feels fresh' and Spielberg has 'really nailed it'. Praise indeed. **West Side Story** opens on 10 December in cinemas nationwide.

Merry Christmas