



Maynooth newsletter



Serving the people of Maynooth



Local News

March 2021

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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

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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/



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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

Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

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

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

Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter

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

Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be 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 5th 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 14th 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 28th 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 300m² outdoor garden and 90m² 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

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 50m² to 400m². A plot of about 200m² (partial self-sufficiency) to 400m² (full self-sufficiency) would be enough to feed a family of two adults and two children. And 400m² is 1/10 of an acre (an acre is about 4,000m²). It is fantastic news that one acre can feed 10 families or 25 families per hectare (one hectare is 10,000m²).

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 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) 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).



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Sunday Worship Services

Sunday Mornings at 10.30am on YouTube. Just click the link on our home page

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 for details & parental permission forms.

nuad
A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON FAITH

www.maynoothcc.org
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/ 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 important 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
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.

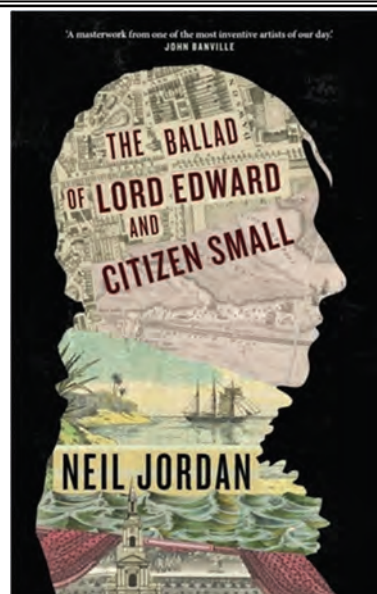
The tale is related by Lord Edward Fitzgerald's manservant Tony Small, a runaway slave who rescued Lord Edward after the Battle of Eutaw Springs during the American War of Independence. While the details of Lord Edward's life are well-documented, very little is known of Tony Small, who, in this gripping 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.

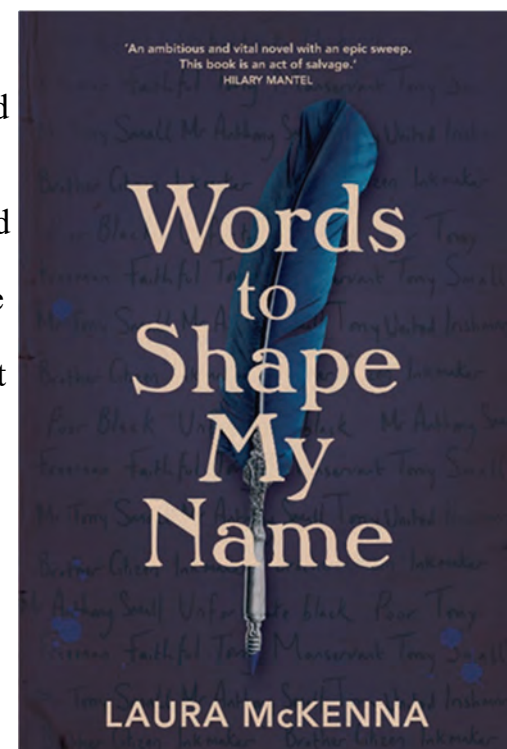
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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.



MAYNOOTH DRESSES



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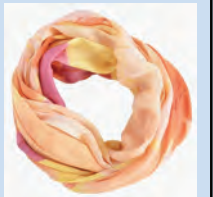
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Antoinette - Maynooth Dresses



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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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 16th 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 7th 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)



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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.

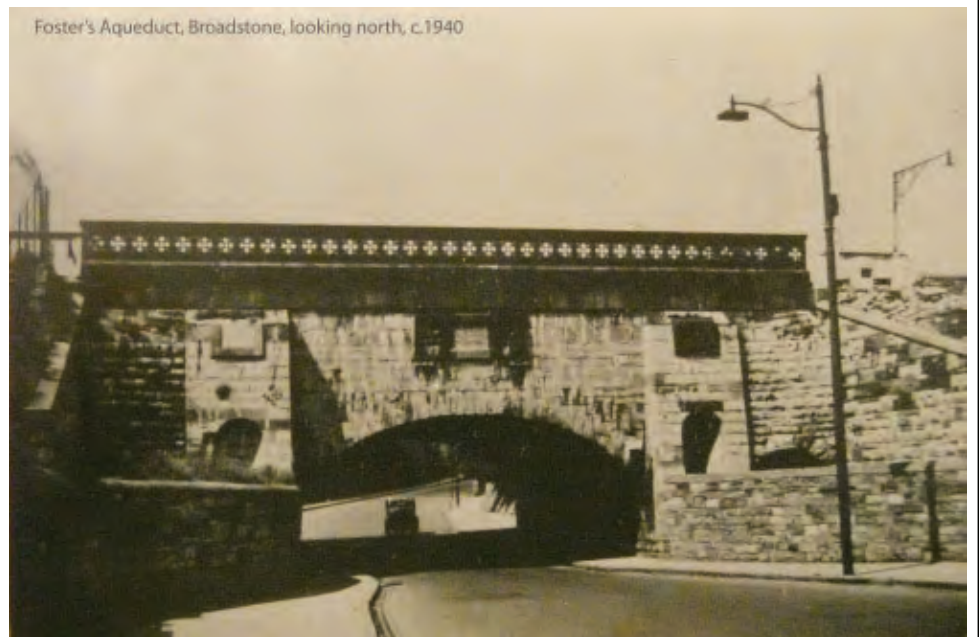
Signage will be in place. We would not recommend that pedestrians/cyclists take to the road to circumvent the works as this is a narrow twisty road which is not conducive to the health and safety of pedestrian users



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 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



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 24th 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 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 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 11th. 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 25th, "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 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

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 22nd

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



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

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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.)

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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
Total	2,864

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 x 13,389	816,729
61 x 13,389 x 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 units x €13,389 annual rent x 19.6 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 niger 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 or 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



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

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 ¹, LitLab².

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.

¹ an oral Irish group

² a literary group

P.G. Nerney

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Phone



E-mail



Cllr. Angela Feeney

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Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com

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 spráitúil 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 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

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