



# Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the people of Maynooth



Local News

May 2021

Issue No. 501

Online Version

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



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

**Support Local Jobs - Keep Maynooth Working**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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## Letters to the Editor

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

## Mission Statement

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

We encourage all groups and individuals in the community to submit material to let us know about their activities and any upcoming events. The Newsletter exists for your enjoyment and we hope you continue to enjoy your monthly read and keep us informed of your activities.

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

## Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

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

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

**Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter**

# Editorial

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Paul Croghan**  
**Editor**

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

**Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be Monday 24th May 2021**





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



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

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

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

## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band



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

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



### World of Dreams

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

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

By Colin Scott

### HOPE

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

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

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

By GB

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Flower

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

#### Birthstone

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

#### April showers bring May flowers

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



## MAYNOOTH DRESSES

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**Contact us on:**

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**26 Bliain Ag Fás**

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

### Black Bags and Red Squirrels

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At once he could see her stiffen. 'It's just that a good looking woman like you must've had many offers,' he blundered on. 'But it's none of my business.'

'No, no!' She poured out his tea. 'I never found the right man – does that answer your question? I've had some painful experiences that have convinced me that it's best to be single. The trouble is that men like Mr. Ludstrow consider a single woman an easy target – when I informed his wife about his approaches he got incensed. Now he seems determined to drive me out of this place but I'm not going to budge. I'm tired of moving from country to country and town to town. Why can't I just be left alone? I can't concentrate on my writing or painting anymore – That one on the easel has been there for weeks. I can't even go to the supermarket for fear I'll run into him.' There was a mixture of desperation and growing hysteria in her voice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*By P.G. Nerney*



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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



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

This news item was posted on April 22, 2021

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

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

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

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

These include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You can also get information and advice from:

The Citizens Information

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

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

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

## Know your rights: Emergency medical card.

This news item was posted on April 22, 2021

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

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

You can get an emergency medical card if you:

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

Are getting end-of-life treatment

Need urgent ongoing care and urgently need a medical card

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Know your rights: Parent's leave

This news item was posted on April 8, 2021

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

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

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

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

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

Summary of leave available for parents:

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





# AGE FRIENDLY DIGITAL AMBASSADORS

**Kildare Library Service**

## IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO:

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

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



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

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



KildareCountyLibraryService



kildarelibrary



kildarelibrary



kildarelibrary

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

## Age Friendly Digital Ambassadors Programme

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

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

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

To find out more, contact:

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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





## How to Create your own Wild Life Garden

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

### Wildlife Garden

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



### Grow Wildflowers

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

### Grow a Nectar Patch

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

### Avoid Chemicals

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

### Encourage 'Rough' Patches

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



### Include Habitats

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

### The soil

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

### Frogs

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Maynooth Senior Citizens

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



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

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

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

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

Suaimhneas agus Síocháin Dóibh go Léir

### Limerick!

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

GM





# Royal Canal Notes

May 2021

## Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

### RUBBISH

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



Discarded rubbish at Jackson's Bridge Maynooth © FitzFoto

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



More discarded rubbish at Jackson's Bridge Photo © FitzFoto

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

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

### FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ

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

### ROYAL CANAL GREENWAY

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

## Rules of the Greenway

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

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

<http://www.leavenotraceireland.org>





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

About the author

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*To be continued*

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

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

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

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 26/03/2021 to 29/04/2021 - Information from Kildare County Council Website

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

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



## Oliver Reilly

Leinster Street, Maynooth,  
Co. Kildare  
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24 Hour Service



**Undertakers and  
Complete Funeral Furnishers  
Wreaths, Headstones,  
Mourning Coaches  
Undertakers to  
Maynooth Mortality Society  
(Funeral Parlour Free to Society Members)**

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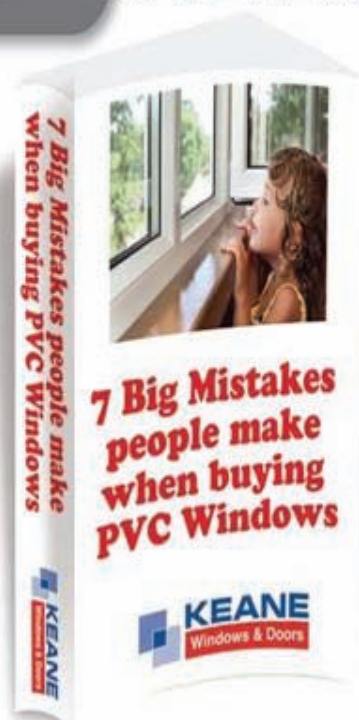
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## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

E mail: [angelaemfeeney@gmail.com](mailto:angelaemfeeney@gmail.com) - Phone: 0872381962



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

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

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

### Cllr Feeney requests update on M4 Upgrade

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

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

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

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

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

### Biodiversity Meadow at Carton Avenue Lands

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

### Litter Management for Maynooth

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

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

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

### Maynooth Line Train Capacity and Car Park

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

### Update on the Health Centre

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

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

*Dear Cllr. Feeney,*

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

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

*(Continued on page 16)*





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



*(Continued from page 15)*

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

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

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

*I trust this information will be of assistance to you.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Private Secretary to the Minister for Health*

### Self Help Grants for Council Tenants

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

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

### Seanad Bye Election

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

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

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

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

**Cllr Angela Feeney MA, PhD,**  
**Kildare County Councillor**  
**Vice-Chair of Finance Committee KCC**  
**Member of Strategic Policy Committee KCC**  
**Member of KWETB**  
**Designated Public Official under the Regulations of Lobbying Act**  
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## Catherine Murphy T.D. Social Democrats, Kildare North.

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

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

14th April 2021

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

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

#### Maynooth Local Area Plan;

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

#### Maynooth Local Area Plan

6) Heritage The plan also seeks to protect and enhance the unique architectural and archaeological heritage of the town including the St Patrick's College campus the Main Street and Carton Avenue. The retention of vernacular buildings on the Main Street and its side streets will ensure the character of the town remains intact.

Maynooth can realise its potential as a heritage town and associated tourist destination by referencing its heritage associated with significant periods of Irish history.

#### Maynooth a growing town:

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Traffic

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

#### Scale Location Height

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

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

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

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

#### Wastewater & Drainage

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

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

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

#### Bats

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

As per the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (2006), proportionate mitigation measures including a Mitigation Plan which would include a compensation element which would determine the works needed to deliver new roosts.

Consulting with the National Parks and Wildlife Service on this Mitigation Plan would be necessary.

Should this development be permitted the level of bat activity on this site warrants further, uninterrupted analysis before any site works can take place.

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

Deputy Catherine Murphy  
Cllr Aidan Farrelly

### Maynooth's rubbish problem

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

### Concern at outbreak at Intel plant

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

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

Deputy Murphy said:

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

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

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

Speaking during Leaders' Questions in the Dáil in March, Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy TD said: "Time and again we have seen that the market cannot be relied upon to deliver housing people can afford. "Long-term leasing effectively means that the State is paying a developer's mortgage on a property by entering into a 20-25-year arrangement, with four-yearly rent reviews built in and no asset to show at the end. After the term of the lease, the property is refurbished by the council and handed back to the developer. This means that local authority tenants have no security or protections after the term of the lease has expired and can just be thrown out of their homes.

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

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

"There will be thousands of these leases in place before taxpayers realise they are being taken for complete idiots. Leasing is the most expensive and unsatisfactory way of delivering social housing and is typical of the type of Fianna Fáil policymaking that only benefits developers. "We need to directly contract builders to build on publicly controlled land to deliver social and affordable homes for

(Continued on page 18)





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

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(Continued from page 17)

both purchase and rent in socially mixed communities, and on sites that are developed to a masterplan with prices set in advance by the State using a Housing Delivery Agency.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

### The Crisis of Youth Unemployment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### National Strategy for Women and Girls.

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

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

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

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

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



# Online Office

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



**Phone**



**E-mail**



**Cllr. Angela Feeney**

**Tel. 087 238 1962**

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

**Stay safe everyone.**





# Advice on Securing your Home



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

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

## Home security and Burglary Prevention Advice

### Signs of vacancy

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

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

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

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

### Doors

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Windows

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

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

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

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

### Lighting

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

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

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

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

### Alarms

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

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

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

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

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

## Home Security

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

## Vacant Houses

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

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

## Social Media

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

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

## Garden/ Landscaping

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





# Maynooth Community Employment Project

## Community Employment Scheme

# Staff Required



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

Location: Maynooth Town Football Club

DUTIES TO INCLUDE: General Building & Pitch Maintenance.

---

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

Location: Maynooth Harbour Area

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

---

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

Location: MCEP Office Carton Retail Park

DUTIES TO INCLUDE: Receptionist & General Office Duties

---

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

Location: MCEP Office Carton Retail Park

DUTIES TO INCLUDE: General Office Duties

---

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

Location: MCEP Office Carton Retail Park

DUTIES TO INCLUDE: Updating of Accounts in MS Excel,  
Compiling Reports & General Office Duties

---

**All Positions are 19.5hrs per week**

**C.E. Programme Rates Apply**

No experience necessary as training will be provided.

**Applicants Must be eligible under the Department of Social Protection Guidelines  
Eligibility can be checked at your local Intreo Office**

**CONTACT: LOCAL INTREO OFFICE / LES  
Kelly's Lane, Maynooth or your local INTREO office**

**Send CV to [office@maynoothcep.com](mailto:office@maynoothcep.com)  
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**Maynooth Community Employment Project**  
**Secretarial Services**

Unit 10, Tesco Shopping Centre Maynooth  
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Clues Across

- Across**
- 1. Goddess of love (5)
  - 3. Revoke (7)
  - 7. Floor show (7)
  - 9. Oversight (5)
  - 10. Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
  - 11. Rising warm air current (7)
  - 13. Symbol of disgrace or infamy (6)
  - 14. Sour (6)
  - 18. Inscrutable (7)
  - 20. Type of snake (5)
  - 21. Photo book (5)
  - 23. Luxurious (7)
  - 24. Commotion (7)
  - 25. Restorative (5)

Solutions to Crossword  
No. 500

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | A | N | D | E | M |   | L | A | W | F | U | L |
| A |   | I |   |   |   | T |   | M |   | A |   | A |
| I | N | G | O | T |   | E | L | E | C | T | O | R |
| L |   | H |   | R |   | R |   | N |   | U |   | D |
| O | P | T | I | O | N | S |   | D | R | O | N | E |
| R |   |   |   | U |   | E |   |   |   | U |   | R |
|   | W | R | A | T | H |   | A | M | A | S | S |   |
| S |   | A |   |   |   | W |   | A |   |   |   | U |
| T | E | M | P | T |   | A | D | J | O | U | R | N |
| A |   | B |   | R |   | G |   | O |   | R |   | I |
| R | E | L | E | A | S | E |   | R | O | B | O | T |
| T |   | E |   | I |   | R |   |   | A |   |   | E |
| S | A | D | D | L | E |   | A | T | O | N | E | D |

May 2021 Crossword - No. 501

|    |  |    |  |  |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |  |    |
|----|--|----|--|--|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|--|----|
| 1  |  |    |  |  | 2  |    | 3  |    | 4 |    | 5 |  | 6  |
|    |  |    |  |  |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |  |    |
| 7  |  | 8  |  |  |    |    |    | 9  |   |    |   |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |  |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |  |    |
| 10 |  |    |  |  |    | 11 |    |    |   | 12 |   |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |  |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |  |    |
| 13 |  |    |  |  |    |    | 14 | 15 |   |    |   |  | 16 |
|    |  |    |  |  |    | 17 |    |    |   |    |   |  |    |
| 18 |  |    |  |  | 19 |    |    | 20 |   |    |   |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |  |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |  |    |
| 21 |  | 22 |  |  |    | 23 |    |    |   |    |   |  |    |
|    |  |    |  |  |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |  |    |
| 24 |  |    |  |  |    |    |    | 25 |   |    |   |  |    |

Clues Down

- Down**
- 1. Asinine (7)
  - 2. Satire (7)
  - 3. Turn on an axis (6)
  - 4. Unguent (5)
  - 5. Mischievous fairy (3)
  - 6. Live (5)
  - 8. Transience (7)
  - 12. Gruesome (7)
  - 15. Explanation (7)
  - 16. Forceful and extreme (7)
  - 17. Educational institution (6)
  - 18. Intone (5)
  - 19. Musical speed (5)
  - 22. Saloon (3)

If you have access to a printer and wish to complete the Crossword and/or Sudoku for fun you can print the single page by going to **File -> Print** and print the single page number (27) only.

Difficult

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

Sudoku Challenge

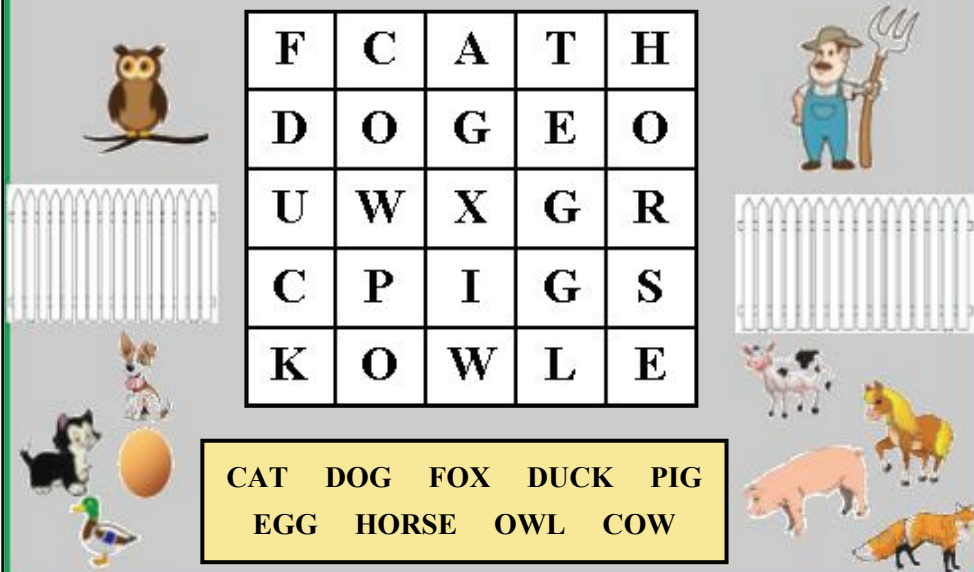
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |   | 9 |
|   |   |   | 3 |   | 2 |   | 5 | 8 |
| 6 | 8 |   |   |   | 9 | 2 |   |   |
| 5 |   | 3 |   |   |   | 8 |   | 1 |
|   |   | 2 | 7 |   |   |   | 9 | 5 |
| 1 | 7 |   | 8 |   | 6 |   |   |   |
| 9 |   |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |   |

Super Difficult



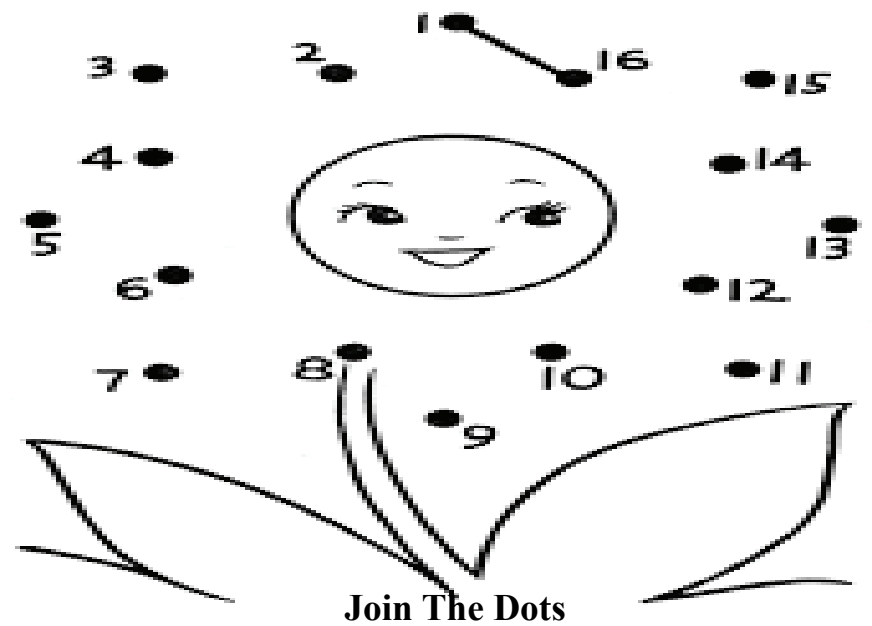
## Junior Puzzle Corner

### SEE WHO YOU CAN FIND ON THE FARM



|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | C | A | T | H |
| D | O | G | E | O |
| U | W | X | G | R |
| C | P | I | G | S |
| K | O | W | L | E |

CAT DOG FOX DUCK PIG  
EGG HORSE OWL COW



**Q: How do all the oceans say hello to each other?**

**A: They wave!**

**Q: What did one wall say to the other wall?**

**A: I'll meet you at the corner!**

**Q: What do you call a bear with no teeth?**

**A: Gummy bear!**

**Q: What's did one tomato say to the other tomato?**

**A: You go ahead and I'll ketchup.**



Help me find my way home



## Children's Colouring

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

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





**E**arly May is your last chance to sow a new lawn from seed as we come into the summer months and the temperatures rise even further. Those who have already sown a new lawn should continue to ensure it is watered regularly. For those with an existing lawn, you should, by now, have lowered the blades on the lawnmower for a slightly tighter cut. Ideally the lawn should be cut once per week but the same rules apply as earlier in the year; don't cut the lawn when its wet, wait for a dry day. Don't cut the lawn too tight. And don't forget to trim the edges with an edging shears; neat and tidy edges make for a neater and tidier lawn. Apply lawn weed killer to your lawn this month.



**In the vegetable garden**

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



**In the fruit garden**

Protect strawberries with straw (to control weeds and lift the berries off the ground) and netting (to keep birds off the fruit). Harvest rhubarb, picking only one-third of the total amount of stems. Hang pheromone traps in plum trees from May to August to monitor plum-fruit-moth activity. Keep young fruit trees well-watered while they are putting on rapid growth. Remove blossom and fruits from newly planted fruit trees to help them establish properly during their first year. Regularly check the centre of gooseberry bushes for green gooseberry sawfly caterpillars - they will quickly skeletonise leaves if not removed. Erect netting around soft fruit plants to prevent birds eating your crop.



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

**In the flower garden**

As your spring bulbs begin to fade, remove the flower heads to prevent them from going to seed. The stalks should be left in place to die back naturally; this allows for the bulbs to re-absorb any available nutrients which keeps them fed during their dormant period. The stalks can be cut/removed once they are well withered. This is also an ideal time to lift and divide any clumps of spring bulbs which appear to have outgrown their allotted space. They can be lifted and divided, withering stalks and all, and re-planted in their new position. Early flowering clematis, such as the Clematis armandii, should be pruned now, if required, as they finish flowering. They are group 1 climbers which means they flower early and on last year's growth.

In truth, they should not need too much by way of pruning unless they are getting too big for the area they are in or they can be pruned to get rid of any old or damaged/dead wood. Always cut back to a pair of healthy buds. As the temperatures rise, so do the instances of pest and disease in the garden. As the old saying goes, prevention is better than cure! A strong case in point are roses. Keep an eye out for aphids/greenfly on the new buds or black spot and rust on the leaves. Remove any infected leaves immediately and discard them. Treat any affected plants with appropriate insecticide and fungicide which can be used every two weeks to keep problems at bay. Remember, good air circulation around the plants is a must in preventing the spread of pests and diseases.



*Gardening - “the fine art of soul to soil”*

**Beef Taco salad with homemade tortilla bowls**

**Ingredients:**

*Tortilla bowls*

- 4 10-inch flour tortillas
- Vegetable oil spray

*Taco meat*

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



*Salad*

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

**Instructions:**

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

**Strawberry no-bake mini cheesecake (serves 4)**

**Ingredients:**

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



**Instructions:**

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

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

**Enjoy!!**





# FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

## OSCARS 2021 SPECIAL QUIZ



Oscars 21 was a ceremony quite unlike any other in recent Academy Awards history. The usual parade of Hollywood glitterati was significantly reduced, due to Covid-19 this year, with only 170 people in attendance for the live stream of the event. Also, the *Oscars* moved out of the traditional Dolby Theatre, and the event was held in Union Station instead. The ceremony's format was significantly altered too with testing measures in place, attendees observing strict social distancing, and some stars joining the ceremony via video links from other parts of the world.



There were other firsts in a somewhat muted Oscars ceremony this year too. Road movie Nomadland swept the boards and director Chloé Zhao made history, becoming the first woman of colour to win the award for directing, and the second woman in history. Minari actress, Yuh-Jung Youn with her win for Best Supporting Actress became the first Korean actor to take home an Academy Award. Daniel Kaluuya is the first black British winner of the best Supporting Actor prize in Judas and the Black Messiah. Frances McDormand became a triple Award winner as Best Actress for Nomadland. At 83, Anthony Hopkins is the oldest ever acting Oscar winner for his lead performance in the moving drama, The Father.

To mark this year's Oscar's event, test your movie knowledge with this Awards Quiz!

1. *Titanic* and *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* share the record for most Oscars won by a single movie. How many awards did they both win?

- a) 8
- b) 9
- c) 10
- d) 11



2. Which one of *The Godfather* movies won the most Oscars?

- a) *The Godfather*
- b) *The Godfather Part 11*
- c) *The Godfather Part 111*
- d) None of them

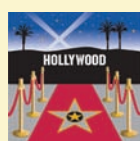
3. Who won the Best Actor Oscar at the 2020 Academy Awards?

- a) Joaquin Phoenix
- b) Adam Driver
- c) Anthony Hopkins
- d) Antonio Banderas



4. Who won the Best Actress Oscar in 2020?

- a) Saoirse Ronan
- b) Renee Zellweger
- c) Olivia Colman
- d) Judi Dench



5. Name this 1958 Oscar-winning movie.



6. Who is the only actor or actress to ever win four Oscars?

- a) Meryl Streep
- b) Jack Nicholson
- c) Katherine Hepburn
- d) Robert De Niro



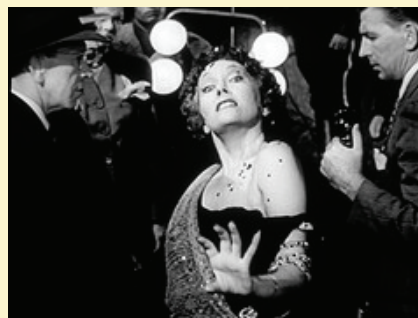
7. Tom Hanks has the distinction of winning the Best Actor Oscar two years in a row. What were the two movies he won for?

- a) *Saving Mr Banks*
- b) *Forrest Gump*
- c) *Saving Private Ryan*
- d) *Philadelphia*

8. Which popular movie did Colin Firth win an acting Oscar for?

- a) *Love Actually*
- b) *Bridget Jones' Diary*
- c) *A Single Man*
- d) *The King's Speech*

9. Name the actress and Oscar-nominated classic movie.



10. What was the very first horror movie to be nominated for Best Picture?

- a) *Jaws*
- b) *Psycho*
- c) *The Exorcist*
- d) *Halloween*

11. For what movie did Leonardo DiCaprio finally win his first and only Oscar to date?

- a) *The Departed*
- b) *The Wolf of Wall Street*
- c) *Titanic*
- d) *The Revenant*



12. Who was given the longest standing ovation in Oscar history - minutes - while receiving an Honorary Oscar Award in 1972?

- a) Cecil B DeMille
- b) Walt Disney
- c) Charles Chaplin
- d) John Wayne

13. Which of these Alfred Hitchcock's movies won an Oscar for Best Film?

- a) *Vertigo*
- b) *North By Northwest*
- c) *Psycho*
- d) None of them



14. Who was the first African American woman to win an Academy Award in the Best Actress category?

- a) Halle Berry
- b) Whoopi Goldberg
- c) Dorothy Dandridge
- d) Hattie McDaniel



15. In an infamous Oscars gaffe, which movie was incorrectly announced as winner of the Best Picture Oscar in 2017?

- a) *Manchester by the Sea*
- b) *Moonlight*
- c) *La La Land*
- d) *Hell or High Water*



16. Name this Oscar-winning actor.

17. Who caused Oscar outrage by sending a Californian Apache woman to decline the Best Actor Award he had just won?

- a) Rod Steiger
- b) Marlon Brando
- c) James Dean
- d) Harry Dean Stanton



18. Italian actor/director Roberto Benigni went wild with joy and climbed over the stalls after winning an Oscar in 1999 for which movie?

- a) *Life Is Beautiful*
- b) *Cinema Paradiso*
- c) *Jean de Florette*
- d) *Amelie*





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