



**Local News October 2021 Issue No. 506 Online Version**


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





## Maynooth University Town F.C

### *A Bridge too Far*



### FAI Senior Cup Quarter-Final

Bohemians F.C. 4 - Town 0

Our quest for F.A.I Cup honours came to an end against League of Ireland side Bohemians F.C. at the quarter final stage of the competition. Whilst performing admirably for long periods of the game, the greater guile and expertise of Bohs was just too much for us in the end. Although going one behind in the 17th minute, we still matched Bohs until the half hour when Alex Kelly was sent off. Before we could circle the wagons, Bohs hit us with two quick goals in four minutes to leave us three goals down at the interval. It looked an ominous task in the second half but the Town put up a heroic second half performance to match Bohs and to only concede one further goal.

The Bohs goalkeeper denied us at least two goals with some top class saves. The game closed out with us still taking the game to Bohs in inspired fashion. Our large band of supporters helped swell the attendance to almost two thousand and create a real cup tie atmosphere. The team showed their appreciation for the support received by going to our end and applauding the fans who remained until the team had left the pitch. A wonderful lift despite the heartbreak of a gallant effort. Once again our appreciation to Bradys Clock House, Bartons Transport and Chef Dave for their valued support.

**Bohemians F.C.:** James Talbot, Andy Lyons (James Finnerty, 46), Rory Feely, Ciaran Kelly, Tyreke Wilson, Keith Buckley (c) (Roland Idowu, 46), Conor Levingston, Jamie Mullins, Dawson Devoy (Robbie Mahon, 46), Keith Ward, Aaron Doran (Cole Kiernan, 63).

**Maynooth University Town:** David Sterio, Darragh Gannon, Conor Dunne (c), Jake Corrigan, Alex Fitzgibbon, Conor Foley, Eoin O'Neill, Alex Kelly (Sean Traynor, 37), Jackson Ryan (Conor Delahunty, 59), Jack O'Connor (Sven Biansumba, 59), Patrick O'Sullivan (Janabi Amour, 77).

**REFEREE:** Adriano Reale.

## Maynooth University Town F.C

### L.S.L Senior Division

Bluebell Utd 1 - Town 2

We shook off the disappointment of our F.A.I Cup defeat with this workmanlike performance against a stubborn Bluebell side who made victory hard to achieve. A tight first half provided no goals but it would not have been so but for the fantastic goalkeeping of Town keeper David Sterio. He defied everything thrown at him to keep us in the game.

Town deservedly took the lead in the 58th minute when Jack O'Connor swivelled in the area and expertly placed his shot wide of the Bluebell Keeper. Bluebell were back on terms 10 minutes later when converting a penalty. With time running out and a draw looking likely, Town were awarded a free kick 22 yards out. Paddy O'Sullivan expertly placed his shot wide of the keeper to ensure victory. A valuable three points to move us up the table.

## Maynooth Community Employment Project

### Secretarial Services

**Unit 10, Tesco Shopping Centre Maynooth**  
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# Maynooth Newsletter

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

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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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Maynooth, Co. Kildare. W23CT59  
Tel: 01-6285922

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

## Letters to the Editor

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

## Mission Statement

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

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

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

## Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

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

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

**Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter**

## Editorial

October is here and with the change to winter time at the end of the month is a recognition of shorter hours of daylight and of course lower weather temperatures are on the way. In Ireland the issue of climate change is never far from the news and it is a particularly important issue with our younger people. In more recent times we have warnings from a number of national bodies that there is a risk that Ireland will experience electrical power shortages this winter when demand increases because of shorter daylight hours and of course the lower temperatures will mean that the heat will need to be turned on.

We have ambitious carbon reduction targets and Ireland is playing our part in tackling climate change. The Ardnacrusa Hydro Electric power station on the Shannon River in Co. Clare was built in two phases between 1925 and 1934 and provides clean energy power.



*Ardnacrusa Hydro Electric power station on the Shannon River in Co. Clare (image courtesy ESB)*

However, more capacity for power generation has been created as Ireland's power demands increased in the decades since Ardnacrusa was built but these newer power stations were fuelled by coal and gas. But demands continue to increase with the increasing population and the development of new industries in Ireland that are heavy users of electric power the fears of adequate supply continues especially as the decommissioning of peat and coal power stations driven by our need to reduce carbon emissions is planned.

So what can we do in Maynooth? I know that I can do some small things to further reduce my electricity usage such as turn off unnecessary lights, change more bulbs to LED and turn off the things left on stand by and of course take the phone off the charger when it is charged. If we all reduced our demand for electricity we would help to ensure that leave the power for others that need it and by not wasting power we of course reduce our own bills.

Talking of waste food is another area where we could all be accused of making a contribution. October 16<sup>th</sup> is World Food Day, every year the day is marked in about 150 countries where events from marathons, hunger marches, exhibitions and cultural events are held. The main objective of marking World Food Day is to heighten public awareness of the problem of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. As consumers every day we depend on food production to provide what we want to eat.



**Image courtesy fao.org**

The food you choose and the way you consume it affects our health and that of our planet. It has an impact on the way agri-food systems work so just like the demand for electricity we as consumers are part of the solution in the problem of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. To learn more see <http://www.fao.org/world-food-day>

Here in Maynooth University there is an online event on October 14<sup>th</sup> entitled Kildare women in the food and climate crisis with talks from pioneering women who live and work in Kildare talk about how they are changing Kildare and the wider world and discuss and demonstrate how they are addressing the food and climate crisis.

**Paul Croghan  
Editor**

**Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be Tuesday 26th October 2021**



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[www.maynoothcommuniondressers.ie](http://www.maynoothcommuniondressers.ie)

[www.maynoothdresses.ie](http://www.maynoothdresses.ie)



Contact us on:

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## BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



We are NOW offering In-door services STRICTLY in line with Government Guidelines. Customers requesting In-door services will be requested to show the relevant documentation in line with the official advise.

We will continue to offer Outdoor Service as weather permits.

Thank You to All Our Customers for their Continued Support During these Difficult Times.

Stay Safe & Well

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

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





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EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

# Celbridge

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tions

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**Who is eligible:** People who are over 18 years of age and in receipt of (or a dependent spouse in receipt of) an eligible social welfare payment are eligible for the full time courses.

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

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

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

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

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

**Email:** celbridgefetc@kwetb.ie

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**Web:** www.celbridgefetc.ie

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# Online Office

## Here to help with

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



Phone



E-mail



**Cllr. Angela Feeney**

**Tel. 087 238 1962**

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

**Stay safe everyone.**



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**Outdoors Thursday 7th, 14th & 21st**

**October- 10 am to 11am**

Join us for some Toddler Fun with Musical Tots or Playball

Harbour Field, beside the Playground

No booking needed

This group is run by volunteers, please bear with us while we  
start back in a new environment.

Fee:  
€5 per  
family



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Kildare County Council Proudly Present a Live  
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In Local Government

Wednesday 13th October 2021  
11am to 12pm

Register for this free webinar event now!

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## Halloween Cup Cakes



### Ingredients

200g butter, softened  
300g golden caster sugar  
200g dark chocolate, melted  
2 eggs  
250g self raising flour  
¼ tsp baking powder mixed with 100ml boiling water  
50g cocoa powder  
200 ml milk  
1-2 tsp black food colouring (optional)

### For the buttercream

- 300g unsalted butter softened, 500g icing sugar, 1 tsp vanilla extract & Black food colouring

### For the decorations

- Pack of Smarties
- Black icing pen
- 1 pack mixed coloured fondant icing (you'll need pink, green, blue and white)
- liquorice and strawberry laces and other sweets such as jelly fangs and liquorice allsorts
- icing eyes (see tip, below)

### Method

- Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line two 12-hole cupcake tins with cases. Beat the butter and sugar until the mixture is creamy. Beat in the chocolate and the eggs until combined, then stir in the flour and baking powder, cocoa powder, milk and food

colouring, if using. Spoon the mixture evenly between the cupcake cases, levelling the tops.

- Bake for 20 mins or until the cakes are risen and springy to the touch. Cool for 5 mins in the tin, then lift out onto a wire rack to cool completely.
- To make the buttercream, beat the butter until soft, then stir in the icing sugar a little at a time. Beat in the vanilla and some black food colouring, then transfer to a piping bag fitted with a plain nozzle.
- For the cat face, pipe the black buttercream in an even swirl onto the cupcake and smooth with a palette knife. Pipe two ears by making a blob for each and pulling the icing bag upwards to a point. Add two eyes on each with Smarties and use the black icing pen to paint a pupil onto each. Add a triangle nose made of pink fondant icing and create whiskers with sweets.
- For the monster faces, cut circles of green and blue fondant to fit the tops of the cupcake and fix them in place with a little buttercream. Add eyes, noses and mouths made of sweets or use icing eyes (see tip, below). For skeletons, cut out shapes with white fondant and fix in place with the buttercream.



### Tips

To make icing eyes, mix up a batch of fondant icing and pipe rounded blobs, for the eyeballs, onto baking parchment. Leave to dry. Then, either add pupils to the eyes with a small brush and black colouring, or make up a batch of black icing and pipe dots on top.

Source: [www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/halloween-cupcakes](http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/halloween-cupcakes)

## Mystic Magination Night!



On one mystic, magic night,  
Jack O Lanterns glowing bright,  
Kids with bags of candy sweet,  
roam door to door and street to street,  
all dressed up for trick or treat!

Wizards with wands, pirates with hooks,  
Monsters and clowns with spooky looks,

Kings and queens with capes and crowns,  
a princess in her royal gown,

Witches with warts and fairies with wings  
movies stars with sparkling rings,

Vampires with fangs that bite,  
ghost that boo all dressed in white.

Imaginations taken flight,  
on that one mystic, magic night.

Oh, the fun of Halloween,  
be young or old or in between!

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/mystic-magination-night>



## Halloween Night

When days grow short and nights get cold  
And autumn trees turn red and gold,  
Move, we may, through sun drenched days  
'Midst leaves and berries and bales of hay.

In our hearts we feel the lure  
Toward darkness, shivers, and things not pure,  
While ghostly shadows creep slowly by,  
Spying on witches and brooms that fly.

Icy fingers that grab their prey  
And do bad things 'til night turns to day.  
Heed this plea to stay inside.  
Find covers and blankets and sheets to hide.

Slowly this night will fade to day  
And fiends and monsters will crawl away.  
Once a year, on this dank night,  
We'll shake and shiver 'til morning light.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/halloween-night-4>

## Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



We are glad to announce that the Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee has resumed its monthly meetings. There are administrative tasks that have to be completed and we are considering how we might move forward. Many factors need to be considered as we go into the Winter months. We have to be mindful of adhering to HSE recommendations and other safety concerns for everyone concerned. At this point, we cannot say when the Club and other activities will resume, but they will in due course. We will get there. Thank you to all who have supported us throughout the year. Anyone who thinks they would be interested in joining our group please contact 0877974582 for more information.

**Susan Durack PRO.**

## Halloween Jokes

- Why don't skeletons ever go trick or treating? Because they have no-body to go with.
- Where do ghosts buy their Halloween candy? At the ghost-ery store!
- What do owls say when they go trick or treating? "Happy Owl-ween!"
- What do ghosts give out to trick or treaters? Booberries!
- Who did Frankenstein go trick or treating with? His ghou! friend.
- What Halloween candy is never on time for the party? Choco-LATE!
- What do witches put on to go trick or treating? Mas-scare-a.
- What does Bigfoot say when he asks for candy? "Trick-or-feet!"
- Which type of pants do ghosts wear to trick or treat? Boo jeans.
- What makes trick or treating with twin witches so challenging? You never know which witch is which!
- What happens when a vampire goes in the snow? Frost bite!
- What do you call two witches living together? Broommates



Source: [www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/halloween-ideas/a32998753/halloween-jokes/](http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/halloween-ideas/a32998753/halloween-jokes/)

## Free Online Sewing Workshops

Zero Waste Maynooth is delighted to present a series of workshops to share skills on how to repair, mend and repurpose your clothing.

**Saturday 16th October 11am - Make your own Halloween Costume** 🎃

Using what you have at home, let's make a Halloween Costume in a low waste way! Check out our Facebook & website for more!

### Dates for your diary

Saturday 20th November - Stitched baskets using material scraps  
Saturday 27th November - DIY Christmas decorations for your home and tree  
Saturday 11th December - Zero Waste gift wrapping both paper and material options

**Book a spot at Eventbrite or [www.zerowastemaynooth.ie](http://www.zerowastemaynooth.ie)**

Events hosted by Vanessa at The Craft Corner  
Funded by Kildare County Council





## MU unveils iconic 'Freedom' sculpture on North Campus, loaned by AIB

The stainless steel 'Freedom' sculpture by Alexandra Weichert has been installed on the North Campus of Maynooth University under a long-term loan agreement between AIB and the University. Commissioned by the bank in 1985, the stainless-steel sculpture stands at 11.5 m (37 ft) high and was considered among the most ambitious large-scale exterior sculptures in Ireland. Following the relocation of the AIB headquarters from Ballsbridge, the sculpture required a new site and is now a defining feature on the landscape of Maynooth University, as a publicly accessible exterior artwork for the community and the wider region. The event marked an important milestone for Prof Philip Nolan, President of Maynooth University, who retires next month after a decade in this role.

Welcoming the installation, Professor Nolan, said: "Maynooth University is honoured to become the guardian of this exceptional artwork which serves as a metaphor for hope and freedom in what have been unprecedented times for us all. Maynooth University is committed to fostering art and culture, a commitment that is not only an ethos but also underlined in our Strategic Plan. We have a long-standing relationship with AIB and are delighted to have the opportunity to add such an important piece of sculpture to our campus. It is especially fitting that we have installed this striking sculpture as we prepare to welcome students back on campus at the start of the academic year."

Colin Hunt, Chief Executive Officer of AIB, said: "AIB is delighted to find such a fitting home for Freedom in Maynooth University, where it will be cared for, and enjoyed by the staff, students and the public. The bank has an extensive art lending programme with galleries, public spaces, community buildings, colleges and State institutions so that the maximum numbers of the public can access some of the most important works from its collection."

The unveiling represents another landmark event for Maynooth campus development, as construction continues on a €57 million project, the Technology, Innovation & Society Building, due to be completed early next year. Also on North Campus, a planned new Student Centre will serve as a hub and workspace for students engaged in cultural events, clubs and societies, and a wider variety of activities. The University intends to further enhance the intellectual and cultural life of campus and the wider region through deeper engagement with the arts.



## Webinar Series: Interculturalism, Literature and the Arts in Ireland

When: Thursday, October 7, 2021 - 16:30 to 17:30

Where: Online

You are all warmly invited to the English Department's 'Interculturalism, Literature and the Arts in Ireland' autumn webinar series, organised by Dr Rita Sakr.

The webinars will explore the connections among literary/artistic practice and the promotion of diversity, intercultural awareness and dialogue, human rights, and equality in the creative sector.

Guest speakers:

7th October, 4.30 - 5.30 pm: Mary Moynihan, Artistic Director of Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts & Equality

11th November 4.30 - 5.30 pm: Sinéad Mac Aodha, Director of Literature Ireland (a conversation co-hosted with Oisín Fagan, MU English Writer-in-Residence)

18th November 4.30 - 5.30 pm: Alison Lyons, Director of Dublin UNESCO City of Literature

**A series of Zoom talks and Q&A organised by**  
**Rita Sakr MU English**  
**For more information, contact [rita.sakr@mu.ie](mailto:rita.sakr@mu.ie)**



**7th October 4.30 - 5.30 pm**  
**Mary Moynihan**  
**Director**  
**Smashing Times International**  
**Centre for the Arts & Equality**



**11th November 4.30 - 5.30 pm**  
**Sinéad Mac Aodha**  
**Director**  
**Literature Ireland**

The first conversation on 7th October will feature Mary Moynihan, award-winning writer, director, theatre and film-maker, interdisciplinary artist, Artistic Director of Smashing Times International Centre for the Arts and Equality and Artistic Curator for the annual Dublin Arts and Human Rights festival implemented by Smashing Times and Front Line Defenders in partnership with organisations including Amnesty International, Fighting Words, NWCI, Irish Modern Dance Theatre and Poetry Ireland.

Please click on the link below to book for the first event on 7th October with Mary Moynihan.

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/news-events/webinar-series-interculturalism-literature-and-arts-ireland>

**REMINDER DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCK.**  
**SUMMER TIME ENDS 31ST OCTOBER PUT CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR**  
**Sunday, October 31, 2021, 2:00:00 am clocks are turned backward 1 hour to**  
**Sunday, October 31, 2021, 1:00:00 am local standard time instead.**





## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



### Update on Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

Cllr Feeney requested an update on the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road at the September MD meeting. Cllr Feeney stressed that this is a key issue for Maynooth and long overdue. While acknowledging that COVID has delayed many projects, Cllr Feeney stated that this project has been in the pipeline for almost 30 years and that realistically no further development is possible in Maynooth until this road is built, the town is already at a standstill, we have had and will continue to have, huge population.

The Council stated that the road is currently at detailed design stage and that the next step is the Statutory Process Stage, which includes the compulsory acquisition of lands (CPO stage). Cllr Feeney said that while she appreciated the reply she felt that it was short on detail and timelines, which she requested. Cllr Feeney welcomed the fact that the MD Director agreed to meet with the Director for Transportation and Roads and get back with more details and timelines. Finally, Cllr Feeney asked for the issue to remain on the MD Progress Report so that she is not required to table motions and questions in order to access the information, especially since it is such a key issue for Maynooth and without this piece of critical infrastructure very little development can or indeed should happen.

### Joining up the cycle lanes in Maynooth

Cllr Feeney requested an update on the joining up of cycle lanes in Maynooth funded by the National Transport Authority. This is a six phase process, and Cllr Feeney welcomed the detailed report from the Council which showed that many of the routes are at an advanced stage and these will add to the town and encourage more cycling and very importantly, safer cycling.

**Maynooth North-South Corridor (Mill Street)** – Currently at Phase 5 (Detailed Design and Tender) and consultants have been appointed. Next Stage 6 is the Construction phase will be in (2022);

**Meadowbrook Road Cycle track Scheme** – Currently at Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants have been appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022)

**Celbridge Road Cycle track Scheme** - Current Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022); • **Kilcock Road Cycle track Scheme** - Current Phase 3 (Preliminary Design) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 4 : Planning and Statutory Approvals (2022)

**Royal Canal Greenway Scheme** – Current Phase 5 (Detailed Design and Tender) – consultants appointed. Next Stage 6 : Construction (Quarter 4 2021).

### Review of Disabled Parking Places Badly Needed

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to carry out a review of the disabled car parking spaces in Maynooth. She stated that many of the spaces are not fit for purpose and need attention. The Council said that this review of the disabled car parking spaces will be carried out as part of the upcoming Pay Parking Bye Law review

### Maintenance of Trees on Carton Avenue

Cllr Feeney requested an update on the maintenance plan for the trees at Carton Avenue. The Council said that the trees at Carton Avenue are maintained as required and that they will be reviewed with any necessary works to be considered for inclusion as part of the forthcoming tree programme in the coming weeks. Cllr Feeney welcomed the reply saying that the Avenue is a very special historical amenity, there is a preservation order on these trees so the Council needs to mind them, some are very old and overhang adjoining houses too so we need to ensure they are safe too.

### Unfinished Estates Motion

At the Council plenary in September Cllr Feeney submitted the following motion: “That the Council assigns a full-time Unfinished Housing Development Co-ordinator to tackle the problem of unfinished estates in the county”. Cllr Feeney raised this issue as she feels the residents in unfinished estates need to have this matter addressed and that in other local authorities where such coordinators were appointed there was an incremental and marked decrease in the number of unfinished estates. Cllr Feeney welcomed the response from the Council, which contained the positive news that “in June 2021, the Development Control Section submitted a business case requesting additional staff to tackle the Taking in Charge (TIC) of legacy problematic estates (where the Developer and/or the Bond monies are no longer available). Internal council approval was received for an Executive Engineer and an Executive Technician in July 2021.

Subsequently a sanction request was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, with approval coming through in September 2021. It is now planned to recruit for these two posts from the existing panels. It is hoped that the successful candidates will commence before the end of the year”.

### Car Park Open on Doctor's Lane

At Last! You all know that Cllr Feeney has submitted motion after motion on this issue to the Council for the last few years! Finally, the car park at Doctor's Lane is now open for public use and designated as such, with signs and parking machines-as Cllr Feeney suggested, this will serve businesses, customers and parents of school-going children and anyone visiting the town.

### Shortage of GP places

Cllr Feeney wishes to congratulate Dr. Maurice Cowhey and Dr. Christopher O'Rourke

on their recent retirements. Both have given decades of service and care to our community and she wishes them the very best. Such retirements have added to many concerns about the growing shortage of GP places for the growing population of the town. Cllr Feeney contacted the HSE about this issue as well as an update on the planned Primary Care Centre for our town. In its response (see below) the HSE informed Cllr Feeney that Stage 3 of the Competition (i.e. the priced offer) is being progressed and a preferred provider will be chosen in the coming weeks, at the latest, by the end of December.

Dear Councillor Feeney,

With reference to your recently received representation, I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

In 2019 Health Service Executive (HSE) Estates advertised in respect of Maynooth Primary Care Centre in the national press under the HSE's Primary Care Operational Lease Mechanism. This advertisement sought submissions of interest from parties who are developing or planning to develop Primary Care health facilities. A number of Expressions of Interest were received and Stage 2 of the competition has been completed. Stage 3 of the competition (Priced offer) is being progressed through the summer of 2021, and it is anticipated that a preferred provider will be selected in Q3 / Q4 2021.

With respect to GP services in Maynooth, the HSE does not restrict the number of GP's in an area. Neither does the HSE restrict the number of GP's who wish to take on a contract to deliver GMS services to Medical Card holders, provided they meet with the criteria. If a medical card holder is experiencing difficulty in accessing services of a GMS contracted GP, the HSE Primary Care Unit can assist. If the medical card holder will provide documentary evidence of refusal of acceptance from 3 practices, the Primary Care unit will assign a GP to the individual. Below are relevant contact details:

### Kildare County Council supports 'Make Way Day' Campaign

Every corner of Ireland will be put to the test for basic access facilities and obstacles on Friday, September 24th when the Make Way Day campaign returns, with a testing twist! The campaign, organised by the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI), will test the local access facilities and obstacles via an online survey that participants can use to test and rate their local area. Kildare County Council, in conjunction with Local Access Groups from across Kildare will take part in the online survey on Make Way Day and are encouraging others to get involved and become more aware of the access challenges for people with disabilities.

Michael Hurley, Access Officer, Kildare County Council said, “Make Way Day focuses on individual responsibility, on looking at what we can all do to help our fellow citizens get from A to B, something we can take for granted. We in Kildare County Council are delighted to work with DFI and support Make Way Day across County Kildare.” At the centre of the Make Way Day campaign are people with disabilities. However, obstacles on paths can have an impact on all members of society. Consider an elderly person using a walking aid or a young child learning to ride a bicycle and how much more difficult their journey becomes if blocked by obstructions such as parked cars, wheelie bins or overgrown vegetation.

This online survey empowers people to survey their area for obstacles and rate its accessibility. It will provide an opportunity to share their experiences and challenges. The survey will be available to download at [www.makewayday.com](http://www.makewayday.com) on Friday the 24th of September, Make Way Day.

The aim is to compile all of the surveys from across the country to provide one comprehensive map of access across Ireland and use this to help address these challenges and make the necessary access improvements.

### Home Energy Grants

A free home energy upgrade service is available for qualifying homeowners. If you receive any of the following you can apply-

- Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme.
- Job Seekers Allowance for over six months and have a child under seven years of age
- Working Family Payment
- One-Parent Family Payment
- Domiciliary Care Allowance
- Carers Allowance and live with the person you are caring for
- Type of work this covers:
- Attic insulation
- Cavity wall insulation
- External wall insulation
- Internal wall insulation
- Secondary work such as lagging jackets, draught proofing and energy efficient lighting
- New heating systems and windows are occasionally recommended

### How to apply:

<https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/free-upgrades-for-eligible-homes/>

Call me or email me if you need any help on this.

(Continued on page 10)



## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News Cont/....



*(Continued from page 9)*

### 9/11 Twentieth Anniversary Memorial Service

Cllr Feeney was honoured to attend the very moving 9/11 20th anniversary memorial at Donadea, remembering all who died that sad day among them our local hero fire-fighter Seán Tallon who sadly lost his young life that day, saving the lives of others. Never Forgotten.

### Cllr Feeney's Motions and Questions for the October Council MD:

That the Council carries out a traffic management review on Parson Street, Maynooth

That the Council writes to the OPW calling for improvement, repairs and enhancement of Conoly's Folly (The Obelisk).

Can the Council confirm how many people are currently on the housing list in Maynooth, Clane and Kilcock classified by one, two, three bedroom units, single person and families.

Can the council provide the works schedule for hedge cutting in the Municipal District?

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

September 2<sup>nd</sup> Strategic Policy Committee at 2:00 pm in Kildare County Council

September 10<sup>th</sup> Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement Training for Councillors at 11:00 am (online)

September 11<sup>th</sup> 9/11 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial 3:00 pm at Donadea Forest Park

September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm Maynooth Community Council (online)

September 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm Eirgrid Upgrade Presentation to Councillors (online)

September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 pm KWETB Audit and Risk Committee (online)

September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 pm Carlow I.T. Governing Body (online)

September 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am MD Budget Meeting (online)

September 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm Council Plenary in Newbridge Town Hall

September 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am ETBI AGM (online)

September 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm KCC Finance Committee (online)

October 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am Council MD meeting at Kildare County Council

## Preparing your Home for Autumn & Winter

The nights are getting darker earlier and the temperature is falling. It's time to start thinking about how you can get your house prepared and ready for the colder days and nights ahead. There are a number of things you can do that will help keep your home warm and cozy throughout the autumn and into the winter.

Giving your grass one last cut will keep your lawn looking trim in the autumn months. Wait until the grass has grown to a sufficient length and then trim back. Though it may need to be cut again it won't need to be done as regularly as in the summer. Also clear all weeds & spread some mulch around the plants as this will give them some protection from frost.

Give the windows a good clean, wipe down the skirting boards, and dust commonly forgotten areas like the top of cupboards and shelves. These are all jobs which will make your house ready for winter. Clean the oven.



Clean the gutters those Autumn leaves are falling, and can lead to the potential for clogged gutters and drains. To Avoid a flooded interior and damaged exterior take a close look at your roof. If there are any damaged tiles or cracks as well as leaves and debris. Fix it up and you'll be set for the winter.

Check that your boiler is working you don't want to wait until it breaks during the coldest night of

the year- be proactive and take care of it now.

Stock up on fuel - heating oil, fire wood and other fuels. This is the perfect time to

inspect and clean out your chimney. A professional can inspect the chimney for cracks and other possible issues and repair them before you need to use it. Your chimney should also be cleaned professionally at least once a year. Not only does this help keep your home warmer, but it will also reduce your chances of a chimney fire.

Make sure that all of your smoke and CO2 detectors are in perfect working order. Check to see if they all have fresh batteries. In the event of a heating or ventilation problem, your detectors can save your life.

Seal all draughts from windows and doors. Bleed the radiators if a radiator takes a long time to heat up, or the top section feels a lot colder than the bottom.

If you haven't already done so insulate your attic. Insulate all pipes also to prevent burst pipes which can cause serious water damage to your home. Attic insulation protects the area from freezing temperatures and improves the heat throughout your home.

Bring out some new throws and cushions, with deeper, richer Autumn colours. Change the curtains or window dressings for heavier fabrics which help keep the home warmer. Adding comfy cushions and throws to your seating will allow you to curl up on the sofa with a nice cup of hot tea and feel very relaxed.



**Remember these easy checks and repairs will save you money on expensive emergency repairs and wasted energy costs. Now you're ready for Winter too!**

## Colourful Winter Window Boxes & Containers

Autumn has well and truly arrived. With the change in seasons there comes a need to change your bedding plants too. The evenings are getting darker and what better way to brighten your day then to add colour and interest to your window boxes and containers.

Empty out all the compost and give the pots a good wash to ensure they are ready for the new plants. Starting off with new compost will give your plants a better chance of surviving the months ahead. If you have a terracotta window box, lining it with a plastic bag is probably a good idea as it will reduce the need to water it. Make sure to pierce plenty of holes around the plastic bag. A good window box has some height and structure, a trailing element and of course colour. Proper drainage is essential during autumn and winter when plants are more prone to water logging. You could include some gravel in the bottom of your containers to increase drainage.

**Winter flowers** If possible use strongly scented plants near windows that will be left open to spread a pleasant smell around your home.

**Winter pansies and violas** are easy plants to add colour to your window boxes. They come in all different colours and will grow from now right through until March. Make sure you keep removing any faded flowers before they go



to seed as this will encourage the growth of more flowers. It is also important to feed the flowers over the winter months.

The **Cyclamen** is one of the best winter plants and will survive outside all year round and provide you with lots of colour. The Cyclamen plant comes in a variety of different shades including pink, lilac, red and white. You could also add some trailing Ivy plants to fill your window box.

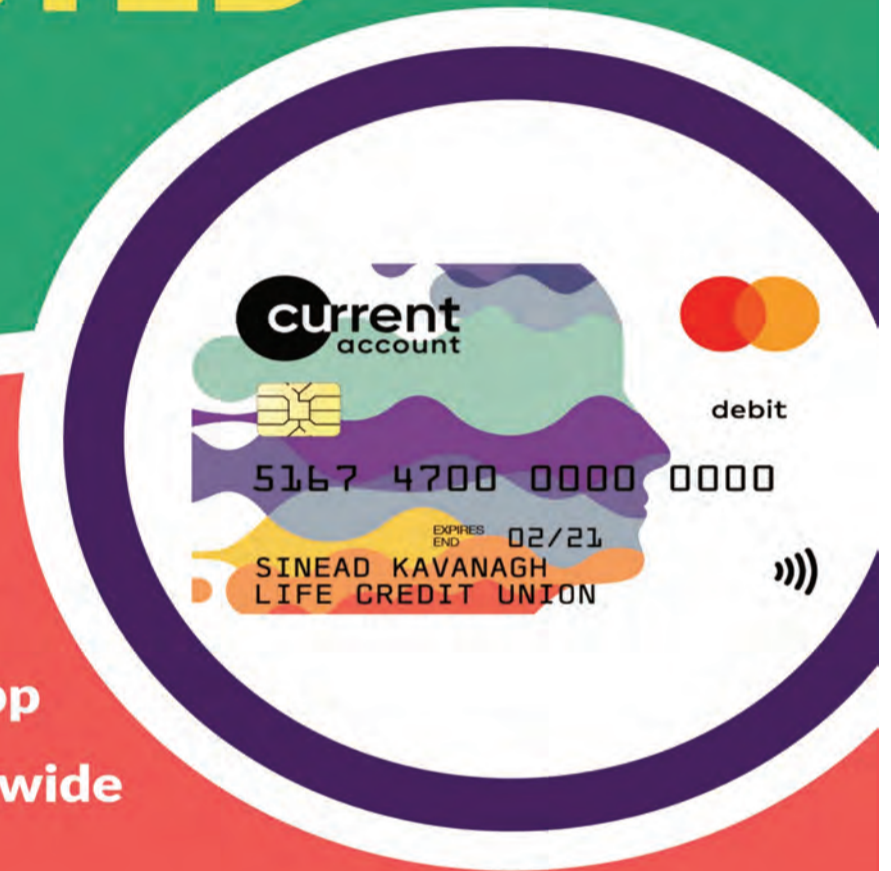


**The Chrysanthemum plants** are another great plant for this time of year. One of these in a pot near your front door will brighten the entrance of your door for months during autumn and winter. They will produce flower for a long time and need little water when outside in a cool climate.

Plant a window box full of herbs. **Herbs** such as Swiss chard, kale, parsley and mint will all thrive through a frosty autumn. You can also prepare your containers and window boxes for spring. Snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells are a great choice to ensure you have a colourful collection throughout spring.

**"The hum of bees is the voice of the garden."**

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Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Sea Bass

After a spell of weekend eating in the local greasy spoon in Queens, New York, my Irish roommate, Jack, pointed the way to healthier meals. He would throw a steak on the grill, put a few potatoes in a saucepan, pop a frozen block of string beans into another saucepan and within half an hour be enjoying a wholesome dinner. It wasn’t long till I had mastered this *haut cuisine* and with a bottle of Chianti to complement the steak, would wonder why it had taken me so long to become a master chef.

Not that I always ate dinner in the apartment. During weekdays my workmates and I dined at various Manhattan restaurants: Italian, French, German and, usually on a Thursday, Irish, where we enjoyed the American version of “authentic” Irish food, corned beef and cabbage! But my favourite entree was grilled bass, the speciality of a Jewish seafood restaurant near Rockefeller Center: this delicacy, topped with a sprinkling of sliced almonds, was, in my opinion, far superior to wild salmon or even lobster. Not surprisingly then when the time came to invite some friends to dinner, I decided that the *pièce de résistance* would be Sea Bass. It would be easy to cook and, in any case, nobody would expect culinary marvels from a bachelor. The friends were an Irish couple, Mike and Annie O’Brien, distant relatives of mine, from Brooklyn, their daughter Molly and her German-American husband Karl Becker, and – if they could persuade her to accompany them – their gorgeous granddaughter, Lindy.

By this time Jack had moved to Arizona so I had the whole apartment to myself. I purchased a good dinner set and even splashed out on an Irish linen tablecloth. With a bottle of Champagne in the fridge and three bottles of Bordeaux white on the sideboard I felt ready for the main purchase, the fish. Now at this time the firm of electrical contractors for which I worked had a field office in downtown Manhattan, where a new courthouse was being built. Since this was close to the Fulton Street fish market, I reckoned it would be a simple matter to nip over there during lunchtime and acquire some sea bass fresh off the boat. This part of the plan went without hitch but when I arrived back in the office with a bulging plastic bag, Scotti, a fellow draughtsman, pointed out that fish needed to be gutted: if this weren’t done pronto they would be stinking by quitting time. Borrowing his penknife, I went into the bathroom, took one plump slippery fish out of the bag, slit open its belly and let the intestines drop into the toilet bowl, then washed the gaping cavity under the cold-water tap. Hoping the boss wouldn’t come by till the rank smell had subsided, I repeated the operation with the other five fish. After I had hidden the bag of wet corpses in my drawer, I phoned Mrs O’Brien with news of the treat that awaited her. To my surprise she didn’t sound overjoyed.

“Have you scaled them?” she asked. Scale them? What on earth was she on about? She explained that before cooking you had to rub a knife repeatedly against the fish from tail to head while holding it under a tap to remove all the scales. Fair enough, I reckoned I could manage that, though it did seem a lot of unnecessary fuss – who ate the skin anyway? That evening the O’Briens and Beckers duly arrived and, to my nervous delight, Lindy, looking fabulous in platform shoes and a red mini skirt, was with them. When her father, in his blunt manner, asked what was for dinner, I proudly informed him that there were half a dozen sea bass just waiting to be grilled. “What!” he exclaimed. “You mean you’ve made us drive all the way from Brooklyn just to eat grilled fish?” “But these are fresh sea bass.” I felt the ground opening under my feet. “Big deal!” He was relentless. “Have you a casserole dish and tomato purée?” “No,” I confessed, getting as red as a tomato myself. “Then you’d better go out and buy them,” he advised. “Boy, are you some chancer!” “Don’t mind him, Danny,” his wife Molly came to my rescue. “Just because he’s a cook with the New York Fire Department, he thinks we should all be experts.” “Listen to her!” Karl scoffed. “You Irishers always stick up for one another.”

Deciding that a drink might cool the atmosphere, I hastily took the bottle of Champagne from the fridge. When I prized off the cork a foaming pink cascade drenched the sleeve of Lindy’s sweater. “You -!” She didn’t finish but her expression spoke volumes. “Here, I’ll pour it out,” Molly volunteered, as Lindy hurried to the bathroom. A few minutes later she emerged and calmly accepted a drink. At Karl’s urging, I was heading for the door when, to my surprise, Lindy said she’d drive me. “You don’t mind if I take the car, Daddy?” She gave her father a coy grin. “Sure, Sugar,” he handed her the keys, “but be careful.” “She’s just passed her driving test,” Molly gave me a mischievous grin, “so don’t distract her, Danny!” “Thanks, mother.” Lindy glared at her. “Do you drive yourself, Danny?” Mike asked. “I used to back home,” I said, “but with the buses and subway who needs a car here?” “If two cars are following one another in Dublin, what time is it?” Karl had on his comic’s grin. I shook my head.

“Tin after tin!” he cracked, enjoying his own joke. “Now hurry back before we all starve – and get some *aluminum* foil.” With an apologetic smile, I followed Lindy out to the family Chevrolet. We pulled away with her parents watching unobtrusively from the apartment door. Everything went fine till, almost within sight of the main avenue, a car suddenly shot out before us. Lindy jammed on the brakes and the engine stalled. Though she turned the ignition key repeatedly the engine refused to start. She let the car roll alongside the sidewalk, put on the hand brake and began to step furiously on the gas pedal while turning the ignition. “It might be better to let it rest for a while,” I advised. “ You’ll only flood the engine.” “What would you know?” she snapped, her voice laden with contempt. I didn’t reply. Obviously somebody who hadn’t a clue about how to entertain guests could hardly be relied on when it came to automobiles. What a fool I’d been to imagine this All-American girl could ever have been interested in a klutz like me?

Leaving her to continue her efforts, I got out and walked to the supermarket. Wouldn’t you know it? They were clean out of tomato purée! Cursing my luck, I bought a large bottle of catsup, together with the casserole dish and *aluminum* foil. When I got back to the car Lindy had given up her efforts to restart it. “I’ll get a taxi,” I suggested. Since there was nothing else to do, she locked the door while I put money in the nearest parking meter. All the way back in the taxi she refused to talk. You’d think everything was my fault, though it was she who had suggested driving. Once he knew that the car wasn’t illegally parked, her father took the news of the breakdown with unexpected equanimity. “Don’t let it bother you, Sugar,” he soothed. “I’ll see what I can rustle up with this catsup and the fish, and then we’ll go for the car – You’re sure they didn’t have purée?” He fixed me with an exasperated glance. “They didn’t,” I repeated, watching him empty the entire bottle of catsup over the bass in the casserole dish, pour in some water and then cover the lot with tinfoil. He placed the dish in the oven, adjusted the temperature and left instructions about watching the vegetables.

“It’s a queer day when you’re invited to dinner and then have to cook it yourself,” he joked as I phoned for a taxi. While waiting for the taxi, I served the first course: honey dew melon with glacé cherry. Thank goodness, the melon couldn’t have been better, sweet and succulent. I was refilling everybody’s glass with wine just as the taxi rang the doorbell. As soon as Karl and Lindy left the atmosphere eased. Mike began regaling us with stories about his youth in Ireland and Molly helped me to keep an eye on the vegetables, even placing some of the boiled potatoes on the grill to roast. Mrs O’Brien complimented me on the lovely way I had decorated the apartment and told me I would make some girl a fine husband. “Don’t listen to her,” Mike joked. “Women can’t bear to see a man making do on his own.” “For all the help you give me about the house I might as well be on my own,” Annie riposted. “Did you hear about the time, Danny, that I got

him to wax the floors?” “Now, you two stop your squabbling and let Danny tell us more about his work,” Molly admonished. “You’re designing the electrical system for the courthouse, aren’t you?” “Indeed, I’m not,” I assured her. “I’m only doing the working plans for the electricians.” “He’s just being modest,” her mother said. “In a few years he’ll be a fully fledged engineer. Isn’t that right, Danny?” I was spared from explaining my slow progress in City College night school by the ringing of the doorbell. Karl had succeeded in restarting the car so he and Lindy were in a jovial mood. When he took the casserole dish from the oven and removed the aluminum foil a delicious aroma wafted into the dining area. He tested the fish with a fork and pronounced them ready. In no time we were all enjoying a meal that even Karl had to admit was delicious. “This is better than corned beef and cabbage any day, eh, Danny?” he said, taking a mouthful of Sea Bass.

“Did you ever hear of *potatoes and point*?” Michael broke in, and began to tell us about how the Irish in famine times used rub their spuds on a piece of bacon hanging from the ceiling to give them flavour and then, when the bacon was all used up, pointing to the spot where it used to hang. “Mike, you’ve told that old chestnut a thousand times!” Karl stuffed another forkful of sea bass into his mouth. Next minute he made choking noises. “Are you all right, Daddy?” Lindy clapped his back. “What is it, Karl?” Molly rose to assist her daughter. For answer Karl opened his mouth wide, rolled his eyes and clawed at his throat. Oh no! One of my guests had a bone stuck in his gullet. Why couldn’t I have kept to beefsteak? “Dry bread might clear it.” I ventured, handing Karl a slice. Lindy gave me a withering glance as if to say, “You’ve done it again, you klutz!” Karl broke off a piece of bread, popped it in his mouth then a big grin spread across his face. “Gotcha!” he crowed. The son of a gun had just been pretending. “You shouldn’t have given us a fright like that!” Molly scolded. “And poor Danny looked so upset.” “Sorry, Danny Boy!” Karl winked.

After that I relaxed. The wine and food were making a warm glow in my stomach and like a genial host I smiled and nodded at all the banter and corny jokes. Lindy helped me to distribute the dessert, apple pie and butter pecan ice cream, while hinting that for their next visit she would show me how to cook her father’s favourite dish, *Wiener schnitzel*, but despite her change of attitude, I had no intention of changing the menu. If it weren’t for the sea bass I might never have seen behind that beautiful, smiling mask till I was well and truly hooked!

By P.G. Nerney

Studio Visit

Knives and forks arranged in jugs, a patterned display of spectacles, a napkin pleated like an open fan, pumpkins on a kitchen table, folded blue-edged Foxford blankets, a group of sturdy watering cans, still lives worthy of established masters had their palette warmer colours or items fit for Dutch interiors if some humans could be added –

but look!

at last the eye finds solace by skipping mundane household objects: a clear-glass vase with snow-white daisies, their pollen centres sun-hued ochre, one with violet and magenta sweet-peas, delicate as young girls’ summer dresses, and here, sweet-peas on teepee cane supports, bent sideways by repeated breezes, and, still in grow bags, three wind-blown saplings; outdoor riches that ignite the senses.

By Colin Scott

## MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES



### Traffic in Maynooth

Maynooth has had a buzz about it since mid-September with the return of university students. With the relaxation of Covid-19 restriction, however, traffic appears to be getting worse. There were hopes that we would not return to the “old” normal of car dependency but these appear to be dashed. At lunch time on Sunday 26th September, traffic on Parson Street was backed up from the junction at Mill Street to entrance to the former Rectory.

### Bikeweek 2021

At the end of August, Kildare County Council invited Maynooth Cycling Campaign to take part in Bikeweek. We proposed a number of actions including advance publicity, two organised cycles around Maynooth and engagement with secondary schools in Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip as well as Maynooth primary schools. We submitted an estimate of costs and added a percentage to cover the cost of our insurances and time in preparing and running the events. We also looked for clarification on a number of conditions but as we did not get a reply, we reluctantly decided not to proceed. Maynooth Cycling Campaign has been involved in Bikeweek since 2012 and have used Bikeweek funding to buy from local shops so we were disappointed not to be able to do so again this year.

Although Bikeweek is funded by the Department of Transport and organised in conjunction with the local authorities, voluntary groups are expected to pay the cost of insurances. Furthermore although prompt payment legislation ensures that invoices must be paid promptly, Kildare County Council has forced Maynooth Cycling Campaign to wait two lengthy periods – 8 months before being reimbursed for costs of over €1000.

As Maynooth Cycling Campaign does not have its own bank account, we informed Kildare County Council that we wanted funds to be temporarily transferred to us via Dublin Cycling Campaign CLG/Cyclist.ie (rather than an individual’s private account). Dublin Cycling Campaign CLG/Cyclist.ie is a company approved by the Irish Charity Regulator and the intention was to improve the campaign’s cash flow. When Kildare County Council failed to reimburse Maynooth Cycling Campaign in a prompt manner, the effect was therefore to effectively retain money intended for a charity.

### #KissTheGatesGoodbye

Following an invitation to meet the Director of Services for Transportation on site, Maynooth Cycling Campaign met with Kildare County Council’s Access Officer on site in Sallins to see the problems for access by disabled people and cyclists with non-standard bikes due to Kissing Gates and similar barriers. A more detailed account of the issues and our asks is available on our website.

### Speed Limit Review

Maynooth Cycling Campaign made a detailed submission on Kildare County Council’s Review of speed limits. A copy is available on our website.

*Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political cycling advocacy group. Further information on the campaign is available on our website. We are affiliated to Cyclist.ie, the Irish Cyclist Advocacy Network and through it to the European Cycling Federation.*



**James Lawless T.D. Kildare North**

Phone: 01-6183587 - e-mail: [james@jameslawless.ie](mailto:james@jameslawless.ie) - Web: [www.jameslawless.ie](http://www.jameslawless.ie)



### Social Media and Transparency Bill

I re-introduced my Social Media and Transparency Bill to the Oireachtas so that it can advance to the next stage. The bill attempts to bring our laws into the 21st century and apply similar rules to online and social media political advertising that have applied for years to print and broadcast media. Currently if I put a poster on a lamppost or a leaflet in a letterbox, under the law I have to make clear who is the source. This is to stop anonymous campaigns and to prevent abuses of campaign spending limits so that the richest candidate doesn't have a free for all. But none of these checks and balances apply online which is largely unregulated still. The US elections in 2016, the Brexit vote, the Cambridge Analytica scandal and many more sparked a democratic crisis worldwide. And in Ireland where reports of former FB managers running campaigns from Serbia along with increased growth of far-right groups organizing protests online, it is essential we bring some transparency to the online political arena. We must continue adapting to technology and that includes our laws and regulations.

### The Introduction of “Coco’s Law” on cyber bullying

On being appointed as Chair of the Justice Committee, by An Taoiseach, I immediately prioritised the passage of “Coco's Law” into force. This legislation lends it name to a girl who tragically took her own life as a result of Internet bullying and harassment. I met her mother outside Leinster House and other groups campaigning on this such important issue. The bill also outlaws cyber-stalking and sharing of intimate images online without consent. Digital offences are just as sinister, and sometimes more, than their offline equivalent and I am very pleased we have now made this Law.

### My opposition to closing down of historic inquiries

I joined representatives from across the island at Belfast City Hall last to express our unified opposition to British Government proposals to close down historic inquiries and grant general amnesty. Families of victims deserve the truth and to know what happened to their loved ones. Politicians from all the main parties on both sides of the Border have signed a document rejecting the UK government’s plans to introduce an amnesty for Troubles-related killings.

Irish Senators and TDs, as well as representatives from the five parties in the Northern Executive, met a cross-community group of victims campaigners at Belfast City Hall on Monday. We signed a document stating that we “totally reject the British government’s proposals for ‘dealing with the past’, including amnesties for those who committed murder” and supported the victims’ campaigners in their efforts to stop the proposals.

# Kildare Readers Festival 2021

Kildare Readers Festival is brought to you every year in October by Kildare County Library and Arts Service. We are delighted to partner with Kildare Readers Festival once again this year and live events at Riverbank Arts Centre are BACK! These events are all FREE, but booking is essential.

## Tuesday, 5th October at 7pm – SHELIVING

Why do artists and writers shelve or abandon particular projects – books, artworks, ideas? What does this tell us about how artists and writers work? What does it tell us about the systems in which they work, the expectations placed upon them, the kinds of work considered viable, valuable, worthwhile? For this event as part of Kildare Readers' Festival, a number of practitioners from literature and the visual arts have been invited to present and talk about works they've previously shelved, abandoned, cannibalised, lost, forgotten, or reconfigured.

SHELIVING will feature presentations/performances by three writers and artists: Darran Anderson, Claire-Louise Bennett, and Suzanne Walsh. This event is curated by the outgoing Maynooth University/Kildare Arts Office writers-in-residence Nathan O'Donnell and Susan Tomaselli.

## Friday, 15th October at 8pm – John Bowman in conversation with Abie Philbin Bowman

With a shared love of history and debate John Bowman and Abie Philbin Bowman are ideal interviewer and interviewee. KRF are delighted to bring you this exclusive interview as they discuss John Bowman's book Ireland the Autobiography: One Hundred Years in the Life of the Nation, Told by its People. This absorbing and highly acclaimed book which has been researched over decades draws on eyewitness accounts, diaries and memoirs from the perspective of people who lived in these times, how they felt, their personal and societal experiences. These stories reflect how people were feeling whereas an official account can only tell us what happened. The power of personal testimony continues to influence.

## Saturday, 16th October at 10:30am – 10 Books You Should Read

10 Books You Should Read continues to be a favourite event at Kildare Readers' Festival. Its format is a simple one – the guests choose five titles each – conversation ensues, as recommendations – and the advocacy of same – volley back and forth. On this occasion KRF thought to have the conversation be amongst the keepers of our cultural collections. Simon O'Connor is the Director of the Museum of Literature Ireland and Jason McElligott is the Director of Ireland's oldest public library, Marsh's Library.

## Saturday, 16th October at 8pm – Luke Cassidy's Iron Annie Cabaret

The Iron Annie Cabaret is a celebration of music, theatre and literature. Based on Luke Cassidy's debut novel Iron Annie, it tells the story of Aoife, a major figure in Dundalk's small-town underworld, and her fatal attraction to Annie, a magnetic and elusive force that barged into her life. Think Reservoir Dogs meets Thelma and Louise meets the Rocky Horror Picture Show. This production features performances by Eleanor McLoughlin as Aoife, accompanied by musical performances by folk duo the Dandelion Few and newly-formed rock band The Pickled Onions. Directed by Peter Moreton, artistic director of the Applegarth Arts Centre (London), it is produced by Luke Cassidy, with production design by Marianne Thibault. The production is made possible with the support of the Arts Council of Ireland and Louth County Council.

## SUNDAY, 17 October at 3pm – The Alphabet of Birds

Sunday Mass and sea swimming; bird alphabets and stone collecting; Goya and Monet; the Stations of the Cross and the Sacred Heart of Jesus; bedrooms and bedsits; insomnia and parental love. Writer and artist Sara Baume covers wide ground in this spellbinding audio-visual essay. Ultimately, it's a show about our obsessions and passions – the multitude of rituals that fill our daily lives with meaning. Live readings of Baume's new essay are interspersed with four short documentaries from Jamie Goldrick that feature artists Gary Coyle, Laura Fitzgerald, Sara Baume and Natalia Beylis. The essay and films are live scored by musicians Irene Buckley and Elaine Howley (Howlbux). The Alphabet of Birds is the second stage show from annual arts magazine Holy Show, who tour a new literary-hybrid production each year. Holy Show is generously funded by the Arts Council of Ireland. This production was also funded by the Western Development Commission as part of a project developed by Spot-Lit.

To see all Kildare Readers Festival events (online and in other locations), go to: [www.kildarereadersfestival.ie](http://www.kildarereadersfestival.ie)

**Please note, in line with new Government guidelines, you will be required to show your EU COVID Certificate and Valid ID for entry to the auditorium for this event. Due to COVID safety and social distancing requirements, audience capacity for this event is reduced. The seats on sale for this event are individual tickets (or groups of 2 or 4 people.) If you have any particular seating requirements please contact us at [boxoffice@riverbank.ie](mailto:boxoffice@riverbank.ie) or telephone (045) 448327 Please see our [Covid Safety information](#) before your visit to Riverbank Arts Centre.**



## PETER OUR GUIDE! LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." When the Jews, the ones with all the answers, murmured among themselves and declared that such teaching was impossible to accept Jesus restated what he had already said only in stronger language. At this many of his disciples, unable to accept this teaching, withdrew and walked no more in his company. And the twelve? Perhaps they had been murmuring somewhat too but Jesus didn't water down what he had said. On the contrary, he challenged them with the direct question, "Will you also go away?" Peter spoke for himself and his colleagues: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." Yes, they had doubts but their faith was stronger than any doubts! And anyway, they had long given up on the chief priests and the pharisees. So Jesus was their only hope!

We too have our doubts! Not because of Jesus' words but because of the words and behaviour of some of his modern day disciples. We are gutted by the clerical child abuse scandal, the Magdalen laundries, the Mother and Baby Homes. And then we hear of Cardinals and Bishops living like worldly princes in far greater opulence than the worldly wealthy, and still others having been involved either directly or indirectly in child abuse. We may be tempted, as many of Jesus' early followers were, to say with them, "Enough is enough. We cannot follow Jesus anymore". But we should be mindful of Peter's question, "To whom can we go?" And mindful also that the answer to Peter's rhetorical question is the same as the answer to our own, "You have the words of eternal life"! Why should we think of going anywhere for help but to the one we know is the answer to all our problems and doubts, Jesus himself? He, indeed, has the words of eternal life and we can do nothing better than put everything in his hands and take to heart his liberating words, "Do not be afraid. I will be with you until the end of time."

GM.

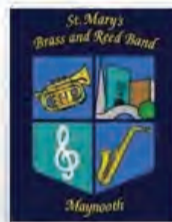
## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band Maynooth

The highlights of the Band's programme for last month were our visit to Castletown House in Celbridge and Culture night in the Square in Maynooth. Both recitals were blessed with dry weather and brilliant audiences and it was great to see so many comments from people who appreciated Live Music being back after the long shut down. We're almost at the end of the outdoor recitals for this year which depends so much on the weather but we will see if we can squeeze in one more in October if we get a dry Sunday, keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates. One positive outcome from our recitals is that some musicians living locally have come to us asking if they could join the Band and we are always delighted to welcome these people.

The sign over our entrance gate (see below) welcomes both musicians and beginners showing our contact details. You can also call 087 2537 906 if you need further information. We are hoping that we will be able to get back to our Bandhall after the social distancing restrictions are lifted on 22nd October and we are really looking forward to it. Despite all these restrictions we have managed to keep the Band going with outdoor rehearsals and recitals but as they say there's no place like home as it's been a long 19 months since we saw the inside of the Bandhall.



Culture Night in the Square 17th September



St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band

E-mail [sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie](mailto:sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie)

[www.stmarysbandmaynooth.ie](http://www.stmarysbandmaynooth.ie)

Musicians and beginners welcome at all times

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Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade



## Upgrading lives

If you live in Kildare or Meath, you may know EirGrid is planning an upgrade to the grid in your area, so that we can continue to provide a safe, secure and sustainable electricity supply now and in the future.

As part of our ongoing consultation, we have identified four potential routes for the new 400kV underground cable which will connect Dunstown station in Co. Kildare to Woodland station in Co. Meath – and we want to hear your views.

You can find more details and have your say on the four options at [www.eirgrid.ie/KildareMeath](http://www.eirgrid.ie/KildareMeath). You can also email [kildaremeath@eirgrid.com](mailto:kildaremeath@eirgrid.com) or call Grainne on 085 887 4798.

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## Hymenoscyphus fraxineus Ash Dieback

Like a sentinel in time ash trees have been an iconic part of which make the landscape in Ireland, along laneways, roadsides, field boundaries, as individual trees in fields and specimen trees in parks. Its one of the latest trees to come into leaf in the spring, the wood is very dense stronger than oak and is very important as a biodiversity resource.

Sadly the days of the Ash may be numbered. In 2012 a localized infection was found in Co. Leitrim, since then it has rapidly spread throughout the whole of Ireland and continues to do so as there is no means of controlling this virulent fungus disease.

The photo of this ash tree was taken in mid August 2021 along the L2214, the local road which links towards Maynooth. This tree was healthy two years ago and now is in decline, the disease has spread across the road to another ash tree which is already showing signs of decline and is just one of many along the road. Travel along the R156 Dunboyne is almost surreal as vast number of trees are showing signs of infection.

Will any show resistance, hopefully the answer is Yes. Its good to see the proactive approach being taken by COFORD Council Forest Genetic Resources Working Group towards Breeding for tolerance to Ash Dieback disease.

As of now Ash Disease will have a dramatic impact on the Irish Landscape for years to come.

Peter W Cuthbert BSc Agr (Hort) MILI



## MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS

### October Clever Reach

#### Children

##### Children's Online Halloween Art& Craft workshop for 6-7 year olds with Florence & Milly

**Tuesday 26th October 2- 3pm**

Join Laura from Florence & Milly in this fun Art& Craft workshop to get you all ready for Halloween ! Packs with the materials needed for the workshop will be available for collection from Maynooth Community Library from Monday 11th October. Children participating in the workshop must have a parent/guardian present with them during the workshop.

Booking through Eventbrite : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176401099437>.

##### Kids Cook-A-Long via Zoom with East Coast Cookery School

**Thursday October 27th 12pm**

Dress up and join Tara for this interactive Zoom Class and learn how to make some tasty treats! Easy step-by-step instruction with a bit of fun and a tasty meal to enjoy. Receive the recipes, equipment and ingredients list plus Zoom link via email in advance as well as any preparation needed. Approx. 1hour long.

Booking essential :<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/kids-halloween-cook-a-long-with-east-coast-cookery-school-tickets-177016058797>.

##### Dog Zombie Drawing and Art Workshop

**Thursday October 28th 3.10pm - 4.00pm**

As part of the Children's Book Festival and to tie in with Halloween festivities Niamh from Maynooth Library will run her yearly Tom Gates inspired drawing and art workshop. Have you ever been reading about Tom's band Dog Zombies and wondered just what a Dog Zombie might look like? This is a fun Zoom workshop to explore the possibilities and design your very own rock band poster. This is a workshop with Tom Gates fans in mind, but having read these books is not essential. Open to children aged 7+, all participants require is some paper and something to draw and colour with.

Booking required: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/cbf-halloween-dog-zombies-drawing-workshop-inspired-by-tom-gates-tickets-171886997637>

#### Family

##### Mid-Week Meals Cooking Demonstration via Zoom with East Coast Cookery School

**Thursday October 7th 6pm**

Join Tara from East Coast Cookery School for an interactive Zoom Class the whole family will love. Easy step-by-step instructions with a bit of fun and a tasty meal to enjoy, featuring delicious meals to get you through the week. Receive the recipes, equipment and ingredients list plus Zoom link via email in advance as well as any preparation needed. Approx. 1hour long.

Booking essential: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/mid-week-meals-cook-a-long-demonstration-with-east-coast-cookery-school-tickets-174670061857>.

##### Good Food, No Stress Cooking Demonstration via Zoom with East Coast Cookery School

**Thursday October 21st 6pm**

Join Tara from East Coast Cookery School for an interactive Zoom Class the whole family will love. Easy step-by-step instructions with a bit of fun and a tasty meal to enjoy, featuring simple no stress food that you and your family will enjoy. Receive the recipes, equipment and ingredients list plus Zoom link via email in advance as well as any preparation needed. Approx. 1hour long.

Booking essential <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/good-food-no-stress-cooking-demonstration-with-east-coast-cookery-school-tickets-176347679657>

#### Adults

##### Autumn themed online painting with water colours class with Florence&Milly

##### Monday 11th October 2- 3pm

Join artist Laura Barry from Florence & Milly for a guided Watercolour Painting session with an Autumn theme for beginners. Packs with the materials needed for the class will be to collect at the library from the first week in October.

Places are limited.

Booking through Eventbrite : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176366556117>.

##### Fall for Poetry: An evening of sharing autumn themed poetry.

**Thursday 4th November at 6.30 pm, via Zoom.**

Join us for an evening of poetry readings. Some of you may wish to read, and others might like to just listen, while we enjoy the colourful palette of your favourite poems.

Hosted by Maynooth and Ballitore Libraries.

All welcome. Booking via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/fall-for-poetry-tickets-176563424957>

#### Regular Events

##### Ciorcal Comhrá míosúil ar líne san Oíche / Evening Ciorcal Comhrá ar líne

**Máirt 19ú Deireadh Fómhair 7 i.n.**

Beidh Ciorcal míosúil ar líne thar Zoom ag tosnú ar a 7 a chlog i.n. ar an Máirt 19ú lá déag Deireadh Fómhair. Seo deis iontach Gaeilge a fhoghlaim agus a chleactadh trí chaint agus chomhrá in atmaisféar réchúiseach ó chompord do bhaile féin. Fáilte roimh chách. Má bhíonn suim agat páirt a ghlacadh, cláraigh ag an nasc thíos

Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/173463673517>

Nó cuir ríomhphost chuig Maynooth Community Library, [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

##### Irish Language Conversation Group Tuesday 19th October 7 pm

Monthly evening online Ciorcal Comhrá starting on 19th of October at 7pm. This is a great opportunity to learn and practice Irish through chat and fun in a relaxed atmosphere from the comfort of your own home. All welcome. If you are interested, please book through the Eventbrite link

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/173463673517>

or email: [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

##### German 'Stammtisch', informal conversation meet-up.

**Thursday 28th October at 6.30pm, online via Zoom**

Maynooth Library hosts a monthly informal German conversation meet-up, for anyone with an interest in the language and culture in German speaking countries. All levels from learners to native speakers are welcome. Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of every month.

For more information please contact Maynooth Library at [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) or 01 6285530.

Audience: Adults and Young Adults.

#### Bookclubs

##### Readers of the Lost Ark SciFi/ Fantasy Bookclub

The Readers of the Lost Ark SciFi fantasy bookclub meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. The next meeting of the bookclub will be on Tuesday 12th October at 6.30pm.

If you are interested in joining the bookclub, please email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) or telephone 01 628 5530.

##### Live Story Time & Sing Along Nursery Rhymes for 2-5-year olds

**Every Friday 10-10.30am**

Join the Staff of Maynooth Library for some story-telling and nursery rhymes! Please be aware that a parent/guardian must be present for the duration of the event. Booking required through eventbrite.

Friday 1st October : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176373466787>.

Friday 8th October: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176375171887>.

Friday 15th October: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176375733567>

Friday 22nd October: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176378291217>.

Friday 29th October: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/176384128677>.

Hope you are keeping safe and well  
We are working for you in the area throughout this time



Daily remote constituency clinics

Monday to Friday Telephone: 089 2444 793

Or, email:

[Catherine.Murphy@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Catherine.Murphy@oireachtas.ie)

We anticipate changes towards the end of October,  
so please feel free to check in with us.

**Catherine Murphy, Your Kildare North  
Social Democrats TD**

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



## Fuel Allowance

The 2021-2022 [Fuel Allowance](#) season starts Monday, 27 September 2021. The Allowance is €28 per week for 28 weeks. It can also be paid in 2 lump sums. The first lump sum of €392 will be paid the week beginning 27 September 2021. The second lump sum of €392 will be paid the week beginning 3 January 2022.

## Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

The closing date for applications for [Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance](#) is 30 September 2021.

## PUP and self-employed PRSI

People who were [self-employed immediately before getting PUP](#) will be awarded their annual PRSI contributions when they make their annual tax return, including any S Class payment due.

## New redundancy measures

The suspension of the right to claim redundancy under Section 12A provision of the Redundancy Payments Act 1967 (as amended), will [end on 30 September 2021](#). After 30 September, workers will be able to claim redundancy and to access redundancy payments in the usual way. A special payment of up to a maximum of €1,860 will be available to workers who have lost out on reckonable service while temporarily laid off during the pandemic and who are made redundant. Payments will become operational in the first half of 2022.

## Return to workplace

From 20 September, [workers can return to the workplace](#) on a phased and staggered basis, initially for specific business requirements only. After 22 October, the requirement to work from home will be removed. A return to physical attendance in workplaces will be allowed on a phased and cautious basis.

## The Government has issued:

- A [Guidance note on Returning Safely to the Workplace](#) with information on the use of staggered arrangements and other considerations around attendance levels
- An [updated Work Safely Protocol](#) with technical amendments on new symptoms associated with the Delta variant of COVID-19 and additional information on face coverings, ventilation, and vaccinations

## Changes to close contact rules in schools and childcare

From Monday, 27 September, children under 12 who are a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 [in school or childcare will not need to restrict their movements or get a COVID-19 test](#) if they have no symptoms. This does not apply to children in special education.

## Vaccination week in third-level colleges

From 27 September 2021, [walk-in vaccination clinics](#) will run for one week at 11 colleges. The clinics will provide first and second doses to students and staff.

## CAO offers

On 28 September 2021, the [CAO](#) will make Round 3 college offers to students. Students have until 30 September 2021 to accept their offer. Round 4 offers will be issued on 5 October 2021.

## Indoor group activities permitted

[From 20 September](#), indoor group activities including indoor training, fitness and other classes, bingo, and leisure centres recommenced with restrictions on the number of participants. Up to 100 people can take part where everyone is either fully vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19. Otherwise, pods of up to 6 people are permitted. The number of pods permitted depends on the size of the venue.

All remaining restrictions on outdoor group activities have now been lifted.

## Day service placement deferral

From September 2022, young people with disabilities who are leaving school or rehabilitative training can [defer their placement in a day service for up to 3 years](#). This follows feedback from young people and their families, who were reluctant to try non-HSE options in case a day place would not be available should they require it after the year they leave school or rehabilitative training.

## Deaf Awareness Training videos

CIB has launched a series of [Deaf Awareness Training videos](#) developed with the Irish Deaf Society (IDS). These videos provide an understanding of Deafness, the Deaf community, Sign languages and other topics related to the Deaf community, including how to engage and communicate with Deaf people in a Deaf-friendly way.

## Interest rates reduced for local authority mortgages

On 10 September, interest rates on the [Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan](#) were reduced by 0.25% for new borrowers.

## Immigration permissions extended

Immigration permissions that are due to expire before 15 January 2022 [will be automatically extended](#) to 15 January 2022. This includes immigration permissions that were previously extended.

Immigration permissions have been automatically renewed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is expected to be the final extension.

## Short-stay visa processing resumes

The [processing of all short-stay visas](#) recommenced on 13 September 2021. Prior to this, only certain categories of short-stay visa were being processed.

## Scam warning

ComReg has [issued a scam warning](#) about recent scam calls where the callers are using official Garda numbers and impersonating members of An Garda Síochána.

## Dublin M50 speed limits

Variable speed limits will be introduced on the M50 in the coming weeks. Digital signs will be switched on to slow traffic in response to driving conditions on the motorway. More information is available on the [RSA website](#).

## Upcoming

### COVID-19 vaccines

An additional single dose of a mRNA vaccine has been [recommended for the following groups](#):

- People aged 65 years and older living in residential care facilities
- People aged 80 years and older living in the community
- People who are immunocompromised

[The Independent reports](#) that these groups will begin to receive invites for their additional dose from Monday, 27 September.

### COVID-19 business supports

The [closing date](#) for the Outdoor Service Enhancement Scheme is 30 September 2021.

### New technological university

On 1 October 2021, Athlone and Limerick Institutes of Technology will be replaced by the new [Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands and Midwest](#).

**Leaving Certificate appeals** The Leaving Certificate 2021 [appeals results](#) are expected to be issued the week starting 4 October 2021.

### Guidelines on reduced school days

From 1 January 2022, if a school restricts a child's full attendance at school, the school must notify [Tusla](#) and follow the [Department of Education guidelines on reduced school days](#).

### Rights of way

The 30 November deadline for registering a private right of way under the old rules [is to be extended](#). The Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009, which brought in a requirement to register certain rights of way, will be amended by upcoming legislation. Under this amending Bill, the law about how a private right of way is established will revert back to how things worked before the 2009 Act, and registration will be optional.

### Budget 2022

Budget 2022 will be announced on Tuesday, 12 October 2021

## Ones to Watch

### Licensing laws

A major [reform of licensing laws](#) has been announced. New laws, if enacted, would streamline the licensing system and possibly create Dáil Éireann resumed on Wednesday, 15 September. A [daily schedule](#) is available online.

### Legislation

Seanad Éireann resumed on Tuesday, 21 September and a [detailed schedule](#) is available online. New categories of licence for the hospitality and night-time economy.

**Freedom of Information (FOI)** A [review of Ireland's freedom of information laws](#) is underway with the aim of improving and modernising the FOI system.

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### THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

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• **Mobile: 085 7338847**

• **Phone: 01 - 6210100**

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

• **[www.gerardmaloneblinds.com](http://www.gerardmaloneblinds.com)**

• **Follow me on facebook**



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

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

Catherine Murphy TD sought an update in relation to the status of an appeal submitted to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Kildare County Council in respect of a grant from the large-scale sport infrastructure fund for a swimming pool in Maynooth, County Kildare. As per the response below, the Minister proposes a review. Catherine welcomes the proposed review and will revisit the matter in due course.

### The Minister responded as follows:

The Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF) was launched in 2018 to provide Exchequer support for larger sports facility projects, including swimming pools, with at least €100m being made available over the period to 2027. An application was received from Kildare County Council in respect of the project referred to by the Deputy. All applications under the LSSIF were assessed in accordance with the published scoring criteria. The scores were awarded based on factors such as the priority given to the project by the relevant NGB and/or local authority, the level of funding being provided by the project sponsor and how the project was likely to increase participation. The total funding applied for under the scheme significantly exceeded the amount available to allocate and the project referred to by the Deputy did not score sufficiently highly to be awarded a grant under this first set of allocations.

All unsuccessful applicants were given the opportunity to appeal the Department's decision if it was felt that an error was made in the assessment process. Six appeals were received including one in respect of the application referred to by the Deputy. The appeal was assessed by officials who were not involved in the initial assessment process. While no significant errors were discovered in the scoring to warrant a grant award in this case, my Department is currently undertaking a review of progress on all existing LSSIF grants. As part of this work my Department is examining, inter alia, progress on all projects awarded funding to date. The scope for awarding new grants to projects which missed out under the first set of allocations is also being considered as part of this review. As part of the review, my Department is also considering the timing of any new call for proposals and it is expected that the review will be completed in the coming months.

### The Dart + West

The second round of public consultations on the DART+ West Preferred Option is now open and will continue until 6th October 2021. Your feedback on this preferred option is important. Visit the DART+ West section for further details on the project.

<https://www.dartplus.ie/en-ie/projects/dart-west>

The second round of public consultation on the DART+ West Preferred Option has been further extended until Wednesday 6th October 2021.

In line with this extension, Iarnród Éireann is hosting some additional public webinars to give communities along the route another opportunity to pose questions to the project team. This will be an open mic forum with no presentation, simply an opportunity for questions and answers.

Please see details of the webinars below:

- Residents from Connolly/Spencer Dock – Ashtown area: Monday 27th September 19:00hrs
- Residents from Coolmine - Castleknock area: Tuesday 28th September 19:00hrs
- Residents from Clonsilla – Maynooth/M3 Parkway area: Thursday 30th September 19:00hrs

To register to attend one or more of these webinars email [DARTWest@irishrail.ie](mailto:DARTWest@irishrail.ie) and state which webinar(s) you would like to attend. You will then be issued with a link to join.

View the ways in which you can send in your submission on the [How to Engage page](#) on [dartplus.ie](http://dartplus.ie).

Catherine Murphy TD is working on a community submission with members in the community and will be seeking to ask that the Dart + West be extended to Kilcock. To get in touch in respect of this submission, please contact her on [Catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie) In preparation for the submission, a request was made to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport what engineering assessment that was done on the extension of DART west to Kilcock; the findings of the assessment; the estimated cost of provision of a double track or a siding between the proposed new depot located on the outskirts of Kilcock; if he has discussed this matter with the NTA;

The Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan responded as follows;

I have responsibility for policy and overall funding in relation to public transport. The National Transport Authority (NTA) has statutory responsibility for the planning and development of public transport infrastructure in the Greater Dublin Area, including the development and implementation of the DART+ Programme of which DART+ West is one element. Noting the NTA's responsibility in the matter, I have referred the Deputy's question to the NTA for a more detailed reply to the specific questions asked.

That response is summarised below:

There are a number of constraints along the section of rail line between the proposed depot location and Kilcock train station:

- Insufficient width on the existing rail corridor to accommodate double tracking, particularly on the approach to Kilcock town;
- Proximity Limited horizontal and vertical clearance at exiting bridge structures;
- to the Royal Canal;
- Turnback facilities and layout of existing train station at Kilcock, which would require reconstruction to facilitate the turnback capacity.

At present no engineering feasibility assessments have been undertaken and the impact of these constraints have not been assessed on the feasibility of the twin track arrangement. In this regard the cost of this section of double track versus the benefits has not yet been estimated)

### Kildare County Council commences Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2021

Kildare County Council is required to conduct a Social Housing Assessment (SSHA 2021), a summary of social housing needs in Kildare.

Only applicants registered and approved with Kildare County Council as in need of social housing support between the 1st of January 2011 and 31st of December 2015 are required to complete this form.

The Summary of Social Housing Assessment 2021 forms and an introductory letter will be posted to relevant housing applicants in the coming days.

Applicants can also access the Summary of Social Housing Assessment 2021 forms online – <https://kildare.ie/countycouncil/AllServices/Housing/>

[HowtoapplyforSocialHousing/](#)

If you are a Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) tenant, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) tenant or Transfer tenant you do not need to complete this form.

The closing date for receipt of the Summary of Social Housing assessment forms is Monday 18th October 2021.

Under the departmental directive, failure to submit fully completed SSHA 2021 form, along with relevant documentation, will result in the file being closed and the applicant being removed from the housing list.

### Catherine Murphy TD welcomes the proposed review to the Primary Medical Certificate Scheme

The Disabled Drivers & Disabled Passengers Scheme provides relief from Vehicle Registration Tax and VAT on the purchase and use of an adapted car, as well as an exemption from motor tax and an annual fuel grant.

The Scheme is open to severely and permanently disabled persons as a driver or as a passenger and also to certain charitable organisations. In order to qualify for relief, the applicant must hold a Primary Medical Certificate issued by the relevant Senior Area Medical Officer (SAMO) or a Board Medical Certificate issued by the Disabled Driver Medical Board of Appeal. Certain other qualifying criteria apply in relation to the vehicle, in particular that it must be specially constructed or adapted for use by the applicant.

To qualify for a Primary Medical Certificate an applicant must be permanently and severely disabled, and satisfy at least one of the following medical criteria:

- be wholly or almost wholly without the use of both legs;
- be wholly without the use of one leg and almost wholly without the use of the other leg such that the applicant is severely restricted as to movement of the lower limbs;
- be without both hands or without both arms;
- be without one or both legs;
- be wholly or almost wholly without the use of both hands or arms and wholly or almost wholly without the use of one leg;
- have the medical condition of dwarfism and have serious difficulties of movement of the lower limbs.

The medical criteria were included in Section 89 of the Finance Act 1989 by way of an amendment in the Finance Act 2020. This amendment arises from legal advice in light of the June 2020 Supreme Court judgement that the medical criteria in secondary legislation was not deemed to be invalid, nevertheless it was found to be inconsistent with the mandate provided in Section 92 of the Finance Act 1989 (primary legislation).

While I am very aware of the importance of this scheme to those who benefit from it, I am also aware of the disquiet expressed by members of this house and others in respect of the difficulties around access to the scheme.

The minister has asked his officials to undertake a comprehensive review of the scheme, to include a broader review of mobility supports for persons with disabilities, and on foot of that review to bring forward proposals for consideration.

Department officials have been carrying out preliminary work, including an examination of the main issues which will frame the scope of the review. Officials have also been engaging with other Departments in the context of other ongoing work in mobility supports.

(Continued on page 21)



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

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*(Continued from page 20)*

In particular, the Department has engaged with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in the context of a working group established early last year by the Minister for Justice before the work was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The group, under the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021, was tasked with a review of transport supports encompassing all Government funded transport and mobility schemes for people with disabilities, to enhance the options for transport to work or employment supports for people with disabilities and to develop proposals for development of a coordinated plan for such provision.

It is envisaged that the review group will be established shortly and will include stakeholders from other Departments, the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal and other representative groups.

**A number of questions and concerns have been raised with Catherine Murphy TD in relation to the condition and upkeep of the Obelisk in Leixlip, otherwise known as The Conolly's folly.**

1. Boundary fencing has been damaged and to date, as far as we know has not been reinstated;
2. CCTV and lighting not in operation;
3. General surface underfoot is not up to standard;
4. Upkeep of area is not up to standard.

Catherine asked in a Parliamentary Question to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to outline the plans by the Office of Public Works to address a number of issues in respect of the site. Catherine also sought details of the amount spent on the restoration of the site.

The response was as follows:

Conolly folly is a National Monument in the care of the Office of Public Works.

It is considered that, in recent times, a vehicle of some type struck the boundary iron fence causing the visible damage. Temporary barriers have been put in place until such time as the necessary repairs to the permanent fence can be undertaken.

The CCTV system on site is a closed circuit system maintained on a bi-annual basis. OPW has received no reports of malfunction but will make further enquiries in this regard. Further enquiries, as they pertain to the lighting, are also necessary and have already commenced. The general surface area of the space, which includes gravelled pathways, within the remit of the OPW is maintained by workstaff on a regular basis. While there is no doubt that restrictions related to COVID-19 impacted greatly on the National Monuments general maintenance program in the last eighteen months, the program has resumed and OPW would consider that the general upkeep of the area of the site within its remit is up to standard.

In the years 2007-2011, approximately €775,000 was expended by the OPW on conservation works at the Obelisk, the vast majority of which related to the Pay of the skilled workstaff involved.

**No Excuse for Inaction On Student Accommodation Crisis  
This crisis is a direct result of a failed student housing policy**

The government is refusing to act on the student accommodation crisis, according to Social Democrats Catherine Murphy T.D.

"There are reports of students sleeping in cars, packed into hostel dorms, couch-surfing, commuting for up to five hours per day. Others are dropping out. This is horrendous. It needs to be at the top of the Minister's agenda.

"The Taoiseach's comments that this crisis can't be solved overnight are an attempt to evade responsibility. It also ignores the fact that this crisis has built up over several years. The No Keys No Degrees protest is not the first USI protest on this issue. Year after year, students have told the Government that there is a huge problem with affordable student accommodation. Nothing was done.

"Over the last year, more than 1,000 purpose-built student accommodation places in Dublin have been converted to short term tourist lets. This must stop. These applications should not have been approved. The Housing Minister must immediately issue planning guidelines to ensure that any new applications, to take purpose-built student accommodation off the market, are rejected.

"The shortage of affordable student accommodation is not an accident. It is a direct result of a failed student housing policy that has relied on private providers. This must change. We need to see urgent and effective action. Higher Education Institutes must be supported to directly provide affordable accommodation for their students.

"Spiralling student rents must be brought under control. The Minister's attempts to curb sky-rocketing rents, by linking them to inflation, have already failed. He must introduce what the Social Democrats have long called for – a three-year ban on rent increases."

**Minister Fails To Respond To Escalating Energy Crisis**

**We now have a tripartite energy crisis – in cost, demand and antiquated infrastructure**

The Dáil urgently needs to set aside time for a debate on surging energy prices, according to Social Democrats Catherine Murphy, who has written to the Business Committee requesting time to debate this matter at the earliest opportunity.

"The wholesale price of natural gas has nearly tripled already this year – and that's before peak winter demand sets in. As a consequence, consumers are experiencing enormous hikes in their energy bills.

"These increases in prices will have a hugely disproportionate impact on people on fixed incomes, including pensioners and those in receipt of social welfare payments.

Environment Minister Eamon Ryan urgently needs to come to the Dáil and answer questions on this escalating crisis.

"Budget 2022 is just a few weeks away. It is important we know what measures the government proposes to take to insulate the most vulnerable members of our community from the negative impact of these soaring prices.

"The Minister regularly speaks of a just transition, when it comes to achieving our climate action targets. These words will sound very hollow unless increases in social welfare payments are introduced to help people manage the increased burden of rising energy prices.

"We now have a tripartite energy crisis – in cost, demand and antiquated infrastructure.

The annual increase in energy demand, from data centres, in the last four years was equivalent to adding 140,000 households to the power system each year. This is not sustainable – and is now threatening our energy security, billions of euro in investment and thousands of jobs.

"Coupled with warnings that we may miss our renewable energy targets for 2030, there are serious questions to be asked of the Minister's handling of this energy crisis. I am hopeful the Business Committee will assent to my urgent request for Dáil statements on this topic."

As the Dáil resumed, Catherine Murphy TD sought to get an update into the increased staffing for the ODCE. Catherine also contributed to the debate on the second stage of the Companies (Corporate Enforcement Authority) Bill 2021

To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise; Trade and Employment the estimated full-year cost of recruiting five additional full-time professional accountants grade 1 and two additional full-time solicitors for the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement.

### REPLY

In preparation for the establishment of the Corporate Enforcement Authority my Department sanctioned 14 additional staff at civil service grades. This was based on assessment of the new Authority's staffing needs by the Director of Corporate Enforcement. It represents a 35% increase in civil service staff. These additional posts will ensure that the Authority is adequately equipped to assume the additional responsibilities that accompany Agency status and to further enhance its investigative capacity.

A number of key senior positions have recently been advertised. These positions include a Director of Governance & Support Operations, Director of Finance & ICT and Director of Legal. A new position of Digital Forensics Manager has also been advertised.

The minimum estimated full-year cost of recruiting five additional full-time Professional Accountants Grade 1 and two additional full-time Solicitors for the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement is €500,914.

This estimate is calculated using the first point of the salary scale for Professional Accountants Grade 1 of €72,578 and the first point on the salary scale for Assistant Principal Officers of €69,012 which is the grade equivalent to a Solicitor in the ODCE

### Companies (Corporate Enforcement Authority) Bill 2021: Second Stage (Resumed)

I welcome this debate. Simply put, we do not currently have an effective means of preventing, investigating and prosecuting corruption. There is no overarching or consolidated approach to combating corruption in the private sector or the public sector. A look at the State's anti-corruption website gives us a clear picture of the fragmented approach, with 16 bodies listed as responsible for tackling corruption. Our anti-corruption response is incredibly fragmented by international standards. A 2020 survey conducted by the French Anti-Corruption Agency in partnership with the Group of States Against Corruption, GRECO, the OECD, and the Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities, NCPA, found that 84 of 114 countries surveyed had a single-agency approach, one which the Social Democrats has been championing since it was founded.

It is difficult and rare to see successful prosecutions of corrupt practices in business life in Ireland. Even after costly and lengthy tribunals of inquiry, there have been few consequences for those against whom negative findings have been made. There is a strong public perception of a golden circle in Irish society, the members of which are accountable to no one and who regard themselves as untouchable. The EU Commission's 2017 Eurobarometer on corruption found that 68% of Irish people believe that corruption is widespread across society, with a particular lack of confidence in the banking and financial sector and An Garda Síochána.

The creation of an independent statutory agency to oversee white-collar crime without doubt is welcome.

*(Continued on page 22)*



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

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*(Continued from page 21)*

The ODCE has remained in the purview of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for far too long and its effectiveness has been constrained as a result, with a lack of independence over its budget and the hiring of staff. Globally, anti-corruption agencies have only ever been effective where there is a significant and consistent political commitment to tackle anti-corruption and where those agencies are allowed to operate free from political influence and, by extension, free from the type of lobbying that Deputy O'Dea talked about in terms of watering down sanctions.

The effectiveness of the anti-corruption agency is heavily dependent on the support and institutional co-operation between other agencies that address the broader issues of corruption, integrity and ethics.

In this instance it is very clear this co-operation has been lacking between the ODCE and An Garda Síochána. The ODCE had to wait nearly a year to be allocated six detectives from An Garda Síochána and there were successive delays and a lack of communications from the Garda. Emails released under freedom of information to Ken Foxe of Right To Know show the frustration within the ODCE, with its director, Ian Drennan, stating the Garda clearly had no intention of transferring the officers in the foreseeable future. He contacted the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and was told the Tánaiste had been in touch with the Minister for Justice and that the first allocation of two detectives to the ODCE had taken place in April, to be followed by two more in June, with the final two arriving later in the year. In response, Mr. Drennan said the appointments were temporary and did not address the need for a permanent additional investigative staff. Mr. Drennan told the justice committee he wants a memorandum of understanding between the new corporate enforcement authority and the Garda Commissioner, Mr. Harris, over the allocation of Garda resources to that agency.

I had a priority question with the Minister of State last week on this very topic and it is very clear from what he has told us that there will not be a memorandum of understanding but what is in place is a letter from each to the other. That is not good enough. It is better than what we had but it is not anywhere near good enough. It is a bare minimum to have that memorandum of understanding between the corporate enforcement authority and the Garda Commissioner prior to the agency getting up and running. The proposed corporate enforcement authority retains a reliance on secondment of gardaí at the discretion of the commissioner and we simply cannot assume this process will go smoothly. The delay in the provision of investigative staff to the ODCE in the past year is unacceptable and hampers its ability to conduct a vital public service. Protections must be put in place to prevent the same from occurring within the corporate enforcement authority. We cannot criticise an agency for not doing its job if it has not got the resources to do it.

Looking at the proposed make-up of the corporate enforcement authority, the level of independence is questionable. While the authority will be removed from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, the Minister will appoint three full-time members based on recommendations from the Public Appointments Service, PAS, choose which member will act as chairperson and can fire them at any point due to ill health, stated misbehaviour or where the removal of a member appears to the Minister to be necessary for the effective performance by the authority of its functions. The Minister also has the sole authority on picking acting members to fill vacancies as they arise. The appointment of the chairperson by the Minister in this particular instance is completely unacceptable. This is supposed to be an independent anti-corruption agency and must be free from political influence.

The Minister - that could be any Minister in the future - potentially could be able to guide the authority in a certain ideological direction by hand-picking the chairperson. That is over-reach. The proposed number of full-time members for the corporate enforcement agency is also too low. The justice committee recommended the minimum number of members on the authority should be increased to two, with the maximum number being increased to five. If this Government aims to be serious about tackling corruption in the private sector it must be serious about it from the very beginning. We must build up this authority in the way we mean it to continue rather than creating a system we know will be under-resourced in a few short years.

Another example of this is not providing the corporate enforcement authority with investigative powers, something for which the ODCE has been calling for some time now. I cannot understand why it would not be awarded those powers. The current system of leaving expert civilian staff outside the room while gardaí conduct interviews is completely ineffective. This must be all one piece. I am trying to imagine a scenario where you have temporary secondments of people who have the knowledge and they cannot be brought in. They are instead in and out trying to figure out just exactly how the interview should be conducted. When an individual is arrested there is, as we know, very limited time to conduct interviews. These interviews often contain a vast amount of intricate detail, particularly in this area, which requires expert knowledge. Valuable time is wasted by gardaí having to ferry information and questioning back and forth between the suspect and ODCE staff. As such, a big mistake is being made here on that. This is an absolutely essential power the CEA needs to work effectively, a power which has been called for by the ODCE and Transparency International Ireland. We have an historical tendency to be reluctant to grant State agencies further powers after they have been established. The Minister of State might outline what exactly his plans are on the provision of this power and why it is not intended to include it in this Bill.

According to global studies by Transparency International, budget allocations and independence over budget decisions have been proven to be a good indicator of a Government's willingness to tackle corruption. In the past few years there has been an increased move towards multi-annual funding as a budget method, allowing organisations to plan ahead, secure in the knowledge they will have sufficient funds in the next budget round. It is also essential for this agency to reduce the political involvement by reducing the Minister's ability to cut funding. I am not talking just about the current Minister or Government. This is a piece of legislation that will have a lifespan, so it is really important that is done. Multi-annual funding would provide the security and confidence needed to tackle big corruption cases within the private sector.

International research has shown it is large-scale public corruption cases which impact most strongly on the public's confidence. They are very visible and they send out a message so it is really important there is the confidence to take them on. In other jurisdictions the inability to prosecute some corrupt individuals with political and financial clout has led to declining public confidence and a lack of trust that anti-corruption agencies can perform their role diligently and objectively without fear or prejudice. The corporate enforcement authority must be ready and able to take on the most high-profile cases of anti-corruption in this country. The ODCE has experienced an increase in funding in the past few years, with €6.1 million allocated last year. However, the agency is currently underspending its budget allocation by €1.8 million. This underspend was largely due to vacancies, delays in recruitment and a failure to complete procurement processes by the year end, all of which speak to a critical lack of human resources within the office which cannot be solved by money alone. To properly measure the effectiveness of the corporate enforcement authority we must have the data to do so. The Director of Public Prosecutions and An Garda Síochána should publish disaggregated data under a new category which allows for analysis of enforcement of corruption-related offences. Prosecutions are currently categorised under fraud offences.

The formation of the corporate enforcement authority, though I would argue it is imperfect, is a welcome step forward to address white-collar crime but corruption in the public sector must be also tackled. Comprehensive and intelligence-led policing is essential if warning signs and suspicious activities are to be identified. That really protects the public service, just as a good corporate enforcement authority protects the private sector and gives confidence to the people of integrity we want to be working in both the private and public sector. The sharing of data among many existing agencies is unlikely to be enough to expose the complex and politically-sensitive cases. It was stated earlier that this whole world is well resourced and that people are well connected. When one starts looking at the tiny amounts of money available here, at how gardaí have to be seconded in - you might get them and you might not - and the fact that one might not or might not have multi-annual budgeting, it all shows that we are creating a David-and-Goliath scenario when we do not have to.

An independent anti-corruption agency with jurisdiction over the public sector is also necessary. The Social Democrats have argued that one large agency with real power and resources would be more likely to be effective. We should start to look at matters like reputational damage. This was something we were always told about after the financial crash. We should look at this matter from the point of view of reputational damage. However, we should also look at it from the point of view of inculcating good practices. Having an effective agency to facilitate that would build public confidence. There are things in this in this agency, as it has been set up, that are deficient. There needs to be a re-examination in the context of embedding the law enforcement element into it and a reconsideration of the resourcing and budgeting involved. We must examine the possibility of having a bigger agency, as opposed to having many fragmented agencies that do bits and pieces, rather than the totality of the work that is required.

To ask the Minister for Finance if he will review the eligibility criteria for those in need of a primary medical certificate; his plans to include persons impacted by stroke to be included in the eligible criteria; and if he will expand on the eligibility of the certificate



**Paschal Donohoe** (Dublin Central, Fine Gael)

The Disabled Drivers & Disabled Passengers Scheme provides relief from Vehicle Registration Tax and VAT on the purchase and use of an adapted car, as well as an exemption from motor tax and an annual fuel grant.

The Scheme is open to severely and permanently disabled persons as a driver or as a passenger and also to certain charitable organisations. In order to qualify for relief, the applicant must hold a Primary Medical Certificate issued by the relevant Senior Area Medical Officer (SAMO) or a Board Medical Certificate issued by the Disabled Driver Medical Board of Appeal. Certain other qualifying criteria apply in relation to the vehicle, in particular that it must be specially constructed or adapted for use by the applicant.

To qualify for a Primary Medical Certificate an applicant must be permanently and severely disabled and satisfy at least one of the following medical criteria:

- be wholly or almost wholly without the use of both legs;
- be wholly without the use of one leg and almost wholly without the use of the other leg such that the applicant is severely restricted as to movement of the lower limbs;
- be without both hands or without both arms;
- be without one or both legs;

*(Continued on page 23)*



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

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(Continued from page 22)

- be wholly or almost wholly without the use of both hands or arms and wholly or almost wholly without the use of one leg;
- have the medical condition of dwarfism and have serious difficulties of movement of the lower limbs.

While I am very aware of the importance of this scheme to those who benefit from it, I am also aware of the disquiet expressed by members of this house and others in respect of the difficulties around access to the scheme. With this in mind I have asked my officials to undertake a comprehensive review of the scheme, to include a broader review of mobility supports for persons with disabilities, and on foot of that review to bring forward proposals for consideration.

As I am sure the Deputy appreciates, until those proposals are received and considered I cannot comment on the specifics of any possible reforms of the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme.

Catherine Murphy TD sought the further extension of the Community Employment Schemes due to the continued public health restrictions that were imposed on many aspects of the operations of her Department

Community Employment (CE) is an active labour market programme providing eligible long-term unemployed people and other disadvantaged persons with an opportunity to engage in useful work within their communities on a temporary, fixed term basis.

As the Deputy is aware, as with most other sectors of society, CE schemes were impacted by the public health restrictions introduced since the onset of COVID-19. My priority was to ensure CE schemes and participants were fully supported during this period. While some schemes were able to maintain services while complying with public health restrictions, this was not always the case.

In both scenarios, CE participants, whose contracts were due to end during periods of public health restrictions, had their contracts extended on a number of occasions, most recently up to end October 2021. With the successful roll-out of the vaccine programme and in line with Government's plans for the full re-opening of the economy, under 'Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting' my priority and the priority of the Department is to have all CE and Tús schemes back providing normal services and supports to unemployed participants while delivering vital services to local communities.

As part of this return to normal operations, a phased and planned schedule of exits for CE and Tús participants, some of whose contracts have been extended for up to year, will commence in November 2021. I can reassure the Deputy that the exits will be carried out in a phased basis between November and May 2022. This means that many participants' contracts will be extended beyond the end of October. These final contract extensions will provide all CE participants with an opportunity to complete any outstanding training while also benefitting from further work experience on CE. The coordinated and phased exit approach will also support the recruitment of new CE participants while ensuring the ongoing delivery of important local community services.

In order to ensure that all employment and activation programmes have the best outcome for participants, CE will continue to be made available to support those who are long term unemployed and furthest removed from the labour market, including those whose employment has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 emergency. New places are also being assigned to a number of CE and Tús schemes, delivering on a key Government commitment under Pathways to Work. I trust this clarifies matters for the Deputy.



Gold Medal  
Winner 2019

Maynooth Tidy Towns Saturday morning clean ups at 9am are still continuing into October. We have many tasks to complete before we finish up for the year. Bulb planting, trimming trees etc.



We hosted some very special guests from Castlebar Tidy Towns last Saturday morning, they were on a fact finding mission to see our Sensory Garden behind the Pastoral Centre as they are contemplating building one for themselves in Castlebar.

We are waiting results from the green flag judges about our status on acquiring the green flag for the Community Sensory Garden.



On September 18th we did a clean up on the Royal Canal from our Harbour to Pike Bridge in conjunction with Clean Coasts and An Taisce. We retrieved many items from the Canal including a Wheelie Bin which was returned to its owner.

We noticed an increase in litter all over the town this last week as our population has almost doubled with the return of Maynooth University students. Please be mindful and use the many bins that are positioned in all areas around the town.

I would like to thank our many Volunteers all though these difficult times for their attendance every Saturday morning, its been phenomenal. Our group gets bigger by the week.



*Please follow us on Facebook for updates on our work about the town.  
Mary Molloy, Secretary Maynooth Tidy Towns*

### Joe's Jotter: Performing Well in A Subject You Find Difficult (Case Study - Maths)

As you settle into the new year, teachers and parents totally understand that even though you are making great strides, you still have plenty of fears. From speaking with students over the years, I find it's not the full set of exams that cause concern; it is usually only one or two subjects. Naturally everyone has their own talents and subjects they prefer. Personally, I was better at the Sciences than the languages, but I persevered and got the grades I wanted in the languages I chose.

Sometimes subjects you are not looking forward to are the ones that have you on guard and you end up doing better in; A paper on the day can go well in an exam you were dreading. I regularly hear welcome surprise coming from students on results day, with comments such as "I didn't expect that result in xxxxx". The moral of the story here is that too much concern about a subject could end in false worry and be draining you of energy; energy you need for revising and getting your head right.

Preparing for one of your less favoured subjects is a blatant case of having to 'get on with it'. Of course, it is easier to revise and work on subjects you enjoy and are good at, but you must not ignore the others. Studying and preparing the 'frog subjects' is probably the biggest challenge you will face in school. You must prioritise these subjects on your 'Lifestyle Study Timetable'. I will detail how to setup this timetable in a later blog feature. Author and reconstructive surgeon, Jack Penn, once said:  
*"One of the secrets in life is making stepping stones out of stumbling blocks"*.

Maths is one of those subjects that many students find difficult. To me Maths is about grafting to understand the basics, building your confidence and not being prepared to give up easy. Always start by attempting the easier topic questions (usually the part a's and b's) and subsequently graduating to the part c's and d's. You should check your work as you go against a good quality solutions book and thus be constantly 'learning by doing'. Here are some of my top tips to improve your performance in Maths (and its exam) at any level.

#### ACE Maths Tuition's Top Tips for Success

1. Put formulas, explanation of words and keynotes into a little pocket notebook.
2. Practice as many past exam questions as you can and check your answers against a fully developed and explained solutions book.
3. Challenge yourself to try and come up with a second method of doing questions.
4. Try to approach each question from different angles. Always write down something. Do not be afraid of making a mistake.
5. Draw a diagram (if possible) and label it to simplify a question.
6. Be familiar with what is and what is not in your log tables.
7. When studying, exhaust all attempts to answer an exam question before referring to your solutions book. Do not give up easily.
8. Read each question in Maths carefully underlining the key words and phrases.
9. At all levels, if you feel overwhelmed by the length and difficulty of the course – start with basic Algebra.
10. Find yourself a study buddy to share questions and resources with. Discuss problems with each other and encourage.
11. Use various Internet sites as a companion to

- improve your Maths skills.
12. Consult your teacher about problems with topics or specific Maths questions during and after class.
13. Start by attempting basic questions for each topic, building up to a full exam question. Answer the exact question being asked.
14. The word FAIL in Maths for me means First Attempt In Learning.
15. Do not be afraid to explain a solution to a question with words if you cannot do so with numbers and symbols.
16. Spend five to ten minutes daily going over what you have learned in class.
17. Every time you write down a formula, draw a box around it to help you remember it. Check if this formula is in your log tables. If not, you need to memorise it.
18. Anything that you type into your calculator (related to a question) must be written on your answer book/copy also.
19. Have all resources present when doing Maths questions i.e. Full Maths set, pencil, calculator, and log tables.
20. 3rd and 6th Years, practice as many previous exam questions as you possibly can.
21. Rewrite sample questions from your textbook to get an understanding of the basics.
22. It is ok to look at a solution to a question if you have tried your best to solve it alone. Use the answer to figure out the exact method for the question.
23. Work with groups of friends on harder Maths questions. Bounce ideas off each other in order to understand and learn from their thinking.
24. Always write out every single step of your answer. This will be easy to look back, revise and follow later.
25. Talk positive about subjects you find difficult. Don't throw away your shot at success by talking your way into failure.

In next week's Joe's Jotter, I will advise 2nd and 3rd year students on how to restart a revision routine. Don't miss it. To view last week's feature article on 'How to Efficiently Review your Exam Scripts', click here. Get in touch if I can help you in any way. Joe.

#### Joe's Jotter: Tips for 2nd and 3rd Years to Make the Most of their Evenings

Students, as we come towards the end of the first few weeks back in Secondary School, it is important now that you get into a routine of homework and revision, both during the week and at the weekend. Breaks are important for all students who are putting effort in at home each night, as well as giving yourself some wind down time before bed also. Over the next few months, try and improve the standard of your homework. Always take pride in how you complete written homework. Doing homework like a mini exam is the best form of preparation for your any upcoming tests. Here are four more practical tips you can try to get the more out of your evenings.

#### Be positive

Being positive will vastly improve your attitude towards study and therefore its quality. You should always focus on what you have studied, what you have learned or what you know as opposed to continually looking at what needs to be done. When you come across an awkward question, you need to box it off properly in your mind. Instead of thinking, "we haven't covered this!" or "how is this relevant to what I know?", you need to reflect on how it links into your subject, topics within the subject and what your Teacher has taught you in class.

The same goes for studying prior to the exam. Take

control by changing the way you speak about your preparation. Instead of saying "I should be studying more"; be good to yourself and say, "Well I did a solid two hours this morning and will go back to it tonight". Change "I should be..." to "I'm going to..." Research has shown that positive language can lead to more positive results. If you say: "I can't climb that wall", you are less likely to succeed in the task, as your brain has almost been auto programmed to fail. As a Maths teacher, I love this equation of positivity: Positive attitude + Positive actions = Powerful results

#### Look after your eyes

You will be doing plenty of reading from textbooks, summary notes, post-its, flashcards, and the likes over the next few years, so it is important to look after your eyes during this period. The expert's advice on reducing eye strain is to apply the twenty-twenty-twenty rule. That is to take twenty seconds to look at something twenty feet away and repeat this every twenty minutes. Going outside on your breaks will get some fresh air to the eyes. Another good exercise is to simply rest your eyes in the palm of your hands for a few minutes, making sure that no light gets through. Too much time on devices wouldn't be great for keeping your eyes fresh. Just saying!

#### Rotate your learning

The brain can only concentrate on a subject matter for a certain time period. At times, when I was penning my ACE book, I needed to get away and come back to it in order to maintain my focus. Rotate your work between memorising content, writing, oral work, audio, Internet research and watching documentaries. Most importantly, rotate your subjects. We all enjoy discovering about subjects we find interesting, but it is so important not to forget the subjects you find difficult or the ones you are just not as interested in. Rotation of stimulus will trick the brain into performing better and going for longer.

#### Become an active learner

During study sessions, always have a pen and a highlighter to hand. You should mark the key points onto your textbook, write brief comments at the side of the page or underline the important sentences. This information should be transferred to a summary page later. I really like this method of revision as it reduces the quantity (amount) of notes you have to analyse and there shouldn't be a need to revisit that part of your textbook again. Active learning is a great way to keep yourself tuned into what you are studying. Spend time thinking about how you can use your life experiences and places visited to enhance essays or answers with a few extra bells and whistles. Individuality and drawing on your personal experiences are what every Teacher and examiner is looking out for. You need to try and stand out a bit from your fellow students.

Joe's Jotter next week will provide students with six ACE pointers to settle them back into revision. Don't miss it. To view last week's feature article on 'How to Perform Well in Subjects you Find Difficult', click here. Get in touch if I can help you in any way. Joe. More details about Joe as a Maths Tutor for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate (2022) and his Award winning ACE Maths Solution Books can be found via the links below.

W: [acesolutionbooks.com/ace-maths-tuition](http://acesolutionbooks.com/ace-maths-tuition)

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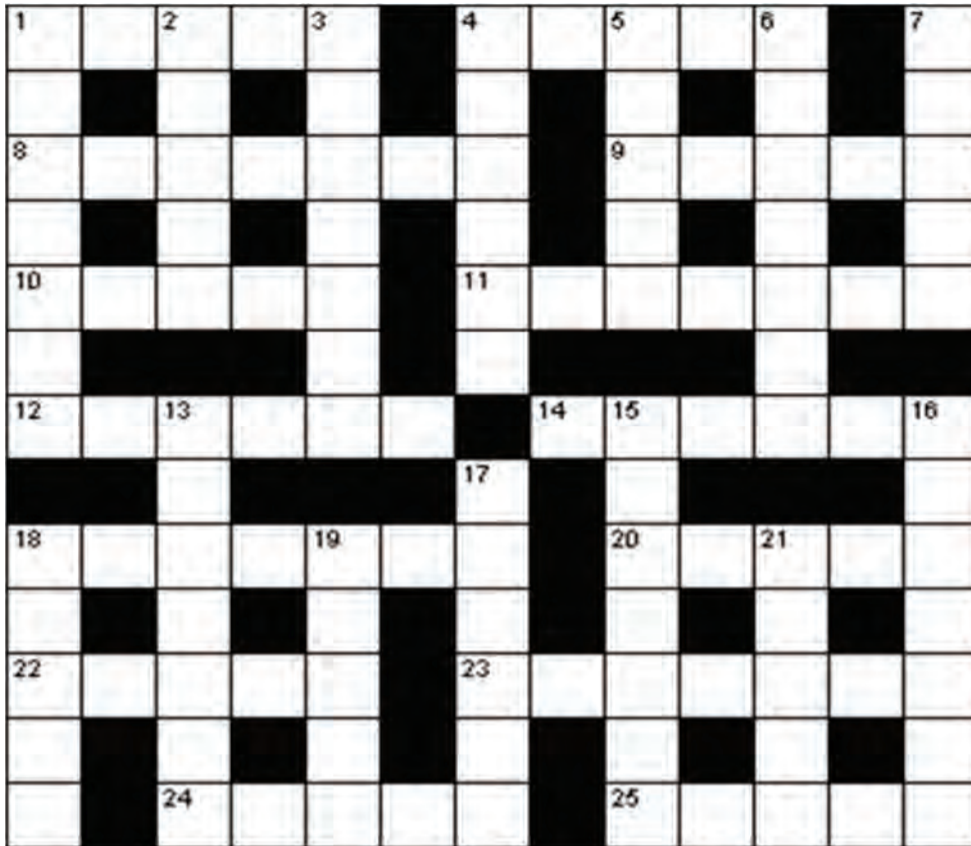
## Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 25/08/2021 to 28/09/2021 - Information from Kildare County Council Website

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

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
211375	Kildare County Council	Garrett Kelly	2 Parklands Place, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	27/09/2021
211362	Kildare County Council	Deirdre Quinn	Laragh Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/09/2021
211298	Kildare County Council	John and Marie Healy,	1 The Drive, Moyglare Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	13/09/2021
211280	Kildare County Council	Colm & Edel O'Muire	17, Woodlands, Maynooth, Co. Kildare., W23 F6X5	08/09/2021
211272	Kildare County Council	Paul Browne	No 17 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co Kildare., W23 X9T1	07/09/2021
211252	Kildare County Council	Colette McMahon,	346 Old Greenfield, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	02/09/2021
211244	Kildare County Council	Colm and Edel, O'Muire,	17 Woodlands, Maynooth, C9o. Kildare W23 F6X5.	31/08/2021

## October 2021 Crossword - No. 506



### Clues Across

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Extremely cold (5)                  | 20. Irritated (5)           |
| 4. Out of fashion (5)                  | 22. Spear (5)               |
| 8. Communication channel (7)           | 23. Acute (7)               |
| 9. Crown scene actor (5)               | 24. Stringed instrument (5) |
| 10. Part of a church (5)               | 25. Overheads (5)           |
| 11. Unlawful (7)                       |                             |
| 12. Natural abilities or qualities (6) |                             |
| 14. Conundrum (6)                      |                             |
| 18. Malleable (7)                      |                             |

## Solutions to Crossword No. 505



### Clues Down

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Chivalrous (7)        | 16. Interminable (7)                            |
| 2. Guides (5)            | 17. Sheep known for its high quality fleece (6) |
| 3. Distinguish (7)       | 18. Greek letter (5)                            |
| 4. Writing implement (6) | 19. Paragon (5)                                 |
| 5. Carapace (5)          | 21. Male monarchs (50)                          |
| 6. Lured (7)             |   |
| 7. Intended (5)          |   |
| 13. Curt (7)             |   |
| 15. Ludicrous (7)        |   |

### Difficult

### Sudoku Challenge

### Super Difficult

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

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

## Junior Puzzle Corner



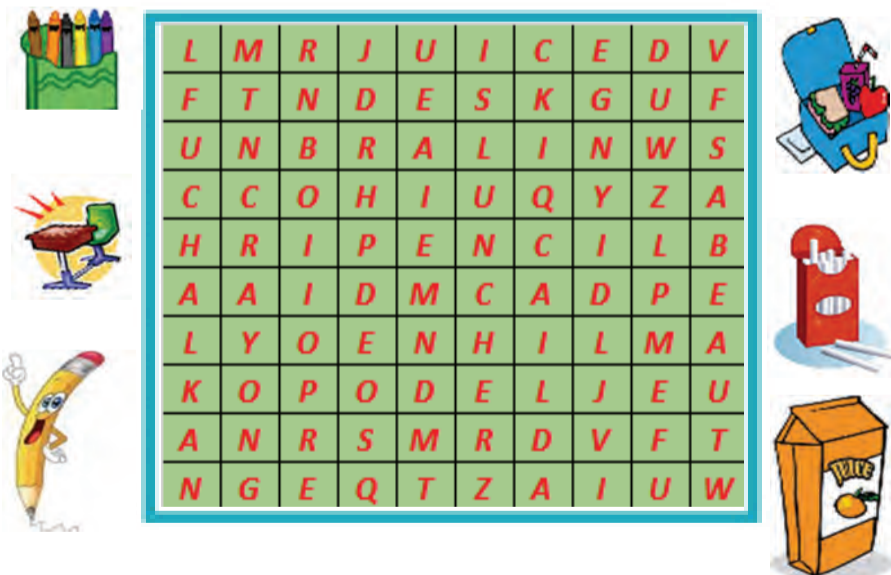
### Children's Colouring

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

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

### Word Search

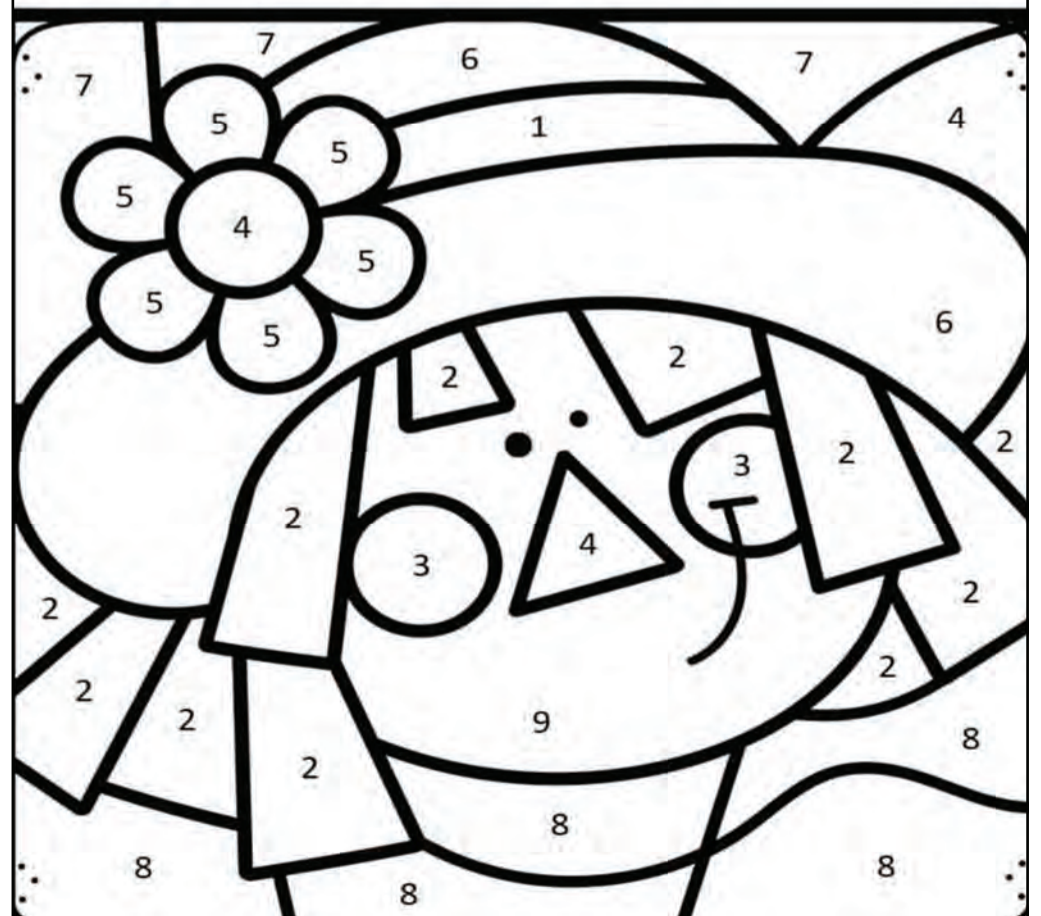
**CHALK DESK CRAYON  
PENCIL LUNCH JUICE**  
Please find words and circle




### AUTUMN COLOR BY NUMBER

Directions: Color the picture according to the code


1 - Purple    3 - Pink    5 - Red    7 - Blue    9 - Peach  
2 - Yellow    4 - Orange    6 - Brown    8 - Green



Sona Oíche Shamhna




# October Gardening



Autumn is approaching. While there are still sunny days to enjoy, there is also a crisp in the air that is the herald of the changing seasons. The wild growth evident during the heyday of summer is over now. Although the weather in autumn is often drier than some of the summer months, it is important to remember that winter is coming.

While the grass is still growing, keep mowing once a fortnight with the blades on high for the final few cuts. Carry out an autumn lawn care programme - scarify (rake out the old dead grass and moss) the lawn, spike to improve drainage again either by hand with a garden fork, add a top dressing of soil/sand/compost mixed according to your soil type (ask for advice at your garden centre) and feed with autumn weed and moss killer. This low-nitrogen preparation strengthens grass for winter.




Clear any debris and diseased material from your garden. Fallen leaves can be left to rot down or collected for leaf mould, but be sure to remove any diseased material. Pests and diseases that overwinter in your garden will reappear next spring with a vengeance so get rid of them now.

If your soil is heavy clay, start digging it over now - add plenty of organic matter to improve the quality and pea shingle to improve the drainage. Your soil has had a lot taken out of it during the busy growing season, and now is the best time to replace that goodness by digging in a lot of organic matter. The earlier you start, the better, especially if your soil is heavy. It can be left in a pretty rough state over the winter when the cold will break the lumps down, making spring planting infinitely easier.


Resist the temptation to do a thorough cleaning of the garden until spring, though, and try to leave some winter cover for wildlife as the weather starts to cool. Our feathered friends will be starting to build their reserves for winter, so do please put out food and fresh water for them.

Don't waste fallen leaves – given time they decompose into fabulously rich leaf mould, the best natural soil conditioner there is. Rake up fallen leaves and dump them into a simple frame to make leaf mould (black bin liners spiked with air holes will also do if you can bear the visual offense, but remember to dampen the leaves first).




If leaves are left lingering on the lawn, the grass will turn yellow. Leaf mould takes about a year to mature (2 in the case of oak leaves), makes a great top dressing for woodland plants such as rhododendrons and is an excellent and free home-grown substitute for peat.

Remove any diseased, spindly, old and unproductive stems from roses and remember to burn any diseased material. Tie new shoots onto some form of support to prevent their thrashing about in autumn winds.



Trim your lavender if you haven't already done so. Prune tall shrubs such as levanter and buddleia by about half to protect them against wind rock. Trim conifers again if necessary, making sure you do not cut into the old wood.

With the ideal planting conditions of autumn (warm moist soil), now is the time to plant container-grown shrubs, trees, fruit bushes, perennials and bulbs. Even in damp conditions, it is worth checking that the root balls of shrubs and trees are adequately moist when planting - heavy rain will not necessarily penetrate a root ball that has been allowed to dry out. If it feels light, plunge into a bucket of water before planting.




Finish planting spring bulbs such as narcissi and crocuses; tulips can wait until November. Plant hardy perennials so their roots have a chance to become established before winter. Replace summer bedding with winter and spring bedding.

Plant out violas, wallflowers and primulas now for cheery colour in the coming months. Winter colour comes in all shapes and sizes; hardy cyclamen and heathers, dwarf conifers, winter pansies, violas and trailing ivy all make wonderful displays.

**~To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow~**

## COLCANNON CAKES



- \* 450g potatoes peeled
- \* 40g butter
- \* 3 scallions finely chopped
- \* A little salt and freshly ground black pepper
- \* 50g savoy cabbage (shredded)
- \* A little plain flour for dusting
- \* Olive oil for frying
- \* 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- \* 4 large eggs

Method:

1. Place the potatoes in a pot of water and bring to the boil. Cook until tender.
2. Drain and mash until smooth and beat in the remaining butter.
3. Meanwhile, heat a knob of butter and one tablespoon of water in a heavy based pan with a lid over a high heat. When the butter has melted form an emulsion, add the scallions, cabbage and a pinch of salt. Cover, shake vigorously and cook over a high heat for 1 minute. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Fold this mixture into the mashed potato and form into patties. Fry for 3/4 minutes each side until golden brown.

Serve with a poached egg on top and cover with hollandaise sauce.


\*\*\*\*\*

## POACHED EGG

Gently poach an egg by bringing a pot of water to the boil. Let the water simmer, then add a dash of vinegar. Crack egg into a ramekin and create a gentle whirlpool in the water before dropping the egg in white first. Cook until the white is set and the yolk is a nice soft consistency.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HOLLANDAISE SAUCE




- \* 3 egg yolks
- \* 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- \* 1/2 teaspoon cayenne
- \* 10 tablespoons butter

Method:

1. Melt the butter slowly in a small pot. Try not to let it boil so as to prevent the moisture steaming from the butter.
2. Add egg yolks, lemon juice and cayenne into blender. Blend the egg yolk mixture until it lightens in colour 20/30 seconds.
3. Drizzle in the melted butter slowly with blender still going until all is incorporated.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ROAST SALMON FILLETS WITH IRISH WHISKEY




- \* 2 tablespoons of honey
- \* 1/4 cup of cider vinegar
- \* 1/4 cup of Irish whiskey
- \* 2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme
- \* 1 1/2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
- \* 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- \* Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- \* 4 salmon fillets (6oz)

Method:

1. Mix together honey, vinegar, whiskey, thyme, lemon zest, oil, salt and pepper.
2. Pour over salmon and marinate for 1 hour at room temperature.
3. Pre-heat the oven to 230C.
4. Remove salmon from marinade and place on rack over pan.
5. Bake 10/12 minutes basting once until cooked.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PUMPKIN BREAD



- \* 2 cups of plain flour
- \* 1/2 teaspoon of baking powder and 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- \* 1 teaspoon of ground cloves
- \* 1 teaspoon of cinnamon
- \* 1 teaspoon of ground nutmeg
- \* 2 cups of sugar
- \* 3/4 cups of butter (softened)
- \* 2 large eggs
- \* 1 (15)oz can of pumpkin puree

Method:

1. Heat the oven to 160C and grease two 2lb loaf tins.
2. Combine flour, salt, baking powder, soda and spices in a bowl and set aside.
3. Beat the butter and sugar until just blended.
4. Add eggs one at a time beating well after each addition. Continue beating until very light and fluffy.
5. Beat in the pumpkin. At low speed beat in flour mixture until combined.
6. Turn batter into prepared tins and bake for 65/75 minutes.

Let loaves cool in pan for about 10 minutes.



# FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

## HALLOWEEN MOVIES QUIZ



1) What is the name of the killer clown in Stephen King's IT?

- a) Bozo
- b) Pennywise
- c) Captain Spaulding
- d) Mr Mime



2) What is the name of the main villain in the original Texas Chainsaw Massacre?

- a) Leatherface
- b) Pinhead
- c) Ghostface
- d) Slicey McStabby



3) When Hooper cuts open the shark in film classic Jaws, what surprising object does he find?

- A watch
- A high heel
- A licence plate
- A whisky bottle



4) Before he was burned to death by angry townspeople, Freddy Krueger was a serial killer known as the:

- a) Elm Street Murderer
- b) Ohio State Stabber
- c) Springwood Slasher
- d) Kiddy Killer



5) Michael Myers' mask in Halloween was famously made from a mask of which actor?

- a) Harrison Ford
- b) Jack Nicholson
- c) William Shatner
- d) Robert De Niro



6) In Jaws, what fear does Chief Brody have?

- a) Sharks
- b) Snakes
- c) Water
- d) Fire



7) Silence of the Lambs won five different Academy Awards. Which category did it not win an Oscar for?

- a) Best Actor
- b) Best Actress
- c) Best Supporting Actor
- d) Best Picture



8) What modern cult horror movie is this image from?

9) If you watch the cursed videotape in The Ring horror movie, you get a phone call. What does the voice on the other end say?

- a) You're doomed.
- b) Thank you for watching.
- c) Seven days.
- d) Help me.



10) Dr. Hannibal Lecter helps the FBI track down which serial killer in Silence of the Lambs?

- a) Tennessee Ted
- b) Kentucky Kyle
- c) Florida Fred
- d) Buffalo Bill



11) The Conjuring franchise contains a possessed doll, who went on to have its own series of spin-off movies. What was the doll's name?

- a) Chucky
- b) Samara
- c) Annabelle
- d) Madeline



12) John Carpenter is one of the most famous horror directors. Which movie did he not direct?

- a) The Fog
- b) Halloween
- c) The Fly
- d) The Thing



13) Long before he wears the iconic white mask and jumpsuit, who does Michael Myers of the Halloween movies kill as a boy?

- a) His sister
- b) His mother
- c) His brother
- d) His childhood friend

14) Which classic Alfred Hitchcock horror film featured the iconic "shower scene"?

- a) The Birds
- b) Psycho
- c) Rear Window
- d) Frenzy



15) Name the actor and the classic horror movie.

16) What is the profession of Bruce Willis' character in The Sixth Sense?

- a) Psychologist
- b) Teacher
- c) Priest
- d) Actor



17) True or False: The Exorcist is based on a real-life story

- a) True
- b) False

The Answers to the Halloween Movies Quiz will be in the November edition of the Newsletter