# **Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s**

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MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY

EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

MAIGH

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## Local News - December 2022 - Issue No. 519- Online Version

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



<sup>\*</sup>hristmas, the season of giving and receiving is upon us once again. This is the perfect opportunity to support our local shops and businesses in Maynooth. Small in size but huge in character, Maynooth comes alive with Festive atmosphere for Christmas. This beautiful town is packed full of specialised shops, pretty boutiques and a variety of restaurants and cosy cafés where you can drop in for a hot chocolate to warm chilly fingers. You will find exceptional value for money is to be had in the smaller local shops where you get a more personalised service and friendly atmosphere. Lets buy our Christmas presents from our local businesses and self-employed people. If the goal is for money to flow back into the local economy, we must commit to choosing wisely. Driving an hour out of our town or shopping online does not contribute to the community we live in.

Maynooth is a lively town with plenty of heart – many would say it has more going for it than other places on the commuter belt. It's also a pretty place with family-friendly housing, canal side walks, and a main street that hasn't been hollowed out by retail parks. There is ample car parking in Maynooth, customers can park (check parking fees and time allocated) while shopping in Carton Retail Park, Manor Mills, Glenroyal, Greenfield and Beaufield Shopping Centres. There is also ample customer car parking in the Aldi and Lidl stores. Pay Parking is also available within the town enabling customers to enjoy the many retail shops, pubs and restaurants in and around the Town.

Maynooth is the "Gastronomic Capital of Kildare" There are vast amounts of establishments in town that offer the most sophisticated cuisine and the most appealing food and beverages. Maynooth is also a "Purple Flag" "destination" "for a good night out, vibrant and well managed".

Stay local this year and take the stress out of shopping, avoid the cost of travel and expensive parking fees. When all the shopping is done there is a multitude of restaurants, bars and coffee shops to visit and enjoy the gastronomic delights and Festive atmosphere of Maynooth.

Christmas Shopping is important to small-town retailers. It's a great opportunity to focus on your own business and give your customers a pleasant experience. Retailers need to say, "Stay in Maynooth", we have lots to offer. Support our community, our businesses, our schools, our org in. organisations. Everyone working together will continue to make Maynooth a great place to live

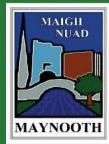
Shop Local, Eat Local, Spend Local & Enjoy Local in Maynooth this Christmas 2022

Please Support Our Advertisers without whom we would not be able to produce the Maynooth Newsletter as a Free Online Community Newspaper

# **MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2023**

FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG MAIGH NUAD 2023

Parade entry form is available on page 22 Printed copies are available for collection from the Newsletter office in Carton Retail Park or e-mail office@maynoothcep.com to request a copy by e-mail



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

The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter, Unit 10, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. W23CT59 Tel: 01-6285922 E-mail: office@maynoothcep.com Website: www.maynoothcep.com

#### Letters to the Editor

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

#### **Mission Statement**

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

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

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

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

#### **Maynooth Newsletter Archives**

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

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

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

#### **Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter**

#### Editorial

The Maynooth and Environs Transport Strategy is open for submissions and based on the information below will have very significant impacts some of which people might find it difficult to sign up to. It is all about parts of Maynooth becoming a Decarbonisation Zone. The question that people will ask is how was Maynooth selected and were those who supportive of the proposal aware of the implications for themselves and others. It is a very big missed opportunity for families in Maynooth that other sources of carbon are out of scope such as home heating as much of the housing stock in Maynooth was built in the 1980 and 1990 and consequently have poor insulation and low BER ratings. The following information is provided in the consultation document:

#### **Maynooth Decarbonisation Zone**

The National Climate Action Plan required local authorities to: 'Identify and deliver a **Decarbonisation Zone** within the local authority area – a test bed for a range of climate mitigation, adaption and biodiversity measures through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objectives'

In Kildare, Maynooth was selected as the pilot decarbonisation zone.

- Transport accounts for 20% of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions, the Maynooth transport strategy has a responsibility to reduce carbon emissions from transport to contribute to achieving the Decarbonisation Zone objective.
- This will focus on modal shift from car use to walking, cycling and public transport
- Maynooth ABTA/Transport Strategy will not deal with other carbon sources e.g. energy, housing insulation, etc.

#### **Maynooth and Environs ABTA Overall Strategy Objectives**

The Maynooth ABTA/Transport Strategy has the following objectives:

- Promote Maynooth's Town Centre as the core of activity and prioritise the 1. improvement of its transport functionality, thus making Maynooth a more attractive place to live, work, visit, study and socialise.
- 2. Improve sustainable travel infrastructure to connect Maynooth with neighbouring settlements in Kildare and the Greater Dublin Area.
- 3. Provide sufficient transport infrastructure to facilitate population and employment growth targets for Maynooth.
- 4. Ensure sustainable development and compact growth in Maynooth through integrated land-use-transport planning.
- Encourage modal shift from private motor vehicles to sustainable travel 5. modes, thereby supporting the aims of Maynooth Decarbonising Zone. 6.
- Improve public health and well-being by promoting active travel.

#### Dates to Note:

Public consultation session hosted by KCC: Tuesday 6th December, 3.30pm - 7.30pm Corrib Suite, Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth.

Consultation period will run from Wednesday the 16th of November 2022 until Wednesday the 4th of January 2023.

Click on or copy the link below to access the consultation portal. Draft Maynooth and Environs Transport Strategy - Public Consultation No 2 | Kildare County Council (kildarecoco.ie)

As a resource for the entire community the "Maynooth Newsletter" is a record of the successes and tribulations of the people of the town. With over 4,000 estimated monthly readers, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people that support the 'Maynooth Newsletter''. To our many advertisers, by supporting the production of this publication you are playing your part in the provision of employment and supporting many community groups to get their information out to the wider community of Maynooth, the care of our environment in Maynooth Harbour and the youth of Maynooth using the facilities at Maynooth Town Football Club. Many thanks also to our many regular contributors with material and notes.

On behalf of the entire community I would like to acknowledge all volunteers who have been involved in the ongoing community groups. Just to call out two groups who are helping to bring a festive feeling to the town. The Maynooth Christmas Lights group brings us the festive street lights and Maynooth Tidy Towns committees for the Christmas tree and crib. I know that these groups need to fundraise and call in some favours to deliver these annual festive commitments.

**Paul Croghan Editor** 

> The next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be the February 2023 edition



Copy date for the February edition will be 5pm on Friday 27th January 2023

Best Wishes for the Festive Season to All From the Management & Staff of the Maynooth Newsletter & the Maynooth Community Employment Project



# > we're going places <</pre>

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year to All our Customers From the Management and Staff



# Call Us 01 6289999





# **Seeking accommodation for Students**

We are currently seeking accommodation for our students who will study at Maynooth University on a 7-day basis for Semester two (January to end of May 2023).

If you have a spare room, you might consider letting it on a self-catering or full/partial board basis, for semester two. Hosting an international student in your home is a wonderful way to learn about another culture and provide a warm 'home away from home' experience for students.

## Just log on to <u>www.maynoothstudentpad.ie</u> to set up your account and advertise with no charge!

Further details from homefinder.service@mu.ie or ring (01) 708 4729

#### **Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee**

Maynooth Senior Citizens Fundraising Table Quiz Night a great success!

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee organized a fundraising table quiz night which was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November in the Newtown Inn. It was a brilliant success. So many people came to support the organization, so much so that tables had to be got from other parts of the hostelry. We would like to that all those who came to support us on the night – individual teams



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Main Street.

St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Another year is coming to an end and the Band continues to grow

all the houses in Maynooth last month will attract some more

Souvenir Calendar, your generosity is really appreciated.

YOU ARE INVITED

ТО

ST. MARYS BRASS

**CHRISTMAS** 

CONCERT

**GLENROYAL HOTEL** 

MAYNOOTH

Admission €5.00

**Children Free** 

DEC 11 7.30 pm

& REED BAND

with new members joining up and hopefully the leaflets that went to

musicians. Our Annual Christmas Concert in the Glenroyal Hotel on

Sunday 11th December (admission only €5.00 with children free) will

be an ideal opportunity for musicians to come and see the Band and put their name down

Saturday 17th December with the proceeds going towards the upkeep of the Band for the

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who has supported the Band over the

The Band's CD is a perfect stocking filler and is available from Maynooth Bookshop on

Christmas Mélodie Joon Maynooth

St. Mary's

**Brass and Reed Band** 

with Special Guests

**Maynooth Parish Choir** 

**Presentation Girls' School Choir** 

past year through donations at recitals and by buying CDs and our 90th Anniversary

to join us at our Monday night rehearsals in the Bandroom on Pound Lane. Apart from

the Concert the Band will have their usual Christmas Collection around the town on

coming year which, like everyone, is getting more and more expensive to run.

and community teams alike. It was a real indication that community spirit is alive and well in Maynooth, especially after Covid. This community spirit was also evidenced by the generosity of our local businesses who provided the prizes. A list of our sponsors is attached. Please remember to support our local businesses this Christmas.

A special mention also to the Maynooth Choirs who will give a concert on 11th December in St. Mary's Catholic Church, the proceeds of which will go in aid of Maynooth Senior Citizens. Our heart felt thanks to them.

The Committee members stepped up in selling tickets and taking up answer sheets and giving out the prizes. We would like to thank Paul Daly our MC and quiz master on the night and his team of very efficient score keepers - Elaine, Melanie, Eithne, Catherine and Ann. We would also like to thank Ray Murray of the Newtown Inn for the venue and his excellent bar staff. Also to the young man who won a dress and decided to wear it at the end of the night to raise further funds for Maynooth Senior Citizens. It all added to the fun on the night. Finally thanks to our Chairperson Garry Bermingham for his trojan work in getting the table quiz night over the line.

We are organizing a Christmas Lunch for our Senior Citizens members which will be held in the Springfield Hotel at 3pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. We will be in touch with our members about this. In the meantime we wish everyone a Peaceful and Joyous Christmas.

Susan Durack - PRO Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.

#### **Table Quiz Sponsors List**

- Academy Barbers
- Alainn Beauty Rooms
- Allure Beauty
- Atelier M
- Avenue Restaurant
- Barberstown Castle Hotel
- Barrett's of Maynooth
- Becks Beauty.Life
- Beetroot Maynooth
- Bella and Me Beauty
- Bistro 53
- Blooming You Beauty
- Blue Ribbon Hairdressers
- Boots, Maynooth
- Brady's Clockhouse
- Brid Feeley
- Careplus Pharmacy, Maynooth
- Carraig Donn, Manor Mills
- Carton Golf Club
- Cherri Hand and Foot Spa
- Coffee Mill
- Dawson's Menswear
- Divine Boutique, Manor Mills
- Donatellos
- Donovan's Centra
- **Dunnes Stores**
- **Elite Confectionery**
- Elverys, Manor Mills
- Ely, Maynooth
- Emma's Place
- Eurosaver
- Flowers by Sue
- Glass Doll
- Hot Heads Hairdressers
- Ink Jet World
- Jump Juice, Manor Mills
- Kiran and Satya
- La La Lara, Manor Mills
- Lana Restaurant
- Leonidas
- Life Credit Union
- Linda Murphy
- Liz Callaghan
- Mahers Centra
- Manor Mills S.C.
- Mark Nolan
- Mary Hegarthy

- Mary McAssey Masterson's Fruit and Veg
- Maynooth Bookshop
- Maynooth Community Employment
- Project
- Maynooth Florist
- Maynooth Jewellers
- Maynooth Office Supplies
- Maynooth Post Office
- McCartan's Pharmacy
- McCormack's Pharmacy McDonalds, Maynooth
- McMahon's Meridian 16 Restaurant
- Moulin Rouge
- My Vet
- N.C.S. Maynooth
- News 4 U
- Nutmeg
- **OB1** Hairdressers
- O'Brien's, Manor Mills
- O'Flaherty
- O'Neill's Steakhouse
- **Orient Restaurant**
- Paddy Power Bookmakers
- Picaderos
- **Redz Barbers**
- **Richies Barber**
- Royal City
- Sasta on the River
- Sean Tracey Shade, Manor Mills
- Sherry Fitzgerald, Brady
- St. Patrick's Pharmacy Stonehaven Restaurant
- Super Valu, Maynooth
- Supermacs Maynooth
- Sweetpea Kids, Maynooth
- Three Pin Electrical
- Tommy's Butchers
- Uniform Warehouse
- **Upstairs** Downstairs
- V.I.P. Vaping
- Willow and Wild
- Yeah Burger
- Zipyard, Maynooth







# Gold Medal Winners 2016 - 2017 - 2018 2019 - 2021 - 2022

We have been very busy planting bulbs, Daffodils, Tulips, Allium in all areas around the town the last 3 Saturdays of November. Thanks again to all the volunteers who turn out every Saturday morning, particularly these very cold frosty mornings.

Special thanks to the group YoungLife and their leader Conor McCrory for their help on Saturday the 19th November litter picking in all areas of the town, as you can see from the pictures they were very successful in their quest. We hope they or any other youth groups will join us again in the future.

We have ordered our Christmas Tree from Moyvalley again this year. We hope to erect the tree in the square on the 4th December in association with Mark Nolan and his team of electricians . A turning on ceremony will take place in the Square on Sunday evening at 5pm on the 4th December.

We hope to receive our Gold Medal 2022 at a ceremony in Trim which will be arranged by Meath County Council before the end of the year.

Please follow us on Facebook and if you wish to volunteer, please contact us via WhatsApp or by email at MaynoothTidyTowns@outlook.com

We meet every Saturday morning at 9am in the Council Car Park at our New Shed in Larine HSE House.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to wish all our volunteers and supporters A Very Happy Christmas and all the best for The New Year 2023.

A special word of thanks to Paul Joy, GM Glenroyal Hotel

who gives us free access to one of their meeting rooms for our monthly committee meetings with complementary refreshments.

Mary Molloy - PRO Maynooth Tidy Towns Association



# **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





# **Cllr. Angela Feeney** Tel. 087 238 1962 Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com

Stay safe everyone.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year





zoom

E-mail



# **Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News**

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

#### **Cllr Feeney calls for yellow Box from Pound Street to be reinstated** At the November MD Council meeting, Cllr Feeney asked the Council to reinstate the yellow box at the end of Pound Street onto Mill Street Maynooth. In speaking to the motion, Cllr Feeney said this is a very busy location and it can be very difficult to get out on to Mill Street from Pound Street if turning left but even more difficult if trying to turn right.

Cllr Feeney reminded the meeting that there used to be a yellow box at this location. In its response, the Council said that works for Phase five of the North-South cycle corridor for Maynooth will be happening on Mill Street early in the New Year and that the yellow box will be reinstated when those works are complete.

#### The Royal Canal Greenway Opportunities

Cllr Feeney called on the Council to engage with stakeholders to enhance pedestrian and cycling access onto the Royal Canal Greenway. Cllr Feeney said that she welcomed the recent news that a contractor has been appointed to carry out the construction of the Maynooth-Confey section of the Royal Canal Greenway and that preparatory works have started with a construction period of 18 months. Cllr Feeney added that her motion was calling on the Council to engage with those stakeholders in Maynooth that back onto the Greenway to create further permeability for walkers and cyclists on to the Canal Greenway.

The stakeholders she mentioned were Tesco, Carton retail Park, Supervalu, Glenroyal Hotel, even St Patrick's College and the University which all back onto the Greenway. Cllr Feeney said that there is an opportunity to create a real cycling equivalent of an orbital road and reduce vehicle movements. So at the meeting Cllr Feeney was advised by the Council to forward her suggestions to the Active Travel team for consideration.

Cllr Feeney has done that and she has also included them in her discussions with the Maynooth Transport Strategy team in the hope that they can be progressed. Cllr Feeney believes this could be a real game changer for active travel and getting people out of their cars for those shorter local journeys to shops or college.

#### **Community Bike Parking Needed**

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to update members on any planned community bike parking for residents in the Municipal District particularly for those in terraced housing or apartments with limited or no space for this purpose. Cllr Feeney said that more residents want to depend less on cars for local or shorter journeys as it is better for the environment and especially now that it is costing so much more to run a car. However, as Cllr Feeney added, safe and secure bicycle storage is needed especially where people live in terraced housing or apartments. Cllr Feeney said that she has seen community storage or bicycle hangars, in other local authorities here and abroad and they are very unobtrusive.

While the Council said it has no plans to introduce this type of community cycle parking schemes at the moment, it is engaging with the National Transport Authority and is waiting for their suggestions with regard to a regional approach in the Greater Dublin Area to cycle sharing and the associated infrastructure. Cllr Feeney welcomed this and also the fact that feedback from other local authorities in the Greater Dublin Area will be sought on trials that they have done in their area.

#### **Community Centre Update**

At the January 2021 Council meeting Cllr Feeney submitted a motion suggesting using the vacated fire station/council site for a community centre for Maynooth, as it would be ideal. The area manager and members of the Council's public realm team, met Cllr Feeney and some other councillors at the current Maynooth fire station and Council offices site during the Summer to discuss possible options. The Council has conformed that consultants are working on the project and that an urban designer has been identified.

Cllr Feeney is delighted to hear from the Council that delivering a Community Centre is a priority project and that URDF funding capital funding, along with previous development contributions, have been allocated and that the project will progress fairly rapidly in this prime location.

#### Hayfield Estate Yellow Box

On the progress report, Cllr Feeney's request at the October meeting to have a yellow box at the Hayfield Estate entrance onto the Meadowbrook Link Road,

Maynooth, it was confirmed that the District Engineer has requested the lining marking contractor to install a yellow box at this location.

Labour . .

#### **Maynooth and Environs Transport Strategy Public Survey**

Have your Say! The draft Maynooth and Environs Transport Strategy Public Survey for the Draft Maynooth and Environs Transport Strategy is now live. The public survey can be accessed through Kildare's County Council Consultation Portal at the following link - https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/.../draft-maynoothand....

This non-statutory consultation period will run from Wednesday the 16th November 2022 until Wednesday 4th January 2023. An in-person event as part of the consultation period for the Draft Maynooth and Environs Transport Strategy will take place as follows: Location – Corrib Suite, Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth Time – 3.30pm to 7.30pm

Date – 6th December 2022

Please submit any comments via email to: maynoothtransportstrategy@kildarecoco.ie by Wednesday 4th January 2023. Following the consideration of responses from all stakeholders and the public, the Transport Strategy will be finalised and published

Cllr Feeney's upcoming motions and questions for November/December Council meetings

That the Council adopts and implements a walking strategy for Kildare (full Council, joint motion with Cllr Mark Leigh).

That the Council installs a yellow box in the vicinity of Moyglare Nursing Home and Moyglare Abbey when the works for the North-South corridor take place in the coming months.

That the Council carries out an assessment of the Maynooth Business Park Roundabout in order to make it safer for pedestrians.

What plans have the Council for the expansion of Laraghbryan Cemetery?

What maintenance support can the Council provide for Straffan Cemetery?

Support for County Kildare Access Network

At the annual Council Budget meeting, Cllr Feeney and the other councillors who are also members of County Kildare Access Network (CKAN), submitted a motion calling on the Council to fund administrative support for County Kildare Access Network in order to assist with its workload.

Cllr Feeney welcomed the positive response from the Council to this request. The work that CKAN does is of great value and importance in supporting the needs of people with disabilities in our county and this work needs to be recognised but also supported.

#### Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney since last newsletter

November 3rd, Strategic Policy Committee meeting 2pm (online) November 3th, Joint Policing Committee 9am at Aras Chill Dara

November 3th, Council MD, 10am at Aras Chill Dara

November 9th, Finance Committee 12pm (online)

November 10th, Maynooth Transport Strategy 2pm briefing (online)

November 14th, Annual Budget Briefing 3pm (online)

November 14th, Cruinniú Bord Bainistíochta, Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad 5pm sa scoil

November 15th, County Kildare Access Network meeting 10am (online) November 16th County Kildare Digital Champions Awards 11am Merits Building Kildare County Council

November 16th 'Pride in your Place' Awards 7pm Osprey Hotel Naas November 21st Annual Budget Meeting 3pm Aras Chill Dara November 28th Full Council 3pm Aras Chill Dara

#### Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

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**December Events at Maynooth Community Library** 

For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530

facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService

#### **Adult Events**

Kildare Libraries Age Friendly Programme Age Friendly ECO Christmas Card Making Wednesday 7th December 11.00 am - 12.00 pm Maynooth Community Library

For all our Age Friendly, older users, join us in Maynooth Community Library to get into the Christmas frame of mind. This is a hands-on workshop where you will create and bring home some beautiful, handmade cards from recycled materials for that personal touch this Christmas. Please book here :

https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/804207.

#### **Children's Events**

Library Ireland Week Thursday 8th December 3.00 pm – 4.00pm Mindfulness for children workshop with author Louise Shanagher Ages : 7 – 10 year old's

#### Maynooth Community Library

Join Louise Shanagher for the mindfulness workshop for children aged 7-10 years as part of Library Ireland Week which this year runs from 4th - 10th of December. The theme of Library Ireland Week this year is "Libraries As Places of Sanctuary ". **Please book here:** https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/805742.

**Disney Storytime** Wed 14th Dec 3.00pm – 4.00pm Ages: 3+ years Maynooth Library

Walt Disney was born in December over a hundred and twenty years ago but his work on screen, and the later work it inspired after his death, is as well-loved now as it ever was. Join Disney enthusiast Niamh for some stories from the Disney universe and some songs from your favourite films! This event is specifically for children aged 3 and older as there are more stories, and the books are longer. Each child needs to be accompanied by an adult. Please let us know what your favourite Disney song is! Limited Places available, please book here: TicketTailor:

https://app.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/799686

**Festive Family Puppet Show** Saturday 17th December 10am – 11am Maynooth Community Library A family puppet show with a festive flair with Really Grand Events, professional family and children's entertainers. Please book here: https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/804738.

Weekly Story-Time in Maynooth Library Friday 2nd, 9th , 16th , 23rd December 10.00am-10.30am Ages: 2-5 years

#### Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join the Maynooth staff for some stories with nursery rhymes and songs. Each week we will have a new theme. Places are limited and one ticket is required per child. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

#### **Book Via Ticket Tailor:**

Friday 2nd December https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/804399. Friday 9th December https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/804405. Friday 16th December https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/804406. Friday 23rd December https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/804760.

#### Family Time At Your Library Events

Reuben The Entertainer Show at Maynooth Library Saturday 3rd December

#### 12pm- 1pm Ages: 3- 10 years

Join Reuben the Entertainer for an hour of laughter and magic. Reuben has won numerous awards for his quirky and unique act that has everyone from toddlers to grandparents in tears of laughter. One of the hosts of RTE Junior, he has brought his high-energy antics to children all over Ireland with his quick improvising and physical comedy. And his magic will blow their minds! Plenty of magic, daft props and physical comedy will keep everyone in stitches. Suitable for 3-10 Year Olds. Please book here: https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/804208

#### Let's Sing Together with Rebecca Gilbert at Maynooth Library Thursday 15th December 10.30am - 11.30 am

Maynooth Community Library Ages: 0 – 4 years

Join Rebecca Gilbert of the Irish Institute of Music and Song for a fun class where little ones and their grown-ups can experience music, rhythm and singing together. Sing songs and enjoy music with your little one. No musical experience necessary! This session will have a Christmas and Winter theme! Suitable for Babies and Children up to age 4.

#### Please book here:

https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/804420

#### **Climate Action Events**

Saturday 10th December Maynooth Zero Waste 2pm – 4pm

Maynooth Community Library You might find the outfit of your dreams! Zero Waste Maynooth hosts its monthly Ladies Clothes Swap Shop. Reduce textile waste by swapping clothes - great for the environment and your pocket! Bring up 3 items of clothes in good condition and get something new to you. Kids Toy Swap also on the day - let's encourage the little ones to swap toys!

Drop in anytime between 2pm – 4pm

#### **Adult Events**

Breast -feeding support group with Public Health Nurse

Date: Tuesday 13th December Time: 9.30 am - 10. 45 am Maynooth Community Library

The group will be facilitated by the Public Health Nurse (PHN). All mothers who are breastfeeding are welcome to attend. We would encourage mums who are pregnant and who have not yet had their baby to attend – allows them to ask any breastfeeding questions so that postnatally they may feel more confident with getting their breastfeeding journey off to a good start.

Mothers who may be having any breastfeeding problems will have the opportunity to speak to the PHN on a one to one basis or to the group in general. We hope the group will allow mothers to meet with other mothers, have a chat and thereby build a social network for these mothers. No booking needed, just drop in.

**Tuesday Evening Crime Bookclub : Expressions of Interest Tuesday 10th January** 7.00pm - 7.50pm Maynooth Community Library We are currently seeking expressions of interest for a

Crime Book Club which would meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 7pm - 7.50pm beginning Tuesday 10th January. If you are interested in joining this book club, please register at the following link : https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/805685.

Library Groups & Regular groups Baby and Toddler Stay & Play Group

#### Thursday 1st, 8th and 15th December 10:00 am - 11:00am

**Maynooth Community Library** 

twitter.com/kildarelibrary

If you have a young baby or toddler and would like to meet other parents in the area, come to our new stay and play group on Thursday 1st, 8th and 22nd of December at 10am. Bring a coffee and chat to other parents while your babies play with the toys and books provided. No need to book, just drop in!

#### **Teen Writers Group** Thursday 8th December 6- 7pm Online

Open to Teens and Tweens to enjoy writing, Maynooth Teen Writers Group meets online for an hour, twice a month. This is a relaxed and friendly environment to talk about writing, get some feedback and also very important quiet writing time. Contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980 493 for more information.

Young Adult Book Club Friday 16th December 4.30pm – 5.30pm 12-15 year old's Online New members welcome. Please contact Maynooth Community Library on maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie for further details.

**U3A Book Club** Mon the 5th of Dec 10.30am – 11.30 am Maynooth Community Library. The U3A Book Club meet the first Monday of each

month in Maynooth Community Library. New members welcome . Please contact Maynooth Community Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie for more information.

**Carton Book Club** Wed 7th of Dec 10am – 11.30 am **Maynooth Community Library** The Carton book club meets the first Wednesday of each month in Maynooth Community Library.

Wednesday Readers Wed the 14th Dec 11am – 12pm. Maynooth Community Library The Wednesday Readers book club meets the second Wednesday of each month.

Maynooth University Retired Staff MURSA Book Club Wed the 14th Dec

2.30pm – 4.00 pm **Maynooth Community Library** 

The Maynooth University Retired Staff Book Club meet the second Wednesday of each month in Maynooth Community Library .

#### Monday Library Craft Club Mon 5th, 12th & 19th of December 11.30am – 12.30pm Maynooth Community Library

A social craft club where you can work on your particular craft or learn a new skill during our classes.

#### "Beginners" Adult Sewing Machine Classes **Tuesday 6th December**

6.30pm – 7.55 pm

Maynooth Community Library

These classes run for three consecutive weeks on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 - 7.55 pm.

If interested, please give your name at the main desk in Maynooth Community Library.

# **Coláiste Naomh Eoin An Ghaeltacht sa Bhaile**

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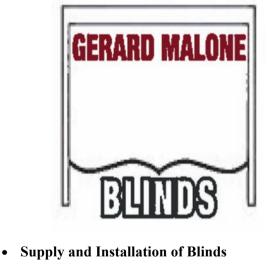
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# MU School of Law and Criminology awarded Law School of the Year

Maynooth University's School of Law and Criminology has been awarded Law School of the Year in the prestigious Irish Law Awards, which took place at a ceremony hosted in the Aviva Stadium on Friday.

The awards aim to identify, honour, and publicise outstanding achievements, while also recognising those who have dedicated their lives to serving in the legal profession. This annual event, with over 500 guests in attendance including some of the top law firms in Ireland, recognises excellence in the legal profession.

Commenting on the award, Dr Fergus Ryan, Acting Head of the School of Law and Criminology at Maynooth University said:

"The award recognises the extraordinary growth and success of the School in recent years, as well as the dedication and expertise of our staff and the talents of our students. It would not have been possible without the great support we received from colleagues throughout the University.

"My sincere appreciation is extended to all colleagues for making this possible, but particularly to Dr Edana Richardson for writing our application and to Prof Michael Doherty who has expertly and wisely stewarded the School over the past nine years."

The award for Law School of the Year is sponsored by Ireland's Bluebook. Software and technology firm, Dye & Durham, sponsored the 2022 Irish Law Awards.



School of Law and Criminology pictured at the 2022 Irish Law Awards. Photo credit: Paul Sherwood.

# MU hosts satellite broadcast of President Zelenskyy address to Irish students

Maynooth University today hosted a unique livestream address by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine to third-level students across Ireland. Her Excellency, the Polish Ambassador to Ireland Anna Sochańska, addressed the Maynooth event.

The video communication to Irish students by President Zelenskyy was facilitated by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of Higher and Further Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS).

Some 250 students and staff attended the event at the TSI Building, with seats reserved for Ukrainian students (pictured) studying at Maynooth University this year.

In total, 24 Ukrainian students, including 17 undergraduates and seven postgraduates are studying at Maynooth across a broad range of degree programmes including Arts, Computer Science and Software Engineering, Business, Media Studies, Robotics and Product Design.

The National Student and Research (NSR) Helpdesk, hosted by Maynooth University, supported the Ukrainian students in their applications process.

Speaking to by video link to Irish students, President Zelenskyy said that over the past nine months, 2,719 educational institutions were shelled, and 322 were completely destroyed by Russian missiles.



#### Maynooth University National University of Ireland Maynooth

"Russia does not stop for a single

day, therefore international pressure

on Russia should not stop for a single day," he said. "The more collective efforts we make, the sooner we will force Russia to leave the territory of Ukraine."

Following President Zelenskyy's address, Her Excellency Anna Sochańska, Poland's Ambassador to Ireland, shared her thoughts and insights on the invasion of Ukraine, and on the recent missile that struck Polish territory, which killed two Polish citizens.

The Ambassador said: "There is no doubt that this tragic event is the consequence of Russia's massive rocket attack on Ukraine, even if it were a rocket used by Ukraine to defend itself."

The Ambassador described the missile strike on Ukraine by Russia on 15th November as "the most powerful attack since Russia unleashed its criminal invasion in February this year".

"Polish history is marked by repeated Russian invasions and our struggles to defend our country – we therefore go above and beyond to help and support Ukraine in their fight for its sovereignty. I appeal to all states that respect international law to take all necessary steps to push Russia into stopping its aggression and withdrawing from Ukrainian territory."

The President of Maynooth University, Professor Eeva Leinonen, confirmed the University's solidarity and commitment to support the people of Ukraine at this time. "As a University community, we condemn violent acts that threaten democracy, trample free will and block access to essential goods and services as they are an affront to human rights. We will continue to support the Ukrainian people who are seeking assistance and refuge."

The satellite event at Maynooth University was organised and moderated by Professor Hana Cervinkova, of the Department of Anthropology and the Maynooth University's Centre of European and Eurasian Studies.

Other experts from the Centre addressed the event, including Professor John O'Brennan of the Department of Sociology, Dr Paul Newman of the Department of History, and Oleg Chupryna, a doctoral student of the Department of Sociology at Maynooth University, who detailed the first-hand experience of his family and friends who live close to the border of Ukraine and Belarus.

The Helix in DCU hosted the national event, which was livestreamed to third level institutions across the country.



Her Excellency Anna Sochańska, Poland's Ambassador to Ireland with Professor Hana Cervinkova, of the Department of Anthropology and the Maynooth University's Centre of European and Eurasian Studies, attending Maynooth University's livestream address by Ukrainian President Zelenskyy to Irish students



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#### Exodus of landlords underlines urgent need to regulate short-term lets

Landlords are leaving the rental market in their droves, with 43,000 properties lost in five years

The mass exodus of landlords from the rental market further highlights the urgent need for regulation of shortterm letting platforms, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. "Reports today that 43,000 homes have been lost to the rental market in the past five years should serve as another wake-up call for the Government. "Landlords have been leaving the market in their droves. The situation is only going to get worse, with a draft survey by the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) revealing that up to 18 percent of landlords want to sell their properties in the next two years.

"The shrinking supply of homes is driving up rents to record levels, as evidenced in last week's Daft report. The average rent sought for a home nationally between July and September was a record 14.1 percent higher than it was during the same period last year. "Average monthly rent across the country was €1,688, with an asking price of over €2,200 in Dublin. "The Government could immediately increase the supply of rental homes by regulating shortterm letting platforms such as Airbnb. On the night of the census, there were 35,000 empty homes across the country, many of them short-term lets. Entire houses and apartments operating as short-term lets without planning permission should be returned to the long-term rental market. "In terms of the Government's housing plan, all the key metrics - from low social and affordable housing delivery to record homelessness numbers – are going in the wrong direction. This month's figures further highlight the need for practical solutions and action instead of endless spin."

#### **Return Of Bankers' Bonuses An Insult To Struggling Workers And Families**

As Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe prepares to leave office, his biggest priority is rewarding bankers. The government's plans to restore bankers' bonuses are an insult to the millions of workers who have seen their wages fall because of the cost of living crisis, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. "As Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe prepares to leave office, his biggest priority is rewarding bankers and restoring their bonuses. 'Has the Minister forgotten that it was bankers reckless lending, for which they were richly rewarded with goldplated bonuses, that led the country into bankruptcy and collapsed the housing industry during the financial crash?

"Bankers do not appear to have learned any lessons from that dark chapter in their history, given the revelations from the tracker mortgage scandal that have come to light in recent years. "This year alone, AIB was fined more than €96 million by the Central Bank for its role in inflicting "devastating consequences" on nearly 13,000 households who were caught up in the tracker scandal. "Meanwhile, Bank of Ireland was hit with a record €100 million fine in September for its role in the scandal that resulted in the loss of 50 homes, including 25 family homes. In total, across the industry, 327 homes were lost, including 98 family homes. "The ink on those record fines for the banking sector is barely dry and the Finance Minister plans to inflate the pay of bankers on salaries of €500,000 by up to  $\in$ 20,000. "This decision is especially galling given the current cost of living crisis that is decimating the incomes of struggling workers and families all over the country. This decision is an insult to those workers and families."

#### Record homelessness figures highlight the human cost of Government inaction

Thousands of local authority homes lie empty as the number of people in emergency accommodation reaches another grim record.

The latest record homelessness figures further highlight the Government's laissez-faire approach to tackling the housing crisis, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy.

"With Christmas now just one month away, figures released today show the highest number of people experiencing homelessness and living in emergency accommodation ever recorded. There are now 11,397 people living in emergency accommodation, with 3,480 of them children. "The number of people in emergency accommodation has increased by 29 percent in the past year, while the number of children is up by 38 percent during the same period. "It is important to remember that these figures do not include people sleeping rough on our streets, in tents, on floors or on couches. "Shockingly, a eport published earlier this month by the National Oversight and Audit Commission showed that almost ,500 council owned homes are currently vacant.

"The report also revealed that the average time taken to relet council owned homes in between tenants has been increasing since 2018 and averaged almost eight months in 2021. "The fact that thousands of publicly owned homes are sitting empty is a slap in the face to those who are struggling to put a roof over their head. Sadly, however, it is indicative of this Government's attitude to tackling the housing crisis. "It is equally hard to understand how hundreds of millions of euros allocated to building new local authority homes this year remains unspent. Yesterday, the Minister for Housing brought revised estimates to the Oireachtas Housing Committee. These showed that €337 million that was allocated to build new local authority homes this year is being reallocated to other areas, including €100 million to be used paying off loans. "The Government keep on telling us that their housing plan is working – clearly it is not as the situation gets worse every day for people struggling to find somewhere affordable to

#### Windfall tax funds must be targeted at vulnerable households

Government clampdown on energy companies' profits is welcome but overdue.

Funds generated through a windfall tax on energy companies must be targeted at vulnerable households most at risk from fuel poverty, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. "The Social Democrats have always agreed with the principle of a windfall tax on the profits of energy companies, so it is positive news that the Government has belatedly moved on this issue. "While it is not yet clear how much money a windfall tax will generate, it has the potential to be a significant figure given the eye watering profits being enjoyed by energy companies over the past year. "It is also welcome that the Government has decided to introduce a temporary solidarity contribution from companies involved in fossil fuel production, which will be collected in 2023 and 2024. "By comparison, however, I would question why the cap on non-gas market revenues will only be in place until June of next year under the Government's proposals.

With the energy crisis certain to be with us in 2023 – and possibly for many years to come - this seems like an extraordinarily short timeframe for a windfall tax. "There must also be full transparency in terms of how energy companies' profits are recorded so we can be assured that the Government is maximising the amounts due. "It is vital that any funds collected through these measures are targeted at households most at risk from energy poverty. Previous energy subsidies approved by the Government have not prioritised vulnerable families or individuals. Disgracefully, universal supports will see €50 million of taxpayers' money allocated to the owners of holiday homes. "Even before the conflict in Ukraine, energy companies were earning grotesque profits off the backs of consumers in the teeth of a cost-of-living crisis. Placing a cap on their earnings through the introduction of a windfall tax is a proportionate and justified response. "However, the Government must ensure that it spends any money raised in a responsible and targeted way so that homes and businesses are more resilient to future energy price shocks.'

#### Latest Daft report paints a grim picture of rental market.

Figures show Government's housing plan is an abject failure.

The latest Daft report paints a grim picture of Ireland's rental market and is further proof that the Government's housing plan has failed, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. "The latest Daft report is a stark reminder of the scale of the crisis, both in terms of increased rents and the shrinking supply of properties. "According to the report, the average rent sought for a home nationally between July and September was a record 14.1 percent higher than it was during the same period last year. "The average monthly rent for a residential property across the country was €1,688, a 4.3 percent increase on the previous quarter and the largest quarterly increase recorded by Daft since 2005.

"With just 1,087 homes listed nationally on Daft, it is clear that shortage of supply is driving up rents to unsustainable levels, with 60 percent less homes available than last year. In Dublin, the increase was 14.3 percent, with average asking monthly rent at  $\notin 2,258$ . "The figures show that the Government's housing plan is an abject failure. "The Government have been patting themselves on the back on the basis that 28,000 homes are predicted to be delivered this year. This is despite a general consensus that at least 40,000 new build homes are needed each and every year. "There has been a complete failure to regulate short-term lets, which is having a disruptive effect on the supply of long-term rental homes. There were 35,000 vacant rental homes on the night of the census – many of them empty as they are used as short-term lets. "We need an end to constant Government spin on housing and a new focus instead on delivering homes that are affordable to rent and buy."

#### Housing For All progress report shows that Government's plan to build social and affordable homes is failing.

Action, not vague promises of future housing delivery, is urgently needed.

The Housing For All action plan update and Q3 progress report published today show that the Government is falling far behind on its delivery targets for social and affordable homes, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy "Today's progress report highlights the Government's disastrous failure to meet its own social and affordable housing delivery targets for this year. "Of the 9,000 new build social housing units promised for 2022, just 1,765 were delivered in the first half of this year. "Only 59 cost rental homes were delivered in the third quarter of this year. This falls far short of the thousands of cost rental homes that are needed and that the Government has promised to deliver. "Similarly, targets to deliver affordable purchase homes are not being met, with only 300 affordable purchase homes opened for applications to date. "People who are trapped paying unaffordable rents, or are stuck living with their parents into their late twenties and early thirties, need action on delivering affordable, cost rental and social homes - not vague promises of future delivery."

#### **Fine Gael Inaction Means SIPO Is More** Lapdog Than Watchdog

SIPO is currently more lapdog than watchdog The decision of the Standards in Public Office Commission (SIPO) not to investigate the Tánaiste's leaking of a draft contract to a friend in 2019 is further evidence that the watchdog needs more teeth, according to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy TD. "The Tánaiste has maintained that he leaked the draft contract in his capacity as Taoiseach - and SIPO has said it has no remit to inquire into the extent of the powers of the office of Taoiseach. "It is notable that this was not a unanimous view. Two of five SIPO commissioners were of the opinion they could

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# Catherine Murphy T.D. Social Democrats, Kildare North. (Cont.) Constituency Office ph: 01-6156625 Dáil Office ph: 01-6183099 - e-mail: catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie

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investigate this matter while a sixth commissioner recused herself. "This decision raises questions about SIPO's capacity to investigate complaints about the actions of Taoisigh - and suggests the office of Taoiseach protect its inhabitants from scrutiny. "When asked during leaders questions, the Tánaiste if he was satisfied that SIPO is sufficiently empowered to investigate the decisions of Taoisigh when that is necessary. In response, the Tánaiste initially dodged the question - ultimately saying SIPO should not investigate political decisions.

"Of course, this was a response to a question that was not asked. Nobody has ever suggested the SIPO should investigate political decisions - but rather the ethical conduct of politicians while in office. "The reality is that Fine Gael has failed, for more than a decade, to strengthen our woefully inadequate ethics laws. This is despite repeated pleas from SIPO, in its annual report every year, for additional powers of investigation and enforcement. "The net result of this is that SIPO is currently more lapdog than watchdog. It will remain in this prostrate position unless the government provides it with the increased powers it needs to hold politicians to account."

#### **CETA Decision An Indictment Of Government Attempts To Ram Deal Through** The Dáil.

#### I hope this important decision will prompt some reflection on the government benches.

The Supreme Court decision that ratification of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)) between the EU and Canada is unconstitutional is an indictment of the government's attempt to ram the deal through the Dáil, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. "I welcome the decision of the Supreme Court that ratification of CETA would be unconstitutional. This is a hugely significant decision – and a vindication for those who had serious concerns about the government's attempts to ram ratification of this deal through the Dáil. 'It is worth recalling that the Government previously attempted to rush through ratification of this hugely complex deal after just a 55-minute Dáil debate in December 2020.

That cynical effort only failed because it prompted such a huge public outcry. "The Government continually tells us that it is crucial to ratify this deal to boost trade. However, the trade elements of this deal came into force back in 2017. What remains outstanding is a controversial investor court system (ICS), which gives multinationals the right to sue governments that curtail their freedom of action as investors. "The practical impact of this is that ICS allows large corporations to leapfrog domestic and EU courts and take cases against governments to specially-created tribunals when policy decisions impact their bottom line. "When it comes to implementing measures that have the capacity to pit the public interest against investor interest, the choice for the Government should be an easy one. Protect the public interest. At all costs. "I hope this important decision will prompt some reflection on the government benches and a re-examination of the long-term consequences of introducing ICS as part of this deal."

#### Nation United In Mourning Following Sad Passing of Vicky Phelan.

What mattered most to Vicky was not rhetoric but action. The nation is united in mourning the sad passing of Vicky Phelan, according to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy TD. "The entire nation is united in mourning after the very sad passing of Vicky Phelan. "Vicky was instrumental in uncovering the CervicalCheck scandal. Her refusal to sign a confidentiality agreement in 2018, during her High Court action, shone a light onto failings of the screening service. "Vicky was a tireless advocate, not just for herself, but for the women of Ireland. She refused to accept the culture of omerta and evasion that too often accompanies scandals in Irish public life.

"Campaigning for more transparency and accountability in

the Irish health service, as well as her terminal illness, must downloaded at www.gov.ie. It is available in all Intreo have taken a toll. But, Vicky never betrayed that. She was determined to see her campaign for improved health services succeed. This was not in her interest, but in the public interest. "What mattered most to Vicky was not rhetoric but action. It is therefore crucial that, as part of her proud legacy, all of the recommendations of the Scally report are implemented in full. "It is also essential that the new National Cervical Screening Laboratory at the Coombe Hospital is provided with the capacity to analyse CervicalCheck slides. This would fulfil a commitment, made in 2018, that those slides would no longer be sent to the United States for analysis."

#### No justification for scale of road toll increases. Transport Minister should veto proposed hike in toll

charges.

There is no justification for the scale of toll increases due to come into effect within weeks, according to Catherine Murphy TD, co-leader of the Social Democrats. "With private motorists and haulage companies already struggling with increased fuel costs, the reported rise in tolls from January 1 will come as a further blow. "The level of increase, by as much as 60 cent in some cases, is difficult to justify in the current climate. The State-owned M50 one of the country's most notorious bottlenecks - will heap further misery on road users when toll charges are upped by over nine percent. "Meanwhile, all the public-private (PPP) motorways are set to bring in the maximum tolls allowed under their agreements with the State.

Only users of the Dublin Port Tunnel will be spared from price increases on this occasion. "The Minister for Transport needs to read the room and realise how badly this will play with a public already grappling with a cost-or living crisis. He must immediately intervene by using his eto to stop these increases from going ahead. "Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) must also explain the rationale behind the scale of the increases. It is difficult to accept their contention that the toll rises are necessary for the maintenance of motorways and the wider road network. "Ordinary people will end up paying twice for these increases, both in terms of higher tolls and through any costs passed on to consumers due to extra operational expenses incurred by logistics or distribution companies.' Whilst I am pleased to see the decision to increase Toll charges deferred for a further 6 months to June 2023, the reality is that the cost of living crisis will be with us at that stage also.

#### To ask the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the number of community welfare officers serving the towns Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge per thousand population currently; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [55505/22]

propose to take Questions Nos. 722 and 723 together. The following table shows the CWOs currently based in Co. Kildare:

Location	No. of CWOs H	Full-time Equivalent
Newbridge	5	4.8
Athy	2	2
Maynooth	2	2
Total	9	8.8

A CWO is available to meet with customers in Newbridge, Athy and Maynooth or at another mutually agreed location in Co. Kildare or where necessary, they can arrange to visit a person's house by appointment. In addition, any person who needs to access the Community Welfare Service (CWS) can call the national CWS freephone phoneline, which is available at 0818 60 70 80, to speak to a CWO or to make an appointment to meet at a mutually agreed location, including at the person's home. In cases where urgent local action is required, such as an immediate cheque payment, this is facilitated on the same day. The application form, SWA1, is widely available. It can be

Centres and Branch Offices. It can also now be requested by emailing cwsforms@welfare.ie, by calling 0818 60 70 80 by or using the Request Application Form page available on www.gov.ie. The completed application form should be returned to the Department where it will be processed promptly. The delivery of a locally based Community Welfare Service remains and will continue to remain a cornerstone of the service. I trust this clarifies the matter.

#### 311. To ask the Minister for Housing, Planning, and Local Government if his Department has been monitoring the effects of the climate crisis on bird nesting habits; if so, if he will detail the findings; and if his Department has considered the future need to adjust the hedge cutting ban to correspond with changing nesting habits. [58008/22]

My Department monitors the population trends of and status of wild bird species, in accordance with the requirements of Article 12 of the Birds Directive. This monitoring programme does not specifically monitor the effects of climate change on bird nesting habits. No adjustments to hedge-cutting obligations under the Wildlife Act are being considered at present.

#### Waterford Cllr. Mary Roche Joins The Social **Democrats.**

Social Democrats co-leaders Catherine Murphy and Róisín Shortall have announced that Independent Waterford Councillor Mary Roche is joining the party. Deputies Murphy and Shortall travelled to Waterford today to meet Cllr Roche and make the announcement. Cllr Roche said: "I have long admired the work of the Social Democrats and their co-leaders Catherine Murphy and Roisin Shortall. Their values very much align with my own: a commitment to pursue transformative healthcare reform; strong advocacy on behalf of those who are most vulnerable in our society; consistently facing down vested interests; and a determination to create a more equal Ireland for all. "Some people may be surprised at my decision to join a political party, given I have been an independent politician for so long, but it is my view that I can best represent the people of Waterford as a member of the Social Democrats.

"The issues that the Social Democrats are working hard to address - in housing, the health service, childcare and the cost-of-living crisis - are also the issues that matter most to the people of Waterford. Working from within the party can, I feel, help me to deliver real change. "I am pleased that both party leaders travelled to Waterford today for this announcement. I think that's indicative of their commitment to incorporating Waterford, and the needs of the people here, into their policy platforms.

Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy said: "Mary has a long and proud history of representing the people of Waterford to the very best her ability. Of the many issues that Mary has fought for during the years, her tireless work in advocating for healthcare reform, University status and improved regional development for Waterford are particularly notable. "We are delighted that Mary has decided she can do that work best from within the Social Democrats.'

Social Democrats co-leader Róisín Shortall said: "This is further evidence that the party in Waterford, and elsewhere, is continuing to grow. Local government plays a hugely important role, in shaping and developing the areas we all live in, and it is essential to have councillors who have the right values, policies and principles in place. 'We are thrilled to welcome an extremely hardworking and experienced councillor like Mary, who has long been in the vanguard of campaigning for improved public services and development for Waterford."



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481. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, <u>Disability</u>, Integration and Youth if he will provide a schedule of funding for the refurbishment and retrofitting of playgrounds by local authority in the years 2021 and to date in 2022; the estimated funding for same in 2023; and the funding that has been made available to make playgrounds more inclusive for children with additional needs. [57326/22]

The Local Authority Play and Recreation Network (LAPRN) was established in 2012 as a mechanism for central and Local Government to work collectively to bring about the best policy initiatives for children and young people in terms of the provision and promotion of play and recreational facilities. The DCEDIY Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play and Recreation was introduced in 2013 to support new and existing play and recreation facilities for children and young people. The criteria for the scheme were developed in partnership with the Local Authority Play and Recreation Network (LAPRN), established for the purpose of bringing a focus on play and recreation within each Local Authority.

Grants are for the development of new play facilities, the refurbishment of existing playgrounds and / or incorporation of natural play areas. A selection committee reviews all applications received and one of the key criteria of the Scheme is facilities and equipment funded must be accessible to children and young people of all abilities, as far as possible. In 2021, applications received from all 31 Local Authorities were deemed to be successful. The full allocation of €469,716 was drawn down in 2021.

The same procedure applied in 2022. All 29 applications received were deemed successful. The full allocation of  $\epsilon$ 450,000 was awarded. The 2023 allocation will remain at  $\epsilon$ 450,000. Please see below table of Play and Recreation Capital allocations for 2021 and 2022.

Local Authority	2021	2022
Carlow	€15,645	€15,552
Cavan	€16,131	€15,852
Clare	€11,783	€15,852
Cork City	€16,170	€16,541
Cork County	€16,131	€16,541
Donegal	€16,833	€16,541
Dublin City	€16,833	€16,541
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	€16,833	No application received
Fingal	€16,131	€15,191
Galway City	€16,131	€15,162
Galway County	€15,896	€15,852
Kerry	€11,764	€15,852
Kildare	€16,131	€15,852
Kilkenny	€15,620	€15,852
Laois	€15,496	€16,541
Leitrim	€16,119	€15,162
Limerick	€16,040	€16,541
Longford	€10,754	€13,784
Louth	€15,991	€15,852
Mayo	€15,228	€15,852
Meath	€14,957	€15,162
Monaghan	€15,851	€16,541
Offaly	€13,512	No application received
Roscommon	€15,852	€6,702
Sligo	€15,406	€15,852
South Dublin	€16,131	€16,541
Tipperary	€11,110	€15,576
Waterford	€15,991	€15,162
Westmeath	€16,342	€15,852
Wexford	€15,331	€15,162
Wicklow	€11,573	€16,541
TOTAL:	€469,716	€450,004

# Wishing you a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2023

Daily constituency clinics

Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm

Ph; 089 2444 793



Social Democrats

Catherine Murphy, your Kildare North Social Democrats TD

## How to make a Christmas Garland

At Christmas time, we all want our homes to look perfect. There's nothing nicer than a natural garland at this time of year and knowing how to make a Christmas garland is a must. You can add to it with traditional festive pieces like pine cones, or even dry oranges just wire them in with a few cinnamon sticks for added holiday scent. You can also use baubles and bows.

**Double up the greenery**. Most pine garlands are too thin to look expensive. It's a simple fix... just wind two or three together for a luxe look and spend plenty of time fluffing out all of the branches.

Add lights. String them on thick and try to tuck the wires into the branches as much as possible. If your garland came with lights, you still might want to add more so it's extra bright and twinkly at night. You can use two different types of lights mix standard lights with larger bulb lights or star-shaped lights. It adds dimension and interest to the finished garland. One other thing to consider with lights is whether your garland will be near a plug. If not, there are lots of battery-operated light strings that will work.

Add ribbon. The trick to getting ribbon to look great on a garland is to buy wired ribbon and to use florist wire. Prep your ribbon by twisting an eight inch piece of wire around the ribbon every 12 inches. Then use the florist wire to attach the ribbon to the greenery. You can also add a second, contrasting ribbon.

Add details. This is the fun part! Now you get to add all of the cute ornaments, floral picks and other accessories that take your garland to the next level and really make it special. You can use anything you'd like for this part. Just make sure to attach anything breakable securely with florist wire.

www.thecraftpatchblog.com/diy-christmas-garland/



# Royal Canal Notes

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December 2022

# Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

## **ROYAL CANAL ANNUAL MASS**

The annual mass for those who lost their lives in a barge accident on the Royal Canal at Porterstown Co Dublin in the 1840s will be celebrated in Porterstown Church on Friday 25th. November, after which a wreath will be laid at Porterstown Bridge. This was the most serious accident to have occurred on the canal during its working years, resulting in a number of fatalities as well as many serious injuries.



Laying of the wreath after annual mass for those killed near Porterstown © FitsFoto Maynooth

## ALLOCADES

The Chairman, committee and board of directors would like to extend thanks to a number of people and groups for their help and support during the year.

First up is the 'scheme' staff and supervisor who tidy the harbour, as well as emptying the bins, triming the grass and carrying out minor maintenance.

We would also like to thank the Tidy Towns Committee who also do some cleaning in the harbour area. They also provide additional bins and assistance when we run functions in the Harbour.

We also appreciate the efforts, assistance and kindness shown by the MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER staff and supervisor with regards to publishing matters.

Finally, a huge vote of thanks to you the communities along the canal and readers of this excellent publication, who have supported us from the start and continue to support all our endeavours.

## **ROYAL CANAL WALKS**

The Post-Christmas 'Christmas Jumper' walk will take place on Tuesday December 27th starting at 12.15 pm. The weather, hopefully, will be conducive to this event making it an enjoyable day for all.

As always, we would like to thank, in advance, the management at Carton for permission to walk through Carton, and those members of the group who will help on the day.

Further walks are anticipated but more about this in the new year.

## **CONDOLANCES**

We in the Royal Canal Amenity Group would like to send our sincere condolences to the Greene Family of Rathwire Lower, Killucan, Co. Westmeath on the loss of their beloved father recently.

Paddy was a long serving member of the group and his input, both at branch and parent group level, was invaluable. He is pre-deceased by his wife Olive who was also a very active member of the group. He will be sadly missed by his children Dermot, Elaine, Judith and Kenneth.



The late Paddy Greene R.I.P. Photo: RIP.ie

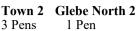
Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh a hAnam.

#### SEASONAL GREETINGS

The officers and committee would like to avail of this opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and good health in the New Year.

#### Maynooth University Town F.C.

#### **Charlie Cahill Cup 1st Round**



The outstanding performance in this hard fought Cup game was undoubtedly Town keeper Demer Sterio. A string of saves during normal time and extra time ensured a penalty shootout to decide the outcome.

The first half was scoreless with neither side able to open the scoring and the trend continued for much of the game.

Town were just shading the exchanges but were unable to make the breakthrough.

Ninety minutes and extra time failed to break the deadlock and a 2 - 2 scoreline brought the game to penalties. Glebe scored their first penalty and Town did likewise. Glebe then came forward but Town keeper Demer Sterio saved. Town then scored and Demer saved the next two Glebe penalties to complete his hat trick of saves. An unusual feat in a penalty shoot. A 3 - 1 success for Town who now travel to Greystones for the next round.

#### L.S.L. Senior Division

#### Killester/Donnycarney 2 Town 2

Town produced their own version of "The Great Escape" in this ding dong game at Killester.

Town scored in the 13th minute through Dean O'Shea and held on until half time. Killester equalised on the hour and kept pushing forward and went ahead in the 93rd minute but were punished for their time wasting tactics when Town forced a corner in the 95th minute. Jackson Ryan swung his kick into the area for Town captain Conor Dunne to force the ball over the line for a deserved equaliser.

#### F.A.I. Intermediate Cup 2nd Round

#### U.C.D. 1 Town 3

Town were never in danger of not advancing to the 3rd round of the Intermediate Cup.

Dominant from the kick off, Town just never allowed U.C.D. to get a grip on the game. With Town in control of all areas it made for an easy outing against a side who never got to grips with a dominant Town side. Paddy O'Sullivan put Town in front midway through the half when he gained possession just outside to U.C.D. penalty area and placed his shot low past the U.C.D. keeper. The highlight of the game

occurred in the 33rd minute when an excellent passage of play carved open the U.C.D. defence for Jackson Ryan to steal in and flashed his shot to the back of the net.

Town continued their dominance in the second half and were awarded a penalty which Jack O'Connor expected tucked away.

U.C.D. were awarded a penalty soon after which was also converted but Town were never in danger and ran out easy winners.

#### L.S.L. Senior Division

#### Town 0 Ballymun Utd 4

Our recent good run of results came to a most surprising end in the lack lustre display against The Mun. Too many Town players failed to sparkle on the day and ultimately paid a heavy price.

#### L.S.L. Senior Division

#### Malahide Utd 1 Town 3

Town got back on the winning trail after their surprising defeat to Ballymun Utd. The most pleasing aspect of this victory was Calum Warfield breaking his scoring duck with a well taken goal. Paddy O'Sullivan and Jack O'Connor contributed with a goal each to help push us up the table.

#### L.S.L. Senior Division

#### Town 3 Bluebell Utd 1

Another important league win which maintains our lofty league position. Town controlled this game in confident fashion from the start and were impressive winners in emphatic fashion. Goals by Jackson Ryan, Paddy O'Sullivan and Alex Kelly put an impressive look on the scoreline.

#### F.A.I. Intermediate Cup 3rd Round

#### Bangor Celtic 2 Town 1 A.E.T

Towns love affair with this cup came to a disappointing end with this lack lustre display against a Bangor side who out battled Town in a hard fought game.

Despite taking the lead Town just could not push home their advantage and Jackson Ryan's goal was only a consolation.

## **Seasons Greetings to All**

L	.S.L. Senior Sunday	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	GD	Points
1	St. Mochtas FC	11	7	1	3	21	17	4	22
2	Maynooth University Town FC	11	6	2	3	19	15	4	20
3	Ballymun United	13	5	3	5	23	23	0	18
4	Killester Donnycarney FC	10	4	4	2	14	9	5	16
5	Wayside Celtic	11	5	1	5	16	15	1	16
6	Lucan United FC	10	4	3	3	19	13	6	15
7	Home Farm FC	10	4	3	3	13	13	0	15
8	Liffey Wanderers	11	4	3	4	16	18	-2	15
9	Kilnamanagh AFC	12	4	3	5	18	26	-8	15
10	Crumlin United FC	11	4	2	5	18	15	3	14
11	Glebe North FC	11	3	5	3	16	13	3	14
12	Bluebell United	9	3	1	5	13	16	-3	10
13	Bangor Celtic F.C	8	1	4	3	11	13	-2	7
14	Malahide United	10	1	3	6	9	20	-11	6

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Warning: The cost of your repayments may increase
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# **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service which provides a free and confidential service to the public.

Information is also available online at <u>www.citizensinformation.ie</u> and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121 Citizens Information

## Switching your mortgage

#### Introduction

Switching your mortgage is when you change or 'switch' your mortgage to a different lender. When you switch your mortgage, you make your mortgage payments to your new lender. Switching your mortgage can help you save money. This page outlines some things to consider before switching your mortgage, how to switch your mortgage and what to do if something goes wrong when switching. If you need general information about mortgages, read <u>our page on taking out a mortgage</u>.

#### Things to think about before you switch

Before switching, you should consider:

- Loan-to-value (LTV) ratio this is how much you owe on your mortgage in relation to how much your house is worth. Lenders look at your LTV ratio when you make your application. You need an up-to-date valuation of your home to get an accurate LTV.
- **Outstanding balance** if the outstanding balance on your mortgage is very low, you may find it difficult to switch your mortgage, as lenders often have a minimum loan amount.
- **Negative equity** this means you owe more on your mortgage than your property is worth. Lenders may not offer you a loan if you are in negative equity.
- **Mortgage term** minimum or maximum loan terms may apply when you are switching. For example, some lenders may not accept an application for a mortgage over 30 years or less than 5 years.
- **Repayment history** whether you have been meeting your mortgage repayments over the previous 12 months. Lenders will also check any other financial obligations you have and your <u>credit history</u>.
- **Fixed term** If you are on a fixed rate and want to leave it early, you may have to pay a fee, sometimes called a redemption charge. The cost of this charge should be weighed against potential savings that could be made by switching, or you can wait until you are coming to the end of your fixed term and then switch.

#### Can I save money by switching my mortgage?

Before switching, you should work out how much money you can save by switching. You can save money in a number of different ways, including by:

- Reducing your monthly payments
- Paying less interest over the term of your mortgage
- Reducing your term so you can pay off your mortgage faster
- Releasing equity in your home

However, there may be costs associated with switching.

Check how much you can save by:

- Shopping around <u>compare mortgages</u> and look for the lowest interest rates.
   Finding out if there's an <u>early exit charge</u> or early redemption fee (ERF) if you
- are coming to the end of your fixed term mortgage with your current lender. Using a mortgage calculator to work out your new monthly repayment and how
- much you could save.
- Finding out legal and valuation costs, plus any other fees you have to pay.
- Deducting any charges or fees from the savings over the full term of your new mortgage.
- Checking for switching <u>incentives</u> such as cashback offers. Some lenders may offer you cashback when you switch your mortgage to them. This could save you money on <u>fees and expenses</u>.

Before making any important financial decisions, it is a good idea to <u>get financial</u> <u>advice</u>.

#### How to choose a new mortgage

For help comparing mortgage providers, you can use the <u>Competition and Consumer</u> <u>Protection Commission (CCPC) mortgage switching calculator</u>. You can also use a mortgage broker to help you compare mortgages.

#### How do I switch my mortgage?

Take the following steps to switch your mortgage:

#### Step 1 – Check:

- How much you owe on your existing mortgage
- How long is left on your loan
- What rate of interest you are currently paying
- If there is an <u>early exit charge</u> or early redemption fee (ERF)
- If your current lender can offer you a better deal

#### Step 2 - Compare mortgages

- Look for the lowest interest rates
- Check whether the lender offers incentives such as cash back

#### Step 3 - Choose a lender or broker

Contact your new lender or a mortgage broker who will apply to lenders for you. Most brokers will help you switch free of charge. You can use the <u>Brokers</u> <u>Ireland</u> website to find a broker in your area.

#### Step 4 - Gather your paperwork

- You will need to provide <u>documentation</u> including:
- Proof of your identity
- Proof of income (payslips, or accounts if you are self-employed)
- Proof of employment and your addressBank statements including statements for credit cards and any loans you have

#### Step 5 - Get your property valued

• Contact a property valuer that is approved by your new lender. You will need to get an up-to-date professional valuation of your property. Your lender will only accept valuations carried out by an approved valuer.

#### Step 6 - Employ a solicitor

Employ a solicitor to take care of the paperwork and switching process. Your solicitor will manage the process between you and your lender. You can use the <u>Law Society's</u> <u>website</u> to find a solicitor in your area.

#### Step 7 - Mortgage protection insurance

• Check if you can take your current insurance with you. However, if you are under a lender's group insurance policy, you may be restricted from switching it Find out how much your current mortgage protection insurance is to see if you can get a better deal elsewhere.

#### Step 8 - Set up a new direct debit

- Cancel the direct debit with your previous lender
- Complete and return the new direct debit form your new lender sends to you

#### Is there a good time to switch?

The right time to switch depends on your reason for switching and whether you will make a saving, taking into account any fees you may be charged. Many people think about switching when they reach the end of a fixed term rate or if interest rates are increasing.

Switching your mortgage is likely to take at least a couple of months. There may be longer waiting times if things are busy. It may also take time for you to gather the documents you need, get a valuation and arrange insurance.

#### What happens after I switch?

Once everything is in place, your solicitor will arrange for a funds transfer between your new and old lender and they will confirm that your new mortgage is ready to draw down.

#### The rules your lender must follow

Lenders must follow the <u>Central Bank of Ireland's mortgage measures</u> which require them to:

- Tell you about cheaper options 60 days before your fixed rate mortgage ends
  Tell you if you can switch to a cheaper mortgage based on your loan to value
- (LTV) and how much equity you have in your property
   Explain clearly the pros and cons of mortgage incentives, for example, cashback offers
- Show you how much your mortgage costs compared to other options they offer, if requested
- Give you all the information you need to switch, including how long it will take
- Let you know their decision within 10 business days of receiving your completed mortgage application

#### If something goes wrong with the switching process

If you have a complaint about a lender, you should always discuss your complaint with your lender first.

You can read information on how to complain about a financial services firm.

The CCPC has a <u>3-step plan for making a complaint</u> about financial services providers.

The Central Bank of Ireland has an explainer on <u>how to complain about a financial</u> <u>services firm</u>.

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- Willing to engage

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> **Next Programme:** January 2023 Celbridge

If you would like to know more, please contact; Lorna@countykildarelp.ie 085 8421347





















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Seasons Greetings to all our Customers

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#### Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 24/10/2022 to 29/11/2022 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
<u>221397</u>	Kildare County Council	Aidan McGrath	26 Brook Field Avenue, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	24/11/2022
<u>221396</u>	Kildare County Council	Lidl Head Office	Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	24/11/2022
<u>221388</u>	Kildare County Council	McDonald's Restaurants of Ireland Limited	McDonald's Restaurant, Carton Retail Park, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	22/11/2022
<u>221374</u>	Kildare County Council	Damian Travers,	Taghadoe, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	18/11/2022
<u>221346</u>	Kildare County Council	Aidan McGrath	26 Brook Field Avenue, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	11/11/2022
<u>221312</u>	Kildare County Council	Vincent Dempsey	Laragh Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	04/11/2022
<u>221287</u>	Kildare County Council	Montane Developments (Ireland) Limited	Unit K8, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	28/10/2022
<u>221272</u>	Kildare County Council	Alvaro Blasco	Land adjacent to 1 MOYGLARE GREEN, MARIAVILLA, MAYNOOTH, CO. KILDARE	26/10/2022
<u>221256</u>	Kildare County Council	Greenfield Shopping Centre Limited	Greenfield Shopping Centre, Maynooth Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	24/10/2022



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

#### **Berlin Visit**

In former times, on reaching manhood, one took the Grand Tour but I was twenty-eight when I ventured alone into Europe. The year was 1965. Back then the Cold War was flourishing and divided Berlin was its most potent symbol. Only two years previously JFK had made his famous speech, 'Ich bin ein Berliner' (I am a Berliner) in front of the infamous wall. I had flown from New York to London in June, from there to Amsterdam then on to Copenhagen. After spending a few days in the last two cities, I sailed to Oslo, from where I took a steamer up the coast of Norway to the Lofoten islands, north of the Artic Circle. While there, in the 'Land of the Midnight Sun', I fell in with two German fellows and together we climbed a mountain, which was partly covered in snow, then attended a midsummer bonfire. Afterwards, I travelled south again via Stockholm to Hamburg and on to Wolfsburg, close to the East German border. In Wolfsburg I picked up a new Volkswagen Beetle in the factory and, to familiarise myself with its performance, drove to Hanover, about 40 miles away. Now I was ready to venture into Berlin. At Marienborn I had to pass a West-Allied checkpoint and then an East German one before getting onto the hundred mile long autobahn through the Deutsche Demokratische Republik that led to the capital. While driving merrily along I was overtaken by a patrol car. On halting, the policeman, pointing to a symbol in his traffic book, indicated that I had overtaken another vehicle, something that was verboten. Naturally I drove carefully after that but on approaching the East German checkpoint at Drewitz, outside Berlin, I was told to pull into an area where my car was checked thoroughly, a trolley with a mirror even being shoved under the chassis. Once nothing was found I proceeded through the British Sector checkpoint into West Berlin, which also had a French and an American sector.

Following that dramatic entry I drove to a hostel crowded with Western students and backpackers and got accommodation. Afterwards, while I was walking abroad, the sky darkened and soon an electric storm engulfed the city. Never till then had I experienced such thunder and lightning. It seemed as if nature was dramatising the

dangers that threatened this free enclave in a communist world. Next morning the hostel supervisor began to bawl out a fellow he had caught smoking. While the smoker was obviously at fault, the Hitlerian fury shown by this martinet was excessive and I expected someone in our free-spirited. multinational group to protest but we all stood speechless like a flock of sheep. Is it possible that if we were there in Der Fuehrer's time we would have acted no differently? That day I decided to visit Dahlem museum to see the bust of Nefertitti. Well, that was the plan but while driving and simultaneously checking a street map, I made a left-hand turn and was struck by an oncoming car. My head hit the roof and when I got out I found that the front of the Beetle had been driven against the tyres. Now I saw the usual, helpful face of the Germans. A young man tied one end of a rope to my bumper and the other end round a tree trunk then reversed the car, freeing the wheels. After that, a friendly policeman drove ahead of me while we made our way to a VW garage. Having dictated a statement for insurance purposes, I was now, apart from a severe head pain, free to explore this divided capital.

Well, I did visit Dahlem and various other attractions, including a nightclub where one could phone or send written messages via a metal tube to any girl at another table that caught ones fancy. Did this place feature later in Cabaret? Anyway, it had the slightly risqué atmosphere of that musical, which was set in the time of the Nazis' rise to power. In general, I found that a beleaguered, though friendly, atmosphere prevailed in Berlin, as if the inhabitants were reassured by the presence of us 'Free World' visitors. After seeing major attractions such as the Brandenburg Gate, the zoo, Checkpoint Charlie and the infamous wall, it was time to venture into East Berlin. To do this I travelled on the S Bahn, the over-ground train system, from a station near the Tiergarten. The official exchange rate was one Deutschemark for one Ostmark but since the West German mark was, in reality, worth about four East German marks there was a temptation to do some private trading. This, however, the East Germans sought to prevent by making one declare how many Deutschemarks one had on entering. Should the number be less when returning one could be detained. I will never forget the

atmosphere in the station when I disembarked from the train; it had that sense of hidden menace found in a James Bond movie. There was a nervous-looking man who seemed anxious to speak to me, while a cold-eved individual in a trench coat, probably a member of the Stasi, watched us from a corner. What did the nervous fellow want? A map? News from the west? Maybe he just wished to exchange some Ostmarks for Deutschemarks? I was tempted to greet him but with Trench Coat watching I decided that discretion was imperative. Feeling decidedly unheroic, I set off into the Communist East. At that time apologists for Marxism were still extolling the soviet system but the shabby appearance of East Berlin compared to thriving West Berlin gave the lie to their views. I remember in particular visiting a recently built skyscraper whose rattling elevator proclaimed the shoddy workmanship in the entire building. At an upper-storey restaurant I was served a forgettable Wiener schnitzel. When I had finished eating I decided to see if my waiter would frown on the decadent capitalist custom of tipping. Needless to say he didn't! Apart from that meal and seeing Unter den Linden Avenue and some buildings that still bore marks of the 1945 Russian bombardment I remember little of my visit to this bastion of the communist world. No wonder that a wall had to be erected to keep its inhabitants from bolting! Grateful for my own liberty to travel freely, I took the S Bahn back west. Next day a German friend showed me the bell tower of the Kaiser Wilhelm Church on Kurfurstendamm; it was a stark reminder of the relentless bombing of Berlin by the RAF and U.S. air force during World War 2. This imposing ruin with the modern church erected alongside seemed to symbolise the resilience of Berliners, who only sixteen years previously had also endured the Soviet blockade, a threat that was overcome by the Allied Air Lift. Since it would take another fortnight for my car to be repaired I travelled south through Bavaria and Austria to Italy. There further adventures, including climbing a mountain beside Lago di Garda and narrowly avoiding disaster on the descent, awaited me but that part of my 'grand tour' will be recounted later.

P. Devaney

#### **The Silence** Washington D.C., 23 November 1963

Beside the sullen, tireless river, Along the stark, night-shrouded streets And the wide, lamp-frozen avenues, Under the tall, sky-piercing monument And the serried hunching houses, Past the Grecian-columned buildings And the solemn, stone-carved statues, Among the black, denuded trees And trees clinging

To the bronze memories of summer, Past the tossing spray of fountains And shadows behind Time-frozen spotlights,

Across the freshly trampled grasses And in between the standing people Came a silence:

It was a silence colder Than the coldness of November; A silence colder Than the cold that glittered once

Upon an ice-bound, sunless tundra, And it came from some such time and place,

Some primordial wasteland That man had skirted and forgotten, It chilled the blood and marrow, It played with the crystal spume Of the fountain,

Glittering in the unnatural confluence

It prowled between the massive columns, Returning to the light-bleached mansion Now that the long, rain-sodden day And the lamenting multitudes Had ceased their outcry.

Of spotlight and starlight;

Little cared it for the people's clamour. Little cared it for the statesman's solace.

Little cared it for the mourning churches,

Nor for the grief-palled, stricken avenues,

But it could not endure the daylight, And so it had retired unnoticed Until the splaying spotlights Beneath the bitter clarity of stars Had summoned it at nightfall.

Onward and inward it stalked, Along the whispering corridors, Through the mourning draperies, Past the young guards, rigid as in death,

Past the linen flag Draped across the catafalque, The red stripes of its strength And the white stars of its dreams, And it passed that barrier As if it were no barrier, And the bronze casket inside Of the breaking fountain, And it entered the cold, white flesh And the frozen, blood-clotted heart, Nor man nor nation, No, nor continent on continent Could say it no Or dispute its sovereignty.

As if it were formed of the foam

Why did the young guards stand And the mourners come and gaze? Why did servants forgo their sleep And sentries pace by the entrance? Why did people watch from the avenue,

Patient in light-sundered darkness? Was it because there was something The night had to rectify? Was it because it had yielded Their polestar to the silence And the people were perplexed Or because they were dismayed By the chill interruption of Time, Seeing themselves Not in familiar streets and avenues But near to the wasteland, Loud with the sound Of their own lamentation And the newly heard lamentation

And the newly heard lamentation Of other generations, Echo upon echo upon echo?

P. Devaney



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.

> Never known to fail. Thanksgiving for favour received.



Beavers and Cubs are doing a night time walk on Wed. 7th Dec. in Castletown Estate, Celbridge to raise money for St. Vincent De Paul in the run up to Christmas. Shout out to local family, friends and community to join them. Park at Tesco's Carpark in Celbridge and meet beside Sum Flowers in the carpark at 7pm. Walk takes approx. 1 hour. Bring torch, hi vis jacket and leave dogs behind (easier to manage the children). Donations welcome to <u>https://gofund.me/f70bcaaf</u>

> Tea/coffee afterward. For more info call Sheena 086 8721056

#### **CHRISTMAS**

Oh! How I look forward to Christmas! Complete with Reindeers, red and white Santa, With his bagful of goodies for the children, Neatly wrapped presents in small boxes For her, larger boxes for him; What if he already has several jumpers, Well, he can never have too many! Can he? It's cold after all, especially this year,

With pubs without fires or central heating. The town streets look lovely with the Flickering fairy lights and decorations Strung from tree to tree, suggesting A time of merriment and triumph. And don't forget the Christmas Tree, In the square, in the homes and even the churches, I believe!

All bedecked with myriads of colourful Gewgaws in the shape of bells and angels and stars.And the supermarkets with their overladen shelves, Turkeys, puddings, cakes, whiskey, beer and wine. Other shops coaxing the punters to buy their wares, Frippery that 'no one should be without'.

A great Christmas this, spending up 18 per cent On last year and nearly thirty on the year before. And the third world statues in the cowhouse. Replacing the man with the long brown robe, And the Baby! Whatever that is all about? Oh, and I nearly forgot! The carols! How quaint! And Bing crooning on about his dreams! That's Christmas!

Agus, auisín gan cheangal!

An Ghealt úd i gceannas san Rúis, Do scrios sé An Úcráin gan chúis; Ach tiochfaidh an uair, Is lánchinnte an tuar. Beidh an t-ollphéist sin cuachta i bpluais!

GM.

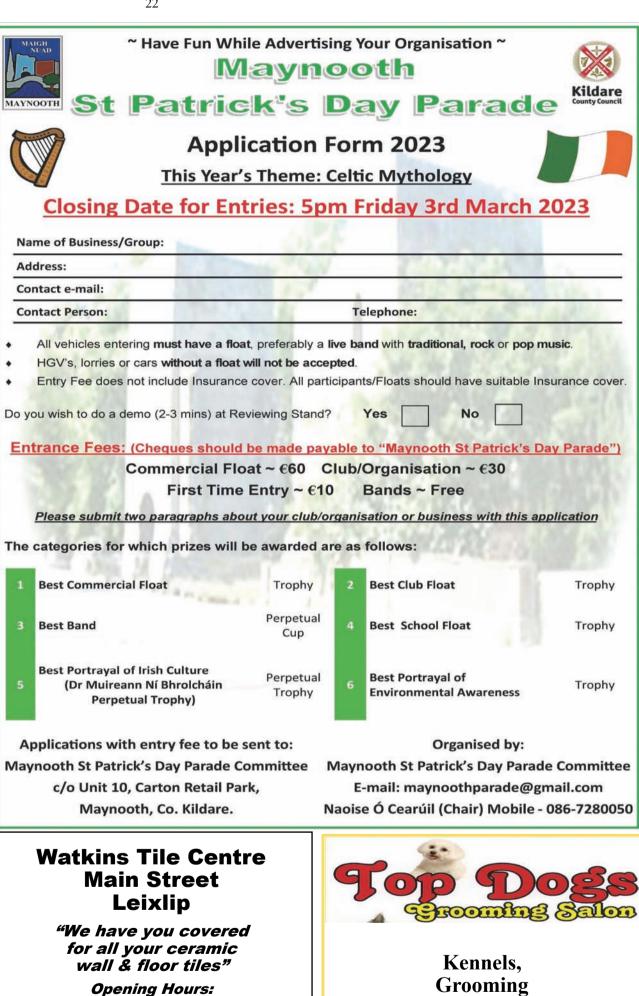


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Wishing all my Customers a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

#### **Debut Album release : "Little Star" Peter McCluskey (Maynooth Road)**

Peter McCluskey has been involved with Irish music and the Irish music business for the best part of 35 years. He has been (variously) a punk rock band member, a local concert promoter, an independent record company director, a music publisher and a traditional musician and composer. Not content with that, he has also played with U2, written four contemporary ficton novels, he is putting the finishing touches to his first book of poetry, he is preparing his first watercolour painting exhibition and he has just found enough time to compose, record and release his debut traditional music album, "Little Star". The idea for the album came about when the Arts Office of Kildare County Council grantaided Pete to pursue a project to compose and record ten new and original pieces of Irish tradition music and songs.

"The Arts Office were very supportive of my idea to write some new tradition material to add to the already fantastic collection of works written by local Kildare artists and written with Kildare themes." "The grant enabled me to dedicate a block of time to compose and record the music pieces and the logical next step for me was to release the collection as an album." The album, titled "Little Star" contains hornpipes, reels, waltzes, airs and songs - all with a Kildare theme. For example, two of the pieces are centred around the Kildareborn Antarctic explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton. Two other pieces feature The Speaker Conolly and his wife Lady Louisa of Castletown House and another piece is a tribute planxty to Kill-born piper, Liam Og O'Flynn of Planxty."It's a diverse collection of tunes and songs in different tempos and styles but all the pieces are connected by the tradional Irish feel and the Kildare themes. I played all the instruments myself and added vocals to the three featured songs. All the recording was done at my home "Little Lighthouse" studio."

Pete plays regularly with The Push For Porter Irish music session in Maynooth and also the Enfield Comhaltas group. "Irish music is best experienced in a live

setting and I love to play with friends as well as the visitors to the various music sessions where I play and the live sessions have certainly provided me with inspiration and ideas for the compostions and songs on this debut album."

All profits from the sale of the album are going to Saint Francis Hospice, Blanchardstown. All details about purchasing the CD are on Pete's website at: www.petermccluskey.com



Maynooth Cycling Campaign will be holding its first 2022 online public meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December at 8:00pm.

To Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82530794821? pwd=K2JyNnZZYjJQaml4YXhMYUJ5VGpDQT09

Meeting ID: 825 3079 4821

Passcode: 993242

We will be providing an update on cycling developments in Kildare and nationally as well as internationally.

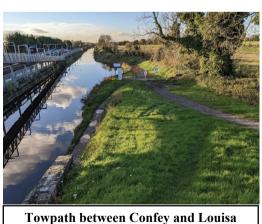
#### **Cycling Without Age - Storage of Trishaw Bike**

Maynooth Cycling Campaign identified a location for storing the trishaw in St. Patricks College and wrote to the president for permission to use it but unfortunately the College has plans to develop the location. Previously, we had made an request to Maynooth University for a location in the North Campus but this was also rejected. However, we identified a secure bike shed in the North Campus with space for a trishaw and have asked the university's Green Campus to support our request.

#### **Royal Canal – Confey to Maynooth** Work has finally started on the

construction of the Royal Canal Greenway between Confey and Maynooth. The work will start at Confey and progress back towards Maynooth.

#### Launch of *Partnership for Active Travel and Health* (PATH) Maynooth Cycling Campaign is part of the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) via our membership of Cyclist.ie. The European Cyclists' Federation (ECF) is one of founding member of the Partnership for Active Travel and Health (PATH) – a new



Bridge Closed Off for Works

international coalition which links active travel with health organisations. To showcase its ambitions, PATH has published a new report entitled Make way for walking and cycling, based on research and studies highlighting the benefits of active travel to people's health and the environment.

ECF CEO Jill Warren commented "60% of urban trips across the globe are shorter than five kilometres, with more than half of them currently travelled by motorised vehicle. Walking and cycling could replace a significant portion of these short trips. E-bikes further extend this potential."

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

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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.

#### CHRISTMAS TURKEY SERVES 10

# COOKS IN 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES PLUS COOLING AND RESTING TIME

#### INGREDIENTS

5 kg turkey, preferably free-range or organic

olive oil sea salt

freshly ground black pepper

1 clementine, halved

a few sprigs fresh rosemary

2 onions, peeled and roughly chopped

2 sticks celery, roughly chopped

## 2 carrots, roughly chopped

#### FOR THE STUFFING

olive oil 2 onions, peeled and finely chopped sea salt freshly ground black pepper ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg a few sprigs fresh sage, leaves picked and roughly chopped 300 g pork mince 1 large handful breadcrumbs

#### METHOD

If you're worried about cooking the perfect Christmas turkey because you're afraid you'll get it wrong, don't be. This recipe is nice and simple and will help you achieve brilliant results for your Christmas meal.

- 1. Take your turkey out of the fridge about an hour before you're ready to cook it so it comes up to room temperature before roasting. Give it a good rinse then pat it dry with some kitchen paper, making sure you soak up any water in the cavity. Drizzle the meat with a good lug of olive oil, add a few good sprinkles of salt and pepper and then rub this seasoning all over the bird, making sure you get in to all the nooks and crannies.
- 2. Preheat your oven to full whack then get started on your stuffing. Pour a lug or two of olive oil into a large pan on a medium heat and fry off your chopped onion for about 10 minutes or until softened. Stir in a good pinch of salt and pepper, the ground nutmeg and your chopped sage leaves, then continue to fry and stir for another minute or two.
- 3. Spoon the onion mixture into a large bowl and let it cool completely. Once cooled, add your pork mince and breadcrumbs and use your hands to really scrunch everything together. Once it's mixed really well, bring the stuffing together into a ball, then cover and chill until you're ready to stuff your turkey.
- 4. Pull the skin at the neck-end back so you can see a cavity and push about half of your stuffing inside your turkey. Not too much: you don't want to pack it so tightly it slows down the cooking. Once done, pull and fold the skin over the opening and tuck it under the bird so it looks nice.
- 5. Turn the turkey around and drop a few small pieces of stuffing into the larger cavity along with your clementine halves and a few sprigs of rosemary. Place your roughly chopped veg in the bottom of a roasting pan and lay your turkey on top. Cover the turkey with tin foil then put it in the hot oven and immediately turn the temperature down to 180°C/350°F/gas 4. Cook for about 35 to 40 minutes per kilo. The 5kg bird in this recipe will take about 3 to 3½ hours.
- 6. Check on your turkey every 20 minutes or so and keep it from drying out by basting it with the lovely juices from the bottom of the pan. After 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours, remove the foil so the skin gets golden and crispy.
- 7. When the time is up, take your turkey out of the oven and stick a small sharp knife into the fattest part of the thigh. If the juices run clear and the meat pulls apart easily, it's ready. If not, pop the turkey back in the oven to cook for a bit longer then check again. When you're confident it's cooked, rest the turkey for at least 1 hour, preferably 2 hours for bigger birds. Meanwhile you can get your veg and gravy ready.

#### Source: www.jamieoliver.com

#### **BEST ROAST POTATOES**

Learn how to make the best roast potatoes! fool proof recipe gives perfect crispy potatoes every time.

Preparation time less than 30 mins

#### **COOKING TIME**

30 mins to 1 hour Serves 8–10

#### INGREDIENTS

12 large potatoes, peeled, cut into large chunks 50g/1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>oz lard, dripping or vegetable oil

#### METHOD

- 1. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6.
- 2. Simmer the potatoes in a large pan of salted boiling water for 4–5 minutes, or until the outside of the potatoes are beginning to soften.
- 3. Thoroughly drain the potatoes and briefly shake them around in the colander or pan to roughen up the edges.
- 4. Melt the lard in a deep flameproof roasting tray on a high heat and fry the potatoes on each side until they begin to brown.
- 5. Sprinkle with salt and roast for 30 minutes, or until starting to colour.
- 6. Turn the potatoes and return to the oven for a further 20-30 minutes, or until golden-brown and crisp.

#### **Recipe Tips**

You can add extra flavour to the potatoes by adding a few whole garlic cloves and sprigs of thyme or rosemary to the roasting tin before they go in the oven.

#### **BRUSSELS SPROUTS WITH PANCETTA**

Crispy bacon could be key to converting sprout haters. The recipe is super quick and easy too.

#### PREPARATION TIME

Less than 30 mins Cooking time 10 to 30 mins Serves 8-10

#### INGREDIENTS

900g/2lb 4oz Brussels sprouts, trimmed and loose leaves removed salt

2 tsp olive oil

225g/8oz pancetta, cut into cubes

#### METHOD

- 1. Bring a saucepan of salted water to the boil and add the sprouts. Cook for 8 -10 minutes, or until tender, then drain in a colander.
- 2. Heat a frying pan over a high heat until hot. Add the olive oil and pancetta cubes and fry for 5-7 minutes, or until the pancetta is crisp and golden-brown.
- 3. Add the drained sprouts and stir together to warm through. Serve immediately.

#### ROAST PARSNIP INGREDIENTS

500g/1lb 2oz parsnips, peeled and cut into quarters lengthways 4 tbsp sherry 4 tbsp clear honey salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### METHOD

- 1. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6.
- 2. Place the parsnips, sherry and honey into a baking tray and mix to coat the parsnips. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
- 3. Roast in the oven for 30 minutes, turning half way through, until the parsnips are tender and golden-brown







#### **Creamy Curried Turkey & Rice Soup**

(Turkey can be substituted for any meat you have leftover)

1 onion 3tbsp Thai red curry paste 400ml chicken stock 340g can sweetcorn, drained 2 spring onions, sliced

2 x 400g cans coconut oil 100g risotto rice 200-300g leftover turkey shredded 2 - 3 limes, juiced

#### Method

**Ingredients** 2 tbsp olive oil

4 large eggs

1. Heat the oil in a saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onion and fry for 10 mins or until softened and turning translucent. Add the curry paste and cook for 1 min. stir n the coconut milk, chicken stock and risotto rice and bring to a simmer. Cook for 15-20 mins or until the rice is tender.

Bring a pan of water to a simmer, add the eggs and cook for 5 mins to warm everything through. Season to taste and finish with the lime juice. Gently peel the shells off he eggs and cut them in half. Top the soup with the eggs and spring onions.

#### **Cheeseboard Soufflé** (Use up leftover cheeses from cheeseboards)

**Ingredients** 50g butter, plus extra for greasing

200ml milk 100ml double cream or crème fraiche Grating of nutmeg

25g plain flour, plus extra for dusting 400g leftover hard cheese, cut into chunks 4 eggs, separated Pinch cayenne pepper

#### Method

1. Heat the oven 200c/180 fan/gas 6. Melt all the butter in a saucepan. Brush a 20cm soufflé dish with a little of the butter, then dust with flour. In the saucepan, stir the flour into the rest of the melted butter, then sizzle everything for 1min. Gradually pour in the milk to make a white sauce, then add two-thirds of the cheese and carry on cooking to melt. Leave to cool slightly, then mix in the remaining cheese, the cream or crème fraiche and the egg yolks. Season, then add the nutmeg and cayenne pepper.

2. In a clean bowl, whisk the eggs whites until stiff. Fold into the cheese sauce, then carefully tip into the soufflé dish. Bake the soufflé for 25mins until puffed up and golden.

#### Leftover Christmas Lunch Patties

#### **Ingredients**

200g leftover roast potatoes, finely chopped 150g leftover cooked Brussels sprouts, finely sliced 50g leftover cooked cabbage, or any cooked veg 1 tsp grated ginger

100g leftover cooked sausages, finely chopped

- 50g cheese, grated (any kind)
- 1 tbsp chopped herbs (coriander, parsley or chives) 1 tbsp toasted sesame oil

Sourced: BBC GoodFood.com

150g leftover cooked carrots or swede, finely chopped 100g leftover cooked stuffing, finely chopped or crumbled 1 clove of garlic, grated splash of tabasco 100g leftover turkey, shredded or finely chopped 2 tbsp bread sauce or mayonnaise 5 tbsp plain flour 2 tbsp rapeseed oil

#### Method

1. Heat the oven to 200c/180c fan/gas 6. Mash the potatoes well in a large bowl using a potato masher or fork. Add the carrots, sprouts and stuffing and mash to combine. Stir in the cabbage or any cooked veg you have and season well. Stir in the garlic, ginger, tabasco, sausages, turkey, cheese, bread sauce or mayonnaise and herbs, mixing everything well until even combined. Put the flours in a second shallow bowl. Lightly oil your hands, and mould handfuls of the patty mixture into burger-sized patties. If they start to fall apart, add a little more bread sauce or mayonnaise. Lightly dust the patties in the flour mixture, then flatten them slightly between your palms.

2. When all the mixture has been used (6-8 patties), heat the sesame and rapeseed oils in a heavy-bottomed frying pan or skillet over a medium heat. Fry the patties for 2-3 mins until they have a golden crust. Carefully flip and fry for another couple of mins on the other side until golden. Transfer the patties to a baking tray and bake in the over for 5 mins until deeply golden and crisp on the outside and cooked through.









Looking after your Christmas Tree by recut the base – otherwise your tree will not take up water. Cut about an inch off the base and immediately place the tree in a stand that can hold at least 1 gallon of water. You should expect your tree to take up extra water. Water the new tree until the uptake stops. Always keep the base of the tree in water. If the base dries out, resin will form over the end of the tree, preventing it from absorbing water again. Add a few spoons of sugar and it will help hugely!



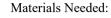
Leave the faded flower heads on your hydrangeas until the spring, as they will provide frost protection to the swelling buds further down the stems. If you still haven't planted your tulip bulbs there is still time, provided the ground isn't frozen. Now is the perfect time to prune fruit trees to maintain an open, balanced structure and encourage quality fruit production. Plums, cherries and other stone fruits should not be pruned until the summer as winter pruning will make them susceptible to silver leaf fungus. Make sure you use clean, sharp secateurs to avoid damaging your trees.

Avoid walking on your lawn when it is blanketed by heavy frost or snow, as this will damage the grass beneath. If it's a mild winter, continue to cut the lawn if it's growing, but raise the height of the mower blades. Choose a dry day to clear out the garden shed in preparation for the spring. Group potted plants together in a sheltered spot in the garden to give them some protection from the winter weather. Keep fleece to hand to protect hardy salad crops such as Lettuce 'Winter Gem', winter land cress, purslane, and corn salad on cold nights. Protect any remaining celery plants left in the soil by covering with straw or fleece. Cover heavy clay soil with polythene to keep it drier and allow winter digging.

If you are not quite ready to say goodbye to your Christmas Tree in January why not use it as a natural framework for other plants. A Christmas tree's beautiful conical shape makes it a perfect host for climbing plants such as the Nasturtium and Sweet Peas. To turn your old tree into a frame for climbers is a really simple task. Simply place your tree in

the garden with a stake for support and plant your seeds indoors to grow for a couple of weeks. The seedlings can be then transplanted outdoors at the end of February or early March. They should be planted around the base of your old tree allowing them to use the tree as a support while growing. Your old Christmas tree provides a natural looking and attractive frame for these colourful plants. You can expect them to flower in June right through until November, and with a choice of many different colours in both plants they are a welcome addition to any garden. As well as this, Sweet Peas are perfect for cutting and bringing indoors for the summer months to add to your indoor display. You can expect the tree to last at least one and possibly two seasons before it deteriorates.

#### Layered Holiday Centrepiece



One large oval-shaped tray (larger than 14", widest point). One 14" grape vine wreath. One pedestal based candle holder and candle. One cup faux berries. 5\6 evergreen and pinecone floral picks. Three Faux flower stems

Position Wreath on tray - Position Candleholder add evergreen and pinecones inside the wreath, around the base of the candleholder. Place a candle inside the candleholder. Place a cup of faux berries around the candle. Randomly tuck a few faux flowers into the evergreen sprigs around the base of the candleholder.

Prepare your planting beds now, with compost and manure, for planting in early spring. Fruit Trees: Gather and dispose of any remaining fruits or nuts on trees or the ground beneath them. This reduces pests and diseases next year. The best fertilizer is the shadow of the gardener.



## If you go down to the woods today - you're sure of a big Surprise! You Might Just Find there are NONE There!

Woodlands are diminishing in Ireland, low rate of new woodland planting is minimal, we consistently miss our climate change targets instead of 8000 hectares per year its lucky at the present if we even hit 3000 hectares. The focus of the past weeks has been on COP27 on saving this beautiful world of ours with which I totally agree, with the same spirit of urgency lets try and save some of the local woodland we have in the Maynooth area and ensure at least some is available for future days.

Nearby the R148 Maynooth to Leixlip Road runs a narrow strip of woodland in a corridor meeting up with the Royal Canal. Trees at this location are mainly deciduous consisting of Beech, Maple, Oak, Willow and Scots Pine, having lived in the area since 1979 I have never seen any intervention by planting, luckily nature looks after itself and some rewilding has taken place.

Having walked this area on a regular basis I have noticed that tree seedlings have begun to grow in the grassy bank from the road edge into the woodland strip, seedling beech, hornbeam and lots of oak was developing nicely, and it looked like woodland trees which are needed would develop for 2023 onwards.

Unfortunately, the dreaded flail has struck and all but a very small percentage of the seedlings have being destroyed again, just as they have been year after year, this year the destruction went even better and tried at damaging the best oak tree.

Who owns this area of woodland and is vested with its Management, I was going to say Conservation but that would be too kind... Is it Kildare County Council, Waterways Ireland or is it in private ownership?

Any possibility that a more informed approach is taken to a sustainable management of the biodiversity at this location. If only I knew the landowner, then I would be happy to donate some young oak, birch and willows with one caveat that they would not be hacked by machine doing "maintenance".

Peter W Cuthbert BSc Agr (Hort) MILI National Biodiversity Pollinator Champion



## The Gingerbread Man

Once upon a time, in a land like yours and mine, there lived a baker. Her favorite thing to bake was gingerbread cookies. She was a friendly woman, but she had secret routines and some exciting animal friends.

One early morning, as she baked her daily gingerbread, she realized she had more flour, water, molasses, ginger, salt, and spice than she had anticipated. So, she decided to make a special gingerbread man for the local boy Billie to eat. You see, he delivered flour to her every afternoon.

On this day, the baker took a big lump of her smooth brown dough and shaped the gingerbread man's body, adding the silhouette of a neck and a round head on top. She drew on a couple of eyes with thick white frosting for good measure and a mouth.

Billie will surely love this gingerbread man, she thought. Before she placed her cookies in the oven, the baker added legs and arms with extra scraps of dough. She thought the little man might also need fingers and toes. But she had spent so

much time adding other details to the gingerbread man that she had almost forgotten to put her cookies in the oven! By the time she got her mitts on and the

cookie sheet in hand, the stove was scorching hot!

According to the baker, she thought she had prepared everything. She thought she knew to place the sheet precisely right so that the gingerbread man would have no chance of escaping when she opened the door.

There was magic in the spice, you see. And one had to be very careful when dealing with magic.

"Escape, you won't, little gingerbread man!" the baker cried out as she stared down at the uncooked doughy shapes before her. She giggled and began to sweep the bakery floor.

She swept and swept. She swept so much that she almost forgot to take her cookies out of the oven!

#### BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

The lunch bell rang. It was well past time to take out her gingerbread. "Oh, by golly!" she shouted to no one in particular. The bakery's cat, Bop, peeped his head out from behind a cozy blanket.



Oven mitts thrown on once more, the baker pulled the tray out of the oven. She had her eyes tightly shut, worried that her gingerbread was overcooked. The now-alive gingerbread man, realizing that the woman could not see him for a moment, peered out from his crouching position behind the cookie tray. He squealed.

Leaping from his perch and whizzing past the baker's head, he sang out: "Run, run, run..."

The baker had her eyes sealed shut in preparation for a ruined sheet of cookies. As she opened them to

gaze upon her perfect golden-brown desserts, she saw

a flash of spice to her left. "... As fast as you can..." the baker heard a tiny little voice continue.

It was time for her afternoon nap, you see, and she was exhausted. Luckily, she remembered the gingerbread man she had made for Billie—this surely woke her up.

Once the baker had turned to face the direction of all the commotion, she realized what the matter was: she had let Billie's gingerbread man escape! "I knew it. I knew it!" she shouted. "Bop, chase after the gingerbread man! Get him, get him!" she continued crying.

Bop looked up from his resting spot again, yawned, and stood up. As the cat stretched himself awake, the gingerbread man took his chance to escape through the bakery window and into the side garden. He had noticed a garden path that led somewhere. One giant leap and a cushy cat tail in his sights, the gingerbread man landed right on Bop.

The cat yowled and tensed straight up; the gingerbread man was flung high into the air. He raced out the window, singing:

"You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!"

Now recovering from his injury, Bop shifted slowly towards the garden door. The baker followed suit. She didn't like this commotion, you see, and she didn't want to run. Panting, she opened the door and cried, "Bop, please follow that gingerbread man! Billie mustn't lose his treat!"

Bop dashed out the garden path as fast as his little kitty legs could carry him. The Gingerbread Man was very quick, however, and the cat was soon left in the dust, literally. Coughing and sputtering in the Gingerbread Man's dirty wake, Bop let out a loud "MER-OW," catching the attention of the yard dog, Plop.

Plop was usually known for chasing Bop around. But the sight of the baker in the yard was unusual. Hearing the cat's yelp, the baker's hollers, and the strange

singing of a magical running cookie, Plop began to guess what must be the matter. While the dog had a little more stamina than the baker or Bop, as she saw that magical gleam of spice, she realized she was soon in for a real race.

Plop bounded into action. Bop followed closely behind her, catching the dog's draft and

holding speed. The baker, however, was gasping in the distance. She did not like to run.

The Gingerbread Man loved to run. It was his favorite thing to do–all he'd ever known. The Little Man ran and ran and ran as fast as his legs could. He approached a large metal gate crawling with vines, (perfect for a little gingerbread man of his size to scale up).

Scaling up the vines, he peered over his broad-sculpted shoulder and saw the baker far in the distance. But the cat and the dog were now almost at the gate! He gasped!

Bop and Plop approached the gate. They began to yowl and howl. The gate loomed, but neither the cat nor the dog knew the best way to get out, and the Gingerbread Man was getting away.

They saw him leap from the latch to the ground, and as he did so, the lock undid just a bit. Tired of waiting for the baker, who was just now catching up, the cat jumped carefully from the dog's back to the top of the wooden door and, too, leaped off.

The Gingerbread Man fell to the ground and stumbled slightly forwards before keeping on his fast and merry way.

"Run, run, run, as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man," he sang as Bop meowed loudly, attempted to swipe the Man, and chased closely behind him.

The field was vast and dry. Dust flew up, causing quite a stir, and the Gingerbread Man traipsed the area as quickly as his little body could muster. A nearby tree emerged in the distance, and the Man jetted towards it in an instant.

"What is in that magic spice?" yelled the baker to no one in particular. She finally opened the gate for herself and Plop, and they ran together towards the dust trail, moving in the direction of the field willow.

Meanwhile, at a nearby rich man's menagerie, a teeny tiny monkey noticed a cloud of dirt and dust picking up in the baker's field. The monkey sprung herself out of her owner's plot and toward the fast-approaching disturbance. The Gingerbread Man peered up at the large tree and grabbed hold of a single swaying willow branch. He giggled to himself: "I ran fast! They won't catch me!" He pulled himself high up the tree and leered down at the baker, cat, and dog who were now all gathered beneath him shouting, meowing, and howling. "I am the Gingerbread Man!" he hollered from above and put his intricate gingerbread hands on his shapely gingerbread hips.

You see, the Gingerbread Man did not know what a monkey was. He quite honestly wasn't too sure what a baker, a cat, or a dog was, either, but he certainly thought he was the only one capable of climbing the large willow tree in the middle of the field.

As the monkey approached the tree, the baker cried out with glee: "Oh, Pip! What a wonderful surprise to see you! Please, can you climb the tree and catch that gingerbread man? We must get that treat for Billie!"

When the Man saw the monkey before him on the highest branch of the tree, he began to tremble just a bit.

I hadn't planned for this, he thought.

The monkey reached out and grabbed the Gingerbread Man. She smiled: this wasn't the first time someone had to catch one of Ms. Pastry's magical creations. The monkey had not expected Billie to have arrived right on-site to see what all the noise was.

"Send the cookie down!" shouted the baker.

"Drop him, Pip!" Billie called out.

Ms. Pastry, Bop, Plop, and Billie rallied below. Pip smiled brightly at them. Without thinking twice, she dropped the cookie right into Billie's wide chompers! Before the Gingerbread Man could even shout, "I'm one-third, two-thirds, all-theway gone," Billie had swallowed him up and was dancing with magical delight.

www.dltk-teach.com/fairy-tales/gingerbread-man/story.htm



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YOU GUESS THESE CHRISTMAS SONGS BY THEIR EMOJIS?

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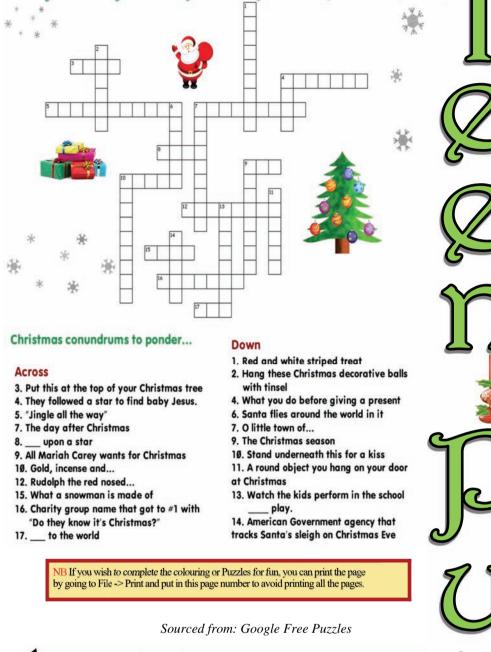
hat do you call a penguin in the Sahara desert? Lost What did one snowman say to the other snowman? Can you smell carrot? How does a penguin build a house? Igloos it together Where does a bird have the most feathers in winter? On the outside

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#### Break the Code to find the Christmas Songs





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Christmas Bri	ain Teasers A
1 Elves and Reindeer The elves and reindeer are getting ready for a meeting with Santa. 14 of them have arrived. If they have 38 legs between them, how many reindeer are at the meeting and how many elves are at the meeting?	2. Santa's Elves Each elf can wrap 1 gift in one minute. How many gifts can 5 elves wrap in three minutes?
3. Christmas Cards Four friends, Tom, Lisa, Braydon and Peta give each other Christmas Cards. If each one of them gives out a card to each of their friends, how many Christmas Cards are given out altogether? How many cards would be given out if 7 friends each give each other Christmas cards?	4. Gift Wrapping Jenni and Marcus are wrapping Christmas gifts. Jenni has wrapped 5 more than Marcus. Together they have wrapped 17 gifts. How many gifts has Marcus wrapped?
5. Decorations Henry and Liza are decorating the Christmas tree. Henry took half of the decorations out of the box and put them on the tree. Liza took half of the remaining decorations and put them on the tree. Then there were 3 decorations left. How many decorations were in the box to begin?	6. Show Friends The Snowmen and Snowwomen are comparing their heights. Frosty, Snow White, Jack Frost and Snow Flake are lining up in order from shortest to tallest. Frosty is not the tallest or the shortest. Snow White is taller than Jack Frost and Snow Flake. Jack Frost is shorter than Frosty. Jack Frost is not the shortest. In what order are they standing?







It's that time of year again when thoughts turn to mince pies, hot drinks, chocolate treats and the annual Christmas films stocking fillers on cold winter evenings. For the month of December, The Lighthouse Cinema in Dublin will be running its Naughty Or Nice season, and The Stella Cinema in Rathmines is also hosting an extensive Christmas films festival to cater for all tastes.

#### Test your knowledge of classic Christmas movie offerings in the following festive quiz!



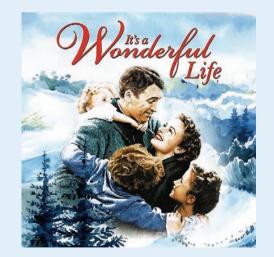
1) Which actor has played the Ghosts of Christmases Past, Present, and Yet To Come as well as the role of Scrooge in A Christmas Carol?

- George C Scott a)
- Jim Čarrey Anthony Hopkins b)
- c) d)
- Alister Sim



2) Who starred in the title role of <u>Scrooge</u> in a 1970 musical version of Dickens's famous Christmas story?

- Tommy Steele Albert Finney a)
- Ь)
- c) d) Alan Bates **Richard Harris**



3) What's the name of the guardian angel who takes James Stewart on his journey in It's A Wonderful Life?

- George **a**)
- Hector b)
- Clarence
- Sam

4) Which well-known Irish actress played the mother of Natalie Wood in the classic 1947 movie version of Miracle on 34th Street?

- a) b) Maureen O'Sullivan
- Maureen O'Hara Geraldine FitzGerald
- c) d) **Peggy Cummins**



5) Which city does Will Ferrell's Buddy travel to in the classic Christmas comedy Elf?

- San Francisco a)
- **Boston** b) Miami
- c) d) New York



6) In National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, who plays Chevy Chase's irritating hick cousin Eddie?

- Jim Carrey Woody Harrelson a)
- b) Randy Quaid
- c) d) Bill Murray

In the romantic seasonal comedy, The Holiday, name the popular actresses who arrange a home exchange after breakups with their boyfriends.

- Julia Roberts & Nicole Kidman a)
- b) Saoirse Ronan & Cate Blanchett
- c) d) Kate Winslet & Cameron Diaz Jennifer Lawrence & Emma Stone

8) In Richard Curtis's Love Actually, who plays David, the newly elected Prime Minister?

Colin Firth a) b) Hugh Grant Alan Rickman c) ď) Liam Neeson



9) In the classic Christmas-set film Die Hard, where was John McClane hiding when the building's president was shot?

- In The Ventilation System
- b) Under A Table
- Hanging Out The Window c) d) Behind The Door
- 10) What object does George promise to give Mary in <u>It's a Wonderful Life</u>?
- A Ring The Moon a) b)
- c) d) A Car Flowers



11) In which movie did the classic song White Christmas first appear?

- White Christmas a)
- Meet Me In St Louis b)
- c) d) Holiday Inn
- Miracle on 34th Street



12) Which famous American actor took on the title role of the vulgar, alcoholic conman in the dark Christmas film comedy **Bad Santa?** 

- **Jack Nicholson** a)
- **Bill Murray b**)
- Billy Bob Thornton c) d) **Robert DeNiro**



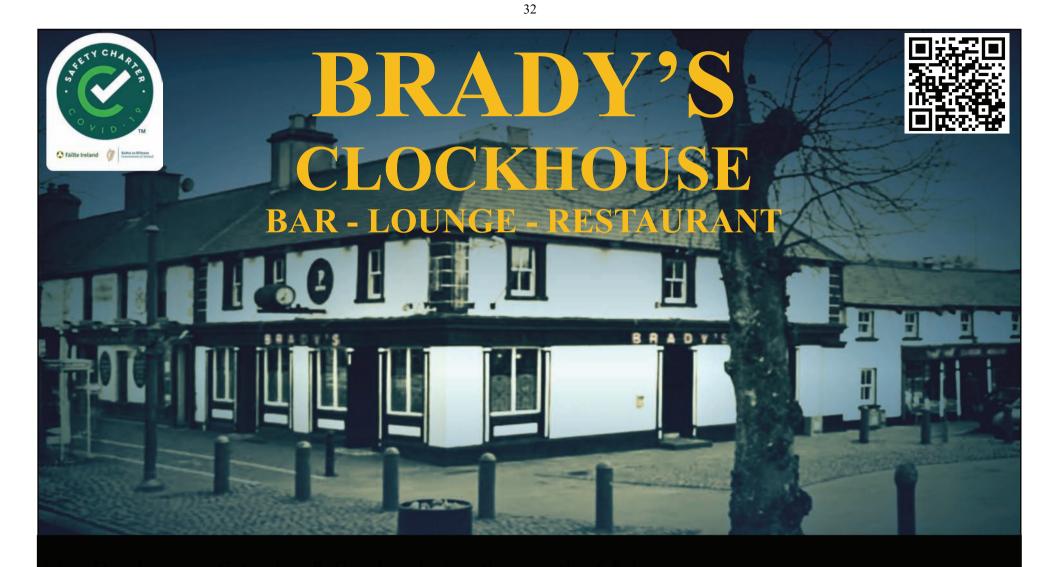
13) In <u>The Muppet Christmas Carol film</u>, which Muppet played Bob Cratchit?

- Fozzie Bear a)
- b) Kermit the Frog Gonzo
- c) d) Animal



The Answers to the <u>Christmas Movies Quiz</u> will be in the February 2023 edition of the online Maynooth Newsletter.

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# Live Bands every Saturday & Sunday during the month of December

# " Live Band New Years Eve"

We look forward to seeing you soon.



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Wishing Everyone a Happy, Healthy Christmas & Best Wishes for the New Year.

# **Great Food Served 7 Days**