

Maynooth Newsletter

Serving the people of Maynooth



Local News - February 2022 - Issue No. 509 - Online Version

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



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 17th MARCH 2022

FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG MAIGH NUAD 17Ú MÁRTA 2022

Entry Form Available Online @ www.maynoothcep.com

Application Forms also available for collection at Maynooth Newsletter Office Tesco Shopping Centre

Or e-mail to: office@maynoothcep.com to request a form

Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022

This is the 35th Annual parade after a two year break due to the Pandemic and we are extremely excited for what's in store. The Committee has been meeting over the past few months to start preparations and we are planning on the biggest parade to date. We appreciate how difficult the past two years have been for everybody and this year's event will be the first opportunity for us to come together as a community. We are conscious that things can change extremely rapidly and we will be keeping a close eye on case numbers in the lead up to the event. Our priority is the safety of the community and this will determine any changes to this year's parade.

Our theme this year will be, **'Love Our World'**. This theme encapsulates our dedication to sustainability, environment and our togetherness as a Local and Global Community.

Participants in the parade can take their own interpretation of the theme. This could be celebrating the global diversity of your school, organisation or business. It could also look at ways to reduce our carbon footprint and ways for us to show our World more love. We will be welcoming three large American Bands into our parade this year for the first time.

Application forms can be emailed to maynoothparade@gmail.com or can be posted/dropped into the Maynooth Community Employment Project office, Unit 10 beside Coyne's Butchers in Carton Retail Park (Tesco). (FAO / St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee).

The Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade committee works on a voluntary basis and we are constantly on the lookout for new volunteers and if you have some spare time to assist, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to help or if you have any queries, please email us on maynoothparade@gmail.com

The parade this year will start at 11am, from Greenfield Shopping Centre, making its way towards the Main Street and finishing in Tesco car park.

The awards ceremony takes place directly afterwards in Manor Mills Shopping Centre where there is a Family Fun Day organised by the centre with dancing, face painting and music.

The deadline for applications is Friday the 4th of March at 5pm. I look forward to seeing you on the day.



2007



2012



2017



2019

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

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

E-mail: office@maynoothcep.com - 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

It is not over yet but the majority of restrictions for Covid 19 have been ended last month. Wearing of face masks in certain setting such as on public transport and in shops continue for now but this time last year level 5 Covid 19 restrictions were in place. At this stage in February 2022 all ages over four years in the population will have been offered the vaccines and in Ireland the take up has been high. There is speculation that in future we will get an annual flu and Covid vaccine together. For now take care of yourselves because it is not over yet.

So looking ahead it is good that people can gather in both indoor and outdoor settings. In Maynooth we will have the return of the St. Patrick's Day parade and as mentioned elsewhere in this publication the planning is near completion so it will be great to see so many of you coming out to enjoy the bands and other performances that will entertain you. I know that it costs a lot of money to run the parade and it is appreciated that local bodies are coming forward with funding support. Next month sponsors will be acknowledged as without these contributions the event could not take place. Taking part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade is a great opportunity to highlight your local business and community group so why not take part this year.

Paul Croghan - Editor

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**Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter
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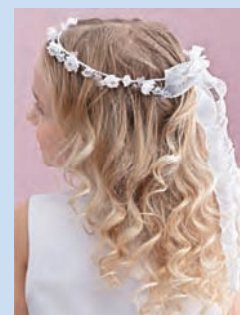
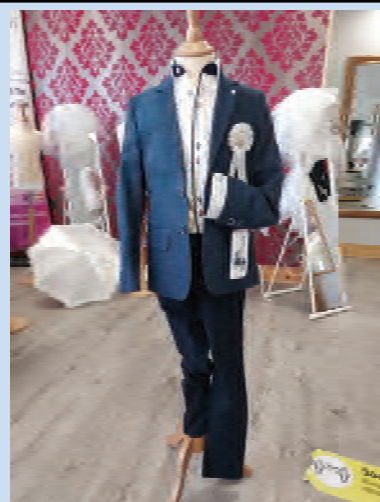
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Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar visits Maynooth University campus

Friday, 14 January 2022

The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar, TD, today visited Maynooth University and met with President of Maynooth University, Professor Eeva Leinonen, for a campus walk and introductory meeting.

The Tánaiste and Prof Leinonen toured the campus, and spoke with students, staff as well as researchers and academic innovators at the business incubation centre, [MaynoothWorks](#), also stopping to view progress on the €57 million Technology Society and Innovation Project on North Campus, due for completion this spring.

Maynooth University received a capital grant of €25 million from Government in 2019 for this major new building development project, to support the University's rapidly growing student population. This is the largest capital grant awarded to Maynooth University.

The total €57 million project comprises the new academic building, and also the modernisation and expansion of the existing Arts and Sciences buildings.

Speaking at his visit to Maynooth University, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar said: It's great to be in Maynooth this afternoon and see first-hand the progress being made on the North Campus. Government has backed this project, recognising the huge potential of Maynooth University to cater for the rapidly growing student population in the surrounding area.

I really enjoyed visiting MaynoothWorks too and meeting with

entrepreneurs working on some really exciting projects. Maynooth University is going from strength to strength."

Prof Leinonen said: "I am delighted to welcome Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to our campus today. Maynooth University has a global reputation for impactful, research across the sciences, arts and humanities.

Our pioneering work in bio-sciences and health; digital transformation and artificial intelligence, and in the field of environmental sustainability, through the work of ICARUS Climate Research Centre, will help meet future aspirations and challenges of society.

"Maynooth is located in one of the fastest growing demographic regions in Ireland. Our rapid enrolment growth and the diversity of our student population, combined with academic excellence and impactful research innovation, are strengths that are critical to Ireland's future. Maynooth University will continue to play a significant role in preparing for next-generation Ireland."

Formally established as an autonomous university in 1997, Maynooth, has tripled its enrolment to over 14,000 students from at least 90 countries. It is the only university in Ireland ranked in the top 100 global universities under 50 years old in the [Times Higher Education \(THE\) Young University Rankings](#).



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Sat March 26th



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The Three Tenors

Sat April 2nd



Des Bishop
Mia Mamma Tour

Fri April 8th



Johnny McEvoy

Sat April 30th



GLENROYAL HOTEL



Royal Canal Notes

February 2022

Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The Maynooth Newsletter does not publish in January so we start the notes by extending a belated happy new year to all our readers and friends. We hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and can now look forward to some normality in 2022.

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 was celebrated in Porterstown Church back in November.



Laying of the wreath after annual mass

The chairman and members of the group attended and afterwards made their way to the nearby bridge close to where the incident occurred and laid wreath.

ROYAL CANAL MEMBERSHIP

We take this opportunity to remind members that membership fees, which were not sought during the lockdown now fall due. Annual family membership is very reasonable at €30.00 while a three-year family membership is also very good value at €80.00.

People living in Maynooth and surrounding areas who would like to join can do so online at www.royalcanal.ie. Those who have relocated to the area to live more recently are also welcome to join.

The group was originally set up to restore what was a derelict canal. With the canal, for the most part, restored and reopened, we are now primarily involved in promoting heritage, culture and recreation on the waterway.

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ

A reminder that elsewhere in this publication you can read the third part of an article on sailing the Royal Canal by canoe. Written by Dianna Marie Hartford, the author has also written a children's book based on this trip which is still in use in many primary schools.

ROYAL CANAL WALKS

The Post-Christmas walk which took place on December 29th last was enjoyed by all. Twenty adults, 8 children and a number of canine pets took part.

The weather, thankfully, remained dry but cold and all was well. While it was not possible, for covid reasons, to cater for the walkers enroute, they understood the situation and completed the walk anyway.

As always, we would like to thank the management at Carton for permission to walk through Carton, those who walked and those members of the group who marshalled the walk.



Royal Canal Hill of Down, Co. Meath © FitsFoto Maynooth

The next walk is scheduled for St Patrick's weekend elsewhere on the canal. Details and times have not yet been finalised. More information will appear in the next issue.

This will be followed by the mid-summer walk, Ashtown to Castleknock in June which is always an enjoyable social occasion.

CONDOLENCES

We in the Royal Canal Amenity Group would like to send our condolences to the Murphy Family of Tullamore on the tragic loss of their daughter while walking on the Grand Canal. Our canals are now an amenity to be enjoyed by all in safety. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh a hAnam.

OPEN ALL THE WAY CANOEING ON THE ROYAL CANAL IN THE 1950s

By D.M. HARTFORD

About the Author

Diana Mary Hartford nee Barton was born in 1918. The trip described here was undertaken in 1955 just after Douglas Heard completed the last official boat trip before closure of the canal. The trip was undertaken in two stages; Clondra to Mullingar and Dublin (Blanchardstown) to Mullingar. The city centre areas of the canal were not navigable at this time. This article was originally published in a number of Royal Canal Newsletters in the 1970s. The author had a children's book published after this trip, which is still widely used in primary schools today. The author of a number of other books, Diana passed away in 2002.

PART 3 RICHMOND HARBOUR TO LONGFORD

I have described our three days paddling from Blanchardstown to Mullingar. The rest of the Royal Canal we travelled in 1955 starting from the Shannon. The weather that time was wilder and colder, and as we came down the Shannon in spite with a north wind behind us we decided to get out at Tarmonbarry. Instead of entering the River Camlin below the sluices and paddling up to Richmond Harbour we walked along the main road to Clondra, the canoe being taken by cart. On the way we looked over a short bridge into a ravine thick with thorn bushes with some water at the bottom. Black old lock gates barricaded one end. We were glad not to have tried that, especially when we got to Richmond Harbour and saw that the lock leading from the Camlin rose between banks impossible for portage. On the other hand, I remember viewing the marshes to the north and thinking that with the rivers in flood we might have entered the Camlin above Tarmonbarry, though we hadn't spotted the entrance.

Richmond Harbour was like the pond in Herbert Park, Ballsbridge, with neat stone coping all around. In better weather we launched there the next morning by the steps. After the Shannon, the Royal Canal looked very calm and beautiful as we moved off under a typical perfect, round grey stone bridge. Flowers, reeds, swans and large white clouds were reflected in the water. It was again May and there was not much weed. We saw plenty of white buckbean and yellow king-cups in the water and cowslips and cuckoo pint on the banks. Above and below Rinn Mount Lock (No. 45) we found these banks easy for landing. At Killashee bottom lock the cottage was empty, but the one at the top lock had a telephone and a back garden full of flowers, obviously cuttings from the well-kept presbytery garden next door. The road from Killashee, with the presbytery on one side and the national school and chapel on the other crosses the canal here. Shortly after a

picnic lunch under a huge hedge by the towpath we came to Cloonsheerin, the long-expected junction with the Longford branch which was marked by a disused barge on its side on the south bank.

The Longford line had not been travelled by L.T.C. Rolt, whose book, 'Green and Silver' was our guide, so we turned left into it wondering what lay ahead. We found it broad and free from weeds and it was by no means entirely straight, but had a pleasant variety of curves and bridges. After the fourth bridge I recall a cottage on the left bank with steps to the water and a box ferry on a chain to the other side. No local people (or others) appeared to have any boats on these waters and the box was just used here, as elsewhere, for carrying a calf or goat across the canal. It took longer than we thought to get to Longford town. There was at least one more bridge than we had expected: and just before one that had been rebuilt in concrete we stuck in buck or bog-bean weed and had to drag ourselves through with the help of the young ash trees lining the bank.

This was followed by a long straight stretch past beautiful Beech trees and then a long curve round to Longford railway station. We drew in by a grassy bank before the low railway bridge and decided to go no further as my friend, going ahead to look, reported that the harbour beyond was filthy. This time we had a C.I.E. pass to show which we should have had before. It had a yellow receipt attached saying I had paid the canal section of C.I.E. at St. James' Harbour Dublin 10s 8d a mileage charge of 3d per mile from Richmond Harbour to Mullingar. It was really a form for the use of barges. When Mr. Lydon, the then station-master, and two porters had helped us carry the canoe and baggage into the goods shed he took our pass to sign. "It's a long time since I've seen one of these. It'd be the same as for a cargo boat I suppose" he said. He had read 'Green and Silver' too and was very disappointed that the Rolts had not visited Longford. It had been a showery day, so we left the canoe upturned to drain out the rainwater before we walked, cold and stiff, right through the town to our hotel for the night.

To be continued

The Royal Canal Amenity group are grateful to Diana for submitting this article for publication at the time

St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band



This is the time of the year when we take stock and look at how we fared last year and set out our plans for the coming year. In common with others, 2021 was exceptionally difficult for the Band with the lengths we had to go to keep rehearsing while keeping our members safe as our Bandroom was not big enough to maintain the required two metres social distancing.

Fortunately, through the generosity of a number of people we carried on with our usual rehearsals and were in a position to give a number of recitals in the Square during the Summer months including a "Floodlit Concert" on Culture Night in September. A visit to Castletown House also in September was a great success and we are invited back there again this year.

Our Christmas Concert on 12th December was subject to the last minute restrictions on numbers for indoor events but not to be outdone the Band arranged to have the Concert recorded and streamed which was really appreciated by former members living outside the Country. The concert is still available to view on YouTube and the link is [St Marys Band Maynooth Christmas Concert - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N56GvFQmolo)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N56GvFQmolo>

If you enjoy the concert and would like to make a donation to the Band it can be done through our Paypal account at maynoothbandtreasurer@gmail.com

The feedback from the recording encourages us to have a real think about doing the same next December. As last year marked the 90th Anniversary of the reforming of the Band and to mark the occasion we produced a

Souvenir Calendar which was very well received. As this calendar chronicles the progress of the Band over the 90 years in text and photos it will be available as a Souvenir throughout 2022.



We are still in the process of planning events for the coming year but we will be recording another CD, this time of the Band only, this month and are delighted to be back on the Patrick's Day Parades in March. We have plans for more outdoor recitals during the Summer months so watch our Facebook page for further details.

Finally with the current growth of housing in Maynooth there are bound to be musicians, and budding musicians, from 8 to 80, out there looking for an outlet for their talents and we would really love to talk to you. We rehearse on Monday nights, there is a very friendly atmosphere in the Band and if you are interested please call Joe on 086 1737 024 or Paddy on 087 2537 906 and they would be delighted to speak to you.



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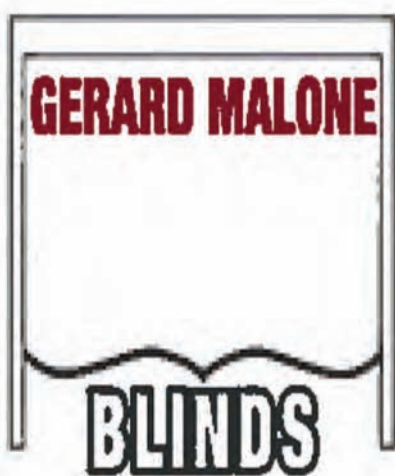
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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received.

Fitness Tips for staying Motivated

Have you ever started a fitness program and then quit? If you answered yes, you're not alone. Many people start fitness programs, but they may stop when they get bored, they don't enjoy it or results come too slowly. Here are some tips to help you stay motivated.

Simple Goals

Start with simple goals and then progress to longer range goals. Remember to make your goals realistic and achievable. It's easy to get frustrated and give up if your goals are too ambitious. For example, if you haven't exercised in a while, a short-term goal might be to walk 10 minutes a day five days a week. Even short amounts of exercise can have benefits. An intermediate goal might be to walk 30 minutes five days a week. A long-term goal might be to complete a 5K walk.

For most healthy adults, the Department of Health and Human Services recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity a week, or a combination of moderate and vigorous activity. Greater amounts of exercise will provide even greater benefit. Aim to incorporate strength training exercises of all the major muscle groups into your fitness routine at least two times a week.

Make it Fun

Find sports or activities that you enjoy, then vary the routine to keep it interesting. If you're not enjoying your workouts, try something different. Take a dance class. Check out a health club or martial arts centre. If you like to work out at home, look online for videos of many types of exercise classes, such as yoga, high-intensity interval training or kickboxing. Or take a walk or jog in a local park. Discover your hidden athletic talent or interests.

Make Physical activity part of your day

If it's hard to find time for exercise, don't fall back on excuses. Schedule workouts as you would any other important activity.

You can also slip in physical activity throughout the day. Take the stairs instead of the elevator, or park further away from the shops. Walk up and down sidelines while watching the kids play sports. Take a walk during a break at work.

If you work from home, stretch, walk or climb your stairs on breaks. Or do squats, lunges or situps.



Walk your dog if you have one. Pedal a stationary bike, walk or jog on a treadmill, or do strength training exercises during your lunch break or while you watch TV at night.

Research has found that sitting for long periods of time may negatively affect your health, even if you otherwise get the recommended amount of weekly activity. If you sit for several hours a day at work, aim to take regular breaks during the day to move, such as walking to get a drink of water or standing during phone conversations or video meetings.



Exercise with friends safely during the pandemic

Invite friends or co-workers to join you when you exercise or go on walks. Work out with your partner or other loved ones. Play soccer with your kids. Get moving with these low-risk outdoor activities during the COVID-19 pandemic: Walking - Running - Hiking - Rollerblading - Biking - Fishing - Golfing - Kayaking - Canoeing

And don't let cold weather stop you from being active outdoors! Dress in layers and protect your head, hands and feet. Then head outside for a winter hike and aim to keep a positive mindset about winter. This may help you to enjoy the season and winter activities more.

Reward Yourself

After each exercise session, take a few minutes to savor the good feelings that exercise gives you. This type of internal reward can help you make a long-term commitment to regular exercise. External rewards can help too. When you reach a longer range goal, treat yourself to a new pair of walking shoes or new tunes to enjoy while you exercise



If you're too busy to work out or simply don't feel up to it, take a day or two off. Go easy on yourself if you need a break. The important thing is to get back on track as soon as you can.

Now that you've regained your enthusiasm, get moving!

Set your goals, make it fun and pat yourself on the back from time to time.

Remember, physical activity is for life. Review these tips whenever you feel your motivation slipping.

Source: www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/fitness/in-depth/fitness/art

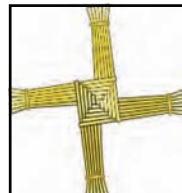
Source: www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/safe-activities-during-covid19/art

St. Brigid's Cross

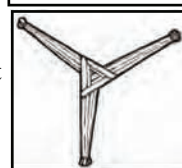
Traditionally the St. Brigid Cross is associated with Brigid of Kildare. The crosses were made of straw or rushes and were placed in the rafters over the front door on the 1st Day of February. Prayers were said to invoke the blessing and protection of St. Brigid throughout the following year.

It is believed that the custom is of pre-Christian origin. The life of Saint Brigit is recorded in early Christian sources. In pre-Christian times Brigid was one of the Tuatha Dé Danann and her feast day was the feast of Imbolc (the beginning of Spring). When Broicsech, Brigit's mother was pregnant with Brigit the druids foretold Brigit's holiness. Brigid/Brigit's birth takes place at sunrise as her mother is stepping across the threshold with a pail of milk. Brigid is born neither at night nor at day, neither inside nor outside. Threshold images such as this are common to pre-Christian Irish tradition, the threshold representing a transition time between the 'what was' and the 'next.' The place just inside the door is considered sacred, and passing over it is a sacred act.

In Christianity St. Brigid and her cross are linked. It was said that she weaved a cross at the deathbed of either her father or a pagan lord, who upon hearing what the cross meant, asked to be baptised. There were two main types of crosses. The crosses were associated with sun worship and agricultural fertility. The most simple type is likened to a swastika (four armed type) and it more complicated to make compared to the simple Latin type of cross which is now generally associated with religious ceremonies in this country. The swastika symbol is a sun symbol and is found throughout the world. It reached Ireland's shores between the second century BC and the second century AD. The four armed type was known in Ireland in pre-Christian times.



Four armed cross



Three armed symbol

The other type is the Triskele (three armed symbol). An example of this type on the Mullaghmast Stone, Co. Kildare. It had been suggested that this type may have been used in cattle sheds and byres but it appears this was the exception. In the early 1940s, the Irish Folklore Commission undertook a survey of popular traditions practiced in honour of Saint Brigid. The Commission received over 100 specimens of St. Brigid Crosses from its correspondence throughout the country. The triskele was only found in Donegal, Armagh and Antrim and there

was very little suggestion that the triskele was held in less esteem than the 4 armed version. Both types were used in houses.

The making of the Cross is described by a respondent to the Folk Lore Commission "On the evening of the feast, a bunch of rushes is cut, and placed under the table. After the supper, the cross is made. The cross I always make is the rush cross, and to make this properly you require 49 rushes. One of these is unbroken and the other 48 bent and form the 4 sides of the cross. The unbroken rush represents Jesus Christ and the twelve on each side represent the 12 Apostles. St Brigid always had great devotion to Jesus Christ and the 12 Apostles and hence the number of rushes..."

From the Folklore Commission

"St. Brigid is the patron saint of Kildare. The story of St. Brigid's cloak is well known all over Ireland. She cured a chieftain who had two horse's ears. As a reward he was to give her whatever land her cloak covered. It spread till it covered the Curragh – 5,000 acres".

[Text search | dúchas.ie \(duchas.ie\)](http://textsearch.duchas.ie) Folklore Commission.

Sources

Thomas Mason, *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Vol.75 no. 2 (1945)

Sean O'Duinn, *The Rites of St. Brigid: Goddess and Saint*, Columba Press 2005.

Image from T. Messingham, *Florilegium insulae sanctorum seu vitae et acta sanctorum Hiberniae* (Paris, 1645). Held in the Russell Library Maynooth.

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For more information on St. Brigid related events go to: www.solasbhríde.ie

Susan Durack



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Stay safe everyone.



Burning the Country House Online Lecture Series hosted by the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish houses and Estates, History Department, Maynooth University.

The Centre for the Study of Historic Irish houses and Estates, History Department, Maynooth University is hosting a series of online lectures that will be of interest to many followers of our page. Follow the link below to learn more and book your place. The lecture series is supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Historical Strand of the Decade of Centenaries Programme. These talks run in tandem with the exhibition *Burning the Big House: The Story of the Irish Country House in Revolution, 1920-23*, curated by Professor Terence Dooley and hosted by the Irish Architectural Archives from 21 March to 29 April 2022, and Maynooth University Library in May 2022

Tickets to attend the lecture series are FREE but those wishing to make a donation to the CSHIHE research programme can do so by selecting the donation option when registering for your ticket. Thank you for your support.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Two lectures will be delivered live: the inaugural lecture by Terence Dooley on 24 March 2022 and the last in the series by Christopher Ridgway on 19 May 2022. The remaining six lectures will be pre-recorded and aired according to the following schedule.

24 MARCH - Terence Dooley *Burning the Big House: the story of the country house during the Irish Revolution, 1920-23*

31 MARCH - Ann O'Riordan *Revolution, agrarianism and the burning of Ballydugan House, Co Galway, 1922*

7 APRIL - Jean Young 'A barbarous mania of incendiarism': house burnings in Co Louth, 1921-23

14 APRIL - Ciarán Reilly 'A smouldering mass of charred stones': The burning of country houses in Offaly, 1920-1923

21 APRIL - Gemma Clark Munster's 'Campaign of Fire': Big House burnings in Counties Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford, 1922-23

28 APRIL - Glascott Symes 'Ours must go in time': the burning of Sir John Keane's Cappoquin House, Co Waterford

5 MAY - Robert O'Byrne *The ruined Irish country house: reality and perception*

12 MAY - Olwen Purdue 'Such troubled times': the burning of big houses in Northern Ireland 1921-1981

19 MAY - Christopher Ridgway *Ablaze! Fire and the country house: a perspective beyond Ireland*

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/.../burning-the-country-house...>



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Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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Plans for the vacated current fire station site at Maynooth

Given the planned construction of the new station near Lidl in 2023, Cllr Feeney at the January 2022 Council MD asked the Council to update the members on its plans for the vacated fire brigade site. Cllr Feeney reminded the Council about her motion from January 2021 suggesting that the Council consider this vacated site being used for a much needed and long overdue community centre for Maynooth. Given that the site is in the town centre, close to the Harbour Field and the playground, Cllr Feeney stated at the meeting, that it is an ideal location for such a community amenity. At previous meetings Cllr Feeney also suggested other possible sites for a Community Centre including a vacated portion of Maynooth Post Primary School. While the written report given to Cllr Feeney's question said that there were no plans as yet for the vacated portion of the site, in the discussion at the meeting, the area manager agreed to consider the suggestion and to meet councillors on this site and on any other suitable sites for a community centre and to progress this urgent need for the growing town of Maynooth. Some light at the end of the tunnel and to finally see a community centre in Maynooth would be fantastic.

Planned Social Housing update

Cllr Feeney asked the Council for an update on its planned housing development at Old Greenfield. The Council said that in November 2021 the Council's Housing Department submitted a Stage 2 capital application (application for approval to proceed to Part 8 planning) to the Department of Housing for a housing development on the Greenfields site consisting of 65 housing units. The proposal consists of a mix of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bed units and a mix of houses, duplexes and apartment dwelling types. When the Council gets the Department response and, subject to approval, the proposed scheme will proceed to a Part 8 planning stage this year. Cllr Feeney welcomed the update and said that it is good news for all those waiting on the social housing list to finally see movement on this much needed development.

Need to Support Families fleeing domestic abuse

Cllr Feeney participated in a cross-party combined motion to the December Council Plenary meeting as follows: "That of the homes available for allocation in 2022 in Kildare that the Housing department work with domestic violence service providers to develop a system for the allocation of a specific number of units in each Municipal District to use as transitional accommodation units for families seeking to flee domestic abuse situations and that the housing allocations policy be amended to acknowledge the exceptional needs of applicants seeking accommodation transitioning from refuge centres".

The Council's Director for Housing stated that she was due to meet with the CEO of Teach Tearmain the following week with a view to identifying some step down facilities. She noted that Teach Tearmain had access to funding for this item and emphasised the importance of them engaging with Tusla, as they provided the funding through the HSE. She confirmed the Council's role was as a conduit for the Capital Assistance Programme, and that it also engaged on this issue through the Councils Homeless Action Plan. The Director confirmed there was a national review on-going at the moment and that there had been a meeting with the Department of Justice where the Council's position had been set out.

Public Lighting is key to Feeling of Safety

Good lighting is key to people feeling safer in public areas and this is why Cllr Feeney has constantly been addressing poor public lighting in areas such as along the canal in Maynooth and in housing estates in our community.

Thanks to those who have already been in touch with Cllr Feeney about

getting better lighting at locations such as the train station, near the harbour and in residential areas. Constant pressure is needed to make our communities safer. It is important to make sure our public areas are well lit and feel safe. Cllr Feeney has submitted this motion to the January Plenary Council meeting on this issue: "That the Council provide a report to members on the current status of its public lighting programme regarding maintenance, planned upgrades and installations including the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme". Please email or text Cllr Feeney if you have any areas of concern that you want to add or if you can lend support to this campaign

Newly expanded Local Authority Home Loan scheme

The newly expanded Local Authority Home Loan scheme was announced on January 5th. The new regulations will make it easier for single people to avail of a State backed mortgage for a new, second-hand or self-build home. A 'Fresh Start' principle also applies which means that people who are divorced or separated and have no interest in the family home, or who have undergone insolvency proceedings, will be eligible to apply also. The income ceiling for a single applicant has been raised by €15,000 to €65,000 in Kildare, Cork, Dublin, Galway, Louth, Meath and Wicklow. You can find out more information here: <https://localauthorityhomeloan.ie/>

Grant Allocation to Local Authorities for National Roads and Greenways

Cllr Feeney welcomed the National Roads and Greenways 2022 €7.9m funding for Kildare that includes Greenways and the long-awaited M4 Maynooth to Leixlip bus lane component. The Greenway incorporates the Dublin to Galway Section 2 Maynooth to the Westmeath Border, Subsection 5 Cloncurry to Spin Bridge (includes Ferns lock) and Subsection 7 Chambers Bridge to Maynooth Harbour (2.6kms) allocation of €95,000 for 2022 and a completion date of Q2 2022.

Cllr Feeney continues to highlight the shortage of GPs

Cllr Feeney raised this important issue as a motion at the December Council MD meeting where she requested the Council to write to the HSE and the Department of Health regarding the lack of GP services in Maynooth and calling for an update on the planned provision of a Primary Care Centre for the town. The Council and members agreed to the request. This is a huge and a growing issue for Maynooth and causing a lot of worry and stress for many individuals and families. Having access to a GP is a basic necessity, not a luxury. We also need to have the planned Primary Care Centre for Maynooth delivered.

Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney since last Newsletter

January 7th 10:00 am: Council MD meeting (online)
January 13th 2:00 pm: KCC Finance Committee (online)
January 17th 2:00 pm: Draft County Development Plan Workshop (online)
January 17th 4:00 pm: Presentation by SIPTU to KCC members (online)
January 19th 2:00 pm: Draft County Development Plan Workshop (online)
January 21st 2:00 pm: Draft County Development Plan Workshop (online)
January 25th 2:00 pm: Draft County Development Plan Workshop (online)
January 26th 9:30 am: Meeting with Coillte (online)
January 27th 10:00 am: Draft County Development Plan Workshop (online)
January 31st 3:00 pm: Council Plenary Meeting

Cllr Angela Feeney afeeney@kildarecoco.ie



Maynooth Tidy Towns volunteers were out on our streets on the 15th January 2022 for the first time ever in the history of our group. This was due to the unusually kind weather that we have been experiencing this January.

Thanks again to all our volunteers who religiously turn up in large numbers every week, we did not have to advertise for volunteers to join us for some time now, they contact us. We removed the Christmas Tree and Crib from the Square and put it away safely until the next time, December 2022. The 400euro Christmas Tree will be mulched by Kildare CoCo and used in our many parks around the county.

We cleaned up the Joan Slade river on January 22nd, a job we do every year in the three rivers flowing through the town, its good that the fish can swim freely.

We would like to wish Ted Robinson the best of luck as we believe he is leaving The Glenroyal Hotel at the end of January. I hope we have the same relationship with the new General Manager. Ted and his staff joined us every year to do a comprehensive clean up of The town, supplying all his own equipment. He also ensured that we were supplied with a free room for our Committee Meetings with complimentary tea/coffee, biscuits.

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter and contact us on WhatsApp if you are available to join us on our clean up days. We meet in the Square every Saturday morning at 9am.

Mary Molloy - Secretary
Maynooth Tidy Towns



Hello, I'm a dandelion.

A lot of people call me a weed but I'm a friend and come to help you!

When you see me, remember that I'm the ONLY one who wants and can grow in that particular spot.

Because:

Either the soil is too compact / hard / stomped and I want to loosen it for you with my roots.

Or there is too little calcium in the soil - don't worry, I will replenish that for you with the dying of my leaves.

Or the soil is too acidic. But I will also improve that for you if you give me the chance.

Or a mixture of the above reasons, of course. □

I'm here because your soil needs my help so best you let me grow without disturbing me! When everything is fixed, I will disappear again, I promise!

Are you trying to remove me prematurely with my root? However meticulous you are, I will return 2x as strong! Just until your soil is improved.

You can even tell by my growth at which stage my help is at. If my leaves are flat on the ground then I'm far from ready but if they all reach up then I'm already a long way on my way.

Something completely different is that I am 1 of the first bloomers in spring so I will announce spring / summer for you.

During the day when it's hot, I open my flowers but in the evening when it cools off I close them again quickly. In fact, if it's not hot enough during the day I won't open them at all!

My flowers are the some of the first food for insects after hibernation and unlike most other plants, I have pollen AND nectar, not merely one OR the other! And I am generous with them! □□

My flowers are even delicious for you people by the way, did you know? I used to be called "honey (or gold) of the poor" because my flowers are so sweet in e.g. jam, sauce or salad! The internet is full of recipes - check them out.

But wait until the end of May or later before you start picking and even then, don't pick everything yet! The biodiversity and bees will be very grateful!

Courtesy of Maynooth Tidy Towns



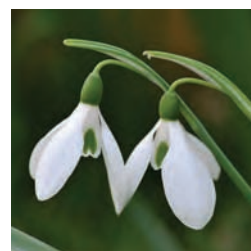
Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

Happy St. Brigid's day to all our people. Here's to the beginning of Spring. It is great to see the lifting of restrictions in society in general and that people are somewhat freer in what they can do or feel they can do. Our Group still has to be ultra cautious and it will be a while longer before we can re-start club and social activities. We will be following the advice of the HSE in this regard to ensure that we do it in an informed and safe way.

The Committee will have its first meeting of 2022 on Tuesday 1st February. Work is ongoing with regular monthly meetings since the latter end of last year. Hopefully we will be able to celebrate together in the not too distant future and get back to meeting up. We are all looking forward to it. We will keep you posted as to developments.

In the meantime enjoy the longer days, spring flowers and birdsong.

Susan Durack, PRO
Maynooth Senior Citizens.





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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

The House Martins: a Fable

When Charlie, the House Martin, saw the bare white gable he told Cloov, his mate, 'We've found it!' They had been flying around giants' homes for days, looking for a nesting site.

'You said that before,' Cloov veered off to catch a mayfly.

It was true. Ever since they'd arrived from the Southern Land Charlie had run into bad luck. The place where he had intended to build, a gable facing the one on which his parents had their nest, had already been claimed by older martins. After that they had begun to fix a mud foundation on another gable but the giants who lived in the house kept knocking it down. The same happened at a second house.

'Why can't we build on the gable where you were born?' Cloov asked.

'I don't want to talk about it,' Charlie sounded annoyed.

'Well, I do,' Cloov was losing patience. 'When we arrived at the Scorching Sand Plain I wanted us to return to the Southern Land but you kept promising how wonderful things would be once we reached here. We almost drowned in the storm that battered us as we were crossing the Great Water. Now, when we finally arrive, we can't find a place to build.'

'All right then, I'll tell you,' Charlie landed on an overhead wire and Cloov perched beside him.

'The ivied gable where my parents built our home was facing the lair of storms,' Charlie paused to gather his thoughts. 'Of course, they didn't know that. Then in a night of lashing rain our home with five of us nestlings in it fell. I crouched for hours on the ground, wet and shivering. In the morning I found that only my sister Gorm and I were alive.'

'Oh, how dreadful,' Cloov murmured. 'And what about your parents?'

'They must have thought we were all dead and flown away. Gorm and I huddled together for warmth but we'd have died too if the giants had not taken us into their home and placed us in a box lined with wool.'

'Didn't they try to kill you?' Cloov was surprised.

'No, they didn't,' Charlie assured her. 'In fact, they were really kind, especially their girl with flame-coloured hair. She used to feed us with specks of meat fixed on a slender thorn and sometimes with flies. She was always lifting us up in her hand and humming to us. She wouldn't let their cat, come near us. It was she who gave us our names. Despite her care, however, my sister Gorm never regained her strength. One morning when I woke up she was lying cold and stiff in the corner of the box.'

'Oh, poor Gorm!' Cloov shuddered. 'What happened next?'

'The girl took her away,' Charlie spoke slowly, remembering. 'I never saw her again. "You're not to feel sad," the girl told me – at least, that's what I think she said. "You'll have to build up your strength so that you'll be able to fly to the Southern Land." After that she spent more time with me, carrying me around on her palm. As the days passed my wings grew stronger. Soon I was fluttering onto the table and from there to a shelf. Then one warm, breezy day the girl took me out into her parents' garden, which was surrounded by flowering bushes. At first I was frightened by the brightness and the great empty sky. Suddenly a band of martins came fluttering and gliding overhead. While I was looking at them the girl tossed me gently upwards. At once I began to climb into the sky to join my own kind, hoping they might have seen my parents.'

'And had they?' Cloov asked.

'No, they hadn't,' Charlie paused, overcome by sadness. 'Geal, a kind hen martin, told me they had probably left with others for the Southern Land. If it weren't for Geal I would have died of hunger. She showed me how to catch flies by opening my beak whenever I spotted one. At first I kept missing but by evening I had caught a small moth and a floating spider. I was still hungry but Geal, after giving me a tasty fly, assured me that next day I would do better. That night, while perched on a rooftop with my new friends, I listened to them telling stories about crossing the Great Water and the Scorching Sand Plain on the journey south.

The older ones kept saying we'd have to leave soon or cold weather would stop us from flying over the mountains. They also spoke about vicious falcons that might chase us.'

'And were you cold on the rooftop?' Cloov moved closer to him.

'Yes,' Charlie said. 'After the warmth of the giants' house I thought I would freeze to death, especially when the sun went down. But the presence of my new friends kept my spirits up. Next day I had better luck; I must have caught at least two-dozen flies and aphids – but that's enough about those bad times. Let's hurry down to the river.'

They each collected a mouthful of mud by the water's edge and flew back with it to another gable. Time and again they made the journey from the river but just as the bottom of the nest was taking shape a giant wearing eyeglasses came out of the house. Shouting angrily, he chased them away. When they returned later he was up on a ladder removing their mud pellets with a long stick. He roared at them so that they had to fly off. Next day they returned to begin the tiring work all over again. It was no use. This time the giant threw stones at them. When they passed the house that evening there was what appeared to be a hawk hovering at the gable, so next morning they decided to find a safer place.

'Let's try this one?' Cloov twittered as they passed a house with a shiny white gable near the home of the angry giant.

'Fine,' Charlie agreed. 'Maybe the giants in it will leave us alone.'

To their dismay, when a woman giant wearing a blue headscarf saw the first ridge of mud she let out a cry of rage, so they quickly flew off. When they returned she had placed a ladder against the gable but by now Charlie was feeling desperate. If they couldn't build here, Cloov would never forgive him for having left the Southern Land. When the giantess began to climb the ladder, he flew at her, skimming her hair. That seemed to frighten her, so time and again he circled her head while she, holding onto a rung with one hand, flailed at him with the other. All this time Cloov was begging him to stop. It would just be a matter of time till she hit him.

Suddenly Charlie heard a familiar voice. It was the girl with flame-coloured hair! At once he glided down to her and alighted on her outstretched hand. She crooned to him, while Cloov perched on a nearby roof, watching. The woman giant got down from the ladder but when she approached the girl, Charlie flew up into the air. At once Cloov joined him and they both circled around, watching the woman talking to the girl.

'Was that the girl you told me about?' Cloov asked.

'Yes,' Charlie said. 'But since she doesn't live here, she won't be able to help us.'

He was wrong, however, because later that day when they returned to the house the ladder was gone and their mud pellets were still in place. Losing no time they began to add fresh mud, all the time expecting the giantess to stop them. She came out once but instead of shouting she just watched them building then went back inside.

About this time four or five brawny giants arrived in a black carriage and began to change a house across the street. Day after day they were hammering, sawing, laying blocks on top of blocks and playing loud music. In the evening they would leave in their black carriage and come back in the morning.

At first Charlie and Cloov felt nervous but they quickly learned to ignore the newcomers. They themselves worked tirelessly, shaping their mud cup, mouthful by mouthful. At night they slept in the half-finished nest, grateful for its warmth. Sometimes in the morning the girl with the flame-coloured hair came by, calling out in her soft voice. Charlie would immediately fly to her hand, twittering to her. Cloov was too nervous to join them, preferring to watch from a nearby roof. The woman giant often came out to speak to the girl. She seemed to have grown fond of the martins and once Charlie even plucked up the courage to perch on her outstretched hand, at which she chuckled with delight.

On a cloudy day when the nest was almost finished the woman giant and the man giant with eyeglasses left their houses to walk briskly towards the town, while other giants got into their gleaming carriages and zoomed off. Charlie

asked martins who were trying to build on the yellow gable next to his and Cloov's what was happening.

'There's a big crowd of giants in the field at the town's edge,' they told him. 'It's one of their special gatherings where the men run after a round thing but instead of grabbing it, they kick it away. The giants who live in our place have gone there, so for a while at least they won't be out, knocking our nest down. Why not fly up to the field and see for yourself?'

'No,' Charlie told them. 'We're late already with our building.'

It was fortunate that they stayed because a little while later two of the giants working on the house opposite theirs walked across the street. Carrying a bag each, they went to the house of the giant with eyeglasses, though the hawk was still hovering at its gable. Presently there was the tinkle of glass, followed by silence. After some time the men reappeared with bulging bags, which they put into their black carriage. Next they approached the woman's house with two empty bags and began to do something at the gable window. Fearing that they were going to knock down the nest, Charlie flew at their heads again and again, screeching loudly. Glaring angrily, the men waved their arms at him. When he persisted, they left and walked to the yellow house on which the other martins were trying to build.

'What will we do if they come back here?' Cloov was still in shock.

'I'll fly to where the giants are gathered,' Charlie told her. 'Maybe I'll get the woman with the headscarf to come back.'

Wasting no more time he sped away. He hadn't gone more than a few hundred wing beats when who should he see skipping in her garden but the girl with the flame-coloured hair. Immediately he flew down to her and landed on her shoulder. Twittering anxiously, he flew off a small distance, returned, then flew off again. He repeated these actions until the girl realized that he wanted her to follow him. At once she set off down the street with Charlie circling above her. They weren't a moment too soon because when they reached the woman's house the two men giants were back.

Screeching angrily, Charlie dived at them till the men left and crossed the lawn to the yellow house. Meanwhile the girl slipped quietly away. Charlie saw the men open a window after removing a pane of glass and climb into the yellow house. While Charlie and Cloov wheeled anxiously about, the martins that were trying to build on the yellow gable joined them. They all wondered what the two giants were up to. Presently, they saw them coming out by the front door, carrying a flat shiny box, which, Charlie remembered, showed flickering pictures. They put the box into their carriage then returned to the house. While they were inside, a white carriage with a flashing red light on its roof sped up. Two men giants in blue got out and hurried through the front door. Minutes later they reemerged, holding the other men by their arms. The four got into the white carriage, which promptly zoomed off.

That evening the woman giant with the scarf and the girl with the flame-coloured hair stood by the shiny white gable. Charlie was perched on the woman's hand and Cloov on the girl's, while men clicked little boxes, which they held up to their own faces. Everybody was talking excitedly.

'I wonder what's happening?' Cloov said.

'I think they're pleased with us,' Charlie told her. 'We saved this house.'

And it was true. Days later the girl showed them a sheet of paper with a picture on it of herself and the woman giant holding up two house martins, the whole surrounded by lines and lines of black specs. Another picture showed a nest high up on the gable with Cloov peeping over the side.

'Now aren't you glad we didn't stay in the Southern Land?' Charlie said.

'Oh, you were brave to tackle those awful giants,' Cloov told him. 'Let's look now for something soft to line our home.'

But as if the girl had understood what they wanted, when they returned with blades of withered grass she had a box of downy feathers waiting for them.

By P.G. Nerney



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

Comrades I Miss

At moments out of nowhere
A face comes drifting back
Dessie I once knew in Manhattan,
A charming, rollicking Irishman,
Who with his zest for life,
His pleasure to be working on Park Avenue
Swiftly captivated people –
Then a change induced by drugs
Darkening that image.

Donal was another friend,
A handsome, helpful charmer
That not even religious sisters,
Despite their vows of celibacy,
Could meet without behaving
Like teen girls with a pop-star;
Donal joined the U.S. air force,
Was about to get his wings
When his plane crash-landed.

Bill was a carefree, svelte New Yorker,
Open-minded, tolerant, light-hearted,
Always ready with a witty observation
Or teasing comment about the Irish;
But, though his father was a partner,
Bill never rose above timekeeper,
Then on a voyage to Jamaica
A farewell letter in his cabin –
He himself was never found.

Starred-crossed in love, I left New York,
Returned to a greener, quieter country –
Except where warring northern factions
Threatened to plunge our entire island
Into internecine conflict;
Then after further gaffes in love
I met a girl from royal England:
In despite of tragic comrades
Embraced life’s fulfillment...

By Colin Scott

Evolution!

«What a piece of work is man ...»
Shakespeare must have had his rose-tinted
glasses on the day he put those words in
Hamlet's mouth. Just read the newspapers
any day of the week or watch television
news. Is there anything optimistic going
on? Crimea, Ukraine, Russia, China,
Ethiopia, Britain, Guantanamo, Syria, Iraq,
Afghanistan? Homelessness and Poverty
here at home!! The havoc in children's
lives wrought by lay people, priests,
bishops and even cardinals, all of whom
were supposed to be followers of Christ.
«What a piece of work is man ...» indeed?

Shakespeare was well aware of the
violence in mankind. King Lear, Hamlet,
Macbeth, Othello and several other plays
portray men and women as being extremely
violent. But then there was Horatio,
Hamlet's closest friend, and a paragon of
all the virtues desirable in a human being.
Perhaps it was Horatio that Shakespeare
had in mind when he soliloquised so
eloquently on the ideal human.

But many of us fall very short of this ideal.
We are nowhere near that degree of
perfection. Will we ever? I think we will
and we should have hope and faith that we
will. Long before Shakespeare, Jesus
Christ far excelled in all the virtues
outlined by the great poet. He
demonstrated how humanity should and
eventually must behave.

He knew we were in a developmental stage
on our journey from the animal kingdom to
the angelic. He became one of us by being
born as we were, died as we do, only much
more violently than most. Then, pointing to
the future, rose from the dead, and by
ascending to heaven in the sight of
hundreds, convinced the doubters that that
would be our future too.

Mankind is in an evolutionary stage but it's
not always easy to see this. We rush to
make final judgements on God and on all
reality now. We claim to know and
pronounce on everything. We are so proud
of our achievements that we run ahead of
ourselves, but despite the havoc we have
wrought in our haste to replace God with
our own «genius», by the power of the
Holy Spirit, empathy has grown in the
world and will continue to grow even if
there is an occasional catastrophe such as
our neighbours' kicking against it in their
paroxysm of nationalistic pride.

But they'll rethink when wisdom takes the
place of bluster and jingoism is banished
from their political philosophy.

We have been asured by Christ himself that
all will be well. Do we believe it? We
should think of it often and pray that our
faith will grow stronger each day of our
lives. *"Creidim, tar i gcabhair ar mo
dhíchreidimh."*

GM



Maynooth University Town F.C



Our season has stepped up a good deal over the last few weeks and
results have been good so far recent results include:

L.S.L Sen. Div. Sunday - St. Mochtas 0 Town 2

High flying Saints were dealt a severe blow in their quest for League
honours. Town were on fire from the kick off and never allowed the
home side to settle. A rock solid performance by Town on a very heavy
pitch proved that they were more than just a fair weather side.
Exchanges were feisty in the early stages with Town shading matters.

Midway through the 1st half the Saints defence was split by a telling
pass for Jack O’ Connor to run onto and fire home. The remainder of
the half saw Town control matters and reach the break with a controlled
display.

Saints threw everything at Town in the 2nd half but our defence closed
ranks and maintained their supremacy. With 10 minutes remainder

Jackson Ryan set up the chance Sven to seal victory with a glancing
header. A superb team performance with many stars.

L.S. L Sen Div Sun - Kilnamanagh F.C. 3 Town 7

The old saying of a game of two halves was in evidence here. Town
were slow to settle and leaked goals in a most lethargic early display.
An early home goal in the 10th minute but we drew level 5 minutes
later through Alex Kelly. We went behind again 10 minutes later but
Jackson Ryan brought us level with a superb free kick. Further goals by
the home side and Conor Delahunty for Town saw the sides go in level
at the break.

Town were a transformed side in the second half and swept the home
side away in a display of their usual quick flowing style.
Further goals by Conor Delahunty, Jack O’ Connor, Sven and Alex
Fitzgibbon saw us run out easy winners.

February Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



[facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService](https://www.facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService)



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

February Clever Reach

Children

Chinese New Year: Celebrating the Year of the Tiger: Online Wildlife Drawing Workshop with wildlife artist and illustrator Aga Grandowicz. For 6 - 12 year olds.
Friday 4th of February 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm

To celebrate the Chinese Year of The Tiger (starting the 1st of February), draw and learn about this magnificent feline with Aga Grandowicz – a wildlife artist, author and illustrator of recently published 'Remarkable Creatures: a guide to some of Ireland's disappearing animals' (2021) and co-creator of 'Dr Hibernica Finch's Compelling Compendium of Irish Animals' (2018).

Get your favourite pencils and paper ready, and Aga will guide you through the process of making quick and unique images. Suitable for 6-12 years old children. Children attending this workshop must have a parent/guardian present with them during the workshop. Booking required through eventbrite : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/244450948367>.

Pirate Ship Minecraft Workshop for ages 6 - 10
Friday 18th February 3:30pm

Do you like to create and build in Minecraft? Sign up for our Zoom discussion and take part in our build challenge which will be sent to you in advance! Suitable for ages 6-10. Children must be accompanied on the video call by an adult. Places are limited and booking is essential. This month we want you to start building a Pirate Ship!
<https://minecraftpirate.eventbrite.ie>

Family

What to Read Next Book Prescriptions for 8 - 12 yr olds with Sarah Webb.
Online via Zoom.
Tuesday 10th February 7pm - 8pm

Are you a child who loves books and reading but is having trouble finding the next great read for you? Maybe you have just finished reading all the Darren Shan or Harry Potter Series (twice!) and don't know what to read next? Or maybe you are a parent who is looking for books for the child who is at that tricky 'tween' stage, a child who has outgrown books for younger age groups but who is not quite ready for Young Adult books? Or maybe you are a young writer looking for tips to develop their creative writing skills and get published?

Let Sarah Webb, award-winning children's writer, give you expert guidance at this online workshop. Passionate about bringing children and books together, Sarah was awarded the Children's Books Ireland Award for Outstanding Contribution to Children's Books in Ireland. Sarah's latest novel for children is 'The Little Beekeeper of Henrietta Street' (illustrated by Rachel Corcoran), set in 1911. During this workshop your child is sure to get inspiration and find their 'Next Great Read'. All children attending this event must have a parent/guardian present with them during this event. Booking required through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/240063545527>.

Adults

Ireland Reads: Share Your Love...For Poetry.
Thursday 17 February at 6.30 pm, via Zoom.

Poetry lovers, we invite you to join us as we celebrate 'Ireland Reads' and Valentine's Day with an evening of sharing poetry. Some of you may wish to read, and others might like to just listen, while we enjoy the beauty of poetry. Hosted by Maynooth and Ballitore Libraries.

All welcome. Booking via Eventbrite
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/ireland-reads-share-your-lovefor-poetry-tickets-223234980837>

Spring Gardening Talk Online with Aoife Munn
Tuesday 22nd February 7pm - 7.45 pm

Join us for this lively interactive talk from horticulturist Aoife Munn. Find out what you can do to prepare your soil, what can be planted early and the best plants for wildlife. There will also be plenty of time for questions and answers on all things gardening. Booking required through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/245822069427>.

Young Adults

Ireland Reads: Try a Book Club for Ages 15-17
Friday 18th February at 4.30pm / On Zoom

Teens aged 15+ have been meeting monthly since our last 'Ireland Reads' event to discuss a book of their choice and you can give it a try this month. This is a book club with a difference in that there is always the option of suggested reading, but teens can read and recommend whatever they like.

Contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 01-6285530 for more information.

Booking Via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/ireland-reads-try-our-teen-book-club-15-17maynooth-lib-tickets-251349100927>

New Teen Book Club Ages 12-14: Ireland Reads
Friday 25th February at 4pm/ On Zoom

This month, libraries in Ireland are calling on people of all ages to get reading and what better way to do this than by joining a local book club.

It's common for young people to veer away from reading when joining secondary school or around age 12-13, so Maynooth Library is keen to draw them back in with a brand new Teen Book Club for ages 12-14. This is an online space where they can read as much or as little as they like, and for this special 'Ireland Reads' launch meeting, they're asked to bring along a book they have read that they would recommend.

Booking Via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/ireland-reads-new-teen-book-club-12-14-maynooth-lib-tickets-244352072627>

Regular Events

Maynooth Online Book Club

Maynooth Online Book Club meets through Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month, from 11.00 - 12 noon.

Books are chosen during each meeting from the Borrow Box app list. Just contact the Library with your email details for the zoom link.

Maynooth Sci-Fi Bookclub

Tuesday 8th February 6.30pm

The Readers of the Lost Ark Sci-Fi bookclub meet currently via Zoom on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. This month, the book club will be talking about 'To be Taught, if fortunate' by Becky Chambers. If you are interested in joining the bookclub, please email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or telephone Maynooth Community Library 01 628 5530

Live Story Time & Sing Along Nursery Rhymes Online via Zoom for 2-5 years

Every Friday 10-10.30am

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

Friday 4th February: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/253604888047>

Friday 11th February: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/253605800777>

Friday 18th February: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/253605881017>

Friday 25th February: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/253605991347>

German 'Stammtisch', informal conversation meet-up.

Thursday 24th February at 6.30pm, online via Zoom

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

For more information please contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 01 6285530.

Audience: Adults and Young Adults.

Ciorcal Comhrá san Oíche ar Líne / Online Evening Irish conversation group

Tuesday 15th February 7.00 - 7.45 pm /

An Mháirt 15ú Mí Feabhra 7.00 – 7.45 i.n.

Beidh Ciorcal Comhrá ar líne thar Zoom ag tosnú ar an Máirt 15ú lá Mí na Feabhra ag 7.00 i.n. Seo deis iontach an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim agus a chleactadh trí chaint agus chomhrá in atmaisféar réchúiseach ó chompord do bhaile féin. Fáilte roimh chách. Má bhíonn suim agat páirt a ghlacadh, cláraigh ag an nasc thíos eventbrite : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/247248195007>.

nó sheol ríomhphost chuig maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie

There will be an online evening Ciorcal Comhrá on Tuesday 15th February from 7.00-7.45pm. This is a great opportunity to learn and practice Irish through conversation in a relaxed atmosphere from the comfort of your own home. All welcome. If you are interested in taking part, please register at the Eventbrite link below : <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/247248195007>.

or email Maynooth Community Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie



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

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'Working From Home' Bill An Employers' Charter

The refusal grounds are so all encompassing, they make a mockery of the stated purpose of the legislation.

The government's working from home Bill is an employers' charter which only serves to undermine the right to work from home, according to Social Democrats Enterprise Spokesperson Catherine Murphy.

"I was concerned, before the legislation was published, that the Bill would be tepid and underwhelming. Those fears have now been borne out. Instead of granting employees a right to work from home, the legislation is an employers' charter which creates wide-ranging exemptions from the entitlement."

"For instance, a request to work from home can be refused if an employer feels there is a "potential negative impact" on quality of work or performance – not an actual or verified negative impact. These refusal grounds are so all encompassing, they make a mockery of the stated purpose of the legislation."

"A statutory right to work from home has the capacity to be transformative – especially for women, disabled people and carers, many of whom have been locked out of the jobs market, because of restrictive work practices, for far too long. A real right to work from home would also have myriad positive impacts on the environment, by reducing car journeys and improving air quality; facilitate rural regeneration and ease housing pressure in urban areas."

"There were many negative consequences to covid, but one of the few positive impacts was the revolution in work practices that occurred over the past two years. We now need to embed those reformed work practices and ensure that hard-won progress is not lost.

"We cannot miss out on this opportunity. The government must amend its legislation and provide a real right to work from home – one that can only be refused on reasonable grounds."

Government Must Legislate For Right To Work Remotely

There can be no going back to old working practices.

The government must introduce legislation that gives workers a legal right to work remotely – not merely the right to request flexible working arrangements, according to Social Democrats Enterprise Spokesperson Catherine Murphy.

"The pandemic has been hugely difficult for people right across society – but there are some changes, necessitated by covid, that we want to retain. Chief among them is flexible working arrangements."

"The government has said it will this week publish legislation that gives people a statutory right to request working from home. This does not go far enough. The default position should be that flexible working is permissible. It should not be at the whim of employers to accept it or reject it."

"A change like this could be truly transformative, particularly for women, disabled people and carers – many of whom have been forced to give up work, or locked out of the jobs market, because of the absence of a statutory right to work remotely."

"A legal right to work remotely would also help the government meet its climate action targets. The Climate Action Plan envisions car travel being reduced by 500,000 journeys per day by 2030. A legal right to work from home would help meet this target by reducing the need for commuting by private car."

"The right to remote working is also of crucial importance to ease housing pressure in urban areas and to facilitate rural regeneration."

"In the UK, there is already a legal right to request working from home but employees must be employed for 26 weeks before they can request it; it can take three months to get a response and the employer can reject an application for a wide variety of reasons."

"It seems as if the government plans to publish a version of this underwhelming legislation. That is the extent of their ambition on this issue. The pandemic has already taught us that many jobs can be done remotely without a loss of productivity. The government should not pretend otherwise."

"The government needs to do more than make minor incremental change in this area. There can be no going back to old working practices. To ensure overdue and long-lasting reform, its plans must include a legal right to work remotely."

Catherine appeared at Leader's Questions:

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

We know we are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis. We know that inflation has surged by 5.5% and stands at a 21-year high. Families are struggling with basic necessities. It is getting more difficult for a very large number of people to put food on the table and at the same time heat their homes. An increasing number of households can no longer afford to do both. Every facet of daily life has been impacted. There have been huge increases in food, transport and energy costs. We know that accommodation is a big one, as is insurance. Energy bills are expected to soar by an unprecedented €1,300 this year.

The Tánaiste was asked about this at the weekend. He cited a number of things the Government is doing, including changes to the budget and the forthcoming €100 credit, as

making a meaningful difference to people. It is frankly a bit insulting for the Tánaiste to pat himself on the back in the context of the core social welfare rates and pensions, which were increased by €5. The Government was warned before the budget that the pension had fallen in purchasing power by €10.24 since 2019, which is the last time there was an increase. Given the surge in inflation in recent months, its real value has been eroded further. The €100 credit for energy bills that the Tánaiste claims will be introduced as a matter of urgency is not likely to come for a number of months. In the context of those working families trying to keep their heads above water, the Government tinkered around the edges with taxation measures and cuts.

We can see that, for example, a single person on a low to middle income of between €25,000 and €35,000 will receive €2 a week, whereas somebody on €100,000 will receive something like four times that amount. Meanwhile, the minimum wage has increased by 30 cent, which is just about 3%, and that, obviously, has been decimated by inflation. If we add in sky-high housing costs, with rents at record highs and a 14% increase in housing prices, the scale of the crisis becomes evident.

Does the Tánaiste think the Government has done enough to insulate people from the cost-of-living crisis? Will the Government introduce further targeted supports for those who are struggling to make ends meet?

Leo Varadkar (Dublin West, Fine Gael)

I acknowledge that the cost of living is rising very fast. We had a prolonged period across the world of very low inflation. That is now over; we now see inflation at about 5% in Ireland, Britain and other parts of the world. We have not seen that in a very long time. The rising cost of living is causing a real squeeze on family budgets and has resulted in rising costs for business. Most of the factors driving this are outside the control of the Government, at least. They are largely driven by increases in energy costs and international oil and gas prices and disruption to supply chains as a consequence of Covid. It is estimated that inflation will moderate throughout the course of this year, but that does not take away from the fact that the impact of rising prices is having a really severe effect on family budgets and is squeezing many families in this State.

As to what the Government can do, it is multifold. The Deputy mentioned increases in pay. An increase in the minimum wage has just kicked in. There are increases in pay for public servants. Across the private sector, substantial pay increases are now being awarded to workers, and these are necessary to compensate people for inflation. There is the reduction in income tax, which kicks in this month. I will come back to that in a moment on foot of the Deputy's unusual comments in that regard. There are the increases in welfare payments and pensions, which also kick in this month, the 2% cap on rents, the freeze on childcare fees and the €100 grant for energy costs. Are we looking at other things we can do to help? Yes, absolutely.

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

I accept that some of this is generated from outside the State, particularly in respect of energy. Let us look at how Ireland was doing before this inflationary pressure kicked in. The cost of living in Ireland was 36% above the EU average. Our cost of housing is the highest in Europe. The cost of goods and services in Ireland is the second highest in Europe. Our fuel costs are the fourth highest. We are therefore not on a par with other countries in how this is having an impact. When inflation is added in, what is happening is putting people, especially those who were struggling anyway, into a very precarious position where they are actually choosing between heating their homes and putting food on the table. The change to the minimum wage has been more than eaten up by inflation. We are not on a par with other countries, and that needs to be looked at specifically.

Leo Varadkar (Dublin West, Fine Gael)

The Deputy is absolutely correct in saying the cost of living in Ireland is higher than the EU average. It is important also to point out that average salaries and wages in Ireland are much higher than the EU average. Both have to be taken into account when considering such matters. There are two areas in respect of which Ireland is a particular outlier, namely, the cost of childcare and of out-of-pocket healthcare expenses. As I indicated on Sunday, that is an issue on which I will focus in the next year or two.

I wish to take the Deputy up on what she said about income tax. She said the Government tinkered at the edges in the context of what we did to reduce income tax for working people. The Deputy's party opposed that. It was against income tax cuts. Income tax cuts happened because of this Government. What is that going to be worth for the average person earning around €40,000 a year or a couple, both earning in and around that, over the course of three years? We intend to do it over three years by widening the tax bands and increasing the credits. That average couple, who both earn around €40,000, will have €2,400 more in their pockets each year than they would under the Social Democrats, Labour or Sinn Féin. I really want people to know that. The Deputy cannot complain about the cost of living and then say that middle-class and working people should pay more income tax. They would under the Social Democrats.

(Continued on page 18)



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

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(Continued from page 17)

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Catherine Quizzed RTE in front of Public Accounts committee.

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

I will touch on four areas. I welcome the witnesses. Obviously, it is a good opportunity to address some of these issues. I will start with the misclassification of staff. We know there is a power differential between employee and employer, that SIPTU and the NUJ were very active on this for a very long time and that it went on for far too long. Due to

people's employment status being misclassified, there will be an obligation to pay both employer and employee PRSI contributions. Certain people will have lost out badly on things like pensions and maternity leave and there may be liabilities and other actions taken as a consequence of that. I know this is not the first time this type of issue has arisen in RTÉ.

It happened in the late 1980s. Where will the accountability rest? Will that be factored into this? We know that about 80 people have seen their employment status change. Why is there no commitment to dealing with issues other than Revenue and PRSI issues? Why would this not be automatic when these employees were treated this way? Where is the accountability regarding the person or people who decided that this was the employment status that would be offered to these people without understanding that this was really bogus self-employment?

Ms Dee Forbes:

I do not agree with the statement that RTÉ has been involved in bogus employment practices. I agree that changes to employment legislation might not have been kept up to date with. We are dealing with legacy issues for many years. The important thing is that we come to a resolution, which we are working on through a very complex process involving Eversheds, Revenue and SCOPE, so we are committed to working through that. The important thing is that the measures are put in place to ensure this does not happen in the future.

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

I take it that Ms Forbes does not see that accountability. She talks about legacy issues. I will leave it at that but I must say that I do not accept that it is not bogus self-employment because people's employment status was changed, there was a review by SCOPE and there was a Revenue payment. I do not know what Ms Forbes would call it. If another Semi-State company was in front of "Prime Time Investigates" or some other really superb, really good programming RTÉ does such as "Crimes and Confessions" and this was the profile, it would be held to account. It is our obligation to hold RTÉ to account on this. I will leave it at that but I did not hear what I wanted to hear in terms of accountability.

I will move on to the RTÉ Player. There has been a significant change in how people consume content. It probably ties into the number of non-TV households. Much of that has to do with people struggling with the cost of living and putting a roof over their heads. Younger people in particular will fall into that category. How much has RTÉ spent on the RTÉ Player in terms of getting it to where it is at the moment? Does Ms Forbes use it herself? There is an ongoing discussion among people who use it. I have used it myself and have given up on it on several occasions because all you get are ads and then it drops out. Is Ms Forbes satisfied with the RTÉ Player and if not, what kind of investment will be put into it?

Ms Dee Forbes:

The Deputy is right in saying that the RTÉ Player is becoming a preferred viewing option for many - younger audiences, older audiences and across the board - and we have seen significant increases. I take her point that there have been issues and I am very committed to doing as much as we can to iron out those issues. Advertising is a fact of life in our world and must be facilitated within that environment because of our remit and objective to commercialise our output. We have allocated moneys to continually upgrade the RTÉ Player. I will be honest with the Deputy. We do not have the resources or money of some of the streamers or the likes of Channel 4, which has invested significantly in this. In terms of our future proofing, we want to spend more and we are spending more. It has stabilised significantly in the past year recognising that we have work to do but it is a very important focus for us for the future.

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

Could Ms Forbes tell us how much needs to be invested in it to make it fit for purpose?

Ms Dee Forbes:

I do not have that number to hand but it is significantly more than we are spending now or have been spending for a number of years.

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

Can Ms Forbes come back to us with an estimate of what is required?

Ms Dee Forbes:

I take the Deputy's point. We want to have a world-class product. It is what is expected now. One thing about us that is quite different from Netflix or Amazon Prime is that we are dealing with the complexities of live television and on-demand, which requires quite a different investment compared to somebody who is not taking advertising or providing live television.

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

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(Continued from page 18)

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

Could Ms Forbes come back to us on that? The area I represent, which would be described as the commuter belt, although people do not feel like they are economic units or just people who are on the move all the time, is probably well represented in the non-TV household cohort and the younger age cohort. It is a missing area in terms of coverage. We are not the midlands but we are classified as midlands. We are not Dublin because we are not Dublin, which is a missed opportunity. There are probably a lot of areas that are missed as a consequence of that.

I agree with Deputy Hourigan regarding gender. The lack of transparency in terms of RTÉ being able to give us that information has not been good. It is important information. Obviously, RTÉ sets the standards for other people and the fact that it is unable to give us this information means it is falling down on this standard in terms of transparency.

I have to agree with the Deputy on that. On the orchestra, will RTÉ keep the funding it was provided to cover the cost of the orchestra now that the orchestra is being moved to the National Concert Hall, NCH.

Ms Dee Forbes:

The Deputy may remember that we commissioned a report with Helen Boaden on the future sustainability on both orchestras a number of years ago. The outcome of that was the recommendation that RTÉ could no longer fund both orchestras. The Government decided that additional funding would be made available for the National Symphony Orchestra, NSO, to become part of the NCH. Yes, that money will remain with RTÉ and additional funding has been provided for the transfer of that orchestra to the NCH, which will take effect from Monday of next week.

South Dublin County Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin Joins The Social Democrats
Eoin's decision to join the Social Democrats is further evidence that the party is continuing to grow.

Social Democrats co-leaders Catherine Murphy and Róisín Shortall have welcomed the decision of Independent South Dublin County Councillor Eoin Ó Broin to join the Social Democrats.

Cllr. Ó Broin said:

"My primary goal in politics is delivering change – in improved public services, the environment and housing – so the Social Democrats were the obvious choice for me. I am looking forward to being a member of a progressive centre-left party that has a real vision for Ireland as a fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable country."

"While I enjoyed my time as an Independent councillor, I feel that I will be able to accomplish more for my local constituents as a member of the Social Democrats. Our values and political priorities are completely aligned."

"Ireland has undergone a lot of change during the pandemic and, as we begin to emerge from that phase, there is an opportunity to reshape our society. To do so, we must learn the lessons of covid. This means investing in threadbare public services; finally tackling the housing crisis; ensuring workers have access to remote working and an improved work-life balance; investing in public transport; and acting now to prevent a climate crisis."

"As a member of South Dublin County Council, I want to help build a social democratic block that can further this agenda and direct budgetary and zoning decisions accordingly. Is Gaelgeoir líofa mé freisin agus suim mór agam an Ghaeilge a chur chun chinn."

Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy said:

"Eoin is a tireless community activist in Clondalkin and has used his position on South Dublin County Council to advocate for better public transport and cycling links, improved access to housing and more sustainable environmental policies."

"Eoin's background, particularly his PhD on energy efficiency in homes and his experience working abroad, means he has a real contribution to make on the most important issues now facing the country – namely, housing and the climate crisis. A lot of change, in society, begins at local level and I am delighted that Eoin has joined the Social Democrats to fight for change from within the party."

Social Democrats co-leader Róisín Shortall said: "We are thrilled to welcome Eoin into the Social Democrats – his focus on sustainability, equality and reform means that he is a natural fit for the party."

"Eoin's decision to join the Social Democrats – the second councillor to join the party in the past two months – is further evidence that the party is continuing to grow. We are very ambitious for the party, and the country, and look forward to working with Eoin to help bring about real and lasting change in our society."

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Or, email:
Catherine.Murphy@oireachtas.ie

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

The benefits of light resistance exercise for menopausal women

The menopause is a transformational time in every woman's life, when our bodies must face a variety of physical and psychological challenges. As we battle hormonal fluctuations, loss of bone density, and issues such as weight gain and insomnia, it is no surprise that many women are looking for ways to feel better during this difficult and challenging period in their lives.

Many of our clients are surprised when they find out just how beneficial light resistance exercise can be, and in this guide, we will take a closer look at the benefits of Reformer Pilates for perimenopause and menopausal women.

What is Reformer Pilates and what are the benefits?

Reformer Pilates is a light resistance form of exercise which is practiced by people of all ages and fitness levels. Its aim is to both maintain and restore movement, reduce stiffness in the body, help remove aches and pains and restore balance through light resistance low impact, controlled movements. Although they say, 'age is just a number', our muscles and bones are very different in our later years compared to the bodies we had in our 20's, and Pilates offers a safe and very effective way to exercise.

Unlike some forms of exercise which work certain parts of our bodies, while other parts are not worked at all, Pilates uses targeted movements which encourage parts of your body to work in harmony. These practiced movements will build flexibility and strength, and mobility, without high impact movements that may cause increase joint pain or urinary leakage for some.

How can Reformer Pilates help menopausal women?

The symptoms of perimenopause can begin years before your periods stop, which is when you enter menopause. How long the symptoms last varies from person to person, depending on a variety of reasons. Common symptoms include mood swings, hot flushes, weight gain, depression, anxiety, sleeplessness, joint and muscle stiffness, and a host more, but with this small few it is only natural that women are looking for the best ways to alleviate these challenging symptoms.

If you know how to tackle the effects of menopause, it is possible to turn this challenging time into an exciting and transformational time for your body, and Reformer Pilates is a great exercise choice to help with joint stiffness, weight gain, depression, sleeplessness, anxiety. The very principles of Pilates are concentration, control, breathing, flow, centering and precision. These principles are extremely beneficial for women going through menopause or perimenopause. The following are just some of the ways which Reformer Pilates can help both peri-menopausal and post-menopausal women.

- **Stress reduction** – Some women struggle with stress, depression, and anxiety during menopause, however the breathing techniques within Pilates can help women to focus and remain grounded. It is only natural for our emotions to suffer as our bodies try to handle hormonal imbalances, but the serotonin boost you will get from Pilates will soon help you to feel happy and calm.
- **Reduced aches and pains** – If your joints are aching when you get out of bed in the morning, Pilates will help relieve this symptom by strengthening your muscles thereby improving mobility and movement. Many of our menopausal clients suffer from backache, shoulder, hip and knee pain, which often stops them from being able to fully enjoy their life. However, we can create a programme that targets specific areas of the body, so you will soon be back to your daily activities be it playing golf or Tennis or playing with your children or grandchildren.
- **Increased flexibility** – Maintaining flexibility and coordination is essential as our bodies begin to age, especially as hormonal changes can impact our bodies' usual capabilities. Many of the movements within Reformer Pilates will require you to engage your core while moving other limbs, not only will these movements help to build strength and stabilise your spine, but you will also benefit from improved balance and flexibility.
- **Improved self-confidence** – Reformer Pilates is a form of exercise which needs patience and practice, and when you achieve your Pilates goals you will find a new sense of self-confidence in the capabilities of your body.



If you have spent many years putting others first, now is the time of your life to really take care of your body, improve your health and build the confidence you deserve.

- **Boost hormone production** – One of the most important benefits Reformer Pilates will provide is the stimulation of hormones, which will help to relieve many of the symptoms of menopause. By improving blood circulation, reducing stress, and helping to manage oestrogen and progesterone production, you will see improvements in problems such as hot flushes, mood swings and weight gain.
- **Improved bone health** – At perimenopause & into menopause, oestrogen levels in women's bodies decline, which affects bone density. However, the resistance training in Reformer Pilates will help to slow these effects by supporting bone health, building muscle, and improving strength, which could help to prevent issues such as osteoporosis.
- **Improved energy and better sleep** – These are no doubts that menopause is a tiring part of our lives, however Pilates will improve energy levels and help to prepare you for this new phase of your life. In addition, many women struggle with insomnia during menopause, which is often linked to high stress levels as the levels of cortisol and adrenaline rise in our bodies. Practicing Reformer Pilates will help to flush your lymphatic system, relieve tension, and prevent the brain fog which may be keeping you up at night.

The menopause can take its toll on women, both physical and mentally, and for many of our clients it is often the first time in their lives that they have really taken their health seriously. If you are feeling older than your years and are looking for a way to stay fit, active, healthy, and strong, our Reformer Pilates could offer a safe and effective form of exercise, not to mention being a great place to socialise and meet other like-minded women!

Here at Finesse Movement, we are committed to providing classes which are tailored to the exact needs of our clients, which is why we offer small group sessions, semi private Pilates or Clinical Pilates which is one to one to suit your needs. Our experienced instructors will take you through everything you need to know, and the classes will move forward at a pace which is suited to your abilities.

If you're interested in trying it out, you can book for your FREE Menopause Health Taster Class. Scan the QR to register or email us at info@finesse.ie or call us 01-505-4584 or 087-775-9805



FinesseMovement
Movement

Healthy New Year Resolutions

A new year often signifies a fresh start for many people. For some, this means setting health goals, such as losing weight, following a healthier diet, and starting an exercise routine.

However, more often than not, the health and wellness resolutions chosen are highly restrictive and unsustainable, leading most people to break their resolutions within a few weeks. This is why many people make the same resolutions year after year.

To break that cycle, it's important to make resolutions that can not only improve health but also be followed for life.

Eat more whole foods

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

Whole foods, including vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, whole grains, and fish, contain a plethora of nutrients that your body needs to function at an optimal level.

Research shows that following a whole-foods-based diet may significantly reduce heart disease risk factors, body weight, and blood sugar levels, as well as decrease your risk of certain diseases, such as type 2 diabetes.

What's more, adding more whole foods to your diet can be done slowly and consistently. For example, if you're not used to eating vegetables, start by adding one serving of your favorite veggie to your diet every day.



Sit less & move more

Whether it's due to having a sedentary job or simply being inactive, many people sit more than they should. Sitting too much can have negative effects on health. In fact, it may be linked to an increased risk of overall mortality.

Making a resolution to sit less is an easy and attainable resolution that can be tailored to fit your lifestyle.

For example, if you have a desk job that requires long periods of sitting, make a resolution to go for a 15-minute walk at lunch or to get up and walk for 5 minutes every hour.

Cut back on sweetened beverages

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

Get more quality sleep

Sleep is an essential part of overall health, and sleep deprivation can lead to serious consequences. For instance, lack of sleep may increase your risk of weight gain, heart disease, and depression.

There are many reasons why people don't get enough sleep, so it's important to focus on your schedule and lifestyle to determine the best ways to improve sleep quantity and quality.

Decreasing screen time before bed, reducing light pollution in your bedroom, cutting back on caffeine, and getting to bed at a reasonable hour are some simple ways to improve sleep hygiene.

Find a physical activity that you enjoy

Every New Year, people purchase expensive memberships to gyms, workout studios, and online fitness programs in hopes of shedding excess body fat in the year to come. Though most people start strong, the majority don't make their new routine into a lasting habit.

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



schedule.

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

Then, set an attainable goal, such as planning to walk a few specific days per week instead of aiming for every day.

Making a more realistic goal can enhance the chances of making your new routine last, especially if you're new to working out.



Cook more meals at home

Research shows that people who cook more meals at home have better diet quality and less body fat than people who eat more meals on the go. Start by making one meal a day, then increase the frequency over time until you're making the majority of your meals and snacks at home.

Spend more time outdoors

Spending more time outdoors can improve health by relieving stress, elevating mood, and even lowering blood pressure.

Making a New Year's resolution to spend more time outside every day is a sustainable and healthy goal that can benefit most everyone, no matter where you live.

Taking a walk outside during your lunch break, hiking on weekends, going camping with friends, or simply soaking in the beauty of your backyard or local park are all ways to incorporate nature into your daily routine.

Try Meditation

Meditation is an evidence-based way to promote mental well-being. It may be particularly helpful for people who have anxiety or depression.

Trying out this practice is a perfect New Year's resolution because there are many ways to meditate, and it's easy to find books, podcasts, and apps that teach you how to start a meditation practice.

Rely less on convenience foods

Many people rely on convenience foods, such as packaged chips, cookies, frozen dinners, and fast food, for a quick meal or snack. Though these items may be tasty and readily available, they can have detrimental effects on your health if eaten too often.

For example, frequent fast food intake is associated with poor overall diet quality, obesity, and an increased risk of numerous conditions, including heart disease and diabetes.

To cut back on your consumption of convenience foods, make a resolution to prepare more meals at home using healthy ingredients.

Cut back on Alcohol

Though alcohol can certainly fit into a healthy diet, imbibing too often can negatively affect your health. What's more, drinking alcohol frequently may keep you from reaching your health and wellness goals.

If you think cutting back on alcohol may be helpful for you, set a reasonable goal to keep yourself on track, such as limiting drinking to weekend nights only or setting a drink limit for the week.

Try a new hobby

It's common for adults to let once-loved hobbies fall by the wayside as they get older due to busy schedules or lack of motivation.

However, research shows that partaking in a hobby that you love can help you live a longer, healthier life. Make a resolution to try out a hobby that you've always been interested in — or pick back up a hobby that used to bring you joy.

Creating a healthier relationship with food and taking better care of your body and mind can drastically improve your health in various ways. This New Year, try out a few of the resolutions above to help make this year — and the years that follow — the healthiest and happiest possible.

Source: www.healthline.com/nutrition/realistic-new-years-resolutions

Easy & natural tips to get rid of weeds in your Garden

Weeds are an inevitable part of gardening, but they don’t have to become a major nuisance.

We don’t really want to spray all kinds of chemicals into our garden, so these tips are great for us! It turns out that there are tons of natural products you can use to get rid of the unwanted plants in your garden, and you already have them in your kitchen cabinet! This way you can get rid of weeds without using aggressive chemicals

These are 5 easy and natural tricks to help you get rid of the weeds in your garden!

Plants have a natural layer that protects them from negative outside influences. To break through this protective layer you can prepare the weeds with a mixture of water and soap. Mix together two cups of water and a few drops of dish soap in a spray bottle and spray this on the weeds. If you do this before trying any of the other techniques mentioned below, they’ll be much more effective.

1. Dry out

The first method is to simply let the weeds dry out. Take a spray bottle and mix together two cups of water and one tablespoon of pure alcohol (96%). Spray this on the weeds. This will cause the plants to dry out through and through, which makes them easy to remove.

2. Burn them

Just use the kettle! By pouring boiling water over weeds, they’ll burn and the roots will die. Be sure to only use this method in a spot without any other plants, like the driveway or the patio, because the hot water might spread and kill other plants as well. That would be a pity!

3. Use acid

Weeds absolutely detest acid. That’s why so many chemical weed-killing products contain acid. You don’t need all of the chemicals, though: you can just mix together two tablespoons of lemon juice and one cup of white vinegar to get the same effect. Spray this mixture onto the unwanted plants in order to kill them. This method won’t affect the soil, so you won’t risk killing other plants and flowers.



4. Baking soda

There it is once more, the all round champ: baking soda. Sprinkle about a teaspoon of baking soda onto the plant you want to remove, especially on the root at the bottom. This will prevent any other weeds from growing there in the future. That means this trick is especially useful in places where no plants should grow in the first place, like the driveway.

5. Vinegar

- This is what you’ll need:
- 3.5 liters of cleaning vinegar and 1/2 cup of salt
 - Generous squirt of washing up liquid
 - Spray bottle

This is how it’s done:

Mix the 3.5 liters of cleaning vinegar with the ½ cup of salt and the squirt of washing up liquid together. Put part of the mixture in an empty spray can and spray it over the weeds. Repeat several times until the weeds have disappeared.



www.tips-and-tricks.co/home-and-garden/natural-tricks-weeds/2/

Valentine’s Night Romantic Cocktails

If you’re planning a romantic night in for Valentine’s, along with your romantic meal, you’ll need a romantic drink, and these cocktails will definitely help set the mood. Enjoy them over a candlelit dessert, serve as an aperitif before the main meal, or just cozy up on the sofa with a glass. You can’t go wrong with these delicious drinks.

Strawberry Daiquiri

Ingredients:

- 4 fresh strawberries plus ½ strawberry to garnish
- 2 tsp white sugar
- 35ml/1½fl oz white rum
- 1 tbsp strawberry liqueur
- 25ml/1fl oz lime juice



Method

Place the strawberries, sugar, rum, strawberry liqueur and lime juice into the base of a cocktail shaker and mash together. Place the lid onto the cocktail shaker and shake well. Strain the mixture into a Martini glass and garnish with half a strawberry.

Tequila Sunrise & Sunset

This cocktail looks beautiful and tastes great.

Ingredients:

- 1 shot of Tequila
- 120 ml Orange juice (from a box or fresh squeezed)
- Splash Rose’s Grenadine Syrup
- Ice cubes

Method

You will need high-ball glasses for these cocktails. For the Sunrise fill the glass with ice. Start with pouring tequila, then orange juice, finally adding grenadine. Don’t stir as the grenadine has to drop to the bottom to create those beautiful sunrise colours. Start the Sunset version with the tequila, then add ice (preferably crushed), pour orange juice and dazzle with cream and cacao. Garnish both cocktails with a slice of orange and cherry. Serve with a straw.



If you prefer to have a non-alcoholic drink, there are many mocktail options. Not everyone enjoys alcohol, below is a delicious and refreshing mocktail for Valentine’s Night.

Non-alcoholic Sangria

Ingredients:

- 1 750 ml bottle of nonalcoholic red wine
- 1 orange, sliced/ 1 lemon, sliced
- 1 lime, sliced/1/4 cup orgeat syrup
- 1 cup orange juice, chilled/ 1 cup of soda water, chilled
- Ice



Method

Combine all ingredients without the soda and ice into a big jug, stir it and leave it in the fridge for at least 3 hours. Before serving add the soda and the ice. Serve in a red wine glass with a short straw.

Strawberry Mojito

Ingredients:

- 1 lime
- 5 strawberries, divided/ 1 sprig fresh mint
- 1 teaspoon white sugar
- 2 ounces white rum
- 2 to 3 ounces club soda, to taste



Method

Cut the lime in half, then cut each half into 3 or 4 wedges. Remove the stems and slice 4 strawberries. Pull 6 to 8 leaves from a sprig of mint, leaving the top intact for a garnish. In a tall glass, add 3 to 4 lime wedges, the sliced strawberries, and individual mint leaves. Top with the sugar. Mash the fruit and dissolve the sugar. Fill the glass with crushed ice and add the rum. Stir well to integrate the fruit and mint into the ice. Top with soda. Garnish with the remaining strawberry, mint spring, and a lime wedge.

Serve and enjoy.

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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 06/12/2021 to 18/01/2022 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
2241	Kildare County Council	Dermot O'Neill	O'Neills Bar & Steak House, Corner of Main Street and Kelly's Lane, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	18/01/2022
2225	Kildare County Council	Boyne Dental Ltd	at the site of the existing adjoining properties at , Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 X0D7	13/01/2022
229	Kildare County Council	Raymond & Tracy Payne	Geraldine Lodge/Silken Vale, Maynooth, Kildare	11/01/2022
227	Kildare County Council	Christophe Dauton	No. 8 Leinster Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	10/01/2022
211837	Kildare County Council	Buzztap Limited	Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/12/2021
211796	Kildare County Council	Jim and Tatyana Devine,	30 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 P8N3.	21/12/2021
211805	Kildare County Council	Donal Keane,	21 Leinster Cottages, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	21/12/2021
211787	Kildare County Council	Fiona Hoare and Eimear Hoare	Dowdstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	20/12/2021
211743	Kildare County Council	Kilpatch Limited	Kilmacredock Upper, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/12/2021
211706	Kildare County Council	Alex and Therese Lockwood	Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	06/12/2021

February 2022 Crossword - No. 509



Clues Across

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Marine mammal (5) | 19. Expert on precious stones (8) |
| 4. Type of crossword (7) | 22. Decree (5) |
| 8. Deviation from the rule (7) | 23. Inactivity (7) |
| 9. Fabric (5) | 24. Victory (7) |
| 10. Rubbing or clash (8) | 25. Larceny (5) |
| 11. Woody plant (4) | |
| 13. Egyptian statue (6) | |
| 14. Creatures (6) | |
| 17. Wander (4) | |



Solutions to Crossword - No. 508



Clues Down

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Dock (5) | 15. Take aback (7) |
| 2. Get rid of (7) | 16. Social outcast (6) |
| 3. Fastidious (8) | 18. Excuse (5) |
| 4. Former name of Sri Lanka (6) | 20. Helps to raise dough (5) |
| 5. Shout (4) | 21. Molecule (4) |
| 6. Male singing voice (5) | |
| 7. Admit to (7) | |
| 12. Feeling remorse (8) | |
| 13. Glut (7) | |

Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

Super Difficult

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

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

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

Junior Puzzle Corner

Children's Colouring

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

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



Valentine Friendship

Hearts

Little red hearts
Are meant to say,
I am thinking of you
On Valentine's Day
I like being friends with
you,
To laugh and play.
Thanks for your friendship
On this Valentine's Day!!

Red hearts, white hearts,
Pink hearts, too.
I love purple hearts.
How about you?
Green hearts, yellow
hearts,
Blue hearts, too.
I love rainbow hearts.
How about you?

Directions. Trace the lines. Color the pictures.



valentine's Day

WORD SEARCH



- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| FLOWERS | ARROW |
| HEARTS | CANDY |
| KISS | CARD |
| LOVE | CHOCOLATE |
| VALENTINE | CUPID |

C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	G	U
E	S	Y	V	Y	P	M	B	I	I	U
M	N	R	D	W	G	D	U	C	G	D
D	Q	I	E	N	G	W	O	C	E	B
F	O	I	T	W	A	L	O	V	E	B
W	I	M	P	N	O	C	E	W	D	H
C	G	T	R	L	E	L	U	M	I	P
H	E	A	R	T	S	L	F	O	P	E
X	K	I	S	S	F	N	A	P	U	G
E	M	W	O	R	R	A	S	V	C	C
D	R	A	C	M	E	Q	U	I	V	W



Just because it’s colder, doesn’t mean you have to give up on your **herb garden**. Growing fresh food should be a thing you can do 365 days a year. So, here are some herbs that do a little better in chilly weather—the perfect winter herbs to grow and eat

Rosemary is a perennial herb, which means that it can be grown year-round, and sturdy enough to defend itself against icy temperatures. This herb will bloom throughout the year, and is one of the more affordable ones to grow and replace in the event that your plant kicks the bucket. Rosemary pairs well with heartier meats like lamb and beef, and stands up to pungent flavours like garlic. On top of packing a punch in flavour, rosemary—particularly its oils—has been used to treat things like poor memory, migraines, digestive issues, and other such ailments.

Parsley don’t underestimate the ubiquitous **parsley** plant; it’s more resilient than you might think. In harsher (cold) climates, parsley will hide underground to keep itself safe, but don’t worry—it’s still growing, however slowly. In milder winters, it will continue to bloom to provide a nice fresh kick to any dish. A good tip is to grow lots and lots of parsley to counteract its slow growth over the winter. Because parsley self-seeds, it means that more plants will grow even if you stop planting new ones.

Thyme, like sage, **thyme** is also a great accompaniment to sage, as well as pork. These sturdy little shrubs will add brightness to your dishes few other herbs do thanks to its lemony tones. They will survive over the winter with little to no up-keep, though there will be very little growth as well. Having said that, you should be careful not to cut all of your thyme shrub’s old growth, as that will prevent it from growing new leaves, taking away all of the plant’s reserves.

Thyme has also proven to serve medicinal purposes over history. Some studies suggest that the thyme oil can decrease inflammation and airway constriction caused by pulmonary diseases.

Mint is a strong herb just like thyme. If you’ve ever grown mint, then you know that it’s imperative for it to be grown in a separate pot as it will take over the entire planter; those who plant their own herbs are never short of mint! Think of mint like a weed. They grow wild, and they are hard to get rid of. Mint’s like that, except you want it to grow wild. Needless to say, this tough, resilient herb will continue to grow throughout the winter. It’s a great herb to have around, as it is chockfull of vitamin C and iron. Mint has also proven to reduce digestive problems like irritable bowel syndrome due to its antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and anti-fungal properties.

Winter savoury, this one is pretty self-explanatory. Winter savoury has a similar flavour to thyme, but leaves more of a tang. It's great in many comfort meals great for the winter, like beef stew.

Basil, like parsley, **basil** is one of the most popular herbs in the world. While every country seems to have their own variety (e.g. Thai basil), is common in world cuisines—from Italy (it’s the primary ingredient in pesto sauce) to Thailand—and it can add a kick to many salads.

Rich in vitamin K, A, potassium, and calcium, it's no wonder it's so popular. It helps to reduce inflammation, and studies have shown that it may help with symptoms of arthritis. Basil also contains a lot of anti-oxidants and antibacterial properties, which can help with cardiovascular health and inhibition of the growth of bad bacteria.

Start basil, oregano, parsley and dill indoors in February. Other herbs that do well when started indoors include mints, thyme and sage. The seedlings transplant well into containers that sit on the porch or patio. Health and inhibition of the growth of bad bacteria, respectively. **(Please get more information if using Herbs for medicinal purposes, herbal remedies may not be suitable for everyone)**

February Growing Guides

Still winter, isn’t it? But spring is just around the corner, so there’s lots to do in the polytunnel. If you’re planning your first polytunnel this year, a sunny day in February is a great time to put the cover on in time to get early spring plantings up and running far earlier than you could outside. Plastic is more flexible when warm, but as long as the sun is out – even if it’s a cold day – as soon as you pull the cover up over the hoops you’ll be amazed how quickly it warms up inside. After just a few minutes, the cover will be flexible enough to tighten down, and you won’t need to re-tighten it later in the year. As well as continuing to sow broad beans, garlic/ elephant garlic, peas (round-seed varieties) and turnips you can also start sowing aubergines, peppers, strawberries, sweet potato and tomatoes. And yes, I know, you’re thinking ‘Aubergines, peppers and tomatoes in February?’ In a regular vegetable garden this would be a complete waste of time. But not in a polytunnel.

Sowing:

Get some ‘first early’ seed potatoes and start ‘chitting’ them - set them out in egg boxes near a bright window so they begin to sprout. When the sprouts are about an inch long, plant the spuds in the tunnel. You’ll be rewarded with the earliest of earlies sometime in the second half of April.

Five beautiful bulbs to plant in February, for masses of summer flowers.

Lilies. Eucomis. Liatris. Agapanthus Galtonia.



Rib-eye Steak with Red Wine & Pastrami Sauce

Ingredients

- 2 Rib-eye steaks (about 250g each)
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 80g butter
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 thyme sprigs
- ½ lemon, juiced
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 100ml red wine
- 200ml fresh beef stock
- 50g pastrami, finely chopped
- 1 green chilli, deseeded and chopped
- 1 tbsp. chopped parsley



Method

STEP 1 - Season the steaks with salt. Heat the oil in a frying pan large enough to fit both steaks, then add half the butter and once melted and foaming, add the garlic and thyme. Carefully put the steak in the pan and cook for 3 mins for rare, 4 mins for medium and 6 mins for well done, flip the steak and repeat. Once cooked, add a squeeze of lemon juice to the pan and spoon the lemony butter over the steak. Transfer the steaks to a warm plate and cover.

STEP 2 - Pour off the fat from the pan, discard the garlic and thyme and wipe out with kitchen paper. Place the pan back on the heat, add half the remaining butter, and once melted, add the shallot and fry for 30 seconds, then add the wine and reduce to a glaze. Pour in the stock and bring up to the boil, then add the pastrami and chilli and warm through. Finally, stir in the parsley. Put the steaks on plates and spoon over the sauce, with the ketchup and chips on the side.

Chocolate Fondue

Ingredients

- 50g melted butter, for brushing
- cocoa powder, for dusting
- 200g good-quality dark chocolate, chopped into small pieces
- 200g butter, in small pieces
- 200g golden caster sugar
- 4 eggs and 4 yolks
- 200g plain flour
- Serve with Caramel sauce, vanilla ice cream or orange sorbet.



Method

STEP 1 - First get your moulds ready. Using upward strokes, heavily brush melted butter (use 50g in total) all over the inside of the pudding mould. Place the mould in the fridge or freezer. Brush more melted butter over the chilled butter, then add a good spoonful of cocoa powder into the mould. Tip the mould so the powder completely coats the butter. Tap any excess cocoa back into the jar, then repeat with the next mould.

STEP 2 - Place a bowl over a pan of barely simmering water, then slowly melt 200g good-quality dark chocolate and 200g butter, both chopped into small pieces, together. Remove the bowl from the heat and stir until smooth. Leave to cool for about 10 mins.

STEP 3 - In a separate bowl whisk 4 eggs and 4 egg yolks together with 200g golden caster sugar until thick and pale and the whisk leaves a trail; use an electric whisk if you want. Sift 200g plain flour into the eggs, then beat together.

STEP 4 - Pour the melted chocolate into the egg mixture in thirds, beating well between each addition, until all the chocolate is added and the mixture is completely combined to a loose cake batter.

STEP 5 -Tip the fondant batter into a jug, then evenly divide between the moulds. The fondants can now be frozen for up to a month and cooked from frozen. Chill for at least 20 mins or up to the night before. To bake from frozen, simply carry on as stated, adding 5 mins more to the cooking time.

STEP 6 - Heat oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. Place the fondants on a baking tray, then cook for 10-12 mins until the tops have formed a crust and they are starting to come away from the sides of their moulds. Remove from the oven, then leave to sit for 1 min before turning out.

STEP 7 - Loosen the fondants by moving the tops very gently so they come away from the sides, easing them out of the moulds. Tip each fondant slightly onto your hand so you know it has come away, then tip back into the mould ready to plate up.

STEP 8 - Starting from the middle of each plate, squeeze a spiral of caramel sauce – do all the plates you need before you go on to the next stage.

STEP 9 - Sit a fondant in the middle of each plate. Using a large spoon dipped in hot water, scoop a ‘quenelle’ of ice cream.

STEP 10 - Carefully place the ice cream on top of the fondant, then serve immediately. Repeat with the rest of the fondants.

FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

The 'Troubles' on Film



The backdrop of the Troubles in Northern Ireland has inspired many filmmakers over several decades. Last November, Kenneth Branagh's acclaimed film **Belfast** had its triumphant Irish premiere appropriately at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast city. It was an emotional homecoming for the Belfast native and actor-director. At the Q/A session after the screening of the film, Branagh spoke movingly about the city that had inspired the semi-autobiographical love letter to his original 1960s home and family.



4) Name the two actors pictured and the acclaimed film this true-life story is based on.

5) Which cult American actor played an IRA terrorist trying to escape his past in the 1980s thriller film A Prayer for the Dying?

- a) Kevin Spacey
- b) Harrison Ford
- c) Mickey Rourke
- d) Willem Dafoe

6) Name Neil Jordan's quirky, Oscar-winning movie about an IRA man whose life takes a dramatic turn when he kidnaps a British soldier.

- a) Mickybo And Me
- b) The Crying Game
- c) We're No Angels
- d) Breakfast on Pluto

7) Jim Sheridan's The Boxer centres on a former Provisional IRA volunteer, who is trying to "go straight" after his release from prison. Name the actor who trained as a boxer for a year in Ireland, in preparation for the title role.

- a) Cillian Murphy
- b) Michael Fassbender
- c) Daniel Day-Lewis
- d) Liam Cunningham

8) Director Pat O'Connor's film drama Cal tells the story of a young IRA member who is involved in the murder of an RUC man, and later begins an affair with the dead man's wife. Which well-known British actress plays the role of the wife?

- a) Helen Mirren
- b) Helena Bonham Carter
- c) Glenda Jackson
- d) Emma Thompson

9) Which Oscar-winning American actress starred in Ken Loach's 90s political thriller Hidden Agenda about British state terrorism during the Troubles, involving the assassination of an American civil rights lawyer?

- a) Sigourney Weaver
- b) Meryl Streep
- c) Frances McDormand
- d) Kathy Bates

10) Which 1998 film and novel by Eoin MacNamee depicts the story of the real-life "Shankill Butchers", a loyalist gang in 1970s Belfast who carried out a killing spree of Catholic civilians?

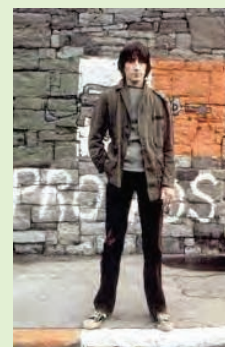
- a) Resurrection Man
- b) Shadow Dancer
- c) Shoot To Kill
- d) The Devil's Own



11) Name the two renowned actresses above and the Troubles-based film and story, co-written by Jim Sheridan, that they appear in.

12) Based on a true story, Titanic Town tells the story of an ordinary housewife (Julie Walters) who in defending her family takes on the different political factions of the Troubles in 1970s Belfast. Which celebrated Irish actor plays the role of Walter's husband in the film?

- a) Adrian Dunbar
- b) John Lynch
- c) Ciarán Hinds
- d) Gerald McSorley



1) Which well-known Irish actor played a troubled saxophone player, tracking down the loyalist killers of a deaf-mute girl, in Neil Jordan's Angel?

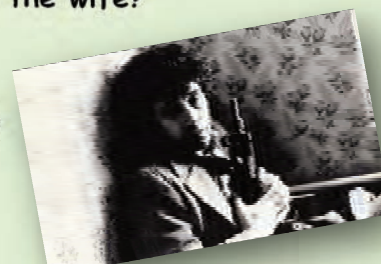
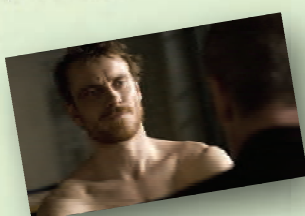
- a) Liam Neeson
- b) Stephen Rea
- c) Colin Meaney
- d) Richard Harris

2) Bloody Sunday is a 2002 film about the 1972 Bloody Sunday shootings in Derry. Which Northern Ireland actor played the leading role of civil rights activist and SDLP member Ivan Cooper?

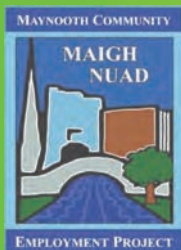
- a) Gerald McSorley
- b) Jamie Dornan
- c) Ciaran Hinds
- d) James Nesbitt

3) In which award-winning drama film, depicting the political events surrounding the 1981 Maze Hunger Strike, did Michael Fassbender play Bobby Sands?

- a) The Crying Game
- b) Patriot Games
- c) Harry's Game
- d) Hunger



The Answers to the Film Quiz will be available in the March edition of the Newsletter



Maynooth newsletter

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Local News - March 2022 - Issue No. 510 - Online Version

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



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



17th MARCH 2022

FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG MAIGH NUAD

17Ú MÁRTA 2022

Closing Date for Entries 5pm Friday 4th March 2022

Parade will start from
Greenfield Shopping Centre at 11 am

Entry Form Available Online @ www.maynoothcep.com

Application Forms also available for collection at

Maynooth Newsletter Office Tesco Shopping Centre

Or e-mail to: office@maynoothcep.com to request a form



Maynooth Community Council
invites you to

A Gathering of Remembrance

Sunday 20th March
3-4pm Harbour Field

Poetry, Prose, Music



Gathering of Remembrance

Maynooth Community Council invites you to a Gathering of Remembrance to remember and celebrate the lives of all who have been lost to Covid, and the lives of all those who passed away during the pandemic. We also gather to recognise and acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of all those who have been working throughout the pandemic, some of whom have lost their lives in that struggle.

The Gathering of Remembrance will be an hour of Prose, Poetry and Music. It will be held in the Maynooth Harbour Field on Sunday 20th March from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. It is free and open to all. There is no booking or ticket required. We have all been affected by Covid-19. As we look forward to the brighter days of Spring, please join us for this hour of remembrance and reflection.



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



Maynooth Newsletter

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

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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

Over the past two years we have mentioned the impacts at the various stages of the Covid 19 pandemic. While Covid 19 is still with us the need to impose restrictions on the population such as wearing face masks were finally removed at the end of last month. Restrictions have been replaced with guidance especially for people who are considered to be vulnerable to serious illness should they contract Covid 19. Take care of yourselves and each other while this virus is still around.

One feature of life over the past two years has been the use of technology to keep in touch with others be it family or for work or social activity. It is probably hard to find someone who managed to avoid using the Zoom Platform considering that most people never knew such technology existed before the pandemic. It was among a number of platforms that supported meetings for a large number of people with ease and there is no doubt that we will continue to use it even though most people will want to return to face to face meetings.

Maynooth University has planned a number of Zoom events in March and one such event that caught my attention is called "it's not a Chase it's a marathon – from Rathcoole to Oxford and ITVs The Chase via Maynooth University which is presented by Dr. Darragh Ennis who is better known as "The Menace" on the popular ITV quiz show. His talk will focus on the highs and lows of his life after the leaving certificate exam and his route to be successful in his chosen career and the other opportunities that can bring you in an unplanned direction. The Zoom event is scheduled for Wednesday March 23rd at 10am for an hour and will be of interest to young people in Maynooth.



*Dr. Darragh Ennis
(ITV'S - The Menace)
photo courtesy Maynooth University*

Elsewhere in this month's publication the issue of the shortage of General Practice doctors in Maynooth is being highlighted. Conscious that the problem will only get worse in a town that continues to grow with the range of new housing developments in the pipeline. Last year we had the retirement of two doctors who have taken care of the people of Maynooth for many years. Dr. Christopher O'Rourke had his practice at the Kingsbry Medical Centre in where he worked for over forty years. Nearby on the Straffan Road, Dr. Maurice Cowhey worked from the Park Lodge Medical Centre. Both men were well liked and in addition to their medical work were very supportive of community activities. Both men deserve to take it easy as the work of general practice has become very challenging. On behalf of the people of Maynooth we wish them a long and healthy retirement.

Talking about a long and healthy life one hail and hearty Maynooth resident has celebrated his 100th birthday. Michael Caden reached this major milestone in February and was able to post a video on social media thanking everyone for marking the great occasion with him. Congratulations Michael on behalf of the many people in Maynooth like myself who have the pleasure of knowing you.

Many of you will have noticed that the growth has started for 2022 and although with frost possible it is always recommended that you do not give your lawn a big cut until after St. Patrick's Day. Of course the weeds are here, looking fresh and well. Unfortunately weeds can grow quickly and invade new spaces and are not always attractive. As you know Maynooth Community Employment Project work in the Maynooth Harbour area keeping it attractive as a public amenity. Part of the work that has already started for this year is the trimming back of the edges along the Royal Canal Towpath while allowing the wider verge to flourish and support natural flora and fauna.



*Maynooth Community
Employment staff working
in Maynooth Harbour*

With the recent lifting of Covid restrictions the Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade Committee have decided to organise a Parade in Maynooth this year. The organising of the Parade would normally start behind the scenes in December. This year, due to the uncertainty, planning started in late January. What is normally a mammoth task has become more difficult this year and we wish the Committee ever success with the event. Happy St Patrick's Day.

**Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter
will be Monday 28th March 2022**

MAYNOOTH DRESSES

Find us at Unit 3 San Feliu, Fagan's Lane, Maynooth
(Behind EBS Main St)

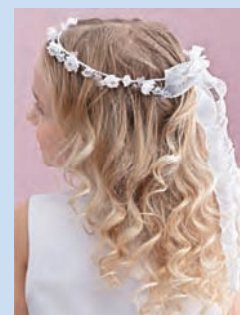
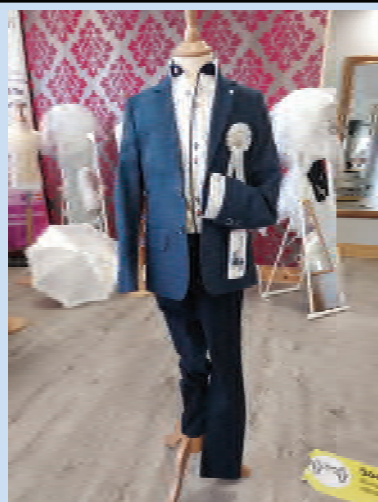
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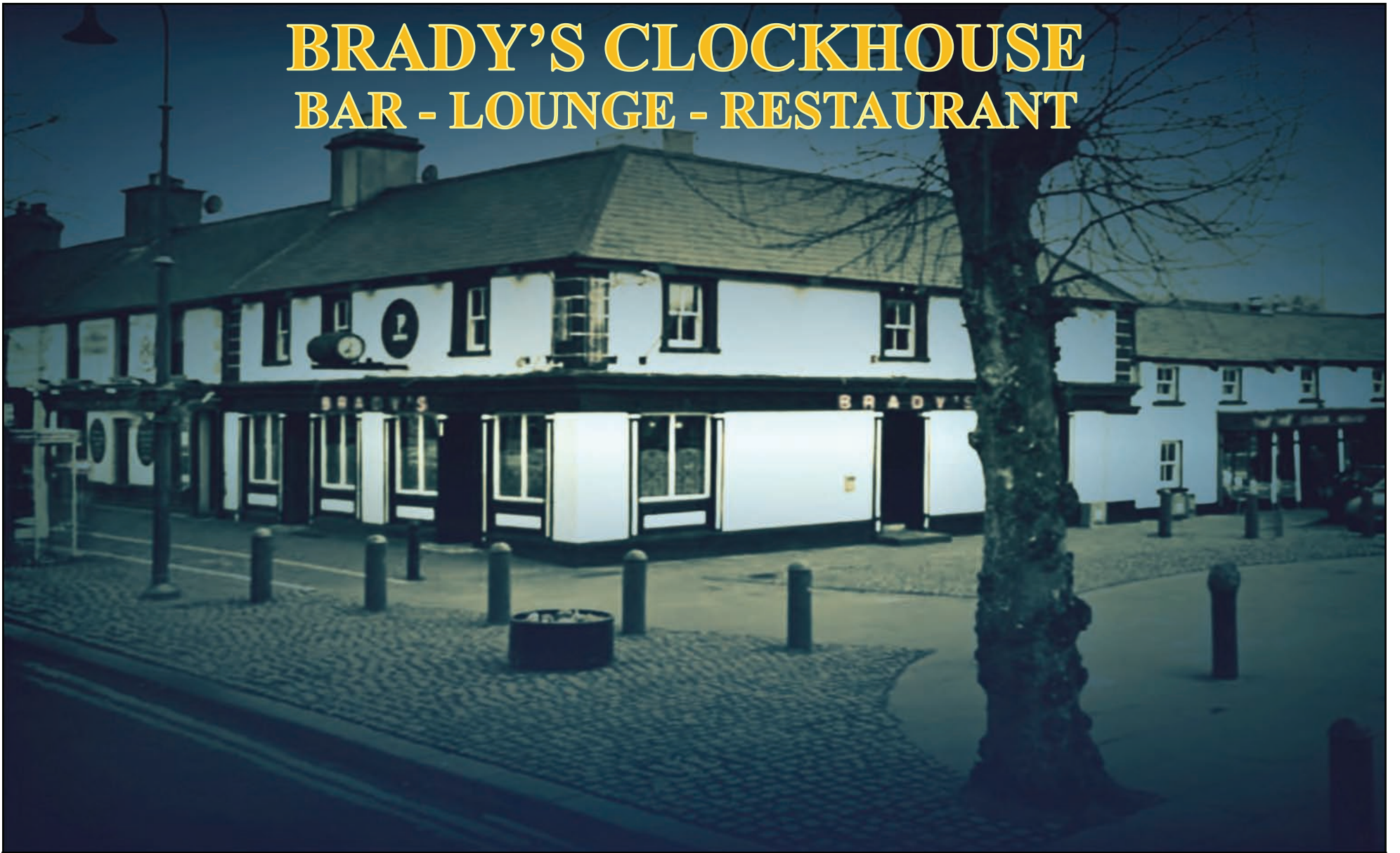


SUNDAY 27TH MARCH 2022



Don't forget to set you clocks forward on
Sunday, March 27th, at 1.00 a.m.

BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



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Happy St. Patrick's Day

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MEC PTA Maynooth 10K/5K – 3rd April @ 10am in the new MEC campus

After a two-year break because of the Covid pandemic, the Maynooth 10K/5K returns this year and it will be on **Sunday April 3rd at 10am**. This year the Maynooth 10K/5K will start at the brand new MEC campus on the Moyglare road where there is ample parking for everyone.

Maynooth Post Primary was founded in 1971 and this year the school celebrates it's 50th anniversary and to celebrate this milestone the Maynooth 10K/5K committee have designed a really stylish collectable medal for all who participate in this event.



We greatly appreciate the sponsorship of these medals for the last three years by **Pearls Dental** and to **Specsavers** for the sponsoring the snoods. We would also like to welcome a new sponsor **Highfield Veterinary Maynooth** for sponsoring the race numbers. Both the 10K & 5K will start at the new MEC Campus and run down Moyglare Road and after the entrance to Maynooth University the runners will make their way across the newly opened Lyreen Avenue to the Dunboyne Road. The 10K runners will then make their way to Carton estate via the Blacklion Road and return to the MEC Campus by Carton Avenue, Dunboyne Road, Lyreen Avenue and the Moyglare Road. This event is a fundraiser for the upkeep of the multi-purpose playing fields shared by Maynooth GAA on the Moyglare Road and it also raise money for a Multi-Use Games Area located on the MEC Campus.

This is our tenth year organising this event and each year we call on all sectors of the community to assist us and without fail they gather and give their time and expertise.

This positive aspect of our community is greatly appreciated. Without the support of our business community, volunteers, sponsors and associate organisations, the organisation of the 10K/5K would not be possible. Financial support is vital to cover organisational costs, including health and safety measures which alone costs over €2,000. We also greatly appreciate the support from the Community Employment Scheme office to advertise the event. Register on-line at www.popupraces.ie. Entry fee is €20 for an individual or €40 per family. Teams of 4 also get a 10% discount when they register on-line.



Please note: Both the 10K and 5K race get underway at **10am sharp at the MEC Campus**. All participants and friends are invited into the school after the race for our prize giving ceremony and refreshments, provided by our hard-working MEC PTA Committee.

We hope to welcome hundreds of runners, joggers, and visitors to our town on Sunday 3rd April. We wish all the participants in the 10K/5K, a most enjoyable day. Each participant will receive one of our stylish 50th Anniversary collectable medal and fashionable snood and we hope that they will return on an annual basis. We are very grateful to Carton House Hotel for allowing us to avail of this scenic route and all our generous sponsors and volunteers on whom we depend to run this great event.

Photo below of the launch of the Maynooth 10k/5k.

L-R Pat Gilligan, Johnny Nevin (MPPS Principal), Francis Bradley, Conor Dewey (Specsavers), Teresa Murray, Hazell Mullins (Highfield Veterinary), Úna Phillips, Eimear White & Siobhán McCauley (MCC Principal).



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



**Happy
St. Patrick's
Day to All**



Phone



E-mail



Cllr. Angela Feeney

Tel. 087 238 1962

Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com

Stay safe everyone.



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Maynooth Cycling Campaign Notes



Meeting with An Garda Siochana

Following on from the public meeting of the Joint Policing Board in December, Maynooth Cycling Campaign held a productive meeting with Garda Superintendent Gray, who is in charge of the Leixlip District. The meeting covered a wide range of topics including close passing, illegal parking, speeding and drivers ignoring pedestrian crossings. A fuller report will be carried on the Campaign website.

Critical Mass Event – Naas

At the time of writing, Naas Cycling Campaign has planned a second #Critical Mass Cycle on 26th February. The Cycle which is designed for all the family is to highlight the poor facilities for cyclists in Naas. Naas Cycling Campaign has announced that the cycle will become a regular monthly event.

Newbridge

The town of Newbridge is the latest to experience “Bikelash” against the provision of Covid temporary cycle lanes on its Main Street. The “debate” centres on the location of the cycle lane – whether it should be located between the parked car and the footpath or than between the parked car and live traffic lanes. The former is Dutch best practice in the safest country for cycling but some locals hold a different opinion. The safety of narrow lanes for traffic also features. Like Maynooth, many of those who object to the measures on the pretext of safety but really want to maintain the status quo i.e. prioritising the place of cars on our roads.

Temporary Traffic Orders

On the same subject, Eamon Ryan, the Minister for Transport, has announced that he intends to introduce temporary traffic orders to allow local authority officials to trial new road layouts without the consent of councillors. This is

in response to the court case which decided that Dublin City Council could not trial temporary cycle facilities in Sandymount which involved reducing a two-way road to one way for cars.

Kiss the Gates Goodbye!

The government has announced that kissing gates and other restrictive barriers on walking and cycling routes are to be removed. This follows a campaign by Maynooth Cycling Campaign among others against kissing gates and substandard accesses on the Royal Canal. Maynooth Cycling Campaign wish to thank Catherine Murphy T.D. and Bernard Durkan T.D. for asking questions in the Dáil on the subject on our behalf. Maynooth Cycling Campaign had previously attempted to raise the issue at Kildare County Council’s Transport Strategic Policy Committee but was repeated blocked by the then Chair.

Road Safety

In 2021, it is estimated that there were 8 road fatalities, 4 of which were pedestrians in County Kildare. In 2020, there were 6 road fatalities, 3 of which were pedestrians including 1 in Newbridge.

Recent reports from the RSA also showed the increased risk of serious injury to cyclists compared to drivers. For drivers, there are 6 serious injuries per driver fatality. For cyclists, there are 25, more than four times the figure for drivers.

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.



New MU research shows North Atlantic and Eurasia jet stream moving northwards and increasing in speed

Maynooth University ICARUS Climate Research Centre academic compares the jet stream over North Atlantic, Eurasia, America and North Pacific

Maynooth Ireland; 22 February 2022: New research at Maynooth University's ICARUS Climate Research Centre has found that the jet stream is moving northwards and increasing in speed, influencing storm activity and temperature patterns across the Northern Hemisphere.

The average winter northern hemisphere jet stream position over the North Atlantic and Eurasia has moved northwards by up to 330km, and the mean winter jet speed has increased by 8% to 132mph, during the 141-year period from 1871-2011.

Just this week, the jet stream brought storms Dudley, Eunice and Franklin to Ireland and the UK. Jet streams are fast bands of air which flow around the globe at around ten thousand metres above the Earth's surface, and have a significant influence on storm activity and temperature patterns across the northern hemisphere which can impact the weather through strong winds and flooding events. This is the longest regional study of the northern hemisphere jet stream and research finds that the trends observed are potential indicators of climate change.

According to the study published this week in the peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Climate Dynamics*, provides a regional (land - ocean) comparison of the Northern Hemisphere jet stream, and finds that jet stream trends vary on a regional and seasonal basis. Between 1871 and 2011 the average winter jet stream latitude over the North Atlantic moved from 44° to 47° north with a 10 mph increase in speed to 132mph, but no increases were observed over the North Pacific.

The lead author of the paper, [Dr Samantha Hallam](#), of the [ICARUS Climate Research Centre](#) at Maynooth University in Ireland, and the National Oceanography Centre in the UK, said:

"Significant increases in winter jet latitude and speed are observed over the North Atlantic and Eurasia which is consistent with the decreasing temperature and increasing pressure gradients observed between the equator and the Arctic over the period.

"Over the North Pacific, no increase in jet latitude or speed are observed, however, changes in the North Pacific sea surface temperatures explains over 50% of the variability in jet latitude.

"The results highlight that Northern Hemisphere jet variability, and trends differ on a regional basis. This is important for making climate predictions and in developing plans to combat climate change," she added. These findings are the result of a statistical analysis of the 250mb jet stream using the Twentieth Century Reanalysis dataset. The research was supported by the Marine Institute and funded by the Irish Government under the JPI Climate and JPI Ocean joint call and the Natural Environmental Research Council, and involved collaboration ICARUS Climate Research Centre at Maynooth University in Ireland, University of Southampton, UK, and National Oceanography Centre, UK.

Read the full article: A regional (land-ocean) comparison of the seasonal to decadal variability of the Northern Hemisphere jet stream 1871-2011
Download the pdf: DOI : 10.1007/s00382-022-06185-5



Dr. Samantha Hallam



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Gold Medal Winner

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on the **10th March 2022**
at 7.30pm, in the Glenroyal Hotel and Leisure Club.
 Everyone is welcome to attend.

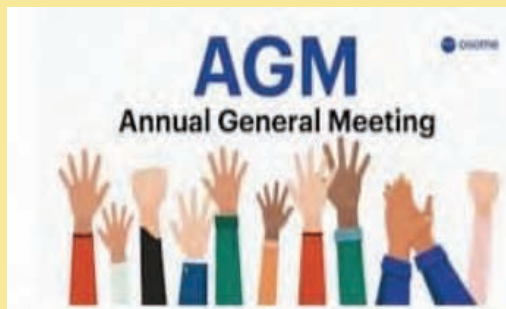
We have lots of projects lined up for 2022, hopefully when the weather improves in April we will be able to complete the tasks.

Thanks again to all our volunteers who ventured out during January /February sometimes in very poor conditions, litter picking and the clean up on the Joan Slade river, Parsons Street.



We hope you all have a very happy St Patrick's day.

Mary Molloy, Secretary Maynooth Tidy Towns



Lá Fheile Padraig for 2022



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Or, email:
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Catherine Murphy, Your Kildare North
Social Democrats TD

Flower Arranging Tips

The best tips for arranging flowers in a vase center on both aesthetics and practicality. Choose the most appropriate vase, Choosing a vase of not only the right size but also the right style is an essential part of flower arranging. Trim flowers and arrange them according to height, and pay attention to water quality. Flowers can be arranged in vases in a variety of ways to create a host of different effects. There is no right or wrong way to arrange flowers in a vase, but planning out how the arrangement should look before getting started is often beneficial.



Organizing and sorting the flowers comes next. Many bouquets combine floral stems with foliage, such as leaves or decorative sprays. These should usually go near the back or bottom, and as such should be set aside. Remaining flowers should be organized by height, bloom size, and color. The goal is to create a dynamic arrangement that highlights the individual features of each bloom.

For flowers to last a long time in a vase arrangement, they will need to be trimmed so that their stems can continue to receive moisture. Flowers that have been cut for some time tend to dry out at the ends of their stems, which can impede the flow of nutrients and shorten a bloom's vase life. The best way to trim stems is with a sharp pair of floral scissors or a paring knife. Stems should be cut at upward angle, at least ¼ inch up.

Flower longevity also depends at least in part on the water quality. Water should ideally be warm to the touch, but not hot, and should contain some form of plant food or bloom fertilizer. This fertilizer often comes with store-bought bouquets. White sugar is an easy at-home substitute. Adding about a teaspoon of sugar or bloom solution to a vase will help optimize the life of a vase arrangement.



Bouquets can be arranged to be front-facing, with the majority of the blooms facing the same direction, or they can be rounded. They can be minimalist, or brimming over the edges. In all cases, stems should be added to the vase one at a time, beginning with the tallest and progressing in order of stem height. Stems can always be removed, rearranged, and trimmed down to change the look.

Source: www.wise-geek.com/what-are-the-best-tips-for-arranging-flowers-in-a-vase.htm



Maynooth University Town F.C



Leinster Senior League Noel Ryan Cup 1st Round Town 5 - Columbas Rovers 2

Town were always in control in this Saturday Division Cup game. Town had strength in abundance throughout the side and easily advanced to the 2nd round. Goals by Hancock, Walsh, Kinsella McKeown and Pierce ensured an easy victory.

and denied the Town on several occasions. Half-time with the game scoreless but Town upped their game in the second half and were rewarded in the 53rd minute when Jake Amour was hacked down at the edge of the penalty area. Alex Fitzgabbin fired home the resultant free-kick to the relief of the home side.

Leinster Senior League Senior Division Sunday

Town 1 - Cherry Orchard F.C. 2
This was a game the Town will want to forget in a hurry. The shortage of a number of regulars in no way minimized the disappointment of a poor result. With the game set for a draw Orchard stole in for the in added time. Jack O'Connor's lone goal was the only compensation for the Town.

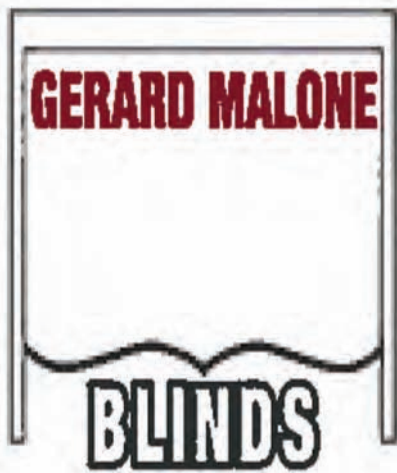
In the 80th minute Town sealed the result when Dylan Kavanagh slotted home a chance setup by Paddy O'Sullivan. Town closed out the game and ran out easy winners. A pleasing aspect of the game was the return to the home side of Dylan Kavanagh after a long term injury layoff. Showing that he had not lost his sharpness in front of goal when he expertly finished Paddy O'Sullivan's neat pass. The Town are still competing in three cup competition with a chance of bringing home some silverware.

FAI Intermediate Cup (Round of 16)

Town 2 - Bangor G.G.F.C. 0
The score line fails to do justice to an excellent display in this much improved performance. Town took control of the game early. The Bangor keeper was in inspired form

Highlights of this game can be found on UTube by following the link below.

<https://youtu.be/F5rao4mMUyw>



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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. (P.B.)

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received.

SAINT THERESE Saint Expedite Prayer for Urgent Needs Prayers

(This prayer is to be said daily until your request is granted, Be sure to publish this prayer thanking Saint Expedite, so that his name and glory will grow.)

Saint Expedite, you lay in rest. I come to you and ask that this wish be granted.
(Mention your urgent request)

Saint Expedite now what I ask of you. Saint Expedite now what I want of you, this very second. Don't waste another day. Grant me what I ask for.

I know your power, I know you because of your work. I know you can help me. Do this for me and I will spread your name with love and honor so that it will be invoked again and again. Expedite this wish with speed, love, honor, and goodness.

Glory to you, Saint Expedite! (P.B.)

How to Protect yourself & your Family at home

Sharing our plans on social media, leaving out spare keys and forgetting to lock doors and windows are just a few of the simple mistakes we're making that are inviting burglars into our homes! With an increase in burglars breaking into homes lately, especially in remote areas it is vital to keep your home security a priority and learn how to keep your home safe from burglars¹.

Home Alarm

The most effective way to keep your home safe from burglars is having a home alarm system installed. If a potential intruder sees you have an alarm system in your home it will likely deter them for trying to break in, and if not, hearing a triggered alarm will definitely send them running!

Garden

Keep trees and bushes neatly trimmed so that they can't block the sight lines and give criminals a place to hide. Also, ensure you don't leave any items around your garden that could be used to gain entry into your home such as hammers, ladders and shovels. Pick up a "Beware of Dog" sign to hang in your front window or porch.



Doors & Windows

Double check you've locked your front and back doors when leaving your home, even if you're only popping out for a few minutes. A lot of break-ins occur when people are actually at home so it's vital you lock your doors even when you are at home. Have a chain lock on your door and only open it when you know who is outside.

Some people leave their windows unlocked in unoccupied rooms while at home. This is exactly what an opportunistic burglar is on the lookout for so make sure your windows in any unoccupied rooms are kept locked.

Spare Key

If you want to have a spare key in case you get locked out, leave it with a trusted neighbour. A lot of people leave keys under mats outside & under flower pots which gives a potential intruder a great easy opportunity to gain entry into your home.

Social Media

Many of us are in the habit of posting our whereabouts on social media however it's not a good idea to tell everyone about the fact your home's empty! If you really can't resist, make sure your social media accounts are set to private so only your friends can see what you post.

Interior Lighting

Having the lights consistently on while you're not at home actually makes it more obvious nobody's home (and costs you a fortune!). One option is to set your lamps on a timer.

Other activities burglars could take as a sign of an empty home:

- Blinds down or curtains pulled closed during the day.
- A build-up of newspapers and post in your porch or letterbox.
- An uncut or unmaintained garden.

Exterior Lighting

Motion sensor lighting is probably the most useful outside lighting to provide extra security for either the front or the back of the house.



Sensor lights are quite inexpensive and act as excellent deterrents.

You can point them towards pathways, decking, patio areas or even heavy foliage areas where people could easily hide.

Make sure you position your security lights high enough up that they won't be easily tampered with. Check your lights regularly and replace bulbs as quickly as possible when needed.

While there's no surefire way to prevent a burglar from casing your house, remaining vigilant and taking precautionary measures will help protect your home and family in the long run.

**We all want to stay safe at home.
It is meant to be a place of safety and comfort.**

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Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Installation of Electronic Speed Sign on Pikes Bridge Road

Cllr Feeney called on the Council to install an electronic speed sign on the Pike's Bridge Road given the increased volume of traffic on this road. Cllr Feeney supported the residents on this road and the Gardai before Christmas for the Slow Down Day to raise awareness not only of the volume of traffic but of the speeding that occurs. Cllr Feeney also added that there is no footpath on this road. The Council said it would arrange for a speed survey to be carried out on Pike's Bridge road and the results of the survey would determine if an electronic speed sign is warranted. Cllr Feeney welcomed this and the fact that the Municipal District Office confirmed that it is working with An Garda Síochána in relation to traffic on this road. Since the meeting, Cllr Feeney has been informed that a monitor box was installed two weeks ago and the Gardai were monitoring traffic on the road that same week. Cllr Feeney looks forward to receiving the results from the surveys.

Parking for People with Disabilities

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to request that parking bays for disabled drivers be installed at the car park at Leinster Street, Maynooth. While the Council stated that this car park is a private car park and outside the remit of the Council, the matter has been referred to the Planning Department for a report on the conditions of the planning permission. At the meeting Cllr Feeney stated that this car park is beside the funeral parlour and the health centre and yet there are no designated disabled bays. Cllr Feeney looks forward to the feedback from the planning department on this.

Retrofitting Programme Update

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide an update on its Retrofitting Programme for its housing stock in this municipal district. The Council confirmed that its Housing Department is currently completing works under the Midlands Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (MEERP) at twenty-one (21) homes in Derrinturn. These works are substantially complete (19 units) and will be finalised during this quarter (Q1, 2022).

Cllr Feeney commented that this is good news for Derrinturn and great progress to hear it is near completion, she asked about the next steps for the Council's remaining stock especially given that some of the oldest houses in the county are in this MD. Cllr Feeney said that many older occupants residents have to go through the only other route to apply for housing adaptation grants for improved windows or doors and is onerous and a lengthy process, more piecemeal in approach compared to a complete retrofitting programme.

Swimming Pool Saga

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide an update on the planned provision of a swimming pool in Maynooth. She was informed that an update of the appeals process was requested from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media on Monday 10 January. The response below was received on Tuesday 11 January:

"In relation to your request for an update on the appeal the position as per the below email remains the same, a decision on the outcome of the review is yet to be finalised. It is expected that the review will be completed shortly. The response pertaining to the appeal will be issued directly to the project lead.

Please note once the review is complete the scope for awarding new grants to projects which missed out under the first set of allocations and the timing of any new call for proposals will be considered." Cllr Feeney added that the swimming pool saga continues and thanked the Council for requesting this update from the department; it is good to hear that the outcome of the review will be issued shortly. There is still hope there.

Cllr Feeney's upcoming MD motions and questions:

Motions:

1. That the Council carries out an assessment of the Dublin Road in Maynooth from Doctor's Lane to Carton Retail Park to identify and address accessibility issues on this section of the town.
2. That the Council extends the footpath on Leinster Street Maynooth as far as the Health Centre.

Questions:

1. Can the Council provide a report on the implementation of the flood relief measures for Brookfield Avenue, Meadowbrook and Parson Street Maynooth.
2. Can the Council provide an update on the Masterplan for Carton Avenue?

Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney since last newsletter:

- Feb. 1st 10:00 CDP Workshop (online)
- Feb. 3rd 14:00 Strategic Policy Committee (online)
- Feb. 4th 10:00 Council MD (online)
- Feb. 9th 19:30 BOM Coláiste Chiaráin (online)
- Feb. 10th 11:30 Twinning Liaison Committee (online)
- Feb. 24th 10:00 CDP Meeting in Newbridge Town Hall
- Feb. 25th 10:00 CDP Meeting in Newbridge Town Hall
- Feb. 28th 15:00 CDP Plenary Council Meeting in Newbridge Town Hall

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HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE

Maynooth: a Socio-Economic Community Profile 1901-1911 Highlights from the past.

This research focused on the 1901 and 1911 censuses for Maynooth to get a picture of the population profile of the town and how it differed in the ten year period. The census for these years provides information about families, businesses, employment, housing, education, and religion. Other primary sources such as St. Patrick's College Wage Books for Servants, Labourers' and Tradesmen

for the period or part of the period were consulted and offered further information on employment. A "wage book" for the years 1887-1921 in the College archives and a book titled "country bills" which covered 1887 to 1928 provided valuable information about the college business dealings in the locality. Newspapers such as the *Kildare Observer* and the *Irish Times* contained information about the businesses and social life in the town and the changing relationship with Carton Estate.

The article will highlight findings and will be covered the *Maynooth Newsletter* over the next few months. It will outline a brief history of Maynooth and then focus on the population profile of the town as a whole. Place of birth, education, religion, family size will be examined. The college census for the years will be examined separately because of its unique identity and population size. The article will look at employment in the locality including occupation profiles, rates of pay, job descriptions, length of service and conditions of employment. Carton Estate employees, business, living and social aspects of the community will be addressed. Retail outlets, in particular Dawson's Shop, organisations and business dealings with the College will be included. Social events such as dances, racing, the drama society will be covered. Reports on the Royal visit and the Duke of Leinster's coming of age give some insight into the paternal relationship that existed between the towns people and Carton Estate.

Brief History of Maynooth

Maynooth is situated in the Barony of North Salt in County Kildare. The origin of the lands around was known as Mag Nuadat in early Christian times. Mag meaning open plain and Nuadat being an early Irish legendary figure.

Maynooth's development began with the settlement and establishment of Maynooth Castle in the late twelfth century. This was followed by the development of Carton Estate to the east in the 18th century and the subsequent landlord planned town. The Royal College of St. Patrick situated at the west end of the town was established in 1795 for the education of seminarians.

Maynooth began with a small settlement around its Castle. The manor of Maynooth and lands were granted to Maurice Fitzgerald by Richard de Clare former Earl of Pembroke known as Strongbow in 1176. The Fitzgeralds established and developed the Castle and became the most powerful family in Ireland. Garret Mór the eight Earl, known as the great earl of Kildare, governed Ireland in the name of the King of England from 1487 until his death in 1513. The idea of central government came into play which had consequences for the Fitzgeralds and their rule in Ireland. The power of the Kildare Fitzgerald was finally broken when the ninth Earl was dismissed as deputy. Thomas, Lord Offaly known as 'Silken Thomas' declared himself in revolt and was executed with his uncles as traitors on Tyburn Hill in 1537. Maynooth was restored to Gerald, half brother to Silken Thomas, by Edward VI in 1557. But the power of the family was never to be the same again. By 1750 Maynooth was a market



and post town. Its appearance was unplanned. At the east end of the town Carton House and Demesne, later the home of the Earl of Kildare, began a new phase of development. James the twentieth Earl succeeded to the title in 1744 and was responsible for the transformation of Maynooth town. By 1760 the demesne of 1,100 acres was enclosed with five miles of high wall. James built up the farms and built slated stone houses for tenant farmers. Carton remained a property of the Fitzgerald family until it was sold in 1949 to Lord Brockett. Maynooth College was established in 1795 and occupied a space beside the Castle at the other end of the town from Carton Estate.

Town Development

The streets and townlands that make up the Maynooth area include the following: Backlane, Ballycurraghan, Ballygoran, Barrogstown, Barrogstown West, Blakestown, Carton Demesne, Catherine's Town, College Land, Convent Lane, Cormickstown, Courthouse Street, Crewhill, Crinstown, Dillon's Row, Doctor's Lane, Donaghstown, Double Lane, Dowdstown, Dublin Road, Fagan's Lane, Greenfield, Griffinrath, Kellystown, Laraghbryan East, Laraghbryan West, Leinster Street, Main Street, Mariavilla, Maws, Maynooth, Moneycooley, Newtown, Old Carton, Parsons Street, Parsons Street Upper, Railpark, Ravensdale, Rowanstown, School Lane, Timard and Treadstown.

In 1757 the first row of uniform two-storey slated houses appeared to the east end of the town on the north side of the main street. This was in line with Carton Avenue linking the landed estate with the town and subsequently with St. Patrick's College in 1795. By 1781 a market complete with Market Square had been established on the south side of the Main Street. The Leinster Arms on the south of the town was opened by Richard Vouden in 1777. Stoyte House was leased by the College from the Duke of Leinster's steward John Stoyte and became the nucleus building on the campus of St. Patrick's College.

The Royal College of St. Patrick was established in 1795. The Duke of Leinster was influential in having the College established at Maynooth. As student numbers rose by 1850s further buildings were constructed in the college. Extensive college building continued from the middle of the nineteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century which offered employment in the town. Other college buildings were established in the 1930s.

By the 1830s Maynooth as it appears in 1901 was virtually complete. There was the addition of houses along Parson's Street, Pound Lane, Convent Lane and Dillon's Row. The Presentation Sisters established a school in the old Charter School in 1824. The new Catholic Church was built in a more prominent location between 1835-1840. In 1845 the Midland Great Western Railway Company bought the Royal Canal and built a railway alongside it. Kavanagh's Manor Mills on an original mill site was in business as early as 1863. A laundry was established in the convent in 1887. (Sean Durack)

To be continued...



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4. €60,000 loan over 10 years. €671.26 per month for 120 months. Representative APR 6.17% variable rate. Total Cost of Credit €20,550.81
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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

The Fourth Musketeer

"That must be it!" Kathy indicated stone pillars surmounted by broken eagles. Donal jammed on the brakes of his hired Mazda before turning in off the public road. Beech trees fractured the sunlight as the car crawled up the rutted avenue. Glancing at the wristwatch his parishioners had given him in America he saw that it was almost two, fifteen minutes later than arranged. Not that Seamus was too fussy about time. In his friend Gerry's opinion he had regressed to a bygone age. What would Castle Ronan look like? Gerry maintained the place wasn't even a castle, just an 18th Century mansion that was eating up all Seamus' money – though as a retired solicitor, who had spent more time backing horses than representing clients, Gerry was in no position to scoff.

"Careful!" Kathy's warning alerted him to a giant pothole on their left. When they emerged from the trees the fields on either side looked untended, ragwort and thistles showing above the lush grass. In the distance they could see a two-storey, neoclassical mansion with steps leading up to columns fronting a brown door. As they drew closer he noticed that one window was boarded up and part of the roof's stone balustrade broken.

Before they got out of the car Seamus was coming down the steps to greet them. With his erect posture, tweeds and trimmed grey beard he looked every inch the country gentleman. After shaking hands warmly, he led them up to the open door, lamenting the state in which vandals had left the place before he bought it. The entrance hall was bleak, the mouldings chipped and the great wooden stairs looking distinctly unsafe. In rooms on either side of the hall salvaged tables and chairs, moulting stuffed animals, antique pictures and objets d'art had replaced the original furnishings.

Soon Donal was examining a 16th Century map on the drawing room table while Seamus led Kathy on a tour of the servants' quarters. The two had hit it off right away, the retired architect proudly showing his exotic visitor some prize acquisitions, while she enthused about how much they would fetch in New York. Why did she find it so hard to praise his-own watercolours?

He caught up with them in the library, where a log fire had been lit to offset the damp chill. Seamus produced an album with black and white photos taken when he and Donal were students.

"Oh, look at those mops of hair!" Kathy exclaimed. "You were both so handsome!"

"Meaning we look like old fogies now!" Seamus kidded. "No, I didn't mean that," she assured him. "You both look really distinguished – by the way, who's this guy with the glasses?"

"That's Gerry, the third Musketeer," Donal examined the photo, "the man we met on Friday."

"Oh, I'd never recognise him." She turned to Seamus. "He's really bald now and quite overweight – not like you two."

"Yes," Seamus smiled, "your father and I are like good wine, improving with age."

"If Gerry was the third Musketeer, I guess you were the other two?" Kathy said.

"Yes," Seamus grinned. "Father Tom, our English teacher, gave us the nickname when he nabbed us on the college roof."

"Wow!" Kathy's eyes lit up.

"Did you hear about the cottage outside Athlone Gerry was restoring?" Donal asked.

"What about it?" Seamus threw more logs on the fire.

"It burned down this spring," Donal told him. "Probably vandals. Gerry's devastated."

"Bloody vandals!" Seamus shook his head. "But sure he can always build another one."

"It's not so easy to begin again at our age," Donal remarked.

"Raméis!" Seamus snorted. "Come out, Kathy, till I show you the granary. I'm converting it into a studio for Paul –

my son's an architect-cum-artist up in Dublin."

After the two had gone Donal continued to examine the photos, fighting off sadness. He was past his threescore years and ten and what had he to show for it? Absentmindedly he twisted his wedding ring, remembering Lillian, for whom he had given up the priesthood. She was so beautiful and, after his years of celibacy, so life affirming, but then God had taken her away as if to show that earthly happiness is a mirage. He recalled his later years of teaching unruly teenagers in Saint Mary's and Kathy's resentment because he had replaced her father, the drunken ex-baseball player who had made Lillian's life hell. Four years ago Kathy had fled from their comfortable home in Queens to a tiny apartment in the East Village, where she worked as a bookstore clerk while trying to write. If only he could convince her on this trip that he really cared for her.

Putting the album down, he hurried out to the farmyard, a rectangle of derelict stone buildings. In one corner a grey horse was eating apples from a bucket. Voices floated down from the granary, against which a scaffold had been built. Donal mounted a ladder leading to the scaffold. Half way up he froze. Kathy was saying: "It's just that he doesn't know when a picture's finished."

Good God, was she dismissing his painting so lightly, the one thing that during his years of teaching had kept him sane? Crestfallen he descended and wandered over to the back of the house to inspect an arched window on the first floor. After a while the other two joined him.

"That originally had stained glass with the O'Mulloy arms," Seamus explained. "It was smashed before I got the place so I had to put in plain glass. The coat of arms hit you as you mounted the stairs, a magnificent sight – Ah well, come inside and I'll make you tea."

On the journey back to the hotel Donal forced himself to ask Kathy what the studio was like.

"Half finished like everything else," she chuckled.

"Seamus expects Paul to live there without a bathroom or running water. That might have been okay when there were lots of servants to fetch and carry but not now."

"Did you see Paul's paintings?"

"Yes, a few. They're good – but abstract. You wouldn't like them."

"Possibly. What do you think of Seamus?"

"He's a real nice guy." She hesitated. "I think he's lonely though."

The knowledge came to him like a knife stab: he reminds her of Joe, her real father! The same blind belief in some madcap enterprise. Thank God Joe was dead – No, he didn't mean that. "Why do you think he's lonely?"

"His wife's living in Salthill, so they rarely meet. And he's all alone out here."

Weren't they all like that? Gerry divorced these ten years, grieving for his cottage. And he himself – what was he? Another lost soul pining for – what exactly was he pining for? Not money; he had enough of that. Not recognition – he wasn't ambitious – Maybe to have Lillian back so that they could chat again or listen to Andy Williams singing Moon River? Maybe to be a father that Kathy would love, not just respect? Maybe to be a grandfather too, just to feel that life went on?

"He said you were real wild." She sounded intrigued.

"Oh, Seamus likes to embellish," he demurred.

"Why did you become a priest?"

The question startled him. It was something she had never asked before and he tried to explain that that was how he had been brought up. It was why his parents had sent him to Summerhill, the diocesan College.

"Do you know the gold cross I wear about my neck?" he said. "Mam gave me that on my ordination. She and Dad were so proud of me. But the life was lonely – always consoling others and then at night there was no one to turn to. When Lillian came to me for help my heart went out to her. But that's enough about me. What about yourself, Kathy? Are you happy?"

Instead of answering she began to cry. Dismayed, he asked what was wrong, but she wouldn't say, so he drove on till they reached the hotel car park. Then switching off the engine, he turned to her. "What is it, Kathy?"

"It's you and mam," she sobbed. "You were so wrapped up in yourselves you never thought about how I felt."

"That's not true," he protested.

"Oh, but it is!" she cried. "Did you know the kids at school mocked me because my mother had married a priest? Did you know that I was smoking pot and hanging out with the school rejects?"

"We knew you were a bit of a rebel," he admitted.

"A bit of a rebel!" she repeated. "You're so blind! Did you know that my writing is crap and that the guy I've been living with these past two years has just dumped me? Of course you didn't. You were too busy with your painting." Instead of defending himself he encouraged her to go on. Much – no, most of what she said was justified. He had been so preoccupied with his own problems he had failed to see beyond her self-confident facade. Thank God, his eyes had finally been opened.

When she had regained her composure they went into the hotel bar and he ordered toast and coffee. They said little till the barmaid arrived with their order then Kathy asked unexpectedly, "Dad, why don't you sell that house of yours in Queens, give Seamus the money for his restoration work and move in with him?"

"What put that idea into your head?" He looked at her amazed.

"You're a different person here in Ireland," she said, "far more relaxed. I could visit you each summer – if that was okay?"

Hope surged through him, threatening his composure.

"Wouldn't you like to have our house when I'm gone, Kathy?"

"Not really." She shook her head. "Possessions are a trap. I've met people in Laos and India who were living in huts and they were a thousand times happier than we are."

"Why waste money then on Castle Ronan?"

"That's different. It could be turned into a retreat for artists and writers."

"It would be a major risk – And Seamus might balk..." He paused. "Even the money I'd get for our house wouldn't meet half the restoration costs."

"You wouldn't have to do it all at once," she pointed out.

"You're an extraordinary girl," he touched her hand, "just like your mother. Let me think about it. Meanwhile, why don't we invite Seamus here for lunch tomorrow?"

At their dining-room table next day Seamus toyed with his wineglass.

"There's an awful lot of renovation to be done," he warned.

"But Paul could do the design work," Kathy pointed out.

"He'd probably jump at the chance of a summer getaway.

And Gerry could write about the castle's original owners. Everybody would be interested in a history of the O'Mulloys."

"Not in the branch of the family that built Castle Ronan," Donal said. "Their ancestor, Theobald, fought for King Billy at the Boyne."

"They were good to their tenants during the Famine," Seamus reminded him.

"Great!" Kathy declared "Isn't it contradictions like that that make history fascinating?"

"You're a very persuasive young lady," Seamus grinned.

"No, I'm just pointing out what you already know." Her voice quickened. "It would be the three of you coming together again for another great adventure."

Seamus carefully filled his glass with more Bordeaux red wine, reflecting on her suggestion: "I might consider it on two conditions: that you help Gerry write the history and act as our PR."

"Yes," Donal urged. "You'll be the fourth musketeer and keep an eye on us when you aren't backpacking."

"Agreed!" Laughing, Kathy slapped hands with them: "All for one and one for all."

P.G. Nerney



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

A Duchess of Connaught Who Became a Princess
by Cheryl Devaney

Princess Margaret, born in 1882, was the eldest daughter of Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, who was the third son of Queen Victoria and his wife, Princess Luise Margarete of Prussia. By tradition, the British monarch’s first son is the Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay in Scotland and Prince of Wales; the second son is the Duke of York and the third son would be gifted the Dukedom of Connaught and Strathearn. Receiving the latter Dukedom was discontinued when the Irish Free State left the United Kingdom in 1922. There was some speculation that the title would be resurrected for Prince Harry on his marriage to Meghan Markle but the idea generally was not well received.

Margaret Victoria Charlotte Augusta Norah was known as ‘Daisy’ to her family. She lived with her parents in Clarence House, London, which is now the home of Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall and at Bagshot Park, which is 11 miles south of Windsor. This is the present home of the Queen’s third son Edward Earl of Wessex and his wife Sophie. Margaret and her sister, Patricia, were great beauties and they were bridesmaids at the wedding in 1893 of the Duke and Duchess of York, who later became King George V and Queen Mary. They were Edward VII’s favourite nieces and he considered them eligible as wives for European royalty. The two girls were duly sent to Portugal in January 1905 to meet the two sons of King Carlos and Queen Amélie.

On a trip to Cairo, however, Margaret met Prince Gustaf Adolf, Heir Apparent of Sweden, and the two fell in love. A few days after Sweden’s union with Norway ended, they married on June 15th, 1905 at St. George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle. They honeymooned in Adare Manor, County Limerick, which was the family seat of the Earls of Dunraven. Margaret’s wedding present from her parents was the Connaught tiara, which has five distinctive upright loops of forget-me-not wreaths with a diamond pendant suspended in each. It remains in the Swedish royal jewellery collection and today is Princess Madeleine of Sweden’s favourite tiara.

After Margaret’s arrival in Sweden, she was known as Margareta and, within two years, spoke good Swedish and was well informed about Swedish history and customs. She became genuinely popular with the Swedes, especially after her reserved nature became more relaxed when she took up sports, including skiing, tennis and golf.

Margaret’s husband, Gustaf, had been raised in the Prussian military discipline and he welcomed her hands-on approach to raising their five children, which they had in ten years. She introduced many English customs to the Swedish court and created an English-style garden at their country home at Sofiero Palace, north of Helsingborg, which was a wedding gift from the Swedish Royal family. Today it is considered to be one of Europe’s most beautiful gardens. Known as the ‘flower princess’, she had her book ‘Our Garden at Sofiero’ published in 1915. It is full of tips about garden design – ‘there should be rhythm and variety throughout, like a picture’. Her second book ‘From the Flower Garden’ was illustrated with her own drawings and photographs.

When Gustaf’s grandfather, King Oscar II died in 1907, his father became King Gustaf V and Gustaf and Margaret became Crown Prince and Princess. Margaret helped to create Sweden’s civil defence and encouraged disability rights. During World War 1 when paraffin supplies diminished, she began a candle collection. She stood up for the welfare of prisoners of war in camps throughout Europe, particularly British nationals. Margaret founded a sewing society to support the Red Cross and formed an organization to teach girls how to farm and work the land. She encouraged the arts, especially modern painting and photography. She was very gifted in both of these fields.

In contrast to her mother-in-law’s pro-German support, she reached out directly to poor communities in Sweden. When many European royal families were disappearing, Margaret’s approach is believed to have helped preserve the Swedish monarchy. Thirty years before her husband’s accession to the Swedish throne, thirty-eight-year-old Margaret died from blood poisoning on May 1st 1920. She was eight months pregnant and Gustaf was heartbroken.

Grandmother of King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and Queens Margrethe II of Denmark and Anne-Marie of Greece, Margaret is buried in the royal cemetery in Haga Park, Stockholm. Three years later, Gustaf married Margaret’s cousin, Lady Louise Mountbatten, sister of Earl Mountbatten. Lady Louise was able to carry on Margaret’s English influence on the Swedish monarchy.

The hundredth anniversary of Margaret’s death was marked by an exhibition in the Swedish Royal Palace in the autumn of 2020. It was a celebration of the life of this dynamic and popular monarch.

Night Terror
I. M. Anne Frank

In the night the stomp of jackboots marching through urban wastelands left my heart afraid. No courage woke, for half the world lay dreaming and heaven scorned the faithless prayers I made.

But one young girl who kept her soul in sweetness mid attic walls and Bergen-Belsen’s shade entered the darkness round my bedside, smiled through remembered pain and said:

“The stomp of marching jackboots woke me also for all I sleep where terrors come no more. In life those phantom soldiers overtook me, Yet this frail heart felt no congealing gore

but joy in drowsy waves ascending to wash me limp up Jordan’s tranquil shore.”
“You speak like this because your terror’s over. What of the living who must still endure?”

“Hearts of stone will always thrive among us, assured that what they want trumps every rule observed by kindly humans who endeavour to make the common good their goal,

“so we must cry because our tears are holy, our pride and anger phantoms in the gloom.”
I cried for all my selfish derelictions, Slept and woke up in a sunlit room.

Colin Scott

Rayan Ayram

Rayan Ayram, you have become special to many, As the great diggers moved mountains of earth
In a desperate effort to return you, To the safety of your loving parents, To your own little cot, family and familiar life,
To see you play again with your friends, Go to school again, perhaps lisp your prayers
Thanking Allah for life’s many good things. But it was not to be. Allah had other thoughts, And you died alone in no one’s arms save his. Now, because of your terrifying, heroic battle One hundred feet below the ground, You are special to us for good as you taught us
The unspeakable worth of little ones like you. The world opened its arms and heart to you, And took you as its own in a vain effort to protect.
It will tell your story from age to age For years and years to come; the efforts to save you, The widespread, breathless interest in your fate, The hashtags, the outpouring of good will, The TV stations, the nonsense of other

“news”,
The hopeful enquiries: “any word of Rayan?”
And then the almost unutterable: “Rayan is dead”!
Yes Rayan, you taught us the worth of little ones,
Showed us that we still cared for our own. Five years, five months, six months, two months,
Special creations, unique, not to be repeated, Not to be discarded as so much trash, Unwanted in a world of “mé féin” and my comfort,
And I belong to me! Indeed, as Jesus asked, We must all become more like you and your kind.
You have turned our gaze also on other little ones
In war-torn countries as they die in their Thousands from violence, hunger and disease, While all the time earth’s precious wealth Is turned into bombs and bullets and gases To keep the satanic wargames on the road. To wreak havoc and death on the weakest. You have shown us that love and love alone Is the original source of our heart’s yearnings, The cradle, the dearest friend of all its travels.

GM

March Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



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twitter.com/kildarelibrary

March Clever reach

Children

World Book Day Online Author Visit with Oisín McGann for 10- 12 year olds Via Zoom.

Thursday 3rd March 16.00 - 16.45

For World Book Day this year, we are very excited to have author Oisín McGann give this online author visit, suitable for 10- 12 year olds, where he will discuss his book 'A Short Hopeful Guide to Climate Change' (Little Island Press, 2021). This is the story of humans and fire and how we've changed the world.

Climate change is a story about our civilization and our environment, about wildfires and glaciers, war and wilderness. It's about tiny ocean creatures, giant machines, and teenagers protesting on city streets. In this talk, Oisín McGann introduces the basics of climate change, explaining the subject in a simple and light-hearted way. Suitable for ages 10 - 12. All children attending this event must have a parent/guardian present with them during this event.

Booking essential through Eventbrite:

<https://worldbookdaywithoisinmcgann.eventbrite.ie>.

International Women's Day Online Quiz for 8 – 12 year olds

Tuesday 8th March 3.30 – 4.30 pm

Online International Women's Day Quiz for Ages 9-12

Tuesday March 8th at 3.30pm

To mark International Women's Day on Tuesday 8th of March, why not test your knowledge of famous women throughout history and what they achieved? There will be two teams of six and there will be a prize for the winning team. Teams will be arranged on the day at the start of the quiz. A parent/guardian must be present with the children participating in this event for the duration of the event.

Booking Through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/international-womens-day-online-quiz-2022-for-9-12-year-olds-tickets-269706167407>

Seachtain na Gaeilge Online Learn and Explore Music Workshop with Mobile Music School for 5- 8 year olds. Via Zoom

Wednesday 9th March 15.00 – 16.00

An bhliain seo, le haghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge, táimid ag dul i gcomhpháirtíocht le Mobile Music School chun ceardlann 'Learn and Explore' ceoil trí Ghaeilge a chuir i láthair. Tá na ceardlanna 'craic agus ceol' seo dírithe ar pháistí bunscoile nó teaghlaigh. Áirítear sa cheardlann seo an-chuid cluichí ceolmhaire idirghníomhacha a mbeidh gach duine in ann páirt a ghlacadh iontu, ag cloí le téama Seachtain na Gaeilge! Beidh an cheardlann ar an 9ú lá Mí na Márta trí Zoom. Caithfear tuismitheoir nó caomhnóir a bheith in éineacht le haon pháiste a bhfuil ag freastal ar an gceardlann seo. Is féidir áit a chuir in áirithe don gceardlann ar <https://agfiosrucheoilsnagexploringmusicsnag.eventbrite.ie>.

This year for Seachtain na Gaeilge, we are partnering up with the Mobile Music School, to deliver an online 'Learn and Explore' music workshop through Irish. These "craic agus ceol" workshops are aimed at either children who are currently in primary school, or families.

This workshop will include lots of interactive and fun music making games that everybody can participate in from home, sticking to the theme of Seachtain na Gaeilge! All children attending this workshop must have a parent/guardian present with them during the workshop. Booking Essential through Eventbrite <https://agfiosrucheoilsnagexploringmusicsnag.eventbrite.ie>.

Forest Tree House: Minecraft Show and Tell

Friday 25th March 3:30pm via Zoom

Do you like to create and build in Minecraft? Sign up for our Zoom discussion and take part in our build challenge which will be sent to you in advance! Suitable for ages 6-10. Children must be accompanied on the video call by an adult. Places are limited and booking is essential. This month we want you to start building a Forest Tree House! <https://minecrafttreehouse.eventbrite.ie>

Young Adults

Teen Writers Workshop with Author Dave Rudden/ Ages 12-15

Wednesday 16th March at 4.30pm/Online via Zoom

Join award-winning author Dave Rudden (Knights of the Borrowed Dark, Doctor Who) for an in-depth workshop for teenagers on how to create relatable characters, intricate plots and believable worlds for your stories. Perfect for aspiring authors between 12 and 15 years old. Booking Through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/online-teen-writers-workshop-with-dave-rudden-tickets-271045894567>

Family

Art Exhibition - Ruth Cahill of Duck Blue 7th - 24th March

Ruth is a local artist from Maynooth. She is an artist and illustrator of Greeting Cards and Prints using ink, pens and watercolour paints. Her designs are imaginative and

colourful. She has also illustrated a children's book, "Our Baby has Sixty-Five Roses" written by Eilís Moroney. Ruth's artwork will be displayed in Maynooth Community Library from the 7th to the 24th of March.

Adults

German 'Stammtisch', informal conversation meet-up.

Thursday 24th March at 6.30pm

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

For more information please contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 01 6285530. Audience: Adults and Young Adults.

World Poetry Day 2022

Your World of Poetry: An evening of sharing poetry from around the globe.

Thursday 31 March at 6.30 pm, via Zoom.

Literary globetrotters, pack a poem and join us as we celebrate World Poetry Day. Some of you may wish to read, and others might like to just listen, as we travel the world of poetry. Hosted by Maynooth and Ballitore Libraries.

All welcome. Booking via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/your-world-of-poetry-an-evening-of-sharing-poetry-from-around-the-globe-tickets-223239895537>

Kildare Libraries FaceBook Club via Zoom

Wednesday 30th March 8:00pm

Our FaceBook Club is always welcoming new members, where we will discuss a new book from BorrowBox every month over Zoom. Join our Facebook group or email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie for the details.

<https://facebook.com/groups/kildarelibrariesbookclub>

Regular Events

Live Story Time & Sing Along Nursery Rhymes Online via Zoom for 2-5 years Every Friday 10-10.30am

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

Friday 4th March 10am – 10.30am <https://onlinestorytimeandsingalongnurseryrhymesfri4thmar.eventbrite.ie>.

Friday 11th March 10am – 10.30 am

<https://onlinestorytimeandsingalongnurseryrhymesfri11thmar.eventbrite.ie>.

Friday 25th March 10am – 10.30 am

<https://onlinestorytimeandsingalongrhymesfri25thmar.eventbrite.ie>.

Book Busters Children's Bookclub

Friday 4th March @ 3.45 pm

Maynooth Children's Book Club "Book Busters" will meet up via Zoom on Friday 4th March @3.45pm We will be discussing Snow and Rose by Emily Winfred Martin and Rumaysa by Radiya Hafiza. Members can decide to read one or both books. Now accepting new members. Suitable for ages 7-12 yr olds.

Scifi Bookclub

Tuesday 8th March 6.30pm

The Reader's of the Lost Ark Scifi Bookclub meets online via Zoom the second Tuesday of each month. The March meeting will be on Tuesday 8th March at 6.30pm. The bookclub will be discussing 'A History of What Comes Next' by Sylvain Neuvel. If you are interested in joining the bookclub, please contact maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or telephone 045 980 493

Tuesday 15th March 7.00pm – 7.45 pm / Máirt 15ú Mí na Márta 7.00 i.n. – 7.45 i.n. Ciorcal Comhrá san Oíche ar Líne / Online Evening Irish conversation group

Beidh Ciorcal Comhrá ar líne thar Zoom ag tosnú ar an Máirt 15ú lá Mí na Márta ag 7.00 i.n. Seo deis iontach an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim agus a chleactadh trí chaint agus chomhrá in atmaisféar réchúiseach ó chompond do bhaile féin. Fáilte roimh chách. Má bhíonn suim agat páirt a ghlacadh, cláraigh ag an nasc thíos

Eventbrite: <https://irishconversationgroupciorcalcomhra.eventbrite.ie>.

Nó sheol ríomhphost chuig maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie

There will be an online evening Ciorcal Comhrá on Tuesday 15th March from 7.00-7.45pm. This is a great opportunity to learn and practice Irish through conversation in a relaxed atmosphere from the comfort of your own home. All welcome. If you are interested in taking part, please register at the Eventbrite link below: <https://irishconversationgroupciorcalcomhra.eventbrite.ie>. or email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie



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

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

Bus Connects Survey & Update

Catherine Murphy TD recently met with the NTA to discuss the roll out of the C-Spine through the Bus connects programme that impact Dublin Bus Services to Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip.

At this meeting, the NTA confirmed they will be going to tender for bus on the W6 Route proposed to link Tallaght to Moyglare, with a view to services commencing Q4 or earlier 2022 this year.

Catherine Murphy TD and a Leixlip Kildare County Councillor is calling on members of the public to take part in a survey on the new Dublin bus routes.

Cllr Nuala Killeen, Social Democrats, says that she and TD Catherine Murphy have received numerous complaints about the service since the new routes were introduced in November.

“This survey is intended to reflect how bus service users in the north of the county have been impacted,” Cllr Killeen explained.

“It has been just over two months since the new Bus Connects C Spine bus routes were rolled out. The survey will provide feedback that we will give to the NTA about how customers are impacted by the new routes.

“We have found that there was no central place to funnel feedback about Bus Connects. The survey is intended to reflect how bus service users in the north of the county have been impacted

North Kildare TD Catherine Murphy says that she has received “quite a bit of feedback to my office since the service was introduced in November.”

“In order to accurately reflect the experience of the new service and to seek changes where necessary, it is essential to ask bus users for feedback – and for that reason, I would appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the survey.”

“We felt it was important to allow some time for the service to roll out and now that people are returning to workplaces etc, there is wider use of many of the services.” “I will be asking for some changes to the routes to deliver the best service to the localities in the north of the County.” “I recently asked a parliamentary question about resources in terms of bus drivers and was told that there are an additional 400 bus drivers in place now to deliver the Public Service Obligation routes across Dublin Bus services.”

Link to survey – <https://forms.gle/usvL4CCjR8WuNDTC9> Paper-based forms are available in Catherine Murphy’s office for those who would prefer not to complete the online form.

Alternatively the public can email either catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie or nuala.killeen@socialdemocrats.ie or text 089 2444 793 with your name and address and a form will be posted out to them.

Government Response To The Cost-Of-Living Crisis Lacks Ambition

Tinkering around the edges will do little to help those struggling to survive in the long-term.

The government’s response to the cost-of-living crisis is not sufficiently targeted at those who need help the most, according to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy.

“The vast bulk of the funding announced today is for a blanket €200 electricity credit that will be paid to every household, regardless of income. In fact, the owners of 62,000 holiday homes in Ireland are set to receive a €12.4 million bonanza under the government’s plan. Many high earners who receive this payment do not need it, but there are others in desperate need of substantial support who are barely keeping their heads above water. The government had time to target this payment, but opted not to.”

“We know that low and middle income earners spend a disproportionate amount of their income on essentials like energy, rent, transport and food. It is therefore crucial that

supports are targeted at these workers and families. In that regard, the €125 increase in the fuel allowance is welcome, but the government should have increased eligibility for the payment. As it stands, those in receipt of the Working Family Payment are among those who do not qualify.”

“The 20pc cut to all public transport fares is also welcome. The Social Democrats had proposed reduced rates for off-peak travel to incentivise travel outside of peak times, when limited public transport capacity is under the most extreme pressure. An additional fare decrease for off-peak travel should be explored by the government.”

“Reduced caps on school transport schemes are positive, but the government should now confirm its intention to introduce a universal school bus scheme which would save parents time and money – and remove cars from roads at peak hours.”

“If the government wanted to make a significant difference to those on low and middle incomes, it had a number of options. Core social welfare rates, which have only been increased by a paltry €5 in the past three years, could have been increased; eligibility for the fuel allowance could have been extended; the Exceptional Needs Payment could have been doubled; the minimum wage could have been increased; a €300 refundable tax credit for those on incomes below €50,000 could have been introduced; and a ban on rent increases could have been announced.”

“Tinkering around the edges, without making targeted and substantive changes, will do little to help those struggling to survive in the long-term. It is regrettable the government has not taken this opportunity to be innovative and ambitious.”

Government To Blame For Cuckoo Funds Snatching Homes From Families

“The cuckoos have come home to roost – because the government incentivised them to come here.”

Cuckoo funds outbidding ordinary buyers for family homes by up to 32pc is a direct consequence of government policy, according to Social Democrats Deputy Catherine Murphy TD.

“Young workers and families don’t stand a chance when they try to buy a home. Cuckoo funds with deep pockets are paying up to 32pc more for properties than households. This equates to a premium of more than €100,000 per home.”

“Funds are not just buying properties in the build-the-rent sector – which the government has deliberately designed to lock out first-time buyers. Last year, cuckoo funds spent €2.27 billion snapping up nearly 5,000 homes for the private rented sector.”

“They were actively encouraged to do this by the government, which last year slashed stamp duty rates for cuckoo funds that lease properties back to local authorities. At the time, the Social Democrats warned this tax cut would destroy ordinary buyers’ dreams of home ownership. The government did it anyway.”

“Recently, a government Minister said people should “stop complaining” and “shop around” to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. But, there is no escaping house price and rental inflation. Wherever workers and families look, they are locked out – of home ownership and, increasingly, even rental accommodation.”

“The housing market in this country is broken, but this is not an accident. It has been destroyed by design. Government policy has incentivised cuckoo funds to swoop in and snatch up homes from under the noses of first time buyers. Government ministers then cry crocodile tears when it is revealed that an entire generation has been condemned to a lifetime of rent.”

No Clarity On How Targets Can Be Achieved In Retrofit Plan

Over-promising and under-delivering has been a recurring theme of this government.

The government has promised that 500,000 homes will be retrofitted by 2030, but there is little clarity on how this target will be delivered in the plan, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy.

“To reach this target, approximately 62,500 homes need to be retrofitted every year for the next eight years. Last year, just 15,457 homes were retrofitted under all of the SEAI schemes. Incredibly, just 10 homes underwent a deep retrofit in 2021. Is it remotely credible that an additional 50,000 homes can be retrofitted this year under this revised scheme?”

“There are three major barriers to the government’s plans: the large upfront cost to householders that a deep retrofit will still entail; the lack of qualified construction workers to do the work; and the lack of clarity surrounding the government’s proposed low-cost loan scheme, the details of which will not be announced until the autumn.”

“If we are to reach our climate action targets, and reduce the impact of fuel poverty on those low-income families who are currently struggling to heat their homes, it is crucial that we get this right. Retrofitting homes cannot just be the preserve of a minority who can afford the work. State supports must be targeted at those who would otherwise be unable to retrofit their homes.

“We know that those on low incomes, and pensioners, spend a disproportionately large amount of their income on energy costs. These people have also been particularly vulnerable to recent energy price shocks, which have left many making invidious choices about whether they should heat their homes or put food on the table.”

“A national retrofitting plan could make a hugely important difference to these people, but to do so it must work for the many – not just the few. The government has said it intends to spend €5 billion on retrofitting over the coming years, but the budget for this year is just a tiny fraction of this – €202 million from carbon tax revenue. When does it intend to ramp up spending, as it must to deliver its targets?”

“Of crucial importance also is the lack of qualified construction staff to do this work. The Construction Industry Federation has already raised concerns about whether the requisite number of construction workers exist to simultaneously build new homes and deliver on ambitious retrofitting targets. The government has dismissed these concerns, without providing any real detail on how these twin demands can be achieved.”

“Finally, the failure to provide any clarity on a central plank of this plan, the low cost loans, is a major failing. It is not clear why the government was unable to provide this detail, given the retrofitting targets were included in the programme for government and are now nearly two years old.”

Catherine Murphy had a Leaders Questions slot in the Dáil on accountability within the HSE and the transcript of that debate is as follows:

Whenever there are scandals in the public service the inevitable review concludes it is down to a “system failure”. It is a loaded term and suggests there is some kind of automated process that has gone awry in some way and there is no need to hold an individual or, indeed, an entity responsible. A succession of scandals in the health service have been in the news in recent weeks. Just yesterday, we learned of a further scandal in disability services in the north west.

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A resident was able to access child exploitation material online on multiple occasions going back to 2016. Basic safeguarding procedures seem to have been either ignored or abandoned. Vulnerable children were seriously harmed in south Kerry Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, (CAMHS).

Residents with intellectual disabilities in a care home in Donegal were sexually abused with impunity and a child, Grace, with special needs in the south east was abandoned to an abusive foster home. Our most vulnerable citizens, who relied on the State to protect them, were instead physically, sexually or psychologically abused, and some of that went on for decades. The abuse was not a secret. People in positions of power knew what was going on.

In Donegal, the staff and management in that care home were aware of the horrific sexual abuse being perpetrated by a resident called Brandon. Their response to the abuser was to move him to different wards where he had new victims who were non-verbal and unable to advocate for themselves. They were left to suffer for a decade. The DPP has directed there will be no prosecutions in that case. We may never know the full extent of the abuse suffered by Grace. The State was supposed to protect her but instead it sent her to live with demons. They tortured her for about 20 years. In addition to Grace, the whistleblowers paid a hefty price. We recently learned the DPP will not prosecute any of the officials or State agencies that had a duty of care to Grace, despite the fact the Garda has recommended prosecutions for endangerment and negligence.

In South Kerry, hundreds of children and their families suffered unimaginable trauma when they were prescribed inappropriate medications and it had devastating consequences, both physically and psychologically. A rogue junior doctor who was not supervised or managed by anyone in senior management for years is probably going to take the fall. The system will remain intact.

All these scandals have a central feature, namely, that there is no accountability and a lack of consequences. What is the Taoiseach going to do to consign the term "system failure" to history and instead have real accountability built into the system, accountability that has real consequences, including the possibility of prosecution? Does the Taoiseach believe the lack of accountability undermines the vast majority of really good people who work in those services?

Response from Micheál Martin (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

There has to be, and should be, accountability. I am not clear what the Deputy is proposing. These are very serious scandals in themselves, in terms of the Grace case and the case of Brandon and what transpired there. The Deputy referenced the south Kerry CAMHS. At this initial stage, I would put a question mark after the word "rogue".

I think that is judgmental of the individual because I do not believe it is one issue pertaining to one individual. There are issues in terms of prescribing and so on but whether it was wilful or not is a separate matter. That is part of the issue. It is easy for us in the Oireachtas to make judgments but when it comes to the law, the legal system and people's rights and entitlements, it is a completely different arena, and people have rights and entitlements.

It has been an accepted premise here that the DPP is independent of the political system. It has been long argued but I do not see how we could change that. I do not know whether the Deputy is suggesting we should change the status of the DPP and that there should be a different approach. On balance and having witnessed things over the years, I would not agree with the idea that somehow the DPP should be answerable to the political system because I

am not too sure justice would be done, if I am frank about it. We have to be careful about that.

We can perhaps look at other mechanisms to get better insights or explanations as to why certain cases are not proceeding but that then could in itself jeopardise cases into the future because no case is ever closed and new evidence can emerge that can lead to cases being progressed. The DPP must make assessments, and the Garda must make assessments on these matters. I can understand why people are very unhappy, in that the Garda wished for a prosecution in this instance but the DPP took a view, probably looking at the entire case, and made determinations. The DPP's office is independent of Government, and rightly so.

More broadly speaking, as I have said before in the House, we have established numerous commissions of inquiry on a whole range of issues. Invariably, one is never entirely satisfied with the length of time they take and the fact they never lead to prosecutions, because of their very nature, and can, in some instances, jeopardise prosecutions, in the sense there can often be a difficulty between the case being prosecuted in the courts and any material related to that prosecution being aired in a commission of inquiry.

There are very real issues for us to reflect on and consider in respect of how best we pursue these issues between, on the one hand, trying to get the truth and the accountability question on the other.

Catherine Murphy TD replied:

The Taoiseach's very first line that he does not know what it is I am proposing concerns me. I am proposing that we build accountability into the system. There has been a myriad of different reports. When harm has been done, the first response tends to be about financial compensation, which is appropriate, but very often whistleblowers and people who have been harmed want more than that.

They want to be sure that the same people who have failed in their positions of responsibility will be held personally responsible and will not be there to repeat those failures. We do not build those systems of accountability into our systems. It is very obvious because week after week we hear of different scandals. There is an origin for that. How can someone move an abuser from one ward to another and not think that is wrong? How can someone, for example, disregard things such as safeguarding and feel there is no accountability? Why is accountability not built into the system? That is the point I am trying to get to.

Micheál Martin (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

I 100% agree with the Deputy. Of course, people should not be moved. What happened was very wrong and it should not happen. It is incomprehensible that it happened as recently as some years ago, which is my understanding in respect of the Brandon case. Accountability is built into systems, but people contest who is or is not accountable. People will argue and will say it is not them but somebody else. It is not that simple because people have rights and they will contest whether they are the ones to be blamed for a given situation.

There should be accountability in every system. I have said previously that we need to build up the existing structures. HIQA, a body I established when I was Minister for Health, has brought more accountability into health than any other body, some of which is pre-emptive accountability. In other words, it is getting in there, doing unannounced inspections and forcing change in the system. Many in the health service complained about HIQA in the early days, but it has driven standards higher than they would otherwise have been. The agencies responsible for standards and regulation are the ones we need to strengthen and empower.

Transcript of leaders questions:

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

What does the Taoiseach have to say to workers and their families today who are desperately trying to save to buy their own home? He can hardly tell them to stop complaining or to shop around. Cuckoo funds are outbidding household buyers by as much as 32%, paying on average €105,000 more per property than household buyers.

Ordinary workers can shop around for an eternity, but increasingly they feel they are chasing shadows. They will never be able to outbid the cuckoo funds that are swooping in and snatching the homes they hope to buy. This is not just happening in the build-to-rent sector, the sector designed specifically by Government to be bought exclusively by cuckoo funds.

Last year, these funds spent €2.27 billion acquiring nearly 5,000 properties for use in the private rental sector. In some cases, the funds are buying these homes and leasing them back to local authorities that reward them with guaranteed extortionate rents, in some cases for up to 25 years, before they get the keys back. Again, this has been deliberately facilitated by Government policy. The Government voted to slash the stamp duty for cuckoo funds if they leased the homes back to local authorities. We warned the Government at the time that this would be the result, but it went ahead anyway.

The head of research of BNP Paribas Real Estate Ireland, John McCarthy, has explained further that "[cuckoo funds] believe that rents are well underpinned by existing market imbalances and Ireland's demographic potential". In other words, the rental market is so utterly broken and dysfunctional, these funds do not believe that sky-high rents are going to come down any time soon. Ireland has a young population who are going to be condemned to continue to pay crippling rents for the foreseeable future.

Rents are now 50% higher than they were during the Celtic Tiger peak. What level does the Taoiseach think is sustainable? In Dublin, rents went up by 4% in just the last three months of 2021. Nationally, year on year, they went up by 10%, with 20 counties seeing a double-digit increase. Rents increased by 25% in County Donegal. Meanwhile, the Government insists the rent caps, which are now set at a 2%, are working. It is plainly obvious the rent caps are not working.

The Government has to be straight with people. Most people believe this is out of control. The Taoiseach is going to have to tell us how he will get control of this. Does he accept the Government has incentivised the disaster by rewarding the cuckoo funds with tax breaks for buying what would normally be family homes? Does he accept rent caps are not working? Will he immediately bring in a three-year ban on rent increases? We really need to see an eviction freeze. There is a serious problem with evictions coming down the track.

Micheál Martin (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

I thank the Deputy for raising the issue. Again, the issue is a very serious one. Rents are too high for people. There are not enough houses out there. We can see from the Daft report there are not enough apartments to rent. There is not enough housing out there to buy. The whole purpose of the Government policy over the past 12 months and since we came into office has been to increase the supply of housing dramatically. A total of 31,000 starts happened in 2021.

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That is the highest number of housing starts since 2008. We are going to continue with that acceleration of house building if we are allowed and if people just remove the obstacles and allow us to get housing and apartments built.

We are going to have to build different types of housing. There will be a very large public housing programme. We want more than 10,300 on average as part of that 33,000 overall houses to be built every year. We want to get up to that 33,000 target. Supply is key here. People can rightly raise the issue and so on, but equally, we need solutions. I am talking about solutions in terms of supply and the type of housing we provide and to enable people to afford housing. Cost rental is one of those models that is developing and is in its infancy in this country.

I predict the cost rental model, which can offer a very substantial rent reductions below the market, will accelerate and be enhanced due to Government efforts in working with local authorities and others. Social housing is going to increase year on year, and specifically, direct builds. We are phasing out the leasing. We will increase direct builds on an unprecedented scale. Also, there will be 4,000-plus affordable houses built. That is what the State can do, but the private sector will be involved as well. It will also be providing housing and apartments, as has always been the case.

The one thing we cannot do is inhibit supply. It is easy to be political about this. I understand it fully and I have no issue with it, but I have to make sure we introduce the right policies for the long haul. We cannot develop housing policy on the basis of the outcome of the next election and who wins it or who does not. We now have to get a consistent housing policy that lasts the decade and brings stability to the market. The market is not stable right now; the rents are too high. However, a lot of thought has gone into this from people just outside of politicians in terms of what we need to do. I believe in a strong social housing programme and it is happening now. I believe in the idea of affordability and that we should help from the State perspective. I believe in the idea of cost rental.

However, I also believe that we need private sector investment as well. I think the Deputies in opposition need to speak out on that. Do they believe in private sector investment at all in the housing market or is it their view we should continue the decline in the number of landlords? They are leaving the market. We do not have enough rental properties. We do not have enough houses built for people to buy. We want more owner-occupiers. We want to give people the chance to buy their homes, which is why the shared equity and help-to-buy schemes and so on are coming in. There are huge issues here, and I acknowledge that. However, we need to be solution focused in terms of how we get to grips with it.

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

Let me address the issue of private sector investment. Of course it has its place. It is a big part of the solution but it has to have constraints put on it. The Taoiseach stated that he has spoken to a lot of people in terms of designing the solution. I am wondering who he has been speaking to because the solution that has been designed really favours cuckoo funds over individual home buyers.

That is the obvious thing that is happening here. Does he ever question that he could be getting this wrong? Fianna Fáil has got it wrong before. Does he ever question that he is talking to the wrong people or taking the wrong advice? Look at the evidence. Look at the evidence of rental costs. Who can afford €2,000 a month in rent in perpetuity? It is only going to be a question of time before we see young people queueing up at airports to leave this country. They will do so because they cannot live in it. Housing is critical to that. For the past decade, I have been speaking

about the need to build social housing. When the housing assistance payment, HAP, was brought in, I said it would be a disaster if it was not accompanied by a big housebuilding programme and it would become a dominant feature in terms of the amount of State money that went into it. I am sick to death of predicting things that turn out to be right. Perhaps the Taoiseach might listen to some of us rather than saying the same thing. We know we need supply, but we need affordable supply.

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)
Response from Martin Micheál Martin (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

I have been a long-standing advocate for social housing, along with the Deputy, even when I was in opposition. We are now looking at an unprecedented social housing programme. It is going to take time to build but it is happening right now.

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)
I have been listening to that since 2012.

Micheál Martin (Taoiseach, Department of An Taoiseach; Cork South Central, Fianna Fail)

There were 31,000 starts last year. I accept and am glad the Deputy acknowledged the need for private sector investment. It does need to be constrained. We have already brought in planning constraints on funds in terms of housing estates and being able to bulk buy. They cannot do so. From a taxation perspective and a planning position, that has happened. In terms of apartment building, there has been a huge issue for some time in terms of the whole issue around viability of apartment building.

The daft.ie report and the BNP Paribas report state that, basically, if that funding was not available, those apartments would never have been built in the first place. We have an issue with apartments - there is no question about that - in terms of viability, particularly in terms of brownfield sites and trying to get compact living. That is all part of Housing for All and that is why the Croí Cónaithe fund is being established - to see if the State can help in terms of creating viability and affordability in that apartment sector. That is clearly a challenge but, again, let us be clear that we have to be very careful we do not inhibit supply even more in terms of just responding to the short-term issues.

Catherine Murphy TD asked the Minister for Finance the amount collected in VAT from gas and electricity bills in the past two years to date; and his plans to reduce VAT on energy bills. [7422/22]

VAT Collected 2020 €m: Gas - 60 Electricity - 228
VAT Collected 2021 €m: Gas - 65 Electricity - 290

I am advised by Revenue that the VAT rating of goods and services is subject to the requirements of EU VAT law with which Irish VAT law must comply. The VAT Directive obliges each Member State to have a standard rate of VAT and also allows that a Member State may choose to have no more than two reduced rates of VAT, which may be no less than 5%, and which may be applied to certain goods and services: any of those listed in Annex III of the Directive. Within this framework, Ireland currently applies a standard rate of 23% and two reduced rates of 13.5% and 9%.

The EU Directive permits derogations from the general rules to allow an individual Member State to continue certain historic tax treatments, such as the application of one of their reduced rates to particular goods and services which are not included in Annex III. Ireland, in line with the VAT Directive and by way of special derogation from the general rule, maintains several "standstill" provisions and derogations that allow us to maintain reduced rates to certain supplies for historical reasons. It is on this basis that

Ireland applies its 13.5% reduced rate of VAT to the supply of fuel, gas, oil, and electricity services for both domestic and commercial use. The current 13.5% VAT rate applied to energy products is a 'parked rate', governed by Article 118 of the VAT Directive and standstill provisions from 1991 and cannot be reduced below 12%.

Article 102 of the VAT Directive provides that, after consultation with the EU VAT Committee, a Member State may choose to apply a reduced rate (no less than 5%) to the supply of natural gas, electricity, or district heating on a temporary basis. The EU Commission recently indicated that this provision could now be used by Member States without the requirement to consult the VAT Committee in advance.

Under its existing provisions, Ireland already applies a reduced VAT rate to a broader range of energy products (including the supply of fuel, gas, oil and electricity services) than would be allowed under Article 102, which is restricted only to supplies of natural gas, electricity and district heating.

Because a Member State may only have a maximum of two reduced rates, if Ireland were to consider introducing a new reduced rate, even on a temporary basis, for the supply of natural gas, electricity and district heating as allowed under Article 102 of the Directive, then it would not be permissible to also continue both of our existing reduced rates of 9% and 13.5%. This would mean that one of those existing rates would have to be removed and the goods and services covered by those rates would have to move either to one of the other reduced rates or to the standard rate.

However, there is a significant restriction on this, as the services to which the 13.5% reduced rate applies on a historic basis (i.e. the "parked" services) cannot be moved to a rate below 12%. Therefore, depending on the reduced rates chosen, this restriction could mean that the services that are currently at the 'parked rate', would have to move to the standard rate of 23%.

If Ireland did reduce the rate below 12%, even on a temporary basis, we would not be able to retain the derogation we currently hold that allows us to apply a reduced rate. This means that the VAT rate on electricity, gas, oil and fuel would increase to 23% when the temporary relief had expired.

I am advised by Revenue that traders are not required to identify the VAT yield generated from the supply of specific services on their VAT returns. However, a tentative estimate for the VAT collected on domestic electricity and gas supplies in 2020 and 2021, based on tax returns and other information sources available to Revenue, is shown in the following table.

Catherine Murphy TD has raised the issue of Low pay in the context so that our citizens can afford to live. Low pay is not a recent problem. It has been an issue for decades. It is a feature, unfortunately, of the Irish economy. We have the highest levels of low pay in the EU. It has a real impact on people's lives but it is having an especially big impact now as prices are rising so dramatically.

This is not something that just arose as a consequence of the pandemic. Front-line workers during the pandemic were people who went into work, gowned up and put themselves at risk in hospitals, nursing homes etc., but people also realised that so too were shop workers, the people who drove the buses and trams, and the ancillary workers.

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They were the people who cleaned the hospitals, for instance. There were sectors people did not realise were vital in just keeping things afloat. Many of those include people who are on low pay.

Then there are the areas where we have creativity, fun and joy in our lives such as entertainment, arts and hospitality, where there are very high levels of low pay. There is now a real issue in recruiting and retaining staff. People have to be able to work in an environment they want to work in but also to be able to afford to live. People have found other types of employment directly as a consequence of the lack of available work in those sectors and it is increasingly difficult to get them back. Much of that relates to low pay.

It is not only bad for the individual to struggle constantly but also bad for the economy and society. We are all impacted by this. Low pay results in a lower tax take and means higher need for supports such as housing assistance payment, medical cards and so on. Low pay has a wider impact and it is in all our interests that we get to grips with the problem. The Spirit Level was a book which measured this. Countries with greater levels of equality, and we have a lot of inequality here, do better in health, life expectancy and in many other areas. That is another societal gain from where people live in a more equal society. The Government has a role to play in bringing that about. We will support the motion and some of the amendments.

We have to recognise there was an underlying assumption in the budget around the level of inflation. Inflation has exceeded what was expected and therefore there has to be an adjustment. We called for a 60 cent increase to the minimum wage and it was increased by 30 cent. That was before inflation had accelerated. I am not surprised we are being told it is not short term but could be medium term. It is very difficult to judge

However, we need a review of the numbers for the living wage as those will have changed. Nor do we need just one review. It needs to be under constant review. A link to inflation is essential. We must acknowledge that countries that have done better have a system of free collective bargaining and they do not necessarily have to have a minimum wage as a point which people do not fall below.

The bargaining is done for, and sometimes through, particular sectors, and we need to see that here. We need to see a plan for how we will get to a living wage. It cannot just be a case of saying we will do it when we get around to it, without a fixed plan. The national minimum wage is to increase by 2025 from €10.20 to €12.90 an hour. That already looks very tame in comparison with the circumstances in which people find themselves at the moment, with rents, housing assistance top-ups and the increasing cost of heating and food. In an inflationary environment, money just does not stretch as far as it did. There has to be a clear recognition that there is an urgency about this and we need to see timelines for that urgency.

It is in the employer's interest not to have a constant turnover of staff, and retaining staff is at least as important as recruiting them. We will not see stability in certain sectors unless there is an environment where people earn enough to allow them to live in dignity, not just to survive. This low pay issue affects women to a greater degree than men, and that has to be considered especially in the context of sectors that are dominated by women.

The Government most definitely has a role to play. We would very much support a right to free collective

bargaining. It has been demonstrated in other jurisdictions that it has made a significant difference, so much so that in some cases they do not require a national minimum wage. They also compare favourably with ours as equal societies.

We will support the motion. [National Minimum Wage: Motion...: 9 Feb 2022: Dáil debates \(KildareStreet.com\)](#)

There have been queries about sports organisations offering houses as prizes and Catherine Murphy raised the issue and the response is as follows:

616. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality if he will clarify the position in respect of sports clubs offering houses as prizes in the course of their fundraising activities in the context of the Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Act 2019 [8379/22]

James Browne (Wexford, Fianna Fail)

The Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Act 2019, which was commenced on 1 December 2020, modernises the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956 to assist the better promotion of local gaming and lottery activity held primarily for charitable and philanthropic purposes. These activities are an important source of funding for sporting clubs and community organisations across the country.

Section 28 of the Act provides for a charitable or philanthropic cause to seek a District Court licence to promote a lottery on a continuing or once-off basis. With regard to the latter instance, a prize to a maximum value of €360,000 may be offered.

Following concerns about break ins in the Greater Dublin area and commuter belt areas, Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats) asked the question below:

618. To ask the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality if she has engaged with the Garda Commissioner and/or the Garda traffic corps in respect of developing a proactive strategy to address the issue of the State's motorway network being used by criminal gangs and persons to commit acts of burglary and assault. [8397/22]

Minister McEntee (Meath East, Fine Gael)

I can inform the Deputy that both I and my senior officials are in regular and frequent communication with the Garda Commissioner and his senior management team. These engagements take various forms and cover the full range of issues of relevance to our roles.

As the Deputy will be aware, Operation Thor was launched in November 2015 and is focused on burglary and burglary-related crime, particularly over the winter months, when instances of burglary increase. I am informed that Operation Thor proactively targets organised crime gangs and repeat offenders through coordinated crime prevention and enforcement activity based on intelligence and the latest crime trends and patterns to protect communities.

This annual focus from Operation Thor has proved highly successful in tackling property related crime since its inception in November 2015, with incidents of residential burglary significantly reduced nationally since its introduction. In 2015, there were in excess of 18,800 residential burglaries reported. By contrast, to the end of 2021 there were just over 6,000 residential burglaries reported, a reduction of over 66% or approximately 13,000 less residential burglaries.

While the COVID-19 pandemic was clearly a factor in some of this reduction, with people more likely to be present in their homes throughout the day, there has been a marked and consistent downward trend in such offences

since the introduction of this Garda focus through Operation Thor.

One of the five main focuses of Operation Thor is Crime Prevention and Protecting Communities, including visible focused patrols at specific times of day, targeting burglary 'hot-spots', intelligence gathering on known offenders, high-visibility check points to prevent ease of movement, strong crime prevention communications and reassurance with communities.

The budget provided by Government to the Garda Commissioner continues to increase to unprecedented levels, with an allocation in excess of €2 billion for 2022, including funding for the recruitment of up to 800 additional Garda trainees and up to 400 Garda staff. This significant investment demonstrates the Government's commitment to increasing the Garda workforce to enable the organisation to keep our communities safe.

Budget 2022 also allocated €12m for investment in the Garda fleet, which means more high visibility policing in our towns and cities and on our roads. This continuing investment is intended to ensure that An Garda Síochána has a modern, effective and fit-for-purpose fleet and that Gardaí can be mobile, visible and responsive on the roads and in the community to prevent and tackle crime.

I am informed by the Garda authorities that a key element of the work of the Roads Policing Unit is denying criminals the use of the roads network. In addition to focusing on the lifesaver offences of speeding, seatbelts, mobile phones and driving under the influence, there is a significant focus on crime prevention and crime detection. Roads Policing work closely with crime units to target known criminals and to disrupt their activities through strict enforcement of road traffic legislation.

Catherine raises the issue of ECCE in the Dáil

168. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth if he plans to enhance funding streams to the ECCE sector. [8618/22]

Roderic O'Gorman (Dublin West, Green Party)

A review of the ECCE programme which is due to commence shortly. The review will give an opportunity to providers and parents to express their concerns and will also inform the future development of the programme.

The review will also give a range of stakeholders, including providers and parents, offering an opportunity to not only highlight the strengths of the programme as it has evolved in recent years but also identify potential barriers or unintended consequences that may have emerged as the programme has evolved. This review will then be considered by Government and form the basis of any future changes to the scheme.

The Deputy may also be aware of the recommendations of an Expert Group to develop a new funding model for early learning and childcare, which were adopted by Government in December. This marks a new departure in State funding of the sector and is a significant step towards ensuring high-quality, affordable, sustainable and accessible services.

The Expert Group report informed the transformative package of measures for the sector committed in Budget 2022, including the Core Funding stream. Core Funding will operate from September 2022 to support improved quality, affordability, and sustainability. Core Funding will be worth up to €69 million in 2022, equivalent to €207 million in a full year. A full list of Dáil questions can be found on the [Houses of the Oireachtas website](#)

Maynooth Community Council calls for more GP services in Maynooth



Maynooth Community Council have expressed concern about the lack of GP services available in Maynooth, and pointed out that this situation will only worsen, given the many residential developments now being built and proposed for Maynooth.

Developments now in train include the Cairn Homes estate adjacent to the Dunboyne Road. This includes 119 houses and 74 apartments, and construction is under way. The Parson Street planning application by Glenveagh is well advanced, with 23 February deadline for submissions to be made to Kildare County Council. An application for a large development in Moygaddy, near Kilcoon, is expected soon, which, although in County Meath, will be in the hinterland of Maynooth.

The Dunboyne Road development, as a Strategic Housing Development (SHD) was granted planning permission directly by An Bord Pleanála (ABP-310865-21) in November 2021. The Inspector's report granting planning permission by An Bord Pleanála agreed with the Social Infrastructure and Provision Assessment submitted by Cairn Homes as part of their planning application that **"... there is a total of 7 medical centres in the town of Maynooth and it is concluded that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the development"**.

This was in the face of several submissions, including from Kildare County Council, which pointed out that there is insufficient social infrastructure, including GP services, in the area to accommodate the proposed increase in population. The Inspector simply accepted what Cairn Homes had submitted in relation to medical services even though two GP's in the town, well-known for many years, had retired during 2021, before the planning application was approved. Neither GP has been able to source a replacement, and one practice has closed completely.

Patients from both practices have had great difficulty in sourcing alternative GP services, with many having to look outside Maynooth - Clane, Celbridge, Tallaght - as the remaining practices in the town are not taking on new patients. New residents to the town are also faced with this lack of services. Developments approved and expected soon in the town and immediate area of Maynooth, will likely account for well over 1,000 extra residents in the near future. On average, each GP provides services for about 2,000 population, and with current and future residential development expected to account for at least that number of new residents, the shortage of GP services is set to become even more acute.

The recent January meeting of the Maynooth Community Council was informed that the HSE has tendered for the provision of a Primary Care Centre for Maynooth, although this may not help with the worsening GP situation in the town. The Maynooth Community will warmly welcome any GP who wishes to establish a practice in Maynooth.

How to reduce costs & make your home more energy efficient

While they often appear complicated, every household energy bill comes down to the same simple equation. The more energy you use, the more it costs. As a result, saving money on your energy bills is just as simple. If you can use a little less energy, you'll save a little more on your bills, and using less energy is easier than you might think. It starts with changing a few energy habits.

Heating

Unless you want to spend all of your time at home under a blanket, you will need to use electricity or gas to heat your home. However, that doesn't mean that you can't control how much it costs to have a cosy home.

Outside of big energy efficiency changes like new windows or insulation, you can save money by changing your habits around heating. The first step is to ensure that heat flows freely around the areas you want to heat, so avoid blocking radiators with furniture or curtains. Once you know the heat is flowing effectively, you need to keep it in the right places. Close doors and curtains and avoid leaving windows open while the heating is on. The longer you can retain heat in your home, the less energy you will need to use on heating.

It's also important to think about waste. Turn off the heating when you don't need it; if the house gets too warm or you're going out. It's easy to set a timer and forget about it but remember that heating an empty house will cost you just as much as heating a full one. If you are fond of long, deep baths or power showers, you may be using more energy than you need heating the water.

- Opt for a shower rather than a bath to use less heated water.
- Shorten the length of your shower time.
- Dial down the pressure if you have a power shower so you're not heating more water than needed.

Finally, consider turning down the thermostat in your main living area, if you have one. Dropping the temperature by just one degree will make a significant difference to your heating bills but won't make your home any less comfortable. Turn your heating down by one degree and you could knock 10% off your heating bill.

Lighting

Lighting is the other obvious opportunity for reducing energy costs. While individual lights don't require a huge amount of energy, lighting a home can be a big energy user if not monitored closely. Little things like leaving lights on in unused rooms start to add up on your electricity bill, but we all do it from time to time. Just cutting that habit will make a difference, but if you really want to reduce your energy usage, consider using lamps and dimmer switches to reduce the amount of energy you use to light each room. It's also worth investing in LED light bulbs, they may cost a little more up front but will use less electricity than a standard bulb and last up to ten times longer.

In the kitchen

Keep your fridge & freezer cool

Ensuring your fridge-freezer runs efficiently can be a big help when it comes to saving energy.

Place the fridge-freezer out of direct sunlight or appliances that generate heat.

Keep the coils free from dust and 10cm away from the wall to ensure maximum efficiency.

Set your fridge temperature between 3 and 5°C and your freezer at -18 °C.

Defrost your freezer regularly so there is no build-up of ice.

Maintain the fridge-freezer at a steady temperature.

Make sure food is cool before putting it in the fridge.

Hang your clothes out to dry

The tumble dryer is one of the most expensive appliances in our homes, using around 2.5 kWh per hour so use it sparingly.

Dry your clothes outside if possible or on a clothes horse next to a radiator.

Wash your clothes at a lower temperature it uses less energy and costs you less.



Lighting and heating are the obvious energy users but there are plenty of other potential energy savers around the home. For example, you can save money by making sure you fill the washing machine every time you use it. You will reduce the overall number of loads you run and a full load in a washing machine uses less energy than two half loads. It also helps to reduce the temperature of the cycle you use.

The same applies to the dishwasher, and you can make an additional saving by turning it off before the drying cycle and opening the door to allow the dishes to dry naturally. Another common bad habit is leaving the fridge door open while preparing food. For every 10–20 seconds the door is open it takes 45 minutes for the fridge to cool down to its original temperature, so it's important to keep the door closed.

And the living room

A lot of the energy we waste in our homes on a daily basis is through appliances that we just aren't using. Appliances on standby can use up to 20% of the energy that they would use when switched on, so turn off all your appliances on standby (yes the TV too) at the switch on the wall. Or just plug them out.

It's also important to unplug your phones, tablets or laptops from their chargers as soon as they have reached 100%. One charger may not make much difference but, when you have multiple chargers and other devices on standby, they can be responsible for up to 10% of your electricity bills.

Energy-saving gadgets and tools

There are some great energy-saving gadgets and tools to help you cut back even more on your energy bills. Some of the best savings are available with:

- Energy-efficient lightbulbs: they cost a fraction of the cost of traditional lightbulbs to run and could save you up to €22 a year, depending on the power of the bulb.
- Radiator boosters: designed to move the hot air around the room and away from the radiator and the windows, which ensures you have a consistent even room temperature.
- Solar chargers: mean you can charge your phone for free - simply leave the charger by the window during the day and then plug your phone into the solar charger at night.
- Draft excluders: fixed to doors and your letterbox will make a noticeable impact on your heating bills.
- Chimney balloons: can stop heat escaping up into your chimney and the cold descending down into your home.
- Lagging jacket and insulation: add to pipes will keep your water hotter for longer and reduce the amount of time the boiler is on.

There is always the option to switch your gas & electricity supplier and get the best energy rates.

You don't need to renovate your home or stock up on blankets to save money on your energy bills. Just changing a few habits will mean less energy usage and smaller bills.

Source: switcher.ie/gas-electricity/guides/energy-saving-tips/
www.electricireland.ie/news/article/how-to-use-less-energy-and-reduce-your-bills

MU researchers to devise pioneering solutions for SFI -Defence Organisation Innovation Challenge

Two Maynooth University research projects have been shortlisted for the SFI-Defence Organisation Innovation Challenge.

Under the challenge, ten selected research teams will collaborate with the Defence Forces and compete for funding to develop solutions to a number of challenges identified by the Defence Organisation that are of wider application to society.

Announced today (Thursday) by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD and **Minister for Defence and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney TD**, €2.4 million in funding will be available to develop solutions to challenges facing the Irish Defence Forces.

The two selected Maynooth University projects are:

Co-pilot-AI: Led by Prof Tim McCarthy and Prof John MacDonald (Computer Science), the project will look at addressing the problem of wildfires. Using Earth Observation and Artificial Intelligence technologies, this new system will be capable of providing real-time information to responders in the air and on the ground. The system will allow for the generation of useful information such as terrain, land-cover, weather, infrastructure, human activity - which can then be transmitted to responders, helping to direct crews to suitable water resources, identifying vulnerable humans, safe-guarding crops, livestock and infrastructure, to name a few examples of use.

Smart Hangar: Led by Prof Rozenn Dahyot (Computer Science) and Dr Marco Cognetti (Electrical Engineering), the project will provide a **cyber-physical system to assist in, or potentially automate, manoeuvring of aircraft between a hangar and apron..** The Smart Hangar system will develop a co-operative system that will allow a human controller and robot to work together to manoeuvre aircraft.



The Rozen Team

The selected teams for the competition will be awarded up to €220,000 and work through a series of stages to develop their ideas, to compete for an overall €1 million prize award that will enable them to continue development and explore deployment of their solution.

Speaking today, **Minister Harris** said: *“This is a really exciting announcement. Today’s announcement shows the value of a partnership between our research community and the Defence Forces. The innovation on display can help address existing and future challenges within our Defence Forces.*

“There is a myriad of innovative ideas and expertise from machine learning and virtual reality to data analytics, engineering, and robotics. Today, the ten



projects will be awarded funding to initiate their projects and one will secure €1 million in funding.”



Congratulating the shortlisted teams,

Minister Coveney said: *“From the time we launched this Challenge last July, I believed that it would confront emerging issues within the Defence Forces head-on, through the collaboration of leading researchers with the talented people behind our Defence Forces. At EU level, the role of innovation and disruptive technologies in delivering next generation military capability is already well recognised. I am looking forward to seeing the results that this synergy of innovators and practitioners under this challenge will undoubtedly generate for the Defence Forces going forward.”*

Commending the researchers, **Prof Eeva Leinonen, President of Maynooth University** stated, *“Maynooth University highly values innovative research that focuses on solutions to address major societal challenges. The selection of two projects for the SFI-Defence Organisation Innovation Challenge is evidence of the excellence underpinning our research at Maynooth. These projects are being developed for a specific challenge, however their potential application across broader industry and society is clear. I wish our research teams every success.”*



Prof Philip Nolan, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland, said:

“Challenge-based research funding empowers talented teams to address significant national and global challenges. This kind of collaboration between Government Departments, agencies such as the Defence Forces, companies, researchers, and entrepreneurs is just one of the ways science delivers real and tangible benefits for our society and economy.

“I want to commend each team on their hard work and dedication and wish them every success in the rest of the competition. Having this level of talent compete in this Challenge not only bodes well for this particular initiative but the future of scientific research more generally. I look forward to seeing the different solutions that develop as the competition continues.”

Members of the Co-Pilot team: Prof Tim McCarthy, Prof John McDonald, Dr Stephanie Keogh, Dr Charles Markham, John Dooley, Prof Rozenn Dahyot, Dr Rowan Fealy, Dr Lars Pforte, Comdt Jay O’Reilly, Irish Air Corps, Daire Walsh, Fearghus Foyle, Leo Murray.

Members of the Smart Hangar team: Prof Rozenn Dahyot, Dr Marco Cognetti, Peter Redmond and Captain Tom Mullarkey, Irish Air Corps.

Team Name: Co-Pilot-AI

Lead: Prof Tim McCarthy (Maynooth University)

Co-Lead: Prof John Mac Donald (Maynooth University)

DefOrg Liaison: Comdt Jay O’Reilly (Irish Air Corps)

Challenge: Enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the fire extinguishing capability of rotary-wing aircraft.

Solution: Using Earth Observation and Artificial Intelligence technologies, a new system capable of providing real-time information to responders in the air and on the ground will be developed to assist in managing wildfires.

Team: SMART HANGER

Lead: Prof Rozenn Dahvot (Maynooth University)

Co-Lead: De Marco Cognetti (Maynooth University)

DefOrg Liaison: Capt Tom Mullarkey (Irish Air Corps)

Challenge: Cyber-physical system to assist in, or potentially automate, manoeuvring of aircraft between a hanger and apron.

Solution: Smart Hangar will develop a co-operative system that will allow a human controller and robot to work together to manoeuvre Aircraft.

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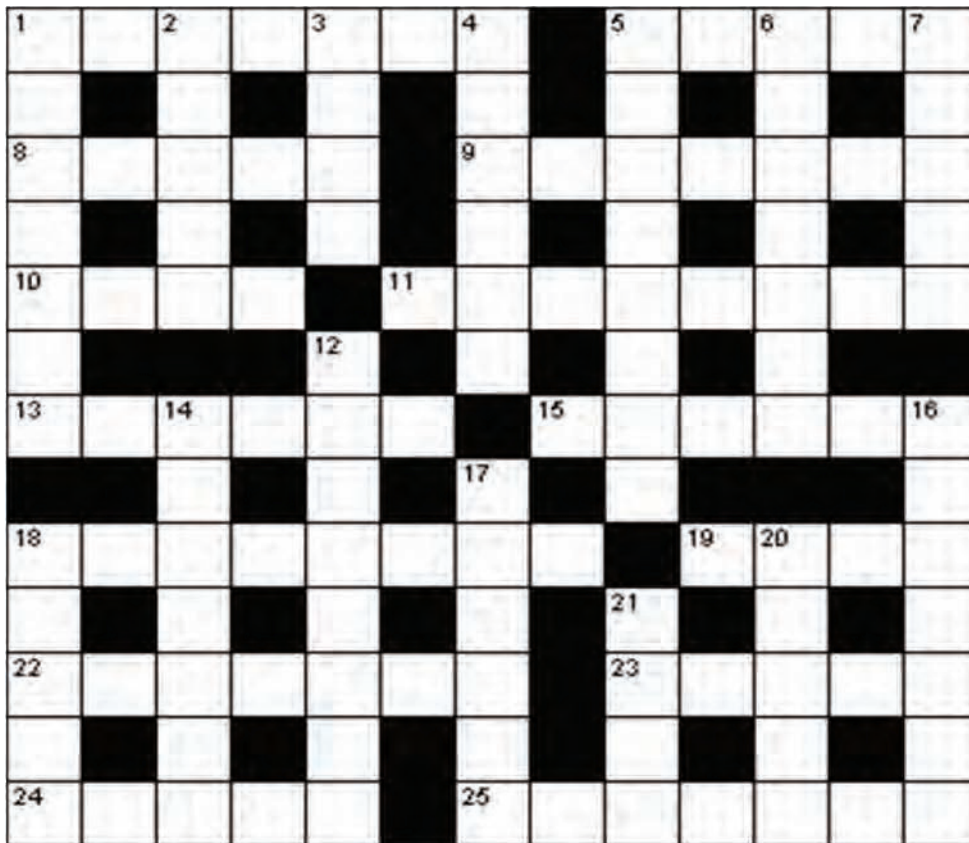
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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 19/01/2021 to 23/02/2022 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
22190	Kildare County Council	Martin Heslin	Smithstown House, Smithstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	23/02/2022
22172	Kildare County Council	Stephen Hunter	No.35 Carton Court, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	18/02/2022
22157	Kildare County Council	Paul Davis,	6 Lyreen Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 Y5W9.	15/02/2022
22161	Kildare County Council	Jimmy McMahon & Sons	Henry Grattan's Public House, Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare W23	15/02/2022
22151	Kildare County Council	John & Laura Joyce	84 Windhurst, Newtown Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. W23 X7X2	14/02/2022
22132	Kildare County Council	Joe Usher and Nicola	35 Carton Grove, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co Kildare. W23 P6F2	09/02/2022
22127	Kildare County Council	Brigitte and John McNeely	4 Beaufield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 A0H4	08/02/2022
22120	Kildare County Council	Flor McCarthy	Crinstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	07/02/2022
2281	Kildare County Council	Pat O'Hora,	12 Straffan Way, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	28/01/2022

March 2022 Crossword - No. 510



Solutions to Crossword No. 509



Clues Across

1. Fate (7)
5. Animal with two feet (5)
8. Musical instrument (5)
9. Aerial (7)
10. Professional cook (4)
11. Delight (8)
13. Mass leaving (6)
15. Transparent gem (6)
18. Entertainer (8)
19. Cab (4)
22. Planet nearest to the sun (7)
23. Similar (5)
24. Fishing Basket (5)
25. Ruminant (7)



Clues Down

1. Fiasco (7)
2. Meaning (5)
3. Metallic element (4)
4. Annually (6)
5. Treachery (8)
6. Flightless Bird (7)
7. Curtain (5)
12. On Time (8)
13. See (7)
15. Spear with three prongs (7)
16. Attorney (6)
18. Ape (5)
20. Nimble (5)
21. Young whale (4)

Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

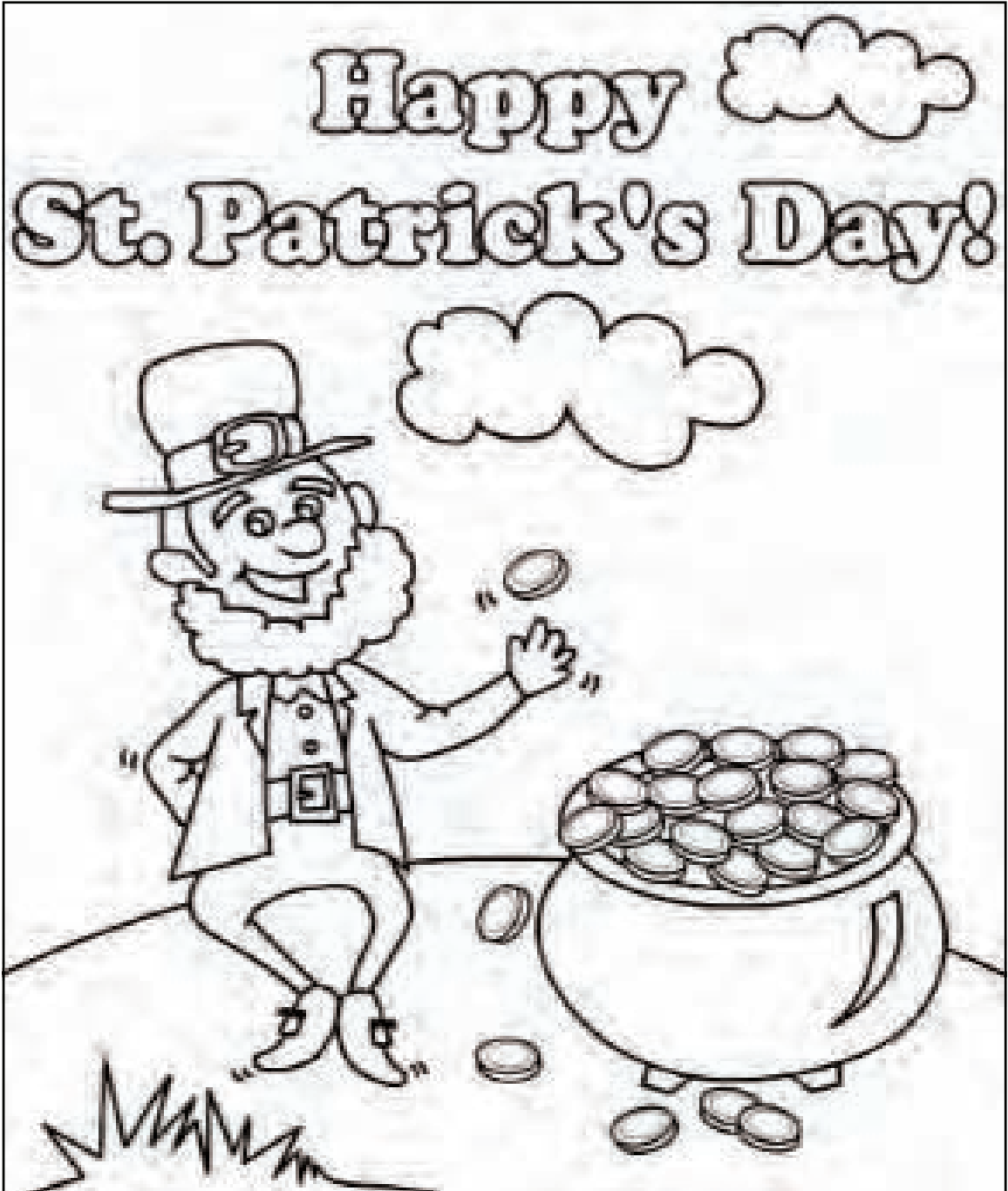
Super Difficult

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

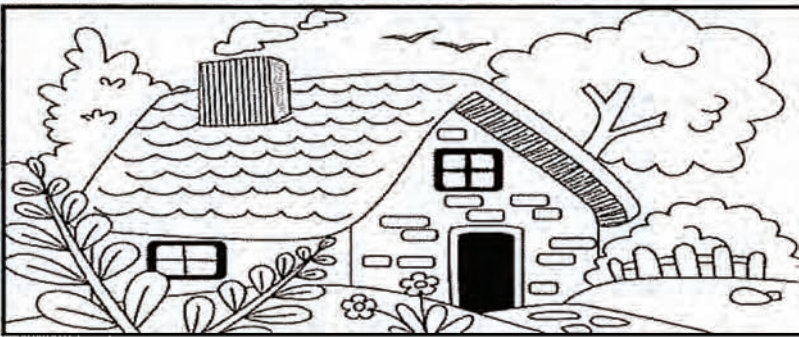
			4					
				6	1	8		4
4	7		3	8		9		
	6					2	7	3
1	9	2					5	
		3		5	7		8	1
7		9	6	3				
					4			

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

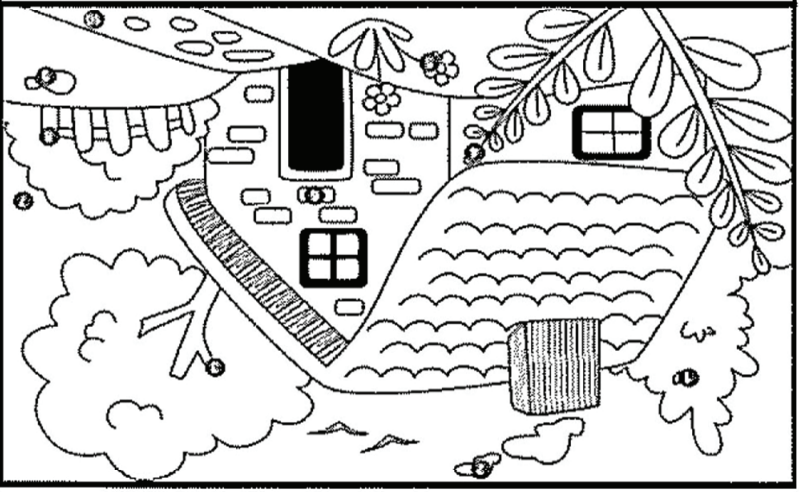
Junior Puzzle Corner



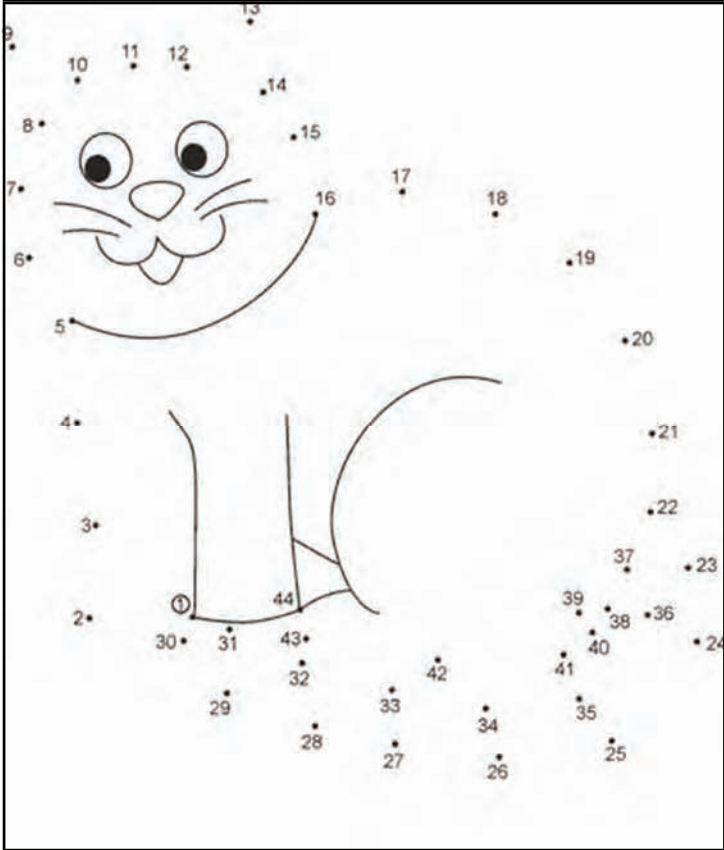
Spot the Difference



Answers



Join the dots





Word Search

P	M	G	P	N	E	E	T	N	E	V	E	S	M	G
S	H	F	R	Q	F	P	M	F	O	U	R	L	O	F
A	W	C	O	E	D	L	Q	F	O	W	D	L	W	D
I	E	S	R	E	E	O	W	K	I	E	D	I	E	S
N	W	A	R	A	A	N	E	C	R	R	A	R	R	A
T	O	Z	D	T	M	D	R	O	D	K	C	U	L	Z
J	B	X	J	Y	X	J	T	R	J	Y	X	J	Y	X
G	N	C	L	O	V	E	R	M	G	U	C	G	U	K
U	I	V	U	I	F	U	R	A	U	T	V	U	C	V
I	A	H	I	A	N	I	H	I	O	N	I	O	N	
E	R	D	E	P	D	E	S	S	E	P	R	E	P	D
W	L	L	W	L	M	W	P	D	W	T	M	W	L	M
S	H	S	I	R	I	S	L	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H
X	J	P	X	J	P	V	K	P	X	J	P	X	J	P
Z	H	L	E	P	R	E	C	H	A	U	N	Z	H	L


See how many of these newspaper related words you can find in the puzzle.
The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

1. HOLIDAY	5. GREEN	9. CLOVER	13. LEPRECHAUN
2. SAINT	6. SHAMROCK	10. LUCK	14. RAINBOW
3. PATRICK	7. FOUR	11. POT	15. MARCH
4. IRISH	8. LEAF	12. GOLD	16. SEVENTEEN

Children's Colouring

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


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



St Patrick's Day Recipes

Multi-Seed Guinness Brown Bread


Ingredients:
50g plain flour
350g wholemeal flour
75g porridge (rolled) oats
50g pinhead oatmeal
2tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 large egg
100ml Guinness
400ml buttermilk
2tbsp treacle (optional)
3 tbsp mixed seeds (e.g. pumpkin, sesame, poppy, sunflower)
Butter for greasing
Pinch of salt



Method:
Preheat the oven to 160°C/325°F/Gas Mark 3. Grease a 900g (9 x 5 x 3 inch) loaf tin. Place the flours, oats and salt in a large bowl. Sift in the bicarbonate of soda and stir together. Beat the egg in a separate bowl, add to the dry mixture and stir again. Add the Guinness, buttermilk and treacle (if using) and mix to a sloppy consistency. Finally, stir in two tablespoons of the seed mixture. Pour into the prepared tin and spoon the top with a wet spoon. Sprinkle the remaining seeds over the surface and bake for 1 hour. Turn the loaf out, then pop it back inside the tin upside down and bake for a further 15-20 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Bread & Butter Pudding


Ingredients:
8 slices of white bread
50g butter (more if required)
50g sultanas
Ground nutmeg or cinnamon
2 eggs
450ml of full-fat milk
50g granulated sugar



Method:
Remove the crusts from the bread. Butter each slice on one side only and cut into triangles. Use some of the butter to grease an oven-proof dish. Cover the base of the dish with one layer of bread triangles keeping the buttered side down. Sprinkle some of the sultanas on the bread with a little nutmeg or cinnamon. Repeat with another layer of bread, sultanas and spice, finishing with a layer of bread with the buttered side up. Beat the eggs with the milk and sugar and pour over the bread layers. Let it sit for half an hour so that the bread soaks up the liquid. Bake at 180°C/350°F/Gas 4 for about half an hour or until golden and puffy. Eat on its own straight from the oven.

Irish Oaty Apple Crumble

Ingredients:
For the Crumble:
150g plain flour
150g jumbo oat flakes
175g light brown sugar
200g cold butter, cut into pieces
Single cream, to serve
For the Filling:
600g apples, cut into chunks
1 tbsp plain flour
60g brown sugar
Juice of ½ lemon



Method:
Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/Gas Mark 5. Place the flour, oat flakes, brown sugar and butter into a large bowl. Using your fingertips, rub all the ingredients together until it resembles chunky breadcrumbs. In a large baking tin, toss the apples with the flour, sugar and lemon juice until combined. Add the crumble mix on top of the filling and spread over the top until everything is evenly covered. Bake in the oven for 35 - 40 minutes or until crumble topping is golden brown and the fruit is soft and bubbling beneath. Serve in generous portions with a drizzle of fresh cream. You can vary the ingredients for the crumble mix itself by using wholemeal flour and nuts.



March Gardening



Now that there is a stretch in the evenings there is a little more time in the day to get into the garden. Here are some 'March Gardening Tips' to guide you on what needs doing in the garden!

In case there wasn't an opportune time in February to mow your lawn, March might look to be a better bet. The lawn may be looking a little tatty after the worst of the weather has passed and may be littered with fallen twigs and the last of last year's leaves. On a dry day start by picking up the larger debris by hand and then run the mower over the lawn on a high setting. Edges of the lawn on pathways and borders may also need a trim and you'll be amazed at how this improves the entire appearance of your garden. Use edging shears to cut any tufty edges around beds, borders, paths or patios. When mowing at this time of year the ground may be very soft and the grass can be very uneven and tufty. Therefore, adjust your mower to a high setting and just cut the top of the grass.

Cutting too low can cause the grass to be ripped out of the ground leaving you with bare patches. Sometimes it just takes a few fallen leaves to accumulate on the lawn to smother the grass eventually killing it off, leaving a bare patch visible. Once you've managed to run the mower over the lawn and tidy up any debris it is the perfect time to tackle this problem. Use a rake to 'fluff-up' the surface of the bare patch to give a tilth in which to sow your seed. Then throw on a generous handful of good quality lawn seed and rake it into the soil. Finally, give your seed a can-full of water and cover with fleece or polythene to accelerate germination (and also to reduce the amount that will be eaten by birds).

Roses need plenty of feed to give maximum display through the summer and applying a good layer of mulch to your rose beds is a great way of giving them all the nutrients they'll need. You can either put a layer of mulch over the entire bed or just apply a smaller amount around the base of each rose. Once you have applied your mulch, give your roses a generous helping of water so they can start absorbing some of the nutrients straight away.

As soon as the flowers on your daffodils start to look past their best, pull them off by hand. The energy the plant saves by not having to 'die-back' and produce a seed head will be put to good use in the bulb, giving you a bigger display next year.



Boost shrubs and perennials in containers by top dressing, gently scrape off the top 2-4cm of old compost, replace with fresh potting compost with and an added sprinkle of slow release fertiliser to enhance growth throughout the summer. Keep an eye on containers especially ones close to the house with spring bedding – "unbelievably" they often dry out at this time of the year as the walls and roof overhang shelter the pots from the rain and although the plants may not actually die, they'll end up looking tatty and not flower as well. Top dress with garden compost, spent mushroom compost or rotted farm yard manure to help improve the soil quality and structure while helping lock in moisture. Shrubs like mop-headed Hydrangea, Buddleia davidii and Perovskia need to be pruned back to encourage the growth of new flowering stems. Check over variegated shrubs and remove stems that are no longer variegated, tidy and trim hedges.



There is still time to prepare a plot to grow veg this year. Fork or rake over existing beds, breaking up large clods of earth. Cover new seedlings with fleece if a frost is due. Start your daily slug patrols and lay beer traps. Don't let new-season weeds take over – get on top of them with weekly hoeing.



Indoors: lettuce, aubergine, peppers, cucumbers, celery, celeriac, sweet corn, basil, leeks, summer cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, parsley, courgette, French beans.

Sow outdoors or under cover: broad beans, red cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, spinach, kale, Brussels sprouts, onions, leeks, turnip, peas, radishes, early lettuce, asparagus. Plant your first early seed potatoes, as soon as weather conditions allow.

House plants will react to longer days and brighter light at this time by putting out new growth. The end of this month is a good time to pinch them back to generate new growth and to thicken them. You can then begin fertilizing again with a dilute solution of soluble house plant food. Turn your houseplants a quarter turn each week to make sure all sides of the plant receive adequate light, and to keep the shape of the plant balanced. Mist or spray your houseplants to clean away the winters dust, prevent Spider Mites and add a little humidity.



Gardening is medicine that does not need a prescription and has no limit on dosage





FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

OSCARS 2022



IRISH OSCARS NOMINEES

And the Oscar goes to....it's that time of year again folks. When the ladies and gentlemen of tinsel town put on their very best party frocks, suits, glamour hairstyles to attend the biggest celebrity bash of the year. It could justifiably be claimed that the Irish are coming in this year's Oscars race with an impressive number of nominations to their credit.



Ever since its introduction at the Telluride Film Festival last September, *Belfast* - Kenneth Branagh's sentimental and largely autobiographical love letter to his original hometown - has been winning critics and audiences over worldwide. The film's quiet charm and outstanding performances from a largely Irish cast quickly made it a contender in Awards season. Clayton Davis in *Variety* described *Belfast* as "the first movie I've seen this year that can be best picture winner."



So it was little surprise when Kenneth Branagh scooped seven Oscar nominations for his 60s *Troubles*-based film drama on 8 February last, including nods for *Original Screenplay*, *Best Director* and *Best Picture* as well as *Best Supporting Actress* and *Best Supporting Actor*.

On top of landing his second *Best Director* nod, the 61 year-old also made the *Best Picture* and *Best Original Screenplay* shortlist for the first time. When you add that to his previous Oscars recognition for *Best Actor*, *Best Live-Action Short Film*, *Best Adapted Screenplay*, and *Best Supporting Actor*, Branagh becomes the first actor/director to be nominated in seven separate categories at the ceremony, passing George Clooney's previous benchmark of six.



Kenneth Branagh's seven nominations for *Belfast* were in contrast to Jane Campion's Western drama *The Power of the Dog*, and Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi drama *Dune* which lead the Oscars overall with the most nominations. Branagh spoke of his joy over the nominations for *Belfast* "....I think of my mother and father, and my grandparents - how proud they were to be Irish, how much this city meant to them. They would have been overwhelmed by this incredible honour - as am I."

Belfast has also received a nomination in the *Best Sound* category while music legend Van Morrison - whose iconic music features heavily throughout the film - is nominated for his first ever Oscar. His reworking of his 1960s song, *Down to Joy* has received a *Best Song* nomination.



However, there were some notable Irish exceptions/snubs, including *Belfast* stars Jamie Dornan and Caitriona Balfe. In particular, the popular *Outlander* actress had been seen as a shoe-in by critics to get a *Best Supporting Actress* nomination for her superb performance as the strong matriarchal head of the household in Branagh's family drama. Balfe had garnered BAFTA, SAG, British Independent Film Awards, Golden Globes and *Critic's Choice* nominations in the run-up to the Oscar nominations, so her failure to get a Oscar nod was puzzling.

Caitriona Balfe's co-star, veteran actress Judi Dench came out of left-field (with less screen time in *Belfast*) to earn a *Best Supporting Actress* nomination instead. Dench hadn't really been on the Awards radar prior to the announcement of the Oscar nominations in early February. A sentimental vote by the Academy perhaps.

Dame Judi also holds the distinction at the grand age of 87 of being the oldest Oscar nominee ever in this category. The thespian will have strong competition from Ariana DeBose though, who is touted to win for her acclaimed Golden Globes winning role as Anita in Steven Spielberg's remake of *West Side Story*.



The veteran Irish actor Ciarán Hinds also received his first Oscar nomination for his superb performance as 'Pop' the wise and kindly grandfather figure in Branagh's *Belfast*. Well-deserved recognition by the Academy and a real sense that Hinds's time is due!

Ruth Negga was a surprising omission, with many pundits expecting her BAFTA nominated performance in *Passing* to receive an Oscar nomination. There was joy however for Kerry native, Jessie Buckley who picked up her first Oscar nomination in a *Best Supporting* category for her performance in *The Lost Daughter* alongside her co-star Olivia Colman.



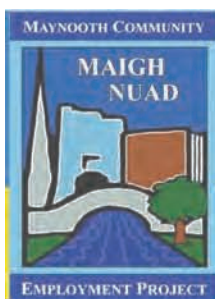
In a controversial decision to shorten the duration of the usually lengthy Oscars ceremony and increase TV viewing figures, eight Oscars categories will be awarded off air for the first time ever in the history of the Academy Awards:

Documentary short; Film editing; Makeup and hairstyling; Original score; Production design; Animated short; Live action short; Sound

The 94th Oscars ceremony will take place on 27th March from the stage of the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, where we hope Irish eyes will be smiling!

'The Troubles' Film Quiz Answers

- 1 b) 2 d) 3 d)
- 4 Daniel Day-Lewis and Peter Postlethwaite (*In The Name of the Father*)
- 5 c) 6 b) 7 c) 8 a) 9 c) 10 a)
- 11 Fionnula Flanagan and Helen Mirren (*Some Mother's Son*)
- 12 c)



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



Local News - April 2022 - Issue No. 511 - 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.



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 17th MARCH 2022 FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PHÁDRAIG MHAIGH NUAD 17Ú MÁRTA 2022 Parade Photo Gallery on Pages 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8



After two years without a parade due to the pandemic, the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade made its long awaited return this year. The 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade was the first large community event since the pandemic and a time for us all to see one another again while supporting our local clubs, organisations and businesses. March the 17th tends to be the most unpredictable day of the year in terms of the weather, but we were lucky this year. The theme was, "Love Our World", this theme was designed for us to celebrate our diversity, our environment and show our support for the Ukrainian people. We honoured the people of Ukraine with a moment's silence and raised their national flag with the Irish flag on the Square.

There were 20 entries into this year's parade ranging from schools to sports clubs and businesses. This is less than normal years, however we were unsure if restrictions would be lifted for this year's event. The parade committee and all participants had just 6 weeks to put on this year's event. Prior to the arrival of the floats, Matthew Lennon entertained the crowds. Matthew has become known to many of us through his busking in the square throughout the pandemic. We also had a rendition by Sophia from Ecuador, while the floats made their way from the Straffan Road to the Main Street. Emeritus Professor John Sweeney was the Guest Speaker on our theme "Love our World".

Paul Croghan was our MC once again this year and kept everybody entertained and informed. The parade started with the customary run through the town of the Vintage cars, however this year there was a slight twist. As society becomes more climate conscious, we are moving towards electric vehicles. Hutton & Meade Garage showed their fleet of e-vehicles which was in a way a transformation from the vintage vehicles. The ONE Colour Party, comprised of former Defence Forces Veterans introduced the parade into the square, followed closely by the St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band.

Community events such as the parade require funding and we were fortunate to receive sponsorship from many local businesses for which we are most grateful.

Our Main Sponsors:

Intel, Thorntons, The St. Patrick Foundation, Brady's Bar & Lounge, Hutton & Meade, AIB, Life Credit Union, Glenroyal Hotel, Manor Mills, Anytime Fitness And all of our other sponsors; Permanent TSB, The Maynooth Bookshop, The Elite, Demesne Architects, Corcom, The Coffee Mill, Taxy, Powderly Solicitors and Coonan Property

The parade is run by a committee of volunteers who run it in the interest of community spirit and participation. Most of the administrative work is carried out in the Maynooth Community Employment Project's (MCEP) office and their assistance and help is truly appreciated.

Our community person of the year was awarded to Richard Farrell. Richard had been at the centre of volunteerism in Maynooth for decades between the Maynooth Tidy Towns, the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade and Community Games. Sadly, a few days before the parade we learned of Richard's passing. Our thoughts are with his wife Mary, who has also been a parade steward for years and all his family. He will be dearly missed by the community of Maynooth. Suaimhneas síoraí dó.

It is the volunteers and stewards who help on the day that make my life so much easier. This year, the Men's Sheds were our anchor Stewards and I look forward to working with them for years to come. They were cordial and excellent on the day. My thanks also to Willie Kiernan for orchestrating the PA system and sound for the day. To Séamas Kennedy and Matty Callaghan for the steps, Eddie Tobin and Mark Colfer for Photographs, Matthew Lennon, The Gardaí, Kildare County Council and everybody who contributed to the day.

An additional thank you to Declan Kennedy and the staff in Brady's Bar & Lounge who provided soup and sandwiches for the Colour Part, the Band and the Parade stewards.

My thanks also to Manor Mills Shopping Centre for hosting the excellent Family Fun Day after the parade and allowing us to conduct the awards ceremony there once again. A particular word of thanks to the Committee, for many of whom this was their first involvement with the parade. They have given countless hours and commitment to running the parade this year; Don Foley, Steve McCarthy, Paul Croghan, Colm Ó Cearúil, Gerry Quinn, Keith McCrory, Francesca Sheridan.

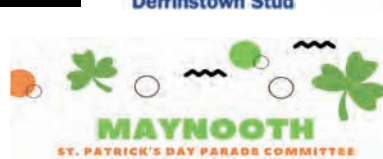
Finally I'd like to commend each and every person that took part in the parade from infants to older members of our community. Without you, there would be no parade and we hope that you had as much fun taking part as everybody else did seeing you all.

Until next year, Beirigi Bua!

Naoise Ó Cearúil

Chairperson - Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee

Check Out the prizes winners on page 6!!



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Maynooth Newsletter

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

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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

While Covid 19 number infections have been growing again to levels of serious concern and impact on hospital admissions, it was said that after the removal of public health restrictions such an increase was inevitable. It was great to see things back to normal in the past two months with businesses open and people attending events such as the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade in such large numbers. Elsewhere in this publication there are photos of people enjoying the parade which is one of the main annual community events in the town.

Another event that took place in March was "The Gathering of Remembrance" which was one of similar events that took place throughout Ireland to celebrate the lives of the people of the town who passed away during the Covid 19 pandemic and recognise all of those who worked in our health and other services during the pandemic. The Maynooth event took place in the Harbour area at the Maynooth Scouts Den and was well attended.



Attendance at the Gathering of Remembrance in Maynooth on March 20th
(photo courtesy Keith McCrory)

Another event that will be back this year is the Maynooth 10K Run which has been held for a number of years and the profits are used to help to fund sports facilities at the Maynooth Education Campus. There is a change to the route this year and there is a special medal this year to mark the fifty years of the Maynooth Post Primary School. Details are elsewhere in this publication.

Lastly this month I want to mention the late Richard Farrell who passed away on March 13th. Richard and his wife Mary moved from Dublin to live in Maynooth in 1978 and raised their three children here. Richard was a key person in community activities for over forty years most especially with Maynooth Tidy Towns and I had the pleasure of working with Richard for twenty-five years in Tidy Towns. Outside of Maynooth Richard was well known in County Kildare as he worked in promoting sport and exercise for recreation as head of the Kildare Sports Partnership and the Fit Line programme.



Richard Farrell

He was known throughout Ireland for his previous work as the National Community Games Administrator. Richard was universally liked by everyone who came into contact with him and his unexpected death was a shock to all who knew him. People like Richard are rare and he will be greatly missed. Our sincere sympathy to his wife Mary, his children Martin, Damien and Deirdre and their families. Rest in peace my friend.

Paul Croghan - Editor

Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be 5pm on Tuesday 26th April 2022

MAYNOOTH DRESSES

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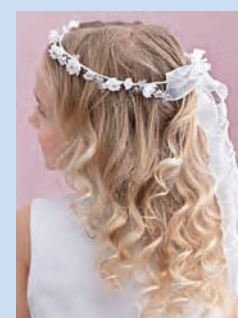
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MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

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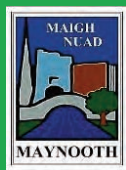
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Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022 Photo Gallery

Photos courtesy of Eddie Tobin and Mark Colfer





Mórshiúl Lá Fhéile Phádraig Mhaigh Nuad 2022





Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022 Photo Gallery

Photos courtesy of Eddie Tobin and Mark Colfer



Matthew Lennon (Above left) entertained the crowds before the start of the Parade. Matthew has become known to many of us through his busking in the square throughout the pandemic.

The theme of this years parade is LOVE OUR WORLD. In keeping with the theme, singer Sophia (Above centre) is from Ecuador (a student in MU) sang for us in her native language "*Quichua*". Her song was about our planet and promises MOTHER EARTH that we will look after her precious gift to us. Thank you Sophia and thanks to the people of Ecuador who in 2008 voted to amend its constitution to recognise the rights of nature, the first country in the world to do so.

Emeritus Professor John Sweeney (Above right) - Guest Speaker on our theme "Love our World" is well known as a commentator on climate topics who provided us with the information on how some small changes that we can make in our lives can contribute to reducing our impact on our environment.

Best Float Prize Winners:

Best School Float: Maynooth Educate Together School

Best Commercial Float: Dino Experience

Best Portrayal of Theme: Glenroyal Hotel

Best Portrayal of Environmental Awareness: Hutton & Meade

Best Club: North Kildare Club

Best Shop Fronts Winners:

1st Maynooth Bookshop, Main Street

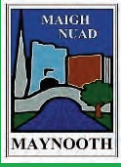
2nd SVP, Greenfield Shopping Centre

3rd The Elite, Main Street

Community Person of the Year: Richard Farrell

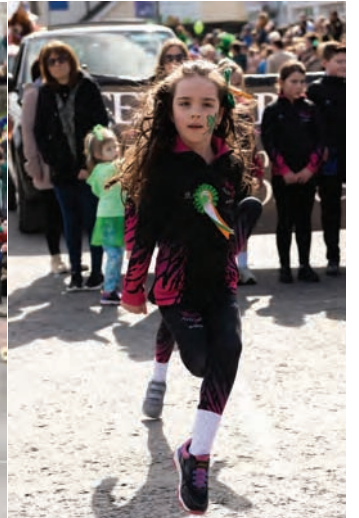
For his lifelong service to the community and people of Maynooth through Maynooth Tidy Towns, Community Games and the St. Patrick's Day Parade.





Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022 Photo Gallery

Photos courtesy of Eddie Tobin and Mark Colfer





Mórshiúl Lá Fhéile Phádraig Mhaigh Nuad 2022





Maynooth Town Football Club Launch All Weather Project



Maynooth Town FC has been part of the community of Maynooth for over 50 years.

The club is now embarking on a new development of a full size All Weather Pitch and floodlighting at Rathcoffey Road, together with an upgrade and realignment of the grass pitch area, with contract of works starting in April 2022. At a cost of over €560k this new development will greatly add to the quality of playing facilities for all.

Since formation in 1969 MTFC has grown exponentially as a club, particularly in the past 20 years, to be a major provider of sport and recreation in North Kildare.

With over 45 teams and 825 members from ages 4 to adult and growing female participation, it is a vibrant diverse and inclusive club providing football for all.

This exciting new initiative will add all weather playing capacity to our club facilities at Rathcoffey Road, with an 11 aside flood lit playing pitch, 100m x 60m to FIFA standards, including a spectator viewing area. It will provide a mega training and playing facility for continued growing membership. This major investment in facilities for club and community will enhance the club's social value and impact in the community.

Maynooth Town FC is launching a major fundraising campaign with a series of events happening over the next few months to support this fantastic development. The events will bring club and community together to celebrate and support the club's continued progress.

These events offer something for everyone, including: Golf Classic Carton House Friday 29th April – start the bank holiday in style at the MUTFC Seniors Event supporting the astro development. Book a slot soon to enjoy a round at this top class golf course! Contact mtfcdevelopment@gmail.com for full details.

MTFC Festival of Football 25th June Main Event at home ground, Rathcoffey Road.

Manchester United Legends V Maynooth Town FC Selection featuring Ireland's own Manchester United great, Denis Irwin. If you want a chance to get yourself on the team sheet and play against these greats, register your interest at mtfcdevelopment@gmail.com You never know, you might even get to hang out with the legends at a private drinks reception after the game!

To make sure you are there to see this once in a lifetime game buy tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/maynooth-town-v-manchester-united-premier-league-legends-tickets-292278511897>

Festivities will continue on the evening of the 25th June at MTFC Legends Gala Club Dinner Dance in The Glenroyal Hotel 25th June. Tickets on sale soon!

Don't forget to keep an eye on the Maynooth Town Facebook and Instagram pages over the coming weeks see what other Manchester United Legends are coming to our town! <https://www.facebook.com/MTFC1969/>
<https://www.instagram.com/maynoothtownfc>

Lend your support to MTFC by investing in your community through sponsorship or partnership. Contact mtfcdevelopment@gmail.com

MAYNOOTH TOWN FC - V - MAN UTD LEGENDS



25/06/22



FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL RAISE FUNDS AND GET TO PLAY AGAINST THE MAN UTD LEGENDS.



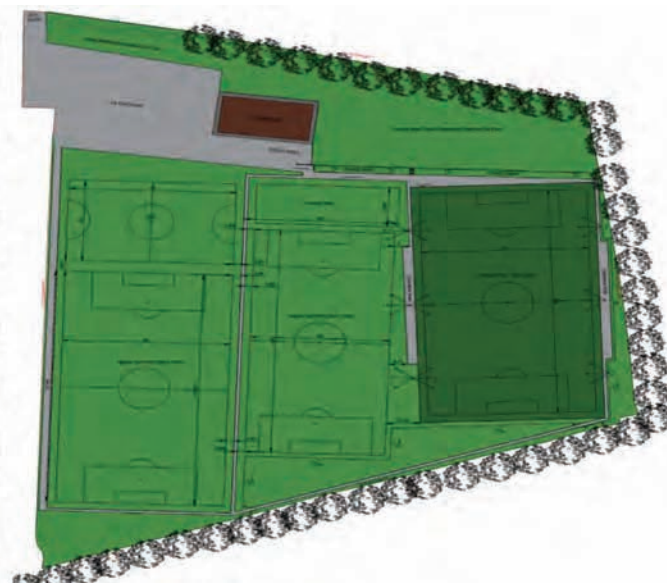
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Maynooth University Town Football Club



F.A.I. Intermediate Cup Quarter-Finals Town 2 - Carrigaline (Cork) 1 (AET)

Town advanced to the Semi-Finals of the Intermediate Cup with this extra-time win. Town shaded the early exchanges but were severely rocked when influential midfielder Conor Foley was controversially sent off for a second yellow card. The Cork side scored direct from the free-kick to set Town a stern task.

Town dug deep however and pushed forward in search of the equalizer. Handball on the goal line provided Town with a penalty. The offending player was sent off and Jackson Ryan duly converted his kick to level matters. Town commanded the rest of the half and were looking confident when pushing forward.

Half-time arrived with the sides deadlocked and the game developed into a hard midfield slog. The second half followed the pattern of the first and the game became stagnant at times.

The ninety minutes elapsed and we went into extra-time. Town made some changes which livened matters and contained the Cork side whilst creating good chances.

With eight minutes remaining Town won a free kick outside the penalty area. Alex Fitzgibbon took the kick and landed it at the feet of Darragh Gannon who expertly finished to the roof of the net. Celebrations were short lived when the referee disallowed the goal on the grounds that he had not blown the whistle. Alex retook the kick and placed it into the area where Darragh Gannon placed his header wide of the keeper. This proved to be the winner of a game which had the crowd on tenterhooks throughout.

Leinster Senior League Senior Division

Town 1 - Sacred Heart 1

This game was a disappointment following the heroics of the previous week in the Intermediate Cup. Town trailed for most of the game and it was only a late Paddy O'Sullivan goal gave Town a fortunate share of the points.

Don't forget to get your teams organized for our Golf Classic - details opposite.



Friday, 29th April 2022

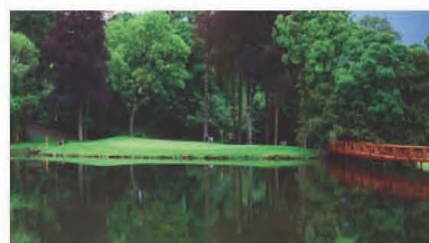
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Cúrsa F: 04/07/22 - 15/07/22

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*“Happy
Easter
To All”*



Phone



E-mail



Cllr. Angela Feeney

Tel. 087 238 1962

Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com

Stay safe everyone.





Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Accessibility Audit of Dublin Road Maynooth

At the March MD Council meeting Cllr Feeney asked the Council to carry out an assessment of the Dublin Road in Maynooth from Doctor's Lane to Carton Retail Park to identify and address accessibility issues on this section of the town. Cllr Feeney welcomed the response from the Council confirming that the on-going Transport Strategy for Maynooth is looking at accessibility throughout the town including the Dublin Road. Any barriers to walking or permeability will be identified and new permeability links will be proposed if needed to improve the walkability of the town and promote a shift to more sustainable travel.

In addition, the Maynooth Transport Strategy is also going to identify issues with the road network in the town and come up with ways to decrease traffic in the town centre, including along the Dublin Road. Cllr Feeney stated that is certainly something everyone will welcome. This will be achieved through a strategic transport model which will examine various roads interventions to determine what will be required in Maynooth to reduce these traffic issues. Cllr Feeney added that while it is certainly good to hear that the Transport Strategy is happening but in the meantime, while we are waiting for that Transport Strategy to run its course she requested the area engineer to look at the problem sections of this path. Cllr Feeney said that they are not fit for purpose, are very narrow; pedestrians and wheelchair users have to go out onto a very busy road to pass. Cllr Feeney thanked the area engineer who agreed to see what can be done in the meantime to improve it.

Leinster Street Footpath extension

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to extend the footpath on Leinster Street, Maynooth as far as the Health Centre. Cllr Feeney explained that while there is a footpath on part of this street, her motion is calling on the Council to continue it due to the fact that Leinster Street has heavy pedestrian use, to the train station, to the harbour field, to the playground, to the health centre, to the community unit, and by all ages. Cllr Feeney said it comes up as an issue of safety for many users. There is high footfall from the train station into the town centre particularly at peak times and pedestrians just do not feel safe using this shared space as it is called.

Cllr Feeney said that the reality is that at the moment it favours cars. So while the street is theoretically shared, the car is king and in her view, if a footpath is needed or warranted for two thirds of the street then why not final section. The Council said it has no plans at the moment to extend the footpath and that the surface is designed as a shared surface for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. However, the Council said it would look at providing some better signage such as stenciling on the surface to make it safer and clearer to everyone using it that it is a shared space. Added to this, I asked that given any future development of the car park that was recently sold on that street that consideration be given to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

Carton Avenue Master Plan

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide an update on the Master Plan for Carton Avenue. She said that Carton Avenue is such a special historic public amenity that is treasured by all Maynooth residents. The Council confirmed that it is engaging a consultant to prepare a conservation plan for the site, the timeframe it is talking about is September to December this year. In the delivery of the Urban Regeneration and Development Funded Master Plan for Maynooth, the Strategic Projects and Public Realm in the Council team will work with the Parks department on the development of appropriate and sensitive design interventions for Carton Avenue.

Flood Relief Measures

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide a report on the implementation of the flood relief measures between Brookfield Avenue, Meadowbrook and Parson Street, Maynooth. She reminded the Council that the OPW produced a Flood Relief Plan (CFRAMS) for this area back in 2017. As far as Cllr Feeney is aware, none of the works in the Plan have been implemented. So Cllr Feeney asked the Council to come back to her with what that report recommendations were and if any of those recommendations were implemented and if not, why not.

Draft County Development Plan Public Consultation

The Draft Kildare County Development Plan is now available to view online at <https://draftkildarecdp2023-2029.ie/> and also at the following locations:

- Online at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/>
- Planning Department, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co.

Kildare during opening times of 9.00am–4.00pm, Monday to Friday (closed Bank Holidays). Appointments can be made online by phoning 045 980200 or at <http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/OnlineBookingSystem/> Submissions or observations can be made online or in writing until 4 p.m. on 24th May 2022.

Three online Public Information Sessions to facilitate a discussion and to provide an overview about the policies, objectives, actions and targets within the Draft Development will be held at the following times and dates:

- Wednesday 6th April 7pm - 9pm
- Wednesday 27th April 10am -12pm
- Wednesday 11th May 2pm - 4pm

Seniors Alert Scheme

Please spread the word about 'The Seniors Alert Scheme' which provides funding for a free personal monitored alarm for people aged 65 and older, to support older people to live securely and independently in their homes. If you are over 65, living alone or living alone for significant periods of time during the day or living with someone who meets the criteria or caring for someone else in your household, you can apply. All equipment and installation under the scheme is free. Funding is available to buy and install monitored personal alarms, which can be worn as a pendant or around your wrist like a watch. These alarms connect to a national helpline through a base unit installed in the home.

For application details: <https://www.pobal.ie/programmes/seniors-alert-scheme-sas/>

Email me if you need any assistance on this afeeney@kildarecoco.ie

Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney since last Newsletter:

- March 4th: 9:00 am Joint Policing Committee (online)
- March 4th: 10:00 am MD Council Meeting (online)
- March 7th: 9:30 am KCC Protocol Committee (online)
- March 10th 12:00 pm KCC Finance Committee (online)
- March 10th 7:30 pm BOM Coláiste Chiaráin (online)
- March 11th: 2:00 pm KCC County Speed Limit Review (online)
- March 15th 10:00 am County Kildare Access Network (online)
- March 28th 3:00 pm Plenary Council Meeting (Chamber)

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St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Last month marked the Band's long awaited return to St. Patrick's Day Parades starting off with the Parade in Dunboyne on Sunday 13th followed by Parades in Maynooth, Kilcock and Clane on St. Patrick's Day. Needless to say there were a lot of very tired bodies by the end of the three parades with everyone being grateful for the Bank Holiday on the following day.

These parades are the main source of income for the Band and we were delighted to have them back particularly with the present increases in electricity, heating oil and insurance costs.

We have started back rehearsing for our Summer programme the first of which is a special Band Mass on Sunday 8th May at 1oc which is to make up for the two Annual Masses which were unable to be held due to Covid so we hope to see as many relatives and friends of deceased members joining with us on the day.

Later in the month we will be paying a return visit to Castletown House in Celbridge on Sunday 22nd at 2pm as part of the Bealtine Festival and we hope you will join us in what is a lovely setting.



Karl Gormley photography

Band at the Kilcock Parade.

ZERO WASTE MAYNOOTH

Monthly Drop In Event

2nd Saturday of the month 2-4pm

Maynooth Community Library

Join us for this drop in event where you can check out the stalls & learn more about how to reduce waste.

Stay for a chat or just simple browse !

Ladies Clothes Swap Shop - Bring one, take one

Toy Swap - Bring one, take one

Up to 3 items for either the toy or clothes swap- must be in usable and good condition

Cloth Nappy Library Ireland - See reusable nappies & chat to volunteers

Sustainable Swaps - learn some ideas on how to reduce waste, save money & care for our planet

Bare Necessities - collection point for this package free food shop (no shop on the day, pre paid orders only)



**Next event date:
April 9th**

OPEN ALL THE WAY CANOEING ON THE ROYAL CANAL IN THE 1950s

By D.M. HARTFORD

About the Author

Diana Mary Hartford nee Barton was born in 1918. The trip described here was undertaken in 1955 just after Douglas Heard completed the last official boat trip before closure of the canal. The trip was undertaken in two stages; Clondra to Mullingar and Dublin (Blanchardstown) to Mullingar. The city centre areas of the canal were not navigable at this time. This article was originally published in a number of Royal Canal Newsletters in the 1970s. The author had a children's book published after this trip, which is still widely used in primary schools today. The author of a number of other books, Diana passed away in 2002.

Part. 4 Longford to Ballymahon

The next morning, we waited in the old Guinness store for a heavy shower to pass and for a goods train that was in our way to leave for Dromod. Two porters then shifted some trucks, also in our way outside, and lifted the canoe to the water for us, and after rewarding them with Gold Flake we paddled off in good spirits with our luggage between our knees and the sun coming out after the shower. From the second straight I took a snapshot of St. Mel's Cathedral behind us. Taking turns to walk the high towpath we hurried back to the Junction. Turning left there we continued on the main line to the next lock.

It had a newly dashed lock-cottage glistening in the sun. This was Ards Lock and the keeper's name was Rogers and he gave us an account of the 'Hark' going down the previous month, filming, with accompanying cars and equipment. At the next lock, the 41st, we also had friendly help from a mother and small sons. Here the high hedges along the canal were full of primroses and violets. Then we came to a high level of bogland and smelt the myrtle. Old heather banks and golden gorse dipped in the water and we let the wind drift us past them as the curlew rose and wheeled. At one

point, where a tarred road crossed a bridge, a Longford registered Hillman Minx came to a halt and a man put his hands out and clapped, when I said we were going to Ballymahon he wished us luck. A contrast, my friend thought, to the man on the first day who called out "Where do you think you're going?"

Soon after the second lock of the day the woods of Hosstown House looked many-coloured on our left. We paddled past beech trees to the grey stone edging of Keenagh Harbour and on under a newly concreted bridge. After this we knew and felt the canal to be skirting higher ground with a wide stretch of land below us on our right. We were approaching what sounded like the sensational bit of the route where Caffrey told the Rolts they would have 100 feet of rock on one side of them and 100 feet drop to the bog on the other. The canal began to twist and turn round the edge of the hill and we saw ahead a great quarry in the hillside. From the path on our right, it was worth getting out to see the silver gleam of Lough Ree away below.

Then round the next bend in rocks like Connemara we saw at last Mullawornia Lock, perched on the edge of a big drop. By now it was 5 p.m. and after Archie's Bridge came Longford Bridge where the road to Ballymahon crosses the canal, but we pressed on to Brannigan Harbour. Sooner than we expected we saw a gaunt warehouse, a wide stone-lined harbour and Chaigneau Bridge. Beyond the bridge wall a grassy bank and a little cottage with a thick low hedge round it and Mrs. Nolan of the cottage let us leave the canoe under it for the night.
(To be concluded)

The Royal Canal Amenity group are grateful to Diana for submitting this article for publication at the time.



Sunday Lunch

At just €30 per person, our Sunday Lunch set menu is a 3-course variety of exceptional food using the finest local ingredients while showcasing the talents of our Executive Head Chef, Bernard McGuane.

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We would like to express our condolences to the family of Richard Farrell on his recent death in March, Richard was one of the founding fathers of Maynooth Tidy Towns.

He was so delighted when we won our first Bronze Medal in 2013 after years of slowly gaining points. He will be missed by all who knew him for his knowledge and expertise in all aspects of life in Maynooth.

Condolences to Mary, Damien, Deirdre and Martin, may Richard rest in peace, he will be remembered as a gentleman and a scholar, he taught us all so much.



We had our AGM in March, thanks to all who attended. There will be some changes to the Committee going forward, John Kavanagh has resigned as Chairman but will remain on as a committee member. John has been in the Chairman's role since 2016, we thank him for all his hard work and dedication. Mary Jennings has resigned as Treasurer, Mary was also elected to the Treasurers role in 2016. Mary will not have any role on the committee going forward but will remain on as a volunteer with Tidy Towns. As well as her role as Treasurer, Mary had the arduous task of completing the Tidy Towns Application every year, for which we thank her profusely.

New officers will be elected on to the committee at our next committee meeting on the 7th April 2022.

Thanks to Nally and Casey's Supervalu Maynooth for the 2 Hampers they presented to us recently, they were raffled amongst the volunteers. They also gave us flowers to plant at the Harbour. Thanks to Eimear Hoare from Physiofit Maynooth for the 2 vouchers she presented to us, they were also raffled amongst the volunteers.

Our volunteers have been very busy, litter picking, sweeping and sowing many trees in different areas around the town but especially in Meadowbrook and Old Greenfield.

*Follow us on Facebook for all up to date information.
If anyone wishes to become a volunteer please contact us on WhatsApp
or you can join us in the Square any Saturday morning at 9am,
weather permitting of course.*

Mary Molloy, Secretary Maynooth Tidy Towns



Wishing
everyone a
Happy Easter

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Education ~ Heritage ~ Recreation

The annual tour is at an advanced stage of preparation. It will take in areas of the canal not visited on the previous trip and also a visit to a stately home and gardens. It will also include evening dinner. As always, the committee are working very hard to get the best possible value for our members and guests, despite the current high inflation levels.



WATCH THE NEXT ISSUE FOR MORE DETAILS

We take this opportunity to remind members that membership fees, which were not sought during the lockdown now fall due. Annual family membership is very reasonable at €30.00 while a three-year family membership is also very good value at €80.00. People living in Maynooth and surrounding areas who would like to join can do so online at www.royalcanal.ie. Those who have relocated to the area to live more recently are also welcome to join.

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ

An alternative way to look and examine the Universe - Infrared Astronomy

'An alternative way to look and examine the Universe - Infrared Astronomy.' | 5 April | 10am | Zoom | [Maynooth University \(geckoform.com\)](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/geckoform.com)

This talk is about why infrared astronomy is important, what an infrared telescope looks like, and we show some interesting examples of what we can learn. We will see some relevance of why studying Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) and Maths is really important here to understand the Universe, and to maybe learn how life started on Earth.

This month we feature some pictures from the archives. The first is of the old “Royal Canal Bus” traversing Maynooth Harbour. On this occasion it was being piloted by the late Hugh O’Sullivan of Kingsbry Maynooth.

This venerable old boat was used, on both the Royal and Grand Canals to give rides along the waterways. It was used by almost every branch along the Royal canal at various times during its long life. An old tug boat, it was refurbished and converted. While it was well maintained and presented it did not conform to all of the current stringent regulations with regard to passenger boats on our waterways. The cost of bringing it up to standard was prohibitive and alas it is now ‘rusting in peace’

The second is of the reopening of Maynooth Harbour on 27th.May 1980. This was the culmination of years of work cleaning, refurbishing and restoring the Harbour and surrounding areas. As can be seen a flotilla of boats big and small arrived for re-opening.

Note the absence of the Glenroyal Hotel / Shopping Centre and the almost submerged Island.



Royal Canal Bus Maynooth Co Kildare
© FitsFoto Maynooth



Reopening of Maynooth Harbour
© Tom Darcey Dublin



One important question is where did all the water come from on Earth? Have other objects like comets and asteroids the same type of water?

Dr. Neil Trappe graduated with a B.Sc. in Applied Physics from the University of Limerick before completing a Ph.D. in long wavelength optical analysis techniques in the Experimental Physics Department at NUI Maynooth. He has worked on the HIFI instrument for the European Space Agency's Herschel Space Observatory (ESA PRODEX funded), Band 5 & 9 optical design for ALMA (SFI Research Frontiers funded) and currently is working on and managing a number of Technical Research Projects for the European Space Agency. This work is developing efficient analysis techniques, instrument design, and focal plane pixel architectures for future Cosmic Microwave Background space missions. He also recently obtained an SFI Infrastructure Award to establish a THz frequency measurement system.



Herschel Space Observatory (ESA)

DIVERSITY MATTERS WORKSHOP
(Facilitated by Immigrant Council of Ireland)

Are you managing a Community or Voluntary Organisation in Co. Kildare?

Do you want your organisation to develop the skills, knowledge and techniques to embrace this diversity to the benefit of the organisation, staff and service users?

Why not Register for our Zoom Diversity Matters Workshop
on
April 4th 2022 at 7pm

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- ➔ Effective approaches to Diversity Management
- ➔ Ways to foster inclusivity & ways to promote positive work environments
- ➔ How to knit anti-racism into organisational policies

To Register email anne@countykildarelp.ie or phone 086 0208616

Places are Limited so don't delay



This Project is Funded by Communities Integration Fund 2021 Department of Children Equality Disability Integration & Youth

Maynooth I.C.A. Notes

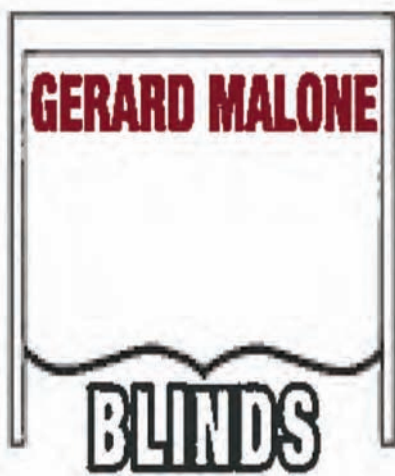
The I.C.A. are back up and running again in Maynooth. All members are delighted to be back.



Our Committee now are: President: Mary O’Gorman, Vice President: Catherine O’Reilly, Secretary: Doireann Caden, Crafts Officer: Mary McMahon, Arts Officer: Mary Murphy, Treasurer: Patricia Farrell, PRO: Norah McDermott, An Grianán Representative Eilis O’ Malley. Guild members will be collecting for Daffodil Day. The Guild will hold it’s usual Easter Raffle. Congratulations to Margaret Houlihan on winning 2nd place in the baking competition. Kildare Federation Grianán weekend will take place from 17th to 19th June and a further one from 21st to 23rd October.

Some members attended the Regional meeting in Clonmel in March. The National A.G.M. will take place the Knightsbrook Hotel in Trim on 28th May. Craft classes take place on Monday nights 8 - 10p.m. and Tuesday mornings 11a.m. to 1p.m. Congratulations to the Quiz team of Rosemary Hanly, Margaret Houlihan and Mary Mac Namara on winning the Federation Quiz. They will now go forward to the National Final in An Grianán.

We wish them every success in this competition. The members also made donations of goods to Simon Charity. The Federation A.G.M. takes place on the 26th April in the Slip Hall in Celbridge at 8p.m. Guild meetings take place 1st Thursday of each month and new members are always welcome to our hall in the Harbour.



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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. (P.B.)

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention here). 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. Sacred Heart of Jesus I place all my trust thee

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. (E.P.)

SAINT THERESE

Saint Expedite Prayer for Urgent Needs Prayers

(This prayer is to be said daily until your request is granted, Be sure to publish this prayer thanking Saint Expedite, so that his name and glory will grow.)

Saint Expedite, you lay in rest. I come to you and ask that this wish be granted.
(Mention your urgent request)

Saint Expedite now what I ask of you. Saint Expedite now what I want of you, this very second. Don't waste another day. Grant me what I ask for.

I know your power, I know you because of your work. I know you can help me. Do this for me and I will spread your name with love and honor so that it will be invoked again and again. Expedite this wish with speed, love, honor, and goodness.

Glory to you, Saint Expedite! (P.B.)

Easter Hot Cross Buns

This Hot Cross Bun recipe is filled with warm flavors like cinnamon and nutmeg, and raisins or currants add a touch of fruitiness.

These scrumptious little rolls are sweet but not overly sugary, and they can be enjoyed at breakfast, as a snack or enjoy a steaming bun with a cup of tea or coffee in the afternoon for a little pick-me-up.

And if you're planning to be a guest at someone else's house, these buns travel well and are usually a big hit!

Ingredients

For the buns

- 625g/1lb 6oz strong white flour, plus extra for dusting (see tip for alternatives)
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp ground mixed spice (or a combination of ground spices such as cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg, cloves and ginger)
- 45g/1½oz unsalted butter, cubed, plus extra for greasing
- 85g/3oz caster sugar
- 1 unwaxed lemon, finely grated zest only (alternatively use finely grated zest of ½ orange or 1 tangerine/satsuma)
- 1½ tsp dried fast-action yeast
- 1 free-range egg
- 275ml/9½fl oz tepid milk (non-dairy milks are also suitable)
- 125g/4½oz dried mixed fruit of your choice



For the topping

- 2 tbsp plain flour (see tip for alternatives)
- 1 tbsp golden syrup or runny honey, gently heated, for glazing (see tip for alternatives)

Method

- For the buns, sieve the flour, salt and mixed spice into a large mixing bowl, then rub in the butter using your fingertips. Make a well in the centre of the mixture, then add the sugar, lemon zest and yeast. Beat the egg and add to the flour with the tepid milk. Mix together to form a soft, pliable dough.
- Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface. Carefully work the mixed dried fruit into the dough until well combined. Knead lightly for 5 minutes, or until smooth and elastic.
- Grease a large, warm mixing bowl with butter. Shape the dough into a ball and place into the prepared bowl, then cover with a clean tea towel and set aside in a warm place for 1 hour to prove.

- Turn out the proved dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knock back the dough. Shape into a ball again and return to the bowl, then cover again with the tea towel and set aside for a further 30 minutes to rise.



- Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and divide into 12 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a ball, then flatten slightly into a bun shape using the palms of your hands. Cover the buns again with the tea towel and set aside to rest for 5–10 minutes.

- Grease a baking tray with butter and transfer the buns to the tray. Wrap the tray very loosely in baking paper, then place inside a large polythene bag (or cover loosely in lightly oiled cling film). Tie the end of the bag tightly so that no air can get in (if using) and set aside in a warm place for a further 40 minutes to rise. Preheat the oven to 240C/220C Fan/Gas 8.

- Meanwhile, for the topping, mix the plain flour to a fairly thick smooth paste with 2 tablespoons cold water (you may need to use slightly less or more water to get the right consistency). When the buns have risen, remove the polythene bag and the greaseproof paper. Spoon the flour mixture into a piping bag (or a plastic food bag with a corner snipped away) and pipe a cross on each bun.

- Transfer the buns to the oven and bake for 8–12 minutes, or until pale golden brown. As soon as you remove the buns from the oven, brush them with the hot golden syrup, then set aside to cool on a wire rack.

Recipe Tips

For the dough, you can use up to half wholemeal or spelt flour instead of all white, but you may need to add a little extra milk or water. You can even use plain flour at a push, but be aware that the dough won't rise as much and the end result may be a tad heavy. For the topping, any white-coloured flour will work, from cornflour to rice flour. Feel free to use what you have in – just ensure the paste is thick enough (different flours will absorb differing amounts of water). If you haven't got golden syrup or honey for glazing, any sugar syrup will do (agave syrup, maple syrup etc). Or try dissolving 1 heaped tsp of any granulated sugar in a little hot water.

Source: www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/hotcrossbuns

Traditional spiced, sticky glazed fruit buns with pastry crosses. Served as a classic Easter treat, the buns can also be enjoyed at any time of year.

Oliver Reilly

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Maynooth: a Socio-Economic Community Profile - 1901-1911
Highlights from the past. (Continued)

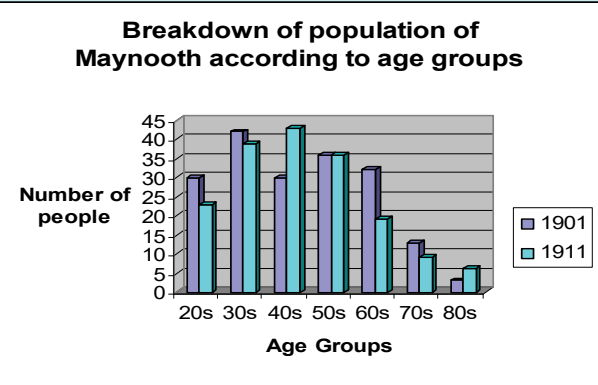
Population

Our Census forms for 2022 are being delivered to households and will be filled in on the 3rd of April. This happens to coincide with this planned article on the study of the 1901 and 1911 censuses for Maynooth.

The population figures noted by Arnold Horner in the Historic Towns Atlas for Maynooth are for Maynooth Town only, which accounts for 91 acres. Maynooth Town is a townland within Maynooth area. Maynooth’s population increased from 1375 in 1901 to 1586 in 1911. The chart below shows the male, female and scholar populations as calculated from the online census excluding Collegeland. The total figures in brackets refers to Maynooth Town only and not the surrounding areas. While the hinterland of Maynooth increased in population, the Town showed a decrease. (excludes Collegeland)

Year	Males	Females	Scholars	Total
1901	671	704	337	1375 (948)
1911	792	794	354	1586 (886)

The following chart outlines the breakdown of the population according to age groups. The number of people in their 80s was five or less in 1901 and 1911. There was more people in their twenties, thirties, and seventies in 1901. In 1911 there was less younger people in their twenties, much more in their forties, much less in their 60s and more in their eighties. Less of the younger generation may point to lack of diverse employment opportunities in the locality. The census returns for college servants, clerical students and academic staff in St. Patrick’s College Maynooth accounts for a further 600 individuals. The Collegeland will be dealt with separately. Of the total population for Maynooth (1316) in 1901, the vast majority of the population came from Kildare, Meath,



Dublin City and Westmeath which accounted for 359 people. There is a strong representation from Scotland and England and these are accounted for by employees at Carton Estate. The same trend continues in 1911. However, there are increases in 1911 to 25 counties and we also see countries such as America, Germany, South Africa, England, Scotland and India added to the list.

In 1901 and 1911 the number of widows outnumbered widowers considerably. There were 70 widows and 24 widowers in both 1901 and 1911. The average age of widows in 1901 was 58. The average age in 1911 was 62. Three hundred and fifty one people are described as married in 1901 and 425 in 1911, an upward trend.

Housing

The population of Maynooth Town appears to have decreased. There is an increase in the number of houses in the wider Maynooth area. The total number of houses in Maynooth in 1901 is 326. Maynooth Town accounts for 227 houses. The 1911 census shows an increase in the total number of houses to 342 which includes 13 that are uninhabited. The number of houses for Maynooth Town decreased to 207 which included 7 uninhabited.



There was no fourth-class housing in Maynooth which would have been a one roomed, thatched mud cabin with one window. First class houses typically were built of stone or brick, roofed with slate, had at least five or six rooms and eight windows to the front. Second class housing which made up the majority in Maynooth and consisted of brick or stone buildings, roofed in slate, had two to four rooms and had two windows to the front. Third class houses were built of stone or brick, were roofed in slate or iron and consisted of one or two rooms with one window to the front.

The breakdown of the class of house indicates some improvement by 1911. Third class housing reduced from thirty-four houses in 1901 to seventeen in 1911. First class housing rose slightly from forty-five in 1901 to forty-nine by 1911. Second class housing rose considerably from 206 in 1911 to 265 in 1911.

In almost all of the outlying farming areas that make up Maynooth there was a first class house e.g. Ballygoran, Crewhill, Dowdstown and Blakestown to mention a few. There were eighteen first class houses in these areas in 1901. This figure had risen to 26 by 1911. The number of houses increases in these areas during the decade for example Blakestown, Barrogstown West, Mariavilla and Greenfield. This indicates an expanding and developing farming community. Dublin Road had no third class houses and had additional three first class houses by 1911 which began to give a solid approach to the town. In 1901 first class houses in the town were in Leinster Street (6 houses) and Main Street (16 houses) which was much the same for 1911.

Third class housing was to be found in three main areas. In particular Parson’s Street Upper, is listed as having thirteen of the twenty four houses as third class. Doctor’s Lane had three third class houses out of ten and School Lane had five houses out of twenty seven. There was some contraction in the number of houses in parts of the town. In particular Parson’s Street Upper saw a reduction in the number of houses from twenty four in 1901 to twelve in 1911. Leinster Street was reduced from twenty two to seventeen. The number of unoccupied houses dropped from seventeen in 1901 to 8 in 1911.

Literacy

The question asked in the census for both years says ‘State here whether he or she can read and write, can read only or cannot read’. There were variations in the

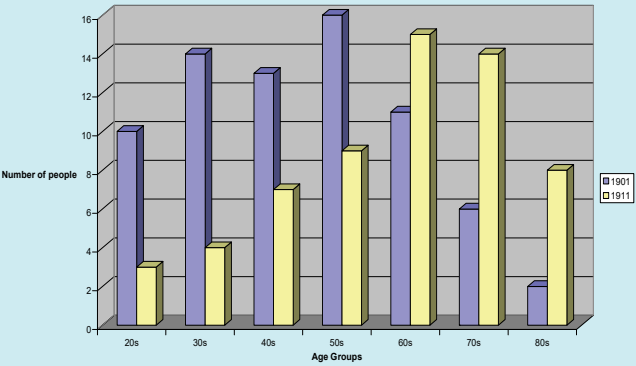
replies. For example cannot read or write, read only, can’t read and write, etc. For the purposes of ascertaining literacy levels all those who could not read and or write were taken into account. The vast majority of people answered that they could read only.

In 1901 there were 114 people over the age of 23 who could not read, four of whom stated they could not read or write. Most of the individuals who could not read fell into the 40 plus age group. This figure reduced to 63 in 1911. These represented people over fifty years of age. The following chart shows a breakdown of the ages of people who could not read. Literacy levels improved greatly in the lower age groups between 1901 and 1911. However they increased in the older age group from the sixties on. This may have been because illiteracy levels were at their highest in the fifty year age group in 1901. The occupations of people in this group were non-skilled. The men were mainly labouring. One was a butcher, another was a mason and another described as a ‘dealer in delph’. The women described themselves as housekeepers, charwomen, domestic servants or laundresses.

Cannot read according to age

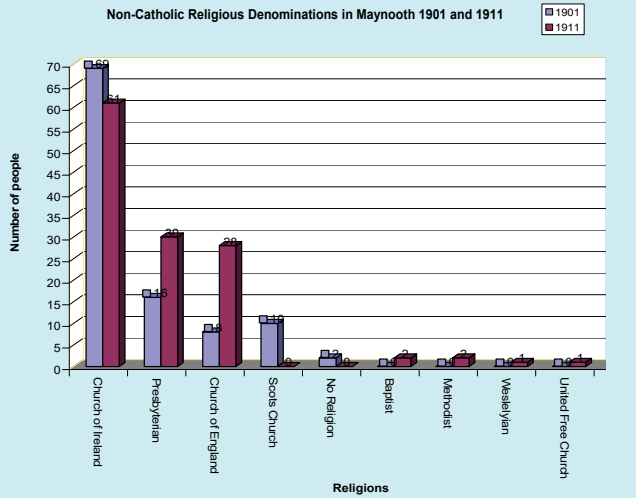
Religion

The non-Catholic population of 106 persons accounted



for 7.7% of the total in 1901 and similarly 126 persons accounted for about 7.9% in 1911. These figures do not include those of St. Patrick’s College Maynooth. This figure is mainly due to the number of non-Catholic employees in Carton Demesne who came from Scotland, England and Northern Ireland.

(Sean Durack)



To be continued...

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3. €8,000 loan over 4 years. €202.63 per month for 48 months. Representative APR 9.93% variable rate. Total Cost of Credit €1,726.33
4. €60,000 loan over 10 years. €671.26 per month for 120 months. Representative APR 6.17% variable rate. Total Cost of Credit €20,550.81
5. €18,000 loan over 6 years. €320.63 per month for 72 months. Representative APR 8.57% variable rate. Total Cost of Credit €5,085.47

APR stands for Annual Percentage Rate. Loans are subject to approval. Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. Over 18s only

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Warning: The cost of your repayments may increase

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



Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Silence

There is an Irish *seanfhocal*, literally old saying, *Is binn béal in a thost*, sweet is a voice in its silence. Conal learned the truth of that the hard way. It happened during an elocution class in City College. Each student had to recite some poem he or she liked. Being a recent immigrant from West Galway in a class with a large contingent of Harlem students, he decided that Longfellow’s *The Slave’s Dream* would be ideal. After all, this slave was no mere downtrodden black man but someone who had been a prince in his native Africa. Now in his final moments he was back again in that great continent, riding a powerful stallion as he travelled south. From roaring lions and screaming hyenas to flocks of bright flamingos the wildlife of his former domain passed before him, ‘till he saw the roofs of the Kaffir huts and the ocean rose to view’ – but something was wrong! Conal was aware of shocked amazement on his listeners’ faces. It must have been triggered by that word ‘Kaffir’ – but why?

‘You don’t expect us to listen to that drivel?’ a surly voice demanded above the outburst of outraged protests from the seated fellows and girls.

‘Wait!’ Ken the lecturer admonished. ‘Let the speaker explain.’

‘I always thought a Kaffir was an Arab,’ Conal began, to a chorus of mingled boos and jeers. ‘Anyway, Longfellow obviously didn’t intend to insult Africans.’

‘Then he should have stopped writing romantic drivel about a continent he had never seen,’ the surly fellow declared, sparking a chorus of general support.

“OK”, Conal raised both hands shoulder high. ‘If you find the poem offensive then I apologize for my poor choice of material.’ Saying which he resumed his seat.

That wasn’t the only occasion where his lack of savvy betrayed him. In his workplace there was a fellow, Scotti, who never lost an opportunity to humiliate him, starting from the time he had asked him what size circuit breaker he should indicate on the plan he was drawing.

‘Listen to this chancer!’ Scotti announced to the entire office. ‘He doesn’t know the most elementary thing about electricity and he’s supposed to be designing a layout for this building. Why should we have to bailout a klutz like that?’

Notwithstanding Scotti’s sarcasm, Conal kept silent, that

is until the day Scotti declared that Irish women were ugly. ‘What about Grace Kelly?’ he asked.

‘Grace Kelly is an American,’ Scotti pointed out.

‘Yes,’ Conal conceded, ‘but her parents were Irish. ‘Her grandfather came from Mayo.’

‘Big deal!’ Scotti scoffed.

‘Well, what about Maureen O’ Hara?’ Conal remarked.

‘Another American and not exactly – ‘

‘If she’s American, how come her real name is FitzSimons and she was born in Dublin?’

‘So what? With her red hair she’s no looker.’

‘Well, what about Maureen O’Sullivan? She was Irish and had black hair.’

‘Never heard of her.’

‘She used to play Jane in Tarzan films and her daughter is Mia Farrow, Frank Sinatra’s wife.’

‘Big deal!’

‘Maybe not, but millions of Americans wouldn’t agree with you.’

‘I still maintain that Irish broads are no lookers.’

‘You know the old saying’, Conal declared, ‘There are none so blind as those that will not see.’

Scotti had no comeback to that remark, so Conal dropped the subject.

His liaison with Irish-American Charlie, a Manhattan high flyer, still rankled. Conal had taken her to the cinema, then to a four-course meal in a French restaurant, where she had ordered frogs legs, coq au vin and a really expensive Bordeaux Chardonnay. The next day he had arranged to meet her in Times Square but she had stood him up. Like a fool, he had accepted her explanation that her employer was short-staffed and she couldn’t refuse him for fear of losing her job.

‘Why didn’t you ring me?’ he nevertheless protested. “It would have saved me a lot of trouble.’

‘I’m truly sorry,’ the way she said it over the phone sounded glib, but he was too smitten to upbraid her.

The upshot was that he took her on a date to Greenwich Village, where they had a meal in The White Horse Tavern, followed by attendance at Under Milkwood in the Circle in the Square theatre. Afterwards it was clear that neither the hard seats nor Dylan Thomas’s mellifluous English had been to her liking. That should have been proof enough for Conal that he and Charlie weren’t compatible but, ever hopeful, he reckoned his firm’s annual

dinner in the Four Seasons Restaurant would really bowl her over. Imagine his chagrin when, on her failure to turn-up, she informed him over the phone that her boss had insisted that she work that evening.

‘But you’re down on the guest list as my partner,’ he protested.

‘I’m really sorry,’ she apologized. ‘But my secretarial job’s on the line.’

The thought occurred to him that he should arrange another date for the following week and then, when she was all decked out, cancel it. That would pay her back for her highhanded attitude.

‘Would you like to see a really good play? Brian Friel’s *Philadelphia Here I Come* is opening on Broadway.’

‘What’s it about?’

‘It’s about an Irish fellow emigrating to America.’

‘That sounds interesting,’ the way she said it showed she had her doubts.

‘Fine then. I’ll book seats for Saturday night week – if that’s ok?’

‘There’s a really good film on in Lincoln Center – ‘

‘No, Friel’s play got great reviews. You’ll enjoy it.’

‘In that case, why not?’

He took a friend’s sister, who was dating a New York cop, to the dinner in The Four Seasons, then on the following Saturday went to a dance in City Center ballroom. During a slow waltz with Jenny, an attractive Belfast Loyalist, he realized they had much in common, including an interest in The Beatles. While Jenny visited the bathroom he got on a pay phone to Charlie and apologized for not meeting her.

‘You could have phoned, instead of letting me get ready for a date,’ she fumed.

‘It was like that Simon & Garfunkel’s song, *The Sound of Silence* ‘,

he began, ‘you know, *Hello darkness my old friend* – ‘

‘Are you trying to be funny?’

‘No, I’m trying to explain’.

‘Oh, get lost!’ she snapped. ‘I should have known you’re a loser.’ Saying which, she hung up

I’ll take Jenny to the Brian Friel play, he decided. After all, politics apart, he and she are both northerners, so she’s bound to enjoy it.

P.G. Nerney

Night Lines
To Aidan

Despite your angry strength
You could not best a foe
Entrenched within the body’s cells,
And so I write to you,
As I wrote this night three years ago,
Trying to realign
The fragments of your shattered self:

Emblazoned with horns
Your image prowled our college talk,
Fiery champion of Saint Nathy’s
Panting to assail our goalposts.
Then in Galway foe turned friend,
Generous, warm, volcanic,
Outpacing Pre-Med cynicism
To anatomise hypocrisy,
While scoffers, wild men, pseudo-rebels
Sniped at codes that would ensnare them.
But you, last son of an ardent father,
From a town born of a quarrel,
Were even then skirmishing
With the peddlers of complacency,
Lie hater, truth lover,
A man incapable of peace,
A thorn in every gobdaw’s side,
Tearing up my rooted icons,
Davis, Hyde, Pearse, Dev,
Like a crop of deadly nightshade;

Yet, when you most reviled your countrymen
Then were you most the Celt:
Joyce jeering at the timid mummerns,
Drunken, loud, outrageous Behan,
Cuchulainn, the small dark man of passion,
Fighting unaided half of Ireland.

Torn by endemic conflicts,
Your spirit raged like theirs,
Whipping you to new endeavours:
County forward, golfer, team manager,
Actor, pianist, public speaker,
Friend of Bolshevik and anarchist,
Rescuer of the lost and wounded...

Discovering foes in previous friends,
You turned your strength on me,
A Ferdia who, it appeared,
Became a pillar of the “Emerald Junta”,
And so for ten long years
Our natures locked and wrestled:
Past versus future,
Thought versus action,
Dream versus reason,
All the unbridgeable dichotomies –
But that is just a surface truth,
For surely you knew well the dreams
That you so scathingly disparaged?
And I the dreamer could out-reason you
When truth was swamped by passion.

No doubt, as might have been expected,
We both were true and false
To our positions,
For life proceeds by contradiction;
Yet all this time
Like the strife of those two cowherds
Who fought as birds, sea monsters, worms
And finally turned into bulls
Bellowing and butting
Across the breadth of Ireland,
Our quarrel raged in endless guises:
Rebel charging at conformist,
Marxist trampling capitalist,
Agnostic goring Catholic,
Expat disembowelling patriot,
Until bile almost smothered friendship,
Leaving just a smouldering core.

But now that you have passed
Beyond my reach for ever
And all that baffles me is known to you,
I unreservedly proclaim
You ennobled people by your combat:
Treating plodders as your equals,
Compelling fence sitters to make a stand,
Firing ‘bourgies’ with the joy of battle.

No, you were never really bested,
Cove, ‘matey’, old friend, daemon...

Colin Scott



Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers - Cont.

Dear Editor,

We learned an Irish version of the Scottish 'Skye Boat Song' in college, which I am hoping some of your readers may recall. The words went something like this: Siúl a bhfoirle mar éan ar á sciath / Siúl a ghéibh na Seoighe / Gualann an laoch ba chóir bhí ina rí / Thairis go Tír na Seoighe. (Please excuse spelling.)

If I'm correct, Tír na Seoighe is the Joyce Country in Connemara. Does anyone recall the proper version of this song?

Many thanks,
Pádraig Ó Duibheannaigh.

JESUS AND THE 12! EASTERTIDE

Jesus himself was the lesson which he constantly strove to teach his disciples. He always stood apart – was never one of them. Even when he ate with them he was still the centre of the entire experience. He was always almost out of reach of them as they often did not understand what he was saying. He was frequently apart from them. He rose early in the mornings to pray. Sometimes he spent the whole night in prayer.

Then at least once he sent all the disciples off in the boat and went away by himself to pray. When he came to them in the middle of the night and they battling with a storm, they scarcely knew him. Once, having heard that the pharisees were in a dither over his followers' baptizing more people than John, he was on his way back to Galilee. He was apparently alone, and was passing through Samaria when he came to Sychar where he met the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob. He had a long talk with her and declared himself not only to be the source of living water but also the Messiah.

When the disciples arrived they were amazed to find him talking to a woman and a Samaritan woman at that. They dared not question him but appeared to be totally at sea as to what was going on. They offered him food but when he refused and told them that he had food to eat that they knew nothing about they wondered whether someone could have brought him food. A Jew in Samaritan territory? He then explained to them the nature of the food he was referring to, to do the will of his Father.

What riches he had brought to that village! At the last supper when he said that one of them was going to betray him they were afraid to ask him directly but used John as a go-between as he was just beside Jesus. Again they didn't understand what was going on when he handed the piece of bread to Judas and told him to be quick about his business. They thought he was off to give alms to the poor.

After the resurrection perhaps Thomas was speaking for all of them when he declared his lack of faith without some real proof. He got that proof when Jesus used Thomas's own challenging words referring to the reality of his wounds.

If those incredulous, unschooled, ordinary Galilean men finally threw in their lot with Jesus shouldn't we do likewise? We know through the evidence of these men and their companions that Jesus is the Light of the world, the Way, the Truth and the Life, The Bread of life, has the Words of Eternal life. He is surely worth believing in! Much sounder bet than anything I see around here! He is nearer to us than ever he was to those closest to him two thousand years ago!

GM

The Grey Knight—A Review

This book was my introduction to the writings of Patrick Devaney and I really enjoyed it. It was an easy read not only due to the fluency of language, but because it is printed on good quality paper in large clean type face and well laid out chapters.

The story line is simple and well developed, although I was confused at first as to whether The Grey Knight was a horse or a painting. In fact it was both.

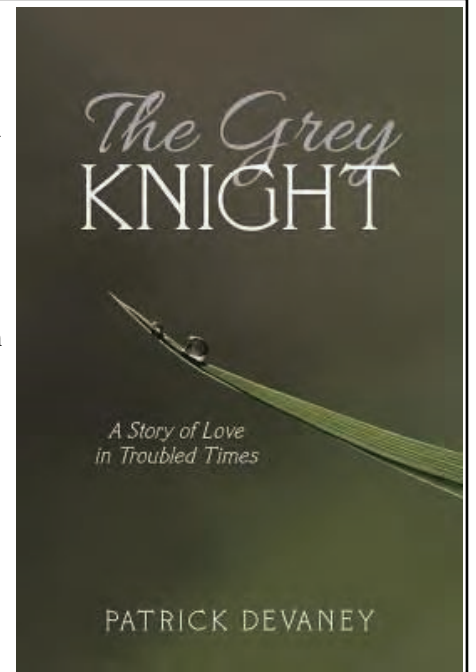
What struck me as a reader the book was the way it reminded me of writers like Maurice West, Frank O'Connor and Patrick Kavanagh, all good storytellers. It highlights the beauty of ordinary things in rural Ireland that has almost disappeared.

The author is gifted with acute powers of observation, where buildings, birds and animals are concerned, although sometimes the details of these seem to be introduced in a rather arbitrary fashion. Similarly the gripping dialogue is occasionally interrupted by the insertion of detailed descriptions of domestic chores which may give the scene a homely setting but actually slow down the narrative.

In a pre-mobile phone age the use of the letter as a means of communication is fully utilised yet occasionally it seems a little contrived. The subtitle of the book. "A Story of love in Trouble Times" gives a good overview of the theme that knits the various strands of the story together. However, I found myself hoping for more detail of how the Northern Troubles impact on the rural community. One had to wait until Chapter XXXII before it burst on us with a vengeance. The car bomb detail was obviously drawn from the tragic scenes in Belturbet - December 1972, where two young people lost their lives in similar circumstances. Patrick Devaney deals with it in a very sensitive and moving way which brings his story to a powerful and emotional climax.

As I read the book I formed the opinion, although I did not know anything about the author at the time, that he was certainly a teacher. His familiarity with a wide range of poetry and the insertion of snatches of poems here and there give this work a touch of class, which we don't always find in contemporary literature. I am not familiar with Author House - the publisher, but they did a really good job in the layout and production of the book. Much credit is also due to proof-readers. This book needs to be more widely published and would make a welcome Christmas present for readers of all age groups. I look forward to seeing more of Patrick Devaney's work

Owen Collins



Maynooth University's Festival of Food Sovereignty



When: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 - 10:30 to 15:30

Where: Callan Building Room 8

Against the backdrop of pandemics, war, and a food price crisis, the case for food sovereignty is stronger than ever. Food sovereignty is about prioritising small-scale and sustainable and regenerative food production to benefit communities and their environment. Instead of policies and practices that reflect the demands of markets and corporations, food sovereignty is about trying to put the aspirations, needs and livelihoods of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies. On April 13, come to Maynooth University to think about how to build food sovereignty in Ireland, with inspiring and interactive discussion, music, and more.

Register here: [Maynooth University's Festival of Food Sovereignty Tickets, Wed 13 Apr 2022 at 10:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Session 1:

10:30 to 13:15, CB8 (Callan Building, room 8):

Building food sovereignty in Ireland and beyond, with music from Ashling O'Reilly and contributions from David Wolfe (Proprietor, Wakelyns Farm, Suffolk, UK), Rose Hogan (Sustainable Agriculture Adviser, Trocaire), Breda

Larkin (artist, Talamh Beo), and Jason Horner (seed grower and Ireland Coordinator for the GAIA Foundation Seed Sovereignty UK and Ireland Programme). Hosted by Davie Philip (Cultivate, Cloughjordan Ecovillage), with Dr. Louise Fitzgerald and Dr. Alistair Fraser, Dept of Geography, Maynooth University.

Session 2:

13:30 to 15:00, School of Education building, Room 129:

A regenerating session of talk, learning, and Tai Chi about, and ending in, Maynooth University's edible garden. Hosted by Dr. Patricia Healy-Kettle, Maynooth University, and with Tai Chi from Nicole Mills. Also includes a 'make a pot and plant a seed' activity.

Notes:

- Tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring your own lunch and/or something to share. Gardeners or those with green fingers are welcome to help weed the edible garden during session two, so feel free to bring your gardening gloves!

- Maynooth University is best accessed by public transport, however the campus has some paid car parks and there are some more affordable parking options in Maynooth town.

- Maynooth University's Festival of Food Sovereignty is kindly supported by: Afri (www.afri.ie); Maynooth University Social Science Institute; Maynooth University Green Campus Committee; Department of Geography, Maynooth University.

April Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Events for Children

Spring into Storytime Event: Create Your Own Fairy Tale Forest!

Saturday 2nd April 3pm-4pm

In-person children's workshop at Maynooth Community Library for children aged 6-12 years.

Join storyteller Simone Schuemmelfeder for this special in-person craft workshop. With card-board and paper, we will create our own pop-up fairy-tale forest. Who lives in your dark, dark woods?

A witch? A wolf? Some fairies? Or something completely different? There's no limit to your imagination! Places are limited. All children under the age of 8 attending this workshop must have a parent/guardian remain in the library building during the workshop.

Booking required through Eventbrite: <https://fairytaletalestartworkshop.eventbrite.ie>

In-Person Storytime and Nursery Rhymes for 2-5-year-olds

Friday 29th April 10am-10.30am

In-person storytime for pre-schoolers is back at Maynooth Community Library!

Join the staff of Maynooth Library for our first in-person story time, with stories, nursery rhymes and songs. This Friday's story time theme is 'Down on the Farm', so come along to learn all about what you can see and hear on the farm!

Booking required: <https://inpersonstorytimefriday29th.eventbrite.ie>

Anyone4Science Harry Potter workshop for ages 7-10 years: In-person children's workshop at Maynooth Community Library

Tuesday 19th April, 12.30pm-1.30pm

Join Maynooth community library and Anyone 4 Science on the 19th of April for some fantastic literature-themed science.

Learn about magnets and magnetism and become Harry Potter by making your own "magic" wand. Suitable for children 7-10 years.

All children under the age of 8 attending this workshop must have a parent/guardian remain in the library building during the workshop.

Booking required through Eventbrite: <https://anyone4scienceharrypotter.eventbrite.ie>

Anyone4Science Gangsta Granny CSI In-person workshop at Maynooth Community Library for ages 10+

Tuesday 19th April, 3.00pm-4.00pm

Learn about crime scene investigation and forensic science so you can stop Gangsta Granny in her tracks. Suitable for children 10+ years.

Booking required through Eventbrite: <https://anyone4sciencegangstagrannycsi.eventbrite.ie>

Easter Activity Pack

Bundle of easter themed activities available to collect from Maynooth Library. Design your own EGG-CITING Easter egg, using collage and colours; make your own Easter bookmark; and other activities to keep you entertained over your Easter break!

Suitable for ages 4-10

Available from 6th April

Events for Young Adults

Maynooth Library: Try a Teen Book Club Afternoon

Friday April 22nd /4pm and 4.30pm/ On Zoom

Maynooth Library has two book clubs for Teens for ages 12-14 and ages 15-17. It's common for young people to veer away from reading when joining secondary school or around age 12-13, so Maynooth Library is keen to draw them back in with a new Book Club for ages 12-14. This book club will meet once a month for 30 minutes and there will be a choice of book each month. For the older more picky teens, there is a book club with a difference for ages 15-17. There is always the option of suggested reading, but teens can read and recommend whatever they like. Contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980 493 for more information.

Events for Adults

In celebration of Poetry Day Ireland: 'Written in the Stars': An evening of sharing poetry

Thursday 28th April, 6.30pm, via Zoom

Join us on Poetry Day Ireland with the theme 'Written in the Stars'. If poetry is a constellation, which poems have guided and inspired you along the way? Some of you may wish to read a poem aloud, and others might like to just listen as we look to the stars through poetry.

Hosted by Maynooth and Ballitore Libraries.

All welcome. Booking via Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/poetry-day-ireland-written-in-the-stars-tickets-293821787877>

Beginners Sewing Machine Classes

Commencing 5th April from 6.30pm-7.30pm

Must have own sewing machine.

If you have an unused, unloved sewing machine then this class is for you. Learn to thread,

adjust tension, change needles, use different stitches and make some very simple projects. If interested, please contact Maynooth library on 045 980 493.

Wednesday Morning Book Club from 11.00-12 noon on the 3rd Wed of month:

Wednesday 20th April

If interested contact Maynooth library on 045 980 493

U3A Book Club on the 2nd Mon of the month.

Monday 11th April 10.30 - 11.30am

If interested contact Maynooth library on 045 980 493

Knitting / Craft Club

Every Monday from 12.00 - 13.00.

Come and join likeminded people for an hour of chat, knitting and crafting.

Maynooth Library 045 980 493

Regular Events

Online Story Time & Sing Along Nursery Rhymes via Zoom for 2-5 year olds.

Every Friday 10-10.30am

Join the Staff of Maynooth Library for some online storytelling and nursery rhymes!

Please be aware that a parent/guardian must be present for the duration of the event.

Booking required through Eventbrite.

Friday 1st April 10am: <https://onlinestorytimefriday1stapril.eventbrite.ie>.

Friday 8th April 10am: <https://onlinestorytimefriday8thapril.eventbrite.ie>.

Friday 22nd April 10am: <https://onlinestorytimefriday22ndapril.eventbrite.ie>.

Bookclubs

Readers of the Lost Ark Scifi Bookclub For Adults

Tuesday 12th April 6.30pm

The Readers of the Lost Ark Scifi Bookclub meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm via Zoom. The April meeting of the bookclub will be on Tuesday 12th of April at 6.30pm. The bookclub will be discussing 'Skyward Inn' by Aliya Whiteley.

If you are interested in joining the book club, please email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or telephone 045 980 493.

How to make Easter Chicks from pompoms

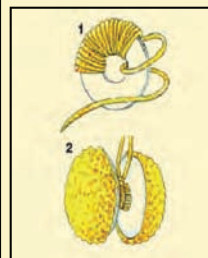
Create these cute Easter chicks to hang in your windows. Children will enjoy helping to make these Easter chicks – let them make the pompoms, then you can finish them off with their felt beaks, feet and wings.

You will need

- card
- yellow wool
- scissors
- orange felt
- glue
- googly eyes



How to make the Easter chicks



1. Cut two card circles measuring 7.5cm in diameter with a 2.5cm-diameter hole in the centre of each. Place the card rings together and wind wool around both rings (see diagram 1) until the hole is almost full.

2. Cut through the wool around the outer edge, tie a 30cm length of wool between the discs and pull away the rings (see diagram 2). Repeat the process to make the smaller pompoms for the chicks' heads, using 6.5cm diameter circles with 2.5cm-diameter holes.

3. Join the pompoms together with the ties. Cut four felt rectangles, shaping one end for feet and wings, and fold a diamond shape in half for the beak. Glue in place and stick on eyes. Hang up with a length of wool.



Source: www.prima.co.uk/craft/easy-craft-ideas/news/a22196/easter-chicks-pompoms/

Easter Chicks can sit in an Easter basket, be attached to gifts, or be used as decorative items.



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

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

Mullen Park homes offered to buyers, but with 25% price hike

A number of houses in the Kildare estate came on the market last week, nearly a year after the outcry over a €1 billion global investment fund's plans to bulk-buy 155 of its properties. New-build homes in the Kildare housing estate Mullen Park, which were due to be sold to an investment fund, are back on the market at €499,000 – nearly 25 per cent more than the original asking price in April 2021.

Last May, the *Business Post* revealed that a global property investment firm with a €1 billion war chest had pushed out first-time buyers by bulk purchasing 115 homes in the Maynooth estate. Round Hill Capital, the fund that was in line to block buy the homes as part of a €54 million deal, subsequently backed out of the arrangement and the homes are now back on the open market. Last week, Hooke and MacDonald, acting on behalf of the developer of Mullen Park, said there would be a small release of houses in the estate. "We have a selection of two-bedroom houses from €410,000, three-bedroom houses from €463,000 and four-bedroom houses from €499,000," the email to prospective buyers said. The new prices of homes in the Kildare estate are significantly ahead of the prices advertised last year, when most properties in the development had an asking price of €400,000.

The prices of new-build homes in the housing estate are now between €60,000 and €95,000 more expensive compared to last year. Records from April 2021, seen by the *Business Post*, show the asking price of a four-bed home in the development was €405,000 at the time. According to the Residential Property Price Register, the average price paid for a home in Mullen Park in 2021 was more than €423,000. Catherine Murphy, co-leader of the Social Democrats and TD for Kildare North, said the rise in the cost of homes in Mullen Park could not be explained away by inflation in the prices of building materials. "The homes are being sold for what the market can bear. It's a shockingly large increase and I don't think anyone who was keeping an eye out for these homes when they came back to the market will be happy after seeing the auctioneer's email," Murphy said.

Last year, when the planned sale of three and four-bedroom houses in the estate to Round Hill Capital was revealed by this newspaper, it caused a political furore. It led to the government bringing in new legislation in May to impose a higher stamp duty charge of 10 per cent on investment funds if they bought up ten or more houses in housing estates. In July, Kelston Properties, the developer of the estate said the deal with Round Hill Capital would no longer go ahead and the 115 remaining homes would be offered to individuals for sale. (From Independent today)

House prices soaring by €100 a day as property heats up to boom-time levels.

The Q1 *Irish Independent* REA Average House Price Survey has found that average house prices rose by 3.16pc nationally in the first three months of the year, matching the 1pc-a-month increases experienced during the boom. Almost 60pc of all purchasers were first-time buyers, a figure which rose to 76pc in Dublin as people with mortgage approval scramble to get a foothold on the housing ladder. Two other property price surveys, released from Daft.ie and MyHome.ie, also show a continued property market squeeze with rising asking prices nationwide.

The *Irish Independent* REA Average House Price Survey concentrates on the actual sale price of Ireland's typical stock home, the three-bed semi. This is intended to provide an accurate and up-to-date picture of the second-hand property market in towns and cities countrywide. Today's report shows that the price of a three-bedroom semi-detached house across the country rose by almost

€9,000 over the past three months to €278,500. That's the equivalent of about €100 every day. There has been an annual increase of more than 14pc, closing in on the €300,000 average level at the height of the boom in 2006. There continued to be big price rises in counties outside of major urban areas, amid a new focus on working-from-home brought on by the Covid pandemic. Actual selling prices in Dublin, however, remain highest at an average of €481,250. "We are now approaching and, in many cases, exceeding Celtic Tiger prices in the capital, with the market being driven by frustrated first-time buyers," said REA spokesperson Barry McDonald.

"Despite signs of a rise in available stock over the last couple of weeks, sale prices are still increasing at all price ranges. "Affordability is now key, and the highest growth levels are being experienced in areas where homes are available for less than the average county figure." The country's other major cities saw rises of 2.2pc on average, mostly in line with Dublin, while Waterford city returned a 6pc price increase with the average three-bed semi up €15,000 to €265,000, driven by high demand from outside buyers.

Counties in Dublin's commuter belt saw prices increase of 4.47pc, or an average €13,000 to €305,000. This was double the rate of increase seen in the capital. In the rest of the country, where prices rose 3.4pc to €196,569 on average, the survey found that one in every three buyers were from outside the county as new working conditions enable a rethink on home bases. In Carrick-On-Shannon in Leitrim, two-thirds of purchasers are new to the area, according to REA Brady, Carrick-on-Shannon. There were significant price rises in counties Cavan (8.3pc), Mayo (8.2pc) and Galway (8.7pc) where agent REA McGreal Burke has noted the return of younger generations to rural Ireland, bringing with them increased purchasing power. Meanwhile, 75pc of house sales were to first-time buyers in Cavan town. Homes there rose €15,000 in three months to €175,000 and sales were being agreed in an average of two weeks, according to REA Peter Donohoe. In Killarney, agents REA Coyne and Culloty are reporting just 19 houses for sale amongst all estate agents in the town – the lowest figure on record, with no new developments coming on stream.

It comes as housing prices rose by 2.4pc on average during the first three months of 2022, according to the latest Daft.ie Sales Report released today. It says the average listed price nationwide in the first quarter of 2022 was €299,093, up 8.4pc on the same period in 2021 and just 19pc below the Celtic Tiger peak. Just 10,000 homes were listed for sale on March 1, another new low in a series stretching back to July 2006.

Ronan Lyons, economist at Trinity College Dublin, said: "Inflation in housing prices remains stubbornly high – with Covid-19 disturbing an equilibrium of sorts that had emerged, with prices largely stable in 2019 but increasing since. "As has been the case consistently over the last decade, increasing prices reflects a combination of strong demand and very weak supply.

"Both new and second-hand supply remain weaker than expected before the pandemic. Combined with unexpected strong demand, due to accidental savings during lockdown, this has driven up prices. "Additional supply – of all types of homes, for sale but also market rental and social rental housing – remains the only real solution to solving Ireland's chronic housing shortage."

And a separate report from MyHome.ie/Davy also suggested no let-up in the property market squeeze for the first quarter of the year. It has national annual asking price inflation now running at 12.3pc. Conall MacCoille, chief economist at Davy, said that double-digit inflation was now likely to persist until at least the middle of the year.

"The broad picture of the market in early 2022 remains similar to last year: impaired supply coupled with robust demand due to Ireland's strong labour market."

Government Must Fast-Track Bill To Ban Demanding Sex For Rent

Social Democrats' Bill, "Ban On Sex For Rent 2022", was debated by the Dáil.

The government must fast-track legislation which makes demanding sex in lieu of rent a specific criminal offence, according to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy TD. "As the rental crisis deepens, there have been reports of a minority of landlords demanding sex from prospective tenants in lieu of rent. Last week, it was revealed that Ukrainian refugees were being deliberately targeted by grossly exploitative landlords. "This shows the depraved depths of the housing crisis, where some despicable landlords expect sexual favours in return for putting a roof over people's heads. The fact that refugees fleeing war could be subjected to such disgusting demands shows the urgent need to legislate in this area. "Our Social Democrats' Bill, Ban On Sex For Rent 2022, was debated by the Dáil. I was pleased that Tánaiste Leo Varadkar confirmed in the Dáil that it is a piece of good legislation and the government intends to support it.

"However, the government must do more – and fast-track this Bill through the Dáil. There is a gap in the law, when it comes to sex being demanded in lieu of rent, that urgently needs to be filled. This Bill can do this. "The Ban On Sex For Rent Bill 2022 creates an offence of requiring or accepting sex as a condition of accommodation and also creates a second offence, for anyone including publishers, of facilitating the requirement or acceptance of sex as a condition of accommodation. These offences carry penalties of up to seven years in prison or a €50,000 fine. "This Bill is not a panacea – it is one aspect of the required State response to protect renters. Protections for tenants can also be bolstered by a nationwide ban on rent increases; a deposit protection scheme; an end to no-fault evictions and the establishment of a rent register. Crucially, the supply of affordable housing must also increase as a matter of urgency."

Government Must Act On Fuel Costs and Price Gouging

Oil prices are now at record levels while the wholesale price of gas has doubled in just a week.

The government must immediately act to reduce the cost of fuel – and must also ensure that price gouging at the pumps is not taking place, according to Social Democrats Catherine Murphy TD. "The cost of fuel is skyrocketing to unprecedented levels and the government must take immediate action to support families and businesses who are crippled by these additional costs. "The Social Democrats previously called on the government to cut VAT to reduce the cost of energy, but it refused. Senior ministers have now stated that excise duty may be cut, but there appears to be no urgency to act.

"I was concerned to read media reports today which suggested the government wants to lock in prices at their current unsustainable level and cut excise duty only if prices continue to spike. This is not a credible response. "Oil prices are now at record levels while the wholesale price of gas has doubled in just a week. This is causing extraordinary hardship – to workers, families and businesses – all over the country. "It is also regrettably the case that some retailers may be taking advantage of large fluctuations in global energy costs to engage in price gouging. The government must ensure this is not taking place. The Irish Competition and Consumer Protection Commission should have a role in monitoring wildly fluctuating prices at the pumps to guard against price gouging."

(Continued on page 28)



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

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(Continued from page 27)

For **Written Answer** on : 24/03/2022
Question Number(s): 242
Question Reference(s): 15729/22
Department: Foreign Affairs
Asked by: Catherine Murphy T.D.

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs the amount collected in passport application fees in the past ten years to date; and the breakdown of the fees collected in respect of first-time applications, renewals, emergency passports and so on over the same time period.

REPLY

The total amount of passport fees collected by the Passport Service since 2012 is outlined below in tabular form. A breakdown of the fees collected by application type as requested by the Deputy is not available as our current system does not easily facilitate this. This is further complicated by the many other factors which would need to be taken into consideration including the channel used to apply for the passport, where the person resides and if there was a reduced fee applied when a bundle of passport book and passport card were applied for at the same time. The Department of Foreign Affairs has been urged to provide

Year	Passport Fees Collected
2012	€39,634,921
2013	€38,369,783
2014	€39,055,198
2015	€42,051,536
2016	€46,744,825
2017	€50,227,847
2018	€51,379,655
2019	€53,612,645
2020	€26,745,948
2021	€40,258,356
2022 (to date)	€13,841,356

more accurate information on expected waiting times as people fear they will be forced to cancel trips Irish holidaymakers have been warned that a massive backlog in the passport office for those waiting on first-time passport applications could cause some to miss their flights. The Department of Foreign Affairs has been urged to provide more accurate information on expected waiting times as people fear they will be forced to cancel trips. A technical issue with the system in recent weeks added to the problem, causing difficulty in getting passports to first-time applicants.

Social Democrat co-leader Catherine Murphy said she has never received such volumes of passport queries from the public. She said: "I can't recall anything like the volume of passport inquiries that I'm getting -and I'm presuming that it's the same with every TD. So at this stage, there is a degree of chaos that people are feeling. "I think the Department have to come out and be very honest with people about the length of time they're going to be waiting. Or else they've got to augment the number of people who are working in the passport office to try and bring down waiting times." Following the lifting of Covid restrictions, the passport office received over 137,000 new applications, the highest volume ever received. There are currently 160,000 passport applications in the system, of which 20,000 are first time applications from within the State. Travelers' have been advised that the current processing time for a first-time application is up to 40 working days, but Deputy Murphy said this timeframe is longer in reality. She said: "The automatic passports, where somebody is looking to renew and doing it online, that's working well. "And in fact, it's one of the better initiatives over the last few years that the passport office has done. "But there isn't a day goes by that we don't get multiple requests in relation to information on passports now.

It is one of the dominant issues that's cropping up for us. "It's mainly for people who are applying for a first-time passport or a passport for a child. "These take 40 days, but what is not clear is that they take 40 days from the time it's checked, and they may well be with the Department a significant length of time before it's checked. "So the Department need to give accurate information out to people because they're making decisions on should they cancel or postpone trips and things like that if there isn't a chance of getting a passport."

In response to this Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney said: "The Passport Service regrets that the passport tracker recently experienced technical issues which resulted in the tracker not correctly updating a small number of applications. The Passport Service became aware of the issue earlier this month and initiated an investigation at that point. This issue has been identified and is now fixed. "While it has not been possible to immediately update all affected applications on the tracker, this will happen automatically when these applications reach the next stage of the process. "It is rare for the passport tracker to experience this kind of technical issue. The Passport Service regrets any inconvenience caused to applicants who have been affected."

Government home building fund gave 90% of Momentum Fund to big developers

A key Government lending body set up to increase the supply of small scale housing developments nationally delivered 90% of one of its funds to large-scale developers and corporate investors. Home Building Finance Ireland (HBFI) told the Public Accounts Committee that some €242 million of the €274 million it lent under its Momentum Fund had gone to such large-scale private concerns. That figure, committee members suggested, would mean that instead of providing finance for smaller developers HBFI is instead fueling development which is in turn being bought up by corporate investors and cuckoo funds. Chief executive of HBFI Dara Deering argued that it was necessary to prioritise those larger developers due to the Covid pandemic, which had led to an "ongoing problem of a lack of finance in the market". She acknowledged that of the 1,018 units constructed under the Momentum Fund, 841 had become rentals within investment funds, 92 went to private owner-occupiers, and just 85 went to social housing.

She further admitted that HBFI does not require proof from firms applying to it that they were unable to source funding from Ireland's main banks, a fact which led to an accusation from Sinn Féin's Imelda Munster that "no checks or balances" are in place. "I am sure they were rubbing their hands that they got the funding so easily," Ms Munster said. Ms Deering said that HBFI does not look for proof of such refusals as "we don't believe that encourages the creation of supply". Average rents for the one-bed apartments constructed under the Momentum Fund were €1,800 per month for a one-bed, €2,100 for a two-bed, and €3,100 for a three-bed. Sinn Féin TD Imelda Munster. Picture: Sam Boal / RollingNews.ie The €300 million Momentum Fund was set up in May 2020 at the height of the pandemic to "specifically help house builders commence large housing developments in prime locations in cases where funding may not have been available", Ms Deering said. Committee vice-chair Catherine Murphy remarked that the provision of finance to large developers "was not the expectation for HBFI". "This was supposed to be small or medium developers," she said. "Why can't these big developers source money in the market?" Ms Deering, who acknowledged that her overall salary totalled €314,000 in 2020, said that five schemes had been funded under Momentum, three of which went to the private rental market with one sold to the private market. "Based on our market analysis, if we had not funded those homes we are categorical that they would not have been built," she said. She said that the Momentum Fund is "not a case of either/or" in terms of funding both small and large developers. "We were still sure we could fund small-sized developments," she said adding that Momentum "didn't compromise" HBFI's ability to fund smaller concerns. Some 65% of what HBFI has funded "are

on small or medium sites of less than 50 houses" she said. Despite the body having an "initial expectation" that it would be supplying finance to smaller developers outside Dublin, 37% of the units it has funded to date are in the capital, Ms Deering said. To date, HBFI has yet to fund a single housing development in six counties - Cavan, Longford, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, and Limerick.

(Killian Woods article Sunday Business Post) State body has been criticised for lending to large-scale private developers for homes bought in advance by investment funds. A wider review of a state agency that financed the construction of homes bought by investment funds is required after the agency "tore up its remit", members of the Dáil's financial watchdog have said. The calls from two members of the Public Accounts Committee have come after Home Building Finance Ireland (HBFI), which was set up in 2019 to lend to small and medium-sized builders struggling to get access to finance, presented its financial statements to the Oireachtas group on Thursday. Last year, the Business Post revealed that HBFI provided hundreds of millions of euro to fund the construction of more than 900 homes that had already been purchased in advance by funds. The development finance was given to builders through a new product launched by HBFI in May 2020 called the Momentum Fund. In total, €242 million of the €274 million lent through the Momentum Fund went to large-scale private developers, which represented a large chunk of HBFI's total finance pool of €750 million.

Catherine Murphy, the Social Democrats TD and member of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), said a wider review of HBFI is now required to see how the Momentum Fund was devised. "I will be making that call myself for a wider review of HBFI, and I would be surprised if that is not a general call among other committee members. The Momentum Fund has ceased, but the very fact it emerged in the first place shows that there isn't a limit on their remit. And by moving away from that remit, the whole emphasis on small builders isn't happening as intended." Imelda Munster, the Sinn Féin TD and Public Accounts Committee member, said she would like clarity on why the board approved the move by HBFI to finance the construction of homes being sold to funds.

"The buck stops with the government at the end of the day. It turns out HBFI is acting in the complete opposite manner to what the government said would be its remit." She added that although HBFI stopped taking applications for its Momentum Fund at the end of 2021, the agency's decision to provide any finance to large developers meant it has "torn up its remit". "The momentum fund is closed now, but the guts of €300 million came out of its initial €700 million in funding that we were told was meant for small-time builders, but a big portion has been given to large developers." When the fund was launched in 2019 by Eoghan Murphy, then Minister for Housing, and Paschal Donohoe, the Minister for Finance, it was said that the agency would "target its loans at small builders". Last week, Dara Deering, chief executive of HBFI, said she believed the agency was still acting within its remit through the Momentum Fund. In contrast to the ministers' comments, she said HBFI was not set up to target funding at a particular segment of the market and its "initial remit was to increase supply". She added that HBFI only backed three private rental schemes through the Momentum Fund and only a third of homes it has financed to date are now in the rental sector. When contacted for comment, a spokesman said HBFI was making a "significant difference in the market" by providing homes for owner-occupiers, renters and social housing tenants.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Finance said HBFI is designed to have an "agile business model, with flexibility to respond to temporary market challenges". She added that HBFI's product offering has developed from an initial core product designed to fund residential projects of ten units or more, to a current offering of five products covering developments of five to 300 homes including houses, apartments and social units.

An Nuadha Players

After more than two years of an absence An Nuadha Players are back in action. It is brilliant to be back rehearsing again for a show that goes to stage on May 19th.

We are presenting “Twisted: A Wicked Fairytale”. This is a hilarious fantasy musical written by Martin Higgins based on a concept by Caitriona Carr. You need to imagine what would happen if summer never arrived – ok this is Ireland so let’s put it another way: imagine the grand stretch in the summer evenings being stolen. Imagine the King of Darkness, Crom O’Boo, trying to upset the order of the seasons, just for the craic like! Imagine what humans might have to do to get the grand stretch back: sending Thoughts and Prayers to bore the dark forces into submission (yes Thoughts and Prayers are actual people) or sending the feisty Saoirse (not Ronan – the budget does not stretch that far) ‘to terminate the patriarchy of the Celtic pantheon’ (we do hope that she knows what she is doing!). Will there be a happy ending? Well happy endings are seriously overrated so who knows!

This musical may have a quirky theme but it also has a guaranteed feel good factor and goodness knows that is much needed these days. Do you feel that your spirits need lifting and a good laugh would do you the world of good? Then this is the show for you.

The show will be presented in the Aula Maxima, St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth on Thurs. 19th May 7:30, Fri. 20th May 7:30, Sat. 21st May 2:30 and 7:30 and Sun. 22nd May 2:30. Tickets are on sale online at buytickets.at/annuadhplayers or at the door on the day of performance. The tickets are €15 adult, €12 concession or groups of 10+ and €45 family (2 adults and 2 children).

Follow us on Facebook or contact us by email at annuadhplayers@gmail.com

Hope to see you in May! Bring your biggest smile!

An Nuadha Players
proudly present
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A Wicked Fairytale
(And hilarious fantasy musical)

Aula Maxima, St Patrick’s College, Maynooth

Thursday 19th May 7:30pm Saturday 21st May 2:30pm & 7:30pm
Friday 20th May 7:30pm Sunday 22nd May 2:30pm

Adult €15 Family €45
Concession €12 Group (10+) €12

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022 Photo Gallery Extra



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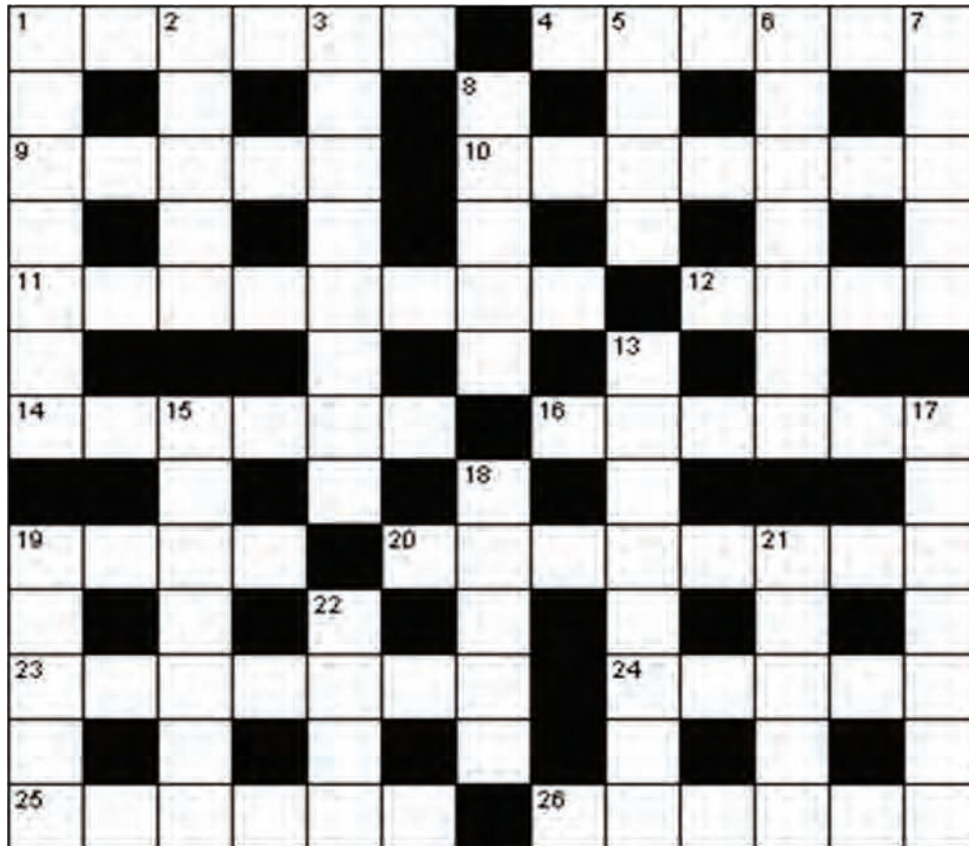
Tel: 087 8046168

Email: topdogsgroom@yahoo.com
www.topdogsgroom.com

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 24/02/2022 to 29/03/2022 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
22339	Kildare County Council	Tesco Ireland Limited,	Tesco Store, Carton Park Retail Campus, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	28/03/2022
22321	Kildare County Council	David Dunne	Clonfert South, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	23/03/2022
22242	Kildare County Council	Liam & Bairbre O'Toole	Pike Bridge, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	07/03/2022
22248	Kildare County Council	Flor Mc Carthy	Crinnstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	07/03/2022
22237	Kildare County Council	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd.,	Limewalk, (also knows as Carton Avenue), Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	04/03/2022
22220	Kildare County Council	Lidl ireland GmbH,	Lidl, Straffan Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 FV34.	01/03/2022
22221	Kildare County Council	Cairn Homes Properties Limited	Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	01/03/2022

April 2022 Crossword - No. 511



Solutions to Crossword - No. 510



Clues Across

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Cultivated plot (6) | 19. Part of the neck (4) |
| 4. Written musical compositions (6) | 20. Resident (8) |
| 9. Film (5) | 23. Inactivity (7) |
| 10. Refrain from voting (7) | 24. Play (5) |
| 11. Listlessness (8) | 25. Excused (6) |
| 12. Meat or vegetables cooked slowly (4) | 26. Deferred payment (6) |
| 14. Shrink (6) | |
| 16. Evaded (6) | |

Clues Down

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Risk taker (7) | 17. Take away (7) |
| 2. Stud (5) | 18. Large expanse of water (5) |
| 3. Panache (8) | 19. Dissonance (5) |
| 5. Monetary value (4) | 21. Accolade (5) |
| 6. Responded (7) | 22. Pace (4) |
| 7. Tendon (5) | |
| 8. Freight (5) | |
| 13. Flatfish (8) | |
| 15. Use up (7) | |



Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

Super Difficult

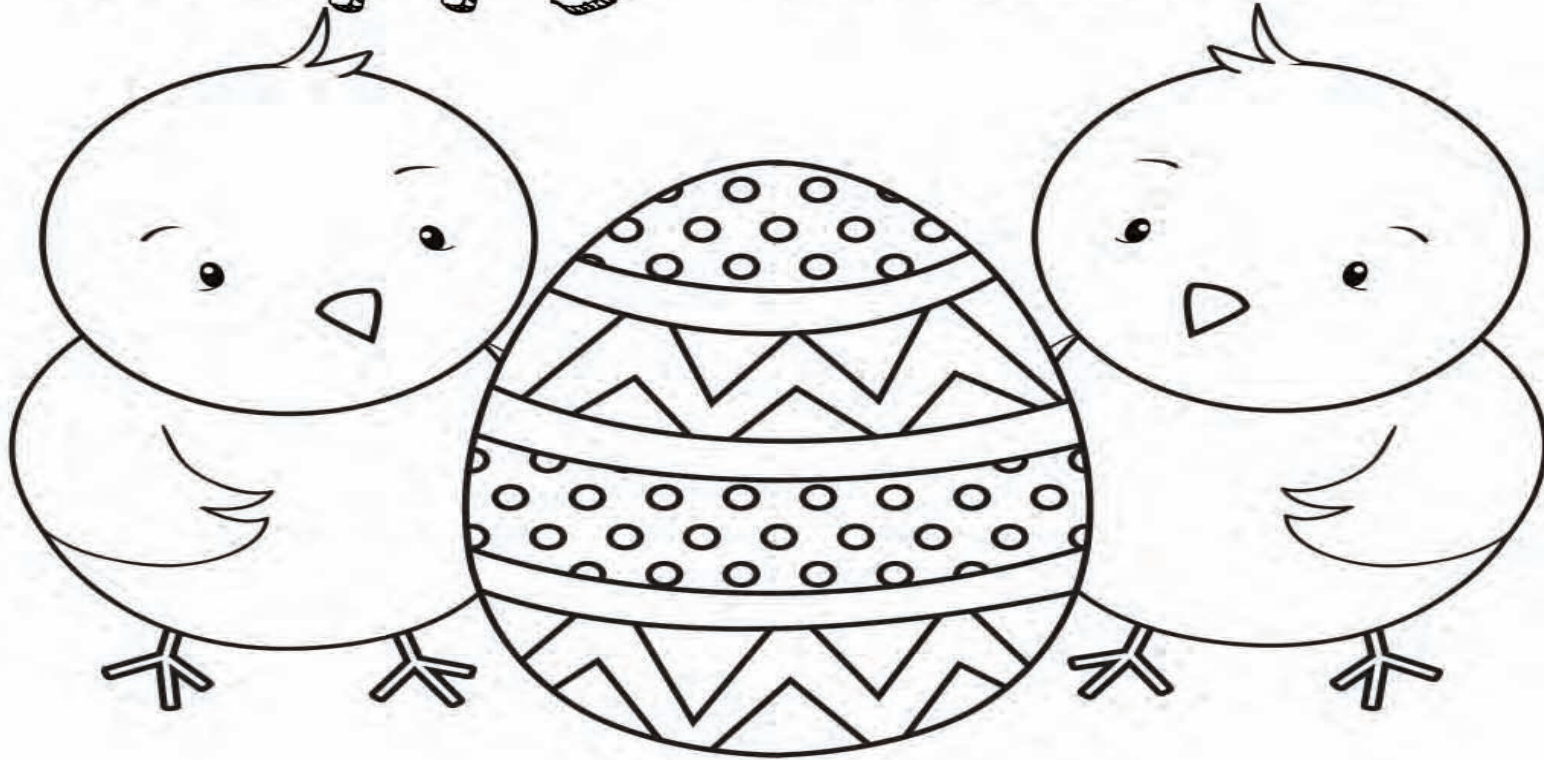
							3	
			5	3		7		4
		9			1	5	8	6
	9						4	5
2			3		5			7
1	5						2	
7	8	5	6			9		
9		6		5	2			
	3							

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

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

Junior Puzzle Corner

Happy Easter



Children's Colouring

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

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

Easter Word Search

Sunshine and
HURRICANES
Smart Reading with Purpose

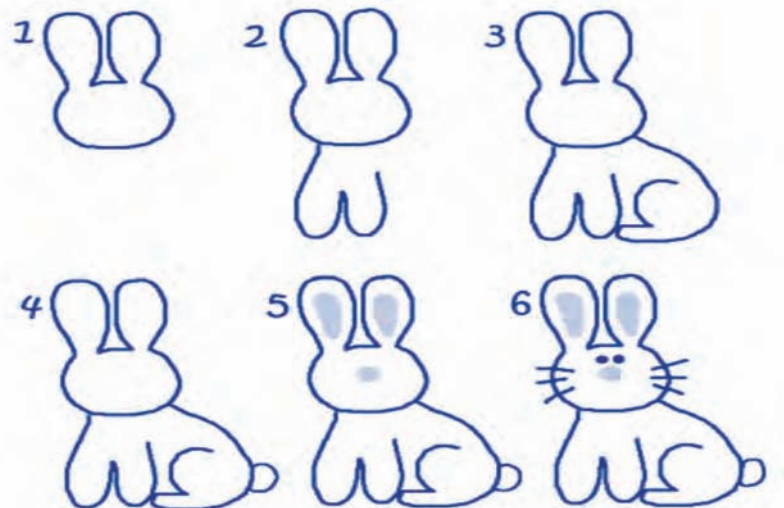
Easter
Word Search

M	U	Q	O	E	U	A	P	E	I	C	P
X	H	Y	W	E	O	E	E	G	S	A	U
G	I	P	S	P	R	I	N	G	M	C	J
C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	C	B	B
P	C	Y	U	G	E	Z	O	B	H	A	C
E	S	P	A	R	R	C	N	U	I	S	F
E	K	I	U	A	H	O	O	N	C	K	A
P	H	E	A	S	T	E	R	N	K	E	M
S	E	U	Y	S	G	O	G	Y	S	T	I
Y	S	B	N	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	L
F	M	R	S	T	E	R	V	O	I	D	Y

GRASS	CHICKS	FAMILY	FLOWERS
EASTER	BASKETS	SPRING	CHOCOLATE
HUNT	BUNNY	EGGS	PEEPS



Draw your own Bunny



Once I saw the Easter
Bunny,
Come hop, hop, hop,
So I cried "Dear Bunny,
will you stop, stop, stop?"

I ran to the window
To say, "how do you do?",
But he shook his fluffy
tail,
And said, "Happy Easter to You."



April Gardening

April is finally here and now the clocks have gone forward we have an extra hour of gardening time to play with in the evening. It also heralds the start of the growing season as leaf buds and flowers burst into colour and the circle of life begins again. Before the last frost plant fruit trees. Till your vegetable garden as soon as the soil is dry and crumbly. Grow cool-season vegetables such as spinach, lettuce, broccoli, beets, radishes, peas, and carrots. Plant asparagus, rhubarb, and berries. Start seeds indoors for summer vegetables and annual herbs. Plant lily bulbs now in pots! If you want to get ahead with your summer lily display, start planting now! I'd always recommend planting in pots. You can simply move them around the patio or into gaps in your borders as they come into flower! Use a good, multi-purpose compost and half-fill a container at least 30cm (12") in diameter and is sufficient for 3 bulbs. Cover with more compost and water in. Once the plants begin to shoot, move them to a sunny position. Feed with a liquid plant feed each week from the beginning of summer.

Dig in compost or manure to prepare for the growing season.

Dig in a 5cm (or more) layer of compost or well-rotted manure into your beds to prepare for the growing season. You can also work in a general purpose fertiliser such as pelleted chicken manure or fish, blood and bone. Apply a layer of mulch around your perennials, trees and shrubs before the hot weather arrives. Use organic matter such as well rotted manure. Lift and divide perennial plants now to improve their vigour and create new plants for your garden.



If any of your garden plants will need supporting this year, put the supports in now so the plants grow up through them. Adding supports afterwards is difficult and may damage the plant. Tie in climbing and rambling roses to their supports. Honeysuckle and Clematis will now be putting on growth, tie in new stems to train the plant along



its support. Check any tree ties to make sure the tie is not cutting into the trunk. Loosen any that are tight to allow the trunk room to expand. Prune your Penstemons now - cut all the old shoots back to the base provided there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves. If you haven't done so already, finish cutting back any dead foliage left on your perennials and ornamental grasses to make way for new growth. Trim winter-flowering heathers as the flowers disappear, to prevent the plants becoming leggy. Continue to remove any faded flowers from your winter pansies to stop them setting seed. This will encourage flushes of new flowers throughout the spring. Deadhead daffodils and tulips as the flowers finish but leave the foliage intact allowing it to die back naturally.

In the vegetable garden: Dig in a 5cm (or more) layer of compost, well-rotted manure or green waste into your beds to prepare for the growing season. Growing potatoes in grow bags - top up compost as the plants grow. Plant your chitted potatoes outside in the ground or in potato grow bags. Harvest asparagus spears when they are no more than 18cm tall. For quick and easy pea supports push some twiggy sticks around your pea plants now. Thin your carrot seedlings to achieve good-size



carrots do this in the evening when fewer carrot flies are around. Many crops can be direct sown into the ground now including parsnips, cabbages and radishes. Prepare vegetable seed beds by removing all weeds and forking in plenty of compost. Cover prepared soil with sheets of black plastic to keep it drier and warmer in preparation for planting. Build raised beds to take the bending out of growing your vegetables.



In the fruit garden: Plant out strawberry beds, making sure you enrich the soil first with plenty of well-rotted manure. Place cloches over your strawberry plants for earlier crops. Protect your fruit blossom from late frosts by covering them with fleece on cold nights. Spray the emerging leaves of peach and nectarine trees to prevent peach leaf curl. Sheltering your plants from the rain will also reduce the risk of peach leaf curl. Mulch fruit trees with well-rotted manure or garden compost taking care not to mound mulch up around the trunk. Top-dress patio dwarf fruit trees with fresh compost and a slow-release fertiliser. Apply a slow-release fertiliser around the base of your raspberry canes, fruit bushes and fruit trees to encourage good crops this season. Try hand-pollinating your peaches and nectarines with a soft-bristled paint brush for better crops this year.



Again, waiting as long as possible to rake leaves out of perennial beds is the best idea. Hold off on your spring garden clean up until daytime temperatures consistently reach the 50s, if possible. Scores of beneficial insects – ladybugs, assassin bugs, and damsel bugs, for example – hunker down for the winter in leaf litter as adults. Others do so as eggs or pupae. And, adult butterflies, such as morning cloaks, question marks, and commas, nestle into leaf litter for the winter. Luna moths spend the winter in cocoons that look just like a crinkled brown leaf. As you clean up your leaves keep a sharp eye out for these insects and do your best not to disturb them.

Always store tools inside in a dry, well-ventilated area, even if you'll be using them the next day. Store small spades and trowels by keeping them in a pot filled with sand that has been soaked in motor oil to keep them lubricated and well-conditioned. You can also hang smaller tools on a pegboard to keep them organized and easy to spot. Larger tools can be hung on the wall, or also on a pegboard. Keep the most frequently used tools within arm's reach.



“Spring is Nature’s way of saying *Let’s Party!*”

Easter Chick Fairy Cakes

Ingredients

110 g (4oz) butter or margarine
110 g (4oz) caster sugar
2 medium size eggs
110 g (4oz) self-raising flour - sieved
2–3 drops natural vanilla extract
dr. oetker baking cases
130 g (4 1/2oz) unsalted butter
250 g (9oz) icing sugar
a few drops of natural vanilla extract milk or warm water
jelly diamonds
silver balls



Method

Pre-heat oven to 180°C (350°F/Gas 4). Place the Baking Cases into a bun tray.

Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in the eggs and Natural Vanilla Extract, if the mixture starts to curdle, add a little flour. Fold in the remaining flour with a metal spoon.

Place spoonfuls of the mixture into the baking cases and bake for 15 - 20 minutes until well risen and firm to the touch. Remove from oven and leave to cool on a cooling rack. Take a sharp knife and cut a slice off the top of each cake. Cut each slice in half and set aside.

To make the icing place the butter in a bowl and beat until soft. Gradually sift and beat in the icing sugar. Mix in the Natural Vanilla Extract and enough milk/water to make the icing fluffy and spreadable.

Use a small star nozzle and the icing to pipe rosettes on the top of each cake.

Pipe a larger rosette on one side to resemble the chick's 'head'. Push two halves of cake into the icing to resemble wings. Cut the Jelly Diamonds into half and place on the 'head' to resemble the chick's 'plume' and place another half to resemble the 'beak'. Finish with two Silver Balls for 'eyes'.

Frosted white chocolate Easter cake

Ingredients

250g butter , plus a little extra for greasing
140g white chocolate , broken into pieces
250ml milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
250g self-raising flour
¼ tsp bicarbonate of soda
300g caster sugar
2 large eggs , lightly beaten
For the frosting
300g tub Philadelphia cheese
85g butter , softened
100g icing sugar , sifted
mini eggs , to decorate (or use 50g/2oz chopped hazelnuts)



Method

STEP 1

Heat oven to 160C/fan 140C/gas 3. Grease a deep 23cm cake tin and line the base with greaseproof paper. Place the butter, white chocolate, milk and vanilla extract in a small saucepan, then heat gently, stirring, until melted. Combine the flour, bi-carb and sugar in a large bowl with a pinch of salt, then stir in the melted ingredients and eggs until smooth. Pour the batter into the tin, then bake for 1 hr, or until the cake is golden and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Cool in the tin. Once cool, the cake can be wrapped in cling film and foil, then frozen for up to 1 month.

STEP 2

To make the frosting, beat together the Philadelphia, butter and icing sugar until smooth. Spread over the cake, then decorate with mini eggs.

Courtesy of www.bbcgoodfood.com



FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

Classic Easter Movies



There has been a veritable feast of Easter-related films down the years, covering the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following is a list of some of the most popular robes and togas epics ever to grace the big screen. So grab your chocolate eggs and indulge in some great classic movies time this Easter.

The Ten Commandments (dir. Cecil B. DeMille, 1956)



This Cecil DeMille grandiose saga sees Charlton Heston back on familiar biblical ground as Moses, the man tasked with liberating the Hebrew people from captivity and bringing the Ten Commandments down from the mountain. The story of this classic religious film depicts the pre-Easter world of the Old Testament and the life of Moses — before the advent of Jesus Christ.

Yul Brynner plays Egyptian pharaoh Ramses, Moses' friend turned foe. Plagues and parting seas ensue. Charlton Heston's iconic performance as Moses carries this epic story of faith, and is matched by Brynner's compelling performance as his great adversary. DeMille directed this Best Picture Oscar winner, which is the peak of the sweeping, widescreen grandeur of classic old Hollywood. Ben Hur's ground-breaking (for its time) special effects are as impressive as the storytelling. The parting of the Red Sea is a thrilling feat in the movie-making era before the CGI world of modern times.

RISEN (dir. Kevin Reynolds, 2016)



This 2016 religious epic is a gritty, Game of Thrones-style period piece, with Joseph Fiennes in the role of Roman Centurion non-believer Clavius, on the hunt for Jesus' body after it mysteriously disappears following his crucifixion. In the days after Jesus' crucifixion, Pontius Pilate orders Clavius to investigate the rumours about Jesus' resurrection and locate his body.

Risen is in its essence a biblical detective story, told from the point of view of Fiennes' leading character. It is an intense movie which will have you on the edge of your seat at every turn. The film offers a unique perspective on the familiar story with an uplifting message. With incredible production value, gore galore, and Britain's finest actors, it's the Easter story by way of Gladiator.

The Passion of the Christ (dir. Mel Gibson, 2004)



Mel Gibson directed this hugely popular film that chronicles the agony of Jesus' final twelve hours. Gibson's film moved audiences to tears during its initial run in 2004 and became an unexpected blockbuster, taking in the largest ever box office gross for an X rated film. The film earned its rating (unusual for a religious epic) because of its extremely graphic and unflinching depictions of torture and violence.

The Passion of the Christ was a very personal project for Gibson because of his own strong, zealot-like religious beliefs. Gibson's hoped to bring audiences closer to the reality of Jesus' suffering and to bolster the Christian faith worldwide. The film is also notable for its use of the biblical Aramaic and Latin languages with subtitles in English, which serves to give the story a degree of authenticity. James Caviezel gives a stunning central performance as Jesus. For believers, The Passion of the Christ offers a moving, painfully graphic reminder of the life, suffering and death of the Christian Messiah.

The Last Temptation of Christ (dir. Martin Scorsese, 1988)



Martin Scorsese's radical take on the story of Jesus was controversial when it premiered, but this cult film has survived the criticism. It has a very different focus than previous incarnations of the Messiah figure. The film depicts the life of Jesus Christ and his struggle with various human forms of temptation including fear, doubt, depression, reluctance and lust.

The Last Temptation of Christ is a breath-taking portrayal of human flaws and temptations as portrayed by Willem Dafoe. This is a Jesus who is conflicted and tortured by the difficult path ahead of him and his desire to live as a normal man.

Dafoe excels as the troubled, sensitive Jesus while his co-star Harvey Keitel gives a superb, nuanced performance in the tricky role of Judas. Barbara Hershey is equally impressive as Mary Magdalene who received a Supporting Actress Oscar nomination for her performance. David Bowie makes for a quirky Pontius Pilate. The Last Temptation of Christ is a colourful, hallucinatory, uncensored depiction of the Jesus story, as Scorsese imagines it with brilliant performances from all the cast.

Ben Hur (dir. Cecil B. DeMille, 1959)



Ben-Hur tells the story of Judah Ben-Hur, a member of Jerusalem's Jewish nobility living at the time of Judea's Roman occupation. It offers historical context for the life and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

This sword and sandal epic was part of the Hollywood trend for grand, sweeping widescreen blockbusters that dominated the 1950s. It featured huge set pieces, thousands of extras, and elaborate props and costumes. Ben-Hur is also considered one of the best biblical epics to watch at Easter.

The highlight of the film is undoubtedly the spectacular chariot race action scene between Charlton Heston and Steven Boyd. It still packs a punch on repeated viewings of Ben-Hur. Charlton Heston (who won the Best Actor Oscar) gives a riveting performance as the heroic leading character. This hugely popular classic film won 11 Academy Awards, including Best Picture in its day.

The Greatest Story Ever Told (dir. George Stevens, 1965)



The story of Jesus Christ's life from birth to Easter-weekend resurrection is dramatised in the lengthy, classic epic film The Greatest Story Ever Told. The film wondrously recreates the life events of Jesus of Nazareth, from his birth in Bethlehem to his baptism by John (Charles Heston), the raising of Lazarus, the Last Supper and finally his death, burial, and resurrection. It features an all-star cast in cameo roles, with Swedish actor Max Von Sydow brilliantly hypnotic in the leading role of Jesus. Von Sydow had never appeared in an English-language film previous to this pivotal role. Director George Stevens had wanted an actor largely unknown to audiences to play the role of Jesus and Sydow was the perfect fit. Veteran actor Claude Rains appears as Herod in his final movie role. The film has an epic sweep and reverence, as befitting the subject matter, and was nominated for five Academy Awards.





Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



Local News - May 2022 - Issue No. 512 - 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.



Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022 Prize Winners Presentation



Paul Croghan presents the Award for the Best Shop Fronts to Ursula Byrne, from Maynooth Bookshop, Main Street



Paul Croghan presents the Award for the Best Shop Fronts to Marion Bright, from Elite Confectionery, Main Street.



Winner of the Environmental Awareness Award Jonathan Meade, from Hutton and Meade Hyundai Dealers, Ballycoolin, Dublin receives the Award.



Award for Best Shop Fronts Vincent's, Greenfield Shopping Centre. Receiving the prize on behalf of Vincent's were Geraldine Byrne, Store Manager with John White and Richie Piggott



Best School Float Award went to Maynooth Educate Together School

Maynooth Newsletter

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

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

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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

As we begin May 2022 with lovely summer weather in Ireland, I reflect on the concerns that I suspect that many of you have about the World we live in at this time. With daily temperatures already reaching those we expect in high Summer the key headline from the Sixth Assessment Report from the working group on climate mitigation as part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued in April states that “unless there are immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, 1.5 degrees centigrade is beyond reach” is worrying and should not be ignored. Maynooth traffic levels are worse now than at anytime I can remember and I will be making an effort to only use my car when absolutely necessary.

While Covid case numbers have gone off the daily news agenda we still hear of people we know who have picked up the virus and indeed unfortunately people who are dying from it. I am pleased to see that people are making the decision to continue to wear face masks to protect themselves even though the wearing of face masks is no longer mandatory. I know that people are being asked to wear them on some airline flights. There continues to be new strains of the virus but thankfully the vast majority of people are withstanding serious illness from Covid. All we can do is to take care.

Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24th last and the war is now daily headline news. I am sure many of you like me feel powerless in this situation and are wondering how this can happen in the modern World we live in. The impact of the war is not distant in this case as we know that it has resulted in significant population displacement as well as deaths and destruction in Ukraine. I know that in Maynooth families and institutions have welcomed people from Ukraine and that everything is being done to settle people into our community and our schools. The number of people coming here from Ukraine is likely to increase during the summer months and everyone is welcome and deserve our support at any cost.

The broader issue here is how in the 21st century can the Russian leader decide to attack Ukraine in order to annex it or at least part of it with Russia. The world order of two large powers and their allies with the moderation of the United Nations through its Security Council where the large power countries have a veto on decisions has failed to prevent aggressive actions against smaller countries. There needs to be a rethink as the World is not a safe place for everyone until there is an effective process in place to protect everyone from being attacked killing innocent civilians and destroying lives forever. As citizens of Ireland and Europe we need to value the stability of our own democracy.

With the 2022 Census in April, we will get information on the growth and population changes since the previous census when the data will be published initially early next year. There is no doubt that the population of the town has grown substantially since I was first recorded as a resident of Maynooth in the 1991 census.

Finally, a growing town has needed good community leadership to help develop facilities such as sports clubs. I was saddened to hear of the death of Mick Gillick from Greenfield last month. Mick was a major influence in the development of the Maynooth GAA Club over the past three decades and the facilities that the club and community enjoy in Moyglare are a result of his tireless efforts.

Paul Croghan
Editor

**Copy date for the next edition of the
Maynooth Newsletter will be 5pm on
Thursday 26th May 2022**

MAYNOOTH DRESSES

Find us at Unit 3 San Feliu, Fagan's Lane, Maynooth
(Behind EBS Main St)



Just Arrived 2022 Debs Dresses

Now in Stock Ladies Fascinators in All Colours



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www.maynoothcommuniondresses.ie

also www.maynoothdresses.ie

Phone: 01 6293585



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MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

Unit 10, Tesco Shopping Centre Maynooth
(Beside Coyne's Butchers)

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Email: office@maynoothcep.com

Our Newsletter is now an online version
It's immediately accessible and convenient

May Events at **Maynooth Community Library**

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



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Children's Events

May the Fourth be with You - Star Wars Crafts

4th May 3.30pm-4.30pm

Ages: 7-10 years

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join Rosie and Niamh for some Star Wars crafting for May the 4th in Maynooth Library. Suitable for ages 7 to 10 but places are limited.

Book Now: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/688465>

Underwater Temple: Minecraft Show and Tell

Friday 20th May 3:30pm-4.30 pm

Location: Online

Ages: 6-10 years

Do you like to create and build in Minecraft? Then why not take part in our build challenge, sign up for our Zoom discussion and show us your take on our theme which will be sent to you in advance! Suitable for ages 6-10. Children must be accompanied on the video call by an adult. Places are limited and booking is essential. This month we want you to start building an Underwater Temple!

Book Now: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/689093>

Weekly Story-Time in Maynooth Library

Friday 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th of May 10.00am-10.30am

Ages: 2-5 years

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join the Maynooth staff for some in-person 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 6th: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/688917>

Friday 13th: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/688955>

Friday 20th: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/688956>

Friday 27th: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/688957>

Adult Events

Beginners Sewing Machine Classes (Adults only)

Current class is full & we are taking expressions of interest for future classes

Tuesdays 6.30 – 7.30 pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Must have own sewing machine.

If you have an unused, unloved sewing machine then this is the class for you.

Learn to thread, adjust tension, change needles, use different stitches and make some very simple projects.

If interested please contact Maynooth library 045 980 493.

Wednesday Morning Book Club

Wednesday 18th of May (Third Wednesday of each month)

11.00-12.00 pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

If interested contact Maynooth library on 045 980 493.

U3A Book Club

Monday 9th May

10.30am-11.30am (Second Monday of the month)

Location: Maynooth Community Library

If interested contact Maynooth library on 045 980 493.

Every Monday

Knitting / Craft Club

12.00pm-1:00pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Come and join like-minded people for an hour of chat, knitting and crafting.

If interested contact Maynooth library on 045 980 493.

Maynooth Zero Waste Drop In

Saturday 14th May 2pm-4pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join Zero Waste Maynooth for this drop-in event where you can check out the stalls & learn more about how to reduce waste. Includes: Ladies Clothes Swap Shop (bring one, take one); Toy Swap (bring one, take one) and a Bare Necessities collection point for this package-free food shop (no shop on the day, pre-paid orders only).

Age Friendly Day

Friday 20th May 10am-12.30 pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Senior citizens in our community are invited to pop into Maynooth Community Library for a cup of tea/coffee and chat with our library staff. This is also a chance to find out more about our online resources, such as our ebook app. Borrowbox. This is a drop-in event – no booking required.

Author Event with authors Peter Cunningham and Mary O'Donnell

Tuesday 24th May 7pm-8pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join us for a very special evening with authors Peter Cunningham and Mary O'Donnell. Peter's most recent novel, published in 2020, is entitled Freedom is a Land I cannot See. It is set in Ireland in 1924 and takes place during the dangerous first years of the Irish Free State.

Poet and fiction-writer Mary O'Donnell's work is often cited as key in expanding the horizons of Ireland's formerly male-dominated literary world. Fiction includes the novels The Light-Makers (1992 & 2018), The Elysium Testament (1999), and Where They Lie (2014).

Book now: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/682971>

Kildare Libraries FaceBook Club

Wednesday 25th May 8:00pm – 9.00pm

Location: Online

Our FaceBook Club is always welcoming new members, where we will discuss a new book from BorrowBox on the last Wednesday of the month over Zoom. Join our Facebook group or email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie for the details.

<https://facebook.com/groups/kildarelibrariesbookclub>.

German 'Stammtisch', informal conversation meet-up

Thursday 26th May at 6.30pm-7.30pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Do you want to practice your German? Maynooth Library hosts a monthly informal German conversation meet-up, for anyone with an interest in the language and culture in German-speaking countries.

All levels from learners to native speakers are welcome. Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of every month. For more information please contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980493

For all ages

Reader Pens Now Available in Maynooth Library

Maynooth Library now have reader pens available for lending or alternatively you can just borrow one for the duration of your library visit. These text-to-speech pens read words and full lines of text aloud, promoting independent reading and confidence.

Key Features of reader pens: Read text aloud – Promote reading independence – Built-in dictionaries – Secure and private – No WiFi required – Built-in speaker & earphone jack – Rechargeable – **Easy to use** Helps with: Reading or pronunciation – Dyslexia – Language learning – Vision problems

For more information, ask a staff member at the library desk / email Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie / phone us on 045 980493.

MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES



Meadowbrook Cycle Scheme

Kildare County Council has published Part 8 proposals for the Meadowbrook Cycle Scheme (Planning Reference: P82022.06). This is an important scheme for Maynooth but follows low quality provision on the Moyglare Road and temporary Covid measures which actually worsened conditions for cyclists. Maynooth Cycling Campaign has prepared a submission on the proposals. We are particularly concerned with the low quality proposed for the Meadowbrook Road. Work is ongoing on a revision of the National Cycle Manual but the scheme appears to have been designed on the basis of outdated standards. The full submission can be found here.

Road Safety

Maynooth Cycling Campaign has forwarded a copy of its submission on speed limits to Kildare County Council councillors. The submission calls for councillors to reject the proposed increase in speed limits and calls for a default speed limit of 30kph in urban areas in accordance with the Stockholm Declaration. The Irish government signed the Declaration in 2020 but have done nothing to implement it. As part of their new Road Safety Strategy, the RSA has established a committee to report proposed changes by the end of Q4 2022. As a result, it would be better for councillors to postpone a decision until then rather than approve changes in the short term and having to amend them next year.

Sustainable Mobility Policy Published

The Department of Transport has finally published its long awaited Sustainable Mobility Strategy which replaces the 2009 National Cycling Policy Framework. To achieve Ireland's targeted 51% emissions reduction by 2030, the plan aims to deliver at least 500,000 additional daily active travel and public transport journeys by 2030 and a 10% reduction in the number of kilometres driven by fossil fuelled cars. What this means for Kildare in general and Maynooth in particular is not clear. Two years ago, Maynooth Cycling Campaign proposed a target of 10% of trips by bicycle for Kildare towns by 2030 to the Transport Strategic Policy Committee but the matter has never been discussed much less accepted. The key actions includes reallocating road space to prioritise walking, cycling and public transport. The Sustainable Mobility Policy and the action plan to 2025 can be found here: https://maynoothcyclingcampaign.com/2022/04/26/proposed-cycle-scheme-at-meadowbrook-planning-reference-p82022-06/?preview_id=2826&preview_nonce=eaca6926cf&preview=true Road Safety or copy the link to your browser.

Transport, Safety & Emergency Services SPC Meeting

The next meeting of Kildare County Council's Transport, Safety & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) will be held on 5th May. As the Public Participation Network's representative on the Committee, Maynooth Cycling Campaign will be holding a Linkage Group Meeting of community groups with an interest in transport matters. Any group representative who would like to attend the virtual meeting, check out Maynooth Cycling Campaign on Facebook for details.

Bikeweek 2022

It is reported that Bikeweek 2022 will be held from 14th to 22nd May. Campaign groups in other areas have been contacted about it by their local authority some two months ago but at the time of going to press, Maynooth Cycling Campaign has heard nothing.

United Nations Resolution on Cycling

For the first time, the United Nations has passed a resolution calling on governments to integrate cycling into transportation, improve road safety and promote the use of bicycles by people and businesses to ensure sustainable development and reduce transport emissions. The new resolution was adopted by unanimity after it was brought to the floor of the General Assembly on 16 March 2022.

Dutch Cycling Tours 2022

Cian Ginty of IrishCycle.com is organising two Dutch Cycling Study Tours for May (2 days) and June (3 days). The trips will be based in Utrecht. It is a wonderful opportunity to see what Cycling for All looks like in practice. The last time the tours took place, there was a mixture of councillors and cycle campaigners. The experience is strongly recommended to anyone interested – it will make a lasting impression.

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.



At our first Committee meeting after the AGM we elected a new Committee: Chairperson: Breedge Conway, Vice Chair: Ray Murphy, Secretary: Mary Connolly, Treasurer: Michael Kenny, PRO: Mary Molloy

The new Committee have lots of plans for the future of the town in order to retain our Gold Medal status 2022, meetings have already taken place among the Executives.

Again we would like to thank the out going Committee but especially John Kavanagh who was Chairman for 6 years and Mary Jennings who was Treasurer.

Work continues every Saturday morning, we had our National Spring Clean on the 23rd April. Thanks to all our Volunteers who turn out every Saturday. All areas of the town were covered with so much dumping.

We will be busy planting our pots in the Square and other areas in the coming weeks.

Thanks to the new GM Paul Joy in The Glenroyal Hotel and Leisure Club for supplying the refreshments tea/coffee and cakes after clean up. We are setting up a new Sunday rota, if we get enough volunteers to join. They will collect



rubbish in the areas close to the Main Street.

Please follow us on Facebook for more up to date information on the work of the Volunteers.

Contact us on WhatsApp if you wish to Volunteer on Saturday or Sunday.

We have more than 3,300 who Like our page and more than 3,700 who are followers. Thanks for your support.



Mary Molloy, PRO, Maynooth Tidy Towns



Maynooth Town FC Astro Project kicks off!



Maynooth Town FC are delighted to announce that construction of their new full size, state of the art astro pitch started on Monday 25th April. At a cost of over €600k the town can now look forward to a top class playing facility next season. To support this exciting venture the club are hosting a series of fundraising events for all ages on the 25th June 2022.

Saturday 25th June MTFC Festival of Football

The Manchester United Legends are coming to Maynooth Town! Denis Irwin, David May, Lee Martin, Wes Brown & Lee Sharpe have already been announced. Don't forget to keep an eye on our social media every Thursday for more player updates. It is going to be a really fantastic football event for club and community.

MTFC Family Zone

The club will host a family zone at Rathcoffey Road on the 25th with games and activities for younger children between 11:00am and 1:30pm and during the big game, for those attending the matches with children. Wristbands are €5 per child and may be purchased in advance from club coaches and on the day.

Meet & Greet Man United Legends

Meet & Greet with all the Man United Legends in the Glenroyal Hotel between 12:00pm and 1:30pm before the main event. Limited tickets available at €20 each and are now available at EventBrite.ie

Play the Match – Maynooth Town v Man United Legends

If you would like the opportunity to play either with or against the Man United Legends and enjoy a private post-match drink with the Legends, please register your interest ASAP with mtfcdevelopment@gmail.com

Watch the Match

If you want to see the Man United Legends play on our home ground, Rathcoffey Road, please make sure you get your ticket to see the game. Tickets are €10 each (or €35 for a family of 4) and may be purchased here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/maynooth-town-v-manchester-united-premier-league-legends-tickets-292278511897>

Or scan the QR code below.

Gala Dinner Dance

The festival will close with a club dinner dance at the Glenroyal Hotel 25th June from 7:45pm until late. Tickets will be going on sale shortly.

Members of the MTFC Executive will be available at both clubhouse on the Rathcoffey Road and at the MEC pitches over the coming weekends to update members on the astro development and the upcoming events. Please drop over to hear more. If you would like help fundraising in any way please contact

mtfcdevelopment@gmail.com

Come on the Town!



**MAYNOOTH TOWN FC
FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL**

**FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR STATE OF THE
ART ASTRO FACILITY**

MAIN EVENT: RATHCOFFEY ROAD

**MAYNOOTH TOWN FC V MAN UNITED
LEGENDS**

**12.00 - 1.30PM MEET & GREET MAN
UTD LEGENDS GLENROYAL HOTEL**

**11.00AM - 1.30PM FUN FAMILY
ZONE, RATHCOFFEY ROAD**

**2.30 - 4.45PM MTFC VS MAN UNITED
LEGENDS 3 * 30MINS MATCHES**

**7.45PM - LATE CLUB DINNER
DANCE AT THE GLENROYAL HOTEL**

**SAVE THE DATE
25.06.22**

CONTACT: MTFCDEVELOPMENT@GMAIL.COM

COMMUNITY TEAMWORK (vertical text on left)

FUN FAMILY FOOTBALL (vertical text on right)

The heavy machinery moves into the Rathcoffey Road to commence the new development. Pitch 2 will be realigned with improved drainage and pitch 3 will be replaced with the new all-weather surface.



BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE

BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



Whether dropping by for a friendly drink, food or settling in to watch the match, we are sure you will find a warm welcome with great service and a comfortable setting to ensure your stay is a pleasant and memorable one.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

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Parties Catered For to book

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Web: www.bradysbarmaynooth.ie - Tel: 01-5054725

Great Food Served 7 Days



Grow Your Own Vegetables

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

May is definitely the busiest month in your vegetable garden and hopefully you have managed to do all the other jobs such as bed preparation in the previous months. The soil has warmed up sufficiently to sow and plant nearly all vegetables. So make sure you take time off in May so that you can spend your days in the garden! Finish preparing the beds and keep the hoe and rake moving over them. Watch out for late frosts and have some horticultural fleece handy to cover your potatoes if needed.

This newsletter contains:

What to sow, plant and harvest in May

Pest watch

The microbiome in our gut and soil

Summer online gardening course open for booking now (5 sessions)

Upcoming gardening courses

Sowing

Outdoor sowing:

In the first half of May you can sow early beetroot, early carrots, parsnips, perpetual spinach, annual spinach, chard, radish, turnip, peas and runner beans directly into the ground.

Towards the end of the month you can sow maincrop carrots and beetroot and any crops you didn't manage to sow at the beginning of the month.

Indoor sowing:

In May you can still sow the following vegetables into modular trays: winter cabbages, Brussels sprouts, calabrese, kale, kohlrabi, swede, turnip, lettuce, scallions, spinach and chard.

If you haven't sown courgettes, pumpkins, squash, runner beans and sweetcorn yet you can still do so at the first half of the month.

Towards the end of the month you can sow Florence fennel and Chinese cabbage.

Seeds are available from www.greenvegetableseeds.com

Planting

You can plant out the crops you sowed in the previous month: the first batch of leeks, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, calabrese, kohlrabi, rocket, swede, turnip, lettuce, perpetual spinach, chard, annual spinach and scallions.

Harvesting

Towards the end of the month you may be able to harvest some oriental salads, radish, turnips and annual spinach.

Pest watch

Don't forget to keep a check on your plants especially the seedlings outside. This is the time when they are most vulnerable to a slug attack. You also need to be wary of leatherjackets, the larva of the daddy-longlegs. They can be a terror during this month especially on newly planted lettuce. If a small lettuce suddenly dies, it was probably eaten by a leatherjacket. They actually just bite through the stem of the young plants. If you don't find the culprit in the soil it will move on to the next plant.

If you had carrot root fly in previous years it is nearly essential that you cover the early sown carrots with a bionet.

May is the most exciting month in your tunnel or greenhouse. This is the time to plant out your summer crops – your tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, cucumbers and basil.

Take good care of them and give them a fabulous soil and they will reward you with a bounty of delicious sun-ripened fruit. Once the busy spell of planting is over you can start to relax again.

Microbiome

There are a number of things I learned recently that I wished I would have known a lot earlier in my life.

Most of our immune system (serotonin) is located in our gut and there is a direct link between the gut and our brain (gut-brain axis). A healthy gut is what we should aim for to protect ourselves. To improve our microbiome we need to increase the number and diversity of our vegetable and fruit consumption. Dr. Zach Bush reckons we need to eat at least 40 different food plants per week. Also moderate exercise and reducing stress in your life helps to promote a good microbiome.

We also need to eat more fibre. Fibre has been taken out of our food and processed food and processed bread contains hardly any fibre any longer. Fibres are food for the microbes in our stomach. Dr. Will Bulsiewicz says there are nearly 40 trillion microbes in our colon – 100 times more than there are stars in the Milky Way. Even more shocking is that my body consists of 90% bacterial and other microbial cells and only of 10% Klaus cells. I'm an ecosystem of beings.

Gut health and Soil health

A healthy soil is a soil teeming with life, teeming with microbes. In one handful of soil there are more living creatures than there are people on Earth. These creatures are essential in keeping our garden soil fertile. This soil life is quite similar to our own inner life. A soil needs to be fed well – with a good and diverse compost or manure, some seaweed, biochar etc. and also it needs to have a great diversity of plants growing in it. A monoculture of wheat fed with NPK granules is as disastrous for the soil as highly processed food for us.

Summer Session of Online Gardening Course now available for booking

We are nearing the end of the first ten sessions of the online spring gardening course in the Bundoran Community Gardens with Sr Assumpta. We received such lovely feedback from so many people that we decided to continue throughout the summer. There will be five more sessions from mid May to early September.

Here is the link to one of the sessions from the spring gardening course – just in case you have a few spare minutes:

<https://vimeo.com/694549546/33143924a7>

If you are interested in joining the summer session of the online gardening course, here are the details:

<https://greenvegetableseeds.com/product/summer-session-online-gardening-course/>

Gardening Courses

Course: Growing healthy vegetables and fruit

Date: Saturday 28th May 2022

Venue: Tombrack Community Gardens, Co. Wexford

Contact: Denis 086 8111088

Course: Grow your own food

Date: Saturday 11th June 2022

Venue: Corbalton Hall, Skryne, Co. Meath

Contact: Andrina at info@corbaltonhall.ie

Happy Gardening,
Klaus

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Maynooth University, Maynooth

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Please Note: Cúrsa A starts on Bank Holiday Monday.

Lucan Community College, Lucan

Cúrsa A: 27/06/22 - 08/07/22

Castleknock Community College

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Natural Ways to Stop Slugs & Snails from Eating your Plants & Vegetables.

Add a layer of texture to your garden.

Slugs and snails do not like hard sharp textures. It is hard for them to navigate through rougher textures. By adding a layer of gravel, mulch or sharp sand to your garden, it will deter the movement of slugs and snails throughout your garden and send them packing.

Use natural nutrients to ward off slugs and snails.

Many of us likely already compost our eggshells and coffee grounds, but before you add all of them to your compost pile, consider saving some for direct application in your garden. Just like adding gravel, mulch or rough sand helps to ward off slugs and snails, eggshells and coffee grounds create an unwelcome texture for these pests.



You can either sprinkle these grounds around the specific plants that these creatures are known to chomp on, or you can sprinkle it along the border area around the garden. Either way, when these snails and slugs catch one whiff of the caffeine, they'll immediately crawl the other direction.

The added benefit of the nutrients these two options add to your soil is just a win/win! Apply ground eggshells and or coffee grounds (sure, it is perfectly fine to combine them!) in a thin layer between rows and/or around the base of your plants to protect them.

Garlic is another natural alternative for thwarting slugs and snails. Just like vinegar and water or lemon juice and water are excellent options for pest control in our gardens, mixing garlic and water in a spray bottle acts as a strong repellent for slugs and snails. When applying this method, use caution and spray a small test area prior to full application to ensure no damage is done to your plants when sprayed. Delicate leaves may burn easily if the mixture is too astringent.

We already know the many benefits of growing herbs for our own health, as companion plants and as natural pest deterrents. The same holds true when it comes to keeping slugs and snails out of our gardens. Excellent options for

planting herbs that will keep these pests away are: Mint/Lavender/Sage/Rosemary/Creeping Thyme and Parsley

Citrus Peels

Next time you eat any citrus foods that contain peels, don't throw them out. These are known to be an effective method of keeping snails and slugs off your garden plants. Take your leftover peel collection and scatter it all around your garden before the snails and slugs gather for their nightly meetup and feast. They will get excited to indulge in new food, so they will crawl over to these peels to eat them.



From there, you'll see several different snails and slugs spending time on the peels. Grab either the snails and slugs themselves or peels and move them to a different area. This method also works on cabbage leaves as snails and slugs love to munch on this type of food as well. You can even bring a half-eaten melon out to the garden for these bugs to begin digging into.

Water Plants in the Morning

Snails and slugs are known to crawl around and eat different plants throughout your garden, mainly in the nighttime, as there isn't much around to disturb them while they munch. One thing they don't like is soil that is too dry for them to efficiently move and crawl around on. This is another reason why they would rather indulge in midnight snacking since the soil won't be as hot and dry.

To prevent them from enjoying the soil at night so much, water your plants in the morning. This way, by the time nighttime hits, the soil will be more dried out. This will make it less desirable for them to crawl around on. Rather than waiting to eat your plants in the morning, they will simply give up and inch their way on out of the garden.

It is never too early to implement any number of the natural remedies listed here.



Source: www.pestcontrolfaq.com/17-ways-to-get-rid-of-snails-and-slugs/
www.kelloggsgarden.com/blog/insect-pest-control/natural-ways-to-stop-slugs-snails-from-eating-plants/

Online Office

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



Phone



E-mail



Cllr. Angela Feeney

Tel. 087 238 1962

Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com

Stay safe everyone.





Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Update on wheelchair accessibility issue on the 139 Bus:

Cllr Feeney contacted the 139 Bus company because many wheelchair users had contacted her telling her that buses had passed by that were unable to take them on board. After many calls and emails to the provider company and to the National Transport Authority Cllr Feeney is happy to report that the company has confirmed that this issue has been resolved.

Taking in Charge of Meadowbrook Estate

At the April MD Council meeting, Cllr Feeney asked the Council for an update on the taking in charge of Meadowbrook Estate. Speaking to the motion, Cllr Feeney said it has certainly been too long a wait for the residents of Meadowbrook and one she has been trying to keep on the agenda over the past three years. Cllr Feeney welcomed the good news in the response provided stating that a Development Control legacy team has been appointed in the Council to work on such legacy taking in charge requests. The Council also confirmed that the team is currently working through the list of estates that need to be taken in charge. Cllr Feeney stated that it was also good to hear as part of the response to her question, that the Council said that Meadowbrook is on a priority list and will be progressed by that team.

Reopening of the Community Space

Cllr Feeney asked the Council when the Community Space in Maynooth would reopen as she stressed that it is a facility that is much needed by the many community groups that have used it in the past. Groups such as the Seniors Activities group, the Mother and Toddler group, the Drama group for rehearsals, all are gathering again since the lifting of restrictions and can ill-afford the cost of renting a room elsewhere. Cllr Feeney welcomed the response from the Council confirming that the Community Space will reopen in April. The Council added that it would manage the bookings until a suitable community group is identified to manage the space and that it will be in contact with the local community groups with further information on the booking process.

Need for Disabled Parking Bays at Laraghbryan

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide disabled parking bays at Laraghbryan Cemetery. Cllr Feeney said that currently there are no designated car parking spaces of any kind at Laraghbryan. At the Council meeting, Cllr Feeney got the agreement of both the members and the Council to provide and install signage indicating an area for disabled parking beside the entrance gates.

Pikes Bridge Road Traffic Audit

Cllr Feeney requested an update on the traffic monitor and associated data capture on the Pikes Bridge Road. The area engineer said he will provide that to Cllr Feeney and she will update here when that information arrives. Councillor Feeney has also requested the installation of an electronic speed sign on this road to make it safer for the residents living there and for the many pedestrians and cyclists using this road.

Eastern Ring Road Update

The Council's Senior Engineer gave a presentation at the April Council MD meeting on road projects for the Municipal District. Regarding the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road, Councillors were informed that the CPO process and discussions that recently took place with landowners went well and that the design is 95% complete. As this is a LIHAF project, KCC is working closely with the Department of Housing on it and as soon as the Council gets the green light from the Department, the construction can commence. Regarding the Transport Strategy for Maynooth that is on going, Cllr Feeney requested that County Kildare Access Network be part of the cross-departmental discussions so that accessibility issues can be addressed. When the presentation slides are provided, Cllr Feeney will share them.

Communication to Department of Health on the Shortage of GP places

Cllr Feeney asked that the letter be sent, as agreed, to the Department of Health, regarding the lack of GP services in Maynooth and requesting an update on the planned Primary Care Centre for the town. The Council confirmed that the letter will issue as she requested with the combined support of our MD councillors.

Follow Up on Flood Relief Measures

Following on her request for information on the flood relief measures proposed for Maynooth detailed in the OPW's Flood Risk Management Plans, adopted by the Council in 2018, Councillor Feeney received an update at the April meeting. The delivery of flood relief schemes is prioritised by the OPW and the proposed

scheme for Maynooth is currently part of the Tranche 2 schemes for Kildare. The Council, in partnership with the OPW, is currently progressing all Tranche 1 schemes (Naas, Athy, Leixlip) and will begin Tranche 2 schemes including Maynooth once resources become available within both the Council and the OPW. The first stage of the Maynooth scheme is likely to consist of an extension of the Maynooth study area to include both the N4 and the Lyreen catchment (including Courtown Little). The plan is available at www.floodinfo.ie.

Fundraiser for Autism Friendly Town Application

Cllr Feeney was delighted to support the recent fundraising event at the Maynooth Education Campus. Adam Harris, CEO and Founder of Asiam.ie, officially launched Maynooth's application to become an Autism Friendly Town. Well done to all the organisers of this fantastic event.



Road Marking Improvements

Cllr Feeney is happy to report that the Council took on board her recommendation to extend the centre line on the Straffan Road out to the speed limit signs past the TLC Nursing Home. Cllr Feeney said this would make it safer for cars to exit to the left and not meet oncoming overtaking vehicles. She thanked the area engineer for his prompt action on this request.

Upcoming motions and questions at May Council MD meeting:

Motions:

1. That an Action Plan be put in place for the delivery of a Community Centre for Maynooth.
2. That improvement of traffic calming measures in the vicinity of Rathcoffey National School be explored to include ramps, flashing speed signs all with a view to enhance safety for the growing school population in the area.

Questions:

1. Can the Council explore how double yellow lines and 'Residents Only' parking signs might be installed in those housing estates within proximity of Maynooth train station and town centre.
2. Can the Council consider creating a footpath link between Brookfield Park and College Green estates in Maynooth?

Meetings attended since last Newsletter:

- April 1st at 10:00 a.m. Council MD meeting (online)
- April 7th at 12:30 p.m. Naas Enterprise Park Launch
- April 11th at 7:30pm Maynooth Community Council (online)
- April 25th at 3:00 p.m. Council Plenary Meeting in Newbridge Town Hall
- April 28th at 2:30 p.m. Governing Body Meeting of Carlow Institute of Technology

LIFFEY MEMORIALS

- ◆ Headstones
- ◆ Grave Cleaning
- ◆ Additional Inscriptions

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St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

The Band is now getting ready for a busy year. We start with a special Band Mass for deceased members which is intended to make up for the Masses that could not be held over the past two years due to covid-19 restrictions.



The Mass is at 1pm on Sunday 8th May and we invite all family, relatives and friends of deceased Band members to join with us in remembering them on this special occasion and it will be the first time in nearly three years that the full Band will be taking part in the Mass.

On Saturday 14th May the Band will be organising a Recruitment Day in Manor Mills between 10am and 6pm where we will be inviting budding musicians of all ages, gender and Nationalities to consider joining our Academy as well as experienced musicians who might like to join our Senior Band as we feel that there are new arrivals to Maynooth who may not be aware of a Band in the Town. So if you can please come and talk to us in Manor Mills on 14th May but if you can't make that you can catch us at our Recital in Castletown House in Celbridge between 2 and 4pm and if you like what you see and hear please let us know what you think.

**Our contact details are sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie or
call our
Hon. Secretary Joe on 086 1737 024.**

Our third CD, More Musical Melodies from Maynooth (see cover photo below), is almost ready and it should be on sale in the **Maynooth Bookshop on the Main Street from 6th May and also from the Maynooth Newsletter Office.** It will also be available at all our recitals during the year. If you unable to get a copy please contact our Secretary Joe at the above contact number and we will arrange to send you a copy, it's only 10 euros plus postage.

MORE MUSICAL MELODIES FROM MAYNOOTH



ST. MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND
MAYNOOTH, CO. KILDARE

OPEN ALL THE WAY CANOEING ON THE ROYAL CANAL IN THE 1950s

By D.M. HARTFORD

About the Author

Diana Mary Hartford nee Barton was born in 1918. The trip described here was undertaken in 1955 just after Douglas Heard completed the last official boat trip before closure of the canal. The trip was undertaken in two stages; Clondra to Mullingar and Dublin (Blanchardstown) to Mullingar. The city centre areas of the canal were not navigable at this time. This article was originally published in a number of Royal Canal Newsletters in the 1970s. The author had a children's book published after this trip, which is still widely used in primary schools today. The author of a number of other books, Diana passed away in 2002.

Part 5 Ballymahon to Mullingar

The first lock the next day was Draper's Lock; a stony untidy place like Mullawornia with a cottage where Mrs. Byrne signed our pass on behalf of her husband and offered us milk. Soon afterward we paddled through our first canal village, Shrute, without anyone apparently looking at us, because of course we were low down the water and all I could see was a post-office sign high up on a pole on my right just beyond the bridge. Soon there was another bridge and then a long stretch of beautiful bog. At the three Castlegaddery locks, the youngish lockkeeper with a bicycle helped us at the first two and signed the pass. During the war years, he told us CIE used to send him with horse barges taking timber and other repairing material to Tarmonbarry, etc. From the third Castlegaddery lock there was a lovely run of calm water and reflections into Ballinacargy, where the harbour was clean and spacious.

The next morning was the warmest and sunniest of the trip, but alas after a mile we had to get out and do portage once more around Balroe Lock; and after that there were the five Kildallon locks at most of which the cottages were deserted and we had no help. Then the three Coolnahay locks, at the last of which our pass was again signed, after that, no more locks, but nearly six miles to do in two hours if we were to be at the garage at Mullingar at 5pm. as arranged. Swans delayed us a good bit, then we saw Demesne woods and were just saying that it was getting horribly civilised and we would soon see our old friend of the last trip, the railway, when a train shot past, framed in an approaching bridge. We paddled on under the red iron railway bridge and presently saw the cathedral and outline of Mullingar.

Just like approaching it from the other side, it seemed to take a long time to get near it. Past the racecourse we travelled, past the railway station and nearer and nearer to a bleak hulk that seemed to block the water, but we went round it and the canal curved to the left in a deep cutting under a crowded street bridge, round a green park high above us and behind a stone wall on the right and at last across the deserted harbour, and under Scanlon's Bridge to the grassy bank by the garage. The Royal Canal was completed: this was 'where we came in': stiffly we got out of the canoe for the last time.

Series complete.

The Royal Canal Amenity group is grateful to Diana for submitting this article for publication at the time

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

TIPS ON SAVING ON HEATING AND ELECTRICITY

Turn your heating down by one degree and you could knock 10% off your heating bill. Seal your windows and doors to make sure you're not losing heat due to draughts.

Kettles

Heat the amount of water you really need and if you're using an electric kettle, make sure you cover the elements. More modern kettles have no visible element so you use less water, you could also try to fill a cup and use it as a guide to fill the kettle, so that you boil the right amount of water.



Curtains

At night, pull the curtains to stop heat being lost through the windows. Take care not to drape curtains over radiators as this will funnel heat straight out of the windows.

Tumble Driers

Tumble driers are energy guzzlers so try to use washing lines or airers. Don't put very wet clothing into the dryer, make sure you wring clothing out or spin dry again to help use less energy.

Switching Energy Supplier

In the current rising trend of energy prices it could well be worth shopping around to save money on your energy bills, further discounts are available if you switch both gas & electricity to the same supplier. It is a simple process and there is no disruption to your existing energy supply.

Lighting

Turn the lights off when leaving a room. Use "task" lighting rather than whole room lighting when a small amount of light is required. Regularly clean light fittings, reflectors and lampshades.

Electric Shower

Take a shower rather than a bath. A typical shower uses only one fifth of the energy of a full bath.

Computer

Turning your computer off at night instead of leaving it on will save on average 25% of its annual energy bill. Remember you should turn off your computer whenever you are not going to use it for more than an hour.

Television

A television in standby mode can use up to as much as half the electricity as when it is switched on.



Fridge/Freezers

Don't let frost build up in the freezer compartment as this increases energy consumption. Remember to defrost and clean the inside of your refrigerator and freezer at least every 6 months and make sure they are positioned in a cool place, not next to the cooker or boiler or where possible not in the path of direct sunlight. Check that the door seals on the

refrigerator and freezer are tight fitting - the seals hold a 5 euro note in place when the door is closed. Don't put warm or hot food straight into the freezer - let it cool down first.

Microwaves

Remember a microwave is more efficient than a cooker for reheating food.

Electric Ovens

The oven is expensive to use - try to use it as sparingly and efficiently as possible. Where possible use it for more than just one item and remember you can cook at a higher temperature at the top of the oven, and simultaneously at a lower temperature at the bottom. Do not open the oven door to check cooking - every time you do so you lose 20% of the accumulated heat.

Washing Machines

The washing cycle selected on a washing machine should have the lowest water temperature required for the items being washed. A full load of washing is more energy efficient than two half loads. Use a cold rinse for your clothes.



Dishwashers

Stop the dishwasher before the drying cycle and open the door to let the dishes air dry and always use the economy button where possible.

Electric Heaters

When buying heaters, make sure they are the right size for the rooms they are to heat. When buying heaters, make sure that they are the right size for the rooms they are to heat, and that they have thermostatic controls. Remember that electric heaters other than storage heaters consume electricity at the most expensive charge rate. Use a space or portable heater instead of the central heater, if only one room needs heating. Choose heaters with thermostat controls and timers.



Central Heating

Turn off the heating overnight and when you are out during the day. Turn off the heating if you are going to be out of the house for more than a day. Proper control and regular maintenance of your heating system can reduce fuel consumption by 10-20%. If you have gas heating, turn-off pilot lights during the warmer months. Heat bedroom areas to less than 18°C. 20°C is an ideal room temperature. Turning down thermostats by 1°C can reduce annual space heating energy consumption by 10% with an equivalent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Heat Loss

Open fires are wasteful of energy with more than 70% of the energy going up the chimney. If the radiator is mounted below a window, a projecting window-board or shelf above the radiator will direct warm air into the room, reducing heat loss through the window. Close doors to separate heated from unheated areas of your home, and minimise the area you are heating.

Hot Water Heating

Use the timer on immersion heaters. This should supply you with enough hot water as and when you need. Heating hot water account for 64% of energy consumption in the home: you should be thrifty in its use. 90% of the energy consumption of washing machines goes on heating the water. Wash clothes whenever possible in cold or cool water.

Insulation

Much of the heat loss from a house occurs through the windows particularly if they are single glazed. A reflective foil, backed by insulation if space permits should be fixed behind radiators mounted on external walls. A lagging jacket on your hot water cylinder will keep water hotter for longer and pay for itself in 2-3 months. If replacing the hot water cylinder, a cylinder with factory applied insulation should be considered. Such insulation is more effective at retaining heat than a lagging jacket, is less easily damaged and cannot be pulled out of place.

Insulate your attic and save up to 20% on your home heating bill.

Combining solar collectors with a wood burning stove provides an ideal year-round renewable energy heating solution. A solar collector system can provide around 60% of your annual hot water needs for free (80 to 90% in summer). Space and water heating account for over 70% of energy used in the home, so switching to clean renewable energy (e.g. wood fuel, solar energy or heat pump systems) makes a big reduction in the environmental impact of your home.

Wood is a renewable fuel you can use without producing the harmful greenhouse gas emissions of fossil fuels. Instead of coal or peat, throw on a log onto a fire. Whereas peat and coal take hundreds of thousands of years to form, wood is a renewable fuel that grows in just 3-70 years. Using renewable sources of energy like wood and solar energy to heat our homes reduces our reliance on polluting, imported fossil fuels like oil and coal. If you recycle glass and paper, you save on a great deal of energy, raw materials and pollution.

Cook efficiently

A lot of household energy is used in the kitchen and there are many little changes you can make to save money. Only heat the water you need if you are making tea for one, just fill the kettle for one cup. Use a microwave if you regularly reheat meals, rather than using energy to heat your oven. Match your pan size to your burner on the hob and cover your food when it is cooking to keep heat in.

Steam your vegetables or use less water for boiling. Conserve heat: Only pre-heat your oven for the specified time, defrost food before cooking and keep the oven door shut while cooking. Use a slow cooker wherever possible; they are energy-efficient and perfect for family meals there are some great energy-saving gadgets and tools to help you cut back even more on your energy bills.



Royal Canal Notes

May 2022

Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

ROYAL CANAL GREENWAY

The Royal Canal Greenway has been officially open for 1 year and we would like to share with you some of the accomplishments and accolades it has received over the past 12 months.

RESEARCH:

Waterways Ireland appointed Tracsis in 2021 to undertake a validation exercise on the data from physical counters in place along the Greenway and to undertake a consumer survey. This research has found that more than 640,000 trips annually have been taken along the Royal Canal Greenway since it opened in March 2021.

The 130km amenity cost €12m to deliver and recent research has found that the amenity has returned a dividend of €17.2 million to the business community in its first year of operation, returning the investment in the project in over eight months. The economic dividend was based on a weighted average visitor spend of €27.00

Other research also found that across the four counties involved, the greenway currently operates from Mullingar to Dublin, 17 new businesses have opened and 13 businesses have confirmed that they have diversified their businesses to provide for Greenway customers.

AWARD WINNING GREENWAY:

The Royal Canal Greenway has been shortlisted for 3 awards, two of which were international awards.

European Cycle Route of the Year: The Royal Canal Greenway was awarded European Cycle Route of the Year by leading Dutch Walking and Cycling Magazine Fiets en Wandelbeurs on Saturday 9th April. Competing against long distance routes in Germany, Netherlands and Belgium, the Royal Canal Greenway took home the winning accolade.

The Fiets en Wandelbeurs European Cycle Route of the Year Award is judged by leading, activity, tourism and journalism experts from across the Netherlands. This award is in respect of leisure and family cycling.

Best Tourism Initiative: The Royal Canal Greenway was also awarded "Best Tourism Initiative" 2021 at the rescheduled All-Ireland Community & Council Awards. The Best Tourism Initiative award seeks to recognise an initiative which directly increases visitor numbers to an area or to Ireland as a whole and its overall impact on visitors, communities and new and existing businesses.

The European Greenway Awards: While we were not winners, the Royal Canal Greenway was recognised as "highly commended" by the judges in the category of "Excellence". The European Greenway Awards took place in Valencia in October 2021 to promote examples of best practice and to support their replication on other greenways across Europe.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

With Waterways Ireland we also secured extensive media coverage over the past 12 months with a 3-part programme on RTE's Nationwide programme dedicated to the Royal Canal.

GREENWAY UPDATE:

We understand that work on the final part of the greenway, between Maynooth and Clonsilla will commence later this year. While this is good news for canal lovers, it will result in temporary closure of paths in parts of this section of the canal at different times. These closures will be clearly signposted and we will keep all our readers posted here and also on our official website, www.royalcanalamenitygroup.ie as well.

The Greenway is yours to use and enjoy. Please respect other users, take home your rubbish and leave it as you find it so others can enjoy this wonderful amenity too.

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ

A reminder that elsewhere in this publication you can read the fifth and final part of an article on sailing the Royal Canal by canoe. Written by Dianna Marie Hartford, the author, has also written a children's book based on this trip which is still in use in many primary schools.

GET WELL WISHES

Long serving Royal canal member Gerry McGlinchey was recently hospitalised in St. James's Hospital in Dublin. During canal restoration he was to the fore in fundraising activities, working tirelessly to ensure that the work could be completed.



Photograph © FitzFoto Maynooth

We in the group would like to extend good wishes to Gerry for a speedy return to health.

*Waters rise and waters fall
But your Royal Canal is there for all
Keep an eye on your children there
Let's all exercise waterway care*

ZERO WASTE MAYNOOTH

Monthly Drop In Event

2nd Saturday of the month 2-4pm

Maynooth Community Library

Join us for this drop in event where you can check out the stalls
& learn more about how to reduce waste.

Stay for a chat or just simple browse!

Ladies Clothes Swap Shop - Bring one, take one

Toy Swap - Bring one, take one

Up to 3 items for either the toy or clothes swap- must be in usable and good condition

Cloth Nappy Library Ireland - See reusable nappies & chat to
volunteers

Sustainable Swaps - learn some ideas on how to reduce waste,
save money & care for our planet

Bare Necessities - collection point for this package free food
shop (no shop on the day, pre paid orders only)



Next event date:
May 14th

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



As you may all be aware we have not resumed our Morning Club activities due to the rising numbers and easy transmission of Covid. Let us hope we are beginning to see the last of it especially now that the second booster shot is coming on stream.

The Committee has been working away in the background none the less. We continue to meet monthly. We had our AGM on April 5th in the Geraldine Hall. We are very happy to welcome Garry Bermingham as our new Chairperson. Thanks to Patricia Cusker, outgoing chairperson, who kept us going over the last two years. Re-elected were Joan Lennon (Minutes Secretary), Catherine Mulready (Treasurer) and Susan Durack (Admin Secretary/PRO).

We would like to encourage new members to join our committee. If you think you would like to get involved with our group and would like to find out more about us, please contact maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com.

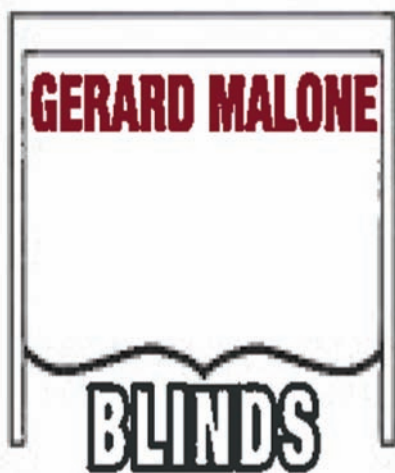
We are looking forward to resuming our Social Club when it is safe to do so. We will keep you informed.

You will see elsewhere in the *Newsletter* that May 20th is Age Friendly Day and the Community Library invites people to drop in from 10am-12.30pm for a cuppa and a chat to find out more about their library services. A nice way to spend a morning!

The month of May celebrates the Bealtaine Festival/Age and Opportunity. Programme of events to be found at [Events 2022 - Bealtaine Festival](#)

Enjoy the lovely month of May and the coming of Summer.

Susan Durack, PRO, Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention favour).

Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine. Amen

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

Never known to fail.
Thanksgiving for favour received.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention here). 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. Sacred Heart of Jesus I place all my trust thee

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.
Thanksgiving for favour received.

Tips to prepare yourself for Summer

With the arrival of spring and good weather, now is the time to prepare your skin for the long summer days. Shed the winter blues by getting outdoors and moving more. It's all about creating healthy habits. Taking a week to flush out excess toxins in your gut and intestines can not only allow you to lose some extra pounds but it will also help you to mentally adjust. Keeping yourself properly hydrated should be the first step on your list when learning how to get a summer body! And it isn't just for the weight loss benefits...

Water is great for boosting your metabolism and keeping hunger at bay. Switching sugary drinks for water will reduce your caloric intake as well as helping you to consume less saturated fat (which is the biggest contributor to belly fat!) It's great for your overall health and will make you feel more alert and energized. It reduces the chances of headaches and kidney stones.



Prepare your skin for the sun by hydrating it daily.

After winter and after layers and layers of clothing, it is important not to get carried away by the desire to expose your skin to the sun at once and do it little by little. The best thing you can do now that spring is here is to start exfoliating your skin once a week. In this way, you will eliminate impurities and dead cells and get a uniform tan. Good hydration is essential to prepare your skin for the summer. Take advantage of a moment of the day (after the shower, before bed or when it suits you best) to apply moisturizer. Also, when the summer season is approaching you will need a cream to help protect your skin from the sun's rays. Although it all depends on your skin type, look for one that has at least an SPF factor of 15. Diet is also a good way to prepare the skin for the sun, as well as to avoid premature aging. On the dates when the heat begins, it is recommended to increase the number of foods rich in beta-carotene and lycopene, which stimulate the production of collagen.

Take care of your nails

At this time they break more easily, so it is advisable to file them to keep them short. If you are one of those who always have painted nails, before the arrival of good weather it is advisable to leave them for a while to recover from the aggressions of the enamel. If you see they are yellow or dull with a little hand cream you will be able to restore the shine to your nails and hydrate them again.

Prepare your body

Now that spring is here the dreaded bikini operation also begins for many. If these months

you have not relaxed with food and led a sedentary life, you are still in time to change your habits. But instead of signing up for miracle diets that promise to lose weight in no time, it is best to start eating healthy and get some exercise regularly. In this way, you may not notice the weight loss immediately but you will avoid the dreaded rebound effect.



How to loose weight fast?

- Change your lifestyle by exercising regularly.
- Set yourself a realistic goal (loss of kilos), according to the starting situation.
- Realize that new habits are not temporary but for life.
- Go on a diet on your own initiative, not motivated by other people.
- Go to regular medical check-ups to analyze the development of the diet.
- If it's a long-term diet, you may be able to treat yourself once in a while.

Here are some quick tips to curb those cravings:

- Hydration - like we said in step 1, hydration is a great way to control your appetite
- Protein - switch refined carbs for protein and your meals will leave you satisfied for much longer
- Plan your meals - if you plan what you're eating, you're much more likely to stick to eating well (meal prep is the best way to do this!)
- Probiotics - if you eat probiotics like live yoghurt, your gut health will improve and you will start to crave healthier foods!

How to prepare your hair

Hair is one of the parts of the body that suffers the most aggression during the summer season. The chlorine in swimming pools, sea salt, and air conditioners make it dry and brittle, making it almost impossible to comb.

To prevent it, the best thing you can do is start preparing your hair for these attacks now that the sunny days are beginning to make their presence known. Protect it with hats when you go outside on hot days and keep it carefully hydrated with keratin products and treatments.

Source: www.swissbeautyandcare.com/this-is-how-you-should-prepare-your-body-for-summer/ Source: origympersonaltrainercourses.co.uk/blog/get-summer-body

***Keep up the good work through the spring and into summer.
Remember Hydrate, Exfoliate, stay positive feel energized,
and build your confidence.***

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Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Trading Quotations

‘The sum of all the tears that be/ Cures not the primal fault; It rains into the sea /And still the sea is salt,’ Conal quoted triumphantly as their discussion heated up. ‘You’ve got it a bit muddled.’ Sean wagged his finger. ‘What Housman actually wrote was, "The toil of all that be / Helps not the primal fault..." Not a major difference I’ll grant you, but still and all...’

‘But my version makes more sense,’ Conal protested. ‘The tears and the rain are both water; while your word, *toil*, doesn’t resonate with *rains* and *sea*.’ ‘It’s not my word,’ Sean pointed out, ‘ it’s Housman’s, but we’ll let that pass. Have you any other good quotation?’ ‘How about, “*Ná bac le mac an bhacaigh is ní bhacfaidh mac an bhacaigh leat!*” ? ’

‘And what’s that supposed to mean?’ ‘Don’t bother with the son of the beggar man and the son of the beggar man won’t bother with you.’ ‘Not a very profound observation.’ ‘Fair enough. I suppose it’s basically a tongue twister. So how about *Taise le trua agus troid le tréan*? Gentleness for the pitiable and fight for the strong?’ ‘I suppose that’s just another version of “ Pity for the weak and fight for the strong ” ? ’

Well, this is one about the Three Ages of Man: *Fiche bliain ag fás; fiche bliain faoi blath agus fiche bliain gur cuma é ann nó as*; Twenty years a-growing, twenty tears in bloom and twenty years when it doesn’t much matter whether he’s alive or dead.’ ‘Not bad, but I’m still waiting for a really memorable quotation.’ Conal stroked his chin. ‘How about *La vie n’est pas rose*’ ? ‘And what exactly does that mean?’ ‘Life is not rosy.’ ‘You can do better than that.’ ‘Well, here’s one from Virgil’s *Aeneid*, *Forsan et haec olim meminisse juvasbit*, perhaps one day it will please us to remember these things. Aeneas was trying to cheer up his men on their retreat from Troy.’

‘Now, that’s more like it. Mine is *Pecunia est radix omnium malorum*, money is the root of all evil – or, in my case the lack of it! And here’s another one, *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*, it is sweet and fitting to die for one’s country.’ Didn’t Wilfred Owen question the validity of that statement when he saw a soldier dying from poison gas on the Western Front?’ ‘Yes – But I think we’ve traded enough quotations.’ ‘Here’s one that just occurred to me -’

‘No, by all that’s holy, not another! Brevity is the soul of wit.’ ‘See, you’ve just come out with two, so that give me the right to add mine.’ ‘Very well then; but short and sweet.’ ‘*Is bing béal ina thost*; sweet is a voice in its silence.’ ‘Amen to that; now let us practise for tomorrow’s match.

Do you think our team stands a chance?’ ‘Winning’s not important. It’s how you play the game.’ ‘See, you’re still on your quotations hobbyhorse: “it’s how you play the game.” Who said that? Some loser?’ ‘It’s better to have played and lost than never to have played at all!’ ‘All right, Conal, you win. I absolutely can’t take any more quotations.’

‘Then we’ll win tomorrow; deeds, not words; “Words are like leaves and where they most abound / Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found ”. ’ ‘Oh merciful heavens! Now let’s get toggled out and practice before you hit me in the gob with any more of your learned quotations. I’ll take first turn in goals.’

P.G.Nerney

Reassessment

With one foot halfway in the grave
I have to clarify my state of mind,
But not repeat the custom of our bards
Who, after years of rollicking excess,
Wrote verses of abject repentance –
At least they kept their childhood faith,
Though scholars and scientists hold
The biblical version of creation
Is out of sync by four billion years
And that Old Testament account
Of God the Father’s various feats
Through six full days is just a myth.

Which brings me to the Nazarene,
Who claimed to be God’s very son,
Admittedly he was someone
Who not only pointed out the way
We all should act but led by example,
And for his pains was crucified,
But did he rise up from the tomb
And, having waged religious wars,

Followed by years of legal exclusion,
And still at loggerheads on rituals,
Can his followers claim to practice
The way of life he demonstrated?

Then there are other religious faiths
Which have distinct takes on creation
And on the true road to salvation:
Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Moslems,
Even so-called Rastafarians,
To name some old and late established.
But if there’s a deity that gives life
It certainly produced some monsters:
Think of the wasp that injects its eggs
Into a living caterpillar
Or of the way we humans raise
Other creatures to fill our gullets!

That’s not to say that Evolution
Has the definitive explanation,
Though claims about the survival
Of the fittest chimes with reason,
As does an asteroid’s destruction

Of once-ascendant dinosaurs,
Birds were theropods that grew wings,
Over unknown years a cuckoo’s egg
Morphed to match a meadow pipit’s,
Giraffes’ necks lengthened to reach high-up leaves,
Lions spring from smaller, cat-like creatures
And Homo sapiens emerged from apes.

Perhaps we did, but some vast mind
Must have set this universe in motion,
Must have willed what would evolve,
And life appearing on a planet
Can’t depend exclusively on water –
Which brings me back to where I started.
Remembering my mother’s practice,
Her prompt expression in a crisis,
‘The cross of Christ between us and harm,’
Every night I bless myself and pray
To him whom soldiers crucified,
Ritual that keeps doubt at bay.

Colin Scott.

THE DEATH OF JESUS

Why was Jesus of Nazerath put to death? Why were the **chief priests** and the **elders** so determined to kill him? Serious business even then, killing a man in his early thirties or indeed at any age. Was it because he had put himself above Moses as for instance in his ruling on the binding nature of marriage? Maybe it was because he and his disciples didn't wash their hands before eating? Then, of course, he healed poor sick people on the Sabbath. That couldn't be allowed. Even though the priests and elders themselves could and did interpret the law concerning the Sabbath in their own favour when it suited them! But they had to be rid of Jesus and just as they did later when the guards brought the news of his resurrection to them they **lied**. "*After the **Priests** had assembled with the **elders**, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, 'You must say, «His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.» If this comes to the Governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.' So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.*" Matt. 28.

Jesus had no time for their double standards, lies and hypocrisy, their assuming to themselves the sole right to speak the mind of God when their hearts were far from him. They disliked Jesus' manner of speaking "with authority". Authority should have been theirs, was theirs so why should they allow this upstart to go around misleading the people? A carpenter's son without education and no training in the law, and his band of ill-informed fishermen and tax collectors and what not, even women, how could they take the place of the pharisees, scribes and elders, all of whom were totally steeped in the law and all things divine? The pharisees particularly disliked Jesus' attitude to the Sabbath. His disciples collected grain on the Sabbath when they were hungry and he himself had

the audacity to heal people on the Sabbath. They were flabbergasted when he said that the Sabbath was made for humankind not humankind for the Sabbath and then to really outraged them when he himself claimed to be 'Lord of the Sabbath'.

Of course Jesus also forgave sins and did so very openly. For the pharisees this was the final proof that Jesus was a blasphemer and so must die. Logical? Worth thinking about! Would these things ever come up in daily conversation? The pharisees simply refused to see who Jesus was even though the whole people of Israel had been awaiting the coming of the Messiah for centuries! Or did they know and said: "this is not the Messiah that we want". Hardly! For Jesus prayed on the cross "Father forgive them. They do not know what they are doing".

By: GM

Respite

After weeks of scattered showers
The sky’s blue dome, except for some
white clouds,
Is clear as I return on shaky legs
From a foray to the supermarket;
A wood pigeon coos and one loud bumble-
bee
Is buzzing pleasantly above a garden.
Cherry trees and daffodils sport pastel hues,

While neighbours, glad that dismal days

seem over,
And tomorrow is St. Patrick’s Day,
Greet me with smiling faces and bright
hellos –
But wait! In a leafless willow by the river,
On which two placid swans head upstream,
A grey crow’s ugly, stick-piled nest in-
vades,
Reminder of grey tanks outside Kyiv.

Colin Scott.

€2.4 million ERC award to MU Prof Rob Kitchin for research on Irish property data



Tuesday, 26th April 2022: Maynooth University researcher, [Professor Rob Kitchin](#) has been awarded a €2.4 million [European Research Council \(ERC\) Advanced Grant](#) for his groundbreaking project that will document in detail property data for Dublin and examine how these data are used as an evidence base for public policy, planning, and commercial decision-making.

Property and planning data is key to how cities are understood and managed. It informs government policy, shapes public perception, and guides billions of euros of investment relating to land use and development, public and private housing, homelessness, commercial real estate, and infrastructure.

This prestigious award will enable Professor Kitchin and his team to examine closely how property data are collected by different agencies such as government departments, homeless organizations, real-estate companies, and local authorities.

Charting a full property and planning data ecosystem in forensic detail for a city has not been undertaken to date and the study will provide important new insights into the collection, sharing, and the usage of planning and property data by various stakeholders.

Speaking about the need for this research, Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute Professor Rob Kitchin, said: “Improving property and planning policy and decision-making requires a strong evidence-base. A holistic, detailed understanding of Irish property data will be of benefit to government, business and local communities in helping to address the various planning and housing challenges Dublin faces.”

“This grant will help me to map out existing data, showcase where gaps are, and document how the data is and can be used to shape the property landscape.”

The project, titled ‘Data Stories: Producing stories about and with property and planning data’, will use the existing data to tell stories about property and planning in Ireland, while engagement from key state, business and civic society stakeholder organisations with creative writers and artists will encourage reflection on the current system.

While the project will focus on Dublin city, the novel approach being developed will be applicable to other cities, both in Ireland and abroad.

This is the second time that Prof Kitchin has been awarded an Advanced ERC grant, and it will enable him to build a new research team consisting of four researchers, two creative writers and two artists at Maynooth.

ERC frontier research grants are the most prestigious single Principal Investigator-based funding mechanism in the Horizon Europe. The Advanced grant is long-term funding for ground-breaking, high-risk projects for “exceptional leaders in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions”.

The ERC, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the premier European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. It funds creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based across Europe. European Research Council Advanced Grants provide long-term funding for ground-breaking, high-risk projects.



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

MU researchers lead team to address UN-Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Maynooth team will focus on maternal and neonatal mortality



Monday, April 11th 2022: Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation, and Science, Simon Harris, TD, and Minister for Overseas Aid and Diaspora, Colm Brophy T.D. have announced that Professor Sean Doyle from Maynooth University’s Department of Biology, would lead one of the seven research teams competing in the Science Foundation Ireland SDG Challenge.

The challenge, run in partnership between SFI and Irish Aid, will see the seven short-listed teams receiving funding of €2.47m to develop innovative solutions in a variety of areas including improving surgical training using data science, treatments for vision loss and retinal diseases, care pathways for back pain, diagnosis of pneumonia and sepsis, as well as addressing water sanitation and pollution.

Professor Doyle’s team, with Co-Investigator Dr Nicola Mountford from Maynooth University’s School of Business, will focus on reducing neonatal and maternal mortality through the rapid detection of sepsis in resource-limited environments.

The seven teams will compete for an overall prize of €1m to further advance their solution toward deployment. The focus of the SDG Challenge is for the development of innovative solutions that contribute to improved health and well-being, with a specific objective of addressing challenges in countries where Irish Aid works.

These projects represent international collaborations between research institutes in Ireland and those in Irish Aid partner countries. Professor Doyle’s work is in partnership with Uganda while other research will also include Malawi, South Africa, and Vietnam.

The Maynooth University team also includes:

Dr Peter Waiswa, Associate Professor, School of Public Health, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda; Dr Flaviah Namiro, Pediatrician, Mulago General Hospital, Kampala, Uganda; Mandy Daly, Director, Irish Neonatal Health Alliance; Kieran Walshe, Accuplex Diagnostics Limited, Ireland.

Congratulating the competing teams, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, TD said: “I am delighted to announce

the seven teams who will go on to compete as part of the SDG Challenge. SFI’s Challenge Funding Programmes seek to support Ireland’s best and brightest, to develop novel, potentially disruptive, technologies to address significant societal challenges. Today it is about addressing development challenges under the UN SDGs in Irish Aid’s partner countries. The role of SFI, with the support of my department, in running challenge-based funding programmes that bring all of this together to have real world impacts, provides confidence in the future of scientific research.”

Speaking about the project, Professor Doyle said: “We’re honoured to have been selected to compete in the Science Foundation Ireland SDG Challenge. This funding will allow us to work directly to save lives of mothers and their children as well as helping to improve the lives of entire families through early detection of sepsis.”

Prof Philip Nolan, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland said: “Each of the seven teams have worked incredibly hard and I would like to commend them on their dedication and to wish them every success. Enabling talented teams to address significant national and global challenges is crucial, which is why challenge-based research funding is of high strategic importance to Ireland.

“Having this level of talent compete in the SDG Challenge bodes well for the future of scientific research and I look forward to seeing the different solutions that develop throughout the programme.”

Minister for Overseas Aid and Diaspora, Colm Brophy T.D., said: “Millions of lives are saved each year as a result of scientific discovery. We have each experienced the benefits, as innovation and research helped us in our fight against Covid-19. That of course built on the knowledge gained by scientists in their live-saving research into HIV, malaria, TB and other viruses.

I am excited by this year’s SDG Challenge funding, which will support researchers in both Ireland and Irish Aid partner countries to develop new technologies to help people live healthier lives. I look forward to the work of the seven teams announced today, each cutting edge scientific research projects, making a real difference and wish each of the teams the best of luck.”

The SDG Challenge calls on research teams to develop innovative solutions to challenges associated with health and well-being, including infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, health systems strengthening, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, and mental health.

The SDG Challenge also supports solutions in related areas such as malnutrition, water sanitation, education, and sustainable cities and consumption, where a clear impact on health and well-being can be demonstrated.



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Government On The Wrong Side Of History On The National Maternity Hospital Deal – Murphy

There is a real and genuine public concern that the government will be on the wrong side of history when it comes to the national maternity hospital.

Health Minister Stephen Donnelly must publish the legal framework for the new national maternity hospital and bring it before the Dáil before it is signed off by cabinet, according to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy. “The HSE board – bar two notable exceptions – has signed off on the legal framework for the new national maternity hospital and there is now a real danger that this deal will be signed off by cabinet before there is any scrutiny of its terms. “It is striking that the two members of the HSE board who refused to endorse this deal are among those best qualified to interrogate it - Prof Deirdre Madden, a lecturer in medical law and ethics in UCC, and Dr. Sarah McLoughlin, the patient advocate on the board.

“Many others share their concerns. There is a real and genuine public concern that the government will be on the wrong side of history when it comes to the national maternity hospital. Many years after it was first mooted, questions surrounding the ethos and ownership of the proposed new hospital have yet to be satisfactorily answered. “Health Minister Stephen Donnelly has repeatedly offered assurances that these concerns are misplaced – but he has failed to provide anything other than his own opinion as evidence for this.

“The overarching question remains – why is the State proposing to spend €1 billion on a public hospital that it will hand over to a private entity? On what planet does that make sense? “Before a secret deal is done behind closed doors, the Minister must now publish the legal framework underpinning this deal and bring it before the Dáil, and the Oireachtas Health Committee, so that it can be scrutinised in detail. “It would also be useful if Prof Madden and Dr McLoughlin spoke publicly about the reasons they declined to endorse the legal framework and dissented from the HSE Board decision to send the approved framework to cabinet.”

Housing Minister Failing to Deliver His Promises On Affordability

A new Simon Communities’ report showing a huge decline in the number of rental properties available to HAP claimants is further evidence that the housing crisis is getting worse, according to Catherine Murphy TD.

“The ‘Locked Out’ report reveals that the housing crisis is getting worse, not better. The number of properties, affordable for HAP tenants to rent, is virtually non-existent unless top-ups on the rent are provided.

“The Housing Minister claims the provision of affordable housing is a priority for the government, but where is the evidence of that? House prices and rents are exponentially increasing, while the number of properties available to rent is shrinking rapidly. HAP tenants, who are unable to pay the runaway rents now being quoted in every part of the country, are among those most at risk of becoming homeless.

“The standard HAP rate, which has not been increased since 2016, must now be increased as a matter of urgency. However, the only way to really resolve this crisis is to seriously ramp up the supply of social, affordable and cost-rental homes. The Minister promised to do this. When will he deliver on those promises?”

Currently in Maynooth there are 4 properties available to rent:

2 Bedroomed	Apartment	- €1,330
3 Bedroomed	House	- €1,850
3 Bedroomed	House	- €2,150
4 Bedroomed	House	- €2,213

HAP limits

Shared accommodation / rent a room

1 adult in shared accommodation	- €350
Couple in Shared accommodation	- €400

Own door accommodation

1 adult - €575	Couple - €750
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Couple or 1 adult with 1 child	- €975
Couple or 1 adult with 2 children	- €1050
Couple or 1 adult with 3 children	- €1100

Catherine Murphy TD asks for details of bus stations in County Kildare that are included in the Public Transport Accessibly Programme and has received the below response from the NTA:

The Public Transport Accessibility Programme aims to retrofit public transport to improve access. In term of bus stations and bus stops the focus has been on access for wheelchair users. I note that your query seeks “details of bus stations in County Kildare that are included in the Public Transport Accessibly Programme”. Bus Eireann do not operate any bus stations in County Kildare. Accordingly, we have assumed that your query relates to accessible bus stops and we have addressed it accordingly.

The operation of a wheelchair accessible bus service requires the provision of wheelchair accessible buses and wheelchair accessible bus stops. At present, many regional services in non-urban areas are delivered by high-floor coaches which use wheelchair lifts. Wheelchair lifts require a large flat area of adjacent footpath to operate. Given most bus stops do not have such a large area available the coaches are to all intents inaccessible to wheelchair passengers. The NTA recognises that this situation is not acceptable and accordingly we have developed a two-pronged approach to overcome those obstacles and facilitate increased access by wheelchair users to the public transport network in non-urban areas.

Firstly, while there is currently no viable alternative to the use of high-floor vehicles on longer-distance services, the Authority, along with Bus Éireann, are implementing a change in our fleet strategy for shorter regional commuter services. We are in the process of procuring this new fleet, which are equipped with a ramp at the entrance door suitable for the mobility impaired and a dedicated wheelchair space within a low-floor area in the front half of the vehicle which means that almost all bus stops they call to are accessible for wheelchair users without the need for modifications to the footpath.

Secondly, we are committed to upgrading bus stops to ensure that all main towns have at least one wheelchair lift accessible bus stop in each direction. In many towns and villages it is extremely challenging to achieve the necessary footpath dimensions for the wheelchair lift to function. Solutions such as relocating the bus stop to an alternative location may be necessary, but this can give rise to additional problems in that the alternative stop location may not suit other users. In other cases land or property acquisition may be required to obtain the necessary space, potentially requiring the exercise of compulsory acquisition powers to acquire the relevant lands. The Authority is actively working with operators and local authorities and we are committed to upgrading bus stops to ensure that every town with a population of over 5,000 has at least one wheelchair lift accessible bus stop serving both the inbound and outbound journeys of a Public Service Obligation (PSO) route.

In Kildare, all towns with a population of over 5000 people are served by low floor coaches. Therefore wheelchair accessibility has been provided by the fleet type rather than the need to deliver new infrastructure on the ground. NTA are currently in the process of commencing an audit of towns with a population between 1000 and 5000 people. Of these, Rathangan and Kilcullen have been identified as towns in Kildare that are served by high floor coaches. The audit will determine what infrastructure is required to achieve the necessary footpath dimensions for the wheelchair lift to function. It is expected that the audit will commence in Q2 2022.

Transport network plans for areas that link the M4 and N7 & M7

Catherine Murphy TD has always had a particular interest in transport and has been monitoring the rate of rise in residential property growth in recent times. Many of our towns and villages have high rates of use of heavy goods vehicles and traffic can often be problematic at peak times. You may often hear the M4 & M7 mentioned on the morning AA roadwatch bulletins in respect of points of congestion. With that in mind Catherine Murphy TD asked the Minister for Transport if he has engaged with the National Transport

Authority in respect of plans for the roads network that link the areas between the M4 and N7, M7 in north County Kildare; his plans to improve this network of roads in view of the high level of use by heavy goods vehicles; if he has engaged with the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Transport Infrastructure Ireland in the context of the increasing level of residential planning permissions and builds underway in areas such as Clane, Straffan, Maynooth and Celbridge, County Kildare; and if he has initiated a review of the designation of roads in these areas in the context of regional and or national road status.

His response was as follows:
Individual local authorities have statutory responsibility for the improvement and maintenance of public roads, in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland in the case of national roads, under the provisions of Section 13 of the Roads Act 1993. In relation to broader policy decisions, the National Transport Authority (NTA) has statutory responsibility for the planning and development of transport infrastructure in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), including county Kildare.

The Deputy will be aware that the NTA published a draft revised Transport Strategy for the GDA 2022-2042 last November for public consultation. The public consultation process ended on 10 January. The development of the strategy and the need for it to be reviewed every six years is a statutory function of the NTA and the process relating to that development and review is set out in section 12 of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 (as amended). Ultimately a draft strategy will be submitted to me this year for approval as provided for in the Act.
The approved strategy will set out the framework for investment in transport infrastructure and services, including road investment, in the GDA over the next two decades to 2042. The strategy will reflect the objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Climate Action Plan, and the commitments in the National Development Plan.

My Department is actively working with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to strengthen the policy links between land use planning and transport planning. In line with an action in the Government's Housing for All plan, a working group has been established to consider opportunities for transport-led development in major urban centres. The working group is made up of my Department, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, the NTA and the Land Development Agency. The group is tasked with identifying potential areas that can be developed off the back of previous and further investment in transport infrastructure.

Cost Of Living Crisis Has Vaporised Household Budgets

The question for the government now is clear: when, not if, it will act?
The cost of living crisis has vaporised household budgets, according to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy TD. “This month’s consumer price index makes grim reading. Prices in the past month have increased by nearly 7pc – the fastest rate of increase since the index began, in 1997. This is not sustainable for those workers and families who are already struggling to get by.

“Household budgets have been vaporised by these relentless increases. Staples like bread, milk and pasta are up by 10pc in the past year. Electricity and gas prices are up by 22pc and 28pc – increases that don’t yet reflect the enormous price hikes announced by suppliers in recent weeks. Meanwhile, home heating oil has increased by an unprecedented 58pc in the last month alone. “The question for the government now is clear: when, not if, it will act? Measures must urgently be brought forward to try to dull the catastrophic impact of these price increases on household budgets. The alternative is clear – more and more workers and families falling into food and energy poverty and homelessness. “The Social Democrats have already suggested a number of measures that could immediately be implemented. Those measures include: putting €300 back in the pockets of workers earning €50,000 or less via a refundable tax credit; increasing core social welfare rates by €5; and expanding eligibility for the fuel allowance to those in receipt of the Working Family Payment and increasing the duration of

(Continued on page 23)



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

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(Continued from page 22)

time it is paid for at least another four weeks.
“The government has no excuse not to act.”

Government Again Fails To Sufficiently Target Cost Of Living Supports

The cost of living crisis is not impacting everyone equally. The government has again failed to sufficiently target its cost-of-living measures to low and middle-income households, according to Social Democrats Catherine Murphy TD.

“In recent weeks, the Central Bank, the St Vincent de Paul, the ESRI and even the Oireachtas Committee on Budgetary Oversight have all said the same thing – the government needs to target its supports at those who need it most.

“Despite the resounding nature of this expert advice, the government has yet again failed to sufficiently target supports to low and middle-income households. Meanwhile, it has done nothing to reduce the skyrocketing cost of home heating oil – which has increased by 127pc in the past year and is the predominant method of home heating for elderly people and those in rural areas.

“The government could have used this opportunity to introduce measures that would provide real relief to those who are struggling most. It could have put €300 back in the pockets of those earning up to €50,000 with a refundable tax credit; increased core social welfare rates by €5; increased the minimum wage and committed to a timeline for the introduction of a living wage; expanded eligibility for the fuel allowance to those on the Working Family Payment and loosened the criteria for the Exceptional Needs Payment.

“It is also now clear that the VAT reduction for gas and electricity, finally announced by the government this week, could have been introduced months ago if the government had bothered to request the change from the EU. Up until March, the government had insisted that a change to the VAT rate was not possible.

“The cost of living crisis is not impacting everyone equally. Those on low and middle incomes spend a disproportionate amount of their income on essentials like food, fuel and housing costs. It is therefore the responsibility of the government to design measures that target this cohort of households, to try to dull the impact of this crisis. The alternative, is more and more people falling into food and fuel poverty.”

Housing For All Progress Measured in Stasis And Missed Deadlines

If these figures represent success for the Minister’s plan, one wonders what failure would look like?

There has been lots of bluster from the Housing Minister on the progress he is making in housing – but very little evidence of any delivery, according to Social Democrats Catherine Murphy.

“The latest progress report for Housing For All has revealed little other than stasis and missed deadlines. The Minister’s shared equity scheme has been further delayed – despite his disputed contention that it is central to addressing endemic affordability issues – while his much-vaunted plan to boost the use of existing planning permissions is also nowhere to be seen. “If the public is looking for a real housing progress report – all they need to do is look at monthly daft.ie housing reports and CSO housing and homelessness figures. These reveal that the supply of rental accommodation is continuing to dramatically shrink while rent is skyrocketing wildly. Meanwhile, house prices are continuing to surge by approximately €100 a day as prices rose by 14.8pc in the 12 months up to January.

“Homelessness, which had decreased during the pandemic when the government imposed an eviction ban, is also climbing back to previous record levels. Nearly 9,500 people are now in emergency accommodation, up 4pc in just one month. “If these figures represent success for the Minister’s plan, one wonders what failure would look like? It is clear that Housing For All is not working and will not work. The Minister needs to go back to the drawing board, before it is too late. Every day that he delays is another day when more and more people are locked out of a home – to either rent or buy.”

Catherine Murphy TD Calls For More Resources For Birth, Death And Marriage Certs In The County

There is a high demand for certification in the county. Additional posts have been approved for the resources of birth, death and marriage certificates in County Kildare. Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy asked the Health Minister if he would provide a walk in service in the county to deal with the demand for certification. The HSE has acknowledged the high volume of calls in the Kildare office.

It has confirmed that additional post have been approved for the county and are being progressed at this time. An online appointments system has also been developed by the service and is currently in the testing phase. It said the Kildare office is not currently considering a walk-in service for the registration of life events.

PQ 19935/22 (The PQ & REPLY)

“To ask the Minister for Health the steps he has implemented to resource the births, deaths and marriage certification offices in County Kildare; if he will consider setting up a walk-in service or increasing resourcing to the area to deal with the demand for certification; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” - Catherine Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,
The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 19935/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.
The Kildare office has a large volume of calls and requests on a daily basis and currently do not have the staff to deal with these as they come in. Additional posts have been approved and are being progressed at this time. Once additional staff have completed relevant training, additional appointments can be delivered at the Kildare office.

An online appointments system has been developed by the service and is currently in the final testing phase.
The Kildare office is not considering a walk-in service for the registration of life events. However subject to additional staff it may be possible to facilitate a walk-in service for purchasing certificates.
I trust this information is of assistance to you.

For Written Answer on : 07/04/2022

Question Number(s): 337 Question Reference(s): 19053/22 Department: Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
Asked by: Catherine Murphy T.D.

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth his plans to amend the core funding model for the early education sector in view of the fact that the smaller service providers business model is not viable with the plan in its current form.; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

REPLY

Core Funding is a new strand of funding to ELC and SAC services which will form part of the new funding model as recommended by an Expert Group in December. It will operate alongside the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme and in addition to the income that services receive from parents' fees. Core Funding is designed to meet the combined objectives of: Improved affordability for parents by ensuring that fees do not increase;

Improved quality through better pay and conditions for the workforce by supporting agreement on an Employment Regulation Order through the Joint Labour Committee; Supporting the employment of graduate staff; and Improved sustainability and stability for services. Core Funding is a new and different way of providing substantial additional funding to the sector. Extensive information was communicated to the sector on 7th March, including detail on the way in which Core Funding will be allocated to individual services. A Ready Reckoner calculator has also been launched to assist providers in

estimating the impact of Core Funding for their individual service.

Core Funding will address some of the existing disparities in funding levels across ECCE and non-ECCE provision, providing funding proportionate to the age ratio of children being cared for and supporting the employment of graduate Lead Educators across ELC provision. While Core Funding will operate in addition to and alongside ECCE (standard capitation), AIM, CCSP and NCS, it replaces ECCE higher capitation and incorporates funding previously allocated to the discretionary Programme Support Payments (PSP) from September 2022.

Core Funding is related to the costs of delivery. It is based on operating hours, number of places offered by services and the age group of children for whom the places are offered, given the staffing requirements determined by the regulatory ratios for different care categories.

Services opening longer hours or offering more places will receive a higher value of Core Funding than other services. This is because their costs of operation are higher.

ECCE is 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year this amounts to 570 hours per year and is equivalent to 23% of the annual hours of a full day service operating from 8am to 6pm for 50 weeks of the year. ECCE ratio requirements are 11 children to one adult. Services offering places for 2-3 year olds can have a maximum of 6 children to one adult. ECCE therefore has less than half the hourly staffing requirement of a service for 2-3 year olds. Due to the nature of ECCE provision – 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year – even a small Core Funding allocation can take account of increased delivery costs including staffing costs.

In fact, the value of funding offered is weighted in favour of sessional services for 2.5-6 year-olds. ECCE services receive proportionately more than other types of services relative to the staffing requirements of sessional pre-school provision. Core Funding is equivalent to an increase of at least 9.5% on the standard capitation for ECCE. At a minimum, for every ECCE child €78.75 per week is now available (compared to €71.90 previously from ECCE standard capitation and programme support payment combined).

Because Core Funding is paid in respect of places rather than children, effectively this often means a greater ‘per child’ marginal increase if the service has unfilled capacity. With average ECCE occupancy of 9 children, Core Funding is equivalent to weekly per child capitation of €80.92. Sessional services with standard capitation, Full Time, Part Time and School Age services will all see substantial increases in funding. Most ECCE services currently in receipt of higher capitation rates will also benefit significantly.

No service will lose out. I have issued a funding guarantee to ensure that no service will receive less in Core Funding that it previously received in higher capitation and programme support payments, if their circumstances remain the same. An estimated 1% of services will be caught by the funding guarantee. All other services will see increases in funding, and most substantial increases in funding.

The 1% of services for whom the funding guarantee will apply and those who will see just small increases from Core Funding are ECCE-only services in receipt of higher capitation for large groups of children and with high occupancy levels. Such services are currently in receipt of between €110-€120 per hour of service provided, which is the highest levels of public funding relative to the staffing levels required for operating those types of services and significantly in excess of average staffing costs required for this type of service.

I would also like to note that there is a sustainability fund in place where services are experiencing sustainability issues that can be availed of by services.

Core Funding is designed to facilitate a partnership between the State and early learning and childcare services for the public good. Its primary purpose is to improve pay and conditions in the sector as a whole and to improve affordability for parents, as well as ensuring a fair income to providers. I look forward to working together in partnership with the many providers who which to deliver services for the public good.

Maynooth: a Socio-Economic Community Profile - 1901-1911
Highlights from the past (Continued)
Maynooth College/Occupations and Employment in Maynooth

The college census for 1901 and 1911 was examined separately from Maynooth Town because of its unique identity. St. Patrick’s College was established in 1795 as a Catholic educational institutional for the training of seminarians. It therefore has a unique population profile in that it is mainly male, roman catholic and a unique employment profile of servants in the establishment and on the college farm.

In 1901 there was a total of 604 persons in the College, four of whom were female servants. There were 515 theology students enrolled. One female servant , described as a laundress was married to the manager of the Gas Works in the College. Two of the other females were not married and one was a widow. Their average age was 56. In 1911 the population of the college was 615, seven of whom were the Daughters of Charity who had arrived in the college in 1905 and who took over the running of the kitchens and the refectory after a number of years of dissatisfaction among the student body and servants about the organisation, quality and quantity of food. Three sisters were taken on as nurses to the Infirmary. The presence of a college kitchen book for 1909 which contains the amount of food in weight for each sitting at the Junior and Senior Refectories illustrates the new efficiency and accountability.

Sample from Kitchen Book entry for June 1908

1908 (June)	Junior Refectory	Senior Refectory	Junior Infirmary
Breakfast	16 mess @ 10oz 8 odd @ 1 oz 1 reader @ 1 oz	33 mess @10 oz 4 odd @ 1 oz 1 reader @ 1 oz 6 Dunboyne @ 1.5oz 6 Dunboyne Priests @ 1.5 oz Dunboyne lunch @ .5 oz Rice 40 @ 2 oz	8 students @ 1 oz 3 monitors @ 1 oz 1 woman @ 1 oz
Supper	1 mess @ 5 oz 6 odd @ .5 oz 1 reader @ .5oz	35 mess @ 1 oz 7 odd @ .5 oz 1 reader @ .5 oz 6 Dunboyne Priests @ 1 oz 36 servants @ 1oz 1 gateman @ 1 oz 3 kitchen servants @1oz 13 parlor servants @ 1oz	8 students @ 1.5 oz 3 monitors @ 1.5 oz 1 woman @ 1.5 oz

In 1911 there were fifty-two servants, five professors and fourteen men who describe themselves as priests but who were part of the teaching staff. The census is less satisfactory in its description of academic and teaching and clerical staff. The 1901 census has fewer descriptions and different descriptions of positions e.g. Dean appears in 1901 but not in 1911. Also the number of professors is more clearly indicated in 1901 than 1911 where descriptions vary and some of those that describe themselves priests were professors.

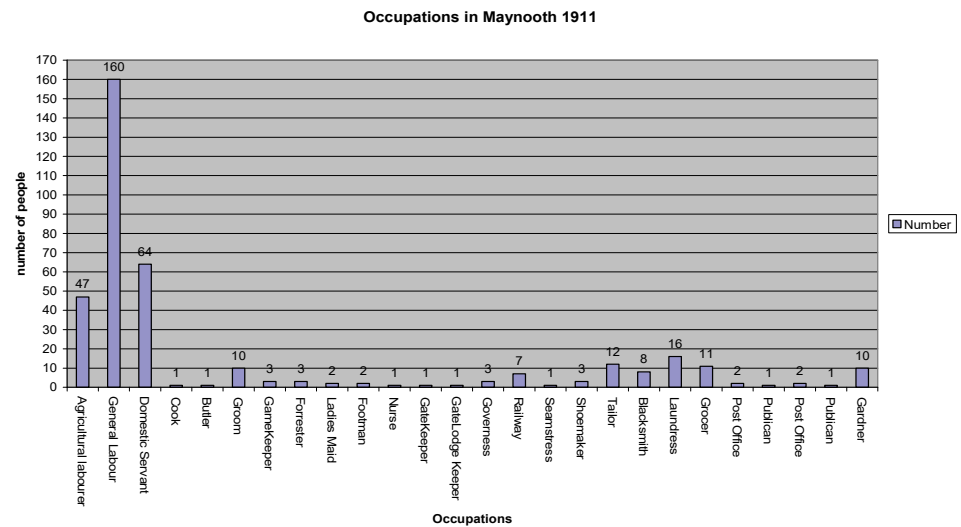
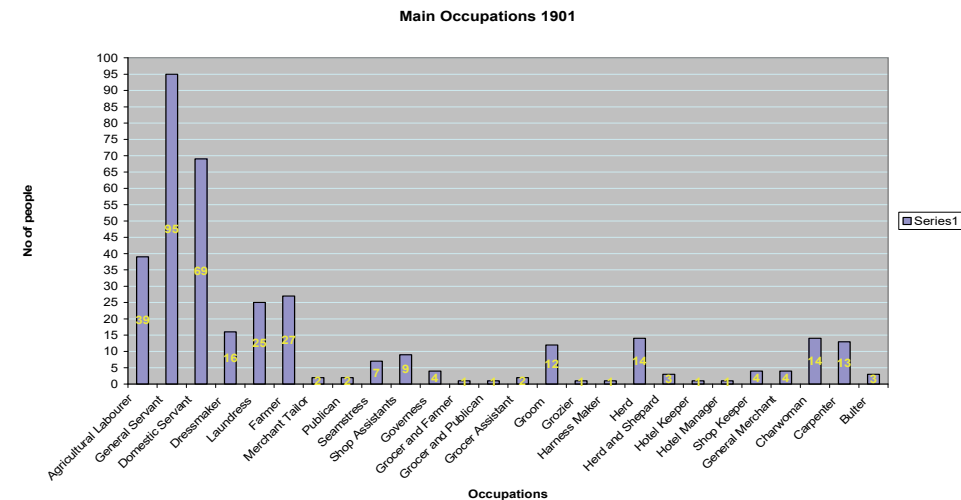
The Kalendaria for 1900-01 and 1910-11 for St. Patrick’s Colleges give a definitive picture of the college academic and support staff. The 1900-01 Kalendarium lists four deans, two spiritual directors and seventeen professors. There is four lecturing staff on sacred eloquence, elocution, biology and physiology. A lecturer on mathematics appears in the Kalendarium for the following year. The college surgeon, dentist, solicitor, physician and a resident medical attendant are also listed.

The 1910-11 Kalendarium lists similar numbers except that there are eighteen professors listed. There are seven lecturers in the fields of Elocution, Mathematics (vacant), Ancient Classics, English, Irish, Irish Archaeology, Chemistry, Hygiene which indicates further educational development. This highlights the requirement for a high number of servants in the college to serve professors and lecturers who resided within

According to the census, the population of Maynooth begins decrease from 1881. It is worth noting that the population was temporarily higher during

the building works in the college. At this time it was almost impossible to rent a room in the town. The valuation book of 1850 written by John Montgomery indicates that the town was crowded with tradesmen and labourers and their superintendents and he points to individual middle landlords whom he describes as an “avaricious class” and who “charge sharp rents”. When the work finished contractors, tradesmen left the area. People came to work and not necessarily to settle long term in the town. The other explanation for the decline in the population was that Carton Estate and the fortunes of the Duke of Leinster were in decline which impacted on development plans for the town.

Occupations and employment in Maynooth
Employment in Maynooth was to be found in St. Patrick’s College, Carton Estate, retail outlets, the Laundry, the Railway, local farms with larger houses. Both the college and Carton were separate entities at either end of the town. Each characterised with a surrounding wall and gated entrance. The servants within the college had to account for their presence by signing in and out . The college offered employment for local labourers and probably used local services such as those provided by shoemakers, seamstresses and washer women. Local tradesmen also had employment opportunities within the college.
The following charts shows the main occupations of workers in Maynooth in 1901.
It reflects the rural image of the town in that the vast majority of people were labouring or in domestic and farm service in 1901 and this had not altered very much by 1911. However we do see new occupations in 1911 such as hairdresser and an increase in the number of tailors.



The College Labourers’ Wage Book for 1911 shows that there were up to 27 local labourers employed. It was noted that they worked on the college farm or within the establishment. The majority worked on the College Farm. Three labourers worked in the establishment which included the upkeep of the grounds e.g. scuffling and cleaning yards. The remainder did work such as drawing manure, feeding cattle, making hay, milking cows, attending the vegetable and flower garden, weeding, clearing ditches and minding fowl. The college was quite self sufficient.

(Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

Highlights from the past (Continued)

There were three women, Kate Nolan, Mrs. Newman and Mary Nolan employed on the farm vegetable garden, clearing and weeding for a short time. They all came around the same time, May and June 1911. They all left on 22 July. Mary Nolan came back on 26 August and worked until 18 November which suggested that female employment was seasonal. Four of the male employees stayed for short periods of a few months and there is no evidence that they returned in the same year.

The rates of pay ranged from one shilling per day for tasks in the garden to six shillings per day for the gardener and the man tending cattle. The vast majority were paid two shillings per day for the other jobs on the farm. The gardener was Malachy Perry who is described on the census as a 39 year old agriculturist gardener. He lived at no.2 Court House Street with his wife Mary and four children. He came from Dublin County.

All labourers mentioned in the College wage book lived in the town in places such as Double Lane, Dillon’s Row, Dublin Road, Back Lane, Leinster Street, Parson’s Street, Maynooth, Main Street, Railpark, Greenfield, School Lane, Court House Street, and Mariavilla. All of these areas are within a ten minute walk to the College. There was one family with four members of the family working in the College from No. 1 Laraghbryan East. This property is situated opposite Collegeland not far from the farm entrance on the Kilcock Road.

Four labourers came from Kildare. Two came from Dublin, one from Kells, Co. Meath and one from Co. Galway. The descriptions of occupations in the census vary - agricultural labourer, general labourer, and labourer. Females describe themselves as servants. There is no wage book for servants for 1901 in the College archives. Servants wage books begin in December of 1911. The only reference to servants’ wages for 1901 is a wage book that documents cash advances to servants and documents

dealings with businesses. December of 1911 shows 68 servants were employed in the College. Thirty-six of these were accounted for on the census for the same year for the College itself. A further five people were identified in the Maynooth Town census. The two higher servants were the cook, who lived at 15 Leinster Street and the butler, who lived at 38 Main Street.

The cook, John Kavanagh, aged 56, came from Dublin and the butler, Thomas Fagan, aged 30, came from Kildare. Both were married. Kavanagh had six children and Fagan had no children at this point, he had been married for two years. Patrick Murphy who lived at no.8 Dillon’s Row was the boot polisher. James O’Brien (37) who came from Carlow and lived at number 2 Dowdstown was a College servant. It is very likely that James Dixon who lived at no. 1 Rail Park was a 2nd Delfman in the College. His father was a railway porter. Ninety-nine per cent of the College servants were male and single with the exception of Catherine Dunphy who was a widow and who had charge of cleaning the College chapel. Catherine Dunphy lived at no. 3 Dillon’s Row.

One widower, John Farrelly from Co. Meath, aged 49 was the gate porter. Most of the College servants were under 40. Three servants were aged between 15 and 17 years. There were 5 servants aged 18 years. The vast majority of servants lived in the College . The table below shows the counties of origin of the servants whether in the College or the town which indicates the majority came from Kildare, Dublin and Meath.

Meath	Kildare	Sligo	Louth	Wicklow	Cavan
9	11	1	2	1	1
Dublin City & Co.	W.Meath	Queen’s	Mayo	Carlow	
10	1	1	1	1	

(Sean Durack)...To be continued...

Maynooth University hosts Arts & Minds Festival

Arts and Literary Festival from Thursday 5th – Saturday 7th May on Maynooth campus

Maynooth University will welcome members of the public, students, staff and alumni to a festival of music, film, literature and discussions at venues across campus, from Thursday 5th – Saturday 7th May. The Arts & Minds Festival will bring together a series of live and in-person events. Festival highlights include a concert with **Irish National Opera** and a discussion with award winning author **Louise O’Neill** (*Asking for It, Only Ever Yours, and After The Silence*) who is the Arts Council Writer-in-Residence at Maynooth University. She will be joined by the critically-acclaimed **Louise Kennedy** (*The End of the World is a Cul de Sac* and *Trespases*), on Saturday the 7th.

On Friday 6th March, ‘Normal People’ and ‘Room’ director **Lenny Abrahamson** will participate in a panel discussion and Q&A, following a screening of his earlier acclaimed film, ‘Adam and Paul’. The Oscar-nominated director’s latest film, ‘Conversation with Friends’, based on the novel by Sally Rooney, will shortly hit international screens. A variety of music will be celebrated across the festival weekend, including traditional Irish musicians **Thomas McCarthy** and **Zodomo**, **Donal Lunny**, **Zoe Conway** and **Máirtín O’Connor**, presented by **Ola Majekodunmi**, on Thursday 5th May. There will also be sean-nós singing and dancing workshops, as well as Irish language craft workshops.

The Irish National Opera event with **Gemma Ní Bhriain** (mezzo-soprano), **Sarah Shine** (soprano), and **Máire Carroll** (pianist) takes place on Saturday 7th May. The full programme of events and registration is available on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/arts-and-minds-festival-tickets-320672659557> Further information is also available on the MU website at <http://mu.ie/artsandmindsfestival>

Professor Eeva Leinonen, President of Maynooth University, said: “The Arts & Minds Festival is a wonderful opportunity to welcome the community of Maynooth to campus for this celebration of art and culture. Ireland has a rich tradition in music, literature, and the arts which we are committed to fostering through our education programmes and this event.” Arts and Minds is supported by Maynooth University, Kildare County Council Arts Office, the Local Live Performance Support Scheme and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.



Drama News
An Nuadha Players
Community Theatre

Well our opening night is not far off now. “Twisted” takes to the stage from 19th May to 22nd May in the Aula Maxima in St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth.

So what can audiences expect? Sheer madness from beginning to end. Consider it a kind of adult panto that the kids can join in with and share the fun. The story is simple – the beings from the underworld decide that they will steal the ‘grand stretch in the evenings’ thus depriving the humans of their much loved summer light. The humans will have to get it back but it will not be easy and will involve many twists and turns and many strange characters. Sprinkle in many well-known songs from well-known singers or well-known musicals (though not necessarily as they were originally written!) and you get a flavour of what “Twisted” is. You will not be able to get through the show without a smile on your face and a laugh in your belly!

This is a big undertaking for An Nuadha Players and we really hope that the community will give us great support. We aim to give you all a great night or afternoon’s entertainment and goodness knows we could all do with a good laugh these days!

Tickets are available online at buytickets.at/annuadhaplayers or at the door. Shows run at 7.30 on Thurs 19th, Fri 20th and Sat 21st with two matinees at 2.30 on Sat 21st and Sun 22nd. Concessions (€12) are available for children, OAPs and groups of 10+. Adult tickets cost €15 and a family ticket (€45) admits two adults and two children.

Do come along and let us entertain you!

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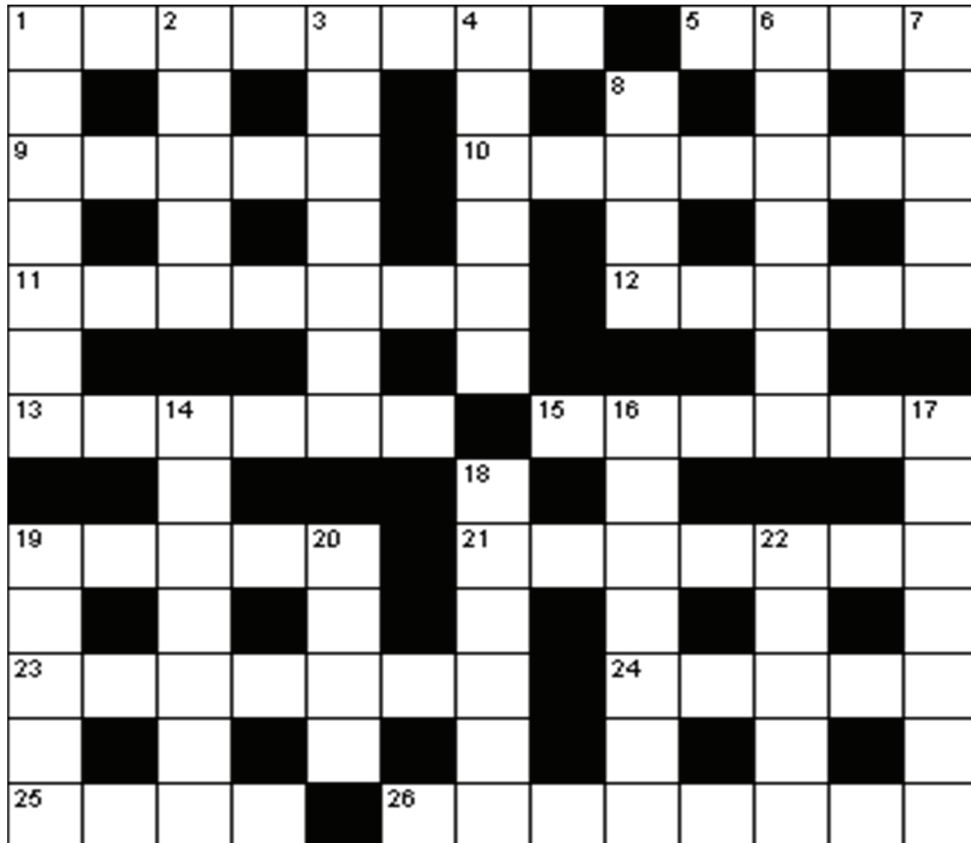
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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 29/03/2022 to 28/04/2022 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
22457	Kildare County Council	Jim and Tatyana Devine,	30 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 P8N3.	20/04/2022
22456	Kildare County Council	Nikki and Ciaran Doherty,	No. 4, Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co.	20/04/2022
22440	Kildare County Council	Philip and Ann-Marie Donohoe	Barrogstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	14/04/2022
22425	Kildare County Council	Damian and Lorraine O'Neill	112 Griffin Rath Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	13/04/2022
22413	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University	North Campus, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co Kildare.	11/04/2022
22392	Kildare County Council	Darren Barrett	(Dowdstown), Rowanstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	06/04/2022
22378	Kildare County Council	David and Sarah Halpin	13 Parklands Court, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. , W23 W1W1	04/04/2022

May 2022 Crossword - No. 512



Solutions to Crossword - No. 511



Clues Across

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Peril (8) | 21. Farmer's calendar (7) |
| 5. Rim (4) | 23. Italian red wine (7) |
| 9. Similar (5) | 24. Inexperienced (5) |
| 10. Extinct elephant (7) | 25. Luxuriant (4) |
| 11. Aromatic seasoning (7) | 26. Fierce (8) |
| 12. Wild feline (5) | |
| 13. Gaped (6) | |
| 15. Winner (6) | |
| 19. Go in (5) | |

Clues Down

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Envious (7) | 17. Wealthiest (7) |
| 2. Mediterranean fruit tree (5) | 18. Of the sea (6) |
| 3. Norm (7) | 19. Surpass (5) |
| 4. Type of plum (6) | 20. Rip (4) |
| 6. Shortage of rainfall (7) | 22. Dissonance (5) |
| 7. Used as an anaesthetic (5) | |
| 8. Leave out (4) | |
| 14. Achieves (7) | |
| 16. Vast (7) | |



Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

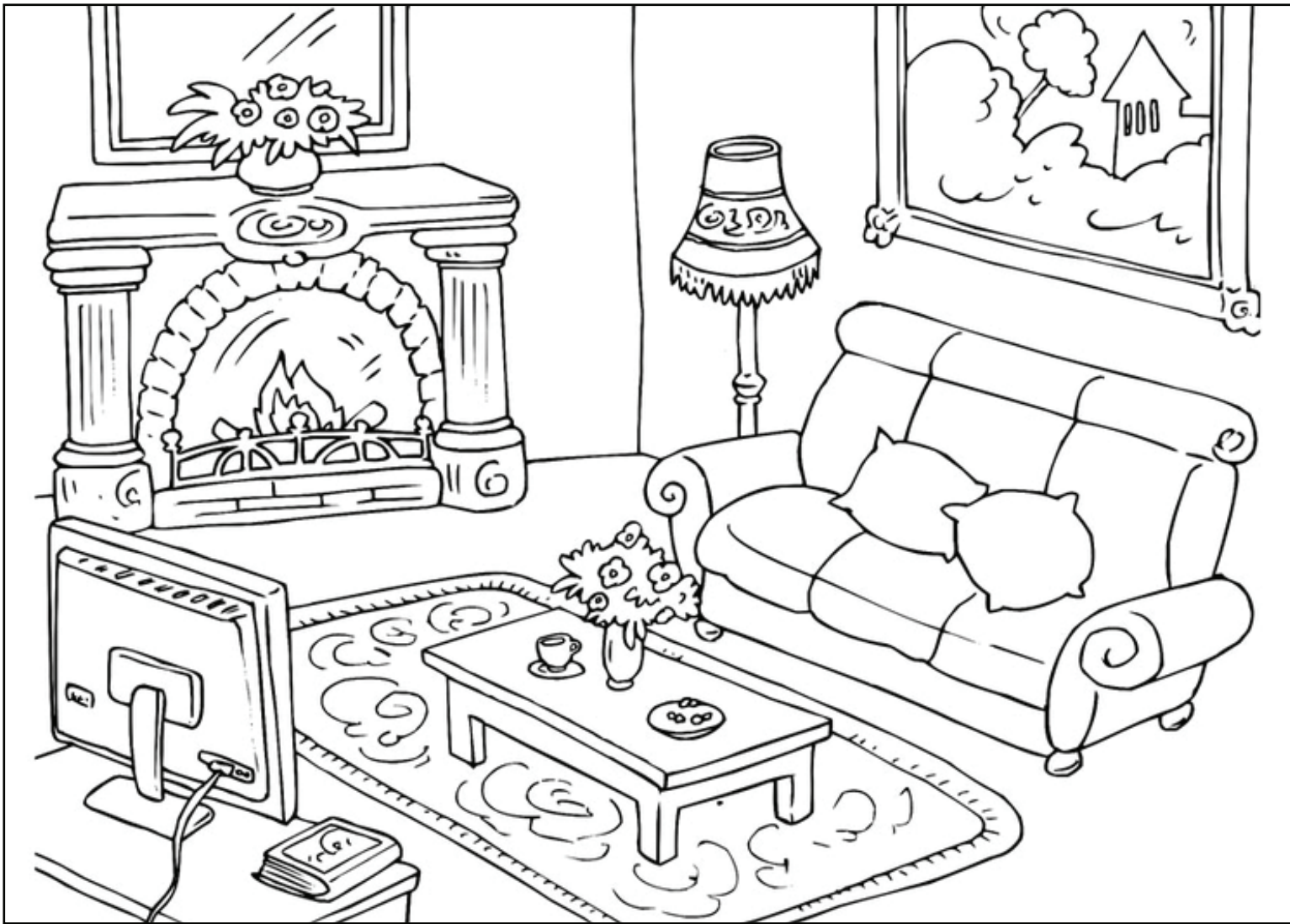
Super Difficult

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

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

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

Junior Fun Corner



Children's Colouring

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

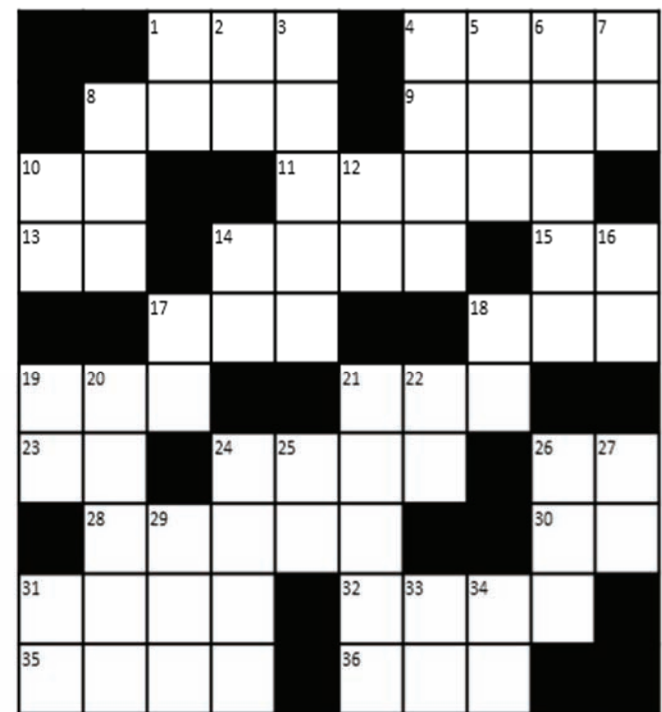
Be sure to avoid printing ALL the pages of the Newsletter unless you intend to do so.

Animal Word Search

G E S U O M H N W R B W C W L
 X D A Q H J X O O M L T H W J
 B W S H N L H T P I C R A W M
 Y W M E F F A R I G L K D O G
 R C K R R R S Y K T H I P P O
 J T O W I E F B X X L Q R J E
 D R O T A G I L L A E B Z H X
 T H N X P I C L F C R V Z S Z
 V N H R S T H E T D R I B I Q
 N Z A C S T Y X L W I N H F L
 W U Q H K L J A E A U F A H F
 V Q Q D P O Y K N V Q Z A T V
 X M T L Q E T J Y E S Y R C H
 T A C K Q C L K M O N K E Y R
 P T S H W L Y E T D R A H T L

CAT	HIPPO	MOUSE	TIGER
DOG	SQUIRREL	MONKEY	
BIRD	GIRAFFE	ALLIGATOR	
ELEPHANT	FISH	LION	

CROSS



NUMBERS

ACROSS

1. 1408 - 427
4. 1627 + 6068
8. 601 + 3466
9. 6046 - 2918
10. 9 + 18
11. 84863 - 2084
13. 24 + 21
14. 2109 + 7810
15. 58 - 4
17. 420 - 105
18. 40 + 946
19. 219 + 501
21. 499 - 15
23. 2 + 37
24. 401 + 2294
26. 28 + 53
28. 23833 - 11720
30. 62 - 5
31. 328 + 1133
32. 10074 - 261
35. 2826 + 3220
36. 142 + 442

DOWN

1. 172 - 82
2. 115 - 29
3. 27929 - 10034
4. 4734 + 2645
5. 138 + 479
6. 90348 + 2610
7. 105 - 47
8. 779 - 304
10. 1 + 23
12. 2 + 19
14. 20 + 71
16. 9 + 37
17. 20 + 10
18. 167 - 73
19. 1 + 72
20. 25695 + 3445
21. 70644 - 21249
22. 21 + 64
24. 1300 + 816
25. 110 - 49
26. 1207 - 354
27. 1 + 16
29. 54 + 210
31. 1 + 15
33. 50 + 38
34. 5 + 9

Gardening for May

The world’s favourite season is the Spring, all things seem possible in May. Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun

After taking time to relax after Easter it’s now time to carry on with the gardening. What’s more, May is the month that kicks up a gear as vegetable and flower plants can be planted outdoors into their final growing, weather conditions allowing of course. It is also good to be able to start taking care of lawns to get that appearance we love so much! Now that the soil should start to warm up, with weeds sprouting, it’s the perfect time for sowing seeds such as primrose, sweet william, cauliflower, spinach and radish. However, keep an eye on any weeds appearing as they will need taking in hand!

Hanging Baskets / Patio Containers

As long as your patio is sheltered or under cover, hanging baskets and containers can be planted up with fuchsias and tender perennials. Why not incorporate a slow release fertiliser and water storing crystals to reduce feeding and help water retention at the same time but remember not to place outside until end of May/early June so that containers do not dry out, watering can be stepped up on warm, breezy days. Dwarf dahlias can be potted up into containers ready to provide colour from mid summer to early autumn. As pansy flowers wither remember to dead-head them to encourage further flowering.



Should weather conditions still seem uncertain, take precautions to guard against frost especially at night by placing garden fleece over emerging crops such as potatoes, covering cold frames with either polythene or sacking, and young plants that are in the greenhouse can be covered with newspaper. Prevent weed seedlings becoming established by hoeing borders once a week. Any plants being delivered this month must be opened immediately, if not, the leaves will go yellow with rot setting in. Many plants are susceptible to attack by aphids and measures should be taken to bring this common pest under control. Vine weevil can sometimes cause quite a problem so it may be an idea to use a biological nematode simply mix into a solution and water plants when larvae are active (soil temperature should approximately be above 5°C/40°F). To keep control of slugs and snails, trap them under tiles or even grapefruit skins remembering to collect them up and disposing of them. There are also non-chemical traps available such as Slug Umbrellas – use pellets only sparingly.

Vegetables to Sow in May

Root vegetables - Carrots, beetroot, swedes, and turnips can now safely be sown outdoors. Beetroot, whose seeds can be notoriously hit-and-miss to germinate, may need covering with cloches if the spring is poor and the soil is still cold and wet. Lettuces and other salad crops - Sow more lettuce, rocket, land cress, summer purslane, corn salad, and other salad leaves outdoors this month to ensure a steady supply. Sow under cover if the weather is still cold. Continue to sow main crop peas, mangetouts, and snap peas outdoors, protecting seedlings with cloches or nets if necessary. Rhubarb: Transplant any young rhubarb plants you’ve grown indoors from seed.



Leeks: May is usually the first month during which you can start transplanting or “dibbing in” your leeks.



Herbs: - Sow further small batches of seed such as basil, coriander, chervil, dill, lovage, parsley, and sorrel. Young plants that are tender or half-hardy, such as basil, may still need protecting with cloches or covers.

Fruits in May: Plant outdoors - Cape gooseberries, Cranberries, Strawberries. Tomatoes - In May, garden centres and nurseries are full of young tomato plants for sale. But don’t be tempted until next month if there’s still a risk of frost and you’re unable to cover them at night. Home-made bottle cloches may be the answer if you’re too impatient to wait. These antioxidant-packed Raspberries are perfect for summer fruit salads. They can be planted in the summer, but early spring yields the best tasting crops. The berries are prone to root rot, so they do best well in a raised bed with rich soil that drains well. Manure or compost will help the fruit really flourish.



Whether in the flower garden or the vegetable garden, don’t forget to stay on top of the weeds. Keep hoeing between the plants to keep the beds weed free; with the increased temperatures in early May, weeds can quickly take hold unless kept in check. Early May is your last chance to sow a new lawn from seed as we come into the summer months and the temperatures rise even further. Patio pots and containers with permanent planting should get some attention at this time of year. You have to remove the top couple of centimetres of soil and replace it with fresh.

SHEPERD’S PIE IN 30 MINS

Ingredients:

2 pounds potatoes, such as russet, peeled and cubed
2 tablespoons sour cream or softened cream cheese
1 large egg yolk
1/2 cup cream, for a lighter version substitute vegetable or chicken broth
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
1 3/4 pounds lamb mince
1 carrot, peeled and chopped
1 onion, chopped
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons plain flour
1 cup beef stock or broth
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1/2 cup frozen peas, a couple of handfuls
1 teaspoon sweet paprika
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves



Method:

1. Boil potatoes in salted water until tender, about 12 minutes. Drain potatoes and pour them into a bowl. Combine sour cream, egg yolk and cream. Add the cream mixture into potatoes and mash until potatoes are almost smooth
2. While potatoes boil, preheat a large skillet over medium high heat. Add oil to hot pan with lamb. Season meat with salt and pepper. Brown and crumble meat for 3 or 4 minutes. If the pan is fatty, spoon away some of the drippings. Add chopped carrot and onion to the meat. Cook veggies with meat 5 minutes, stirring frequently. In a second small skillet over medium heat cook butter and flour together 2 minutes. Whisk in broth and Worcestershire sauce. Thicken gravy 1 minute. Add gravy to meat and vegetables. Stir in peas.
3. Preheat broiler to high. Fill a small rectangular casserole with meat and vegetable mixture. Spoon potatoes over meat evenly. Top potatoes with paprika and broil 6 to 8 inches from the heat until potatoes are evenly browned. Top casserole dish with chopped parsley and serve.

Strawberry Icebox Casserole

Serves: 10
Preparation Time: 15 minutes
Chilling Time: 4 hours



Ingredients:

- 3 cups heavy cream
 - 2 (8-ounce) containers mascarpone cream, room temperature
 - 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons powdered sugar
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 - 1 teaspoon kosher salt
 - 90 shortbread cookies
 - 2 pounds strawberries, hulled and sliced, plus extra strawberries for serving
 - 1 banana, sliced
- Fresh basil, for garnish

Instructions:

1. In the bowl of a stand mixer, whip the cream, mascarpone, powdered sugar, vanilla, and salt together until the mixture forms medium-stiff peaks.
2. Spread a thin layer of the cream mixture in a 9 x 13-inch baking dish and cover with a layer of shortbread cookies. Spread one-quarter of the remaining cream mixture over the cookies and top with one-third of the strawberries. Cover the strawberries with another layer of cookies, then spread with one-quarter of the cream and one-third of the strawberries. Repeat with the remaining shortbread, one-quarter of the cream, and the remaining strawberries. Spread the remaining cream on top.
3. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 4 hours.

Serve with extra strawberries and fresh basil leaves.



FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

Movie Trivia Quiz



1) Who is the only actor to appear in both the 1961 Robert Wise screen adaptation of West Side Story and its recent Stephen Spielberg remake?

2) Which veteran American actor of Children of a Lesser God and Body Heat fame died in March of this year?

3) What is the first foreign-language movie ever to win the Oscar for Best Picture?

4) What famous Irish actor is unrecognizable under layers of makeup as The Penguin in the recent Robert Pattinson starrer, The Batman



5) Which popular American actor caused controversy after he slapped comedian Chris Rock at the recent Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles?

6) Who is the only actor ever to receive an Oscar nomination for acting in a Star Wars movie?

7) What was Quentin Tarantino's first film as writer/director?

8) What is the highest-grossing foreign-language film at the U.S. box office?

9) Jennifer Lawrence won her first Best Actress Oscar for what popular romantic comedy-drama?



10) In what 1979 James Bond movie does the famous spy go to outer space?

11) Joaquin Phoenix received his first Oscar nomination for playing a Roman emperor in what Oscar-winning epic film?

12) Which movie was incorrectly announced as the winner of Best Picture at the 2017 Academy Awards, during the greatest Oscars mix-up of all time?

13) What hugely popular cult crime film in 1994 revitalized John Travolta's flagging career at the time?

14) For which 1964 classic musical did Julie Andrews win the Academy Award for Best Actress?

15) Who is the only actor to receive an Oscar nomination for acting in a Lord of the Rings movie?



16) The classic theme music from Carol Reed's The Third Man (also called "The Harry Lime Theme") was performed on what instrument?

17) Marlon Brando "could have been a 'contender'" in what iconic 1954 black and white film?

18) Steven Spielberg won his first Oscar as Best Director for which classic film?

19) In what 1970s thriller film does Robert De Niro famously say "You talkin' to me?"

20) The head of what kind of animal is front-and-centre in an infamous scene from The Godfather?



21) Which American writer/director starred in several iconic European-produced "Spaghetti Westerns"?

22) What 1927 musical was the first "talkie"?

23) What was the first feature-length animated movie ever released?

24) How many 'Star Wars' movies are there?

25) Which 2017 musical film is centred around a jazz pianist and aspiring actress who fall in love with each other in Los Angeles?

26) What role does Nicholas Cage play in the recently released action-comedy film The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent?



27) Which instrument links characters played by Holly Hunter (1993) and Adrian Brody (2002) in films nominated for the Best Picture Oscar?

28) Which film series that began in 1996 recounts the very difficult exploits of IMF agent Ethen Hunt?

29) What well-known actor became an action hero aged 56 when he had to get his daughter back from Albanian traffickers in a 2008 thriller movie?

30) Who played the British Prime Minister in the 2003 Richard Curtis film Love Actually?

31) Who starred as a chilling assassin in the Coen brothers' crime drama No Country for Old Men?



32) In which epic Oscar-winning film of survival did Leonardo DiCaprio have to eat raw bison liver, despite being a vegetarian?

33) Roberto Benigni won the Best Actor gong for which acclaimed foreign language movie in 1998?

34) Jodie Foster's second Academy Award for Best Actress came for playing an FBI agent in which classic horror film?

35) Rami Malek's Academy Award win in 2018 was for his portrayal of which legendary singer?



36) Which celebrated actress has been nominated the most times in the Best Actress category, winning for Sophie's Choice and The Iron Lady?

37) What iconic 1979 sci-fi movie had the tagline "In Space, nobody can hear you scream"?

38) Which classic horror film had the tagline "Check in. Unpack. Relax. Take a shower."?

39) Tom Hanks plays a boy who finds himself in a man's body in which popular American comedy film?

40) Who plays the author of Mary Poppins opposite Tom Hanks's Walt Disney in the moving biographical drama Saving Mr Banks?

The answers to the Movie Trivia Quiz will be in the June edition of the online Maynooth Newsletter.



Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



Local News - June 2022 - Issue No. 513 - Online Version

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The views & opinions expressed in this Publication are those of the contributors.



Gaelscoil Ruairí

Maigh Nuad

Is scoil nua-bhunaithe í Gaelscoil Ruairí atá lonnaithe ar Bhóthar an Mhaigh gCláir i Maigh Nuad, agus tosaíonn ár lá ag 8.30 r.n. Tá an scoil ag fás agus ag forbairt ach de bharr gur bunaíodh an scoil díreach roimh aimsir na paidéimí, níl pobal na scoile tar éis a bheith feicthe timpeall an bhaile go dtí le déanaí. Tá an scoil ag clárú faoi láthair agus cuireann sí fáilte roimh an bpobal teagmháil a dhéanamh léi chun a thuilleadh eolais a fháil. Tá roinnt eolais faoin scoil thíos.

Gaelscoil Ruairí is a multi-denominational Gaelscoil located on the New Education Campus on the Moyglare Road in Maynooth, and our day starts at 8.30 a.m. Although the school is currently in temporary accommodation, this accommodation is to an extremely high standard where all classrooms are equipped with the resources required for a modern, progressive and highly effective education.

The school's permanent building will be built on this same site in the very near future. The site has been acquired by the Department of Education for the school, planning permission has been granted and the project is about to go out to tender.

The school was founded in 2019 and is preparing for its fourth school year with classes from junior infants to second class.

The school has achieved a huge amount since opening and is very proud of the fantastic school community that already supports the school, ensuring the children have the best experience possible during their primary school years.

Children of all backgrounds, faiths and native tongue are welcome to join an energetic, compassionate, dedicated and enriching school environment.

Every group supporting the school works collaboratively to ensure each child reaches their potential academically, socially, musically and artistically while at all times being part of a truly active school where there is a huge emphasis on physical literacy and movement.



Children do not need to have any Irish or English to attend Irish-Medium schools as all the necessary support is provided throughout the school day and as a result all children can benefit from the advantages associated with bilingual education. All additional needs are catered for and supported by school staff, dedicated individual support plans and the support of outside agencies where appropriate.

Gaelscoil Ruairí also offers after-school care through an external company called Kids Inc. They provide an after-school programme where hot food is provided by a catering company up until 6.30p.m. each day. This service is proving very popular with parents.

The school currently has a few places available for September 2022. We invite anyone who would like to find out a little more, take a little tour around the school, view the plans for the new school building, speak to the principal or other members of staff or to a member of the parent body, to contact the school by phone or by email.

We welcome all enquiries and will be more than happy to talk with you.

Now Enrolling

www.gaelcoilruairi.ie
oifig@gaelcoilruairi.ie
086-8226872

Maynooth

Gaelcoil Ruairí

Campas Oideachais Nua, Bóthar an Mhaigh gCláir, Maigh Nuad, Co. Chill Dara W23 V29H

Maynooth Newsletter

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

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

The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter,
Unit 10, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park,
Maynooth, Co. Kildare. W23CT59
Tel: 01-6285922

E-mail: office@maynoothcep.com - 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

With many years of virtually no inflation it is clear in recent months high single digit percentage rates of inflation is impacting on the cost of virtually everything we buy. With it to persist for the foreseeable future there are many calling for more mitigating measures to be implemented by the Government who have already responded with a contribution to our electric bills and other small measures. However, the reduction in taxes on petrol and diesel has not prevented the cost of a litre of petrol breaching two euro. The cost of using public transport has been reduced by an average of twenty percent which brings the cost of a train journey from Maynooth to Dublin down to two euro.



In Ireland we have a strong tradition of volunteering our services for free to community activities and responding to needs that arise. Thankfully this continues because as a society we couldn't fulfil many needs without the free resources provided by people giving their time and efforts. During Covid communities throughout Ireland responded to support their neighbours and Maynooth volunteers answered the need locally. It was good to see that these efforts during Covid were acknowledged last month by the Department of Rural and Community Development in partnership with Volunteer Ireland and Kildare County Council and among the recipients who received certificates and a letter from An Taoiseach were a number of people from Maynooth.



A pole in Maynooth Harbour with stickers is something the National Tidy Towns judges would notice.

Some organisations consist completely of volunteer members and in Maynooth one of the best known is Maynooth Tidy Towns. As a community we cannot put a value on the positive impact of their work on the town. That been said the National Tidy Towns competition judging takes place during the summer months so I would urge everyone to look after your local part of Maynooth as a contribution to the overall result that can be achieved and in doing so you are supporting the work of Maynooth Tidy Towns.

June will begin with celebrations for one of Maynooth's oldest businesses where the current owner Declan Kennedy will mark twenty years in business at Brady's Clock house Pub. The business dates back to 1896 when the Pitts family opened the pub. An employee of theirs the renowned late Phil Brady took over the business and re-named the pub as Brady's Clock house. In 2002, Declan Kennedy and his business partner Ollie Quinlan acquired the business from the Brady family and in 2015 with the passing of his business partner Declan Kennedy continued the business on his own. Thankfully surviving the Covid disruption Brady's Clockhouse continues to be one of Maynooth's best places to socialise where Declan makes a big effort to personally get to know his customers and is known to make sure that all his regular patrons get their Christmas drink on the house. We wish him and his team many more happy and successful years in the heart of the town.

**Paul Croghan
Editor**



**Copy date for the next edition of the
Maynooth Newsletter will be 5pm on
Monday 27th June 2022**

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Opening Hours

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(Closed for Lunch 1pm to 2pm)



June Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Children's Events

Punch and Judy Puppet Show

Saturday 11th June: Cruinniú na nÓg

10.00am–10:40am

Age: 3-7 year olds

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join us for a panto version of the classic children's puppet show using authentic handmade wooden puppets. Featuring Punch, who just wants to head off with the dads at the party, to see the football match. Then there's Judy, who wants to go out with the mums to get a surprise! Suitable for ages 3-7 years.

Please book tickets per each child and adult attending. Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Book now through Ticket Tailor: <https://bit.ly/3sKadVk>.

Wildlife Illustration Workshop with author and illustrator Aga Grandowicz

Saturday 11th June / Cruinniú na nÓg, 11.30 am-12.30pm

Age: 6-10 year olds

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join author and illustrator Aga Grandowicz for this workshop during which children will participate in a team project where they will draw an endangered Irish animal and then cut out their artwork and place it on a background prepared in advance.

Aga Grandowicz is author of the very popular books 'Dr Hibernica Finch's Compelling Compendium of Irish Animals and 'Remarkable Creatures: a guide to some of Ireland's disappearing animals'. **Please book tickets per each child and adult attending.**

Children under the age of 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Book now through Ticket Tailor: <https://bit.ly/384ek7S>.

Outdoor in-person storytime based *Geansaí Ottó* written by Sadhbh Devlin

Friday 17th June at 10am- 10:30am

Age : 2-5 year olds

Location: Carton Avenue Maynooth or Maynooth Community Library depending on the weather

Join the Maynooth Library staff on Carton Avenue for an outdoor in-person storytime with our Geansaí Ottó story trail! We will meet the families on Carton Avenue at 10am. Places are limited and one ticket is required per child.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Book now through Ticket Tailor: <https://bit.ly/3MtKLeX>.

Holiday Water Park: Minecraft Show and Tell

Friday 17th June, 3:30pm- 4:30pm

Age : 6- 10 years

Location: Online via Zoom

Do you like to create and build in Minecraft? Take part in our build challenge, sign up for our Zoom discussion and show us your take on our theme which will be sent to you in advance! Suitable for ages 6-10. Children must be accompanied on the video call by an adult. Places are limited and booking is essential. This month we want you to start building an Holiday Water Park!

Book now through TicketTailor <https://bit.ly/3LuogF9>.

Children's Illustrations Collage Workshop

Wednesday 22nd June, 3.30pm- 4.30 pm

Age: 7-10 year olds

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Some books are read so often and so loved that the library's copies end up in pieces and falling apart after a couple of years of lending. We at the library like to give these books a new life in the form of artwork so we invite the children of Maynooth to come along to a special collage making workshop where we will upcycle the illustrations into art. For ages 7 to 10. Limited Places.

Book now through Ticket Tailor: <https://bit.ly/3Pu3kBq>.

Summer Star Wildlife Scavenger Hunt and Crafts

Thursday 30th June, 2:30pm-3:30pm

Age 6-10 years

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join us at Maynooth Community Library for our Summer Stars Biodiversity Event. Test your spotting skills in the library with our wildlife themed scavenger hunt and support the creatures in your garden with crafts made from natural materials.

Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the event.

Limited Places Available.

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Book now through ticket tailor: <https://bit.ly/3MwlaC2>.

Young Adult Events

Smartphone Filmmaking for Teenagers with Burning House Productions

Saturday 11th June / Cruinniú na nÓg, 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Age: 12-15 year olds

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join us for an exciting workshop on making your own film using nothing more than a smartphone.

This workshop will be taught by an industry professional who works in the Irish and UK film industry. Students will learn how to write, film and direct their own film. Suitable for ages 12-15 years.

During the workshop the following topics will be covered:

- Script Writing
- Directing
- Cinematography
- Working with Actors
- Smartphone Filmmaking
- Editing

Don't forget to bring your smartphone!

Book now through Ticket Tailor: <https://bit.ly/3No6vst>

Teen Writers Conversation with Author Precious Dikko

Saturday 25th June, 11:30am – 12.30pm

Location: Online Via Zoom

Join Precious Dikko for a casual Q&A about writing aimed at teen writers.

Precious Dikko wrote her first book when she was nine years old and has been writing ever since. She's lived in three different countries on two continents and resided for many years in Dublin with her family. She now lives in Walsall in the UK. When she is not writing she's practicing guitar and trying to learn various languages. "To Catch a Rebel" was her debut novel and she has since released a follow up, with the long-awaited third and final book in the series arriving in June.

Limited places.

Book now through Ticket Tailor: <https://bit.ly/39DNzaN>.

Adults

Kildare Libraries FaceBook Club

Wednesday 29th June

8:00pm – 9.00pm

Location: Online via Zoom

Our FaceBook Club is always welcoming new members, where we will discuss a new book from BorrowBox on the last Wednesday of the month over Zoom. Join our Facebook group or email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie for the details.

<https://facebook.com/groups/kildarelibrariesbookclub>

Regular Events

Weekly Story-Time in Maynooth Library

Friday 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th of June 10.00 am – 10.30am

Join the Maynooth staff for some in-person stories with nursery rhymes and songs. Each week will have a new theme.

Age: 2-5 year olds

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Places are limited and one ticket is required per child. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Book Via Ticket Tailor:

Friday 3rd: <https://bit.ly/3LrFUcH>.

Friday 10th: <https://bit.ly/3NqcFsg>.

Friday 17th: <https://bit.ly/3MtKLeX>

Friday 24th: <https://bit.ly/3yNDD9c>

Beginners Sewing Machine Classes (Adults only)

Current class is full & we are taking expressions of interest for future classes

Tuesdays 6.30 – 7.30 pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Must have own sewing machine.

If you have an unused, unloved sewing machine then this is the class for you. Learn to thread, adjust tension, change needles, use different stitches and make some very simple projects.

If interested please contact Maynooth library 045 980 493 or email us at

maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie

(Continued on page 5)

June Events at **Maynooth Community Library** (Cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

Wednesday Morning Book Club

Third Wednesday of each month

Wednesday 15th June

11.00am – 12.00 pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

If interested contact Maynooth library on 045 980 493 email us at

maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie.

U3A Book Club

Second Monday of the month

Monday 13th June

10.30am – 11.30am

Location: Maynooth Community Library

If interested contact Maynooth library on 045 980 493 email us at

maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie.

Every Monday

Knitting / Craft Club

12.00pm – 1.00pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Come and join like-minded people for an hour of chat, knitting and crafting.

If interested contact Maynooth library on 045 980 493 email us at

maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie.

Saturday 11th June

Maynooth Women's Expat Group

3.00pm - 3.45 pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

The group is for women: expats who relocated to Ireland and returning expats.

The library would become a meeting place, to chat, make new friends and share stories - good and bad - about their transition from their native land to their present address.

Returning expats are also welcome to share their experiences.

For all ages

Reader Pens Now Available in Maynooth Library

Maynooth Library now have reader pens available for lending or alternatively you can just borrow one for the duration of your library visit. These text-to-speech pens read words and full lines of text aloud, promoting independent reading and confidence

Key Features of reader pens: Read text aloud – Promote reading independence – Built-in dictionaries – Secure and private – No WiFi required – Built-in speaker & earphone jack – Rechargeable – Easy to use

Helps with: Reading or pronunciation – Dyslexia – Language learning – Vision problems. For more information, ask a staff member at the library desk / email Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie / phone us on 045 980493.

Kilcock Library In-Person Events

Read Along Session with Author and Reader-in-Residence Emma-Jane Leeson

For children aged 5-7 years

Saturdays from 11:45am-12:15am, May 21st and 28th and June 11th and 18th

Location: Kilcock Library

Join our new reader-in-residence Emma-Jane Leeson for a series of fun shared reading mornings in Kilcock Library. Emma-Jane will be taking the children on a magical reading adventure week by week. Registration required in advance of each session. Parental supervision required. To book a space contact Kilcock Library at

kilcocklib@kildarecoco.ie or at (01) 6284403

Children's Creative Writing Club with Author and Reader-in-Residence Emma-Jane Leeson

For children aged 8-12 years.

Saturdays 12:15pm-1:00pm, May 21st and 28th and June 11th and 18th

Location: Kilcock Library

Join children's author Emma-Jane Leeson for a fun 4-week creative writing course where the children will work towards having their very own story published in a real book. Please note children must be able to attend all 4 workshops in order to be featured in the final book. Parental supervision is not necessary for this workshop. To book a space contact Kilcock Library at kilcocklib@kildarecoco.ie or at (01) 6284403



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MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES

BIKEWEEK 2022



Maynooth Cycling Campaign organised a Family Cycle along the Royal Canal Greenway on Sunday 22nd as part of Bikeweek 2022. The weather was generally good that day but although we were subject to a strong head wind going to Kilcock, as often happens on a bike, it had died away when we returned. Nevertheless, we were delighted that 22 others joined us and

the young people enjoyed ice creams before returning. We would like to thank the Maynooth schools and other organisations which publicised the cycle.



Kildare County Development Plan (CDP)

Maynooth Cycling Campaign has made its submission to the public consultation on the Draft CPD which closed on the 24th May. While there are many good points in the CPD, we have tried to improve many of the policies which are aspirational. We also pointed out that the draft CPD also contains proposed travel targets which amount to more than 100%. The full submission is available on our website.

Royal Canal Greenway – Maynooth to South Dublin Boundary

Construction of this section of the Royal Canal greenway was due to start in April-May. It is disappointing that the project has been delayed and will have to retender for apparently failure by Waterways Ireland to issue a licence by the due date. Tender on construction projects have been impacted by inflation so it is hoped that there won't be any further delay.

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.



Herb Garden Ideas

Herbs are a must in any garden – not only can they be used in cooking, teas, cocktails or herbal remedies, but they have beautiful foliage and flowers, many of which are attractive to pollinators.

Growing your own herbs, from seeds or ready-grown plants, is much more economical than buying packets of cut herbs from the supermarket, and you can cut them as you need them, so they'll always be fresh.



You can grow herbs in a dedicated part of your garden but if space is limited, you can grow herbs in among your vegetables, alongside flowering ornamentals, in a wildflower meadow, on the patio – the choice is yours. You can create a herb garden in a raised bed, large container or even a window box.

When designing with herbs the first thing to consider after growing requirements is growth habit. Tall, statuesque herbs like angelica contribute vertical interest to the garden. They are generally planted towards the back of a bed so they don't overshadow shorter plants but can also look great thrusting skywards among lower growing plants.

Medium-sized herbs, from about one to three foot, or 30cm to a meter in height, will form the bulk of your planting. Combine a variety of leaf shapes, colours and textures to break up blocks of planting. And, of course, most herbs will also draw in numerous beneficial bugs, most noticeably bees that will go on to help pollinate vegetables and fruits.

Lower-growing herbs like parsley or chives should be planted at the front of any scheme where they can form a neat edging or spill outwards.

Edging and Paving

Herbs for edging look simply stunning. Grown alongside a path they'll release their aroma every time you brush past.

Creeping herbs like thyme, oregano and prostrate forms of rosemary are great for growing within paving, planted into cracks, opportunistically at the edges, between slabs or in other gaps. From here they'll extend out to soften hard surfaces, while taking advantage of the radiated heat to waft their delicious fragrance even further.

These types of herbs work well bursting out from any landscaped surface to create a more relaxed, informal feel. Or try planting them en masse to form a practical, yet highly attractive living mulch that also works to crowd out weeds.

Container Herb Gardens

Many gardeners can only afford space for a few pots of herbs. But that doesn't mean you can't design an effortlessly stylish herbal heaven!

Cluster pots of herbs, salads and vegetables together to create a living tapestry of leafy loveliness. Use bold forms like rosemary to create a feature on your terrace, or mix them up in stone or metal troughs and herb towers to really pack your herbs in, while ensuring an eye-catching centre piece to feed both body and soul.



Herbs can also be used to offer vertical interest by growing them in containers held up on posts, or secured onto walls and fences.

How to plant Herbs

Most culinary herbs need a well-drained soil to thrive. If you have heavy clay, you will need to lighten the soil. Dig in some well-rotted compost if you're growing annual herbs, and add horticultural grit in areas where you want to grow Mediterranean herbs. If you're growing herbs in a raised bed, fill it with topsoil and horticultural grit from the garden centre.

If you're growing in pots, put some crocks at the bottom and use good peat-free, multipurpose compost, with some horticultural grit or perlite added for extra drainage. Place the plants before you plant them – this allows you to check that you've got their position right. Research the eventual height and spread of each herb, so that you give it enough space to grow. Plant at the same depth as the root ball, and water in well.

Water your new herb garden regularly until the plants have established, especially in hot weather. To ensure a steady supply of fresh annual herbs, sowing a new batch once you're halfway through your current crop. Sprinkle seeds thinly over the surface of a pot or tray of multi-purpose compost, or direct into the soil when the weather is warm enough.



Boost perennials growing in pots by scraping away some of the compost and replacing with fresh in spring, or repot them in fresh compost. Divide chives and tarragon each second spring, and top dress or re-pot woody Mediterranean herbs, such as rosemary. Herbs like mint and chives die down in winter, so need cutting to the ground in late autumn. Woody, evergreen herbs like rosemary and sage become straggly with age, so prune into shape after flowering or in spring.

Herbs bring so much to the garden – and us! Whether it's a little something to liven up recipes or a profound sense of beauty.

Source: www.growveg.com/guides/herb-garden-design-ideas/

Source: www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/how-to-create-a-herb-garden/



MAYNOOTH TOWN FC FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL



**FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR STATE OF THE
ART ASTRO FACILITY**

MAIN EVENT: RATHCOFFEY ROAD

**MAYNOOTH TOWN FC V MAN UNITED
LEGENDS**

COMMUNITY TEAMWORK

**10.00 - 12.00PM FUN FAMILY ZONE
AT RATHCOFFEY ROAD**

**12.00 - 1.30PM MEET & GREET MAN
UTD LEGENDS GLENROYAL HOTEL**

**2.30 - 4.45PM MTFC VS MAN UNITED
LEGENDS 3 * 30MINS MATCHES**

**7.45PM - LATE CLUB DINNER
DANCE AT THE GLENROYAL HOTEL**

FUN FAMILY FOOTBALL

**SAVE THE DATE
25.06.22**



CONTACT: MTFCDEVELOPMENT@GMAIL.COM



MAYNOOTH TOWN FC FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL



JOIN US & THE MAN UTD LEGENDS FOR FINALE
CELEBRATIONS!

FUNDRAISING GALA EVENT

FOR A STATE OF THE ART ASTRO FACILITY

JOIN US AT THE GLENROYAL HOTEL
ON SATURDAY, 25TH JUNE 2022

ARRIVAL @ 7.30PM

DINNER @ 8.00PM

FOLLOWED BY A RAFFLE & ENTERTAINMENT UNTIL LATE!

TICKETS PRICED AT €100PP AND ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
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<https://tinyurl.com/MTFCGALA>

ANNIVERSARY

20



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SATURDAY
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SUNDAY
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SUNDAY
10 - close



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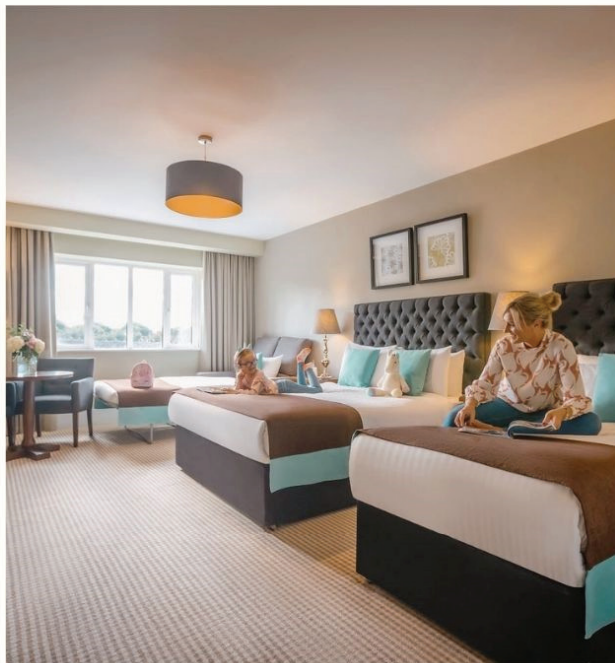
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- * Community Issues
- * Environmental Concerns
- * Employment Concerns
- * Covid - 19 related queries



Phone



E-mail



Cllr. Angela Feeney

Tel. 087 238 1962

Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com

Stay safe everyone.





Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Community Centre

Cllr Feeney continues to keep this important issue on the agenda. At the May MD Council meeting, she called on the Council to put in place an Action Plan for the delivery of a Community Centre for Maynooth. At previous meetings, Cllr Feeney suggested potential public sites, including the vacated fire brigade/council yard as potential locations. Cllr Feeney stressed that the delivery of a Community Centre for Maynooth was in the last Local Area Plan, which is now out of date and this is such an important issue for the town. Cllr Feeney added that the time has come to take the Community Centre for Maynooth off paper and make it real.

The Council in its reply said that the Community Department is liaising with the Public Realm team to ensure that a suitable site for the provision of a Community Centre is identified as part of the Maynooth Town Centre Renewal Masterplan. At the meeting Cllr Feeney welcomed the fact that the Council's Public Realm staff agreed that the vacated council yard site would be a suitable site and that a meeting with officials and councillors will take place on site in the coming weeks.

Update on footpath accessibility

The issues in Maynooth along the section of footpath on the Dublin Road raised by Cllr Feeney at the April MD are to be addressed. In the Council's progress report presented at the May meeting, the Council confirmed that the Municipal District office is currently preparing a tender to carry out improvement works.

Brookfield Footpath

Cllr Feeney asked the Council if there are plans to create a footpath link between Brookfield Park and College Green estates in Maynooth. While the Council said it has no plan at the moment, Cllr Feeney said at the meeting that the footpath in Brookfield Park comes to an abrupt end at the end of the cul de sac forcing pedestrians out on to the road to reach the Meadowbrook Road footpath. There is also no dip in the footpath directly opposite for residents to cross over to. Cllr Feeney added that it is becoming increasingly dangerous with the increased volume of traffic on this very busy that road. There are quite a number of young children living in the area. Cllr Feeney asked the Sustainable Travel team who attended the Council meeting to include it for consideration in the permeability works that are on-going around the town.

Rathcoffey School Safety Measures

I asked the Council to explore improvement of traffic calming measures in the vicinity of Rathcoffey National School to include ramps, flashing speed signs, all with a view to enhancing safety for the growing school population in the area. Yes, I have been in touch with the school principal and the parents of pupils in the school who have witnessed many incidents and near misses at the school and on the main road at Farrington's pub, when the children are making their way to and from the school. The population has grown in the area and the school population continues to grow to reflect that. The current traffic calming measures are inadequate. I'm happy to report that the Municipal District Engineer has been very proactive in his response and has met with the School Principal on site to discuss the issues and it's been agreed to replace the zebra crossing with a full signal pedestrian lights crossing. It was also agreed to review the signage in the area, and carry out a speed survey.

Parking Bye-Laws Review

I asked the Council when the parking bye-laws for the municipal district will be reviewed. It was helpful that The Council provided the order in which the towns in the county will have their parking bye-laws reviewed. That list was provided. Maynooth is 9th, followed by Clane at 10th out of 13 reviews. 1. Kildare Town; 2. Monasterevin; 3. Kilcullen; 4. Celbridge; 5. Leixlip; 6. Kilcock; 7. Castledermot; 8. Athy; 9. Maynooth; 10. Clane; 11. Sallins; 12. Johnstown; 13. Naas. Where it's at, at the moment, work has started on the Kildare and Newbridge Parking Byelaws review. While the Council added that it couldn't give a definitive timeline for when the Maynooth and Clane bye-laws will be reviewed because it depends on the length of time to review the other bye-laws in the schedule, as well as that, other projects such as Public Realm, Active Travel and projects are being carried out by Roads Design. However, the Council said it is hoped that the reviews will commence in 2023.

Issues with the C4 bus service

At the May MD Council meeting it was agreed to invite the NTA to attend a special council meeting to address the on-going issues relating to cancellation of services. Many commuters trying to get to work or college from Maynooth have been in touch with Cllr Feeney about the regular cancellations of the C4 service. This is causing huge stress to people trying to get to work or college or return home.

Reader Pens now Available at Maynooth Public Library

Cllr Feeney along with other members of Maynooth Access Group, attended the launch of the reader pens in Maynooth Public Library. It was great to see the reader pens being used and making such a difference for many who need assistance with reading. The pens are very helpful in everyday tasks such as shopping and reading menus and banking. The Library staff said the uptake of the reader pens has been great both in the library and on loan. Well done to all involved.

Communication to Department of Health on the Shortage of GP places

Cllr Feeney asked that the letter be sent, as agreed, to the Department of Health, regarding the lack of GP services in Maynooth and requesting an update on the planned Primary Care Centre for the town. The Council confirmed that the letter issued as she requested with the combined support of our MD councillors. Regarding the letter I requested to be sent to the Minister for Health regarding the shortage of GP services in Maynooth and calling for an update of a Primary Care Centre, a reply was provided at the May MD meeting (below)

1. Please note that GPs are self-employed practitioners and therefore may establish practices at a place of their own choosing. Under the GMS scheme, the HSE contracts GPs to provide medical services without charge to medical card and GP visit card holders. Where a vacancy arises in a practice with a GMS contract, the HSE becomes actively involved in the selection process to find a replacement GP. As of April, there are no GMS vacancies in Co Kildare.

2. The Government is aware of the workforce issues currently facing general practice and is working to ensure patients across the country continue to have access to GP services and that general practice is sustainable in all areas into the future.

3. The 2019 Agreement on GP contractual reform and service development will see the Government increase annual investment in general practice by approximately 40% (€210 million) between 2019 and 2023. The Agreement provides for increased support for GPs working in rural practices and for those in disadvantaged urban areas, and for improvements to maternity and paternity leave arrangements. In addition, the number of GPs entering training has been increased steadily over the past number of years, rising from 120 in 2009 to 233 in 2021, with an intake of 258 planned for this year.

4. In regard to Maynooth Primary Care Centre, please be advised that the centre is being delivered via the HSE's Primary Care Centre Operational Lease mechanism. Maynooth was included on the latest National advertisement seeking expressions of interest from third Parties in the Provision of Primary Care Centre via Operational Leases. The selection process is at the final stage, letters inviting interested parties that met all qualifying criteria to submit a priced offer were issued, and the evaluation process of responses received is currently underway".

Hosts of Displaced Ukrainians in the Maynooth Area

Cllr Feeney is working with the organisation 'Helping Irish Hosts' to support hosts of displaced Ukrainians in the Maynooth area. If you are hosting a displaced person from Ukraine in the Maynooth area, please get in touch if you are hosting or if you want to get involved in helping hosts. There is a form attached or if you prefer, contact me at afeeney@kildarecoco.ie
<https://forms.gle/AwaXtCa9GEG6VVBA6>

Free Gardening for Biodiversity Training for Residents Associations.

Kildare County Council is hosting free biodiversity training online for interested resident groups across the county. The training will introduce biodiversity, why it is important, and explore practical actions that you can do to make your estate better for wildlife and residents.

When: Sessions start at 7pm (1.5hrs length)

- Kildare / Newbridge MD: Thursday 2nd June
- Celbridge MD: Tuesday 7th June
- Clane / Maynooth MD: Tuesday 14th June
- Athy MD: Thursday 16th June
- Naas MD: Tuesday 21st June

To register: <https://forms.gle/ehifciGSVaQfn3MW6> by Tuesday May 31st at 5pm.

The training will be delivered by Dr Mary O'Connor (ecologist), Dr Fiona MacGowan (ecologist) & Green Pine Consultants (landscape architect).

Meetings attended since last Newsletter:

- April 1st at 10:00 a.m. Council MD meeting (online)
- April 7th at 12:30 p.m. Naas Enterprise Park Launch
- April 11th at 7:30pm Maynooth Community Council (online)
- April 25th at 3:00 p.m. Council Plenary Meeting in Newbridge Town Hall
- April 28th at 2:30 p.m. Governing Body Meeting of Carlow Institute of Technology
- May 5th at 2:00 pm Strategic Policy Committee (online)
- May 6th at 10:00 am Council MD in Chamber
- May 9th at 7:30 pm Maynooth Community Council (online)
- May 11th at 7:30 pm Board of Management Coláiste Chiaráin
- May 12th at 3:30 pm Strategic Policy Committee Briefing on Digital Strategy (online)
- May 17th at 5:30 pm Board of Management Gaelcholáiste Mhá Nuad
- May 18th at 10:00 am Co Kildare Access Network (online)
- May 25th at 12:00 pm KCC Finance Committee (online)
- May 30th at 3:00 pm Council Plenary in Maynooth University

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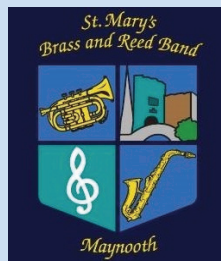
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St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Our special Mass for Deceased Members last month was an opportunity to pay tribute to those who helped to keep the Band going for many, many years and we remembered in particular two members, Michael Dempsey and Tom Corbett, who passed away during the Covid restrictions when we were unable to pay our normal funeral tribute that is accorded to serving Band members on their passing.



The Band organised a Recruitment Day in Manor Mills on Saturday 14th May with the intention of making musicians and budding musicians aware of the presence of a Band in Maynooth and putting out the welcome mat at our Bandhall on Pound

Lane where a warm welcome awaits them any Monday night between 7.45 and 9.45. If you are interested and cannot make Monday nights please call 087 2537 906 to learn more.



ST. MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND
MAYNOOTH, CO. KILDARE

Would **YOU** like to join our Bands?

We have vacancies for musicians and beginners of all ages.
Please talk to us today or call 087 2537 906 for more information.

sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie

www.secstmarysbandmaynooth.ie



On Sunday 22nd May the Band paid what has now become an annual visit to Castletown House in Celbridge for a recital in the gardens at the rear of the main House which was a new location for us. A very appreciative audience gathered to hear the Band and thankfully the rain stayed away until the end of our recital. We have a number of outdoor recitals planned for the Summer and full details of these will be appear on our Facebook page as they arise.



Gold Medal
Winner 2019



Our Tidy Towns application form was submitted to Tidy Towns Ireland Friday May 13th on time, many thanks to our Secretary Mary Connolly for all her hard work and to Volunteer George Ward, IT expert who submitted the application online.

Judging begins on the 7th of June, fingers crossed for a good result and that we retain our Gold Medal status for 2022. We are asking everyone to do their part especially the businesses to keep the areas outside their premises clean.

Our work still continues around the town, we planted all the pots in the Square, Carton Avenue and other areas with Begonias and Geraniums on Saturday 21st May. They should make a good splash of colour over the summer months.

We completed the pollinator beds on Parsons Street on Saturday 14th May, the bees should be impressed. We trimmed the Lime trees on Main Street.

On the 30th April we prepared the beds in Larine for Herb planting.



Solar lights were installed in our Sensory Garden and a sign was erected recognising our Green Flag status for 2021/2022

Thanks to all the volunteers for all their hard work and commitment. We have set up a Rota for the Sunday morning clean ups.

We also asked our volunteers to meet on the Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Square starting the 25th May, completely optional.

Please like our Facebook page for more information, Maynooth Tidy Towns Association.



Mary Molloy PRO - Maynooth Tidy Towns

Social Democrats

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10am to 1pm

Ph; 089 2444 793



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



How to save money on a tight Budget

With soaring petrol, home heating and food prices all rising and living on a tight budget may make it seem like saving money isn't possible.

But saving when money is tight may not be as hard as you think. Even small adjustments to your lifestyle can help. So, if you're looking for ways to save money on a tight budget, rest assured that it's much easier than you think it is! You just have to put a little effort into it.

You may be surprised at just how much money you can save with these tips!

Grocery Shopping

When you go grocery shopping, the key to success is to make sure you go with a list! This way, you'll be less likely to deviate from your shopping plans and can avoid blowing your budget. Fortunately, careful meal planning can save you money. Every week, plan every single meal for the week. Draw up a shopping list based on your meal plan, check what you already have in your press and refrigerator.

You should also review everything you plan to buy on your list in advance and consider buying generic or store brands for certain items. For many items, there really isn't much difference between the brand name and the generic item. Often, the shop brand is literally the same product as name-brand products repackaged and marketed differently. They're even manufactured in the same plant to take advantage of an economy of scale. In addition, don't buy to stock up. Instead, just buy what you need for the week. This way, you'll reduce waste and avoid ending up with food you don't eat.

Negotiate your car insurance & home insurance to a lower rate

If you have a good driving record, have never had an accident, or have gotten points on your license, it might be worthwhile to contact your car insurance provider to see if you can get a better rate.

In general, it's a good idea to compare car insurance rates with other companies as well to make sure you're getting the best deal out there. Beyond saving on car insurance It doesn't seem like a big deal to run to the shop in the evening and stop by the credit union the next morning. But those separate trips can make a big difference in your fuel mileage. When you run errands, consolidate your excursions. Also you could walk or cycle whenever you can. As a bonus, you put fewer miles on your car too. Also check around for the best deals on home insurance and try reduce your monthly mobile plan. This can save you quite a lot of money.

Shift Your Electricity Use

Your electric company may offer free tools for assessing your home energy use and suggest ways to lower your consumption or lower your bill. For example, if you're not on a time-of-use plan, and it's an option where you live, switching to one could save you money. If you are, changing when you use energy-intensive appliances such as clothes dryers, clothes washers, and dishwashers could lower your bill.

Avoid monthly bank fees

If you are paying monthly account fees to your bank, you need to switch banks immediately. Credit unions are a great place to bank when it comes to free accounts and more personalized customer service.

Stop using your credit cards

Tight budgeting and saving money means living below your means. So that means you need to stop spending on your credit cards. Take them out of your wallet, and delete them from your online accounts, and instead, focus on paying down debt and saving money. Plus, it saves you a ton of money in interest too!

Declutter and sell things you don't use

If you are tight on money, then sell your stuff to earn quick cash to save! Decluttering is such a good feeling. And if you can make money while you're at it, why not? There are plenty of websites where you can advertise all your items for free.

Do your own hair and nails

Instead of going to your hairdresser or to the nail salon every week, you can save money by going every two weeks or once a month. Do your own hair and nails on your own during that time in between. Put those products you've stocked up on to work for you. It's a great way to save when you are tight on money.

Also, if you have a gym membership, it may be time to consider working out at home. There are loads of really great at-home fitness programs that you can purchase at a fraction of the cost of a gym membership. YouTube is also a great resource to find online personal trainers that offer free workouts.

Create goals

One of the best ways to motivate yourself is to create goals. Try to make a goal of saving a specific amount each month and setting aside some money every time you do something you're trying to eliminate from your budget, like eating out. Or cancel that newspaper subscription and put the money in your savings account instead. You'll meet your savings goal in no time, even if you are living on a tight budget! There are so many ways to save money on a tight budget.

You don't have to starve yourself in order to grow your savings account. Chances are there are one or two subscriptions or spending habits you can eliminate from your budget right away.

Some expenses are almost impossible to eliminate. But that doesn't mean you can't reduce them. In particular, lowering your recurring expenses can be a big help because it will give you savings every month, not just one time.

Source: www.clevergirlfinance.com/blog/ways-to-save-money-on-a-tight-budget/



Maynooth University research confirms elevated rates of sea-level rise in Dublin

Maynooth University research on sea level trends in Dublin Bay over eight decades has confirmed elevated rates of sea level rise in recent years.

New research led by the [Hamilton Institute](#) and [ICARUS Climate Research Centre](#) at Maynooth University, has generated an updated sea level dataset for Dublin stretching from 1938 and to 2016.

Overall, the trend shown in the data corresponds to an estimated sea level rise between 1953 and 2016 of 1.1 mm per year in Dublin, according to the research published in *Ocean Science*.

"Fluctuations are identified with sea levels rising from 1982 to 1988, before falling from 1989 to 1996, and once again rising from 1997 to 2016 at a rate of 7 mm per year. This recent sea level rise is faster than expected at approximately double the rate of global sea level rise," said [Amin Shoari Nejad](#), lead author of the research and a PhD student at the Hamilton Institute at Maynooth University.

"If you look at too short a timeframe, the fluctuations over decades could impact estimates of trends. But this research has taken a longer view and what we are most confident about from looking at the stretch of years is the overall rise," said [Dr Gerard McCarthy](#), of ICARUS Climate Research Centre and the Department of Geography at Maynooth University. The researchers at Maynooth, in collaboration with colleagues at UCC and DCU, are continuing to explore the reasons behind such fluctuations.



Amin Shoari Nejad



Dr. Gerard McCarthy

The researchers compared sea level records for Dublin Port, gauges at Arklow and Howth Harbour, and international datasets from the UK and France for their data quality checks.

The Dublin Port record was calibrated by adjusting the 'biased' high water level measurements that affect the overall calculation of mean sea level.

High waters were seen to be rising faster than nearby gauges so a model was built using the stable low water levels to compute mean sea level.

"To correct these mean sea level values, we use a novel Bayesian linear regression that includes the Mean Low Water values as a predictor in the model. We validate the re-created MSL dataset and show its consistency with other nearby tide gauge datasets," said Amin Shoari Nejad. "Overall sea level rise is in line with expected trends but large multidecadal variability has led to higher rates of rise in recent years," he added.

The research was carried out in collaboration with [Prof Andrew Parnell](#) at the Hamilton Institute at Maynooth University, [Dr Brian Kelleher](#) of the School of Chemical Sciences, DCU and Emeritus Professor [Robert Devoy](#), Department of Geography, UCC, [Professor Peter Thorne](#) and Alice Green of the ICARUS Climate Research Centre.

The article, 'A newly reconciled data set for identifying sea level rise and variability in Dublin Bay', published in *Ocean Science* is available at <https://os.copernicus.org/articles/18/511/2022/>.

The PREDICT project (<https://www.dcu.ie/predict>) was funded through the SFI Investigators Programme with co-funding coming from the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Marine Institute.





Royal Canal Notes

June 2022

Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

"FIBFEST"

Fibfest the Phibsboro festival took place on the weekend of the 21st. May 2022. The Royal canal element of the festival took place along the canal on Saturday the 22nd May. A number of barges were in attendance as was the Royal Canal Amenity Group's presentation stand. Large numbers turned out on what was a very pleasant day. Entertainment was provided on the top deck of one of the barges, featuring music, song and story telling. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

UP COMING EVENTS

ROYAL CANAL AMENITY GROUP'S MIDSUMMER WALK will take place on midsummers day Tuesday 21st. June from Ashtown to Castleknock, commencing at 7.15pm. This time has been set to facilitate walkers arriving by train. A train from Maynooth will arrive 19.10 while a train from Pearse will arrive 10 minutes earlier. Light refreshments will be served and entertainment will be provided. This is always an enjoyable walk and we look forward to seeing you there. This particular walk has, for a long number of years, been organised by RCAG president Noel Spaine and family to whom the Group is very grateful

ROYAL ENFIELD FISHING CLUB will host a fishing competition on the Ryal Canal at Enfield, Co. Meath on Saturday/Sunday 11th./12th. June 2022
Information from Brian O'Donoghue Tel No 086 3658641

ROYAL CANAL FESTIVAL ENFIELD

Sunday 26 June 2022 in the Leisure Park Enfield. The fun begins at 2pm with a full line up of events. Live music / B.B.Q / Face painting / Longwood paddlers etc.
Admission is only €2.00 per person and free car parking is available at the Railway Station

Below is a history of the Royal Canal for children. It outlines everything significant from



RCAG presentation stand

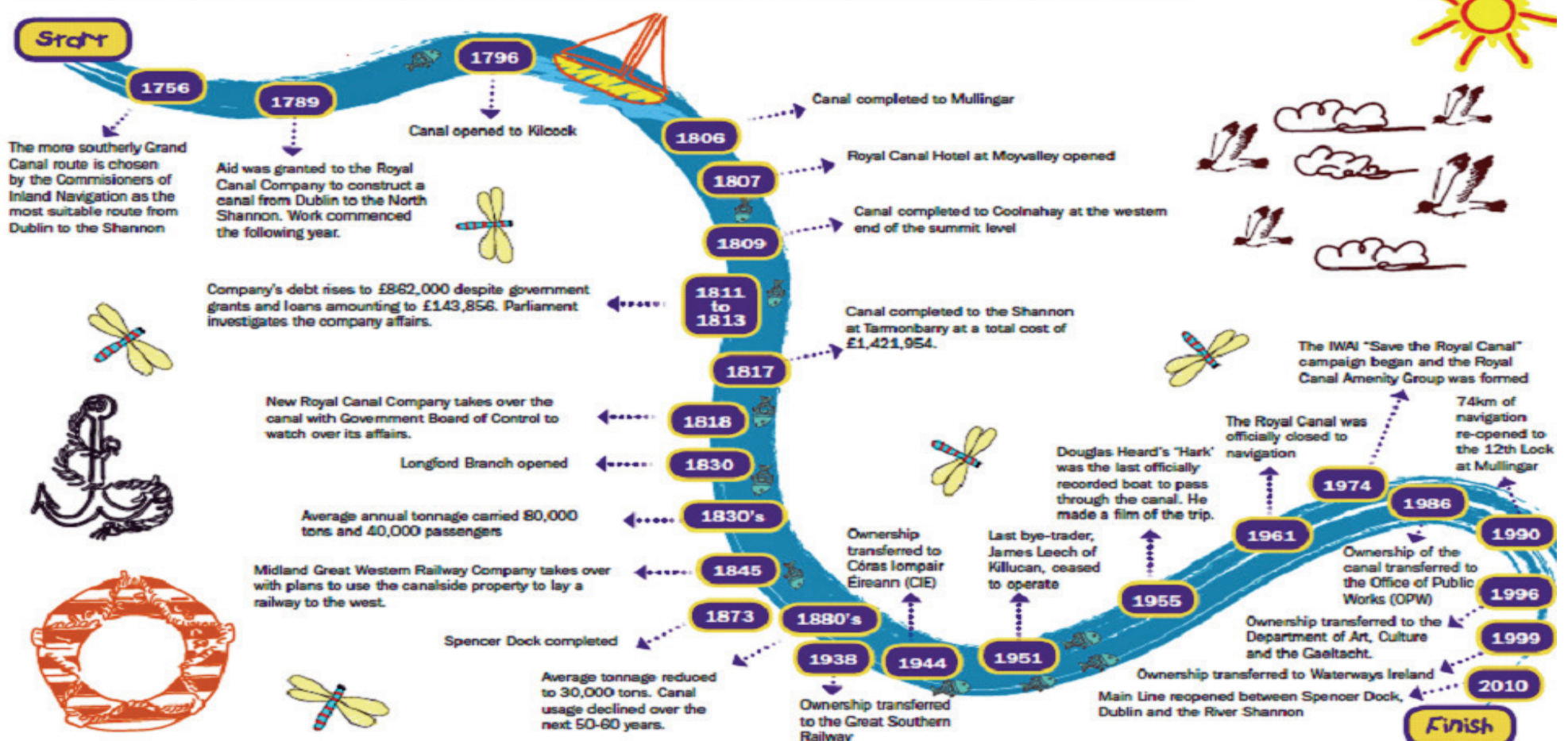
RCAG HISTORY

the beginning to the present, detailing everything that happened during the building of the canal and also during its commercial life. Although primarily designed for children it contains a wealth of information which would also be appreciated by adults. Its easy read format will endear it to children and since it is in chronological order easy to read and understand. As can be seen it took some time to complete the canal but, now, two hundred plus years later, it has stood the test of time and is still there to be enjoyed by everyone.

A lovely educational product, it could be used for family quizzes or with minor adjustments as a board game.

History of the Royal Canal

The story of navigation on the Royal Canal begins in the eighteenth century. It is a story steeped in history as you will see as you meander your way along the timeline below.



MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

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Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



Dear members,

It is with some hope that we can report that we are planning to get the Club back on the road or at least we are going to do so one step at a time. We are in the early stages of planning for a pilot re-opening of the morning Club on Thursday mornings and the return of the Mass bus service on Saturday evenings.

We hope to begin these from the beginning of July. We will have more definite information after our June meeting, which is too late for publication the Newsletter. We will be in communication as to our plans and to find out who would like to return to the Morning Club and who would like to avail of the Mass Bus. Some work has been done on this already.

It will be great to be back to meeting up socially again and gives us all something to look forward to.

Susan Durack, PRO,
Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention favour).

Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine. Amen

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

Never known to fail.
Thanksgiving for favour received.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention here). 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. Sacred Heart of Jesus I place all my trust thee

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.
Thanksgiving for favour received.



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

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

Government Must Stop Delaying And Introduce A Vacant Homes Tax

Instead of pursuing the rapid introduction of a vacant homes tax, the government seems more interested in trying to undermine the rationale for one

The government must stop delaying and introduce a vacant homes tax immediately, according to Catherine Murphy TD.

“The introduction of a vacant homes tax was postponed because the government said it wanted to first collect data from the Local Property Tax (LPT) returns. This caused an unnecessary delay.

“It is clear the LPT returns do not provide a complete data set in terms of measuring vacancy – with filings currently outstanding for approximately 216,900 homes or 10% of the housing stock. The data the Government is relying on is therefore much less comprehensive than existing data from the CSO and Geo-Directory. That is indisputable.

“When the size of the Dáil is being calculated, we rely on the CSO to provide data via the census to determine the overall number of Dáil seats. If the government is happy to use CSO data to determine its own notional ‘vacancy rate’, why is it so loathe to use CSO data as a basis for the introduction of a vacant homes tax?

“Instead of pursuing the rapid introduction of a vacant homes tax, the government seems to be more interested in trying to undermine the rationale for one. This is despite the fact that Housing For All pledged to introduce a vacant homes tax in the second quarter of this year.

“We have had enough delay. The government must now act and introduce a vacant homes tax to bring much-needed homes back into use.”

Government Must Scrap Its €450m Bailout For Developers

The Social Democrats moved a motion in the Dáil calling on the government to scrap this latest sweetheart deal for developers.

The government must scrap its bizarre plan to gift developers up to €144,000 per apartment and instead use the money to deliver affordable, social and cost-rental homes.

“Incredibly, under the Croí Cónaithe proposal, the government intends to gift developers €450 million – up to €144,000 per apartment – without securing any reduction in the sale price of those apartments.

“This scheme has been constructed with only one thing in mind – to bail out private developers. There are no affordability measures, for the taxpayer or home buyers, included at all. In fact, those hoping to eventually purchase a two-bed apartment will need incomes of more than €100,000.

“In effect, the government has proudly announced the creation of an Unaffordable Housing Scheme – and is rewarding developers for constructing apartments that they, apparently, can’t afford to build but that the State is happy to heavily subsidise.

“This is the third time, in seven years, that we have been told apartment building is unviable. On each occasion, a laundry list of developer demands was introduced by successive Housing Ministers.

“In 2015, former Housing Minister, and Labour leader, Alan Kelly slashed apartment guidelines, including the minimum size of apartments, because he said it would make them more affordable and boost supply. It did not. ‘In 2018, then Housing Minister Eoghan Murphy slashed the guidelines for build-to-rent developments, further reducing apartment sizes and eliminating the need for apartment mix and outside space.

“Why is the approach of this government always carrot for developers and stick for renters and home buyers – who are expected to pay exorbitant rents and house prices to help boost developers’ bottom lines?

“The government must scrap this latest bailout for developers – before any more public money is wasted. Instead, it needs to get serious about its responsibility to deliver affordable purchase, social and cost rental-homes.”

Vacant Homes Tax Delay Would Be Inexcusable And Incomprehensible

To date, all we have gotten from this government are delays, excuses and prevarications

Any further delay to the introduction of a vacant homes tax is inexcusable and incomprehensible

“There were reports at the weekend that the introduction of a vacant homes tax is in doubt after Revenue recorded a low level of vacancy across the country. However, the data gathered by Revenue, via the Local Property Tax (LPT), is flawed on a number of fronts.

“It was recently reported that 380,000 homes have yet to update their LPT – one in five homes. How many of these homes are vacant? The LPT data was also a self-reporting exercise – meaning, householders were being asked to volunteer to pay additional tax. On top of that, there was no penalty for failing to report ownership of a vacant home.

“These, and other significant issues with Revenue’s data, have been highlighted by housing campaigners Jude Sherry and Frank O’Connor, who have recorded 700 derelict properties within 2km of Cork city centre alone. There is nothing to suggest similar levels of vacancy and dereliction are not replete elsewhere across the country.

“There is also strong data from GeoDirectory, which has recorded more than 90,000 vacant residential properties across the country and at least a further 20,000 homes that are derelict. Why does the government prefer Revenue’s incomplete data to that provided by GeoDirectory?

“A vacant homes tax was promised as far back as 2016 – but has yet to materialise. Meanwhile, the housing crisis has continued to deteriorate. We have heard enough rhetoric from this government. What we need now is action. Instead, to date, all we have gotten are delays, excuses and prevarications.

“The government must act now, without any further delay, and immediately introduce a tax to help bring vacant homes back into use. Any further delay would be both inexcusable and incomprehensible.”

Rental Supply Collapses As Short Term Lets Surge

There are just 64 properties to rent in Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford cities combined – but 225 on Airbnb in Galway city alone

Double digit increases in rent, and an unprecedented 77pc collapse in rental supply, are further indictments of the government’s handling of the housing crisis..

“The latest Daft.ie report makes for grim reading. Average new rents across the country are now nearly €1,600 – more than twice their Celtic Tiger peak. Meanwhile, rental supply has fallen by an unprecedented 77pc year-on-year. The housing crisis is clearly getting worse under this government, not better.

“According to Daft.ie, on May 1, there were just 64 properties available to rent in Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford cities combined – an historic low. Meanwhile, in Galway city alone, there are currently 225 entire properties available for short-term lets on Airbnb. By contrast, just five planning permissions for short-term lets have been issued by Galway City Council.

“The Housing Minister recently suggested that further regulations, restricting short term lets, were on the way. Where are they? The Minister should also be aware that regulations, in the absence of enforcement, are not worth the paper they are written on. It was recently revealed that just 15 counties are doing anything to enforce short-term lets.

“Average new rents in Dublin are now €2,100 – requiring a salary of at least €70,000 per annum to be affordable. Across the rest of the country, rents are also surging – reaching €1,600 in Cork; €1,585 in Galway; €1,485 in Limerick and €1,262 in Waterford.

“Renters are now in despair. For years, they have listened to promises from successive governments to resolve the rental crisis. Instead, that crisis has gotten worse. The Minister’s plan is demonstrably not working. The question now is, what is he going to do about it?”

The below table is a snapshot of what was advertised for rent in all of Kildare as at 26th May 2022. Each column lists a single property for rent and not averages

Area	1 Bed	2 Bed Apt	2 Bed House	3 Bed House	3 Bed House	3 Bed House	4 Bed House
Athy				1500		1250	
Ballymore Eustace		1850	2200				3200
Brannockstown	850						
Broadford		1100					
Celbridge	850						2500
Clane	988						
Derrinturn				1800			
Furnees	800						
Johnstown							2500
Kilcullen							2750
Kildare	1056						
Kill		2000					
Leixlip	1360	1664					
Maynooth			2030	2230			1885
Monasterevin		950					
Naas	1200			2300	2000	2040	2500
Naas	1200						2200
Newbridge							2200
Sallins		1250		2150	2000		1890

Surge In Data Centres Evidence Of Government’s See-No-Evil Approach To Climate Change

We are still awaiting the government’s updated policy statement on data centres – which has not been revised since 2018

The surge in energy consumption by data centres underscores the government’s ‘see-no-evil, hear-no-evil’ approach to the climate emergency.

“The country has been convulsed in recent weeks by attempts to ban turf sales by the government. Meanwhile, the CSO informs us today that data centres are consuming more electricity in Ireland than every single rural dwelling combined.

“This stark statistic highlights a central problem of the government’s “see-no-evil, hear-no-evil’ efforts to reduce our carbon emissions. All of the responsibility to reduce emissions is put on the individual, while the State continues to facilitate and incentivise energy-guzzling industries.

“In the Dáil last year, the Social Democrats attempted to secure a moratorium on the construction of new data centres. The government voted against this motion and rubbished the notion a moratorium was required. Subsequently, a de facto moratorium in Dublin was put in place by Eirgrid because of the precarious nature of our energy supply.

“Electricity consumption by data centres is currently at 14pc – having jumped by one-third in 2021 alone – and could rise to 30pc of overall consumption by 2030. This mushrooming of data centres has taken place without any significant investment in upgrading our energy grid and without any preconditions that data centres must use renewable energy or incorporate district heating.

“How can the government claim to be serious about efforts to reduce our carbon emissions, and achieve our climate action goals, when it has adopted a strictly hands-off approach to data centres?”

“Meanwhile, we are still awaiting the government’s updated policy statement on data centres – which has not

(Continued on page 19)



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

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(Continued from page 18)

been revised since 2018. Enterprise Minister Leo Varadkar promised to prepare a revised policy document in September 2021."

Government On The Wrong Side Of History On The National Maternity Hospital Deal

There is a real and genuine public concern that the government will be on the wrong side of history when it comes to the national maternity hospital

Health Minister Stephen Donnelly must publish the legal framework for the new national maternity hospital and bring it before the Dáil before it is signed off by cabinet, according to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy.

"The HSE board – bar two notable exceptions – has signed off on the legal framework for the new national maternity hospital and there is now a real danger that this deal will be signed off by cabinet before there is any scrutiny of its terms.

"It is striking that the two members of the HSE board who refused to endorse this deal are among those best qualified to interrogate it – Prof Deirdre Madden, a lecturer in medical law and ethics in UCC, and Dr. Sarah McLoughlin, the patient advocate on the board.

"Many others share their concerns. There is a real and genuine public concern that the government will be on the wrong side of history when it comes to the national maternity hospital. Many years after it was first mooted, questions surrounding the ethos and ownership of the proposed new hospital have yet to be satisfactorily answered.

"Health Minister Stephen Donnelly has repeatedly offered assurances that these concerns are misplaced – but he has failed to provide anything other than his own opinion as evidence for this.

"The overarching question remains – why is the State proposing to spend €1 billion on a public hospital that it will hand over to a private entity? On what planet does that make sense?

"Before a secret deal is done behind closed doors, the Minister must now publish the legal framework underpinning this deal and bring it before the Dáil, and the Oireachtas Health Committee, so that it can be scrutinised in detail.

"It would also be useful if Prof Madden and Dr McLoughlin spoke publicly about the reasons they declined to endorse the legal framework and dissented from the HSE Board decision to send the approved framework to cabinet."

Catherine asked he Minister his plans for the provision of new childcare options for north Kildare:

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth his plans for the provision of new childcare options in counties Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare in view of the fact that there is a shortfall in the number of services available.

REPLY

The availability of high-quality early learning and childcare that is affordable and accessible is a key Government priority.

Since 2015, significant increases in State investment in early learning and childcare has given rise to a substantial growth in the numbers of children participating in these services. More than 100,000 children now participate on the universal pre-school programme on an annual basis and the National Childcare Scheme subsidises up to 80,000 children.

To ensure that the supply of early learning and childcare places meets demand, my Department has, since 2015, funded the creation of more than 27,000 new places through an Annual Capital Programme.

Before the onset of Covid-19, national data indicated that, on the whole, supply of early learning and childcare places was meeting demand, with evidence of undersupply for

certain age groups including children under 3, and in certain areas.

Data gathered throughout the Covid-19 pandemic revealed lower demand for early learning and childcare, and reduced occupancy among early learning and childcare services. Indeed, data captured in June 2021 found significant vacancy rates across the country – with the national vacancy rate averaging at 21%. Vacancy rates in Dublin, Meath, Wicklow and Kildare are outlined below.

County	Vacant places	Children enrolled	% vacant places
Dublin - Dublin City	1,662	8,263	20%
Dublin - Fingal	1,176	5,793	20%
Dublin - South Dublin	983	5,577	18%
Dublin - Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	403	3,784	11%
Meath	627	3,549	18%
Wicklow	410	2,518	16%
Kildare	722	4,088	18%

Pobal has, using the data captured in June 2021 and current registration data, recently projected vacancy rates in February 2022. While this analysis shows a fall in vacancy rates from June 2021 to February 2022 – with vacancy rates falling from 21% to 19%, this analysis suggests that there is unused capacity across the country.

Pobal has commenced the new data collection as of 4 April 2022, as part of the Annual Early Years Sector Profile survey. This will allow for updated information on capacity among early learning and childcare services to be established.

In addition to these efforts to monitor capacity issues across the country, my Department is planning a range of steps to address any issue of under supply. A new funding model, to roll out in September, will provide funding for services aligned to costs of delivery so, for example, greater funding will be available to services that cater for younger children where costs of delivery are higher than older children. Some €70m has been allocated to my Department through the revised National Development Plan (NDP) – with the majority of this funding earmarked for new places. Another important step being taken by my Department, in partnership with the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government (DHPLG), is to update the 2001 Planning Guidelines for Local Authorities on Early Learning and Childcare Settings. In addition, CCC are currently proactively engaging with early learning and childcare services to identify unused capacity and explore the potential for services to increase capacity where there is evidence of unmet early learning and childcare needs of families.

Parents experiencing difficulty in relation to their early learning and childcare needs should contact their local City/County Childcare Committee (CCC) for assistance. Contact details for CCCs may be found on www.myccc.ie.

Catherine asked the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he met with companies in the course of his recent visit to California that have large-scale data centres in this State; if the concept of cloud based solutions was discussed in order to reduce their carbon foot-print here; if he has engaged with the IDA in respect of promoting cloud storage and networking versus data centres in the context of attracting investment to the State.

Leo Varadkar responded – He was in the USA from 24th to 29th April 2022 as part of a joint IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland trade mission to the West Coast of the USA. I was

accompanied on this trade mission by the CEO of IDA Ireland and the CEO of Enterprise Ireland.

During the visit to the US West Coast, I met with Executives of the following IDA clients: Microsoft; Amazon Web Services; Intel; Apple; Google; and Salesforce. These IDA clients are among the world's leading technology companies, some of which have data centre investments in Ireland (Amazon Web Services, Microsoft and Google) and employ approximately 30,000 people in the country. The discussions during each meeting covered a range of topics including:

Ireland's commitment to FDI and discussion of clients' operations in Ireland and future plans;

Ireland's value proposition for potential future investment; Irish government policy in areas of interest to international investors;

Ireland's economic progress post COVID-19; and Impacts of the war in Ukraine on FDI;

Consistent with the continued evolution of the global sector, modern technology companies rely on data centres, and cloud computing, for the continued success of their businesses. The decisions they make to invest in the country, and to continue to expand those investments, are multi-faceted and include issues that impact on company ability to deliver global software and services from Ireland.

"Harnessing Digital: Ireland's Digital Framework", the recently published National Digital Strategy, has a number of commitments with regard to use of, and infrastructure for, cloud. It sets a target of 75% of enterprises using cloud technologies by the end of the decade. It also makes a commitment to take a 'cloud-oriented' approach to delivery of all public services. In the context of preparing that Strategy, the Department engaged with IDA Ireland on a range of issues, including cloud technology.

218. To ask the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment if he has engaged with the owners of large scale-data centres in the context of persuading them to switch to cloud-based solutions for existing and future infrastructure investments in this State in order to reduce their carbon footprint. [23412/22]

Eamon Ryan (Dublin Bay South, Green Party)

Under the Climate Action Plan 2021, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has committed to reviewing the 2018 'Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland's Enterprise Strategy' to ensure alignment with Ireland's renewable energy targets, sectoral emissions and climate priorities. This is part of a suite of actions included in the Climate Action Plan 2021 to ensure that Ireland is planning appropriately for new energy demand in the context of our electrification and decarbonisation ambitions, while facilitating growth in digitalisation and our technology sector. In this regard, my Department has been engaging with officials in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, as well as relevant state agencies, on the development of this revised Statement to ensure that there is a plan-led, regionally balanced approach to the connection of data centres, taking into account existing grid availability, security of supply and decarbonisation objectives.

As part of this process, all viable options to ensure that the connection of new data centres aligns with CAP21 energy transition objectives, including decarbonisation objectives, will be explored. The minister does not envisage connections of additional new data centre capacity, not already contracted, until such time as they are proven to conform with sectoral emissions ceilings and security of supply.

In addition, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act provides, inter alia, for a maximum amount of emissions to be permitted in different sectors of the economy during a carbon budget period, referred to as 'sectoral emissions ceilings'. All sectors of the economy have sectoral emissions ceilings and emissions from data centres will be accounted for within the relevant sectoral emissions ceiling.

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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Champagne and Bottled Water

It was to be the experience of a lifetime, Nora and I visiting New York on The Queen Mary. The holiday had cost far more than I'm willing to admit, but Nora had been on at me for ages, saying we should take advantage of the Euro's strength against the dollar – and wasn't I spending far too much time with my cronies down in the Railway Bar or glued to some silly sports programme on the goggle box? A little exercise, such as we'd get sightseeing on foot around Manhattan, would take inches off my waistline. "What about my bad hip?" I protested, but she wasn't going to be put off.

"The walking will soon loosen up the joint," she pointed out. "It's all that sitting down that has affected it. And at Christmas you did promise faithfully that this year you'd take me somewhere special."

"Didn't I take you to the Galway Races?" I protested. "The Galway Races!" she almost shrieked. "Throwing all that money away on horses that are probably still running and then wasting what was left treating your cronies in O'Connor's – Oh, and we mustn't forget our big trip out to Yeats's Thoor Ballylee, except that it was closed that day, wasn't it?"

"I would have taken you to Bundoran..." The look she gave me showed it was time to shut up. If she had her heart set on New York then that's where we were going come hell or high water.

Well, in due course we found ourselves cruising out from Southampton across the Atlantic. The only drawback was our location in the bowels of the ship, where at night the throbbing of what was probably the engine almost left me demented. I also have a dread of closed-in places – claustrophobia I think they call it – something which wasn't helped by our shoebox of a cabin. The worst, however, was yet to come.

On our second day out who should we run into as we were leaving the Deck 3 Restaurant but Joe Duignan and that wife of his, Fiona. Now, I'd been looking forward to meeting Duignan in the cattle mart after our trip and in answer to his usual opener, 'Anything new?' casually mentioning The Queen Mary. To see him right there before me in a brand-new suit and tie, instead of his usual pullover and muck-caked wellies, was startling. I was about to observe jokingly that he still hadn't returned the plumbing rods I'd loaned him but decided that in such glamorous surroundings the less said on that score the better. There was nothing for it but to listen to him and Fiona explain how their youngest daughter Sandra, who worked for a Dublin travel agency, had got them this fantastic bargain. "We wouldn't have taken her up on it only herself there said it was like winning the Lotto," Duignan grinned. "And we've a cabin with a porthole too."

"Sandra even paid half our fares," Fiona added. "It's cheaper than a Shannon cruise."

"Isn't that wonderful?" Nora, ever the diplomat in public, enthused, while I was secretly wondering if Sandra had also coughed up for the new suit.

Well, after that we managed to evade the 'Lotto winners' for the four days it took us to reach Manhattan – something not too difficult on that floating palace – and even to disembark undetected. We had pre-booked into the Waldorf Astoria on Park Avenue, but though the lobby and function rooms were luxurious, our 5th Floor room was modest enough. Still, we had a delicious seafood dinner in the hotel restaurant the first evening and next day went sightseeing, using the subway to get around. We did our share of walking as well, to St Patrick's Cathedral, Rockefeller Plaza, Bryant Park and, of course, Times Square. Nora had always wanted to see a Broadway play, so we managed to book seats for Edward Albee's "Occupant", which was running in a theatre on 42nd Street, just Off-Broadway – Needless to say, it cost a small fortune.

On Wednesday, to please Nora, we visited Tiffany's and Macey's. I wanted to take the subway to Ground Zero, the site of the Twin Towers disaster, but Nora balked. Hadn't we come to New York to enjoy ourselves not to see something that would give her nightmares? As a result of my yielding on this matter I was able to persuade her to enter a Blarney Stone pub on the Westside, near 42nd Street, for a drink – she had a Coke and I had a Budweiser. To our surprise the barman who served us was Jimmy O'Dwyer, a neighbour's son. He told us that Duignan and his wife had been in for dinner not an hour previously, having earlier visited Ground Zero. Jimmy wanted to hear all the local gossip because, being an illegal, he couldn't risk a visit home.

The following day we took in the Empire State Building and Central Park, where I had an interesting chat with one of the jarveys, a roguish old-timer who boasted that he had once given a ride to Frank Sheeran, the Irish-American gangster who shot Jimmy Hoffa. He wanted to drive us in his open carriage through the park but Nora decided that we couldn't afford such extravagance.

We were walking past the Natural History Museum when I heard my name called. Wouldn't you know it, Duignan and the missus had spotted us! They had just completed a carriage ride, which, Fiona gushed, made them feel like a young couple on their honeymoon.

"Where are you staying?" Duignan asked.

"Oh, The Waldorf Astoria," I said casually, hoping to impress him.

"We're staying there too!" Fiona piped up. "You and Nora will have to come up to our room for drinks."

"We bought a bottle of Seagram's and minerals in a supermarket," Deignan confided. "If you use the drinks cabinet it costs an arm and a leg."

By this time all of us were 'heat beat' so we decided to take a cab. The driver, Bill, was a huge, friendly black man.

When we arrived at the Waldorf I paid and, to give Duignan his due, he did offer to split the fare, though none too hastily, his years bidding in the mart having taught him to wait. In the end I let him tip Bill, who wanted to know if we'd been to Harlem. When we said 'No', he offered to take us there later in the evening, telling us that there were some hot jazz spots on 125th street. I said we were more interested in country music, at which he came up with another suggestion: why not let him drive us down to the Village? There was The White Horse Tavern or the coffee shops near Washington Square, most with good folk singers.

"Do they sing Irish songs?" Duignan wanted to know.

"You mean like 'Danny Boy'?" Bill asked.

"Yes, and Christy Moore songs," Duignan said. "You've heard of Christy Moore, haven't you?"

"I'm afraid not," Bill confessed, "but my wife loves U2."

"Ah, that sort of caterwauling is just for teenagers!"

Duignan got out of the cab.

"Your buddy doesn't have broad tastes in music," Bill grinned.

"Nor me either," I confessed, shaking hands with him.

"Maybe next time we come to New York we'll take up your offer."

"In that case, here's my number." He handed me his card.

"Nice meeting you folks. Have a good holiday."

"You're not going to keep that?" Duignan remarked when I put the card in my pocket. "That cabbie must have figured us for right greenhorns – offering to take us up to Harlem!"

"Maybe we should have gone?" I said. "It would be something to impress the fellows back in the mart."

"Yes," he snorted. "We could tell them how we were mugged."

On entering the hotel lobby Duignan, much to my surprise, headed straight for an elevator that serviced the upper floors. I didn't make any comment, however, not wishing to give him an opportunity to crow. When we got out he led us down the carpeted corridor to a luxurious suite.

"These rooms must have cost you a bomb," Nora remarked

as she sipped a Coke.

"Not at all," Duignan confided. "The very first evening when I turned on the taps in our bathroom didn't the bath fill up with goo, so I phoned the management. 'Can you send somebody up right away,' I told the girl that answered. 'There's a disgusting brown mess in our bath.' Well, in a no time who should arrive but the maître d himself. As soon as he saw it he became extremely apologetic: 'Oh, we can't have this, Mr Duignan; it must be some blockage in the downstairs plumbing. We'll have to get you another room.' So, to make a long story short, he moved us up here."

"And that wasn't all our good luck," Fiona gushed. "Didn't he give us complimentary tickets for 'Hamlet' in the outdoor theatre in Central Park and it was just fabulous! There's a small lake beside it that could pass for – what's that sea? – the Kattegat. You'd think you were actually at Elsinore castle."

"I can't say I know much about plays," Duignan admitted, "but it really was something, sitting out there with the stage glowing in the darkness and a nice cool breeze after the horrible humidity earlier on – And the best part was it didn't cost us a nickel."

To Nora's credit she made a big thing of our own Off-Broadway play, though most of it was above my head, something arty about this dead woman sculptor who was being interviewed about her life. We had a few more lukewarm drinks while Duignan told us about various attractions Sandra had directed them to, most of them places you could either visit for free or get into at a bargain price. Finally I had enough, so, since we could truthfully claim that we needed a good night's sleep before next day's flight home, Nora and I escaped downstairs. Letting Nora walk ahead to our room, I had a chat with Karen, the friendly Irish-American receptionist, about booking a taxi to J.F.K. Airport.

"Why don't you get a lift with Mr Duignan?" she suggested. "The maître d has ordered a chauffeured limousine for him. It's to make up for that trouble with the bathroom."

"You mean he'll be driven to the airport free of charge?" I couldn't believe my ears.

"Yes," Karen assured me. "Of course there'll be the tips."

"How much would those be?" I asked.

"Well," she lowered her voice; "the driver will expect at least forty dollars and the bellboy who carries his luggage out to the limousine thirty and the porter who unloads it at Kennedy another thirty."

"In that case I'll take the subway and a taxi." I grinned, imagining Duignan's face when pay-up time arrived, and Karen grinned too.

Next morning while waiting to pass through the boarding gate at Kennedy, I spotted Duignan and the wife standing further up in the queue and asked how they'd gotten out. "Oh, the Waldorf provided a limousine," he informed me. "They must have been afraid I'd sue."

"Still, you probably had to tip handsomely," I remarked, keeping a serious face.

"Ah, just the usual." He seemed reluctant to continue the conversation.

Ten minutes after that the boarding gate opened. When Nora and I handed our boarding cards to the girl on duty, she said: "Oh, sorry; Economy was actually overbooked. We have to put you both in Business Class."

"How much more will that cost?" Nora asked anxiously.

The girl smiled. "It was our mistake, so there's no extra charge."

"Then that's fine," I assured her before hurrying ahead.

Later, as Nora and I sipped champagne from Waterford Crystal flutes in our reclining chairs high over the Atlantic, I couldn't help thinking of poor Duignan and his missus in their squashed seats being offered plastic cups of bottled water.

P.G. Nerney



Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Invasion

Our neighbour has one in his garden,
A cylindrical, wire-mesh bird feeder
Suspended from a maple tree,
Leafless throughout the winter months;
Birds come to peck and eat the peanuts
He fills it with week after week –
Sometimes daily when the weather's
cold –
Finches, sparrows, blue and great tits,
All the peanut- loving foragers
And, even now and then, that small,
Exotic migrant, the blackcap;

But this year saw a dire event.
Jackdaws descended on the garden,
Greedy, hungry interlopers,
That, clinging awkwardly to the feeder,
Finally sent it crashing earthward
Then, craws still empty, flew away
Leaving ruination in their wake.

Colin Scott.

Examinations

In my secondary school there were two hours' supervised study every evening. At the front of the hall on a raised dais the prefect of the school, a senior student, did his own study and kept an eye on his half of the hall while at the other end, again on a raised dais, one of the lay teachers or one of the priests did his own work and kept an eye on the other half.

One particular evening when I was in first year our Latin teacher was the man at the back. He was called to the door about something and was away from his post for a minute or two.

A senior student took a peek at his desk and seeing there a 1st year Latin examination paper, quickly jotted down the English sentences to be translated and we were in possession of them next day and not only the English sentences but their Latin translation also. "To ward off suspicion" we decided to make various minor mistakes and we did

that not quite impressively enough to convince our Latin teacher 'beyond reasonable doubt' that there hadn't been foul play afoot.

The overall performance of the class was so good that he told us straight out that had no reason to suspect foul play so "well done boys, keep it up". Just as well he didn't hit us with an unannounced exam of similar difficulty! I often regretted he didn't!

Examinations were the bane of my life. I used to refer to them as my Becher's Brook. And they continued to be so for when I finished doing them myself I became involved in the preparation and supervision of them for most of my time.

That's all over now. I have no more exams to sit or to worry about. Except one, of course. The final exam on the day of Judgement. I cannot afford to fail that. And there will be no chance of any "foul play" to get me through. There is no need, of course, for foul play for I know the "papers" already. Matthew

recorded them from Jesus himself for me. A cup of water here, clothes there, a simple visit to one in need and all these just symbols of a life orientated towards others rather than towards self. All these will be on the paper. I know that. So this, the greatest exam of my life, should have no worries for me. And yet? St. Paul was no slouch.

As a young pharisee he was on fire with determination to stop this crazy cult of Jesus of Nazareth but when he met Jesus face to face and was converted his earlier enthusiasm paled to nothing in comparison with his zeal to convert the world to Jesus. But Paul never took his own salvation for granted. Neither will I, even though I have the papers in advance.

**Go n-éirí libh, iarrthóirí
scrúduithe na míosa seo. Hope
you all pass! The exams certainly
will!**

GM

Peter Mc Cluskey

www.petermccluskey.com

Maynooth writer/musician awarded grant for traditional music project.

A project to futureproof and enhance the rich culture of Kildare traditional music and song composition is underway in the North Kildare town of Maynooth.

Local writer and musician, Peter McCluskey, approached The Arts Department of Kildare County Council with his project to compose and record a series of ten new tradition songs and tunes.

"Traditional Irish music and songs," Peter explained, "are a vital and integral part of Irish culture within Kildare County. It is a living tradition, a living culture. Part of my project is to produce ten new "Kildare-themed" compositions to add to the county's tradition music catalogue. It is important that, as we carefully guard and curate the existing body of work in our traditional music culture, we must, equally strongly, create and promote new work to add to it and to help it remain relevant within the county."

This idea resonated with The Arts department of the council and they took the decision to commission the project and fund Peter via their Arts Act Grant Scheme.

Lucina Russell, Kildare County Council Arts Officer said: "Kildare County Council are delighted to provide grant aid for a broad range of grants to support artists and arts groups to make work and develop audiences in the county in 2022. We extend congratulations to Pete, on his Arts Act award this year, which was assessed by an independent

panel. We look forward to seeing where the award brings his music".

"I'm delighted," said Peter, "that the council have seen the merit in the project and have offered me the funding. My task over the coming six months is to compose, record and create videos for ten new and original pieces of music - five instrumental tunes (a jig, a reel, a polka, a hornpipe, an Irish air) and five original songs - at least one of these will be in the Irish language."

Peter has already begun work on the project and the first composition will be an Irish polka titled, "The Speaker Conolly" polka, named after William Conolly, the builder, and most famous resident, of Castletown House in Celbridge. Peter hopes to complete the project by end of the summer.



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Maynooth University research recommends development of ‘family’ approach within mental health services

Research calls for a ‘whole family’ approach when mental health disorder identified in a parent

New research has recommended the development of a ‘whole of family’ approach within mental health services, including automatic consideration of children when a parent has a mental health illness.

Launching the findings of the five-year PRIMERA research programme on mental health within families, by the Maynooth University Centre for Mental Health and Community Research, the researchers said the findings of the comprehensive HSE-funded programme, illustrated barriers that need to be addressed within mental health services.

CMHCR Director and PRIMERA Principal Investigator, Professor Sinéad McGilloway, recommended that ‘think family’ policy and practice be developed and incorporated as part of routine Adult and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Ireland.

“We know that parental mental health can typically affect the entire family. An estimated 23% of all families have at least one parent who has or had a mental health disorder. We also know that the lifetime risk of mental illness for their children vastly increases by 41%-77%.

“When child welfare is not considered in the treatment of parents with illness, our services are failing to identify a portion of children and adolescents who are at significant risk of becoming the next generation of mental health service users.

“These families often remain ‘invisible’ and are not identified due to little or no collaboration between Adult Mental Health Services (AMHS) and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS); an individualised, crisis-oriented approach to assessment and treatment; confidentiality concerns amongst mental health professionals; and parental stigma/fear of social services and losing custody of their children.

Commending the depth of the work carried out and commenting on the findings, the Minister with responsibility for Mental Health and Older People, Mary Butler, said: “I welcome the launch of PRIMERA’s research and its contribution to our understanding of the needs of families of people accessing mental health services. Outcomes for people with mental health difficulties tend to be better where family and carers are involved and where these families and carers themselves are supported.

“I am very supportive of the involvement of family members in an individual’s care with their consent, and this approach is supported by Sharing the Vision, our national mental health policy. Research such as this is a vital resource as we continuously seek to improve our mental health services.”

International studies estimate that 25%–68% of adult mental health service users are parents, and 35%–60% of children presenting at Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services have a parent with a mental illness.

Ireland is rated to have the third highest incidence of adult mental illness across 36 countries in Europe — costing the Irish state €11 billion per year. It is estimated that 280,000 children are dependent on parents who have a mental health illness.

Professor McGilloway added that there has been a growing recognition in most European countries of the need to support families in order to protect children, but Ireland lags well behind in terms of ‘think family’ policy and practice. “Where a parent has a known mental health disorder, the needs of their children or partners should automatically be considered and provided for, if so required”, Professor McGilloway said.

The report recommended a number of approaches be taken including:

- Auditing of the parenting status of adult mental health users
- Balancing the priority given to patient confidentiality with unmet family needs
- Increased collaboration between traditionally segregated adult and children’s services
- Equipping clinicians with time and resources to undertake family-focused practice.

These recommendations were identified by the PRIMERA research team as a result of their collaborative work with clinicians and HSE management to identify, implement and evaluate a family mental health intervention called Family Talk across a wide range of adult, child and primary care mental health sites.

Family Talk is the first family-focused mental health programme of its kind to be delivered in Ireland and involves a comprehensive whole-family approach designed to improve family communication/ relationships and resilience when there is parental mental illness.



PRIMERA Research Programme Manager, Dr Máiréad Furlong, said despite the challenges (including COVID-19 restrictions), the findings showed that Family Talk was significantly beneficial for two thirds of families in the research, across different mental health settings and diagnoses.

Family Talk was evaluated using a randomised controlled trial involving 86 families (139 parents and 221 children) comparing outcomes with those who received ‘usual’ services. The results showed that the families who received the intervention had:

- Fewer child behavioural and emotional problems at six-month follow up (less child depression, less conduct and hyperactivity problems, more prosocial behaviour).
- Enhanced family relationships (warmer, less disruptive and more adaptive)
- Enhanced mental health literacy (parents better understood the impact of mental illness on children, and children better understood their parent’s mental illness symptoms)
- Improvements in parents’ mental health symptoms, increased parental resilience and coping capacities.

In-depth interviews were also conducted with a sample of 45 parents, partners and children, who revealed additional benefits of:

- Reduced stigma
- Giving children and partners a voice (a space to disclose hidden concerns and burdens)
- Increased confidence and wellbeing in the service-user parent.

Importantly, the research also investigated the experiences of clinicians and managers in delivering Family Talk, carrying out in-depth interviews and focus groups with a sample of 41 clinicians and managers. Dr Furlong added: “Service providers also identified benefits for families across different diagnoses and mental health settings which included: reduced worry and stigma, a greater understanding of the impact of parental mental illness on family members, and improved family communication.” The study therefore confirmed the effectiveness of using and further developing family-focused approaches within mental health services in Ireland.

Further Information

Ronan Cavanagh, Cavanagh Communications: (086) 317 9731.

The research and videos can be viewed at: <https://cmhcr.eu/primera-programme/>

Family paper: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2021.783189/full>

Practitioner paper: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsy.2021.783161/full>

PRIMERA Research

The Health Service Executive (HSE) provided funding from 2017-2022 for the PRIMERA research programme (Promoting Research and Innovation in Mental Health services for families and children) to identify/develop, implement and evaluate family-focused practice for families with parental mental illness in Ireland.

This research is the first endeavour to systematically implement family-focused practice for families with parental mental illness in Ireland. It is also one of the first randomised controlled trials and costs analyses of Family Talk in Europe.

The findings illuminate the successes but also the complexities of implementing Family Talk in a country without a ‘think family’ infrastructure, whilst highlighting a number of important lessons for the implementation of Family Talk, and other similar interventions internationally.

About Maynooth University

[Maynooth University](#) is ranked #1 in Ireland and the only Irish university to be named in in the latest *Times Higher Education (THE) 100 Best Young University Rankings*. Tracing its origins to the foundation of the Royal College of St Patrick in 1795, Maynooth University was formally established as an autonomous university in 1997. Maynooth is Ireland’s fastest growing university with more than 14,000 students, including almost 1,800 taught postgraduate and professional students and 530 research students.

Kind regards,

Ronan Cavanagh, Communications Consultant, MPRII
(086) 317 9731

Cavanagh Communications I OfficePod 18, 6-7 Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland. A96 R2N4.

www.cavanaghcommunications.ie

Media Relations I Public Affairs I Communications Management I PRII Awards: Winner 2014 & Finalist 2015.

Maynooth: a Socio-Economic Community
Profile: 1901-1911
Highlights from the past (Continued)

This section will deal with Maynooth College Servants
In 1911 there were fifty-two servants employed in the College. Servants had to adhere to rules as set down by the College as the “Instruction to Servants” in 1883 outlines. The practice of signing in and out at the gate lodge continued for many years. The Gate Book records that survive lists the signing in and out of clerical students only.

Instructions to Servants

By Andrew Boylan (6th February 1883)

- 1. Any Servant absenting himself without permission from Night or Morning Prayer three times in the same quarter will be dismissed one month after date of absenting himself for the third time.
- 2. Any Servant going out after Dinner without permission, is thereby supposed to give a Month’s notice and must leave at the end of the month.
- 3. Any Servant having permission to go out after dinner, write in the book at the Gate Porter’s Lodge, his own name and the name of the person giving permission.
- 4. Any Servant who has given or received a Month’s Notice, and who goes out after Dinner without permission, will be dismissed on the following day.

The rules were strictly enforced as shown in a court case reported in the *Kildare Observer* in 1882 which involved a serious altercation among certain servants. It revealed that the basis of the complaint lay in the fact that the accused was reported for returning late to the college and was dismissed as a result.
The servants were organised in a hierarchical structure. They had titles such as “delf boy”, “knife boy” and “kitchen boy” ranked 1st to 5th within each category. There were other job titles such as corridor servant, pantry boy, bellman, professor’s servant and boot polisher.

It appears that the Daughters of Charity who took charge of the kitchen did not change the existing framework, as the servant wage book of 1887 contains similar descriptions to those in 1911. The Servants’ Wage Books show that there was a high turnover of staff. Given the strict rules is it not surprising that many stayed for only a few months. Thirty-

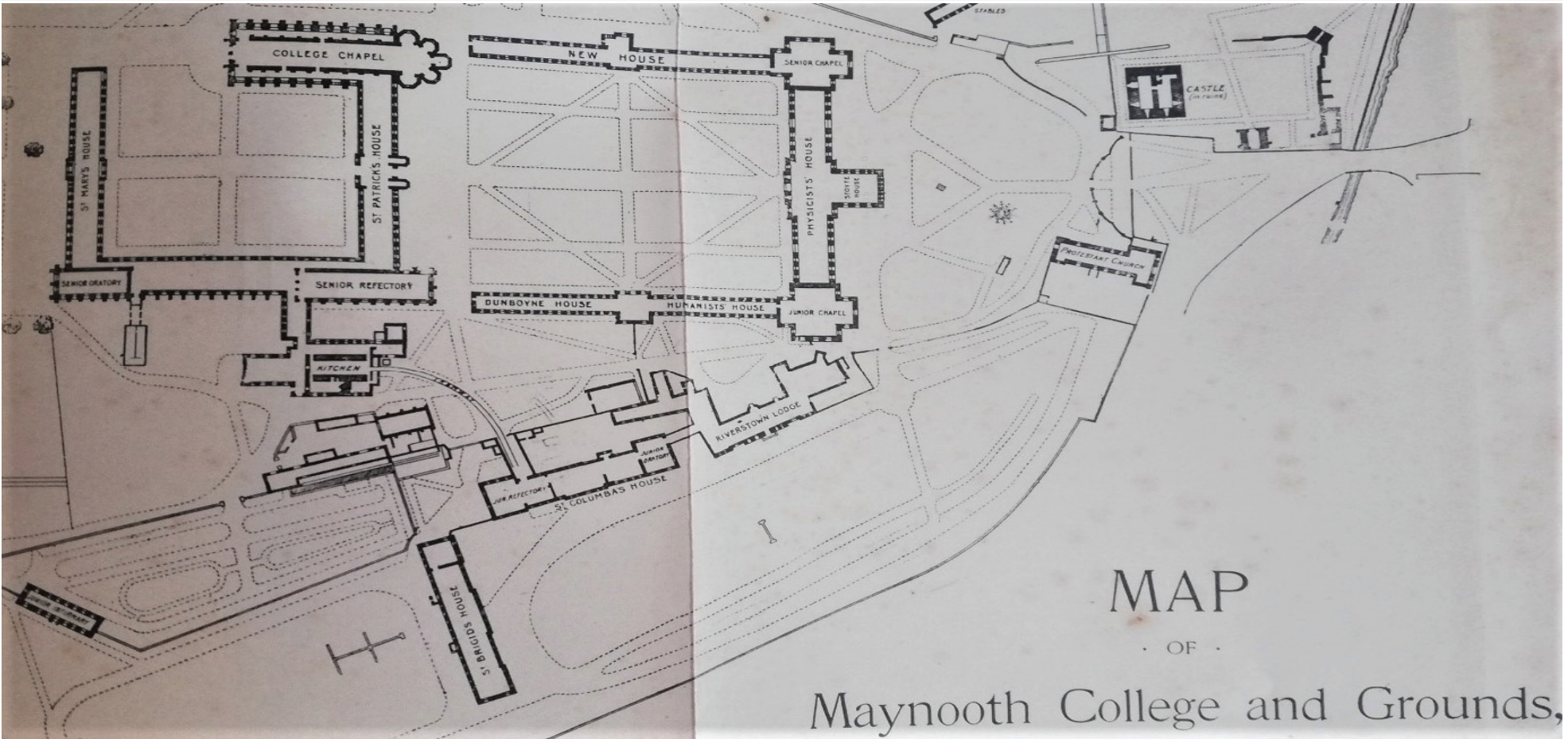
two servants had left between April 1911 and December 1911. John Woods came on 30 September, 1911 and left on 16 October on sick leave. Patrick McCormack, a scullery boy, stayed for two weeks as did James O’Brien. Michael Boyd from Sligo a 5th Kitchen Boy, left on 28 November and was reinstated on the same day. Thomas Fagan, 4th delfman began on 18 October and was stopped wages for ‘delf broken’ i.e. one joint dish 2s. 3d. and two vegetable dishes 2s. 8d.

The division between junior and senior locations is noted in a college map of 1895, such as junior and senior refectory, junior and senior infirmary. There was a tramway that ran from the kitchen to the junior refectory. Being employed in either a junior or senior area had a bearing on the payments to lower servants as can be seen in the wages of the Head of Junior Refectory and Head of Senior Refectory.
On researching the rates of pay of the post of butler, there were variations depending on the household or place of work. In 1884 the butler at Carton was paid £100 per annum while the butler at Kilkenny Castle was paid £47 per annum. This compares to the butler in Maynooth College who received £28 per annum in 1911 and who lived outside the college. In contrast Margaret Caffrey, the cook in the Leinster Arms, was paid £14 per annum in 1911.

The highest paid servants Servants’ Wage Book. 1887-1895.	
Cook	£12.10s.0d per quarter
Butler	£7.0s.0d per quarter
Junior Clerk	£6.5s.0d per quarter
Steam Boiler Stoker	£5.4s.0d per quarter
Library Servant	£5.0s.0d per quarter
Professor’s Servant	£4.10s.0d per quarter
Heating & Boiler Stoker	£4.10s.0d per quarter
Hall Porter	£4.10s.0d per quarter
President’s Servant	£4.5s.0d per quarter

Lower paid servants wages averaged around
£2.10.0 per quarter as seen below. The
number in brackets refers to the number of
people in those positions.

5s.0d.	Bellman(3)
£2.0s.0d.	Domestic Servant (1)
£2.10s.0d.	Boot polisher (2) Professor’s Messenger (1) Pantry Boy (1) Spoon Boy (3) Scullery Boy (2) 4 th Kitchen Boy 5 th Kitchen Boy Delf Boy Jun (1) 1 st Knife Boy (Jun) (1) 1 st Knife Boy Senior Ref(2) 2 nd Delfman(1) 3 rd & 4 th Delfman (Jun) Corridor Servant(4)
£2.15s.0d.	3 rd Kitchen Boy 2 nd Delfman(Jun)(1) 1 st Delfman(Jun)(1) Corridor Servant(4)
£3.0s.0d.	Corridor Servant (1) 2 nd Kitchen Boy Dunboyne Servant (1)
£3.3s.9d.	Head Junior Ref (1)
£3.5s.0d.	1 st Delfman (1)
£3.10s.0d.	1 st Kitchen Boy
£3.15s.0d.	Other Professor’s Servants (4)
£4.0s.0d.	Head Senior Ref (1) Subhead (1)



Map of College Grounds 1895 showing tramway from kitchen to junior refectory. (Healy, Maynooth College: Its Centenary History)

MU researchers receive almost €5m under SFI 'Frontiers for the Future' programme

Maynooth University researchers are set to receive €4.8 million in funding from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) under the Frontiers for the Future Programme, to tackle a range of topics such as crop resistance, water pollutants, DNA, artificial intelligence and rising sea levels.

The Frontiers for the Future Awards strand allocates funding of almost €2 million to two separate projects led by researchers in the Department of Biology, Dr Fiona Walsh and Dr Karen English, while a further seven MU projects will receive approximately €2.9 million across a range of disciplines.

Dr Walsh's research focuses on the internal workings of bacteria that cause disease in humans and are found in agriculture and the environment. The research aims to understand how antibiotic resistant genes work to prevent the antibiotics from killing bacteria. This information will then be used to help design new targets, or places in bacteria, for new drug treatment.

Research led by Dr Karen English will focus on a cell-based therapy called mesenchymal stromal cells. This cell based therapy is currently under investigation in clinical trials to treat patients suffering from acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). This therapy works by calming the immune system and encouraging repair in distressed lungs.

The research seeks to understand why some patients in respiratory distress respond while others do not, and will focus on developing ways to enhance the cell therapy so that more patients can benefit.

The SFI Frontiers for the Future programme supports innovative and novel approaches to research, with funding available for both high-risk, high-reward research and larger scale research programmes with the potential to deliver economic and societal impact.



Dr. Karen English

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, TD, said: "Congratulations to all the researchers who have received funding today as part of the SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme. I am delighted to support this programme which funds individual-led research, with an emphasis on fundamental research at the cutting edge of science and engineering which will help us build a better future for Ireland through discovery, innovation, and impact.

"Not only will these grants support research in important areas for Irish society, they will also fund 216 people in varying research positions across 10 Higher Education Institutes to further develop their research careers. We are investing in talent. I would like to offer my thanks to the Higher Education Institutions for their support in delivering this programme again this year."

The Maynooth University 'Awards' recipients are:

Dr [Fiona Walsh](#) – 'Targeting antimicrobial resistance plasmids to resurrect antimicrobial therapies'

Dr [Karen English](#) – 'Removing the brake; Role of PPAR on mesenchymal stromal cell therapeutic efficacy in ARDS' (in collaboration with John Laffey, at NUI Galway).

The Maynooth University 'Projects' recipients are:

Dr [Niamh Cahill](#) – 'Predicting Sea Levels and Sea-Level Extremes for Ireland'

Professor [Carmel Breslin](#) and Dr [Eithne Dempsey](#) – 'The fabrication of conducting 2D layered graphene-like materials and their applications as environmental sensors and as electro-catalysts for electro-Fenton: Improved sensing and removal of emerging pollutants from water'

Professor [Damien Woods](#) – 'Active DNA tiles for programmable nucleation of robust DNA nanostructures'

Dr [Rosemary Monahan](#) and Professor [Barak Pearlmutter](#) – 'MAIVV: Modular AI Verification and Visualisation'

Dr [Emmanuelle Graciet](#) – 'Future-proofing our crops by increasing their resilience to flooding (hypoxia) and pathogens'

Dr [Elisa Fadda](#) – 'GlycoShape: A database/toolbox for structural glycomics and glycoanalytics'

Dr [John Dooley](#) – 'ORCHESTRA 6G: Orchestrating Arrays for 6G'



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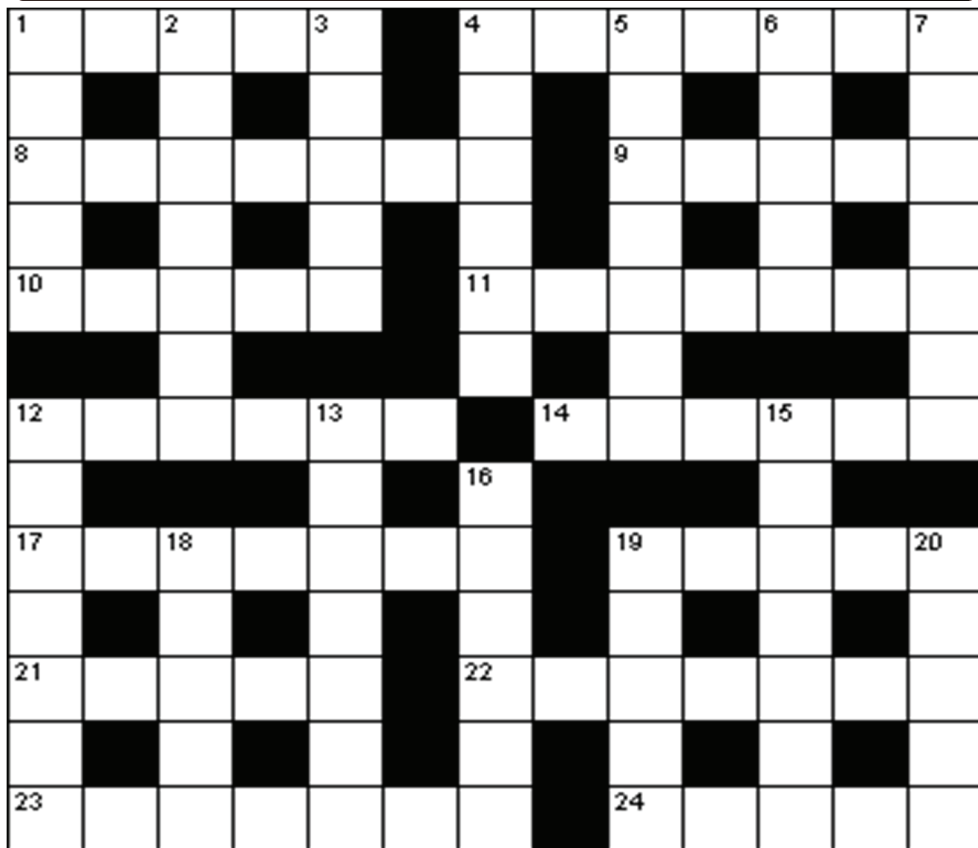
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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 28/04/2022 to 29/05/2022 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
22606	Kildare County Council	Colm McDaid,	20 Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	23/05/2022
22601	Kildare County Council	Jonathan and Martina Rosser,	Laraghbryan West, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 E6W3.	20/05/2022
22579	Kildare County Council	Paul Reilly,	1 Parklands Rise, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 E9X3.	18/05/2022
22585	Kildare County Council	Joan Mc Gillycuddy	Laragh, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	18/05/2022
22564	Kildare County Council	Terry & Finola O'Neill	15 Leinster Woods South, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co Kildare	16/05/2022
22566	Kildare County Council	Philip and Ann-Marie Donohoe	Barrogstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	16/05/2022
22555	Kildare County Council	Corina Cioban and Mihail Boaghi	62 Cluain Aoibhinn, Maynooth, Co. Kildare., W23 K0V9	13/05/2022
22540	Kildare County Council	Chloe Ann Tracey and Ross Fagan,	Clonfert North, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/05/2022
22538	Kildare County Council	Stephen Newman and Sharon Lee,	31 Parklands Square, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/05/2022
22526	Kildare County Council	Pat McEvoy,	Baltracey, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	06/05/2022
22519	Kildare County Council	Damian and Lorraine O'Neill,	112 Griffin Rath Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	04/05/2022
22493	Kildare County Council	Sarah O'Sullivan Dunphy	Kilmacredock, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	28/04/2022

June 2022 Crossword - No. 513



Solutions to Crossword No. 512



Clues Across

1. Tempest (5)
4. Perplexes (7)
8. Fall back (7)
9. Portion (5)
10. Boasts (5)
11. Compared (7)
12. Pact (6)
14. Pique (6)
17. Certify (7)
19. Meeting place (5)
21. Mountain range (5)
22. Flair (7)
23. Passed by (7)
24. Begin (5)



Clues Down

1. Bush (5)
2. Indignation (7)
3. Encounters (5)
4. Improved (6)
5. Crevice (7)
6. Jumped (5)
7. Thin (7)
12. Kind of syrup (7)
13. Despots (7)
15. Cure-all (7)
16. Assisted (6)
18. Play (5)
19. Planet (5)
20. Happening (5)

Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

Super Difficult

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

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

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

Junior Fun Corner

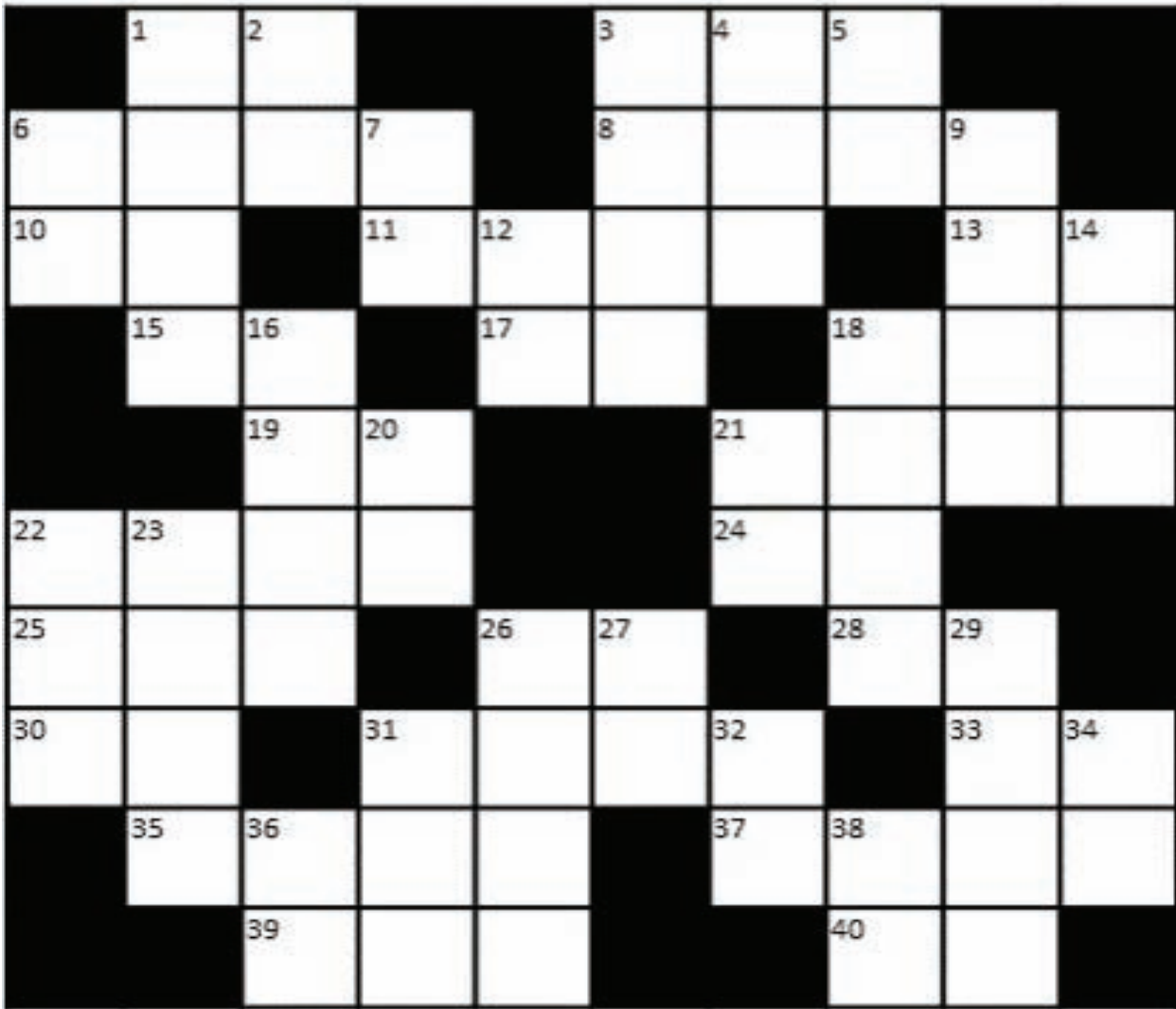


Children’s
Colouring

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

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

CROSS NUMBERS



ACROSS

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. 22 – 9 | 22. 1496 + 930 |
| 3. 159 – 13 | 24. 124 – 46 |
| 6. 465 + 750 | 25. 1290 – 300 |
| 8. 2329 + 3294 | 26. 98 – 44 |
| 10. 25 – 10 | 28. 11 + 5 |
| 11. 18833 – 9266 | 30. 27 + 40 |
| 13. 20 – 7 | 31. 9284 – 2589 |
| 15. 15 + 16 | 33. 44 – 10 |
| 17. 120 – 24 | 35. 3292 – 768 |
| 18. 952 – 344 | 37. 9 + 1616 |
| 19. 99 – 40 | 39. 858 – 356 |
| 21. 445 + 8975 | 40. 1 + 10 |

DOWN

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. 710 + 543 | 20. 27 + 69 |
| 2. 46 – 15 | 21. 183 – 86 |
| 3. 297 + 1269 | 22. 338 – 42 |
| 4. 235 + 232 | 23. 280 + 4692 |
| 5. 83 – 21 | 26. 10786 – 5144 |
| 6. 15 – 4 | 27. 27 + 22 |
| 7. 29 + 30 | 29. 12200 – 5879 |
| 9. 5457 – 2355 | 31. 687 – 67 |
| 12. 24 + 35 | 32. 62 – 11 |
| 14. 560 – 180 | 34. 21 + 24 |
| 16. 381 + 1139 | 36. 61 – 6 |
| 18. 12346 + 5865 | 38. 17 + 44 |

Chicken tikka burgers

This Indian dish is traditionally cooked in a clay oven, but works on the barbecue too - try with homemade tamarind chutney and herb salad.

Ingredients

6 small chicken breasts
6 burger buns (we used ciabatta)

For the marinade

2 tbsp tomato purée
200g pot Greek yogurt
thumb-sized piece ginger, very finely grated
4 garlic cloves, very finely grated or crushed
2 tbsp garam masala
½ tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp ground cayenne pepper
juice 1 lemon, plus wedges to serve

For the chutney

2 tomatoes, chopped
1 small red onion, chopped
1 green chilli, chopped
1 tsp tamarind pulp
2 tbsp tomato ketchup

For the salad

½ cucumber, sliced
1 Little Gem lettuce, shredded
small bunch mint, leaves picked
1 small red onion, halved and finely sliced



Method

STEP 1 - Mix the marinade ingredients in a bowl. Open out each chicken breast and flatten slightly. Place the chicken in the marinade for at least 2-3 hrs. Meanwhile, mix the chutney ingredients together and set aside. (It will keep in the fridge overnight.)

STEP 2 - Heat the BBQ until the coals are ashen, then griddle the chicken for 4-5 mins on each side until cooked through. Toss the salad ingredients and place the chicken in the buns with the salad and spoonfuls of chutney. Serve with lemon wedges.

Turmeric pilau with golden onions

Ingredients

400g basmati rice
4 tbsp olive oil
1 ½ tsp cumin seed
1 tsp black mustard seeds
2 large onions, halved and sliced
just under 1 tsp turmeric
2 red or green chillies, deseeded and thinly sliced



Method

STEP 1 - Thoroughly rinse the rice until the water looks completely clear. Drain, then tip into a large pan of salted water. Bring to the boil and cook for 6 mins until just tender, but check after 5 mins. Drain well, cool and chill.

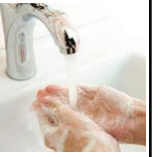
STEP 2 - Heat the oil in a large wok and fry the spices until they start to pop. Add the onions, then cook, stirring frequently, until the onions are tender and golden. Stir in the turmeric and chilli, and cook for 1-2 mins more. Cool.

STEP 3 - TO BARBECUE: Heat the wok over the coals and, when the onions are sizzling, add the rice and cook, turning until heated through. If the embers are starting to die down a bit, cover the wok with a lid or foil to keep in the heat.

Source: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/>

TOP BBQ HEALTH TIPS

Health Tip 1 - Now even more important as a result of Covid, wash your hands thoroughly before preparing food, after touching raw meat and before serving and eating.



Health Tip 2 - Unless the cooking instructions say otherwise, always ensure that frozen food is defrosted before BBQ'ing so that it cooks evenly.

Health Tip 3 - Always keep raw and cooked meats separate and keep uncooked meat, fish and vegetables separate from each other when preparing.



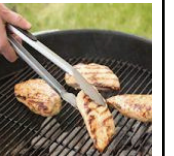
Health Tip 4 - Ensure that you have sufficient preparation and serving areas and keep these two apart. If using separate tables, ensure that these are kept well away from the grill.

Health Tip 5 - In hot weather, throw away BBQ'ed food left out for more than an hour.



Health Tip 6 - BBQ'ed food may look well-cooked when it's not. Burgers, sausages and chicken should ideally be checked with a meat thermometer or cut open and visually checked. If necessary, continue grilling until cooked through.

Health Tip 7 - Never part cook on a BBQ and finish off later. However, you can par-boil poultry in the oven and then immediately finish off on the Barbi for added flavour.



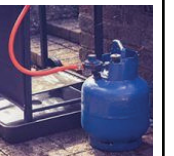
TOP BBQ SAFETY TIPS

Safety Tip 1 - Keep children, animals and the elderly well away from the BBQ.



Safety Tip 2 - Tip To light charcoal, always use proper BBQ lighter cube or fuel, ideally odourless, alternatively newspaper knots. **Never, ever** use petrol or other highly inflammable liquids.

Safety Tip 3 - If using gas, ensure that the grill lights immediately. If it fails to light at second attempt, turn off gas immediately leave for a few minutes then turn on and retry.



Safety Tip 4 - Position BBQ's on level ground, well away from fences, hedges, trees, any over-hanging foliage or indeed anything that could catch fire!

Safety Tip 5 - Make sure that all knives and grill utensils are securely stored when not in use and regularly wipe down all utensils and prep areas with a disinfected disposable cloth.



Safety Tip 6 - It may be obvious, but remember that BBQ's can be dangerous, the grill is very hot and can cause nasty burns, or even serious fires if knocked over.

Safety Tip 7 - If using charcoal have a fire-blanket or water spray handy, if using gas turn-off and rely on the fire-blanket.



Safety Tip 8 - Ensure charcoal is cold and/or gas securely turned off or disconnected before retiring for the night.

Safety Tip 9 - Finally, however tempting it may be please don't drink alcohol whilst lighting or grilling food on the Barbi!



Source: www.nationalbbqweek.co.uk

Gardening tips for June

Check your June weather forecast.

As June is in the middle of the year it is an important month in the garden. It is the end of spring and the beginning of summer. The longest day of the year is 21st June with plants receiving progressively more hours of sunlight while temperatures are also increasing.

New plants in the vegetable garden and bedding or container plants need to do most of their growing in June while light levels are high and temperature constraints lowest. Fertiliser will help plants to establish too. New plants will need careful watering. On the longest day in June, there will be around 16.14 hours of daylight. Ireland gets over 150 hours of sunshine.

June temperatures

Plant growth, it is worth bearing in mind that tender plants such as sweetcorn and tomatoes do not grow well below 12 °C



Rainfall in June

June has more rainfall than May but less than July and August. In summer, most rain evaporates before it reaches plants. The amount of water that will soak up during a downpour depends on how dry the soil is. If it is already wet, the soil will be able to soak up more water. Plants use about 25 mm of water every week or so, therefore in June, the soil water reserves begin to reduce.

1. **Hoe regularly to control weeds**, extra light and warmth encourage the garden to burst into life. However, this also means that weeds come up everywhere. You can keep on top of them by shallow hoeing regularly in dry conditions to kill most weed seedlings. For maximum effectiveness, choose a dry day with a light wind, so seedlings dry out on the surface of the soil rather than re-rooting into moist soil. Just a little bit of hoeing will help keep things under control.

2. **Use water wisely** it is important to water regularly during June, especially when it comes to pots and other containers. Happily, these will make good use of wastewater from the kitchen. It is worth using two-thirds of the water in water butts in June. If there are some thundery downpours later in summer it will top them up nicely, perhaps enough to see you through until the autumn rains. Established trees and shrubs do not generally need watering, whereas newly sown or newly planted areas should be high priority.



3. **Plant out and pot up** Planting out and potting up as early as possible in June makes the best use of light and warmth. ‘Puddling in’ is a good way to set out plants in hot and dry weather. Make a hole that is the right size for the plant’s root ball and fill it with water several times before placing the plant in the hole and firming the soil around it. Finally, water again and ideally apply some mulch around the plant to prevent weeds. Plants will grow quickly as they are sitting in a ball of wet soil.

4. Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside

It is now safe to move pots and other containers outside as there is little or no danger from frosts. Make sure hanging baskets don’t dry out, keeping them moist but not too soggy, a mugful of water per day can keep hanging baskets healthy and avoid wasting water. Deadhead flowers regularly to prevent the plants going to seed, rather than continuing to flower.



5. Mow lawns at least once a week

June is the time to mow once a week, ideally letting cuttings fall back into the sward to feed the lawn. This also avoids the chore of collecting and composting cuttings. It is also the first time of the year to cut long grass with bulbs in. Instead of watering lawns in dry weather, mow less closely and less frequently. Don’t worry if there are any dead patches as they will regrow.

Gardening requires lots of water -- most of it in the form of perspiration.

BARBECUE BURGERS

INGREDIENTS

SAUCE

- 1 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 2 teaspoons prepared mustard
- 1-1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon liquid smoke
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper



BURGER

- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/3 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1/4 teaspoon onion salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/2 pounds ground beef
- 6 hamburger buns, split
- Toppings of your choice



METHOD

In a small saucepan, combine the first 10 ingredients. Bring to a boil. Remove from the heat. Set aside 1 cup barbecue sauce to serve with burgers.

In a large bowl, combine the egg, oats, 1/4 cup of the remaining barbecue sauce, onion salt, garlic salt, pepper and salt. Crumble beef over mixture and mix well. Shape into 6 patties.

Grill, covered, over medium heat until a thermometer reads 160°, 6-8 minutes on each side, basting with 1/2 cup barbecue sauce during the last 5 minutes. Serve on buns with toppings of your choice and reserved barbecue sauce.

FROZEN MARGARITA MOUSSE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup ready-to-drink margarita mix
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons grated lime zest
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 5 drops green food coloring, optional
- 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- Pretzel topping:
 - 1/3 cup finely crushed pretzels
 - 4 teaspoons butter, melted
 - 1 tablespoon sugar



METHOD

Lime slices Combine first five ingredients; mix well. If desired, add green food coloring; fold in thawed whipped topping.

For pretzel topping, combine pretzels, butter and sugar. Spoon lime mixture into 6 glasses; top each with about 1 tablespoon pretzel topping. Freeze until firm, 4-6 hours. Serve frozen with lime slices.



Nutrition Facts

3/4 cup: 490 calories, 17g fat (13g saturated fat), 37mg cholesterol, 207mg sodium, 68g carbohydrate (63g sugars, 0 fiber), 8g protein.



FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

Classic Oscar Winners



1. Marlon Brando (*On the Waterfront* (1954), dir. Elia Kazan)

On the Waterfront is Elia Kazan's explosive working-class morality play about a dock worker who stands up to union-boss corruption. Brando is both hypnotic and heartbreakingly human. You needn't look any further than the film's most iconic and most quoted scene, Brando's "I coulda been a contender" speech in the back of a car with his brother Charley (Rod Steiger). Marlon Brando's blistering, anguished performance feels ground-breaking and still gives you goosebumps today.



2. James Cagney (*Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942), dir. Michael Curtiz)

James Cagney was famed for his tough guy roles, but the American actor had roots in song and dance, and it was his 1942 performance in *Yankee Doodle Dandy* that unleashed his many talents. He was tailor made for his role in this patriotic musical about legendary entertainer George M. Cohan. It allowed Cagney to sing, tap-dance, and charm his way across the composer's life story. The role won Cagney his only Oscar and was often cited as the star's favourite film. It's easy to see why: a more energetic and enjoyable Best Actor performance would be hard to imagine.

3. Sean Penn (*Milk* (2008), dir. Gus Van Sant)

Sometimes, an actor and a role are in perfect harmony. In *Milk* Sean Penn plays the San Francisco gay rights activist Harvey Milk who was assassinated in 1978 while fighting for equal rights. The passionate, extroverted character triggered something deep inside Penn; his Milk is occasionally awkward, incredibly warm, and fearlessly energetic. It's a role worlds apart from Penn's other work in *Mystic River* and *Dead Man Walking*, but proves the actor's skill at delivering a beautifully intricate performance in the process. Sean Penn well-deserved his Best Actor Oscar win in 2008.



4. Anthony Hopkins (*The Silence of the Lambs* (1991), dir. Jonathan Demme)

Every fictional serial killer/psycho after *Silence of the Lambs* practically owes some debt to Hopkins' radical, polite, charming but chilling interpretation of Hannibal Lector. Hopkins' Hannibal appears in surprisingly few scenes, but every minute of his screen time is imprinted on

viewers' minds. There's not one unmemorable line reading or one physical movement wasted. Demme often shoots Hopkins straight on, making for an unusually intimate and unnerving performance in which the actor seems to stare into the viewers' eyes through the screen. In short, Hopkins is spellbindingly magnetic in his most famous and iconic Oscar-winning role in cinema history.

5. Philip Seymour Hoffman (*Capote* (2005), dir. Bennett Miller)

There were two films made about Truman Capote in the space of a year in 2005. English actor Toby Jones took on the role in *Infamous* while the late Philip Seymour Hoffman portrayed the eccentric, mercurial writer in *Capote*. Hoffman looked and sounded nothing like Truman Capote. However, both Capote and Hoffman shared a similar hunger for recognition. For Capote, it was *In Cold Blood*, the non-fiction novel, that changed American literature and catapulted the writer to acclaim. In Seymour Hoffman's case, it was his role as Truman, a conflicted outsider, that earned him worldwide respect and praise. The actor slimmed down and heightened his voice for the part of Truman Capote, but he never needed to aim for an exact impersonation. Ambition, obsession, and vulnerable humanity in equal parts were sufficient, and Hoffman etched those turbulent emotions in every frame. His stunning take on Capote garnered Philip Seymour Hoffman many awards, including the coveted prize of an Oscar.



6. Jack Nicholson (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975), dir. Milos Forman)

Prior to *Cuckoo's Nest*, Jack Nicholson had been nominated four times for an Oscar in six years, without a win. Nicholson's portrayal of a rebellious mental hospital patient is a phenomenal combination of sly intelligence, bravado and manic energy. This is best highlighted during the scene where, thwarted in his attempt to watch a sporting event on TV, Nicholson's character ad libs a commentary in front of a blank set. Nicholson's anarchic performance would be subsequently copied, and amped up to extreme proportions, by other actors and by the star himself. Here, however, his anti-authoritarian antics perfectly light up one of cinema's great masterpieces.

7. Daniel Day-Lewis (*My Left Foot* (1990), dir. Jim Sheridan)

Daniel Day-Lewis has appeared in so many Irish films over the years that he has attained the status of honorary Irish man. In fact, the actor holds both British and Irish citizenship and has spent much of his time in Ireland. You would be hard pressed to single out one of Day-Lewis' many excellent performances as the best one. However, as cerebral palsy-afflicted writer Christy Brown, Day-Lewis completely disappeared into a role that required him to be exceptionally vulnerable and impossibly endearing - all without the use of his limbs, save that left foot. The method actor shares the screen with Brenda Fricker (who won an Oscar for her performance as Christy's mother), and Fiona

Shaw as his doctor. Daniel Day-Lewis' equally feral and fragile delivery keeps Jim Sheridan's film from slipping into overt sentimentality.

8. Gregory Peck (*To Kill a Mockingbird* (1962), dir. Robert Mulligan)

The film version of *To Kill a Mockingbird* is based on Harper Lee's semi-autobiographical, Pulitzer Prize-winning classic novel. Atticus Finch may very well be the greatest hero ever depicted on screen. Gregory Peck, impressively tall and broad-shouldered in cream suits and glasses, effortlessly embodied Atticus' quiet dignity, nobility and integrity defending a black man framed for rape in America's Depression-era South. As a man who quietly teaches his children about tolerance and the ugliness of bigotry and ignorance, has there ever been a better marriage of character and actor? The film's themes are still acutely relevant today and Peck's exceptional performance as the lawyer Atticus earned him an Academy Award in 1963.



9. Alec Guinness (*The Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957), dir. David Lean)

David Lean's 1950s *Bridge on the River Kwai* is a wartime classic film with an all-star cast including Alec Guinness, William Holden and Jack Hawkins. A contingent of British POWs arrive at a Japanese prison camp in Thailand led by Colonel Nicholson (Guinness). They are set the task of the construction of a railway bridge over the River Kwai by their Japanese captors. Alec Guinness plays Nicholson as a proud and 'by the rule book' English officer who is the soul of David Lean's epic film. The unravelling of Nicholson's mental state results in him twisting his priorities so that he supervises the construction of a strategic bridge that will serve his enemies. In his deluded mind, it will stand forever as a monument to the British fighting spirit. Alec Guinness's descent into misguided collaboration and madness is something to behold and rightly earned him the golden statue for Best Actor at the 1958 Academy Awards.

May Movie Trivia Quiz Answers

- 1) Rita Moreno 2) William Hurt 3) Parasite
- 4) Colin Farrell 5) Will Smith 6) Alec Guinness
- 7) Reservoir Dogs 8) Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
- 9) Silver Linings Playbook 10) Moonraker 11) Gladiator
- 12) La La Land 13) Pulp Fiction 14) The Sound of Music
- 15) Ian McKellen 16) Zither 17) On the Waterfront
- 18) Schindler's List 19) Taxi Driver 20) Horse
- 21) Clint Eastwood 22) The Jazz Singer 23) Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs 24) 9 25) La La Land 26) Himself
- 27) Piano 28) Mission Impossible 29) Liam Neeson
- 30) Hugh Grant 31) Javier Bardem 32) The Revenant
- 33) Life is Beautiful 34) Silence of the Lambs
- 35) Freddie Mercury 36) Meryl Streep 37) Alien.
- 38) Psycho 39) Big 40) Emma Thompson



Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



Local News - July 2022 - Issue No. 514 - 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.



Maynooth Town FC v Man Utd Legends

FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL 25th JUNE 2022

(See Photo Galleries on Pages 6, 7, 8 & 9)



Saturday 25th June was a landmark day for Maynooth Town FC marking our Festival of Football with the Manchester United Legends. The day kicked off with a Fun Zone at Rathcoffey Road in the morning for our younger members, followed by a Meet & Greet with the Legends at the Glenroyal Hotel, where fans could get shirts and programmes signed followed by the match itself at Rathcoffey Road in the afternoon and, to round it all off, the post match reception for players in Brady's and the Gala Dinner at the Glenroyal Hotel - what a great day for the club !

There has been significant growth in club membership over the past 5 to 6 years - from around 350 playing members to the current 800 - and the club now fields close to 45 teams every week during the football season. This growth is putting pressure on existing space at Rathcoffey Road and there is a need to maximise the use of this space by installing a new state of the art Astro pitch to FIFA standards.

The MTFC Festival of Football was designed to assist fundraising efforts to make the new astro pitch a reality. Thank you to everyone who supported and volunteered on the day. If you were unable to attend the events and would like to contribute, and would like some MTFC/Man Utd memorabilia you can copy & paste the link below to your browser:

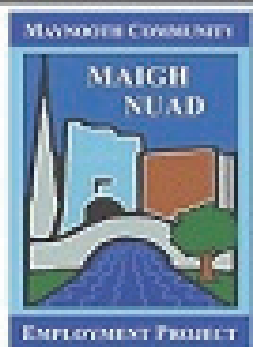
<https://maynooth-town-fc.sumup.link/product/donation-w-scarf-gift>

Alternatively you can copy & paste the link below to your browser: <https://maynooth-town-fc.sumup.link/product/ukrainian-scarf-donation> to donate to the club and MTFC will arrange to give a match day scarf to our new young Ukrainian friends who visited us at the Festival of Football.

We are looking forward to the opening of the new astro pitch later in the summer and seeing the young players in action next season !

MTFC Executive





Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

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

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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

Copy date for the next edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be 5pm on Tuesday 26th July 2022

MAYNOOTH DRESSES

Find us at Unit 3 San Feliu, Fagan's Lane, Maynooth
(Behind EBS Main St)

Communion Dress Clearance Sale Now On

Just Arrived 2022 Debs Dresses

**Now in Stock Ladies Fascinators
in All Colours**

For All Our Opening Hours

Visit our Website on:

www.maynoothcommuniondresses.ie

also **www.maynoothdresses.ie**

Phone: 01 6293585



MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT SECRETARIAL SERVICES

**Unit 10, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park
(Beside Coyne's Butchers)**

**Photocopying - Typing - Scanning to & Print from Email
A3/A4 Poster Design & Printing - CVs - Theses
Letters - Essays - A3/A4 Lamination
Other Office Services available on request**

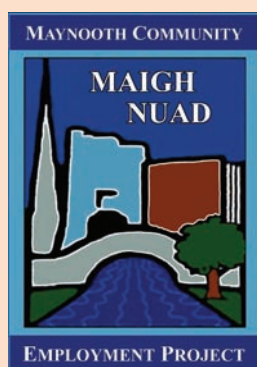
Tel: 01 6285922

Email: office@maynoothcep.com

Opening Hours

Mon-Fri - 9.00 am - 4.30 pm

(Closed for Lunch 1pm to 2pm)



June Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Children's Events

Children's Illustrations Collage Craft Pack

Available From 11th July

Age: 6+

Some books are read so often and so loved that the library copies end up in pieces and falling apart after a couple of years of lending. We at the library like to give these books a new life in the form of artwork so we invite the children of Maynooth to pick up our special collage making craft pack. All you need is parental supervision, some scissors and a glue-stick to do this popular craft at home.

No booking required – available for collection from the library from the 11th July while stocks last.

Learn & Explore Music Workshop

Wednesday 13th July, 3pm-4pm

Age: 9-12 year olds

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Learn and Explore introduces every child to the world of music through exploring the role of the conductor; investigating the importance of percussion; learning about dynamics, tempo, mood, the beat and rhythm; singing songs, composing rhythms and learning about music from different parts of the world. This workshop aims to give every child a solid and practical introduction to the world of music, increase the level of interest and engagement of music amongst children and develop each child's awareness of music.

Book now through TicketTailor: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/719472>

Wizards' Day

Wednesday July 27th, 11:30am

Age: 6 +

We're all wizards! Come along to this craft session where we will make rainbow wands and design and draw our own modes of magical transport, potions and more.

Book now through Ticket Tailor <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/720829>

Weekly Story-Time in Maynooth Library

Friday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th of July, 10.00am–10.30am

Ages: 2-5 years

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join the Maynooth staff for some in-person 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 1st July: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/719429>

Friday 8th July: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/719430>

Friday 15th July: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/719431>

Friday 22nd July: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/719432>

Friday 29th July: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/719433>

Adult Events

Our World' Disability Awareness Exhibition and Information Stand

Find out more about this sustainable lending/learning collection of toys promoting increased awareness amongst children of various disabilities

With Maynooth Access Group

Saturday, 16th July, 10am-1pm

Maynooth Access Group will be hosting a drop-in exhibition in Maynooth Library showcasing their "Our World" disability awareness programme for children, a toy library with a difference, which is funded by Kildare County Council, and comprises a collection of toys highlighting different disabilities, child-centred age-appropriate books about various disabilities, and posters and puzzles, all of which can be accessed and utilised free of charge by preschools, schools and community groups.

This initiative will help you to start conversations around disability, diversity and inclusion with the students/members and staff/ leaders at your school or

community group. We encourage parents and minders as well as anyone working in a childcare settings to come along and find out more about this wonderful collection.

No booking required. Drop-in event.

Beginners Sewing Machine Classes (Adults only)

Current class is full & we are taking expressions of interest for future classes

Tuesdays 6.30pm – 7.30 pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Must have own sewing machine.

If you have an unused, unloved sewing machine then this is the class for you. Learn to thread, adjust tension, change needles, use different stitches and make some very simple projects.

If interested, please contact Maynooth library by email at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or by phone on 045 980 493.

Wednesday Morning Book Club

Wednesday 20th of July (Third Wednesday of each month)

11.00am–12.00 pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

If interested, please contact Maynooth library by email at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or by phone on 045 980 493.

U3A Book Club

Monday 11th July

10.30am–11.30am (Second Monday of the month)

Location: Maynooth Community Library

If interested, please contact Maynooth library by email at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or by phone on 045 980 493.

Every Monday

Knitting / Craft Club

12.00pm–1:00pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Come and join like-minded people for an hour of chat, knitting and crafting.

If interested, please contact Maynooth library by email at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or by phone on 045 980 493.

German 'Stammtisch', informal conversation meet-up for adults

Thursday 28th July at 6.30pm-7.30pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Do you want to practice your German? Maynooth Library hosts a monthly informal German conversation meet-up, for anyone with an interest in the language and culture in German-speaking countries. All levels from learners to native speakers are welcome. Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of every month. For more information please contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980493

For all ages

Reader Pens Now Available in Maynooth Library

Maynooth Library now have reader pens available for lending or alternatively you can just borrow one for the duration of your library visit. These text-to-speech pens read words and full lines of text aloud, promoting independent reading and confidence

Key Features of reader pens: Read text aloud – Promote reading independence – Built-in dictionaries – Secure and private – No WiFi required – Built-in speaker & earphone jack – Rechargeable – Easy to use

Helps with: Reading or pronunciation – Dyslexia – Language learning – Vision problems

For more information, ask a staff member at the library desk / email Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie / phone us on 045 980493.



Gold Medal Winners

2016
2017
2018
2019
2021

Thanks to the clients from Leap Services for helping Tidy Towns to water the flowers in the Square recently.

We had a very enjoyable day at the Picnic in the Park which was organised by Maynooth Community Council and held in The Harbour Field recently.

We are all working hard to keep the town looking well for the visit of the Tidy Towns Judges until the 31st July or even later in to August.



Please help us to keep it that way. Pick up Litter even if you didn't drop it.

Mary Molloy - PRO Maynooth Tidy Towns



Maynooth Dresses Staff Required

We have Full Time & Part Time Sales Retail
Positions available with Maynooth Dresses to join
a fast selling formal wear Sales Team.

Previous Sales Experience essential.

Work 5 full days flexible over Monday to Sunday

Part time hours to include Saturday
and Sunday work

Apply with CV to antoINETTEkobrien@gmail.com



Dear Business / Householder;

On behalf of Maynooth Tidy Towns group, we have a request for all of our Business Community. We are asking you to keep outside your premises clear of weeds and litter free, also your bins and their surrounding areas, in particular those in the Council Car Park and Doctors Lane as these are high visibility locations.

Adjudicators from the National Tidy Towns could arrive in Maynooth any time from now until the 31st July, for the judging in the National Tidy Towns Competition. We have secured a Gold Medal award for the last 5 years and we would really like to retain it again for 2022, with your help.

You will have seen that the Pots and 3 Tiered Planters in the Square, Carton Avenue etc. have been planted with very colourful flowers by our hard-working volunteers.

We need you to help us out with litter control in the coming weeks, so that this planting can be seen to best effect, to impress the judges and to reflect the pride we all have for our town.

We would like to thank everyone who has painted their premises and put out flower displays.

When everyone does a little bit, it makes a huge difference. It improves the appearance of the town, which in turn helps to create a positive experience for residents and visitors alike.

Regards

Chairperson: Breedge Conway

Vice Chair: Ray Murphy

Secretary: Mary Connolly

Treasurer: Michael Kenny

PRO: Mary Molloy



FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL 25th JUNE 2022

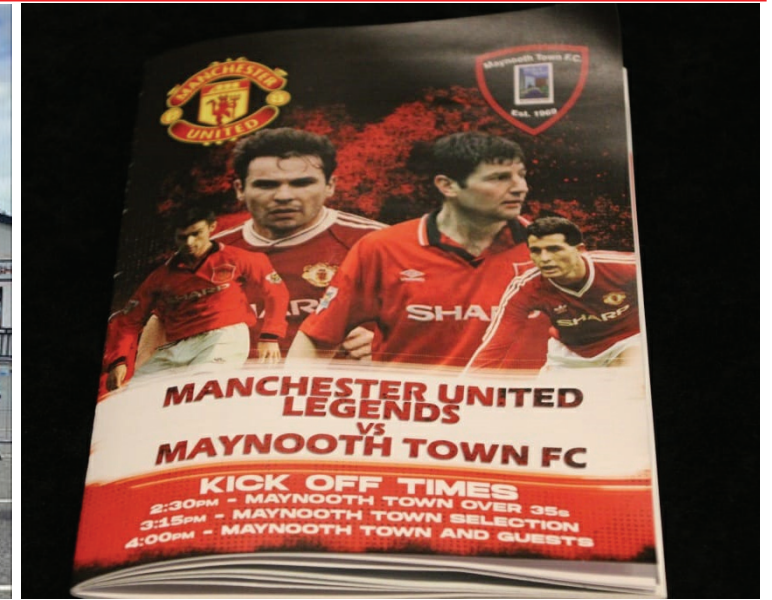
Photo Gallery





FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL 25th JUNE 2022

Photo Gallery





FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL 25th JUNE 2022

Photo Gallery



On a weekend when the town stopped and Maynooth Town Football Club put on a show of sheer brilliance beginning with a pre-season friendly between our Senior team and Crusaders F.C. from the Northern Ireland Senior League. The game was played on Friday 24th but resulted in a 1-0 loss to the professional side of greater experience. Town performed admirably and despite going behind to an early "Crus" goal were a match for the side who will compete in Euro competition in the coming weeks.

On returning to Brady's after the game we were joined by the Manchester United Legends who were in town to take part in the clubs Festival of Football weekend. Listening to the various stories and experiences of the lads brought back many good memories and some not so good. Denis Irwin was particularly pleased when hearing of our exploits in 2018 when we won the FAI Intermediate Cup. He got great satisfaction when hearing that one of our scalps on the wonderful venture was Roy Keane's old team Rockmount. This was a wonderful evening in the company of such stars as Denis, Lee Sharpe, Brian Mc Clair, Wes Brown, David May, Clayton Blackmore among others. We all departed at a decent hour to prepare for the more physical activities the following day.

The Rathcoffey Road looked immaculate with the various attraction a major draw for children and adults alike. The pitch itself was

in pristine condition and was a credit to the ground staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that everything was in order. With the various attractions drawing large crowds it was all about the appearance of the Legends. The parade of teams to the pitch brought great applause from the packed attendance. The Legends played three 30 minutes games and displayed lots of their skills and were a huge attraction. Game One saw the Legends at the wrong end of a three goal defeat to the Town's over 35 side with Chris Eagles being particularly lively for the Legends.

Maynooth Town Selection were next up and this game provided the highlights of the afternoon, with time running out Legends David May won a penalty with a dive that would not be out of place in any aquatic centre. Town's keeper Stephen Geraghty denied the once ever reliable Denis Irwin with a wonderful save. Denis was the first to congratulate Stephen for his effort. The game ended in a 0 - 0 draw. The final game of the afternoon saw the Legends gain a deserved success with a 2 - 0 success over the Town and Guests.

A wonderful day began to close with all looking forward to the meeting with the Legends in Brady's before departing to the Glenroyal Hotel for the Gala Dinner & Dance.

A really wonderful evening was had by all with the dancing and craic following the wonderful meal. Raffles and auctions

provided further entertainment before closing the evening. Special praise to Club Chairman Michael Doyle and his committee for the fantastic entertainment provided for the weekend and to all who played their part.

Footnote;
Don't forget that the new season is fast approaching with a number of friendly games being lined up. Our first round game in the F.A.I Senior Cup is a home fixture against Munster Senior League side Villa F.C from Waterford.

Maynooth University Town F.C.

Extra.ie FAI Senior Cup

1st Round



Friday 29th July 2022

Kick Off: 7.30pm

Venue: North Campus Astro



FESTIVAL OF FOOTBALL 25th JUNE 2022

Photo Gallery



Powerful fat-burning Herbs & Spices

Believe it or not, some of the most powerful fat-burning nutrients come in the smallest packages: the dried herbs and spices in your press and the fresh herbs in your garden. You probably already love these seasonings because they make your meals taste great, but you might not know that they are powerful weight-loss superfoods. Use them to flavor bone broth and your meals, and even your shakes. In particular, the following fat-burning herbs and spices can ramp up your fat burning—so go crazy with them!

So, what seasonings can help you lose weight? As it turns out, herbs can curb cravings and support your weight loss efforts. And while herbs may not be a cure-all (diet, exercise and lifestyle are contributing factors), they can certainly help you on your weight loss journey.

Herbs support digestion
Herbs aid in the body's metabolism process.
Herbs promote hormonal health
Herbs reduce inflammation

Fat burning herbs and spices

Basil

Basil is anti-inflammatory, reduces water retention and bloating, and functions as an adaptogen (a substance that helps your body adapt to stress). Basil also helps reduce fat buildup in your liver while detoxifying your body.

Cinnamon

Cinnamon helps regulate blood glucose levels, reducing your cravings and helping you burn fat faster.

Cloves

Cloves help reduce your blood sugar. They also help improve your digestion and optimize your metabolism.

Cumin

Cumin is a great fat burner that also aids in digestion. One teaspoon can help you burn up to three times more body fat!

Garlic

Garlic helps burn belly fat. It also reduces LDL cholesterol, which may lower your risk of heart disease. In addition, it reduces oxidative damage from free radicals, helping fight the aging process.

Ginger

Ginger has anti-inflammatory properties, and it's a powerful gut soother. It also has



thermogenic properties that help boost your metabolism.

Parsley

Parsley's wealth of vitamin C makes it a great immune-system booster. It's also an excellent source of beta carotene, an antioxidant that helps protect your body against free-radical damage. It has anti-inflammatory properties, relaxes your muscles, and encourages digestion.

Turmeric

Curcumin is the active ingredient in turmeric. It slows the formation of fatty tissue by affecting the blood vessels needed to form it. Curcumin contributes to lower body fat and weight loss. It is also an anti-inflammatory agent and lowers insulin resistance.

Mint

As a natural energy booster, mint can support your weight loss efforts. "Mint improves alertness, boosts overall mood and reduces the feeling of fatigue. It is also an effective natural painkiller and muscle relaxant, mint has invigorating and antispasmodic properties. Peppermint oil can be used to relieve tension headaches. Some even say it is an effective appetite suppressant!"

Oregano

Oregano is a perennial herb that belongs to the same plant family as mint, basil, thyme, rosemary and sage.

It contains carvacrol, a powerful compound that may help boost weight loss. Carvacrol supplements were also found to directly impact some of the specific genes and proteins that control fat synthesis in the body.

How to Use Herbs Safely

When used as a seasoning for foods, the aforementioned herbs and spices can provide a burst of health benefits with minimal risk of side effects. Just don't go overboard. Stick to no more than one tablespoon (14 grams) per day and be sure to pair them with nutrient-rich whole foods to help boost weight loss even more. If you take herbs in supplement form, it's important to stick to the recommended dosage on the package to prevent adverse effects.

Additionally, if you have any underlying health conditions or are taking medications, it's best to talk to your doctor before starting any supplement.

If you experience any negative side effects or food allergy symptoms, discontinue use immediately and talk to a trusted healthcare practitioner.

Source: <https://drkellyann.com/>

Source: www.parade.com/1307718/kaitlin-vogel/herbs-for-weight-loss/



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Great Food Served 7 Days

How to clean windows without streaks - The six top tips for streak-free windows

When it's bright and sunny outside, you want to ensure the sun can stream through your windows without bringing any grubby marks to light. Cleaning your windows can leave streaks behind if the job isn't done carefully enough. These are six foolproof hacks to ensure you get a gorgeous streak-free finish on your window cleaning. If you give your windows a good clean, all your efforts can be ruined by unsightly streaks left behind by cloths or cleaning products.

Cleaning your windows can be an easy way to make your home look brighter. A streak-free window gives you the feeling that there is no barrier between you and the outdoors, giving you the illusion that you have more space in your home.

There are a few clever tricks and tips to clean your windows and get a beautiful streak-free finish.

1 - Never use a cleaner containing ammonia or alcohol

Ammonia and alcohol are strong ingredients that on other surfaces can give a really thorough clean. However, on glass these substances can leave streaks, as well as a thin layer which picks up dust, lint and other bits of grime. Instead, either use a specialist window cleaner, or make your own by adding two tablespoons of white vinegar to a bucket of warm water. Don't be put off if the smell of vinegar lingers for a few minutes, it will disappear quickly.

2 - Microfibre cloths are the best tool for the job

The super soft microfibre cloths are designed to pick up each speck of dust without leaving a trace behind. If you don't have a microfibre cloth, a paper towel or even scrunched up newspaper works really well to collect dust from the window's surface.



3 - Never attempt to scratch marks off the window

Scraping stubborn or sticky marks off your window using a blade or another sharp tool is an absolute no-no.

This can permanently damage the glass, and even weaken the glass in that area making it more likely to break.

4 - Remove any curtains or blinds before cleaning

The fibres on your curtains or blinds are where a lot of dust particles get caught, so removing them before getting going can prevent them dirtying the windows further.

It's also a good idea to vacuum the window sills once you remove the upholstery too, in case there's any dust or cobwebs hiding in the corners.

5 - Clean in an S-shape motion

You might notice window cleaners using this clever trick to banish streaks, but it works from the inside too.

This not only helps you cover each inch of the window, but also prevents sharp noticeable streaks.

6 - Wait for a grey day

Although your results might be best admired on a sunny day, you should clean the windows when it's a bit less bright.

The glare from the sun can stop you from seeing each speck of grime, and will also warm the glass meaning the cleaning solution can dry faster, before you've wiped it off - leaving an ugly streak across your window.

www.express.co.uk/life-style/property/1563659/how-to-clean-windows-without-streaks-evg

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Stay safe everyone.





Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Bike Racks at Bus Stops

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to install bicycle racks in the vicinity of bus stops in Maynooth to facilitate and support the increased uptake of cycling in the community. At the meeting Cllr Feeney said it is great to see more cyclists in our towns but for people, who use public transport and have to access it by bike, they often have to chain or secure their bikes to lampposts or benches near bus stops and risk having them damaged or stolen. This also causes accessibility problems for people who have to get around those chained up bikes with buggies and wheelchairs.

Cllr Feeney said that we need to support commuters and cyclists by providing these bike racks. The Council at the meeting confirmed that it would continue to support the increased uptake of cycling in the community through its on-going active travel projects, which they said will be further developed in 2023 and the Council agreed it makes sense to join the dots on this one.

Taking in Charge issue

I asked the Council to take in charge a section of Moyglare Hall near the new Maynooth Education Campus. Cllr Feeney said that at the moment, this section of the road looks abandoned and neglected and many residents from the Moyglare end of the town have been in touch with Cllr Feeney about it. It is a section that seems to be no man's land, with the Moyglare Hall developer saying it was not in his ownership and the Council saying it had not been taken in charge. So the response from the Council to the motion got clarity around this, the land folio they provided shows that the section in question is in the ownership of KWETB. The Council clarified the process whereby this issue could be addressed.

Speed Counts at Pikes Bridge Road

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide a report on the speed counts carried out a few months back on the Pikes Bridge Road, Maynooth (L5053). At the meeting, Cllr Feeney again highlighted the increased volume of traffic on this particular road and the speeding that occurs and the dangers to local residents. Many motorists use this road to avoid the congested traffic in the town. Cllr Feeney supported the residents along this road when they ran a 'Slow Down Day' before Christmas facilitated by the local Gardai.

Cllr Feeney has requested that an electronic speeding sign be installed as a deterrent to speeding. Gaining access to the data captured from the Council's own traffic count carried out a few months back would support this request. The Municipal Engineer said he would arrange for the results to be provided to Cllr Feeney.

Carton Avenue Trees

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide a report on the trees on Carton Avenue and what recent maintenance measures have taken place. Cllr Feeney stated at the meeting that Carton Avenue is such an important and treasured space for the residents of Maynooth. At the meeting, she also stated that the Council has to play its part as custodians of the Avenue. There is a preservation order on the trees on Carton Avenue. It was good to hear the area manager confirm that there is planned maintenance to take place involving the removal of the basal suckers in the trees.

Access to Carton Estate

On foot of recent restrictions to access from Carton Avenue to Carton House estate, Cllr Feeney requested a copy of the planning permission granted for the hotel at Carton from An Bord Pleanála. Cllr Feeney was provided with this from ABP and it confirms that a condition of the planning is a right of access for the public to the estate. Cllr Feeney has been in touch with the hotel management about this matter. It is in all parties' interest that access be continued: for the community this is an important amenity and for the hotel, the access means the public can enjoy the facility and those working in the hotel can access it on foot or by bike.

Step closer to allowing CCTV footage to tackle illegal dumping

Good to hear that the Government has commitment to utilise the Labour Party Bill to use CCTV to tackle illegal dumping. The second stage of the Circular Economy Bill has been taken in the Seanad, and Minister of State Ossian Smyth has said that the Government's Circular Economy Bill would provide for the use of recording technologies for waste enforcement purposes in a way that is fully in compliance with national and EU data protection law. Last year Cllr Feeney's Kildare Labour colleague Senator Mark Wall brought a Bill to the Seanad, which would allow the use of CCTV in prosecution of offences relating to illegal dumping. This was as a result of the increase in illegal dumping in Irish countryside particularly during Covid restrictions when the voluntary groups such as Tidy Towns that do a wonderful job of keeping our communities clean could not meet.

Senator Wall has estimated that across 31 local authorities in the country, the cost of clearing up litter and illegally dumped materials may be as much as €90 million per year, which is enormous. This is without considering the voluntary effort put in by community clean-up groups here in North Kildare.

As my colleague Senator Wall said in the Seanad, while the Covid restrictions may have been lifted, we are still getting calls about illegal dumping. €90 million is a colossal amount of money to spend on cleaning up other people's rubbish and could you imagine what we could do in North Kildare if even a fraction of that money was saved and put into local facilities.

As public representatives, we are always asked about playgrounds and community facilities and the sort of money we could save in relation to that €90 million could and should be put into those sorts of facilities. We need to see prosecutions of those who wreck our communities by fly tipping and feel they are above the law. Using CCTV for enforcement purposes is an important step in the fight back and will prevent illegal dumping once enacted.

Housing Stock and Solid Fuel

At the June Plenary Cllr Feeney asked the Council to inform members on how many of its current housing stock are heated using solid fuels and of its plans to upgrade the heating systems in the coming years. The Council replied stating that Kildare County Council's housing stock consists of 4,980 units, not including units provided through long-term leasing schemes, of which the majority are heated by way of modern heating technologies such as heat pumps (due to the timing of their construction). Of the Council's owned 4,980 units, circa 500 are currently heated by heat pumps with the balance reliant on fossil fuels such as oil, gas or solid fuels. Kildare County Council is however actively pursuing the National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (NEERP), which allows for a set budget, per annum, to carry out works based on a maximum cost per unit across the councils housing stock. To date, c.175 units have been retrofitted with an additional 69 units scheduled for the 2022 works programme.

It has been our recent experience that the allowances available through the NEERP have not been sufficient on a unit-by-unit basis, however, Kildare County Council, as part of our own climate action commitments, have provided funding above the grant sum if and when required. It is noted that the current Programme for Government commits to the retrofitting of approximately 500,000 residential units nationally to the year 2030 and that approx. 36,500 of these are expected to be local authority owned social houses. To this end the NEERP is a multi-annual programme with which the Council intends to fully engage with over the coming years, subject to the ongoing provision of sufficient funding.

It is also important to note that all new build social housing units provided by Kildare County Council will comply

with the nZEB regulations and as such will be highly insulated and heated using heat pump technology.

Cllr Feeney speaking to the motion stated that with almost four and a half thousand council owned homes reliant on fossil fuels in the county it is going to be a challenge to meet the projected national retrofitting targets for 2030. We would need to be retrofitting 560 houses per year. To date, 175 units have been retrofitted and as the report mentioned a further 69 units are scheduled for the 2022 works programme, so Cllr Feeney added that we are nowhere near the target and that is not any fault of Kildare County Council. As the report provided to Cllr Feeney stated, the allowances available through the National Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme have not been sufficient on a unit-by-unit basis. The director for Housing said the shortfall in the funding per unit is €10,000.

In March Cllr Feeney had a similar motion at Municipal District level and in the discussion at that meeting she said she was informed that the council was retrofitting first the houses that needed the least amount of work and then will move onto the houses needing most work. At the full council she questioned the logic of that, saying that surely the older stock surely should be dealt with first given that they need it most and would make the most savings as a result but most importantly we are helping the ones who are living in the worst conditions? The director agreed with Cllr Feeney and said that the reason for doing it that way was purely down to funding.

So, Cllr Feeney asked members to support her request to send a letter from councillors to the department calling for this lack of adequate funding to be addressed and to support the council in doing this very important work during a climate emergency and with the cost of materials only going one way, increasing by the day, this needs to be addressed. Cllr Feeney concluded that there needs to be a special programme targeted Retrofit scheme focussed on this and funded both sufficiently and realistically.

Cllr Feeney's Motion at full council in May held at Maynooth University

Cllr Feeney was delighted to attend the May full Council which was held for the first time at Maynooth University, her alma mater and home town. Her motion at the meeting was as follows:

"That the council initiates a public consultation on how best to make public spaces safer for all citizens, paying particular attention to the female perspective and to carry out a safety audit of all its public spaces with a view to re-designing these with safety needs in mind".

Cllr Feeney thanked both Council Directors for their report and added that she is attempting to highlight in her motion is that most of us live in towns and villages that largely reflect twentieth century ideas and beliefs, hardwired into our public spaces, services and systems. There is significant research to highlight the challenges women face when it comes to safety in relation to mobility. 'Travelling in a Woman's Shoes', a recent report commissioned by Transport Infrastructure Ireland, brought to life the experiences of women in Ireland around equal access to public infrastructure and the study is the first step towards creating a more equitable travel experience and informing discussions about future policy and infrastructure design to encourage more sustainable mobility.

Cllr Feeney added that it is not only women who are impacted by such issues, but everyone outside of the narrow definition of normal- women, children, the elderly, the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, and many others who often must adapt themselves to fit. To design contemporary public spaces we must understand the lived experiences of all such groups. The mere mention of permeability for example, can trigger a negative response because is equated with dark long high walled passageways between estates.

(Continued on page 14)



Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News Copmt/.....



(Continued from page 13)

Lighting is also key to this feeling of safety and at the end of the day well-lit spaces make us feel safer. Many women are fearful for themselves or their daughters walking from the train, out for a walk or a jog, if our public spaces are to be truly welcoming, they must feel safe for everyone using them.

While Cllr Feeney fully appreciates the constraints with regard to carrying out any safety audit, with regard to the consultation piece she asked that this could be agreed. Vienna was one of the first cities to look to gender to shape its public spaces, it acknowledged that the female perspective had often been missing, particularly the perspective of teenage girls and they worked to understand how to make these urban spaces more appealing and addressing the safety fears held by many females.

Cllr Feeney said that she is a great believer in letting people have their say as it allows us to capture trends and patterns and establish valuable data to inform discussions about future policy and infrastructure design and to top it all, everyone feels better for having had their opportunity to contribute.

While the council said that it could not resource an audit as such it was agreed to carry out the consultation piece, which is a win-win for all concerned. People who walk their own street and public spaces, know them best, will be able to input to a consultation portal, that will feed into the public realm design and the joint policing committee.

Gym Equipment at Harbour Field to be replaced

Kildare County Council has informed Cllr Feeney that the outdoor gym equipment at the Harbour Field is being removed and that a new adult gym area is to be included in the upcoming redevelopment of the Harbour Field.

Shop front Improvement Scheme

Kildare County Council has extended the closing date for the 2022 Shopfront Improvement Scheme until Friday the 8th of July.

The scheme is about financially assisting and supporting independent business owners to improve the appearance of their shop fronts or commercial properties and increase visibility for businesses as well as enhancing the streetscapes of towns and villages around the county.

Particular emphasis should be on works to enhance accessibility and/or add age friendly elements to the premises.

Learn more and apply now:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/.../Shop-Front.../>

If you need any help email afeeney@kildarecoco.ie

Welcome to Ukrainian Refugees arriving in Maynooth

Cllr Feeney is assisting the Action Group set up by Maynooth University to support the hundreds of Ukrainian refugees being accommodated there. It has been very heartening to witness the Multi Agency response and the fantastic work being done by 'Maynooth Helps Ukraine'. There has been a fantastic rallying of support in this emergency situation by all.

Cllr Feeney's upcoming motions for July Council MD

That the Council issues a request to Waterways Ireland to install more seating around the Royal Canal Greenway.

That the footpaths immediately to the left and right of the old entrance at Laraghbryan Cemetery Maynooth be tarmaced to enhance accessibility.

Can the Council provide an update regarding a vacant house that has been vacant for over a year now?

Can the Council confirm that installation of a yellow box at the Crescent will be considered in its review of yellow boxes in the municipal district to facilitate the residents accessing the Straffan Road Maynooth?

Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney since last newsletter

May 30th: KCC Twinning Liaison Committee 11:00am (online)
 June 2nd: Maynooth Autism Friendly Town meeting at MPPS 8:00pm
 June 3rd: Joint Policing Committee 9:00 am KCC Chamber
 June 3rd: Council MD 10:00 am KCC Chamber
 June 8th: BOM Coláiste Chiaráin (online)
 June 8th: Maynooth Access Group meeting 7:30pm (online)
 June 21st: County Kildare Access Network 10:00 am (online)
 June 24th: Council AGM 3:00pm KCC Chamber
 June 27th: Clinic with Irish Water 11:00 am (online)
 June 27th: Council Plenary 3:00 pm KCC Chamber

MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES



Is Fuel Rationing on the Way?

The EU Commissioner Mairead McGuinness recently warned that fuel rationing could be on its way later in the year. As energy costs rise and Russia reduces energy supplies to the west because of support for the Ukraine government and people, there is a strong likelihood that energy prices will continue to increase. Some families can afford higher prices but others cannot - especially when faced with rising inflation.

At the same time, the world is faced with increased global warming due to the burning of fossil fuels. Following last year's record floods in Germany and in the Netherlands, this summer has seen record high June temperatures in France and Spain.

Events in Ukraine appear to be an excuse for fossil fuel industries to carry on as usual. Rather than concentrating on renewables, more oil and gas exploration and the retention of coal fuelled power station are being put forward as the solution to energy shortages even though these will only exacerbate global warming.

If we want to both support Ukraine and limit global warming to 1.5OC, we must reduce carbon emissions from transport. One of the best ways of doing this is reducing the number of car trips especially for those short journeys which could be walked or cycled. Cycle facilities in Maynooth leave a lot to be desired. Some of the so called improvements arising from Covid which were supposed to encourage cycling, actually made cycling worse but we are fortunate that our facilities are better than in most Kildare towns and in most similarly sized towns nationally. Also the cost of cycling is not dependent on the actions of President Putin.

Naas Cycling Campaign

From earlier this year, our colleagues in the Naas Cycling Campaign organised a monthly family cycle with the assistance of the Naas Gardaí to protest about the lack of high quality cycle facilities in the town. In May, the gardaí were unavailable but the cycle went ahead without a garda escort. Although it was a

family cycle with many young children cycling with their parents, the cyclists were verbally abused by drivers who objected to being "delayed" by cyclists using the roads.

Galway School Bus

In a similar vein, our colleagues who have organised the Galway Cycle-Bus in Knocknacarra for the last four years have written a letter to Galway councillors pleading with them to provide safe cycling facilities in Galway. While there has been plenty of discussion about transport in Galway, not one metre of new, safe, separate and protected cycleway has been built in the city for years.

The organisers of the Cycle-Bus have catalogued a lengthy list of incidents including primary school children being verbally assaulted, beeped at, being close passed at speed, filmed by drivers on mobile phones, being left hooked, and aggressively overtaken. The full letter – Councillors, Be the Leader We Need you to Be - is available at <https://www.advertiser.ie/galway/article/130138/councillors-be-the-leaders-we-need-you-to-be>.

What links the last two articles is the sense of entitlement of many drivers. Maynooth Cycling Campaign calls on plain clothes gardaí to accompany the Naas cyclists and identify those drivers who attempt to bully vulnerable users off the road. While the number of cycle fatalities has reduced in recent years, road fatalities generally in Ireland are rapidly increasing. In 2022, 83 people have died to date on our roads which is more than a 50% increase on the equivalent 2021 figure of 51. Meanwhile Kildare County Council officials continue to propose to increase speed limits in many areas.

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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St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Last month saw our first outdoor recital of the year in the Square where despite showery weather conditions we managed to get through our programme without getting soaked. We were particularly pleased that so many people stayed to listen to the Band despite the poor conditions and it was heartening to hear all their positive comments. Our other outing for the month was being invited by Intel to provide some music before the presentation of their annual Pride of Place Awards which was held in Castletown House this year. It was the first time that the Band has worked with Intel and we hope it's the start of a long association with them as they were very pleased with our performance.

We have almost organised our performances for the remainder of the year and we will have more news on this in next month's issue but included is a joint concert with St. James's Band on 4th September, our return visit to the International Music Festival in Bad Orb in Germany on 9th September and a recital in the College Chapel of St. Patrick's College on 23rd October. Of course we are looking forward to a repeat of last year's performance in the Square for Culture Night on Friday 23rd September which was a great success.

Finally, can we remind you that our CD is on sale at Maynooth Bookshop on the Main Street, The Maynooth Newsletter Office in Carton Business Park or by calling 087 2537 906. Copies of the CD have already winged their way to Cork, Ardee and London among other places.



MORE MUSICAL MELODIES FROM MAYNOOTH



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Maynooth University celebrates 25th anniversary as an independent university

Universities Act establishing Maynooth as an independent university took effect on 16 June, 1997



Thursday, 16th June 2022: Maynooth University today marks 25 years as an independent university by hosting a celebratory event for staff attended by former education minister Niamh Bhreathnach.

The Labour Party TD served as Minister for Education from 1993 to 1997. During her time as minister, Ms Bhreathnach heralded the foundation of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth with the introduction of the Universities Act 1997. Tracing its origins back over 200 years to the foundation of St Patrick's College Maynooth in 1795, the University today is one of the fastest growing and most diverse institutions in the country with enrolment soaring from 4,000 in 1997 to more than 15,000 students today. In 2014, the University changed its name to Maynooth University to strengthen its brand identity internationally.

The Maynooth campus has doubled in size to encompass a state-of-the-art Library linking the South Campus and North Campus, student accommodation, teaching and research buildings, such as Eolas (ICT), Iontas (Humanities and Social Science) and John Hume (Education and Research). A €57 million Technology Society and Innovation Building is due for completion shortly.



The University is today home to world-class researchers and some of Ireland's most innovative research centres, including ICARUS Climate Research Centre; RadioSpace, National 5G Test Centre; MaynoothWorks Business Incubator; Hamilton Institute; Kathleen Lonsdale Centre for Health Research; Innovation Value Institute (IVI); Maynooth Arts and Humanities Institute; Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute; All-Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO) and National Centre for Geocomputation. Maynooth was ranked the #1 Best Young University in Ireland in the 2022 *Times Higher Education (THE)* Rankings and in the top 7% universities in *THE* Global Equality Rankings for its research on the study of gender equality, policies on gender equality and commitment to recruiting and promoting women.

The University has played an outsized role in widening participation in higher education across Irish society. Its student population is richly diverse, with 11% of students coming from the most disadvantaged areas of the country—the highest percentage in the university sector—and 17% coming from areas identified as affluent.

MU has helped meet the educational needs created by rapid demographic growth in west Dublin and north Kildare in particular, but also across Ireland. In 2016 it launched sector-leading undergraduate curriculum reforms that proved popular with students seeking more flexibility, unique subject combinations, and more time to decide where to focus their studies. The Maynooth Arts degree became the most popular degree in the country in recent years.

Among the University's milestones was the merging of Froebel College of Education in Sion Hill with Maynooth University, establishing the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood education in 2013.

Ms Bhreathnach, a graduate of Sion Hill, commended Maynooth's support of the legislative changes in the Universities Act, which included structural reforms and promoted gender equality on the boards and in all activities of the universities. She paid special tribute to the University's first president, Professor William J Smyth (1997-2004), and the late John Coolahan, former Head of the Department of Education at Maynooth.

"It is with great pleasure that my visit to Maynooth University today is at the invitation of a woman, your newly appointed President, Professor Leinonen. It has taken some years to reach a time where we have visible equality in the top levels of our third-level institutions, and I hope we can continue to grow and build not only gender equality but social equality throughout the sector," she said.

Welcoming Ms Bhreathnach's return to Maynooth, Professor Eeva Leinonen, President of Maynooth University, paid tribute to staff and retired staff who have worked so hard over the years to put students at the heart of the Maynooth educational experience.

"Maynooth University is celebrating 25 years of remarkable achievement as an independent institution. On a day that Leopold Bloom embarked on his odyssey across Dublin's landmarks, I am delighted to celebrate our journey from a newly established independent university in 1997 to one of the fastest growing third-level institutions in the country.

"I hope to continue to build on the many achievements of all the former presidents, staff, students and alumni, many of whom have joined us to celebrate this day.

"Maynooth University's student profile and growth over the years reflects an overall increase in the desirability for a Maynooth education taught by world-class researchers in their fields and a truer representation of a diverse educational environment from which all students benefit.

"We are now embarking on a new Strategic Plan to guide us into the future. I believe we must look to our strengths -- intellectual curiosity, ingenuity, creativity, our scholarly and student-focused underpinnings, and a close-knit community that has endured over the years. If we look to our strengths we will be guided on what to take with us into the future."

A silver birch tree has been planted to mark Maynooth's silver anniversary, and an 'Ideas Wall' has been erected by Maynooth University Innovation Lab (Mi:Lab) to help with suggestions and ideas for the next Strategic Plan.

Dr Mary Canning, Chair of Maynooth University Governing Authority said: "I'm delighted to be here today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Maynooth University as an independent institution created by the enactment of Universities Act in 1997, and I'm honoured to meet with the former Education Minister Niamh Bhreathnach who presided over its passage. Maynooth is distinguished in its academic excellence, innovation and diversity, and its reputation has grown nationally and internationally over the past 25 years. I wish President Eeva Leinonen, staff, students and alumni of this wonderful institution the very best in the next phase of its journey."

Minister Harris meets staff of National Helpdesk for displaced Ukrainians on World Refugee Day

Maynooth University hosts the national helpdesk for Ukrainian students and researchers to access higher education

Monday, 20 June 2022

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, TD, today met with staff of a national Helpdesk for displaced Ukrainian people seeking access to third level education in Ireland.

Funded by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), the National Student and Researcher (NSR) Helpdesk is hosted by Maynooth University on behalf of the sector, and has seconded people from across the university sector to work on the initiative.

Minister Harris was greeted by the President of Maynooth University, Professor Eeva Leinonen, and spoke with staff seconded from across the university sector to the NSR Helpdesk.

Hosted to mark World Refugee Day, the Minister met with Ukrainian students and researchers, and also with Afghan agriculture and environmental engineering scholar Dr Abdul Aziz Mohibbi, who was the former Chancellor of Bamyán University. Dr Mohibbi and his family have been granted programme refugee status, and the right to stay as part of Ireland's support and solidarity with the Afghan people who have had to flee their home country.

Maynooth University (MU) partnered with Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and the *Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF)* to bring Dr Abdul Aziz Mohibbi to Ireland from Afghanistan.

Minister Simon Harris said: "The Government has been unequivocal in its welcome for people fleeing Ukraine, and we are determined to deliver on our obligations to support access to education.

"Of course, this is challenging, but we are not just legally obliged to respond – more importantly, we are morally required to do the right thing. I am proud of the leadership the Higher Education Institutions have shown on this matter and this helpdesk is an important example of collaboration across the sector to assist the people of Ukraine." "Tomorrow, I will bring proposals to Government to assist people fleeing from Ukraine access third level but I wanted to be here today to thank Maynooth for hosting the helpdesk and ensuring there is a single point of contact for people who need our help and assistance."

Professor Eeva Leinonen, President of Maynooth University, said: "On World Refugee Day, we are thinking of the Ukrainian people, and all members of our community who have experienced war, other forms of violence, or those who have been forced to leave their country for asylum elsewhere.

"The invasion of Ukraine reminds us that whether they occur in Europe or anywhere in the world, violent acts that threaten democracy, trample free will and block access to essential goods and services are an affront to human rights and must be confronted. As a University of Sanctuary, Maynooth is committed to promote a culture of welcome for refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants into our university community. Maynooth University is very involved with Scholars at Risk (SAR) internationally and hosts the Europe Office. SAR is an international network of higher education institutions and individuals working to protect threatened scholars and to promote academic freedom and we're proud to be at the heart of this initiative in Europe."

Dr Gemma Irvine, Vice-President, Equality and Diversity at Maynooth University, said: "The Maynooth University partnership with Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and the *Institute of International Education's Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF)* to bring Dr Mohibbi (MU-TCD SAR/IIE-SRF Fellow) to Ireland from Afghanistan is an exemplar of good practice with structured supports in place to ensure success of the Fellow relocating. Ireland is one of the first countries internationally who have managed to successfully relocate and employ a scholar at risk from Afghanistan after the recent change of regime. We are delighted to welcome such a prestigious scholar as Dr Mohibbi, into our community."



MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

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Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

Reopening of Club activities!



We are delighted to announce the resumption of some of our services for the months of July and August and we will see where we go from there.

The mass bus service is recommencing on Saturday evening for 7 o'clock mass on 2nd July and we have been in contact with our people about that.

The Morning Club will re-open for one morning per week on Thursdays only for the time being, from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Geraldine Hall. That will start on Thursday 7th July. Transport to the Club has been organised for those who wish to avail of it. We know it has been a difficult time for our senior citizens over the last two years and it will be a very welcome change to get back to meeting up and engaging in community life again.

Our new Chairperson, Garry Bermingham has been busy. Garry organised an information stand about the organisation at the recent Family Fun Day in the Harbour Field and received some expressions of interest from people who would like to join the group, which is very welcome.

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of three long standing and highly regarded club members – Ellie Leavy, George Fennell and PJ Daly. Ellie did trojan work fundraising on behalf of Maynooth senior citizens seeking sponsorship for the "Tony Smith Memorial Walk". As a senior citizen herself Ellie enjoyed the morning club, tea-dances and outings. George Fennell retired to his native Maynooth having worked in England. He also was a stalwart supporter of our organisation. He enjoyed and travelled to all events. George and Ellie were great friends and in latter years looked out for each other. PJ Daly had a great love for music and dancing and was a regular attender at our tea-dances. He will be sadly missed.

As we re-open our Morning Club after the event of the last couple of years, there will be a huge void. Our condolences to the families of Ellie, George and PJ at this sad time. (With thanks to Josephine Moore for her tributes to Ellie, George and PJ)

If you wish to find out more about Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee please contact us at maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com or 0877974582 (evenings)

Susan Durack, Secretary/PRO, Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.



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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention favour).

Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine. Amen

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

Never known to fail.
Thanksgiving for favour received.

THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention here). 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. Sacred Heart of Jesus I place all my trust thee

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.
Thanksgiving for favour received.



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

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Social Democrats Conference

The Social Democrats held their first in-person Conference on 11th June 2022. It was a very positive event with a number of speakers and workshops.

Summary of Measures proposed in the leaders' speech at the Social Democrats' National Conference on 10th and 11th June, 2022 in relation to our proposed Emergency Budget and what we have flagged for our Alternative Budget 2023:

Emergency Budget Measures: (total targeted package: €1.35 billion)

- Put €300 into the pockets of workers earning up to €50,000, using a refundable tax credit. (€450m) (note: the Govt's €200 electricity credit cost €370 million and was not targeted)
- Increase core social welfare rates, like pensions – which have only increased by €5 in the last three years - by €10. (€800m)
- Create a hardship fund so those at risk of fuel or food poverty can access emergency payments quickly. (€100m)
- Ban on rent increases for 3 years.
- Windfall tax on energy companies (conservative Dept of Finance estimate, based on a 10% tax on 2020 tax returns, is €60m. Tax returns would be higher now and we want a 25% tax – like the UK – so it would collect more)

Measures We Will be Proposing in Our Alternative Budget in October 2022

- Extend VAT and excise duty cuts, which are due to expire in October, into next year.
- We also need a further excise duty cut given the level of price increases.
- Make primary and secondary education genuinely free – no voluntary contributions, no cost for school-books or uniforms etc (€238m) (the average back to school cost for primary is €1,200 and €1,500 for secondary).
- Cut university fees, which are the highest in the EU
- Move to a living wage – which was €12.90 last year (but will now need to increase given inflation)
- Reduce childcare costs by making childcare publicly funded.
- Fully implement Sláintecare and make health services free at the point of need.

Housing

- Immediately introduce a vacant homes tax and bring 90,000 homes back into use
- End the greed of land speculation by controlling the price of development land
- End favourable treatment of REITS and vulture funds
- Regulate short term letting platforms like Airbnb – there are **15 times** more entire houses to rent on Airbnb than in the long-term rental market.
- Three-year ban on rent increases and improve security for renters.
- Empower the Land Development Agency so that it can control, and project manage, building projects.

Disability

- Immediately sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – which allows disabled people make complaints directly to the UN when the State fails to provide services

Accountability

- An independent Anti-Corruption Agency with the remit, and resources, to provide meaningful regulation and oversight of our institutions.

Climate

- Reform the National Retrofitting Scheme so it is actually affordable – a pay as you save model.

- State investment in large-scale structural change – limitations on data centre development; facilitate the speedy development of off-shore wind energy; incentivise sustainable farming; invest in major public transport measures.
- Climate action must be based on climate justice - those least able to afford the transition must not bear the heaviest burden.

Defence

- We must defend neutrality – Ireland strength is as a peacemaker and peacekeeper.
- We must invest in military radar so we can monitor our sea and airspace.
- Heavily invest in cybersecurity to protect ourselves from 21st Century threats
- Resolve the recruitment crisis by committing to better pay and conditions for defence forces members.

Northern Ireland

- The British government cannot rip up international agreements and use the threat of political instability in the North as a bargaining chip in its negotiations with the EU.
- British government's approach is tawdry, short-sighted and dangerous.

Leaders Speech

Below is a copy of the Leaders Speech delivered on the day

Leaders' Speech at The Social Democrats' National Conference 2022

Catherine Murphy

Friends, I want to welcome everyone here today. The last time we met like this it was 2019. We didn't think it would take quite this long to get back into a room together again. I also want to warmly welcome all those watching at home. We believe the potential, and desire, for change in Ireland is huge. But people want genuine change – not a repackaging of stale parties, or policies, as something new. Even Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, who have shared power for 100 years, claim to lead a change agenda. So, what makes the Social Democrats any different? What does social democratic change look like? It can be summarised in one familiar phrase – ní neart go chur le chéile. There's no strength without unity.

Social democracy, at its core, is about human dignity. Protecting those fundamental elements that provide every member of society with dignity and opportunity. Things like housing; healthcare and childcare should never be mere commodities – only available to those on highest incomes. This is why the State must play an active role – consistently and decisively. But, for too long, the State has outsourced its responsibilities to the private market.

Róisín Shortall

This generation of young people will be the first who will be worse off than their parents. Housing costs are out of control; childcare costs are equivalent to a mortgage and energy prices are skyrocketing. Interest rate hikes on mortgages in the coming months will increase the squeeze on families even further. Inflation is now at 7.8% – a 38-year high. It does not impact everyone equally. Those on low and middle incomes spend a disproportionate amount of their income on necessities. People are increasingly going into debt to pay for necessities and more and more people are at serious risk of poverty. We must therefore target measures at those who need them most. And we need to take action – with an emergency budget – now.

The Social Democrats would:
Put €300 into the pockets of workers, earning up to €50,000, using a refundable tax credit.

Create a hardship fund so those at risk of fuel or food poverty can access emergency payments quickly. And, increase core social welfare rates, like pensions – which have only increased by €5 in the last three years – by €10.

In our alternative budget in October, we will be proposing other measures:

Childcare must be transformed so that it is publicly funded – the only way costs will come down.

Primary and secondary education must be made genuinely free – and university fees, which are the highest in the EU, must be cut.

Crucially, workers should not have to struggle just to get by. They need a living wage

Workers must also have security of employment, the right to collective bargaining and the right to flexible work options.

Our small and medium businesses – our main employers – must be supported.

We know our corporate tax returns are volatile. We must do more to grow our indigenous businesses.

There have been winners – as well as losers – from this crisis.

Energy companies have been profiteering on the backs of ordinary people.

We can, and must, act to stop that from happening – with the introduction of a windfall tax.

The State has also benefited. VAT receipts are surging, in part due to increased energy costs.

VAT and excise duty decreases, on energy and fuel, are due to expire in October. They must be extended into next year – and there must be a further excise duty cut.

Catherine Murphy

One of the most basic requirements in a functioning society is the provision of secure and affordable housing. It is supposedly the biggest priority for government. It's also its biggest failure. In previous decades, single-income families with one worker on an average wage could aspire to lead a decent life. They may not have been rich – but many owned their own home; they could educate their children; and they had secure jobs. Today, single people are forced to continue to live at home; house share or rent tiny apartments at exorbitant costs until they are in their 30s, 40s and even older. Older people worry about where they'll live when they retire – and how they'll pay for it. Even couples, on what were once considered decent wages, are locked out of home ownership.

Many are again considering emigration. This is not just about bricks and mortar. The price of the housing crisis is paid by the thousands of children losing childhoods as they grow up in emergency accommodation; By the relationships that break down because of the stress of housing insecurity; By the couples who postpone having a family; and by the disconnected communities that result when people are unable to put down roots. What kind of society are we building – when affordability is now defined by the government as being €450,000 in Dublin and €400,000 in Cork and Galway. Do they know a mortgage at those amounts requires incomes of at least €114,000?

What planet are they on?

At the heart of the housing crisis is an affordability crisis. The government should be doing everything it can to drive down prices – so people on average incomes can again aspire to own their own homes. Instead, it's pursuing policies that inflate house prices even further. Throwing money, and tax breaks, at private developers and vulture funds is not just wrong – it's wasteful and it's not working. Nearly a decade into this crisis, we need radical action. Because there are solutions. We must immediately introduce a tax to bring the 90,000 vacant homes across the country back into use. We must end the greed of land speculation – a major driver of housing costs – by finally

(Continued on page 19)



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

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(Continued from page 18)

controlling the cost of development land. And if it takes a referendum, let's have it. We must end the favourable tax treatment of REITS and vulture funds. We must regulate short-term letting platforms, like Airbnb, which are cannibalising the rental market. And, we must introduce a three-year ban on rent increases and improve security for renters.

Róisín Shortall

We currently spend more than €22 billion on our health service – but it's in a state of perpetual crisis. One-quarter of our population – 1.3 million people – are now on waiting lists for health services. A truly shocking figure. It's becoming more and more difficult to retain our excellent healthcare workers in a system that fails them too. For too long, the Irish people have endured a situation in which health care is delayed, deferred and often denied. Sláintecare can change that. It was designed to take the political wrangling out of Health. That was five years ago. Even before the pandemic, there had been minimal implementation. Why is there such resistance to reform? Who stands to benefit? Because, it's not the Irish people. The Sláintecare plan is not actually radical. It sets out a blueprint to bring the Irish health service into line with almost all other EU countries – free at the point of delivery.

People can attend the doctor; a speech and language therapists; mental health services; or access homecare when they need to – without worrying about the cost. If that sounds revolutionary, it shouldn't. Ireland's current two-tier model of healthcare is an outlier – not an exemplar. Better health outcomes, and lower healthcare costs, will only come after the system has been reformed. And, to be clear, the full implementation of Sláintecare in the term of the next Government will be a red line for our participation in that Government. We also make another commitment today. The Social Democrats will never gift valuable public infrastructure – like a €1 billion new national maternity hospital – to a private company, be it religious or otherwise. It will never happen. Not on our watch. You can count on that.

Catherine Murphy

Disability supports, which are vital to help disabled people live full lives, are fragmented and threadbare. It is not acceptable for the government to blame recruitment problems for a failure to provide essential services. If services were properly planned, and prioritised, then critical staff would be in place. Children with disabilities and their families must battle from the day they are born. It is shameful that their biggest battle is often with the State – to try to get basic services, like an assessment of need, essential therapies or a school place. This abject neglect has disastrous consequences. Children's development is limited and they are prevented from reaching their full potential. Once children turn 18, whatever meagre supports that do exist often disappear. We need a government that pays more than mere lip service to the rights of disabled people. In our first month in office, the Social Democrats in government, would sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – which allows disabled people make complaints directly to the UN when the State fails to provide services.

Róisín Shortall

We have just 8 years to stop the worst impacts of the climate crisis – an irreversible climate catastrophe. The challenge is immense – and we are being set up to fail. Our emissions are going up, not down. If we want to meet out targets, large-scale structural changes are urgently required that only the State can make. Changes like restricting the development of new data centres; Facilitating the speedy development of off-shore wind energy;

incentivising sustainable farming; investing in major public transport infrastructure; and introducing a retrofitting scheme that is actually affordable for the people who need it most. These are all measures that require State intervention. And the Social Democrats, in government, would prioritise them. At the core of our climate policy, must be climate justice – the assurance that those least able to afford the transition to a zero carbon economy will not bear the heaviest burden. This commitment must be more than hollow words – it must be enshrined in law. If we commit to climate action, it will be transformative.

It will lead to new employment opportunities; warmer homes; cleaner air and water; more sustainable farming; more liveable towns and cities; and a better quality of life – for everyone. We must get this right. The alternative is unthinkable – and time is running out. The war in Ukraine has underlined our energy insecurity – and the urgent need to ramp up investment in renewable energy production. We in the Social Democrats want to again make clear our revulsion at Russia's illegal war. Putin's dangerous despotism is a threat, not just to Ukraine, but to the world. We stand with Ukraine now – and into the future. There have been some who have used the war in Ukraine as a pretext for abandoning or diluting our long held position of neutrality. That would be a mistake. Ireland, as a neutral country, has never been an aggressor or an oppressor on the world stage. Our role has always been one of peacemaker and peacekeeper. This is where our strength lies – and our neutrality is the foundation stone that anchors it.

Catherine Murphy

We have seen the devastation and destruction caused by conflict on our own island. We cannot allow the Good Friday Agreement, which put an end to the violence, to be endangered by unilateral decisions taken by a minority of partisan politicians. The DUP cannot continue to hold the region to ransom – the power sharing institutions in Northern Ireland must be allowed to function. The British government cannot rip up international agreements and use the threat of political instability in the North as a bargaining chip in its negotiations with the EU. Its approach is tawdry, short-sighted and dangerous. Friends, in much of Irish politics, and Irish public life, we see the corrosive politics of the golden circle. A fast-track for insiders whose connections confer unfair advantage. Civil and public service pay rates have been spectacularly breached in the hiring process for individual senior staff. High-profile jobs have been awarded to friends and colleagues of government ministers in the absence of an open recruitment process.

Appointments to State boards and institutions are still made to party political allies..... while important State projects routinely go massively over budget. In scandal after scandal the same culprit is identified – “Systems Failure” – usually after a lengthy and expensive review or inquiry. Conveniently – systems can't be sacked, demoted, jailed or otherwise censured. As long as there are no consequences for failure, there is no real incentive to reform. We need accountability in every facet of Irish public life – the government, public service and the corporate world. We will only get change if we properly protect whistle-blowers and make legal accountability a term and condition of employment in the public and civil service. We must go further. We need an independent Anti-Corruption Agency – with the remit, and the resources, to provide meaningful regulation and oversight of our institutions. We must have a State watchdog – with real teeth.

Róisín Shortall

We saw, in recent years, the best of what our society is capable of – the outpouring of support, empathy and solidarity as we faced unimaginable difficulties. Having seen what is possible, we cannot now go back to business as usual. We must think about the society we want to see – not just in the immediate future.

But, in 10, 20 and 30 years' time – because, the decisions we make today will shape that future. We set up the Social Democrats in 2015 – to provide people with a real choice about what that future will look like. The Social Democrats is a party for a new era – not defined by old loyalties, old politics, old policies, cosy business connections or jobs for the boys. We stand for change. We stand for equality. We stand for accountability. A better type of politics. By doing things differently, by making social democratic change, we can achieve a better Ireland – for all. Thank you

Remote Working Bill

Catherine asked the Minister for Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar, the date on which he expects the remote working Bill 2022 to be enacted; There are a number of people who are interested in a greater work life balance post COVID and are seeking further details of the Remote Working Bill.

The below was his response: Bill is part of a broader Government vision to make remote working a permanent feature of Ireland's workforce in a way that can benefit all – economically, socially and environmentally. Through the proposed legislation we will, for the first time, provide a legal framework for requesting remote work. It will also provide clarity to employers on their obligations for dealing with such requests. We recognise that not all occupations, industries, or particular roles within an enterprise, will be appropriate or suitable for remote working. So, the approach taken in the proposed legislation is a balanced one. However, it will offer people choices and options.

The proposed legislation will provide employees with a right to request remote work and will provide a legal framework around which requesting, approving or refusing such a request can be based. It will also provide legal clarity to employers on their obligations for dealing with such requests. The Department is currently looking further at the issues related to strengthening the redress provisions and the right of appeal. We want to enhance the rights and entitlements of workers, but we also need to ensure a balanced approach that is fair and affordable for employers. Similarly, we must acknowledge that not all occupations, industries, or particular roles within an enterprise, will be appropriate or suitable for remote working, e.g., construction workers, nurses. The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Enterprise, Trade and Employment began pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme on 9th of February and Departmental officials appeared before the Committee for the second time during this process on 18th May. We will carefully consider the Committee's Report once it is available and it remains the Government's intention to enact the new law as soon as possible.

Insurance Reform statement

On the 22nd June, Catherine Murphy TD took the opportunity to make a statement in the Dáil on Insurance Reform as follows:

It is just under two months since the House last debated reform of the insurance sector. In that time, the situation has grown worse. The Insurance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2022, which was discussed at the time, is a step in the right direction, but it does not represent the radical reform needed to address the cost of insurance. The fundamental issue is cost. We must not forget that affordable insurance is fundamental to the long-term interests of our country. High insurance premiums add significantly to the cost base of the economy. The higher they go, the higher they push up other prices. In the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, that is the last thing the country needs. No one is any doubt on this topic. The debate on insurance reform is well rehearsed. Time and again, we stand up and agree that premiums are too high and the Minister of State says that reform is under way. However, anything that even sniffs of real reform is often delayed or derailed. In many ways, we are expected to applaud the

(Continued on page 20)



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

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(Continued from page 19)

minor measures that are taken. As a country, we tend not to do radical - I do not just mean in insurance terms - even when radical is something that we need. This is why the insurance market remains dysfunctional, with extremely high insurance costs by international standards. We are complete outliers. When Mr. Peter Boland from the Alliance for Insurance Reform appeared before the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, and Taoiseach, he stated that his members were "met with disbelief - and, in some cases, laughter" from European counterparts over the extent to which insurance remains such an issue in Ireland.

While an action plan for insurance reform has been published, the pace of change has been painfully slow and resistance to meaningful reform seems to be growing. The second implementation report on the action plan, published last March, provided no updated timelines. Without target dates, those actions are little more than aspirations. We all accept that Covid and inflation have impeded progress, but insurance reform has been on the political agenda for years. These unforeseen events have only accelerated the need for reform and they should not be used as barriers. Policyholders are struggling more and more. A recent survey by the Alliance for Insurance Reform found that 42% of organisations believed that insurance premiums were threatening their future while 90% said that the Government was not doing enough to address the issue. Even the new guidelines used by the Judiciary to decide the quantum of awards for personal injuries have not had the desired effect. While they have had an impact on the cost of motor insurance, which has decreased by 12.1% in the year to the end of March, their impact has been minimal in other areas. CSO inflation data show that home insurance only dropped by 0.5% over the same period and was actually up 3.5% during the month of March, while public liability premiums increased by a whopping 16%.

If the Government wants to protect communities, charities, voluntary organisations and SMEs, then it must address the threat caused by insurance companies exiting an already uncompetitive public liability insurance market. Competition in this market is urgently needed and efforts to attract more market entrants need to be ramped up to drive down costs. Without competition, already struggling businesses will fail, local services will cease operating and communities and voluntary groups will be unable to hold events. In many cases, what makes our communities unique is how the events they hold reflect them. We have been discussing this issue for decades. Too often, events are not held because of the insurance implications. Since the new guidelines were introduced in April 2021, damages across motor, employer and public liability fell by 47%.

However, insurers did not pass on these savings to their public liability insurance policyholders. While I appreciate that the rise in the number of claimants going to court has undoubtedly hampered efforts, the Government should not be found wanting. An awful lot more needs to be done. I understand that some claimants genuinely feel it is better to go to court, but much of this spike is motivated by the profits legal professionals can garner from dragging claims through the courts. This is why speedy passage of the Personal Injuries Resolution Board Bill 2022 is so needed. However, from reading the general scheme, even this welcome Bill needs to be much strengthened. In particular, meaningfully increasing the number of personal injury claims which can be settled through the Personal Injuries Assessment Board is needed. I hope that the Minister will listen to some of the concerns raised during pre-legislative scrutiny and strengthen its provisions to enable the Personal Injuries Assessment Board to adjudicate on such cases.

Another area in need of reform is duty of care. It has been over a year since the Department of Justice conducted a review of the current legislation and examined duty of care provisions in other countries. The Government's action plan

committed to making proposals to Cabinet to rebalance the duty of care by June 2021, but this deadline was missed. These changes were only approved by Cabinet last month. The current absolutist approach to duty of care obligations places a heavy burden on organisations, regardless of how people act on their premises. For communities, charities, SMEs and event organisers this is an extremely pressing issue but this Government does not seem to share this sense of urgency. One would be forgiven for forgetting that Fine Gael prides itself on being the party of business, given that it has been in power for 11 years and is yet to address this long-running burden on many businesses.

Another long-running burden is the cost of childcare. We are led to believe that it will be a priority for budget 2023 and I hope it is. With the national average price for childcare now hitting €800 per month, and €1,276 per month in Dublin, I sincerely hope that the Government does not renege on that commitment. To cut the cost of childcare, interventions from every angle are needed, including insurance costs. If you reduce the cost of premiums experienced by crèches and Montessori schools, that benefit can be passed on to families. Now more than ever, this saving is desperately needed by struggling families. The Social Democrats has long argued for the State to do more to promote the concept of co-operative or group insurance. Strong models already exist in areas such as the social housing sector and far more businesses and sport and community groups could enjoy stable and affordable insurance cover if this was promoted. These are the kind of creative solutions that the Government should be pursuing. Simply tinkering around the edges is unsustainable and indefensible. The customer must be at the centre of insurance policymaking, not the industry. Lest we forget, it is customers who have carried the burden of high premiums, while insurers profiteered. Insurance reform cannot be sidelined any longer because everyone except the vested interests loses under the current system.

I want to reiterate the point that was made by some others about flood insurance and the experience with it. I have also had people in my constituency contact me about not being able to sell their homes or about having gone sale agreed before the sale fell through when they realised there was an issue with flood insurance. Some of these were houses that never flooded but where there was a general issue around river catchments. This is a significant impediment. The other thing is that the OPW has done significant work, work which has held up under serious pressure, but we are slow to see a change from the insurance companies. I have had situations where there is no prospect of an area being flooded because it is up on an incline and yet people have struggled to get flood insurance in that kind of scenario. That needs to be tackled from the point of view of people being able to get flood insurance and because of the impacts it has on people if they want to sell as it can be the ultimate impediment.

Rising Homelessness Rising Homelessness Needs An Urgent Response From Government Ending homelessness should be a political priority, but it has fallen off the government's agenda.

The government must urgently respond to the huge rise in homelessness over the past year, according to the Catherine Murphy TD "The number of people who are homeless has increased by a staggering 24pc over the last year. Month after month, we have witnessed this alarming increase. There are now more than 10,000 people who are homeless, including almost 3,000 children. "Ending homelessness should be a political priority, but it has fallen off the government's agenda. This must change. The government must now take urgent action to prevent more people from becoming homeless.

"An obvious place to start is to abolish no-fault evictions. We know that people who lose their accommodation in the private rental sector, through no fault of their own, are at a high risk of homelessness right now. The Housing Assistance Payment must also be reviewed. With rapidly

rising rents, the current limits are too low. "Ultimately, we need to see a step-change in the delivery of affordable, social and cost-rental homes. That is the only long-term way this crisis can be solved."

There are nearly 16 empty homes for every homeless person in the country. The Government must urgently respond to the huge rise in homelessness over the past year, according to Catherine Murphy TD. "There are now 10,325 people living in emergency accommodation, including 3,028 children. This is a 29% increase on this time last year when there were 7,991 people living in emergency accommodation.

"The Minister must take his head out of the sand and take urgent action to prevent even more people from becoming homeless. If the Minister does not act now the numbers of people who are without a home will break record levels in the next few months.


"There are worrying reports from parts of the country that, as emergency accommodation has run out, local authorities are turning away people who need help and have no-where to stay. "We now have more than 10,000 people who are homeless and over 160,000 homes that are vacant. That's nearly 16 empty homes for every person who is homeless. The Government must fast-track a tax on vacant homes to bring these homes back into use and stop making excuses for their inaction. "The data released by the CSO yesterday shows that there are 35,000 vacant rental homes in Ireland. If these empty rental properties were brought back into use it would significantly reduce homelessness and take pressure off rents and renters. "There is a real lack of urgency from the Minister for Housing – we need immediate action to increase the number of homes that are available and to reduce the number of people who are without a home."

Government Must Act On Back To School Costs. The Back To School allowance was higher in 2007 than it is now.

The government must act to provide relief for parents who spend up to €1,500 on back-to-school costs for each child, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. "Last year, a survey from the Irish League of Credit Unions revealed that 24% of parents go into debt when they are trying to pay back-to-school costs. That is hardly surprising when the Back To School allowance was actually set at a higher rate in 2007 – 15 years ago – than it is now. "We know that families are already struggling to meet to heat their homes and feed their families. Back-to-school costs are an additional burden that will send many families over the edge. There are measures the government could adopt now to alleviate this pressure.

"For a start, the Back To School allowance should at least return to its previous peak – 2010 levels – when it was paid at a rate of €200 for children under 12 and €305 for children over 12. "The Minister announced a review of the School Meals Programme, which supports 1,500 schools, in April. This review now needs to be fast-tracked to ensure that any expansion of the programme can be done in advance of the new school year in September.

"Finally, as a country, it is time that we made primary and secondary education genuinely free. Doing this would cost a total of €238 million – just 2.5% of the overall education budget – and it would have a hugely beneficial impact. "It would mean that parents no longer have to pay voluntary contributions; schools capitation grants would be at sustainable levels; there would be no fees for books; classroom resources would be paid for and the School Transport Fee scheme would be entirely covered. "School capitation grants have not increased since budget 2020, when they went up by just 2.5%. Meanwhile, the costs of lighting, heating and a range of other services have increased exponentially since then. When schools cannot cover their running costs, that burden falls on families who are asked to contribute. This has gone on long enough. The government must act."



**RAISE
the
ROOF**

**PUBLIC
MEETING**

Glenroyal Hotel
MAYNOOTH
Monday, 4th July, 2022
at 7.30 p.m.

SPEAKERS:
Dr Rory Hearne, Lecturer in Social Policy,
Maynooth University
Chair: Cllr Nuala Killeen
Additional speakers to be confirmed.

Housing policy has failed an entire generation of young workers and families.

House prices are up 77% since 2012 and are set to rise by up to 12% annually.

Average rents in Dublin are now over €2000 per month, making it the third most expensive city for renters in the EU.

Despite the acute shortage of affordable homes, there may be up to 137,000 houses lying vacant across the country. Some 40,000 homes could be made habitable quickly, if Government acted.



There is enough State-owned and public land available to build at least 50,000 new homes.

The Government's *Housing for All* plan repeats the same failed policies of the past and will not deliver the affordable homes needed.

Housing for All makes little or no mention of the major problems in the student accommodation sector, where high price developments built by 'for profit' providers are driving prices upwards for all students, while those in 'digs' have no tenant rights or protections.

As young workers, families and students are denied affordable housing, investors and speculators have done well from the crisis.

A leading investment firm has advised clients that:

"... Current housing policy has benefited both institutions and developers at the expense of individual buyers."

ABOUT US

Raise the Roof is comprised of trade unions, housing and homeless agencies, women's groups, political parties, representatives of older people, children's advocacy groups, community organisations, student unions, Traveller groups, housing academics and experts.

If you would like more information visit: raisetherooft.ie or contact us on: raisetherooftcampaign@gmail.com

If you would like to make a contribution to the campaign, you can do so at:

HSS Credit Union,
Account name: Raise the Roof
BIC: HSSRIE21
IBAN: IE28HSSR99103110518101

www.raisetherooft.ie

Only a radical break with these failed policies can deliver secure, affordable homes for all.

This means we need to:

- Double investment to support a major State-led housing programme for provision of new public, affordable and cost rental homes.
- Make *affordability* the key priority of all housing policy, with affordability linked to incomes and provide capital grants to higher education institutions for *affordable* purpose-built student accommodation.
- Retain all public land in public control for delivery of public, affordable and cost rental homes and act immediately on the scandal of vacant properties.
- Introduce a Rent Freeze and guarantee affordability through new rent controls: Create genuinely secure, long-term tenancies for renters.
- Hold a referendum to create a new, legal Right to Housing.

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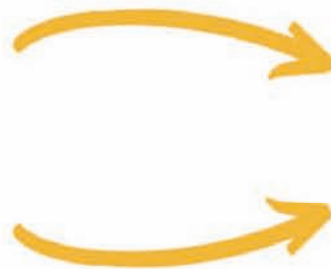
**Catherine Murphy, your Kildare North
Social Democrats TD**



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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Failte Guc Alba: Welcome to Scotland

It's a May day, sunny and warm. My wife and I are sitting in the front seat of a touring bus, heading out of Edinburgh for the Western Highlands. A crowd of older Swiss students with their supervisors, a middle-aged man and a glamorous woman wearing a black hair band, together with some Americans make up the rest of the passengers. Tom, the driver, a Daniel Craig look alike, has already convinced the woman that, despite what her travel printout may suggest, we are not going to stop at certain places. He then quotes lines from the song, "The Black Velvet Band" to mollify her and later plays it on the sound system. Yes, he's really a James Bond!

As we pass through the suburbs, Tom points out an impressive building where Sean Connery and Tony Blair attended secondary school at £18,000 a term but we're more interested in the older, romantic Scotland, our appetites having been whetted by a visit to Edinburgh Castle the previous day – we even saw the room where Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to James VI, the future James I of England! Soon we are passing Linlithgow Castle, where Mary was born, and Falkirk, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's retreating Highlanders defeated an English force under General Hawley. Then we are approaching Stirling.

In the distance we can see a flag flying on a hill, while nearer to us a large tower rises above the treetops. Tom tells us that the flag is at Bannockburn and the tower is the national monument to William Wallace – Mel Gibson's "Braveheart" – whose defeat of the English at Stirling Bridge in 1297 set Scotland on the road to independence – a still live topic since Scotland will soon be holding a referendum on this very issue. It was Wallace's bravery that inspired Robert the Bruce to oppose Edward III, leading to his 1314 victory at Bannockburn over "The Hammer of the Scots". All of these places are now just a short distance away but Tom has no time to stop. Instead, he tells us how the English cut Wallace's body into four parts, which they sent to different locations as a warning to the rebels. Not surprisingly, this display of ruthlessness only galvanised the Scots into further defiance. To complement his blood-soaked account, Tom plays stirring bagpipe music on the sound system.

As we are approaching the Trossachs, foothills of the Highlands and former stomping ground of Rob Roy Macgregor, Tom starts to talk about Hamish, who has appeared in numerous films and whom we are soon to meet. Hamish has long hair over his eyes, only speaks Gaelic and is very shy. We may feed him with slices of apple, which we must hold out to him on our flattened palms. During a pit stop at Kilmahog village, we find that Hamish is a shaggy, red-haired Highland bull with impressive winding horns! To our chagrin, he ignores our proffered titbits, preferring instead to crop the grass of his enclosure.

The further west we go the wilder and more deserted the landscape becomes, reminding me of parts of Wicklow. Mountains rise on either side and Highland cattle can be seen grazing in bleak, rushy fields. It was cattle like these that got Rob Roy outlawed when he borrowed money from the Duke of Montrose to help him buy a small herd and was unable to repay it. Twelve years after Rob Roy died in 1734 Bonnie Prince Charlie was defeated at Culloden, east of Inverness.

My heart leaps when I notice that the road signs about here are in Gaelic and English. One of the first things that caught my eye on landing at Edinburgh airport was a sign reading FAILTE GUC ALBA. Next morning when I turned on the television in our hotel room there was a children's programme entirely in Gaelic, many words similar to our own Irish. Gaelic – pronounced "Gallic" – is not widely used in Scotland but there is an obvious desire to keep the language alive, evident in the use of bilingual signs in Edinburgh's new parliament building. Now, if only we in Ireland and the Scots could devise a common version of the language?

Historically, the land through which we are travelling was a border area between two diverging cultures, the Gaelic Highlands and the English-speaking Lowlands. In the 12th Century King David I – who was later canonised – adopted "Inglis" as the official language and transformed what had been a Celtic society into a feudal one. Not that

those cultural divisions were solely a matter of geography. Prior to King David's time there were five ethnic groups in what is now Scotland: Picts, Britons, Angles, Scots and Norsemen, the latter holding the islands to the west and north. Later, during the reign of Mary Queen of Scots, the reformation, spearheaded by men such as John Knox, intruded so that, just as here in Ireland, language and religion created fault lines that are only now disappearing.

Every once in a while Tom regales us with some titbit, his latest, that Highland cattle were originally black. Lowlanders paid Highlanders in cattle to avoid being raided, hence the word "blackmail", *maol* being a word for a hornless cow. I am about to observe that I had read that "mail" referred to the oatmeal which the landowners paid but content myself with recalling images of clansmen gathered round a steaming pot of porridge in some corrie. Stories about the Highlands featured in the comics and novels we read in secondary school – a pal of mine knew all about Rob Roy, clan gatherings and the shooting of Colin Roy Campbell, "the Red Fox", by Alan Breck Stewart as described in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*.

Eventually we reach Oban, a pleasant port town with ferries sailing to Mull – looming up just beyond the bay – and other places in "*Eileann Innse Gall*", the Hebrides. Iona, the island of Columba – or Colmcille, as we know him – lies on the west side of Mull but we will have to put off a trip to that wellspring of Scottish cultural identity for another holiday. After eating our sandwiches by the harbour we walk to the tourist office, where the woman in charge tells us that her mother, who was from one of the islands, spoke Gaelic. Having bought a few postcards, we make a quick circuit of the nearby streets before hurrying back to the bus. Once everyone is on board, Tom heads eastward.

The road takes us past Ben Cruachan, on the left, and a deep, narrow valley on the right, with a single farmhouse at one end. We wonder how the family manage to survive the winter in this isolated spot. Before long we come to Loch Awe, where Tom stops so that we can take photos of Kilchurn Castle, a picturesque ruin on a small island near the far shore. Kilchurn was the principal Campbell fortress before that family moved south to Inverary beside Loch Fyne in the first half of the 15th Century. Flora MacDonald, who helped Bonnie Prince Charlie – disguised as her Irish spinning maid, Betty Buke – to escape from South Uist to Skye, was imprisoned here for a while before being sent to the Tower of London. At that time and, indeed, from further back, the Campbells were on the government side, so it might be no harm to take a glance at the rise to prominence of this remarkable family.

The first Campbell was Paul O'Duibhne, purse-bearer to King Malcolm Canmore in the 11th Century; O'Duibhne acquired his new surname because of a crooked mouth – *Cam beul* – just as Malcolm may have had a large head, *Ceann Mor*. His ancestors had come to Argyll ("Coastland of the Gael") from Ireland when the Kingdom of Dalriada, which included North Antrim and part of West Scotland, was still in existence. The capital of Dalriada was at Dunadd, a few miles north of Lochgilphead, a town on the west side of Loch Fyne. Gradually the Campbells gained control of the lands of Argyll later to Loch Awe, eventually becoming allies of Robert the Bruce in his struggle to win Scottish independence. Later, as I mentioned, they were often on the English side, supporting William I against James I and the Hanoverians against the warlike Highlanders. The third Duke of Argyll helped to form the Black Watch, a Highland regiment that kept an eye on rebellious clansmen after the 1715 Jacobite rising. Later, the Campbells were involved in the formation of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, which fought bravely for Britain overseas – In case we forget, the Irish also fought for the empire, the Connaught Rangers and The Irish Guards springing readily to mind.

On leaving Loch Awe, we head for Inverary Castle, home of the Duke of Argyll. Today, Torquhil, the 13th Duke, is in Edinburgh, so his flag is not flying over the castle, an impressive building with round corner towers surmounted by conical spires that resembles a French chateau. The employees all wear kilts, one old man looking as if he might

have stepped out of *Kidnapped*. The soft-spoken woman who shows us around is wearing a dark Black Watch tartan.

At £6 each the tour is certainly worthwhile. We visit the Great Hall, the armoury, an old kitchen and a bedroom with a sturdy four-poster bed, which, our guide tells us, is haunted. It seems that back in the 17th Century, when the family was living in a nearby tower house, they had in their employ a young Irish Catholic harper. Raiders, that included Irish soldiers – probably serving under James Graham, Marquess of Montrose – wanted to kill the Duke but finding that he had fled, they murdered the harper and laid his dismembered body on the four-poster bed. Later, the bed was moved into the present building. Since then whenever a Campbell duke is about to die harp music is heard from this bedroom! The hushed voice in which the guide recounts her story would do justice to a shanachie.

Our guide also shows us a portrait of Torquhil's wife, a young member of the Cadbury family, dubbed "Cadbury Rose" by the newspapers because of her beauty. Marriages of this sort may be a family tradition because back about 1760 John Campbell, the future 5th Duke, married Elizabeth Gunning, a beautiful though penniless Irish girl, whose portrait was painted by famous artists such as Cotes and Reynolds. Portraits of Duchess Elizabeth and her sister Maria, who married the Earl of Coventry, are proudly displayed in the castle.

Downstairs we have a conversation with another soft-spoken female guide, who tells us that the family is well liked by the local townspeople. When, rushing in "where angels fear to tread", I mention the 1692 massacre of the Macdonalds of Glencoe, she explains that this was a result of government policy and I have enough gumption to leave it at that. We make our way back to the central hall, where, to my surprise, there is a display case with Rob Roy memorabilia, including his dirk and an actual letter written by him to the 4th Duke: it seems that Rob Roy was keeping him informed about what was happening in the Trossachs. Talk of history coming to life! By the way, it was the Duke's intervention that led to reconciliation between Rob Roy and Montrose – But enough of these "*old, unhappy, far-off things, / And battles long ago*".

After leaving Inverary we swing north around Loch Fyne, then head towards Loch Lomond, a place I am dying to see. The area around Loch Lomond and the Trossachs was turned into a national park in 2002, so that, like most of the Scottish countryside through which we have travelled, it remains unspoilt. Tom tells us that the loch is 25 miles long, 5 miles wide and 700 feet deep. When we reach it, however, he seems to pick up speed. Now, I realise that he has to make it to Edinburgh via Glasgow on schedule, but having travelled so far, the thought of catching mere glimpses of this renowned stretch of water through a bus window leaves me feeling cheated. I want to walk "*by yon bonnie banks*", see the sun shining bright on the loch and gaze on Ben Lomond, "*Where I and my true love were ever wont to gae*". Mile after mile after mile passes; my spirits sinking lower and lower. Isn't this stubborn Scot going to stop? I'm like David Balfour, running out of patience with Alan Breck Stewart. Then when I've almost given up hope, we're heading down a side road! Does this mean that we'll be let out? It does! Tom tells us we can leave the bus to take photos, so we all hurry to the door. On stepping down from the bus there is an iron railing to stop us from falling into the water, which beats ceaselessly against the rocky shore a few feet below.

The loch really is as enchanting as the song states, a vast expanse of water in a pristine setting – and there, on the far side, curving up pale against the sky, is Ben Lomond! No wonder the songwriter, living in some foreign land, wanted to again meet his true love here. Since we've arrived in his country we've been delighted, not just by the beauty of the scenery, but by the warmth and helpfulness of the people. Telling my wife to stand against the railing, I begin to focus the camera.

P.G. Nerney



Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Through the Gate of Ivory
by Patrick Devaney

This is a gritty novel dealing with drinking in taverns, horse racing, hurling matches, sex romps in castle halls, knife attacks in courtyards and other stirring adventures of its 17th century hero, Charles Stanihurst. It is, however, much more than that.

In the very first paragraph Charles tells us, ‘Thirty-three years ago I myself went to hell and to Connacht.’ Since the three sections of the novel start with quotes from Book VI of Virgil’s *Aeneid*, it is clear that ‘hell’ refers not just to his disfigurement in Connacht but also to the classical Hades and, like Aeneas meeting with his father in that place, it prepares us for the

hero’s eventual meeting with his spiritual ‘father’, William Bedell, who translated the bible into Gaelic.

Another prominent feature of this novel is the presence of a pattern of three: the action takes place in three main locations, Dublin, Ballintober and Abbeyboyle; Charles is smitten by three young women, Maura, representing Éire or aristocratic Ireland, Beibhinn, representing Banba, peasant Ireland, and Frances, representing Fódhla, poetic Ireland; there are three Anglo-Irish villains, the Cootes, and the Sibyl who accompanied Aeneas on his journey to the Underworld is represented by three women, Oona/Úna/Oona. Cormac, an *ollamh*, or chronicler, employed by the O’Conors, elaborates on this aspect of the novel in a

conversation with Charles, though it never dominates the narrative.

Since his Dublin father is a member of the Reformed Church and his Connaught mother is a ‘Papist’, Charles embodies in himself the religious conflicts that exist in his society and of course in contemporary England. Cormac, however, tells him that the mixture of races is a beneficial thing and that Niall, the famous High King, had an Irish father and a British mother. In this context it is noteworthy that Frances, the object of Charles’s passionate love, has an Irish father and an English mother. Finally, the well-known love story of Una Mac Dermot and Thomas Costello is woven into the story, but only as a subplot.

Why Conceal Good News?

Fifty years ago I knew a very likeable Franciscan priest. He was also a very intelligent man and swept through university with apparently the greatest of ease. He chose psychology for postgraduate study and got the highest award in the examinations at the end of his first year. However, he wasn't taken with psychology and decided to study cosmology instead. He graduated with the highest commendation and very soon became a lecturer in Celestial Mechanics. That wasn't to last very long, however, as he died of cancer a very young man. I have heard that on one occasion after his terminal cancer diagnosis someone thanked God for a long life. He quipped that he thanked God for a very short one!

He was an extremely humble man as if he always walked in the presence of Christ. He did, of

course. And he was droll and funny as if he had a secret store of lovely things inside him. As a student I was in hospital recuperating, having had my appendix out and feeling rightly depressed. He knocked on the door and walked into my room. By the time he left, maybe forty-five minutes later, I had almost burst my stitches. He launched me onto a high with his yarns and stories and irrepressible joie de vivre. He was a very Christlike man.

Which gets me to about where I am going! All Christians should be shot through as he was with the phenomenon, the miracle, the extraordinary happening that was Jesus Christ. Not even the Big Bang is comparable to it in importance in the history of the world. How many millions of times has the question been asked, "is there a God"? Yet Christians claim to believe that not only is there a God but that two thousand years ago he walked in plain sight in Israel. His actions and

words are recorded by those who walked with him and "All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings (and queens) that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that *One Solitary Life*"(Dr James Allan). Why? Because he spoke the truth with authority and made a solemn promise that he would never leave us! Carl Jung was once asked if he believed in God. He said "No! I don't believe. I know". The Annunciation was the pivotal moment in all the story of the universe and yet its assigned date is scarcely commemorated in the Christian calendar. The Angelus bell announces it each morning and evening and long may it continue to do so. Thanks Dermot for having Christ incarnate again in you !

G.M.

Droimeen
to Cathal

You’ve seen neighbours die out or move away,
their homes now vacant or just piles of stone;
and those remoter homes once full of life:
the thatched, rose-brightened cottage on the hill,
that other one with limekiln, geese and cattle,
the rambling house where men played
Twenty-five,
but, greatest loss, *meitheals* that came at harvest time
to help with bringing home your corn and hay.

All that passed, and though machines replaced the sidecar and horse-drawn cart,
the young, tired of weather-governed drudgery,
packed their bags for distant towns and

cities.
You, however, stayed, left school to help our parents,
married an artistic young lady from the town,
raised sturdy children: two sons, two daughters,
had those sons build homes upon your land.

In time your sons had their own children,
so that the family name lives on.
Older now, you sometimes notice on walks or drives how pine martins,
pheasants, even deer, have ventured back from coverts where they lurked.

Watching grandchildren grow and keeping songbirds fed does the thought occur, ‘My life kept Droimeen green’,
a task I, your globetrotting brother, fled?

By Colin Scott

Phrases we use every day sourced from the book Red Herrings
and White Elephants by Albert Jack

To get off **Scot Free** means to have escaped punishment and avoided the consequence of a bad deed. The origin of the phrase is traced to Scandinavia (not Scotland as it would appear) and the word ‘scot’ meaning ‘payment’. Around the 13th century a great municipal tax called ‘scot’ was imposed on the Scandinavia people. All households were required to pay according to their means but the peasants were exempt. They were known as ‘scot free’. In England the scot tax lasted in some places for hundreds of years, finally petering out during the Westminster electoral reforms in 1836. It is also known that during the Middle Ages innkeepers would hold a record of a person’s drinking on a slate called a scot and leave an establishment without paying was known as ‘going scot free’.

To **Take Umbrage** means to take offence at somebody’s remarks or behavior. The word ‘umbrage’ has its roots in the Latin word ‘umbra’ meaning shade (which is also where the word ‘umbrella’ comes from). In England, ‘umbra’ was used to describe the shade or shadow cast by a line of trees and came to mean the shadow or shade a person is under by suspicion or doubt. To be put in such a shadow will give rise to resentment and ill feeling, hence ‘taking umbrage’.

A **Wolf In Sheep’s Clothing** is a person who appears pleasant and friendly but carries a hidden menace. This expression can be found in another of Aesop’s fables, dating back 1,400 years. In one of his stories a wolf wraps himself up in a sheep’s fleece and sneaks past the shepherd into the paddock. Once inside he immediately eats one of the lambs before his deception can be discovered. But the actual origin can be found in the Bible: Matthew 7:15 says, ‘Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing. Inwardly they are ravening wolves’.

Maynooth: a Socio-Economic Community Profile -
1901-1911 Highlights from the past (Continued)

This section will deal with Tradesmen in the College and Carton Servants. Tradesmen in the Town found employment in the College. The earliest Tradesmen’s Book in the College Archive dates from June 1903 to December 1912. Three names appear for 1903 and were listed in both the 1901 and 1911 census. They were Joseph Weafer (carpenter), John Weafer (carpenter) and Edward Kenny (painter). The other tradesmen for 1903 include Christopher Shadwell (carpenter), Laurence Corrigan (slater and plasterer) and James Baxter (tinsmith).

The book notes two separate accounts, the Electric Light Account and the Gas Account. Peter Fiskén was described as ‘driving electric engines’ and Roger Bird was employed as the ‘manager of the gasworks’. Nine people were employed as tradesmen. Peter Fiskén was replaced in October by James Gallinagh who was paid £1.10.0 for seven days which was less than his predecessor. Roger Bird lived at no.1 College Land, a private dwelling, second class house with two windows in the front. His wife worked as a laundress.

Peter Fiskén does not appear in the census but it is likely that he lived in the College as his type of employment demanded that he be there seven days a week. James Baxter or Laurence Corrigan did not appear in the census for Maynooth or College Land.
The following table shows the rates of pay and days worked

1903	Name	Rates of pay per day	No. of days worked
Carpenter	Joseph Weafer	4s	6
Carpenter	Christopher Shadwell	4s. 4d.	5
Carpenter	John Weafer	2s. 8d.	5 ¾
Painter	Edward Kenny	3s. 4d.	6
Slater and Plasterer	Laurence Corrigan	5s.	2 ¼
Tinsmith	James Baxter	3s.	5
Driving electric engines	Peter Fiskén	£1. 12s. 6d. (week rate)	7
Manager Gas Works	Roger Bird	15s. week rate)	7

The 1901 Census shows that John Weafer lived at 21.1 Main Street, Joseph Weafer lived at 25 Main Street, Edward Kenny lived at no.1 Parson’s Street, and Christopher Shadwell lived at 20 Double Lane. All of these second class houses were owned by the Duke of Leinster.

There is an extra account called the Contingent Expenditure Account which notes sick pay allowance to workers. Two names are mentioned, Richard Sheridan and Nicholas Martin, who were paid 6s. and 8s per week. Richard Sheridan does not appear from 21 October. Their allowances were signed for by John Weafer. A mason was included, James Keely who was paid 5s. per day to build a new house boiler at this time. It appears that he was employed occasionally to do specific tasks. He left on 21 January 1911 and returned on 9 December to build a boiler in Rhetoric House.

Others included in the Tradesmen’s Wage books who were occasional employees were John Mullen Senior and Junior who came to repair harnesses over a few weeks throughout the year. John Mullen Senior was paid 4s 6d. Tim Dawson, a slater, came on 26 August and was employed to the end of the year. He was paid 5s per day for slating the belfry. He worked six days per week. A comparison of the wages shows few increases to individuals over the eight years. Joseph Weafer’s wage remained the same. John Weafer’s wage was increased from 2s. 8d. to 3s. 4d. John Weafer appeared to have some responsibility for the workers as he signed for the wages for some.

Others show a reduction in wages from 3s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. for dashing walls. There was an increase for Henry Fowler, the electrical engineer to 7s per day (£2. 9s. per week). John Finnerty came on 14 January 1911 as night watchman and was paid 2s. per night and worked seven and a half days.

Tradesmen mentioned and not mentioned in 1911 Tradesmen Book .

Name	Occupation	Rate per day
Joseph Weafer	Carpenter	4s
John Weafer	Carpenter	3s 4d
Edward Kenny	Painter	2s 6d
James Keely	Builder	5s
Henry Fowler	Electrical Engineer	? = not mentioned
Joe Tyrrell	Gas works	?
Richard Sheridan	Sick allowance	?
Nicholas Martin	?	?
John Finnerty	Night Watchman	2s
John Mullen Sr	?(May 6 1911-May 27 1911)	?
John Mullen Jr	?	?
Timothy Dawson	Slater	5s
William Cotter	?(October 14 1911)	?

Three tradesmen from 1903, Joseph Weafer, John Weafer and Edward Kenny appear in the census for 1901 and 1911. In 1911, eight people from the Tradesmen’s Book are to be found on the census for 1911. Six people in 1911 lived in Maynooth - John Weafer, Edward Kenny, James Keely, Nicholas Martin, John Finnerty and John Mullen sr. In the 1901 census, five college tradesmen are mentioned. Four came from Kildare (Joseph Weafer, John Weafer, Edward Kenny and Christopher Shadwell). Henry Fowler came from Warwickshire in England, Richard Sheridan and Roger Bird came from Co. Meath. The college was an important source of employment for skilled and unskilled workers, giving full time and occasional employment to local people.

Carton Servants

The other source of employment for local people was Carton Estate. Although the estate was in decline at this time and there are no servant records, it can be presumed that it did provide employment to local men and women, both indoor and outdoor servants. In 1901 there were seventeen households within the estate including the big house itself, compared to fifteen in 1911. Sixteen people who lived on the estate in 1901 were from County Kildare. The census of 1911 records two employees who came from Maynooth, John Doran a cattleman and Edward Sherry a yardman. In the big house there were eight indoor servants in 1901 and nine in 1911. The butler was listed in his own house on the estate and the cook was not mentioned in the 1901 census. In 1901 there are 3 three junior maids - stillroom, scullery and kitchen maid. There are two housemaids, a housekeeper and two footmen. In 1911, the cook and butler are mentioned. There are two junior maids, one footman, three housemaids and a housekeeper. The numbers represent a dramatic reduction in the number of staff that such a house would have required in the past and which would have included local people. By 1911, opportunities for significant local employment was reduced to a minimum with local people brought in for special occasions or events.

The following indicates the place of birth and occupation of the head of household of the outdoor staff on the estate

Occupation 1901	Place of origin	Occupation 1911	Place of origin
Gate Lodge Keeper	Cavan		
Lodge Keeper	Kildare	Lodge Keeper	Mayo
Gate Lodge Keeper	Wicklow	RIC pensioner (same person as in 1901)	Wicklow
Coachman	England	Coachman	England
Groom	Kildare		
Butler	Kent	Game Keeper	Clare
Dairy maid	Tyrone		
Land Steward	Scotland	Land Steward	Scotland
Shepherd	Scotland	Shepherd	Scotland
Gardener	Scotland	Gardener	Scotland
Gardener	Scotland		
Gardener	Kildare		
Gas maker	City of Dublin	Gas fitter	Kildare
Game Keeper	Scotland	Game Keeper	Scotland
Game Keeper	Tyrone	Game Keeper	Scotland
Agricultural Labourer	Kildare	General Labourer	Kildare
		Cattle Man	Kildare
		General Servant	Kildare
		Motor Mechanic Royal Engineer	England

Local men and young boys may have been called in on occasions, for example, for pheasant shoots or thistle cutting. Most outdoor servants living on the estate were present on both census. There are no records to show how much business was conducted in the town but it is likely that shops such as Dawsons, Pitts and Buckley's had Carton accounts. Carton estate servants lived quite separately from the town and belonged to the following churches. -Church of Ireland, Church of England, Presbyterian, Scottish Church and Wesleyan.

There was limited diversity and a limited range of occupations and while the population of the town contracts, there was an increase in the number of outbuildings from 439 in 1901 to 519 in the hinterland in 1911. This accounts for sixty stables, ninety piggeries, eighty fowl houses, and thirty cow houses. The 1901 census shows the vast majority of people were employed as agricultural, general or domestic servants, including herdsman and laundresses which accounts for 274 people. Employment was provided from twenty-seven farmers, two publicans, four general merchants, four shopkeepers, one hotel, Carton Demesne and Estate and St. Patrick’s College Maynooth. There was employment for the labouring classes in these areas. There are fifteen carters in 1901 and only one in 1911, indicating the end of a type of service .

(Sean Durack)
To be continued...

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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 29/05/2022 to 27/06/2022 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
22755	Kildare County Council	Jonathan and Martina Rosser,	Laraghbryan West, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 E6W3.	21/06/2022
22759	Kildare County Council	Greenshannon Developments Limited,	280a Old Greenfield, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 Y2H5.	21/06/2022
22750	Kildare County Council	Jeffrey and Sonya Aherne,	353 Old Greenfield, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 Y2T0.	20/06/2022
22753	Kildare County Council	Stephanie Butler,	506 Newtown Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildar W23 Y8P6.	20/06/2022
22715	Kildare County Council	Michael McGuigan	9 Parklands Lawns, Maynooth, Co. Kildare., W23 H6D8	10/06/2022
22712	Kildare County Council	Corina Cioban	62 Cluain Aoibhinn, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/06/2022
22686	Kildare County Council	Jomaijo Trading Ltd	Site D/E Maynooth Business Campus, R406 Straffan Road, Maynooth, Co Kildare	03/06/2022
22664	Kildare County Council	Damien O'Neill & Lorraine O'Neill	112 Griffin Rath Hall, Maynooth, Co Kildare	01/06/2022
22653	Kildare County Council	Sharon & Yvonne Regan	Kinder Crescent Childcare Centre, 480-481 The Crescent, Straffan Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	31/05/2022
22646	Kildare County Council	Chloe Ann Tracey & Ross Fagan	Clonfert North, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. , W23 W9N1	30/05/2022
22606	Kildare County Council	Colm McDaid,	20 Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	23/05/2022

Clues Across

- Difficult**

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

Solutions to Crossword No. 513

Clues Down

- ## challenge

Super Difficult

Junior Fun Corner



SCHOOL IS OUT!

WORD SEARCH

Find and circle all of the words from the word list below.

WORD LIST

amusement
break
diploma
family
friends
fun
graduation
happy
holiday
recreation
relaxation
summer
sunshine
vacation

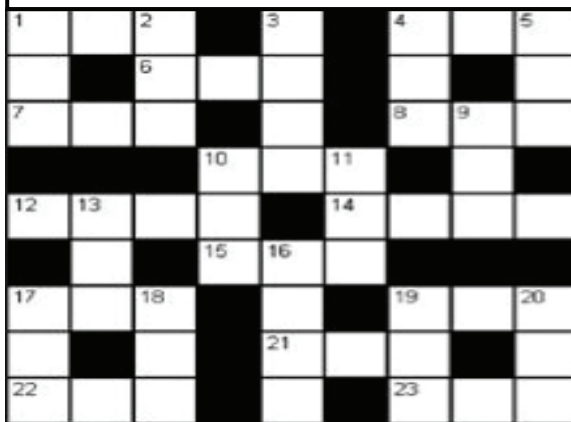
H H A J S U Y W I W Q M X W T
H R R J C L V K G E S Y N Z N
Y L E V I D V A C A T I O N F
F E L M Y I H S U N S H I N E
R C A H O P A A D H U E L J A
I F X O U L P M N J K K G T M
E E A L R O P S X A Q X O Y U
N W T I M M Y F E F F W G Q S
D V I D J A Z R U E J T D X E
S Q O A P X B X X N C M G I M
A U N Y R E C R E A T I O N E
M L M M P G R A D U A T I O N
V H I M B T U I C Z F U S J T
S Q H N E Y E Y W C H C A Z W
H F N H F R Z M M F J O B Q A

Children's Colouring

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

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

CROSS NUMBERS



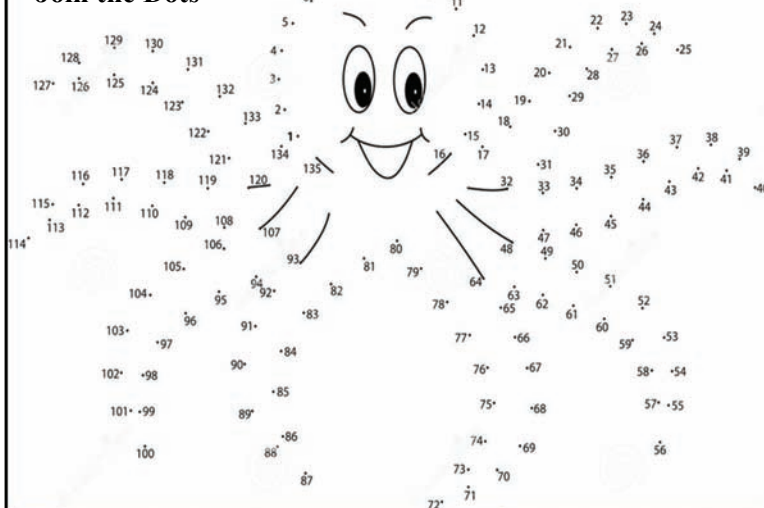
ACROSS

1. 15 weeks = ____ days
4. $(56 + 12) \times 2 =$
6. 5 hours = ____ minutes
7. $460 - 228 =$
8. 4 across + 7 across
10. 6 days = ____ hours
12. $(60 \times 4) \times 6 =$
14. $(60 \times 8) \times 5 =$
15. 5 days = ____ hours
17. 10 across + 15 across =
19. 1 week = ____ hours
21. 52 weeks = ____ days
22. 7 across $\times 4 =$
23. 8 across + 21 across =

DOWN

1. 8 days = ____ hours
2. 76 weeks = ____ days
3. 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, ____...
4. $60 + 40 + 23 =$
5. $(300 \times 2) + 48 =$
9. $(110 \times 2) \times 3 =$
10. 97, 99, ____, 103, 105...
11. 7 minutes = ____ seconds
13. $52 \times 8 =$
16. 14 across + 4 across =
17. 21 across - 1 across =
18. $52 \times 9 =$
19. 21 weeks = ____ days
20. 116 weeks = ____ days

Join the Dots



Help Goldie get back to his bowl



July is an excellent month for bees and as you probably know already, they are essential for beautiful and productive growth in the garden. Planting colourful and fragrant flowers in your garden will attract them. If your compost heap is looking dry, give it a watering. Regularly give fruits, vegetables and flowering plants a liquid feed. Continue to deadhead flowers and weed regularly. Water your hanging baskets and containers daily. In the Fruit & Veg Garden More thinning of root crops. By now the thinning's should be large enough to eat. Hurray! Irrigate your plot in the mornings. You want the water to reach a depth of at least 8" Regular watering is important to avoid bolting and split roots and fruits Shade over lettuce, coriander, pak choy, red onions, broccoli and spinach to avoid bolting in warm weather Sow Spring cabbage seeds in your greenhouse Stay vigilant for potato blight Keep carrots covered to protect against the 2nd cycle of carrot fly Keep rows of brassicas covered with garden netting to protect against caterpillars & the cabbage white moth Weed between rows regularly, especially younger crop.



Knowing when to lift garlic can be a tricky proposition – harvest them too early and the bulbs will be too small, but harvest too late and the bulbs will begin to lose their quality. The old rule is to sow garlic before the shortest day of the year (Dec 21) and harvest before the longest (June 21). Some people also do a spring sowing which won't be ready until late July or August. A good general rule of thumb is to do a test when a third of the leaves on each plant are gone brown. Carefully push back the soil around one plant and have a look at the bulb to check its size. If it's too small, put the soil back around it. Lift all your garlic when a half to two-thirds of the leaves are gone brown.

In the Greenhouse

Water your tomatoes about 3 times a week. Wet the floor to your greenhouse to increase humidity. Keep doors & window vents open during the day. Move potted plants outdoors on warmer days. Position yellow fly trays to prevent pest build-up. Keep an eye on pots & water trays for slugs & snails. Early harvest on cucumbers. Plant Care Tie back top heavy roses. Continue to spray, feed and deadhead roses. Cut back herbaceous plants such as geraniums, penstemons & delphiniums. Continue to keep recently planted hedging, trees & shrubs well-watered. Apply a handful of fish blood & bone to base of late flowering herbaceous plants such as asters, astilbes, rubeckia, lupins & echinacea. Plant autumn bulbs such as nerines, cyclamens & lilies.

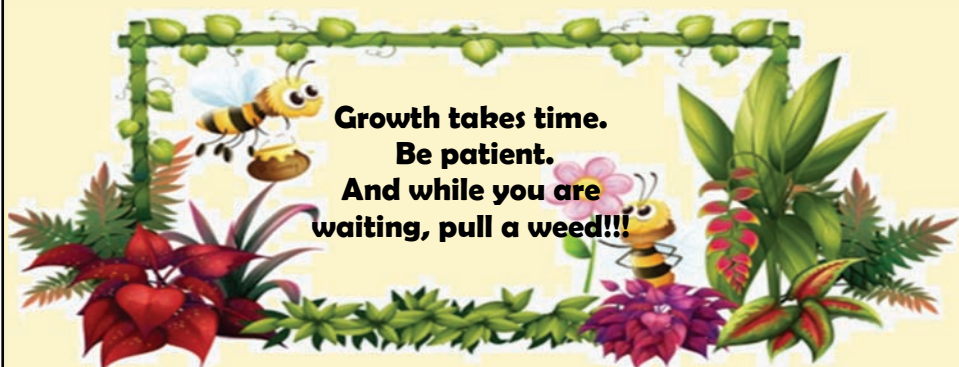


Lawn Care

This is a quiet time for lawn care. You can feed your lawns or treat with lawn weed, feed & moss killer. Apply dicophar to kill any broadleaf weeds. If you have been less than vigilant in watering your pots, the compost may have shrunk away slightly from the sides of the pot. Pack this gap with new compost. This will help prevent water run-off and give your plants a new lease of life. Add some slow-release pelleted fertiliser if not already mixed in. Water new and young plants regularly but use water sensibly. Water heavily to encourage deep roots rather than sparingly which will encourage surface rooting. If plants are showing signs of mildew (especially calendulas, courgettes and roses), water well during dry spells. Mulch when the soil is wet. Remove some foliage to improve air circulation. Feed and water container plantings. Prop up perennials Stake dahlias and chrysanthus, which are growing well now. Dahlias are best supported in a triangle of canes, with chrysanthus tied in to their own cane. Or, with chrysanthus, grow a whole bed through netting stretched horizontally about 18in (45cm) from the ground. Staking is important as, by the time dahlias and chrysanthemums in particular are at their peak height, autumn wind and rain will be on the way.



If going on holiday, ask a friend or neighbour to pick your flowers, salad and veg in your absence to prevent everything running to seed. Feed roses – do this now, after the first flush of flowers, to encourage more. Use a rose food, or straightforward, well-rotted farmyard manure. Intersperse rose beds with other plants such as nepetas and salvias to help reduce the spread of disease. Plum Slate Chippings Has many qualities making it a great choice of aggregate for gardens & garden design. The first real benefit of plum slate chippings is that the aggregates themselves are flat, making this an ideal surface for walking over. Slate & slate chippings by nature flake away into long flat sections giving the stone its distinct look & shape. Some nice planting combinations for plum slate chippings would include both silver foliage plants & purple flowering plants.



Grilled chicken thighs with sweet potato wedges, courgettes and feta

Ingredients

4 free-range skin-on chicken thighs, skin slashed
2 medium-large sweet potatoes, cut into wedges (skin on)
3 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for brushing
2 large courgettes, sliced lengthways into 0.5cm thick strips (or 6-8 baby courgettes, halved)
Small bunch basil, leaves picked and roughly chopped, plus extra leaves to serve
Small bunch coriander, leaves picked and roughly chopped
30g pine nuts, toasted
1/2 garlic clove
25g parmesan, finely grated
Grated zest and juice 1 lemon
80g feta, crumbled
You will also need
Barbecue with a lid (or grill and griddle pan)
Useful to have
Small food processor



Method

Heat/light the barbecue and spread the coals in an even layer. Rub the chicken and sweet potato wedges all over with oil, then season. Arrange on the barbecue, then cook with the lid down for 25-30 minutes, turning every so often, until tender and charred.

Meanwhile, make a pesto by whizzing together the basil, coriander, most of the pine nuts, the garlic, parmesan, 3 tbsp oil and half the lemon juice in a small food processor (or use a pestle and mortar or finely chop by hand). Season to taste with salt and pepper, adding more lemon juice if needed. When the chicken is nearly ready, brush the courgettes with oil, then add to the grill and cook for 2-3 minutes on each side until tender and just charred.

Serve the chicken, potato wedges and courgettes with the pesto spooned over, then crumble the feta over the top. Sprinkle with the rest of the pine nuts, the lemon zest and some basil leaves,

Delicious. Tips

Easy swaps swap the pine nuts in the recipe for almonds or hazelnuts if you prefer

Skip the BBQ Grill the chicken thighs on a foil-lined baking sheet for 25-30 minutes, turning halfway, until cooked through. Cook the sweet potato on a ridged griddle pan over a medium heat; or put it all on an oven tray and roast in a 180°C fan/gas 6 oven for 25-35 min

Quick Banana and Raspberry Ice Cream

This quick ice cream couldn't be simpler and is a handy last minute dessert. It's also a great way to use up overripe bananas, which, when frozen in a single layer, can be placed in a ziplock freezer bag for ease of use.

4 people 10 minutes

Ingredients

3 - Bananas
400 ml Coconut Milk
340 g Frozen Raspberries
2 tbsp Honey or maple syrup
1 portion Raspberries to serve
Method



1. Put half the bananas, half the frozen raspberries, half the coconut milk and 1 tablespoon of honey or maple syrup in a blender and blend to a smooth soft serve consistency.
2. Adjust the amount of honey or maple syrup if the bananas aren't ripe enough.
3. Repeat with the remaining ingredients and serve immediately with a few fresh raspberries and a pinch of desiccated coconut.



Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



Local News - August 2022 - Issue No. 515 - 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.



'If These Walls Could Talk'

18th August, 5pm - 6:30pm
18th August, 6:30pm - 8pm

General Paints Group - Colourtrend
Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co Kildare
W23 X7R8

Join us on Thursday 18th of August at Colourtrend Paint and Wallpaper Store in Celbridge to hear from local historian, Cathi Fleming about life in the Celbridge Famine Workhouse through stories, pictures, and song. Followed by a tour of the paint factory, seeing how the workhouse is being used today.

- Not suitable for children under 12
- Booking required please email info@colourtrend.ie in advance to secure your place.
- No walk-ins

Further Information: 01 628 8224 - info@colourtrend.ie



National Heritage Week

A Heritage Council programme

13 -21 August 2022

www.heritageweek.ie for full programme

'Leixlip in the Rare Auld Times'

15 August, 7:30pm - 9:15pm

Gerry Keane
Our Lady's Nativity Church carpark
Maynooth Road, Leixlip, Co. Kildare

The event will commence with an introductory powerpoint presentation by local historian, John Colgan. This will be followed by a 'Walk and Talk' through the village of Leixlip commencing in OLN Church carpark and will end at the Middle Shop.

John Colgan is an experienced local historian who has written a book on Leixlip for which he did all the research himself. He will carry an amplification unit so everybody should be able to hear comfortably.

- A guided or specialist tour
- Suitable for families
- Free
- Accessible by public transport
- Car parking available
- Fully wheelchair accessible

Further Information: 0871273585
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'Exhibition and Tours' at the Russell Library, Maynooth

16th & 18th August

Special Collections and Archives,
Maynooth University

Russell Library
St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Please join us for daily tours of the historic Russell Library. You will also have a chance to view an exhibition of items from our collections.

Please note that there is no wheelchair access at this site. Further Information on tour times contact: 01 7083890 or library.russell@mu.ie



Heritage Week at Castletown House

13th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th & 20th August,
3pm - 4pm
Castletown House, Celbridge, Co. Kildare

Join us in Castletown House for Heritage Week 13th to 21st August.

Re-Use, Re-Purpose and Re-Cycle, a look at 18th Century sustainability. 300 years ago being sustainable was the order of the day repurposing items a part of everyday life. For Heritage Week we are upcycling a Georgian dress into the Regency style, this project is

being filmed and will be uploaded to our Facebook page with the finished dress on display in Castletown during Heritage Week. We will also be repurposing old costumes, upcycling material into new children's costumes for our Living History tours in Castletown.

Saturday August 13th and Sunday 14th at 3pm
Who Am I? A children's tour of Castletown House in which children are given a costume that replicates a portrait in the house.

*Places are limited to 2 adults max per ticket.
Adults €10 Senior €8 Children under 12 Free

Tuesday 16th Wednesday 17th and
Thursday 18th August at 3pm

From ashes to animal fat nothing was wasted in the 18th house, discover how everything was reused, recycled and repurposed.

Adults €10 Senior €8 Children under 12 Free

Saturday 20th August
Wild Child Day 10.30 to 4pm
North Kildare Bee Association exhibition in our Bio-Diversity garden. A selection of outdoor games for children available in the garden.
Free

Saturday 20th August at 3pm
Outdoor tour of the house with the focus on the architecture and how building material was repurposed throughout the estate.
Free.



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

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

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

One hopes that we didn't have a short-lived Summer last month when we had temperatures over 30 degrees and that August will give us more good weather particularly so that we can enjoy Heritage Week events. The town seems to be very busy no matter what time of the day even at the weekends. While it is great to see people coming out to enjoy the facilities in the town, I am also conscious that there are many visitors in the town. At weekends these include GAA supporters of the counties that qualify for the concluding rounds of the football and hurling championship games in Croke Park. With the train service from Maynooth directly serving Drumcondra station for Croke Park, Maynooth has become a carpark for fans going to these matches. Hopefully these crowds add benefit to the businesses in Maynooth.

Thankfully the proposal from AIB Bank to make seventy branches throughout Ireland cashless was overturned. While Maynooth branch was not included in the list, Celbridge was one of the seventy branches. Celbridge has a much bigger population than Maynooth and based on the queues that I have already seen when I need to use the Maynooth branch there is no doubt that the queues in future would have included Celbridge customers. Perhaps with the number of businesses in Maynooth and in the hinterland as well as Maynooth University students the level of branch visits in Maynooth merits continuing the service which of course isn't free. There is no doubt that the option to purchase goods without cash has greatly increased but then when you need other services that require you to visit a bank the branch may not be there anymore. We need to be aware if we no longer use some services by choice sooner or later, they will be withdrawn.

Talking about services in post Covid Ireland my experience is that generally the quality of services has deteriorated. Without mentioning any particular business that I have engaged with on-line my experience has been poor. Yes, there is a shortage of staff and in many businesses blended working arrangements have meant that staff are continuing to work remotely including myself. However, if circumstances do not improve Ireland will get a reputation for poor services.

Finally, as we were close to publishing this month's Maynooth Newsletter we got the sad news that our former Chairperson Tom McMullon has passed away. Over the past four decades Tom has been involved in many community groups and activities giving tirelessly of his time to support his adopted home place. On behalf of myself, the directors and staff of Maynooth Community Employment Project & the Maynooth Newsletter we offer our sincere sympathies to his wife Maura and his sons Andrew and James and his extended family. Tom will be missed by all of us but especially by his family.



Tom McMullon RIP

**Paul Croghan
Editor**

**Copy date for the next edition of the
Maynooth Newsletter will be 5pm on
Friday 26th August 2022**

MAYNOOTH DRESSES

Find us at Unit 3 San Feliu, Fagan's Lane, Maynooth
(Behind EBS Main St)

Communion Dress Clearance Sale Now On

Just Arrived 2022 Debs Dresses

**Now in Stock Ladies Fascinators
in All Colours**

For All Our Opening Hours

Visit our Website on:

www.maynoothcommuniondresses.ie

also **www.maynoothdresses.ie**

Phone: 01 6293585



MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT SECRETARIAL SERVICES

**Unit 10, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park
(Beside Coyne's Butchers)**

**Photocopying - Typing - Scanning to & Print from Email
A3/A4 Poster Design & Printing - CVs - Theses
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Other Office Services available on request**

Tel: 01 6285922

Email: office@maynoothcep.com

Opening Hours

Mon-Fri - 9.00 am - 4.30 pm

(Closed for Lunch 1pm to 2pm)



August Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Children's Events

**Ceardlann Drámaíochta le Clíona de Brí /
Drama Workshop with Clíona de Brí**

Friday 19th August

2.30pm – 4.30pm

Maynooth Community Library

Age: 7–12 years

Make a show based on your favourite book/story. We will work with masks and puppets, mime and movement, for building a piece of theatre. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Cruthú amharclannaíochta le Clíona de Brí – seó gairid bunaithe ar leabhar nó scéal le drámaíocht agus scéalaíocht. Mascanna agus puipéid a úsáid mar chuid den scéal-insint chomh maith le geáitsí agus gluaiseachtaí. Caithfear tuismitheoir / caomhnóir a bheith in éineacht le páistí faoi bhun 8 mbliana d'aois.

Cuir áit in áirithe anois le TicketTailor! / Book now through TicketTailor! <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/735208>

Pokémon Trainer Arts and Crafts Workshop at Maynooth Library

Wednesday 24th August, 2.30pm- 3.30pm

Maynooth Community Library

Age: 7+ years

Come visit your local library Pokéstop and hunt for our 3D-printed Pokémon around the library. Once you have found a Pokémon you can then paint it and begin creating your Pokédex.

For ages 7+ with limited spaces available. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the event. Book early to avoid disappointment at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/735220>

Baby and Toddler Stay & Play Group (New)

Every Thursday starting 4th August

10:00-11:00am

Maynooth Community Library

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 every Thursday morning 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!

Secret Saturday Cinema

Every Saturday in August starting 6th August

2:30 - 4:00pm

Come to our animated children's film screenings every Saturday afternoon in August at 2:30pm! Every film will be a surprise on the day, but all will have a "U" rating. Booking required, all children must be accompanied by an adult.

6th August 2:30pm - 4:00pm

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/735898>

13th August 2:30pm - 4:00pm

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/735912>

20th August 2:30pm - 4:00pm

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/735913>

27th August 2:30pm - 4:00pm

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/735914>

Weekly Story-Time in Maynooth Library

Friday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th August, 10.00am–10.30am

Ages: 2-5 years

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join the Maynooth staff for some in-person 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 5th August: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/735379>

Friday 12th August: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/735380>

Friday 19th August: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/735381>

Friday 26th August: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/735382>

Adult Events

Poetry Picnic: An Evening of Sharing Poetry [Online Event]

Thursday 11th August, 6.30 pm- 7.30 pm

Join us for a spread of poetry on a summer's evening, hosted online by Maynooth and Ballitore Libraries. Some of you may wish to read a poem aloud, or you might like to just listen, while we enjoy a taste of your favourite poetry. All welcome.

Booking via TicketTailor <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/730507>

Regular Events

Wednesday Morning Book Club: [Please note the book club will not meet during the month of August but will resume from September]

Third Wednesday of each month

11.00am–12.00 pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

If interested, please contact Maynooth library by email at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or by phone on 045 980 493.

U3A Book Club

Monday [Please note the book will not meet during the month of August but will resume from September]

10.30am–11.30am (Second Monday of the month)

Location: Maynooth Community Library

If interested, please contact Maynooth library by email at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or by phone on 045 980 493.

Every Monday [Please note the knitting group will not meet during the month of August but will resume weekly meetings from September]

Knitting / Craft Club

12.00pm–1:00pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Come and join like-minded people for an hour of chat, knitting and crafting.

If interested, please contact Maynooth library by email at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or by phone on 045 980 493.

German 'Stammtisch', informal conversation meet-up for adults

Thursday 25th August at 6.30pm-7.30pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Do you want to practice your German? Maynooth Library hosts a monthly informal German conversation meet-up, for anyone with an interest in the language and culture in German-speaking countries.

All levels from learners to native speakers are welcome. Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of every month. For more information please contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980493

For all ages

Reader Pens Now Available in Maynooth Library

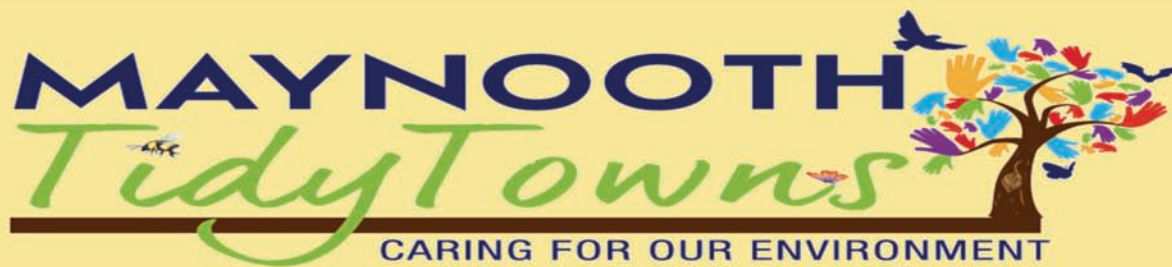
Maynooth Library now have reader pens available for lending or alternatively you can just borrow one for the duration of your library visit.

These text-to-speech pens read words and full lines of text aloud, promoting independent reading and confidence.

Key Features of reader pens: Read text aloud – Promote reading independence – Built-in dictionaries – Secure and private – No WiFi required – Built-in speaker & earphone jack – Rechargeable – Easy to use

Helps with: Reading or pronunciation – Dyslexia – Language learning – Vision problems.

**For more information, ask a staff member at the library desk /
email Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie /
phone us on 045 980493.**



Gold Medal Winners

2016
2017
2018
2019
2021

At the time of writing we are still expecting the Tidy Towns Judges to grace us with their presence around the streets of Maynooth. Judging ends on the 31st July and we should know the results sometime in September. Fingers crossed that we retain our Gold Medal status for 2022. Our volunteers have been very busy during the month of July sowing Sunflowers and trying to keep the flowers in the Square and other areas watered during that very hot spell. We had help from Christina and the clients in Leap Services a couple of times, much appreciated, long may it continue.

We also helped Michael Sheeran celebrate a very special birthday with cake and a few songs after clean up one Saturday morning. We are having problems removing the weeds everywhere, we hired a machine called a Weedex but unfortunately it didn't impress. We don't use any form of Weed Killer as it's so bad for the environment. We are taking part in The Flossie Beach Clean on the 30th of July, we don't have a beach but we do have the wonderful Royal Canal. We have asked on Facebook if anyone has the loan of a Boat and lifejackets for 2 hours that morning. We are continuing our clean ups on Saturday morning 9-11 am, Sunday morning on a rota basis and Wednesday from 7pm. Our volunteers have been wonderful all year turning up in great numbers every week.

Please follow us on Facebook for more updates on our clean ups.

Mary Molloy PRO - Maynooth Tidy Towns Association



Up to €14k Tax Free Income for Homeowners



Did you know, if you share your home with a student, the income you earn (up to €14k per year) can be tax free under the Rent a Room Allowance? If you have a spare room, you might consider letting it on a self-catering or full/partial board basis – whatever works!

Currently we are advertising accommodation for incoming students who will study at Maynooth for **the 2022-2023 academic year**. Additionally, we host ERASMUS students during Semester 1 who will require accommodation.

We require accommodation for both 5-days/week and 7-days/week.

We offer a free online advertising service to homeowners to advertise your accommodation to Maynooth University students.

**Just log on to www.maynoothstudentpad.ie
to set up your account and advert – no charge!**

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

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

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

Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie and from the

Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



Community Employment (CE) scheme

- What is the CE scheme?
- Am I eligible for the CE scheme?
- How long can I stay on the CE scheme?
- Working on a CE scheme
- How to apply for the CE scheme
- What is the CE scheme?

The Community Employment (CE) programme (more commonly known as the 'CE Scheme') is designed to help people who are long-term unemployed (or otherwise disadvantaged) to get back to work by offering part-time and temporary placements in jobs based within local communities. If you are a participant in the CE scheme, you can take up other part-time work during your placement. After the placement, you are encouraged to look for permanent jobs elsewhere, based on the experience and new skills you have gained while on a Community Employment scheme.

You can find out more about CE and the experience of CE participants in the [DSP video on Community Employment](#).

If you are a CE supervisor or a CE assistant supervisor, you can get a once-off CE Ex-Gratia Payment after you reach retirement age. You can find out more on gov.ie.

The Department of Social Protection (DSP) gives allowances and funding to assist with the Community Employment scheme, for example, your wages, supervisor grants, materials grants and specific skills training grants. Community Employment sponsors are the voluntary organisations or public bodies that manage CE schemes at a local level. Detailed information is available in the [Community Employment procedures manual \(pdf\)](#).

Am I eligible for the CE scheme?

How you qualify for a CE scheme depends on your age and your personal situation.

If you are aged between 21 and 55 years. In general, you must be unemployed.

You must also be getting any combination of the following payments for at least 12 months:

- Jobseeker's Benefit (JB)
- Jobseeker's Allowance (JA)
- Jobseeker's Transitional payment (JST)
- One-Parent Family Payment (OFP)
- Deserted Wife's Benefit
- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension
- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Non-Contributory Pension or Farm Assist

Note: If you are aged 21 and over, and are getting JB or JA, you can have worked up to 30 days in the 12 months before starting the CE scheme and still be eligible for the scheme.

Other schemes that count towards the qualifying period
Time spent on the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) can count towards the CE qualifying period. You must establish your entitlement to a qualifying social welfare payment before you start on CE.

If you were getting basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) before getting one of the payments listed above, the time on SWA can also count towards the qualifying period for CE, provided there are no breaks between different payments – for example, if you spent 2 months on SWA followed immediately by 10 months on Jobseeker's Allowance.

If you were getting Carer's Allowance (CA), the time spent on CA can also count towards the eligibility period, but your caring responsibilities must have ceased and you must currently be getting either JA, JB or OFP.

Time spent on a CE-qualifying disability-related payment can count towards the eligibility period, provided there is

no break – for example, if you spent 3 months on Illness Benefit followed immediately by 9 months on Jobseeker's Allowance.

Time spent on a recognised training course such as SOLAS/ETB, a VTOS course, Youthreach or in prison may count as part of the qualifying period. People on the JobPath programme and the Tús scheme are eligible for CE.

Schemes that do not count towards the qualifying period for CE

Generally, time spent on Gateway, Rural Social Scheme, Springboard or getting Back to Education Allowance will not count towards the eligibility period. There are some exceptions to this, which can be found in the [Community Employment procedures manual \(pdf\)](#).

Time spent as a qualified adult dependant on another person's claim does not count towards CE eligibility.

If you are aged 55 years and over

You must be getting a qualifying social welfare payment for 12 months – as outlined above for people aged between 21 and 55 years.

You can stay on CE for a maximum of 3 consecutive years. It may be possible to re-qualify for CE after a further 12 months on a qualifying payment. See information below for participants aged 60 and over.

If you are aged 60 years and over

CE participants aged 60 years and over who meet the eligibility requirements may stay continuously on CE up to the age at which they qualify for a State pension, providing there are places available.

Other ways to qualify for CE

If you do not qualify for CE under the eligibility criteria for your age group above, you may still be eligible for the scheme if you are aged 18 years and over and you are: Getting Disability Allowance, Blind Pension or Invalidity Pension, or Getting Illness Benefit for at least 6 months, or A member of the Traveller community, unemployed and getting Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance for any length of time or One-Parent Family Payment for at least 1 year, or A person with refugee status and getting any DSP payment for any length of time, or Referred following an appropriate assessment according to the National Drugs Rehabilitation Framework protocols, an ex-offender who has been referred by the Probation Service or other designated service, or an ex-offender not referred by a designated service who has been getting JA or JB for 12 months, or

Living on one of the offshore islands and currently getting a CE-qualifying payment for 6 months or more (see list of CE-qualifying payments for people aged between 21 and 55 years below).

How long can I stay on the CE scheme?

If you are aged between 21 and 55 years, your CE placement generally lasts for one year. However, if you are working towards a major education award, your CE placement can be extended by up to 2 years to complete this award. You won't get an extension beyond 3 years (or 4 years for people on a disability-linked social welfare payment).

If you are aged over 55, you can stay on CE for 3 consecutive years.

If you are aged 60 years and over and meet the CE eligibility requirements, you can stay continuously on CE until you qualify for a State pension, once you meet the terms and conditions of the scheme and providing that there are places available.

In general, the maximum amount of time you can spend on a CE scheme over your lifetime is 6 years (7 years if you are getting a disability-linked social welfare payment).

Time spent on CE before 1 January 2014 will not be

counted. This 'baseline year' of 2014 will be updated annually, so that it stays 7 years behind the current calendar year. For example, in 2022, the baseline year will increase to 2015. This gives CE participants, who remain unemployed, further opportunities to participate on the scheme.

If you started on CE before 3 July 2017, you can stay on the scheme under your existing CE eligibility rules, if this is to your advantage.

Staying on CE until your employer finds a replacement
Even if your CE term has ended, you can stay on the scheme until a replacement CE participant is found. This will reduce the impact of vacancies on the scheme and make sure the community services are maintained.

Working on a CE scheme

You must work for 19.5 hours per week (excluding breaks) for your sponsor to be eligible for a grant towards the cost of wages. Your sponsor may agree with DSP to arrange your work hours differently for example, 39 hours every second week, or 19.5 hours every week, in combinations of full or half days or 2.5 days per week.

You are paid weekly by your sponsor and you have certain statutory employment rights including annual leave, public holidays, maternity leave and a written statement of your terms and conditions of employment. Tax may be deducted from your pay, if applicable, but your CE pay is exempt from the Universal Social Charge.

You are entitled to a maximum of 56 hours (7 full days) of medically certified sick leave in a 52 week period. The DSP provides the sponsor with a support grant towards the payment of sick leave. In general, there is no payment for uncertified sick leave. However, in certain cases the DSP officer may allow, a maximum of 2 uncertified days (8 hours) in any 12 month period. Detailed information on sick leave is available in the [Community Employment procedures manual \(pdf\)](#).

CE participants pay PRSI at Class A8/A9, which counts as a full Class A contribution. If your CE payment is less than €352 a week, you do not pay any employee contribution. If your CE payment is over €352 a week, you pay an employee PRSI contribution. Detailed information is available in the Community Employment Procedures Manual (pdf).

Age limit

Funding is not provided for CE participants who have reached the qualifying age for a State pension.

The current qualifying age for all State pensions is 66. An increase to 67 in 2021 and to 68 in 2028 was planned. In Budget 2021, it was announced that the qualifying age for a State pension will continue to be 66.

However, under the Programme for Government 2020 a Commission for Pensions will be set up to examine sustainability and eligibility issues with State pensions and the Social Insurance Fund.

If you need childcare

If you need childcare in order to become a CE participant, you may be eligible for the Community Employment Childcare (CEC) programme, which provides subsidised childcare places for children up to the age of 13. The CEC programme closed to new registrations on 14 February 2020. If you are already registered for CEC, you can choose to stay on the programme until August 2021 or you can register for the National Childcare Scheme (NCS). The NCS is a new Scheme providing financial support to help parents to meet the costs of childcare.

(Continued on page 7)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS/Cont.

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

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(Continued from page 6)

Training and development

You will get training as part of your CE scheme to help improve your ability to get a job when the scheme is over. Everyone on a CE scheme must have an individual learning plan where training is identified. You must be allowed to join in any approved training that has been identified on your individual learner plan.

There are a range of recognised QQI Awards and qualifications available to CE participants. If you are between 21 and 55 you must be working towards a QQI Award on the NFQ Framework of Qualifications or an industry equivalent, to be eligible for up to an additional 2 years on CE (maximum total of 3 consecutive years). If you are 55 or over you should be given access to training and development, and supported with any issues you have accessing employment (you can stay on CE for 3 consecutive years).

Getting other payments and CE

If you get a place on a CE scheme and your spouse or partner is claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JA), Disability Allowance (DA) or Farm Assist in their own right, they can claim an Increase for a Qualified Adult with their JA, DA or Farm Assist. Your income from the CE scheme (as a single person) is then assessed as insurable employment against their payment.

Extra benefits of the CE scheme

You will keep your medical card when you are on CE. You will keep your entitlement to the extra benefits you were getting immediately before going onto CE, provided you continue to satisfy the conditions for these benefits. The amount of Rent Supplement that you get may be reduced. You may be able to keep part of your Mortgage Interest Supplement.

Since January 2022 the minimum weekly payment for new participants based on 19.5 hours worked is €230.50. If the actual social welfare payment (including dependants) you were getting was €208 a week or less, then you will get the minimum CE weekly rate of €230.50 (that is €208 plus €22.50). If your actual weekly social welfare payment (including dependants) was €208 or more, then you will get the same rate as your social welfare payment plus €22.50.

If you have any additional income

If you have any additional income, for example, from part-time work, it will not affect your CE payment. However, the rules on change of circumstances that apply to your original social welfare payment also apply to your CE payment. For example, if your qualified adult gets a job, their income will be assessed as means and your CE payment may be reduced. However, your CE payment cannot be reduced below the current minimum rate of €230.50

In order to avoid any possible overpayments, if there is any change in your circumstances, you should immediately inform your CE supervisor and the local DSP Community Development Officer responsible for your CE scheme. (Your CE supervisor will give you contact details for the local DSP Community Development Officer.) There is more information about change of circumstances in section 3.2.6 of the [Community Employment procedures manual \(pdf\)](#). If your spouses or partner also gets a place on the CE scheme. If you are on a CE scheme and your spouse or partner gets a place on a CE scheme, you will each get a single rate of the CE payment together with half of the Increases for a Qualified Child for any dependent children.

How to apply for the CE scheme

To participate in the Community Employment scheme, you must register at your local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office. There are a limited number of CE places

available. Your Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office can provide information about CE job opportunities. [Job listings are also available online.](#)

Voluntary organisations and public bodies may sponsor CE projects that are for community and public benefit. They should contact their Intreo Centre for more information.

Leaving and re-entry to Community Employment

If you leave a CE scheme, you cannot participate in another CE scheme for 12 months after you leave, and you must be getting a qualifying payment for those 12 months. If you have the opportunity of full-time work, you can take one period of temporary unpaid leave with your sponsor's agreement for up to 26 weeks. If the work opportunity continues beyond 26 weeks, you must leave the CE scheme.

Contact your [local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office](#) for further information about Community Employment.

What are tips, gratuities and service charges?

Tipping is mainly associated with the hospitality sector. It is also common among other services such as taxi drivers, hairdressers, tour guides and delivery drivers. Employees usually get tips from customers through one of the following types of payment:

- Mandatory service charge
- Discretionary service charge
- Tip or gratuity paid to the employer by credit or debit card
- Tip or gratuity paid into a communal pool, for example a staff box or similar
- Tip or gratuity handed directly to the employee

The [Payment of Wages \(Amendment\) \(Tips and Gratuities\) Act 2022](#) became law on 20 July 2022.

New regulations are needed to give effect to the Act. This page will be updated once the new regulations are introduced.

What is a mandatory service charge?

A 'mandatory service charge' is a payment that a customer must pay for certain goods or services, in addition to the cost of the goods or services.

What is a tip or gratuity?

A 'tip or gratuity' is a payment made by a customer which they assumed would be kept by the employee or shared with other employees.

It is either:

- Voluntarily made to, or left for an employee of group of employees
- Voluntarily made to an employer

Upcoming changes to tips and gratuities and service charges

The [Payment of Wages \(Amendment\) \(Tips and Gratuities\) Act 2022](#) became law on 20 July 2022.

The Act, introduces new rules about how employers share tips, gratuities and service charges amongst employees. It also makes it illegal for employers to use tips or gratuities to make up basic wages. The legislation will be reviewed after one year to assess its effectiveness and decide if further measures are needed.

New regulations are needed to give effect to the Act. Consultations will start shortly with employee and employer organisations, leading to the new regulations.

Proof of identity to open a bank account

Introduction

Rules

How to apply

Introduction

When you are [opening an account with a financial institution](#) such as a bank or credit union, it must establish proof of your identity and verify your address. This requirement is set down in [anti-money laundering legislation](#).

The Central Bank has an explainer on [why you must prove your identity when opening a bank account](#).

Rules

When you are opening an account, you cannot use the same document as proof of both your identity and your address. The bank can decide to use any of the following documents for verification (and they can also look for further information from you).

The bank can request any of these documents as **proof of identity**:

- Valid passport
- Valid driving licence
- National Age Card (issued by An Garda Síochána)
- Irish Government Travel Document
- Temporary Residence Certificate
- Irish Residency Permit

Your proof of identity must be in date. The name on your photo ID must match the name on your proof of address.

The bank can request any of these documents as **proof of your address**:

- Current utility bill (such as a gas, electricity or telephone or mobile phone bill)
- Current car or home insurance policy that shows your address
- Document issued by a government department that shows your address
- Copy of your Tax Credit Certificate (TCC)
- Statement of Liability (previously P21) from Revenue

Your proof of address must be less than 6 months old (or 12 months for an insurance policy).

In some cases a bank may ask you for your [PPS number](#) – for example, if you are claiming tax relief on the interest paid on a mortgage loan.

Copies of the documents you use to establish your identity must be kept by the bank for 5 years after an account is closed.

If you cannot provide the standard documents

If you cannot provide the standard documents requested, contact the bank for advice on alternatives that may be acceptable.

There is a [guide to opening a bank account for refugees and asylum seekers \(pdf\)](#). You can also download the [guide for international protection applicants in other languages](#).

Requests for information on transactions

Bank staff must know the nature of their customers' business and can ask for information about the level and type of business that is likely to be transacted through the account. You can also be asked to provide confirmation of the source of your funds and to give reasons for carrying out certain transactions.

How to apply

Contact your bank or financial institution to get full details of the identification it requires.



Celbridge

Further Education & Training Centre

Enrolling now for
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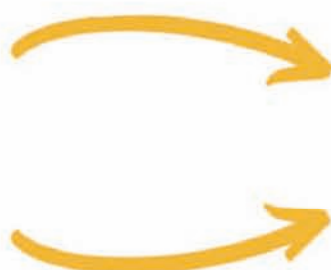
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Maynooth University hosts 2022 IVI Summit – Minister of State Robert Troy launches new Digital Innovation Space

5th July 2022: Maynooth University has hosted the 2022 Innovation Value Institute (IVI) Summit. The theme for this year's event was 'Digital Transformation – Shaping the Hybrid Future' with Minister for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation Robert Troy delivering the opening keynote address and officially opening the new Digital Innovation Space facilitated by the Innovation Value Institute.

The Digital Innovation Space is designed to help organisations to manage the digital transformation journey. It will be a platform to share best practices and examples of Digital Transformation. It will enhance the existing IVI portal with access to a repository of digital transformation use cases, examples and descriptions of digital transformation paths from various sectors. It will link to digital collaboration platforms that allow interactive discussions and workshops. Combined with the existing Capability Maturity Framework, digital readiness and benchmarking tools, the digital innovation spaces will provide a comprehensive space for collaboration and co-creation to work with a range of stakeholders, from SMEs to Multi-nationals in a range of sectors, including private and public sector.

The in-person and virtual one day summit featured experienced industry leaders, policy makers and academic speakers addressing key issues concerning digital transformation today and into the future. Topics covered at the event included digital transformation for good and its societal impact, the green transition and sustainability, data governance and the work of the SFI Funded Research programme on Data Governance – EMPOWER, as well as European digital skills.

Launching the Digital Innovation Space, **Minister Robert Troy**, said “We cannot stem progress, but we can embrace it. Technology will continue to evolve and we need to plan for the changes coming. We must keep evolving and improving, and for our economy that means embracing digitalisation.



The work of the IVI and its partners across industry, academia, Government, and policy spheres concerning digital transformation is extremely important and the Institute's new Digital Innovation Space will be a vital asset to support our enterprise base to embrace digitalisation. An ongoing and necessary process, digital transformation will future-proof businesses and the broader economy, enabling growth across all aspects of society at a local, regional, national and global level.”

Director of the Innovation Value Institute, **Professor Helfert, Maynooth University** highlighted the importance of this initiative and said “The new ways of collaboration to co-create digital transformation paths will provide an evidence-based repository to understand success and barriers of digital transformation. With the ambition to address the two essential challenges of this decade, Digital and Green, we need far more insights on how organisation can manage the digital transformation journey. The Digital Innovation Space is key to co-design successful digital transformation paths at the Innovation Value Institute with our members, industry, policymakers and the wider stakeholder groups.”

Maynooth University receives its highest-ever number of CAO applications

Over 18,300 applicants have applied to the University, an increase of 8% on 2021 figures.

07.07.2022: Maynooth University has received its highest-ever number of applications for admission in September 2022. Over 18,300 applicants have applied to the University, according to the figures released after the recent CAO Change of Mind option closed on July 1st. This is an increase of 8% on 2021 figures.

The record number is in line with a general upward trend of applications to the University over recent years. First preference applications across all degree courses have increased by 8% over July 2021 figures, demonstrating the ongoing popularity of Maynooth University for undergraduate studies.

First preference applications have grown substantially in Arts (by 14%), making it the most applied to degree across all of the CAO's courses for the last number of years. This reflects the popularity of Maynooth's flexible curriculum in which students can choose to progressively specialise while pursuing a broad range of studies.

There have also been increases across Science (26%), Business (26%), Science education (22%), Media Studies (13%) and Computer Science (11%) illustrating that students are

increasingly recognising Maynooth as a preferred option across a diverse range of subjects.

New degree programmes in Business and Languages and in Economics have also attracted a significant number of applications, illustrating the growth in scope and breadth of degree offerings. These increases occurred against the backdrop of a decline in CAO honours degree applications of 1% nationally.



Commenting on the figures, Prof Eeva Leinonen, President of Maynooth University, said: “These impressive CAO application figures are evidence of Maynooth University's reputation for excellence and wide appeal among students. We enable students to guide their own educational experiences, while ensuring that they are equipped with the critical skills and ability to adapt to today's rapidly changing employment demands and societal needs. This combination of flexibility underpinned by a comprehensive academic experience ensures we continue to be a university of choice.

“We look forward to welcoming new students for the academic year 2022-2023 into our collegial and distinctive teaching and learning environment. In choosing Maynooth University, they are becoming a part of our diverse campus community, within which they can develop a rich social and cultural life.”

Maynooth University success at the Arnold Palmer Cup

5th July, 2022: David Kitt, Maynooth University Paddy Harrington golf scholar and 3rd Year Business Management student, was part of the International Golf team that defeated the USA to win the prestigious Arnold Palmer Cup (APC) at Golf Club de Geneve in Switzerland this week.

The International Team had 13 singles wins during the final day matches to secure a 33-27 victory. David was the only Irish player on the International Team that featured golfers from 18 different countries.

He earned his place on the international side as Europe's leading male student golfer after winning the R&A Student Tour Series (Europe's elite student golf tour) men's order of merit title last April.

David becomes the sixth representative from the Paddy Harrington golf scholarship programme at Maynooth University to compete in the Arnold Palmer Cup with University students compete in a remarkable eight Arnold Palmer Cups in the last ten years, a feat not matched by any institution outside of the United States.

Barry Fennelly, Manager of the Paddy Harrington Golf Scholarship at Maynooth University Office of Sport, and assistant men's coach with International Team, was on hand with David and the rest of the team throughout the event highlighted the accomplishment, commenting:

“I was an honor to work with such talented rising stars of the game at the APC this week, including our own David Kitt. His contribution and level of playing at such a high profile International tournament is something he should be very proud of, he showed great sportsmanship throughout the week and is a credit to Maynooth University and our golf scholarship programme”.

David, who arrived home from Switzerland today, recognised the support he has received from the University and wider community:

“Being chosen for the Arnold Palmer Cup International Team has been a huge honour for me and an amazing experience, topped off by our success in winning the tournament. I can't thank Barry and the Maynooth team enough for the opportunity that the Scholarship programme has given me, along with the support of my family and friends at Athenry Golf Club.”

The event is a Ryder Cup-style tournament featuring the top men's and women's university/college golfers.



Barry & David with APC Trophy

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Phone



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Cllr. Angela Feeney

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Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com

Stay safe everyone.





Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Cllr Feeney calls for more seats along the Greenway

At the July MD Council meeting, Cllr Feeney asked the Council to issue a request to Waterways Ireland to install more seating along the Royal Canal Greenway. Cllr Feeney said that the Greenway is a real success and is being used by walkers and cyclists, locals and tourists alike. Cllr Feeney added that many people have been calling for some additional seating, to give people a break along the way, to sit and enjoy the space, maybe have a bite to eat and then continue on their way. The provision of more seating along the Greenway would add to the enjoyment of the Greenway. All members agreed to Cllr Feeney's request.

Footpaths at Laraghbryan Cemetery

Cllr Feeney asked that the footpaths immediately to the left and right of the old entrance at Laraghbryan Cemetery, Maynooth be surfaced in tarmac to enhance accessibility. Cllr Feeney stated that most of the other pathways in the cemetery are tarmacked; however these remaining paths, if tarmacked, would make it easier for those with mobility issues, people with buggies to visit the cemetery. The Council agreed that this will be added to the footpath works for the municipal district and will be carried out in the coming weeks.

Yellow Box at The Crescent

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to confirm that the installation of a yellow box at The Crescent, Maynooth will be considered in its review of yellow boxes in the municipal district in order to facilitate the residents accessing the Straffan Road Maynooth. The Municipal District Engineer said he would assess this request in line with Department of Transport Traffic Signs Manual and the road marking guidance for the Council. In speaking to the motion, Cllr Feeney said that the Straffan Road is an extremely busy road and that the installation of a yellow box at this location would allow the residents of the many houses in the Crescent exit more safely. It would also make it safer for the parents and many children from the crèche in the Crescent.

Vacant House Allocation

Cllr Feeney asked for an update as to when a vacant house in the Council ownership would be available for occupancy. Cllr Feeney said that having a house like this vacant for over a year is hard to believe given that we have so many people on a waiting list for a council house. In its response, the Council stated that unfortunately, this property became vacant due to the passing of the resident tenant. Following consultation with the family, the property has however been secured and is currently with the Council's Housing Maintenance department. The Council confirmed to Cllr Feeney that the vacant property would be re-allocated as soon as possible.

Housing Emergency needs to be called out

At the Plenary of the Council in July, Cllr Feeney called on the Council to support the 'Raise the Roof' campaign by writing to the Minister for Housing calling for urgent action, through legislation, if necessary, to address the current housing emergency and growing levels of homelessness in the county.

Cllr Feeney in speaking to the motion stated that the private rental market is at its lowest in terms of supply since online records began. More and more people are turning to their local authority for help. The number of properties within HAP limits advertised continues to decline and that potential homes are being lost to short-term let solutions. Cllr Feeney stated that homelessness is a serious issue in the county and there are thousands of people waiting on the Council's social housing waiting list. However, not all members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing calling for urgent action. The motion did not receive the support of the majority of FF/FG councillors so it fell by one vote.

Kildare's Age Friendly County Survey

Have Your Say! Kildare County Council in association with Kildare's Age Friendly County Alliance and the Kildare OPC have launched an online survey seeking the views of older people (55 years and over) living in County Kildare. The survey is part of a suite of consultations being undertaken to inform the development of the Kildare Age Friendly Strategy 2022 – 2027 and ensure that age friendly activities and services are developed to improve the quality of life for people in County Kildare. Follow link below to take part in the survey: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSchAvOFrFHPd.../viewform>
The survey remains open until August 31st

'Our World' Exhibition

Cllr Feeney attended the 'Our World' inclusive toys and books exhibition at Maynooth public library on July 16th showcasing the Maynooth Access Group's 'Our World' disability-awareness toy library for children. The collection features toys, books and puzzles highlighting different disabilities all of which can be accessed and utilised free of charge by preschools, schools & community groups. This collection will help start conversations around disability, diversity and inclusion with the students/members and staff leaders at your school or community group. We encourage parents, as well as minders and staff working in childcare settings to come along and find out more about this wonderful collection.

Disabled Parking Bays at Laraghbryan Cemetery

Cllr Feeney is happy to see that the Council has acted on her motion, calling for the installation of Disabled Parking bays at Laraghbryan Cemetery. The Council has also agreed to Cllr Feeney's request to do a tarmac resurface on the footpaths just inside the main gates to make it easier for visitors to use whether in wheelchairs or on foot.

Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney since the last Newsletter

July 1st: Council MD
July 8th: Special Meeting of MD
July 25th: Full Council Meeting

July 25th: Speed Limit Review Meeting
July 25th: Special In Camera Meeting of Council

How to stay cool in Hot weather



A lot of us like the warm dry and sunny weather, but when those hot days turn into potentially record-breaking and deadly temperatures, it can put stress on our bodies.

There are lots of simple and effective ways to stay cool in warm weather and most of them are very affordable.

Here are some top tips on how you can cope with the hot weather:

Stay well hydrated

Stay hydrated. Water is essential for keeping you cool during hot weather. Water keeps your body cool and should be drunk even if you don't feel thirsty.

Drink plenty of water and avoid excessive alcohol.

If you're travelling, remember to take a bottle of water with you to stay hydrated.

Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. Drink plenty of water before engaging in any activities.

Choose cooling foods. Food can keep you cool provided you make the right choices. Choose salads, fresh raw food, vegetables and fruit.

Look out for other people

The elderly, those with underlying health conditions and those who live on their own are particularly at risk.

It's important that you should not leave pets or children in closed, parked vehicles for their health and safety as they could overheat and become unwell.

Keep your home cool and stay indoors

During the day, you should close your curtains and windows in rooms that face the sun to help keep rooms cool.

The sun is at its strongest between 11am and 3pm so you should avoid being out during the hottest time of day.

Open windows when you think it's cooler outside than inside, otherwise you'll just let the hot air in. Often this is at night, and try to get some air flowing through.

Turn off any lights and electrical equipment when it's not in use.



Wear lighter clothing

Lightweight, loose-fitting clothing will help to keep you cooler. If it is light in color, it's even better, as this will reflect the heat and sunlight better. Shorts and short sleeved shirts are good choices. Something that lets the air flow freely through, hitting the sweat on your body, works best. The following suggestions are specific ways clothing can maximize your ability to stay cool:

Cotton and linen clothing tends to keep you cool and absorb moisture.

Clothes you can hold up to the light and see through are great choices.

Be sure to apply sunscreen when wearing really thin clothing, however, as the clothing doesn't provide adequate protection from the sun's harmful rays.

Synthetic clothing tends to trap moisture, which makes the fabric feel heavier, stick to your skin, and restrict air-flow.

Working in lower humidity settings with short sleeves has been shown to have a minor benefit. Weigh the options of UV exposure with your choice of clothing.

Take precautions outdoors

If you do head out, make sure you use cool spaces considerably.

People are advised to walk in the shade, to regularly apply sun cream and wear a wide-brimmed hat and light-coloured, loose clothing.

If you want to exercise, you should avoid doing this during the hottest part of the day (between 11am - 3pm). Schedule activities early in the morning or later in the afternoon. Some people are particularly vulnerable to heat and should stay in cool places during hot weather, such as children, the elderly and those who have health problems.



What are the signs of heat exhaustion and heatstroke?

The main causes of illness and death during a heatwave are respiratory and cardiovascular disease. There are two specific heat-related illnesses are Heat exhaustion & Heatstroke

Signs of heat exhaustion include feeling sick or irritability, dizziness, muscle cramps, feeling faint, headaches, fatigue, heavy sweating, loss of appetite and being very thirsty.

If someone has heat exhaustion, they should lie down in a cool place with their feet slightly raised. They should drink plenty of water and cool their skin either with a spray or sponge with cool water, a fan or cold packs around the armpits or neck.

Signs of heatstroke include hot, dry skin or excessive sweating, confusion, loss of consciousness, unresponsive, seizures or fits and a very high body temperature. People are advised to call 999 if someone shows symptoms of heatstroke, which includes feeling unwell after 30 minutes of resting in a cool place.

A person suffering heatstroke should be placed in the recovery position if they lose consciousness while waiting for help.

Source: www.itv.com/news/2022-07-11/how-to-stay-cool-in-a-heatwave-and-how-to-spot-heatstroke-and-heat-exhaustion
www.wikihow.com/Stay-Cool-in-Warm-Weather





MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES

Climate Action

After years of inaction, the Irish government has taken major steps to address the reduction in carbon emissions with the Climate Bill, Carbon Budget and an international commitment of a 51% emission reduction by 2030. The extent of cuts for the key sectors - transport, energy and agriculture - is under discussion among government parties. The transport and energy sectors accept a reduction in the range of 40 to 80% but the Department of Agriculture is pushing back against a reduction of 30%. Climate change is no longer affecting Africa and other far away countries (not that that is any excuse to ignore it). Record high temperatures have resulted in widespread fires in many European countries and at the end of July, we saw record rainfalls which resulted in flooding in Donegal and Derry. Despite this, the Minister for Agriculture, (at the time of writing) is reported as holding out for cuts at the lowest end of the proposed range of 22%

Farming groups claim that Irish farming is the most carbon-efficient food producers in the world but Hannah Daly, who is a professor in Sustainable Energy and Energy Systems Modelling at University College Cork tweeted that “Irish politicians calling their ruminant livestock-based agriculture system “one of the most sustainable food producing nations in the world” is like Saudi Arabia claiming to be the most sustainable energy producer, because the oil it exports is not as dirty as shale oil.”

Transport and energy have a major challenge to meet binding commitments to our European partners and already there is doubt that they will be able to meet them. If the target for agriculture is at the lower level, then the targets for transport and/or energy sectors will have to increase further to unreachable levels.

Meadowbrook Cycle Scheme

Kildare County Council is a key partner of government in implementing its climate action strategy. While its impact on energy and agriculture is limited, Kildare County Council is a major stakeholder in relation to transport. In recent months, it went to Public Consultation on two cycle schemes - Meadowbrook Road Maynooth and Green Lane Leixlip. Maynooth Cycling Campaign made a detailed submissions on each of the schemes.

At the end of July, councillors approved the Chief Executive’s report on the Public Consultation for Meadowbrook. The Health Services Executive made a submission on Meadowbrook which is something we have not seen previously. Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the involvement of the HSE as their focus on health will help to reduce the focus on “vehicle movement”. It is the first time that health authorities have been involved with transport in Kildare since they were invited to join the now abolished Kildare Cycle Forum. It was also noted that the Beaufield bike shop Maynooth Cycles was contacted by Kildare County Council as a third party.

They made no submission and none of the other businesses were contacted. Maynooth Cycling Campaign would point out that it has been making submissions to Kildare County Council for more than ten years but has never been considered as a third party.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign was disappointed that the report appears not to have taken on board two suggestions in particular. One was the failure to quantify the financial benefits of active travel and to quantify the reduction in carbon emissions. This links in with the previous section on Climate Action. As a result of several decades of experience, the European Cycling Federation state that monitoring and reporting change is an essential element of managing transport change but Kildare County Council has stated that its (sole) priority is getting projects started on site. The second suggestion was for traffic calming to reduce the risk of an accident by minimising the width of traffic lanes but this was not accepted either.

Road Fatalities

Road fatalities continue to increase. The latest figures show an increase of 42% compared to the same period in 2021.

Year	Fatalities 1 Jan to 25 July
2019	78
2021	66
2022	94

The government has doubled the fine for speeding and installed a further 61 speed cameras.

In the recent speed review in the county, Maynooth Cycling Campaign called for a default 30kph speed limit in urban areas. Instead Kildare County Council officials propose to increase speed limits in many areas but at a special meeting at the end of July, councillors did not adopt the draft bye-laws.

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.



BBQ Food Safety Tips

BBQ season is here! We can't wait to get cooking in the sun and below are some tips for cooking safely this Summer.

PREPPING YOUR BBQ

If this is your first BBQ of the Summer, give your grill a good clean by scrubbing the metal rack with a suitable cleaner. Remember to rinse it thoroughly with warm, soapy water afterwards.

WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands with hot water and soap for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food.

SEPARATE RAW AND READY TO EAT/COOKED FOODS

Ensure that raw food is kept refrigerated and away from ready to eat/cooked foods at all times. Food being marinated should also be kept in the fridge and covered. Ready to eat foods (such as salads, vegetables, sauces) and cooked foods should never come into contact with raw food as this causes harmful bacteria to contaminate the cooked food.

It is best to use the lower shelves of the fridge for raw meat storage, and the upper shelves for the storage of cooked or ready to eat foods. Always ensure that you use different chopping boards/utensils for raw and cooked foods, and always wash your hands after handling raw food

COOK FOOD THOROUGHLY

Harmful bacteria, such as E-Coli and Salmonella, cause food poisoning and these harmful bacteria are killed by cooking. This is why it is vital to cook food thoroughly to ensure that food is safe to eat.

Always check whether meat is cooked by taking a fork and a sharp knife and slice into the thickest part of the meat.



The colour of the meat in the center should not have any pink colouring or it needs to cook longer.

Burgers should always be cooked thoroughly and never be served pink. Alternatively food thermometers can be purchased in most supermarkets and will easily tell whether meat is cooked by probing the meat to ensure a minimum temperature of 75 degrees Celsius. They are a really handy tool to have in your kitchen too!

SERVE FOOD IMMEDIATELY AFTER COOKING

Do not let cooked food sit at room temperature as this allows harmful bacteria to grow. Once food is cooked, serve immediately. Alternatively you should cool quickly, refrigerate and consume with 2 days.

ALWAYS KEEP FOOD COVERED

Always keep food covered to ensure that flies are not contaminating your food.

USING LEFTOVERS

If you have any leftovers from your barbeque, these should not be left outside where they could be in the sun and where insects and animals could get at them. As with all leftovers, cover these foods and allow them to cool down in a cool place (your kitchen) before refrigerating within two hours of cooking. If you’re reheating leftovers, reheat them only once until piping hot but if in doubt, throw them out.

Source: www.thefoodsafetycompany.ie/bbq-food-safety-tips
Source: www.rte.ie/lifestyle/food/2017/0530/878973-top-tips-for-a-safe-bbq-season/



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St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band



Traditionally July is a very quiet month for the Band with so many of our members away but nevertheless our Monday night rehearsals still went ahead as we have a very busy programme for the remainder of the year.

August gets under way with a recital Monday 8th in the Square where we will "playing support Band" to the Bleckhornen Music Academy Band (Photo Below) all the way from Luden in Sweden. They will be on a week's visit to Ireland and asked to include Maynooth as part of their tour. We are delighted to welcome them to the town and they will have 45 members in their Group with ages ranging from 20 to 39 and they play a wide range of music which will definitely entertain what we hope will be a large audience. The music begins at 7.30pm and finishes up at around 9.15pm depending on light and also depending on a rain free evening.

On Sunday 14th August the Band gives its first ever recital in the Square in Kilcock, again weather permitting, as four members of the Band are long term residents of the Town and probably deserve a hometown gig after all their years of service to the Band. The recital starts at 3pm and we hope to entertain people dining and drinking in the pubs and cafes around the Square. At the time of writing there is a chance that we might be involved in an event that we understand is happening in Maynooth University on Wednesday 24th August to celebrate the Ukrainian National Holiday as there are so many of that nationality staying in Maynooth at this time.



SCHOOL CLEANERS REQUIRED



Maynooth Educate Together NS is seeking cleaners for our school located on the Celbridge Road in Maynooth from 1st September 2022.

Successful applicants will be expected to provide a high quality of cleaning for 16 classrooms and common areas working five afternoons/evenings during school terms as well as flexible hours at other times.

Applications should include details of any previous relevant working experience and references. It is likely that a shortlist of applicants will be contacted for interview when full details of hours to be worked and remuneration will be discussed.

This opportunity is open to individuals and/or contract cleaners. Applications should be by post or e-mail no later than **Friday August 5th** to:

By e-mail: chair@maynoothet.ie

By Post: Paul Croghan, Chairperson,
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Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



It is with great delight that we were able to welcome our senior citizen members back to our Thursday Morning Club. We are opening for one morning per week until the end of August. It was heartening to see such a good turn out and excitement in the hall was very evident. Our committee was there in strength to welcome everyone back. There was tea and plenty of chat before getting down to a game of bingo... and such was the concentration you could hear a pin drop, but this was interrupted by the wonderful slugging as one side of the house seem to be winning all round them. But that was the first week! The second week saw a reversal of fortunes when the other side got their own back.

We welcomed some new members to the Group with others expressing an interest in joining the morning club activities. We also restarted our art classes this week. We resumed our mass bus service on Saturday evenings which was very welcomed by our senior members. We are thinking ahead to the next few months and planning for the months ahead.. We need new members on the Committee if we are to resume even some of the activities that we ran before or if and when we develop new ventures/activities. Fundraising will be key and we are thankful for the support of various members in the community who continued to give generously during the Covid period.

As you may be aware our new Chairperson is Garry Bermingham who represented the organisation at the Picnic in the Harbour recently where he received some expressions of interest from people who may be interested in joining the committee. They are invited to come along and see what volunteering for Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee involves. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 8pm in the Geraldine Hall.

Susan Durack,
Secretary/Pro
Maynooth Senior
Citizens Committee.



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

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School Bus Service to Moyglare

Catherine Murphy TD has been corresponding with the Minister for Transport in respect of provisioning additional Bus Éireann School Bus Services and in particular to service the Moyglare area.

Last year, Bus Éireann indicated there would be a service covering Kilcock/Moygaddy/Moyglare. They had initially accepted payments and issued tickets but then pulled the service without telling families, as only 9 children paid, the minimum number was set at 10. Parents only found out on the first day of school that there was to be no service. Parents and children had been waiting at the bus stop on the first day of school but it never turned up. It had taken over a week to get a response from Bus Éireann.

This year the request for services has commenced. Parents are trying to use public transport to ease this congestion and stress on both the town and the families.

Thank you for the query on behalf of Deputy Murphy and I hope the response below assists. Bus Éireann provides the school transport service to 5,600 students in Co Kildare each school day. Bus Éireann operates the school transport scheme on behalf of the Department of Education. Children are eligible for transport where they reside not less than 3.2 kms from and are attending their nearest education centre as determined by the Department of Education/Bus Éireann, having regard to ethos and language. Distance eligibility is determined by measuring the shortest traversable route from the child's home to the relevant education centre. In order to establish a service, a minimum of 10 eligible pupils residing in a distinct locality, as determined by Bus Éireann, are required before consideration may be given to the establishment or retention of school transport services, provided this can be done within reasonable cost limits.

For school bus operating purposes a "distinct locality" is a cluster of eligible children who reside in the same general area, in the same general direction from the school attended, as determined by Bus Éireann taking cognisance of the local road network. A service to convey a group of children who homes are at scattered points in a school district would not be considered. Children who are not eligible for school transport, under the terms of the scheme, may apply to Bus Éireann for transport on a concessionary basis subject to the following conditions:-

- A Transport Application Form is completed and submitted to Bus Éireann.
- There is a suitable service, as determined by Bus Éireann, operating into their education centre.
- There is spare capacity on the service.
- Routes will not be extended or altered, additional vehicles will not be introduced, nor will larger vehicles or extra trips using existing vehicles be provided to cater for children travelling on a concessionary basis; no additional State cost will be incurred.
- The appropriate annual charge is paid; Medical Card waiver is not applicable.

The availability of concessionary transport may vary from year to year, is not available on public scheduled services and cannot be guaranteed for the duration of a

child's school education cycle. Where the number of applications for transport on a concessionary basis exceeds the number of seats available, Bus Éireann will determine the allocation of the tickets.

Applications for school transport are due by 29 April, to allow time for assessment and service planning during May, June and July.

Applications for Scoil Uí Fhiaich Maynooth have been assessed. All pupils who can be catered for on the existing three services operating to this school have been identified and scheduled accordingly. There is a number of eligible pupils identified as having no service currently. However, there is not the minimum requirement of 10 eligible pupils residing in a distinct locality to establish a service under the terms of the scheme. These families have been informed of this outcome and may be entitled to a remote area grant towards the cost of private transport arrangements.

Applications for Maynooth Educate Together National School have been received and are being assessed to determine if a service is viable based on the above criteria. If a service is viable the local school transport office will be in direct contact with families to advise further.

I hope this information is helpful,

Sincerely

Corporate Communications, Senior Manager

For Written Answer on : 12/07/2022

Question Number(s): 1149 Question Reference(s): 37195/22

**Department: Rural and Community Development
Asked by: Catherine Murphy T.D**

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Rural and Community Development her plans to develop and or enhance the connected hubs in Leixlip, Celbridge and Maynooth in 2022 and into 2023; if she has engaged with the national hub network in respect of the provision of services and facilities in the mentioned towns and in north Kildare - Catherine Murphy.

REPLY

Our Rural Future, Ireland's Rural Development Policy was launched in early 2021. The policy recognises the opportunity for rural rejuvenation that remote working presents and commits to establishing a comprehensive and integrated national network of 400 remote working hubs by 2025.

In furtherance of this commitment, my Department's focus to date has been on strategically developing a national hubs network, adding capacity to Ireland's existing remote working infrastructure and supporting the establishment of new hubs.

Over €100m has been invested by my department in the development of remote working facilities through programmes such as the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, and the Connected Hubs Call. Successful projects are developed in collaboration with local authorities and communities with many projects seeing vacant and derelict buildings in rural towns and villages converted into remote working hubs.

Last year I launched ConnectedHubs.ie, a shared online booking and payments platform for member hubs and their users. The network includes a diverse

range of hubs, services and facilities, thus facilitating companies of different sizes. There are currently 249 remote and co-working facilities across the State on-boarded to the platform. This number is growing all the time meaning we are well on track to meet our target of 400 remote working hubs nationwide by 2025. This includes 8 hubs in county Kildare, which are as follow:

- National Equine Innovation Centre (NEIC) (Kildare),
- ACDAL Remote Working Hub (Allenwood),
- Newbridge Business Centre (Newbridge),
- The Hub at Ballymore Eustace (Ballymore Eustace),
- Premier Business Centres @ The Osprey (Naas),
- MERITS (Naas) ,
- Venture House (Ballitore),
- County Kildare Chamber iHub (Naas).

A further 5 hubs in Kildare have also been invited to join the National network, as follows:

- Monasterevin Community Centre (Monasterevin),
- Athy Community Enterprise Centre (Athy),
- AgTechUCD Innovation Centre (Celbridge),
- Clane Project Centre (Clane),
- Business Barn (Leixlip).

In February of this year, I launched the 2022 Connected Hubs Call, allocating €5 million in funding to add additional capacity to the existing remote working infrastructure in remote working hubs and Broadband Connection Points throughout the country. On Wednesday 8 June, I announced that 81 projects across the country were successful in securing funding via the Connected Hubs 2022 scheme. This included approximately €250,000 being awarded to the following 5 hubs/BCPs in county Kildare - Kildare Chamber I Hub, Merits, Athy Community Enterprise Centre, the National Equine Innovation Centre and Venture House.

Details of the successful projects can be found on my Department website at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/49822-2021-connected-hubs-fund-successful-applicants/>

I have been clear throughout my tenure as Minister for Rural and Community Development that balanced regional development, sustainable and thriving communities, and indeed the wider national economy will all benefit from workers and employers embracing the remote working revolution.

I am committed to ensuring that the National Hub Network will continue to make a central contribution to the achievement of the Government's vision for rural Ireland, as set out in Our Rural Future.

For Written Answer on : 05/07/2022

Question Number(s): 487 Question Reference(s): 35763/22

**Department: Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
Asked by: Catherine Murphy T.D.**

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Further and Higher Education; Research; Innovation and Science the expected date on which the construction of a new technology, society and innovation building at Maynooth

(Continued on page 19)



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

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(Continued from page 18)

University will be completed; and the estimated cost of the project.

REPLY

I am delighted to advise that the new Technology, Society and Innovation building at Maynooth University is at the final handover and demonstrations stage with the substantial completion cert expected to issue next week. The building will be available for use by the staff by the end of next week and for students at the start of the academic year.

This state of the art building will provide a 10,554m² teaching and learning facility and a 5,670m² refurbishment of the existing Arts and Science Building at Maynooth University. The project will facilitate an increase of some 3,370 students in areas such as business, law, design, biochemical sciences and environmental and climate sciences. The estimated total cost of the project is circa €47.5m

For Written Answer on : 14/06/2022

Question Number(s): 280 Question Reference(s): 29522/22

Department: Transport

Asked by: Catherine Murphy T.D.

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Transport the supports that are available for a bus service (details supplied) which had routes from Tallaght to the airport and from Maynooth to Dublin Airport; if such services are required to be licenced by the National Transport Authority; if so, if there are alternative plans to restore the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. (Details Supplied) the privately run Airport Hopper; the service ceased and has not resumed post-pandemic

REPLY

As Minister for Transport, I have responsibility for policy and overall funding in relation to public transport; however, I am not involved in the day-to-day operations of public transport. The National Transport Authority (NTA) has statutory responsibility for securing the provision of public passenger transport services nationally and is responsible for the licensing of public bus passenger services under the provisions of the Public Transport Regulation Act 2009.

Therefore, I have forwarded the Deputy's question in relation to a bus service which had routes from Tallaght and Maynooth to Dublin Airport, to the NTA for direct reply. Please advise my private office if you do not receive a response within ten working days.

I am writing to you concerning the matter you raised in Parliamentary Question No 280 on 14 June last which has been referred to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for reply.

The Authority is responsible for securing the provision of public bus services through;

- Public service contracts, where services cannot be provided on a commercial basis, and
- the licensing of public bus services, which are operated on a commercial basis.

Route 777, Tallaght and Dublin Airport, is a commercial service operated by Dualway Coaches Ltd (t/a Airport Hopper) and licensed by the Authority.

The service does not receive any subsidy from the Authority. Due to the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 crisis, commercial operators have been permitted to suspend licences as passenger demand fluctuated. It is currently a matter for the operator to determine whether it is in their commercial interests to recommence services.

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats)

173. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if his attention has been drawn to the huge increase in energy bills for the restaurant and hospitality sector (details supplied); and the steps that he will take provide assistance and or relief in this sector. [39276/22]

174. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if his attention has been drawn to the impact of rising energy costs for the restaurant and hospitality sector (details supplied); and his plans to address this in Budget 2023. [39422/22]

190. To ask the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment if he has engaged with the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications in respect of energy costs for restaurants and hospitality service providers; his plans to provide assistance to those businesses impacted; and if his attention has been drawn to the upsurge in energy costs for restaurants and hotels (details supplied). [39275/22]

Damien English (Meath West, Fine Gael)

I propose to take Questions Nos. 173, 174 and 190 together.

I wish to assure the deputy that the Government is very conscious of what the rise in global energy costs means for Irish businesses, particularly small enterprises and those with tight margins, including those in the hospitality sector.

While electricity policy nationally is broadly the remit of the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, our Departments have been engaging on this pressing issue. Energy costs are one of the prime factors in the increase in business costs to which the deputy refers, and we have already implemented several measures to help ease the impact on enterprises of energy price increases including reductions in VAT and excise on some fuels, as well as a temporary grant scheme to hauliers in the supply chain.

Minister Donohoe recently announced the extension of the 9% Value Added Tax (VAT) rate for the tourism and hospitality industry for a further six months; a measure for which €250 million is the estimated cost to the exchequer.

Government Departments have been consulting with stakeholders on specific measures that could be considered to ameliorate the short to medium term challenges to energy security. The Energy Supply Emergency Group is an inter-departmental and inter-agency group with responsibility for informing the Government response to the impact of rising energy costs on business, security of energy supply more generally, and a longer-term reduction in Ireland's dependency on imported oil and gas.

Under the aegis of this Group, my Department has established the Business Energy Users Sub-Group to lead on consultations with business and industry to learn about the specific impacts on Irish businesses,

and to hear their concerns and perspectives on the appropriate and most effective tools for policy action. The work of this sub-group, as part of the wider Energy Supply Emergency Group has informed the National Energy Security Framework which was launched by the Government on 13th April 2022.

Furthermore, my Department is discussing competitiveness and price inflation for enterprises with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. To deliver price competitiveness over the medium-term, Government is determined to deliver a diversified energy system, with significant support for energy efficiency and renewables, alongside independent regulation that protects consumers and delivers efficient, competitive energy retail and wholesale markets.

At present, a range of supports are available to households and businesses ranging from practical advice to financial supports. These can be viewed on my Department's website at enterprise.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/Energy-supports/Energy-supports-for-business.html.

Practical advice includes the Climate Toolkit 4 Business, launched late last year by my Department and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. This allows SMEs to input simple information to get an estimate of their carbon footprint and a personalised action plan to reduce it. From the Local Enterprise Offices, the Green for Micro initiative offers mentoring to micro-enterprises looking to become greener. Additionally, the Lean for Micro scheme works with clients of the Local Enterprise Offices to help build resilience.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) provides direct grants such as the support scheme for renewable heat, project assistance grants, the EXCEED grant scheme, tax incentives available through the Accelerated Capital Allowance, and funding for energy audits. Further training is available via the SEAI's Energy Academy.

Finally, there are loans available for businesses absorbing the numerous economic shocks of recent years. The Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland offers the Brexit Impact Loan Scheme, offering loans from €25,000 to €1.5m, and the Credit Guarantee Scheme for businesses responding to the impact of COVID-19. These loan facilities may also be helpful to businesses struggling with increased energy costs. Microenterprises can also avail of loans of up to €25k from Microfinance Ireland which they may not be able to avail of from commercial lenders.

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats) 323. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if his attention has been drawn to the sale of lands in proximity to Castletown house in Celbridge (details supplied); if the OPW intends to inspect the lands with a view to expanding on and protecting its own holdings in the area; and if he will provide a schedule of planned upgrades and additions to the existing Castletown house and lands. [38978/22]

Patrick O'Donovan (Limerick County, Fine Gael) Strengthening the integrity of the Castletown Demesne is an ongoing objective of the Office of Public Works and as such this matter is kept under constant review as part of the ongoing management and development of the Castletown House Estate. The

(Continued on page 20)



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

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OPW is fully familiar with the lands to which the Deputy refers. As this is a matter of ongoing consideration, it would not be appropriate to provide any further comment at this time.

Regarding the schedule of planned upgrades and additions to the existing house and lands, the restoration of the Tom Conolly Room is now completed with conservation works planned for the Pastel Room. The historic windows of the great house are currently being conserved and restored. Works are ongoing on the consolidation and repair of the estate wall at the Batty Langley Gate.

The OPW is also in the process of conserving the farmyard complex at Castletown to provide new visitor facilities with exhibition and event spaces. It is anticipated that works will commence here in 2023. Preparations are also underway to provide improved parking facilities for visitors.

Passport Queries

During 2021 and 2022, Catherine Murphy noticed a surge in passport application queries. Many difficulties were arising for families seeking issuance of their travel documents. In the main, queues and backlogs of applications led to delays. In other cases, first time applications that required verification posed challenges in efficiency of the system. Catherine sought to find a solution and worked with all stakeholders to find a mutually robust, safe and efficient strengthened service. Following months of enquiries, debates and queries, Catherine wrote the following Memo to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in respect of making the verification of Garda Log / consent forms more efficient for all parties. Catherine Murphy TD had positive engagement from the Department officials and the Garda representatives locally and there has been a new system implemented which will make the process more modern, streamlined and more effectively. We have already seen passports issue following the new verification process. Catherine will continually seek improvements to public service to benefit customers and stakeholders.

Memo to DFA

As you are aware the passport office is under a huge amount of pressure. Late last year your Department introduced an Oireachtas Query form for TDs to make enquiries about certain passport applications on behalf of constituents.

At the moment there is a pressure point at the point of Garda verification of the log entries where DFA officials have to phone the station. This can cause the passport applications to be cancelled where contact is not made and it seems that many are being cancelled. I am seeking the Proposal for Passport Office Officials to verify Garda Log entries by designated email process

I am proposing that instead of ringing before cancelling an application that an email query form from DFA to Garda officials is created to make the process more robust. This could be put in place on a trial basis with Leixlip Garda Station – the district involves 5 stations, some of which are not open 24/7. Having a single official designated email point of contact and allowing a reasonable response time would allow for a secure and robust process that could be trialled immediately. Then it could be rolled out nationwide.

I would urge you to consider a proposed trial and if successful could be agreed within the appropriate parameters. I had asked our District Superintendent Gray if she would consider supporting a proposed trial. Leixlip DS is supportive. They are keen to support the community and applicants and are happy to continue to deliver good service throughout the district and are looking to work positively with the DFA officials to ensure successful outcome for appropriate passport applications.

End of memo

Catherine asked a follow up PQ to check on the process and if it would be retained and is delighted to see it is to be rolled out nationally.

Catherine Murphy (Kildare North, Social Democrats) 411. To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the duration for which that he will run the pilot project in respect of the proposal for Passport Office officials to verify Garda log entries by a designated email process (details supplied) before rolling out the procedure. [39092/22]

Simon Coveney (Cork South Central, Fine Gael)

There are certain passport applications for applicants resident in Ireland that require forms to be witnessed by a member of An Garda Síochána. The witnessing of these forms is a vital element of the identity verification process for the Passport Service, as it provides initial assurance that the person in the photograph is the same person presenting to submit the passport application form. In the case of children's applications, it ensures that the consent of guardians is verified.

Garda stations maintain logs of these witnessed forms for verification purposes. For each application involving a Garda witness, the Passport Service calls the relevant Garda station to confirm that the Garda witness recorded the witnessed form in the station logbook. Passport Service staff will call the relevant Garda station up to three times to verify the Garda's signature.

In cases where the Garda signature cannot be verified by calling the Garda station, a new system has been established between the Passport Service and An Garda Síochána to verify these applications. This new system assists in reducing the number of applications that are delayed due to a failure to verify witness details. An average of 15 applications per day are verified in this manner. Over the past four weeks, the Passport Service has issued over 6,000 passports per day.

This system was fully rolled out across the Passport Service in June 2022. The Passport Service and An Garda Síochána will keep the system under review to ensure that it continues to operate effectively.

Additional Needs Payments:

There has been an expansion to the community welfare scheme to support families who are experiencing financial difficulty in meeting their expenses due to the cost of living crisis. Families can now apply for an additional needs payment through the local offices.

Those who apply for the payments through their local community welfare officers must show their weekly income cannot cover a bill or exceptional cost that has arisen.

The payment is available to anyone who needs it and

qualifies, whether the person is currently receiving a social welfare payment or working on a low income. Usually weekly income limits are set at €350 for a single person, €450 for a couple with no children and between €551 and €1,318 depending on the number of children in the household. Community welfare officers can ultimately apply discretion in circumstances of unique hardship so families are advised to apply if they are experiencing difficulties. There is no limit to the amount paid out, with costs that can be covered including, but not limited to, fuel or electricity bills, essential property repairs e.g. a car or boiler, replacement household appliances, funeral costs, deposits for rental accommodation, bedding, food, clothing, shelter, hospital travel costs or visiting a relative in hospital or prison.

In January, 3,466 applications were received, but that nearly doubled to 6,585 in April.

The number of applications then soared by more than 50pc to 10,125 in May, and 10,824 applications were made last month.

Catherine made several enquiries to the Minister for Social Protection to see if families from Kildare and other counties were benefiting from the enhanced scheme and to raise awareness of the availability of support for families that may be struggling.

Contact details:

Celbridge Health Centre:

Celbridge, Kilcock, Ardcloagh and Newtown

Phone: 01 6303196 Emergency No. 087 7907657

E-mail: cws celbridgekilcock@welfare.ie

Maynooth Health Centre:

Maynooth, Leixlip, Straffan, Rathcoffey, Clonee and rural areas.

Maynooth side of Dunboyne (Co. Meath)

Phone: 01 6706743 Emergency No. 087 0683820

E-mail: cws maynoothleixlip@welfare.ie

Housing For All Progress Report Shows Housing Crisis Is Getting Worse

On every metric, the housing crisis is getting worse. The latest Housing for All progress report shows only 16 of the 30 Housing for All actions promised for Q2 2022 were completed.

Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy said:

“The Government has failed to deliver almost half of its promised actions in the Housing for All plan for the second quarter of this year. There is a glaring absence of urgency in the Government’s approach.

“On every metric, the housing crisis is getting worse. Homelessness is about to hit a record high; house prices are at unsustainable Celtic Tiger levels and the rates of homeownership are collapsing – all while the Government dithers and delays.

“The Government is constantly referencing Housing for All as their answer to the housing crisis. Yet the Government is only doing half of what it promised in the Housing for All plan. 47% of the actions due to be complete by now have pushed back to the end of the year or beyond.

“Some of the key actions not delivered include more funding for the Residential Tenancies Board, a new model of healthcare for people who are homeless and the retrofit 2,400 social homes.

“If the Government cannot even deliver on these very modest actions, how can it possibly expect to turn the tide on rising homelessness, unaffordable rents and rising house prices?”



Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Seniors in St. Ciaran's

Yesterday I was reading about the apparently peaceful relations between natives and newcomers in Ireland prior to the 1641 rebellion and while not wishing to trivialise the horrors of that period, my mind went back to the relationship between 5th and 6th Years in my old alma mater, St. Ciaran's College. As seniors we shared the same long dormitory on the 3rd Floor, and although to an outsider relations might have appeared cordial, underneath there were simmering tensions, the seeds of which were sown in our first year.

Newcomers or "Chaws" in St. Ciaran's were on the receiving end of much attention, both from older students and priests. A senior might kick a Chaw in the backside just because he felt like doing so – this never happened to me but a few of my pals were less fortunate – or demand that he surrender his place at table-tennis or on the ball alley. During our first week, Fr. Eoin, the Dean of Discipline, arranged a Chaws' Concert in the *Aula Maxima* in which we were all required to participate. One sang, danced, played the accordion or did whatever one could to entertain. The results were often unintentionally hilarious.

I can vividly recall Mickey Cooney reciting Brian Boru's address to his warriors before the Battle of Clontarf:

*'Stand ye now for Erin's glory,
Stand ye now Erin's cause.'*

The contrast between Mickey's treble tones – his voice hadn't yet broken – and the heroic subject matter nearly brought the house down, ensuring that he was henceforth known as 'Standye Cooney'. Another Chaw, John McGlynn, sang a popular song about 'The Rich Maharajah', who in addition to ten thousand camels, had 'rubies and pearls and the loveliest girls' – he got no further. The moment Fr. Eoin heard mention of girls he called out in apparent horror, 'Stop!' with the result that John was thereafter nicknamed 'Maharajah McGlynn'. What my own contribution was escapes me now, but it must have passed off without trauma.

The next initiation rite was a 'Chaws versus 2nd Years' game of Gaelic football. Here the Chaws could be sure that the whole school, apart from 2nd Years, were supporting them. The 3rd Years in particular longed to see their own former rivals humiliated and if this happened, the 2nd Years had a score to settle with the victorious newcomers. Of course, Chaws who displayed exceptional talent would be placed on a pedestal from then on; the mediocre, such as myself, had to win acceptance by other means or not at all. But whatever the outcome of the game, in general, the scene was set for future rivalry, which reached a peak when prefects were chosen from among the 6th Years.)

Chosen from 6th Years, prefects wielded considerable authority in the college. They constituted a kind of informal police force and might dole out corporal punishment using their thick leather belts, or bare hands. When in charge of a dormitory a prefect would ask every student to contribute towards the cost of a long silver torch. Consequently, fellows in the process of tipping a mattress with its sleeping occupant onto the floor or engaging in a pillow fight were often caught in a powerful beam of light they themselves had paid for. Punishment was usually swift and painful, though use of the belt diminished after our first year.

Now as I said, 5th and 6th Years shared a dormitory. The prefect slept in an end bed that commanded a view of the entire room with its four rows of beds. In our first senior year the prefect in charge, Liam Browne, must have been selected for his brains – he was an honours student – rather than his physical prowess. 'Sow' Browne, as his nickname suggests, was not one of those natural-born leaders who command respect because of innate strength of character. Nevertheless, he represented the priests and so we were expected to obey him. In the meantime, if we showed signs of overt insubordination his henchmen, Bruiser Naughton and Flint Quirke, were there as enforcers. Not that Browne ever had need of their services – at least not in his first months as prefect.

Students from both senior years engaged in high jinks in the dormitory. As well as the usual stuff of making 'apple pie beds', engaging in pillow fights and, occasionally, feasting on sweet cakes after lights-out, a few of us used attempt to walk

like tight-rope performers from one end of the dormitory to the other along the metal end-rails of beds. Another stunt involved jumping up from an end-rail to grab one of the iron bars spanning the room that tied together the wooden roof trusses. The danger here was that if one missed the bar one would almost certainly land on an end-rail and risk breaking a leg. Successful jumpers such as the 6th Year student Hawkeye Flynn would, in trapeze artiste fashion, swing by their knee joints from the tie bar before dropping to the floor. These feats were only undertaken while Browne and his henchmen visited the nearby washroom. I was quite good at rail walking but never succeeded in grabbing a tie bar, probably because I lacked the nerve to jump up straight enough – that way if I missed the bar I wouldn't land on an end-rail.

One night I was fast asleep when suddenly, as if hurled by an avalanche, my body hit the wooden floor: pranksters had tipped over the mattress. While I was remaking the bed with the help of my pal, 'Freddie the Fearless Fly' Conroy, the harsh light of Browne's torch dazzled us and his voice boomed, 'Scott and Conroy, report to the Dean after mass tomorrow morning.' Our protestations of innocence were brushed aside: we had been caught red-handed creating a disturbance.

Since reporting oneself to the Dean, Fr. Eoin, involved a major risk of unpleasant consequences, neither Freddie nor I complied with Browne's order. Later, we were called before Fr. Eoin, who, surprisingly, accepted our explanation and did not fine us. It was a victory of sorts, but victories have consequences. After that Browne resented the fact that we had flouted his authority. We would have to watch our steps. A few nights later we were all lying quietly in our beds. The lights were out and apart from a few whispered conversations most of us were half asleep. Suddenly, Hawkeye's excited stage whisper announced, "There's an eclipse of the moon tonight!" Immediately, Freddie and I joined a stampede of twenty or more students towards the windows. Despite clambering up on the sills to peer at the sky, we could detect nothing unusual. Next minute the overhead lights were switched on and a furious Sow yelled, "Everyone back to bed! I'm reporting this in the morning."

Although Freddie and I had definitely been spotted among the moon-gazers, we assured one another that Browne wouldn't make a big deal out of the incident – after all, there were quite a number of 6th Years involved. How wrong we were. Sow duly reported every 5th Year, with special emphasis on Scott and Conroy. Not one 6th Year was included. I can't recall that Fr. Eoin imposed any great penalty, but the 5th Years were smarting at the unfairness of it all. It was in this climate that I decided to redress the balance of justice with my pen.

Prior to this I had had a piece of verse published in the *Western Champion* and I occasionally amused my classmates with topical ballads. Now I composed a lampoon to commemorate the eclipse incident. One verse still sticks in my mind:

"There's talk of war and action:

The Fives are feeling sore,

They'll look for satisfaction,

They're calling Browne a boar."

It was fairly crude stuff and only intended for private consumption. Unfortunately, one of my classmates, Gary Heenan, got hold of it and thought it the most wonderful piece of satire. Unknown to me, Gary decided to read it aloud in the Back Jacks. It was like a conspirator choosing the Roman Forum to deliver a tirade against Caesar.

The Back Jacks was the place where seniors, including prefects, congregated after teatime to smoke and chat. On this occasion, Sow, Bruiser and Flint, were present. Freddie told me afterwards that you could hear a pin drop as Gary read out the lines. When he had finished, Sow and his henchmen promptly confiscated the lampoon and demanded to know who had written it. Gary refused to tell. Since Heenan's brother was a priest in the college, Freddie was convinced that there would be no repercussions. Nevertheless, I could have murdered Heenan for putting us both at risk, especially when I heard that Sow and his henchmen had been spotted inspecting jotters and copybooks in the 5th Year classrooms. That night my foreboding proved accurate.

When we were all in bed, Sow, flanked by Bruiser and Flint, all fully clothed, entered the dormitory, approached Heenan's

bed and ordered him out on the floor. Watched by the entire dormitory, Gary rose. Like a lamb facing a butcher, he stood there mutely in bare feet and pyjamas, arms hanging down; eyes full of apprehension. Sow reminded him of what had taken place in the Back Jacks, adding, "You had your fun, Heenan; now you'll pay for it."

Losing no time Sow began to carry out the punishment. First, he swung his right hand in a broad sweep and hit Gary full across the face; then he swung his left hand. Again and again he struck the unfortunate Gary, switching hands

methodically, while my stomach tightened into a knot with angry fear. When blood began to trickle from Gary's nose I thought Sow would relent. After all, this was a priest's younger brother who was being 'clattered'. But Sow was determined that we should all see the consequences of ridiculing him. It wasn't until blood began to splash onto Gary's pyjamas that he stopped. Then the three avengers turned away and headed down the aisle.

Now it's my turn. Watched by countless pairs of eyes I get out of bed when ordered. Browne faces me, while his two henchmen stand like torturer's assistants behind his back, ready to intervene if I resist.

Sow glares at me: "Scott, did you write the poem which Heenan recited?"

I look into his flushed face and beady pig's eyes. He is only slightly heavier than myself. If I swing at him the watching 5th Years will almost certainly come to my assistance. Maybe Naughton and Quirke will flatten me but there will be one hell of a battle – in which case Fr. Eoin, whose room is almost directly underneath, will hear: if he finds out that I caused it by striking a prefect, I'll be for the high road in the morning. Better take my medicine like Gary.

"Scott, I asked if you wrote the poem?" Browne's voice is shrill. I again refuse to answer. "It doesn't matter whether or not you admit it. We checked the handwriting against the handwriting in your copybook – and do you know what? They match. So now we'll see how smart you really are."

The blows to my head are delivered with brain-rattling force while I keep my hands by my side and my eyes drilling into Sow's. With the regularity of a metronome his hands crash against the side of my face, though by some miracle my nose doesn't bleed. What hurts even more than the battering is the conviction that in a man-to-man fight I'd give this bastard just as good as I'm getting. In the meantime, I won't let him have the satisfaction of seeing me flinch. Finally it's over. My ears are buzzing and my brain is groggy, but during the entire ordeal I haven't uttered a sound. When Naughton and Quirke had gone away and Sow was getting ready to turn out the lights I forced myself to walk half dazed down the aisle between the middle and side row of beds. The humiliation of having been beaten like an animal in front of all the seniors added coals of shame to the fire burning in my head. Somehow I had to recover my manhood. Browne looked surprised and more than a little wary when he saw me approach his bed. But at this stage I had no intention of risking expulsion. 'Liam', I addressed him by his Christian name, 'I've a favour to ask.' 'What?' He gave me a half-guilty look.

'Liam', my voice was pleading, 'will you meet me some place outside the college grounds so that we can settle this man-to-man?'

Recovering from his surprise, he said truculently: 'You know where I live. You can meet me there any time you like.' Sure enough, I vaguely knew that he lived in some place at least forty miles from my home, but there was no point in getting into an argument. I'll remember that, I promised and walked away. Gary Heenan didn't report the incident to his brother, or, if he did, there were no obvious repercussions. In any case, Fr. Eoin would be reluctant to censure a prefect he himself or the college staff had appointed. Over sixty years have passed since that night, but Liam and I have never met. It is clear to me now that he and I had this much in common: we were both determined not to lose face. If we do bump into each other before we die, I hope that Liam will be man enough to ask me for forgiveness. Maybe I'll ask him for forgiveness too. After all, despite the proverb about 'sticks and stones', words can sometimes hurt even more than blows.

P.G. Nerney



Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Goldfinch Nest

It's just a compact, blackish lump
cradled in a forking branch
of our cherry-blossom tree
stripped by heedless winds and
rain,
its bright-winged ménage flown.

I see in it my natal home
left derelict and barren,
the college where I came of age
among lighthearted classmates
shabby now, deserted.

It could even be the semi-detach
in which we raised our bright-eyed
brood
or this nurturing planet earth
threatened by overexploitation,
its former grandeur lost.

Colin Scott

Ladybugs & Hugs

Little ladybug,
Cuddling in a small home,
Getting a big hug.

Crawling up a tree,
Sets off to fly away and,
Makes a family.

Makes a new small home,
Gets a lot of yummy food,
Listen to the poem.

The home is now made,
The cuddles bring all the joy,
As the bird chirps fade.

In their little Minds,
Big Adventurous dreams start,
Many, many, times.

We all need some hugs,
Not just when we're very sad,
So find ladybugs.



*By Isabelle May Maher,
Age 10
'Everyone needs hugs
Haiku poem.'*

The Holy Name

Oh Jesus it is now so rare,
To hear your name save in a swear;
You're called by mouths to virtue blind,
To witness deeds of every kind!

Indeed! And it wasn't just today or yesterday it began. Since I was a child I have heard your name being taken in vain by great numbers of people and often coupled with words that shouldn't even be in any self-respecting dictionary. But maybe the difference is that when I was a child none of my family had a rough tongue as neither my mother nor my father would have allowed it. Back then of course those who abused the holy name were believers in Jesus Christ and meant no insult to the possessor of that great name. Nowadays the abuse of the Holy Name is far more common and particularly in the mouths of those who have no belief whatsoever in Christ or anything he stands for. And leave it to television and film scripts!

Film and television scripts without the roughest language interspersed with frequent mentioning of the holy name and inane references to God, I imagine, wouldn't even be considered in the least suitable for the "mature" audiences expected to be watching these programmes. People are too grown up now and sophisticated for anything but street corner language. None of your Auntie Mary's squeamishness and Victorian prudery! Vulgarity and irreligion rule the day and tough luck if that isn't to your liking. Everything is all right of course if the token comment that the "following programme contains strong language" is wheeled out at the beginning so that it's Auntie Mary's own fault that she is offended if she doesn't turn to some other channel immediately or leave the room.

And it's not just in the world of entertainment, so-called, that the nose is thumbed at religious sensitivities. It's ubiquitous. How often have we heard pleas for support for the marginalised expressed in the same abominable language. People in public life often use it as they know that the use of such language will identify them with their followers and gain them some welcome notoriety.

"Life is real! Life is earnest! And the grave is not its goal;" wrote Longfellow in his famous Psalm of Life. Would any poet write such lines these days? I doubt it but am open to correction. The grave is indeed not life's goal and, because of the resurrection, Christians believe that our present existence is just the anteroom to what life is really all about. The one who lived and died attempting to teach us that truth by establishing the Kingdom of God, which is the antithesis of earthly kingdoms, is worthy of universal respect and his name is sacred. Do what you can to keep it so!

GM.

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**Maynooth: a Socio-Economic Community Profile
1901-1911: Highlights from the past (Continued)**

This is the final section in the six part series published in the Newsletter. This section deals with the Economic, Social and Political aspects of the town of Maynooth.

Property ownership

According to the Censuses, there were no fourth class houses in Maynooth. In 1901 the Duke of Leinster owned houses in Carton Estate, Back Lane, and Convent Lane. He also owned Court House Street, Dillon’s Row, Doctor’s Lane, Double Lane, Dublin Road, Fagan’s Lane, Greenfield, School Lane, Leinster Street and Main Street. Three houses on Main Street which the Duke did not own were number 7 which was owned by Daniel Buckley, number 18 was owned by John Houghton and number 45, the Leinster Arms was owned by Alice Redmond. Number 19, Parson’s Street, the Presbytery, was owned by Freeman Gason. Number 9, Parson’s Street Upper was owned by Mary McDonnell. By contrast the 1911 census shows a very different picture which corresponds with the decline of Carton Demesne. By this time the Duke’s ownership centred on Carton Demesne and Old Carton.

Maynooth Businesses

It is obvious from the College archives that local businesses and local individuals benefited from their dealings with the College. The main businesses in the town were beginning to benefit in 1901. There were two Buckley’s shops in 1901, one at 19 Main Street owned by Cornelius Buckley who was 72 and who came from Cork. There was also a shop at 7 Leinster Street owned by his son Daniel R. Buckley, aged 34, who was born in Kildare. Cornelius had three boarders described as shop assistants, who were from Cork. He described himself as having Irish and English. He had one female servant, Mary Tyrrell, aged 45, who came from Kildare. No children are mentioned in the 1901 census.

Daniel Buckley was married to Jane and had two children named Joseph P. and Daniel M. They had one female servant. Daniel attempted to set up a Gaelic League branch in the town in 1906. He was elected to the Dáil as a member of Sinn Fein from 1918 to 1922 and subsequently became the Governor-General of Ireland in 1932. The shop’s name was changed to the Irish version. The College was a source of income for the family business. Daniel Buckley’s bill to the College was £23. 4s.7d. in 1901. This increased substantially by 1911 when the bill amounted to £82.10s.3d. Businesses were generally paid every quarter by the College.

By 1911 other shops had come which is further proof of development in Maynooth however small. For instance, Valentine Carney set up a pharmacy in the town in 1901. Dawson’s began its rise and was dealing with the College by 1911. M. and F. Dawson supplied such items as barley meal, fire bricks, black oats, red bran, crushed wheat and bacon. They also supplied farm machine parts such as shafts for wheel rakes and farm implements. Dawson’s bill to the College in 1911 amounted to £139 0s. 9d. Dawson’s advertised his shop, supplies and services in the *Kildare Observer*, *the Westmeath Examiner*, *Meath Chronicle* and *the Irish Independent* which is evidence of this businessman’s drive and success and point to an increasing prosperous and developing farming community. His expanding business is reflected in the various advertisements in the *Kildare Observer*. From selling coal, coke and seeds in the beginning of the 1900s to supplying Rudge-Whitworth bicycles in 1903, farm machinery such as Ransome balance ploughs in 1920 and Ford and Morris cars by 1925. There is also an advertisement from Dawson’s seeking an apprentice and who was requested to apply in their own handwriting.

Dawson’s development in the provision of farm machinery bears out the development of farming mechanisation and progress in Kildare. Richard Breen’s comment that “the spread of agricultural innovation was generally from east to west because eastern farms were larger and more prosperous.” He states that the adoption of mechanical innovation represented by tractors shows that Leinster represented about half of the development of the whole of Ireland. In 1939 Leinster had 1,184 tractors out of a total of 2,067 for the whole of Ireland. Kerry has 53 tractors. By 1949 Leinster has 5, 574 out of 10, 145 and Kerry had 193.

M.P O’Brien supplied such items as pastry flour, oatmeal, red bran, pollard, white bran and barley meal. His bill to the College in 1911 amounted to

£220.18s.4d. Pitt’s public house did not have a major account with the College but supplied lemons and soda water and ‘brandy etc. as medicine for cattle’. Kavanagh’s Mill was paid for crushing oats and for supplying bran, oatmeal and white bran to the amount o £55.14s 1d in 1901 and 43.6s.11d in 1911. Kelly’s Bakery (Kilcock) supplied bread.

Women and Business

The College Wage Books indicate that local individuals also benefited from supplying the College with goods and services. Most of the accounts are in women’s names. Mary Hyland of 7 Dillon’s Row supplied eggs in 1901 and 1911. She earned c.£20 in 1901 and £28.11.6 in 1911. She was one of three women egg suppliers. The others were Mary Fox who does not appear on the Maynooth town census and Mrs. R. White who did substantial business with the College. Mrs. White does not appear on the Maynooth town census. She was paid £45.0s 9d. in the second quarter to June 1901. In September she was paid £61.13s 0d. and in December she was paid £152.10s 1d. She was in business with the College for a number of years but does not appear in the 1911 book. Miss Brigid Kenny from Parson’s Street supplied chickens and ducks. In 1901 she was paid £11.8s.6d. for the year. In 1911 she supplied 27 chickens in September at a cost of £2.19s.6d. and seven chickens in December at a cost of 12s.6d.. Rearing poultry for sale was one of the most important occupations for women of the labouring and small farmer class to contribute substantially to the household economy. The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction noted in 1911 that women on small farms earned between twenty and sixty pounds per year rearing poultry. Mary Austin provided milk and charged £197.2s.8d. for the months up to March and £235.5s.4d. up to June 1901. No supplier of milk was mentioned in the 1911 book. Condensed milk was being bought by the College in 1911. One off annual suppliers included fifty tons of gravel provided by Ellen Leavy in 1901 to the cost £5.10s.0d. Lime came from Mary Geoghegan in both 1901 and 1911 to the cost of £9.0s.0d. and £15.9s.9d. respectively. Mrs. Moore provided 134 loads of sand at a cost of one shilling per load amounting to £6.14s.0d.

Social life in Maynooth

We get a glimpse of social life in Maynooth from advertisements the *Kildare Observer*. In 1911 the annual XXth Hussars point-to-point race was held on St. Patrick’s Day at Windgates which is three miles from Maynooth and Celbridge. In 1926 the North Kildare Hunt Sportsman’s race was held at Windgates. There were regular dances in aid of the Maynooth Bazaar for example on May 2nd 1914, *The dance was organised in connection with the Maynooth Bazaar in the Aberdeen Hall, Gresham Hotel Dublin.... There were upwards of two hundred present and dancing which commenced at 9.30 was maintained until the services of the electric light were no longer necessary... Excellent music was supplied by Clarke Barry’s band...*

In June 1922 Dawson’s also sold tickets for a chance to win a new 1922 Ford Touring Car, to support the Bazaar. Local children also had treats. In July 1908, under the direction of Rev. Father McDonald C.C., the Presentation Convent sisters treated the children to a magic lantern show. Songs and recitations were given by the children. It was attended Mr. John Flood who played selections on the Irish harp. Others who attended the event included the important names in the town at the time such as Dean Morrisroe, Maynooth College, Dr. and Mrs. Moore, Mr. and Miss Kavanagh, Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. D. Buckley to mention a few.

Maynooth also had a Dramatic Club which in February 1902 organised a fundraiser for improvements to the parochial church. The occasion took place in the Town Hall which was kindly given by the *present esteemed and popular occupant of Carton, Lord Frederick Fitzgerald, and the worthy rector of Maynooth, Mr. Gason*.

The Maynooth Brass and Reed Band was established in 1796. Through its history it played at many important events such as the opening of the College, at the funerals of O’Connell and Parnell. The changing political picture was reflected at local level. The band refused to play at the visit of the King and Queen in 1912. Four of its member were involved in the 1916 rising. The band continues to this day and is an important feature in local and national community events and competitions. Maynooth and the College were popular destinations for groups on day visits. The Catholic Boys’ Brigade came on July 22nd 1900 where there was tug or war, callisthenic displays and

(Continued on page 24)

(Continued from page 23)
ambulance competitions. Other organisations also visited the town and College for example the Christian Brothers Past Pupil Union in July 1912. The Father Mathew Choral Society had an annual excursion to Maynooth in August.

The *Leinster Express* reported in August 1900 on the successful North Kildare Horticultural Show which was held on the grounds of Castletown Demesne. First place for Gardens for the Maynooth area went to Mrs. Daly and Mrs. Houghton. Second place went to Miss Cox, Dan Buckley, Mr. Staples and Mr. Timmons.

The Leinster Arms was a known stopping point for organisations on outings such as The Youth’s Own Association Cycling Club. The Leinster Arms also held its monthly branch meeting of the Co. Kildare Farmers’ Union in the early 1920s. Hurling and football were popular in Maynooth before the establishment of the G.A.A. in Maynooth which was mainly due to the efforts of Domhnall Ua Buachalla and his father. There was a strong I.R.B. presence among the members which took its toll on the team because of 1916. Several members of the club were interned in England and at one point there was not enough men to field a team.

The relationship between Carton, the Duke of Leinster and the town changed in the decade. Early reports in the *Kildare Observer* indicate that there was a strong deferential view of the Duke. In the *Weekly Irish Times* of March 7th 1908 there is a report of the response of the people of Maynooth to the Duke’s coming of age.

The last of the family estates were sold recently under the Land Act of 1903, but the people of Maynooth have resolved to show that the severance of the ties between landlord and tenant does not reflect the feelings towards the family.

The letter from the town’s people attached to the report was to be inscribed on vellum and richly decorated with Celtic ornamentation after the style of the Book of Kells.

The following gives a flavour of the contents of the letter:
Mindful as we are of that close and felicitous association which has at all times existed between your noble family and our town, we especially wish to recall the munificent interest which the last good Duke and Duchess ever manifested in our local affairs. Their wholehearted co-operation in all that tended to our national progress, their great munificence to our poor, and their acts of kind thoughtfulness have won a full and abiding place in our affections.

The address was signed by the Very Rev. Canon Hunt, P.P., Rev. Patrick McDonald, C.C., Rev. Freeman Wills Gason, Rector of the parish, Dr. Stanley Moore, Chairman and Mr. J.W. Kavanagh, hon. secretary and other members of the committee.

The *Irish Times* of April 16th 1908 describes the town for the occasion:
On Friday evening last, the Duke of Leinster arrived at Maynooth on his way to Carton, for the first time since he attained his majority, and he met with an enthusiastic reception from the towns people. The town was brilliantly illuminated and flags were hung from the houses. Opposite the Town Hall there was an immense bonfire, and there was a magnificent display of fireworks.

On July 9th 1911, the Royal visit of King George V and Queen Mary to St. Patrick’s College was a major event. According to the press releases of the day and reprinted in the Maynooth Calendar of 1912,
The decorations at Maynooth College were simple and effective...Special trains were run from Broadstone which brought an enormous number of gentry from Dublin, Kildare and Meath....An immense gathering of people, gentle and simple, had assembled outside the gates...before the arrival of the King’. There were loud cheers from the gathering.

As the century progressed, some of the town’s people became more interested, involved and caught up in national politics. Daniel Buckley now Domhnall Ua Buachalla became involved in the 1916 rising. A report headed ‘Maynooth rebels sentenced’, in the *Kildare Observer* of May 20 1916 named three people who were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for two years with eighteen months suspended. Patrick Weafer (College carpenter mentioned earlier in the series), John Greaves, an assistant in Buckley’s shop and Joseph Ledwich from Laraghbryan, a lock keeper. It also notes that Daniel Buckley has been deported at this time. There were other signs that Maynooth was beginning to see itself in a more autonomous way when the

Maynooth Brass and Reed Band refused to play for the royal visit of King George V and Queen Mary. Where once the Duke of Leinster would have decided on the needs of the town, the Celbridge Area Committee then undertook the task. Maynooth men such as William Saults of Parson’s Street, was active on this committee. William Saults was elected as a Labour representative to Kildare County Council in 1925 for the Naas electoral area. The Celbridge Area Committee was responsible for drainage systems, cleaning of rivers, dealing with floods, the repair of council houses and their contents, the sinking of wells and the provision of water pumps and the appointment of midwives.

Conclusion
Maynooth did not develop greatly between 1901 and 1911. It was a rural town with no major industries. The town lay between two institutions, the declining landed estate on the one side and the thriving seminary of St. Patrick’s College on the other. The town was stagnant as Horner notes, the population had contracted and there was limited diversity in employment with most of the population describing themselves as general or agricultural labourers or servants. Rates of pay for labourers and servants in the main did not increase over the ten year period and it appears that they did not increase from 1891 in some cases.

However this was some evidence of growth. The College offered steady employment to local labourers and tradesmen. There was an increase in population in the farming community in the outlying areas. Dawson’s shop, its growth, development and confidence answered the needs of the farming community. A pharmacy was set up in 1900. Local retail businesses also benefited from their dealings with the College. A surprising find was that women also earned monies to supplement family income with Mrs. White’s successful poultry business topping the list. Also the large number of servants in Maynooth College had some, if limited, spending power in the town. There is evidence that Maynooth was moving away from a paternal and deferential landlord led community. By 1911 there are signs of autonomy. Nationalist politics has a direct influence in Maynooth. Individuals began to view their own place and their place in Ireland in a different way.

The End

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(Sean Durack)

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THE MIRACULOUS PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention here). 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. Sacred Heart of Jesus I place all my trust thee

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

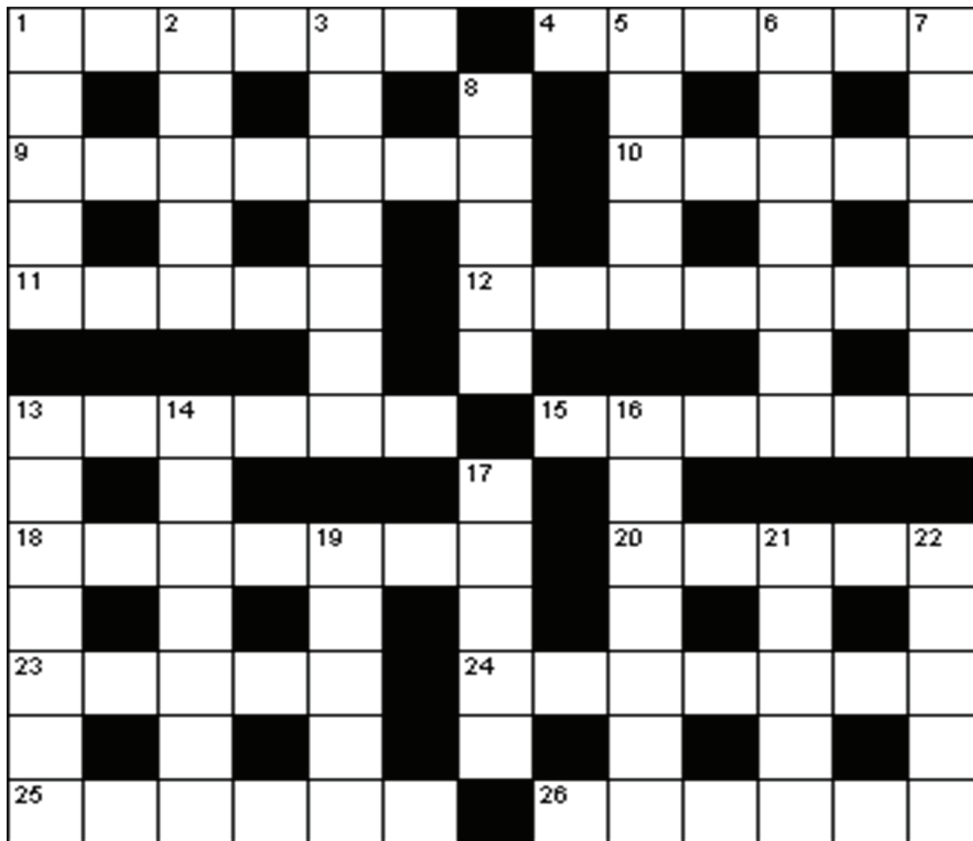
Say this prayer for three days, promise publication and prayer & favour, will be granted, no matter how impossible.

Never known to fail.
Thanksgiving for favour received.

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 27/06/2022 to 27/07/2022 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
22894	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University	Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	22/07/2022
22876	Kildare County Council	John O'Brennan,	17 Leinster Cottages, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 V2D0.	19/07/2022
22862	Kildare County Council	Eircom Limited,	Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	15/07/2022
22858	Kildare County Council	Daniel Burke	508a Newtown Road, Collegeland, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	13/07/2022
22851	Kildare County Council	Michael McGuigan	9 Parklands Lawns, Maynooth, Co. Kildare., W23 H6D8	12/07/2022
22830	Kildare County Council	Laura Jayne Halton	Laragh Demense, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	08/07/2022
22823	Kildare County Council	Daniel Burke,	508a Newtown Road, Collegeland, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	07/07/2022
22797	Kildare County Council	Paul and Martina Wright,	10 Leinster Wood, Carton House, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	01/07/2022
22796	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University,	North Campus Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	30/06/2022
22793	Kildare County Council	Michael McGuigan,	9 Parklands Lawns, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 H6D8.	30/06/2022

August 2022 Crossword - No. 515



Solutions to Crossword No. 514



Clues Across

1. Tune (6)
4. Shriek (6)
9. Elaborate ceremony (7)
10. Youngster (5)
11. Plaudit (5)
12. Dried grapes (7)
13. Comfort (6)
15. Slapstick (6)
18. Lamp (7)
20. Legally acceptable (5)
23. Happening (5)
24. Coach (7)
25. Tallies (6)
26. Tiers (6)



Clues Down

1. Tree (5)
2. Licit (5)
3. Extreme (7)
5. Desert plants (5)
6. Building (7)
7. Freedom from vanity or conceit (7)
8. Rear part of a ship (5)
13. Prominent (7)
14. Soft or indulgent (7)
16. Avert (7)
17. Combine (5)
19. Laud (5)
21. Spear (5)
22. Sews (5)

Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

Super Difficult

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

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

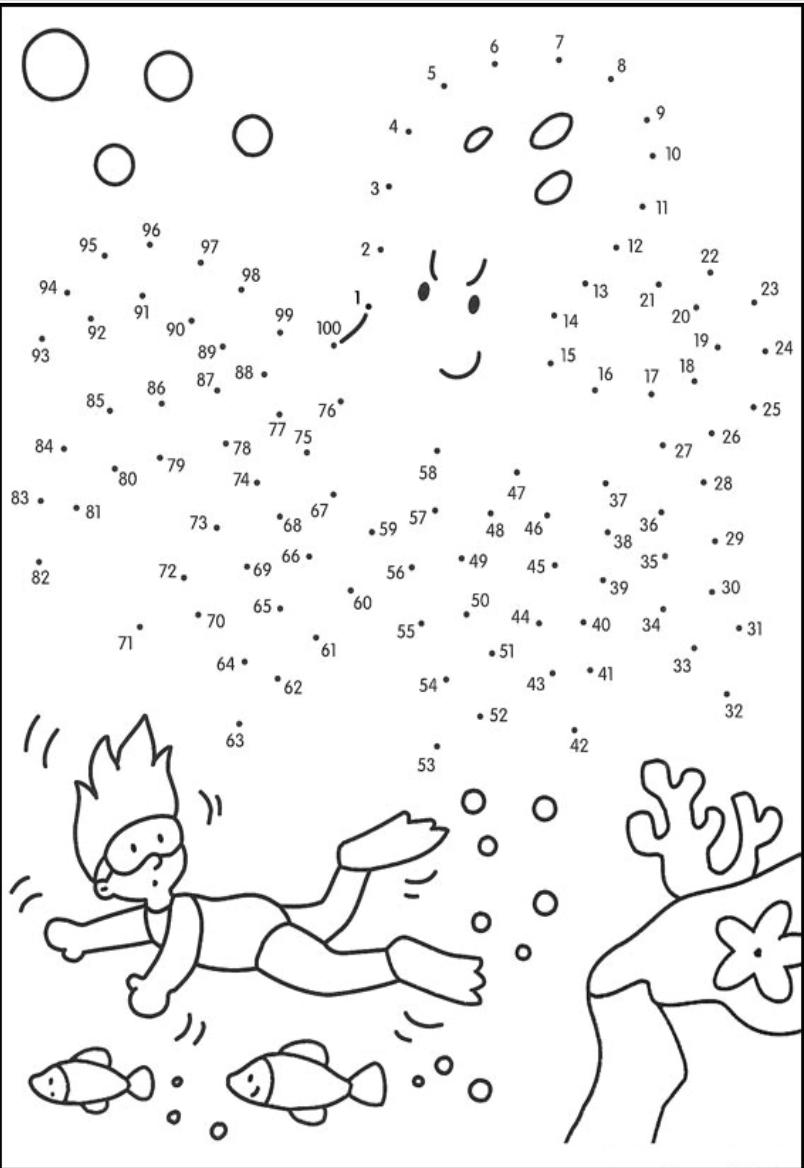
If you have access to a printer and wish to complete the Crossword and/or Sudoku for fun you can print the single page by going to File -> Print and print the single page number (27) only.

Junior Fun Corner

Colouring



Join The Dots



Children's Fun Page

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

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



SUMMER

Word Search

N	U	L	D	O	C	Q	E	T	I	E	D
V	P	B	I	K	E	Z	N	G	R	N	C
H	A	N	R	W	F	I	S	L	A	I	L
B	H	M	X	D	Y	T	U	S	A	J	O
F	E	P	L	S	O	B	M	H	U	K	F
C	M	A	R	P	N	E	M	B	T	D	E
A	S	N	C	F	A	N	E	E	N	H	K
M	U	L	T	H	L	Y	R	L	G	E	A
P	R	A	M	O	G	I	L	T	N	A	X
D	J	C	O	N	F	T	W	R	A	T	S
S	Y	P	G	S	A	V	H	I	K	E	C
Z	H	S	P	R	D	M	E	O	L	N	R

BEACH	HIKE
BIKE	LAKE
CAMP	POOL
FIRE	SAND
HEAT	SUMMER

Chicken, Ham and Leek Pie

Here is nothing like an old fashioned chicken pie. This gluten-free version with added ham and leek will not disappoint.

Ingredients

4 chicken Maryland (about 1kg)
3 large leeks, light and pale green part sliced into 1cm rounds, dark green tops reserved
1/4 tsp peppercorns
1 bay leaf
2 tbs olive oil
2 thyme sprigs, leaves picked
90g ham, shredded
180g crème fraiche
1 tbsp. gluten-free cornflour



Pastry

400g gluten-free plain flour, plus extra to dust
1 tsp xanthan gum (thickener from health food stores)
50g mature cheddar cheese, grated
200g chilled unsalted butter, cut into 1cm pieces
1 egg, plus 1 extra egg yolk, lightly beaten with 1 tbs water
2 tbsp. wholegrain mustard
2 tbsp. crème fraiche

Method

1. To poach the chicken, place chicken Maryland's, dark green leek tops, pepper corns, bay leaf and 2L (8 cups) cold water (or enough to cover) in a large saucepan over high heat.
2. Bring to the boil, then cover with a lid, leaving a small gap. Reduce heat to low and cook for 1 hour or until chicken is cooked through.
3. Remove chicken from pan and set aside. Strain the cooking liquid into another saucepan, discarding the leek, pepper and bay. Place pan over medium heat and cook for 30-40 minutes until reduced by half. Set aside to cool.
4. Meanwhile, to make pastry, place the flour, xanthan gum and 1 tsp salt in a food processor, then whiz to combine.
5. Add the cheese and butter, and whiz to combine. In a separate bowl, combine the egg, mustard, crème fraiche and 1 tbsp. cold water. Add to the food processor and whiz until the mixture forms a soft dough.

How to prepare

6. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and divide into two equal pieces, one slightly bigger than the other. Flatten into discs, then enclose in each plastic wrap and chill for 1 minute or until firm
7. Once the chicken is cool enough to handle, shred the meat into bite-sized pieces, discarding bones.
8. Heat the oil in a large fry pan over medium heat. Add sliced leeks and thyme, and season. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes or until leeks are tender but still green.
9. Add chicken, ham, crème fraiche and 300ml chicken stock to pan. Bring to a simmer and season to taste. Combine cornflour and 2 tbsp. cold water in a bowl until smooth, then stir into the sauce and simmer for 2-3 minutes until thickened.
10. Remove from heat and set aside to cool.
11. Roll out larger pastry portion on a lightly floured surface until 3mm-thick and use to line a 23cm pie pan, leaving a little overhang. (If you have any rips or tears, just pinch them back together). Place the cooled chicken filling into the middle of the pastry base.
12. Brush the edges with the egg yolk glaze, then roll out the remaining pastry until 3mm-thick. Cut a couple of slits in the pastry to let out the steam. Top the pie with the pastry, pressing the edges together.
13. Trim the excess pastry, then crimp the edges to seal. Use excess pastry to create decorations, if desired. Brush pie all over with egg glaze, then chill for at least 10 minutes.
14. Place a large baking tray in the oven and preheat to 200°C. Glaze pie again, then place on hot tray. Bake for 45 min

Gardening in August



One of the hottest months of the year and a great time to get out and enjoy your garden. Maintaining your plants so as to look their best by regularly dead-heading to enjoy a longer time of blooms. Correct and regular watering of new plants, using collected rainwater where possible and hoe off weeds, which thrive in the sunshine.



Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering. Keep plants looking attractive and encourage more blooms, whether in beds and border, containers or hanging baskets, encourages more blooms.

Care for houseplant while on holiday

Most houseplants will tolerate a few days' absence without suffering, but absences of more than a week call for some creative measures to provide valuable moisture in the right quantity to look after plants while away. Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise. Watering is one of the most important jobs when growing plants in containers. Roots need a balance of air and water to grow well which is easy to provide if you have a good quality compost or soil.

Things to do

Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt
Pick courgettes before they become marrows
Treat apple scab, clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds, and keep them topped up. Order catalogues for next year's spring-flowering bulbs. Give the lawn a quick-acting summer feed, especially if not given a spring feed. Harvest fruit which is ready.



Flowers

Cut lavender for drying, choosing newly opened flowers for the best fragrance, then hang up in a cool, dark place. Give Dahlias a liquid feed, keep them well watered and tie the shoots of tall varieties to sturdy stakes as they grow. Hoe and hand-weed borders often, so weeds don't have time to set seed. Water and feed sweet peas regularly, pick the flowers every few days, and remove seed pods to prolong flowering. Plant autumn bulbs, including nerines, colchicums and sternbergia, in pots and borders. Feed, water and deadhead summer bedding regularly, in pots, borders and hanging baskets. Cut back early summer perennials, such as hardy geraniums and delphiniums, after flowering for a second flush. Take softwood cuttings from shrubs such as pyracantha, cotinus, hydrangeas and spiraea. Feed and deadhead roses to keep them flowering strongly. Keep watch for pests such as lily beetles, snails, aphids and vine weevils, and remove before they do too much harm. Pick off flowers on coleus plants to maintain their colourful leaves. Sow biennials, such as foxgloves, honesty, forget-me-nots and wallflowers, for blooms next year. On the forum: share your growing tips with other gardeners and ask for advice. Cut back geraniums and other summer perennials.



Fruit and Veg Plants

Check crops such as runner beans regularly for aphids, and rub or wash them off straight away, before they multiply. Water thirsty plants such as celery, beans, peas, courgettes, pumpkins and tomatoes regularly. Make the last pickings of rhubarb and remove any flower spikes that start to form, cutting right down at the base. Thin out heavy crops of apples, pears and plums, and remove any malformed, damaged or undersized fruits. Prune plum trees in dry weather, when silver leaf fungal disease is less prevalent. Sow a last batch of peas and dwarf beans before mid-July for an autumn crop. Shorten side shoots growing from the framework of trained fruit trees, reducing to about five leaves from their base



FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

FAMOUS ACTORS TRIVIA/FACTS



FRED ASTAIRE

Ironically, the legendary Fred Astaire's first screen test audition was highly criticised by the Hollywood bigwigs of the time - "Can't act. Can't sing. Balding. Can dance a little."

CARY GRANT

Cary Grant turned down the role of James Bond in *Dr. No* (1962), believing himself to be too old at the age of 58 to play the hero. The 007 role went instead to a certain lesser-known Scottish actor and the rest as they say is history.

VIVIEN LEIGH

English star Vivien Leigh beat out an extraordinary 1400 other Hollywood actresses to play Scarlett O'Hara in the classic *Gone With The Wind*. It turned out to be her most famous and iconic role.



SOPHIA LOREN

Italian beauty Sophia Loren was the first actress to win the Academy Award for Best Actress for a foreign-language film. She picked up the Oscar in 1962 for her leading role in Italian director Vittorio De Sica's emotional drama *Two Women*.

JAMES DEAN

Alec Guinness and James Dean met by chance in September 1955. Guinness would later claim that he had a premonition that the young actor would be killed in his Porsche, and that he had told Dean not to get into the car, warning him that he'd be dead within a week if he did. Tragically, James Dean did indeed perish in a car crash, having been issued with a speeding ticket just two hours before.



JOHN WAYNE

John Wayne holds the remarkable record for the actor with the most leading roles, 142 in total. In all but 11 films, he played the leading part.

INGRID BERGMAN

14. Due to her 5'9" height, many of Ingrid Bergman's shorter co-stars, such as Claude Rains and Humphrey Bogart, had to wear lifts in their shoes in order to avoid looking small next to her on screen. Alan Ladd (star of 1940s Westerns and *Film Noir* classics) was also notably short in height, and had to employ similar tricks in his films in order to appear tall next to his co-stars.

RITA HAYWORTH

16. Rita Hayworth accidentally broke two of her co-star Glenn Ford's teeth when she slapped him during a scene in the 40s film classic *Gilda*.



TONY CURTIS

Tony Curtis broke a Hollywood taboo in the 1950s by insisting that an African-American actor, Sidney Poitier, have co-starring billing next to him in the film, *The Defiant Ones*, where they both played escaped prisoners on the run.

JUDY GARLAND

Judy Garland is said to have had a powerful gift of retention. She only had to view a piece of music one time, and had the remarkable ability to commit the whole score to memory.

BETTE DAVIS

Bette Davis was nominated for an Academy Award five years in a row, in 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, and 1943. She shares this unique record for the most consecutive nominations with English actress Greer Garson.

LEONARDO DICAPRIO

Leonardo DiCaprio's pregnant mother was looking at a Leonardo Da Vinci painting in a museum in Italy when Leo first kicked. Hence, another Leonardo made his entrance into the world!

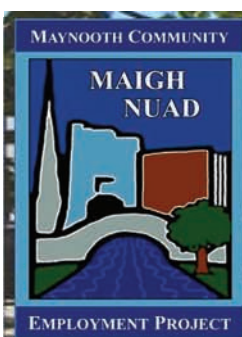


CHRISTOPHER WALKEN

Christopher Walken worked as an assistant lion tamer in a traveling circus to help make ends meet. "It was a female lion named Sheba, and she was very sweet," Walken told *Vanity Fair*. "This particular lion was more like a dog ... and I would do things with the whip." In turn, the lion would run, sit up, and rollover.

SEAN CONNERY

Fan-favourite, Sean Connery had to wear a hairpiece for all his *James Bond* movies because he began losing his hair at the age of 21.



Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



Local News - September 2022 - Issue No. 516 - 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.



Tom McMullon – A key figure in Maynooth for almost fifty years

Maynooth lost a champion for the community recently with the passing of Tom Mc Mullon. In a personal profile interview with Petrina Vousden in the Leinster Leader newspaper in May 1997 the late Tom Mc Mullon talked about how he came to live in Maynooth. Tom was born in Aberdeen in Scotland and after working for a number of years in London where he met his Sligo born wife Maura he came to live in Ireland. Tom and Maura decided not to raise their young family in London and he was lucky to get a transfer with his job to Dublin where he took over the role as area manager for a pharmaceutical company. In the interview Tom explained how hard it was to get a mortgage to buy a house in Ireland in the early 1970s and while travelling through Maynooth to visit Maura's family in Sligo they noticed the sign for a new housing estate called Cluain Aoibhinn and as well as being nice houses there was a mortgage scheme available to suitable applicants.



As one of the original residents in the estate Tom and Maura have built life long friendships with other families who also came to Cluain Aoibhinn at the time and this bond is still strong today. At Tom's funeral mass one longstanding friend and neighbour told me that when the families moved into the estate Tom and Maura hosted a party for everyone in their house. Over the years living in his adopted home town of Maynooth, Tom was known for his work in keeping Cluain Aoibhinn a nice place to live by his daily litter clean-ups and his pursuit of issues that impacted residents there. In his 1997 interview with Petrina Vousden, he mentioned the aggravation that resulted when properties in the estate were rented out as investment properties.

In talking to another long-time resident and friend of Tom's since his death they made the comment to me that every estate in Maynooth needs a Mac (the name that Tom's friends called him). While never forgetting his home estate it wasn't long before Tom got involved in the wider community of Maynooth. The population of Maynooth increased from just 1,296 in 1971 to 3,388 in 1981 so there was a lot of new people in the area making the town their home. While new housing estates were popping up there was a need to build a community spirit and Tom was one of the people leading this in the town. Tom was a key figure in Maynooth Community Council for over forty years and from

which he retired as Chairperson in 2016. Over the decades Tom always ensured that issues pertinent to the community be it in a specific area or the entire town that it was discussed at Maynooth Community Council meetings. Of course, Tom was very supportive of all community-based initiatives and for most of his community service years he was actively involved in managing community employment projects in the town as a volunteer sponsor. When Maynooth Community Council withdrew from sponsoring such schemes in 2001 due to the requirement to form as a legal entity to continue to be eligible to receive government funding, Tom and a number of other volunteers stepped in and formed the company which still runs the community employment scheme in the town. The scheme has given hundreds of local unemployed people the opportunity to get training to upgrade their skills for work as well as providing a centre in the community where people living or visiting Maynooth could go to get local information. Today the scheme continues to produce the "Maynooth Newsletter" as well as maintaining Maynooth Harbour and canal bank areas as well as Maynooth Town Football Club grounds. Tom only stepped down in 2021 as Chairman of the company and everyone involved with the scheme will greatly miss his presence. In times of difficulties Tom reminded us that we must always do what is needed to protect such an important community resource.

Tom lived for his family and his community and whenever his help was sought, he was a willing giver. He was involved in or actively supported so many community activities. These included the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade, Tidy Towns, Twinning, Fairtrade and Planning and despite knowing and working with him for thirty-one years I have forgotten other projects that he was involved with.

Volunteering in your community for forty-nine years is not something that many people will achieve which makes Tom Mc Mullon's contribution to his community in Maynooth very unique. Many people who worked with Tom in the community would say that he was always straightforward to work with and committed to Maynooth and you always knew where he stood on issues and was a pleasure to work with and always a leader. Talking to Maura, his wife, she told me that she had a great life with Mac (Tom). Tom's passing at the end of July is no doubt a significant loss to Maura and his sons Andrew and James and his family. He will also be remembered by his neighbours, friends and the wider community for his significant contribution to his community which began almost fifty years ago with a party for the new residents of Cluain Aoibhinn estate.

Paul Croghan



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

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

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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

In writing this article for the September edition I feel compelled to talk about the one image that remains with me that defines how I will remember the summer of 2022. On my walks around the Maynooth University campus I was very aware of the presence of so many Ukrainian families living in the student apartments. I was particularly struck by the innocence of the young children playing together and making their own fun but I was more affected by the visible sadness on the faces of many of the adults.

I was also conscious that in the coming weeks these families will have to move elsewhere and try to settle their children again. Over six months since the invasion of Ukraine there seems to be no end to the conflict and even if the situation is resolved in the coming year the impact of displacement for the families that have moved to places like Ireland will have a potential life long outcome. I know that Europe and indeed the wider world has supported the Ukrainian defence but this support does not seem to be having an impact. I am sure that there are many others like me who feel helpless in that as a peaceful European that we cannot come up with a way of bringing an end to the war. It reminds me how fragile peace can be and that war is not just something we only read about in our history books.

I know that there have been efforts to support the families while they are living in Maynooth and on August 11th there was an event to encourage people to open our homes to Ukrainian families. On August 24th there was a very nice event in Maynooth University to mark the Ukrainian national holiday. While most of the families will leave us in September to make way for returning university students, I know that some families have enrolled their children in local schools so are staying in Maynooth.

With the schools already back, in a couple of weeks the ten thousand plus students will return for the next university semester. Over the past few weeks in particular social media sites for Maynooth have been full of posts requesting information on places to rent in the area. Many people are seeking house sharing in preference to staying with families or renting rooms in owner occupied houses. Maynooth cannot be expected to provide sufficient rental capacity to cater for the demand from students as well as the demand driven by our proximity to Dublin. Of course, when students commute by car from elsewhere to go to university this causes another issue with inadequate capacity for parking on campus.

Paul Croghan
Editor

Copy date for the October edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be 5pm on Tuesday 27th September 2022



MAYNOOTH DRESSES

Find us at Unit 3 San Feliu, Fagan's Lane, Maynooth
(Behind EBS Main St)



Communion Dress Clearance from €99



For All Our Opening Hours
Visit our Website on:
www.maynoothcommuniondresses.ie
also **www.maynoothdresses.ie**



Phone: 01 6293585



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band



The Band had a hectic schedule last month with the visit of the Swedish Band to Maynooth, a first recital in the Square in Kilcock in over 70 years plus another recital in Maynooth University for Ukrainian Day on the 24th.

The event in the Square in Maynooth on Monday the 8th was most definitely the highlight of the month with St. Mary's Band opening proceedings with a much appreciated recital.

The 45 strong Bleckhornen Academy Swedish Band in their distinctive uniform performed a brilliant selection of music including dancers and one entire number played lying on their backs. The warm evening ensured there was a huge audience in the Square many saying they hadn't had so much fun in years. The two Bands adjourned to Brady's where they had a very enjoyable, if short, evening before the visiting Band had to make the last train back to Dublin.

The performance in the Square in Kilcock was breaking new ground but the main intension was to let the people of the town know that we are not just a marching band that they see once a year on St. Patrick's day. The response from the audience was very positive even getting an enquiry to play at a wedding.

The Band was delighted to receive an invitation to play at the event to celebrate the Ukrainian National Day in Maynooth University on 24th August. It was a particularly satisfying feeling to play for most of the 850 Ukrainian people who were staying in the University apartments and our music was really appreciated and enjoyed by them. The highlight of the evening was playing of the Ukrainian National Anthem at the start of our performance and it was requested again at the end of our recital when the Ukrainian Flag was being lowered.

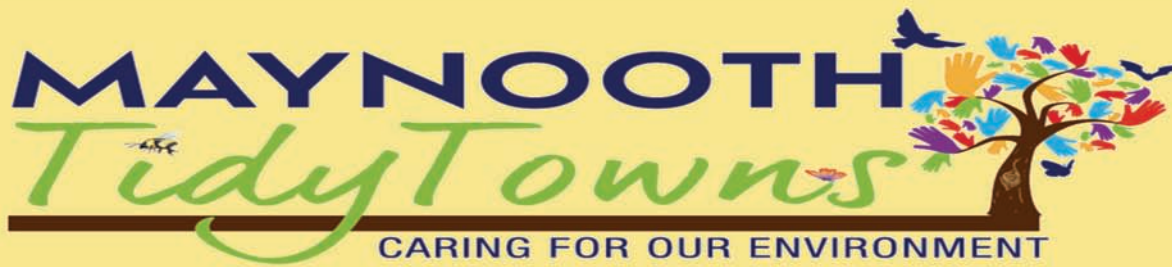
September will be another busy month for the Band who will be heading to the International Music Festival in Bab Orb Germany from the 9th to 12th where we will be joining over 30 Bands from all over Europe and we will have more news on this in the October Newsletter. It's a great feeling to be the only band from Ireland to be playing at the Festival. We will have barely come down to earth when we play in the Square for Culture Night on Friday 23rd September a 8pm. This was a great event last year when we played under floodlights to a very large crowd who enjoyed the recital immensely and really got into the spirit of the occasion.



The Bleckhornen Academy Swedish Band in the Square



Maynooth Brass & Reed Band at Ukrainian National Day



Gold Medal Winners
2016
2017
2018
2019
2021

At the time of writing we are very relieved to say that judging in the Tidy Towns Competition has ended since August 5th. We should know the results sometime in September/October, fingers crossed that we retain our Gold Medal status.

Due to the very hot weather we have invested a lot of our time watering the flowers in pots and in the ground. On Saturday the 27th August we had to get some extra Mulch to cover the beds in order to overcome the very dry ground, otherwise the plants would die. The Mulch is also very good for sustainability purposes, conserving water.

On Saturday the 20th August at 12 noon we had our inaugural Heritage Trail walk around Maynooth, starting at Duke's Harbour, we touched on 16 areas of interest. Thanks to Vincent Mulready, Pat Watson and Breedge Conway for organising this event for Heritage Week.

At one point we had 120 people following the group. We really enjoyed visiting St Mary's Brass and Reed Band hall, where Kevin Boyd gave us a short history of the band. The walk lasted for almost 2 hours finishing in Courthouse Square.

We hope to set up a self guided walk of Maynooth's Historical areas in 2023 for everyone to enjoy.

**Please follow us on Facebook to get the latest
 and most up to date information on what's happening with
 Maynooth Tidy Towns Association
 Mary Molloy - Maynooth Tidy Towns PRO.**



Online Office

Here to help with

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



Phone



E-mail



Cllr. Angela Feeney

Tel. 087 238 1962

Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com

Stay safe everyone.



September Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Children's Events

Summer Stars Certificate Awards Ceremony : Surnames A – M

Saturday 17th September

Time: 11.00 am – 12.00 pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Well done to all the children who joined the Summer Stars Reading Programme here in Maynooth Community Library ! It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm for the Summer Stars Reading Programme with over 300 children joining the programme in Maynooth this year.

Children with surnames beginning A-M can collect their Summer Stars Certificate of Achievement at a special ceremony in Maynooth Community Library on Saturday 17th of September from 11am - 12pm. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Booking required, please book your ticket through ticket tailor:

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/749220>.

Summer Stars Certificate Awards Ceremony : Surnames N – Z

Saturday 17th September

Time: 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Location: Maynooth community Library

Well done to all the children who joined the Summer Stars Reading Programme here in Maynooth Community Library ! It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm for the Summer Stars Reading Programme with over 300 children joining the programme in Maynooth this year. Children with surnames beginning N- Z can collect their Summer Stars Certificate of Achievement at a special ceremony in Maynooth Community Library on Saturday 17th of September from 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Booking required, please book your ticket through ticket tailor :

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/749235>.

Summer Stars Magic Show

Saturday 17th September

Time: 3.00pm - 4.00 pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

To mark the end of a very Summer Stars Children's Reading Challenge 2022, Maynooth Community Library invites you to join in in a brilliant family magic show with Really Grand Events who provide a professional Magician for families, with over 20 year's experience in providing the right mix of magic, entertainment and fun.

Booking required through TicketTailor <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/750360>. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Children who were not able to attend the Summer Stars certificate award ceremony can collect their certificate after the magic show.

Life Below Water - Sustainability Development Goal Week 2022

Wednesday 21st September 2022

Time: 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Age: 7 – 12 years

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join us at Maynooth Library for our Life Below Water Sustainability Event. Learn about ocean biodiversity and ways to combat ocean pollution with our fun crafts and activities. **Booking required through TicketTailor :**

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/752496>.

Culture Night Traditional Irish Music Family Concert

Friday 23rd September

Time: 4.00pm - 5.00pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Join us on Culture Night in Maynooth Community Library for our interactive family concert. The concert will feature two highly talented and experienced Irish Traditional musicians who will introduce you to a range of musical instruments and have you singing and clapping along to lots of different jigs & reels.

Certainly one not to be missed. All children must be accompanied by a parent / guardian.

Booking required, please book your ticket through ticket tailor:

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/736106>.

Baby and Toddler Stay & Play Group (New)

Every Thursday

Time: 10:00-11:00am

Location: Maynooth Community Library

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 every Thursday morning 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!

Book Busters Children's Book Club

Friday 30th September

Time: 3:45pm-4:30pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

The Book Busters Children's Book Club returns to Maynooth in person this month! If your child aged 8-12 would like to take part, please email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie for further details.

Secret Saturday Cinema

Saturday 3rd September

Time: 2:30 - 4:00pm

Location: Maynooth Community

Come to our animated children's film screening this Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm! Every film will be a surprise on the day, but all will be family friendly. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Booking required : <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/751381>.

Secret Cinema (for Sustainable Development Goals Week)

Saturday 24th September

Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Come to our special animated children's film screening with an environmental message for Sustainable Development Goals Week! Showing this Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm, the film will be a surprise on the day, but will have a family-friendly rating. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Booking Required: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/751382>

Young Adults

Maynooth Library: Try Our Teen Book Club

Friday 16th August

Time: 4.30pm – 5.00 pm

Location : Online

It's common for young people to veer away from reading when joining secondary school or around age 12-13, so Maynooth Library is keen to draw them back in with a book club with a difference for ages 12-16. This book club will meet online once a month for 30-45 minutes from September. There will be always be choice of book each month, but teens can read and recommend whatever they like. Contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980 493 for more information.

Teen Writers Group/Ages 12-15

Thursday September 8th and 15th

Time: 6pm - 7pm

Location: 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.

Adult Events

"Where the bodies are buried" - The "Disappeared" of the Irish Revolution 1920 -1923: A Lecture by Pádraig Óg Ó Ruairc

Thursday 1st September

Location: Maynooth Library

Time: 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm

An chaoi ar fhuadaigh, ar mharaigh agus ar chur fórsaí na Breataine agus an IRA sibhialaigh agus trodairí a chur ina n-aghaidh gan leacht ná deis chaointe a bheith

(Continued on page 7)

September Events at Maynooth Community Library (Cont.)

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



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ag a muintir.. Tharla an cineál rud céanna sa gCogadh Cathartha nuair a mharaigh agus nuair a chur an IRA spíodóirí.

A talk about the IRA's Intelligence War and the "disappearance" of spies, informers, and British soldiers. Pádraig even found one of the missing bodies! Join us for this fascinating in-person lecture in Maynooth Community Library on Thursday 1st September.

Booking required through TicketTailor :

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/737658>.

**Zero Waste Maynooth Ladies Clothes Swap Drop – in
Saturday 10th September
2-4pm**

Maynooth Community Library

Zero Waste Maynooth is hosting its monthly ladies clothes swap. Bring up to 3 items of clothes in good condition and swap for something else. We all have some clothes that we don't use so pass them on for something new to you! Save waste and money!

Repair Demonstration for Sustainable Development Goals Week

Tuesday 20th September

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm

Location: Maynooth Community Library

Tired of throwing out your favourite clothes or paying someone else to repair them? Be shown how to turn up hems, sew in buttons and other simple sewing repairs. Bring along an item that's in need of repair and get advice on the best repair option – maybe it can be repaired during the demo.

Booking required through TicketTailor:

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/751408>

Music to Your Ears: An evening of sharing poetry

Thursday 29th September

Time: 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Join us for an evening of sharing poetry readings, where we explore connections between music and poetry. Some of you may wish to read a poem aloud, or you might like to just listen; hosted by Maynooth and Ballitore Libraries. All welcome. Booking via TicketTailor <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/750433>

Regular Events

Craft & Knitting Club

Monday 5th September

11.30am – 13.00

Maynooth Community Library

Starting back on Mon 5th Sept from 11.30 – 13.00 and continuing the following Mondays. Bring along your various crafts to inspire and to be inspired. Different craft demonstrations will take place during the year.

Beginners Sewing Machine Classes (Adults only)

Tuesday Evenings

18.30 – 19.55

Maynooth Community Library

Must have your own sewing machine.

If you have an unused, unloved sewing machine then this is for you. Learn to thread, adjust tension, change needles, use different stitches and make some very simple projects to get you started.

If interested, please contact Maynooth Library on 045 980 483 to add your name to our waiting list. The classes will take place over a period of three weeks.

When the list has been completed and if people are interested we will start a sewing club.

Book Clubs

U3A (University of the Third Age) Book Club

Monday 12th September

10.30am – 11.30am

Maynooth Community Library

The U3A (University of the Third Age) Book Club meets on the second Monday of each month and will resume on Monday the 12th Sept from 10.30 -11.30am. We will be reviewing "The Child" by Fiona Barton.

Wednesday Morning Book Club

Wednesday 21st September

11.00 – 12.00pm

Maynooth Community Library

The Wednesday Morning Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month and starts back on the 21st from 11.00 – 12 noon. We will be reviewing "Happiness and Other Stories" by Mary Lavin.

For all ages

Reader Pens Now Available in Maynooth Library

Maynooth Library now have reader pens available for lending or alternatively you can just borrow one for the duration of your library visit. These text-to-speech pens read words and full lines of text aloud, promoting independent reading and confidence

Key Features of reader pens: Read text aloud – Promote reading independence – Built-in dictionaries – Secure and private – No WiFi required – Built-in speaker & earphone jack – Rechargeable – Easy to use

Helps with: Reading or pronunciation – Dyslexia – Language learning – Vision problems

For more information, ask a staff member at the library desk / email Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie / phone us on 045 980493.

Maynooth University Town F.C.

Welcome to our New Season 22/23 which has just commenced. We have just completed a programme of pre-season friendlies which showed that we are pretty well up to speed in terms of fitness. A tough schedule of League and Cup games await us now but we are undaunted by the tasks awaiting us.



We kicked off with an F.A.I. Senior Cups game against Villa F.C. from Waterford. We overcame strong opposition to record a hard fought 2-1 win with goals from Sven Biansumba and Jack O'Connor booking our place in the second round.

Next up was a L.S.L. Senior Div. League game against Glebe North. This was a game where both sides opened with great caution and were reluctant to take any early chances in the opening league game of the season. Falling behind to an early Glebe goal, Town stayed calm and began to take control. Town upped the pace of the game in the second half and got on terms when Jackson Ryan converted a penalty after Paddy O'Sullivan was taken down in the penalty area. Town kept controlling the game and Callum Warfield played a defence splitting pass across the penalty area for Jack Reynolds to smash to the back of the net. Town was never in danger after that and ran out deserving winners.

The eagerly awaited F.A.I. Cup 2nd Round game was up next for our fourth venture in this round in five seasons. Having reached a quarter final against Bohemians and last sixteen against Waterford F.C. and Cork City in previous seasons. The opposition on this occasion was League of Ireland Division One side Treaty Utd. Once again we performed admirably and were more than a match for our Limerick opponents. We were matching Treaty with some inspiring play but we lost possession in the 33rd in midfield and paid the price, when Treaty slotted home the opening goal.

Town could have gone two down just after the break when referee Patchell awarded an outrageous penalty for a terrible act of simulation by the Treaty striker. A wonderful save by keeper, Shane Fagan wiped the smile off the Treaty faces. Town were inspired by this began to throw everything at Treaty. Town kept up the momentum but were beginning to tire. This was only our second game of the season whilst Treaty were in mid-season.

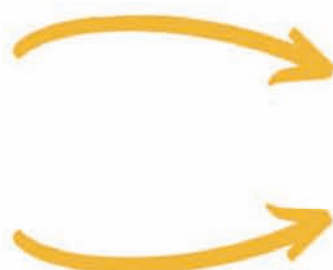
With 17 minutes remaining Town were punished again when Treaty scored their second. The visitors wrapped up the game in the 83rd minute with their third goal. Tired limbs contributed to both 2nd half goals, if we had another few games under our belt we might have been telling a different story. Thanks for such a good performance and we look forward to our next games in the league v Lucan Utd. away and Crumlin Utd. home.



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Household Benefits Package

What is the Household Benefits Package?

The Household Benefits Package (HBP) helps with the cost of your electricity or gas bill and the TV licence. Only one person in a household can get the Package. You can get the Household Benefits Package if you are aged 70 or over. You do not need to be getting a State pension and the package is not means tested. People under 70 can also get the HBP, but additional rules apply – see ‘How to qualify for the Household Benefits Package’ below.

Keeping well and warm in winter.

The cold weather can be difficult when you are older or have a disability or a long-term illness. The [Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland](http://www.sustainableenergyauthority.ie) provide information and advice about the supports that can help you to keep well and warm during the winter. You can use comparison websites to check gas and electricity prices.

How to qualify for the Household Benefits Package

To get the Household Benefits Package, you must:

- Be living in Ireland (full-time, all year round)
- Be the only person in your household getting the HBP
- Have the electricity or gas bill in your name (if you are applying for an Electricity or Gas Allowance)
- Be aged 70 or over
- Be aged under 70 and meet the additional rules for ‘People aged under 70’ set out below.

People aged under 70

If you aged under 70 and you are living with your spouse, cohabitant or civil partner, you can get the HBP if you are getting a qualifying social welfare payment and:

- You are getting an increase in your qualifying social welfare payment for them (see list of qualifying social welfare payments below) or
- They are getting their own qualifying social welfare payment listed below or
- They are getting a social welfare payment not listed below and they satisfy a means test.

You can live with other adults (who are not your spouse, cohabitant or civil partner) and get the HBP.

Qualifying social welfare payments for people under 70

You are between 66 and 70:

- State Pension (Contributory)
- State Pension (Non-Contributory)
- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) Pension
- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension
- Deserted Wife's Benefit
- Carer's Allowance (full or half-rate payment), but you must be living with the person you are caring for.
- You are caring for and living with a person who is getting Constant Attendance Allowance
- An ordinary Garda Widow's Pension from the Department of Justice and Equality
- An equivalent Social Security Pension or Benefit from a country covered by EU Regulations or from a country with which Ireland has a Bilateral Social Security Agreement

You are aged between **66 and 70** and not getting one of the payments above, but you pass a means test - see ‘The Means test’ below.

You are under 66:

- Disability Allowance
- Invalidity Pension
- Blind Pension
- Incapacity Supplement (for at least 12 months) with Disablement Pension (for at least 12 months)
- If you are caring for and living with a person who is getting Constant Attendance Allowance.
- Carer's Allowance (full or half-rate payment), but you must be living with the person you are caring for.
- An equivalent Social Security Pension or Benefit from a country covered by EU Regulations, or from a country with which Ireland has a Bilateral Social Security Agreement

Widowed people or surviving civil partners

You can qualify for the Household Benefits Package, if you are widowed or a surviving civil partner aged between 60 and 65 and your late spouse or civil partner was getting the Household Benefit Package before his or her death. To qualify you must have lived together when the Household Benefit Package was first awarded and you must be getting one of the following payments:

- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's (Contributory) or (Non-Contributory) Pension
- One-Parent Family Payment (Widows/Widowers)
- Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Pension under the Occupational Injuries Benefits Scheme
- An equivalent Social Security Pension or Benefit from a country covered by EU Regulations or from a country with which Ireland has a Bilateral Social Security Agreement
- An ordinary Garda Widow's Pension from the Department of Justice and Equality

If you were under 60 when your spouse or civil partner died, you can get the Household Benefits Package when you turn 60 as long as you meet these conditions.

The means test

If you are aged between 66 and 70 and are not getting a qualifying social welfare payment, you must pass a means test. In a means test, the Department of Social Protection (DSP) examines all your sources of income. Your weekly income must be below a certain amount to pass the means test.

The amount of means that you are allowed to have for the HBP is the current maximum rate of State Pension (Contributory) including any increases that you might get for your age, living alone and dependants, plus €120.

The main items included in the means test are:

- Cash income that you or your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant may have. Some cash income may not be included in the means test.
- Capital, for example, the value of savings, investments, shares or any property you have (but not your own home). Find out more about capital not included in the means test.

If you are applying for the Household Benefits Package and you need to pass a means test, a separate means test form will be sent to you to fill in.

Hospital stays

You can stay in hospital for up to 13 consecutive weeks and continue to get the Household Benefits Pack

Change of circumstances

You must notify the Department if your circumstances change. For example:

- You change address
- You change energy provider
- You move into residential care

If you change address you must re-apply for the Household Benefits Package, even if you still meet all the conditions.

What is covered by the Household Benefits Package?

There are 2 allowances in the Household Benefits Package:

Allowance 1

- Electricity Allowance of €35 monthly (€1.15 per day) or
- Natural Gas Allowance of €35 monthly (€1.15 per day)

Allowance 2

- Free Television Licence

Allowance 1: Electricity or Gas Allowance

If you have an electricity and natural gas supply, you must choose between the Electricity Allowance and Gas Allowance. You can choose only one. The Allowance is paid either to your bank account or post office on the first Tuesday of each month. (If you are collecting your Allowance from the post office using your Public Services Card, you have 90 days to collect your payment.)

If your energy supplier is Electric Ireland for electricity or Bord Gáis or Flo Gas for gas, the Allowance can be paid directly to your energy supplier as a credit against your bill each month. The Department of Social Protection (DSP) will contact Electric Ireland or Bord Gáis or Flo Gas who will then apply the allowance, including any backdated credit, onto your next bill. You pay for any electricity or gas you use above the allowance in the normal way.

If you change your energy supplier, you must inform the DSP. You must provide proof of your new energy supplier (for example, a gas or electricity bill) from the date you changed over. The Allowance does not cover the cost of installing an electricity or natural gas supply to your home.

If the electricity or gas bill is in your landlord's name

The Allowance can be paid, if the electricity or gas bill is in your landlord's name. However, you must be living in self-contained accommodation and your landlord will need to confirm in writing, that you are a tenant and paying your own energy bills.

If you don't use up your gas or electricity allowance

If you don't use all of your monthly Allowance, you carry it forward to your next bill. You can carry it forward if you switch, to a different energy provider, but you will have to contact your previous provider for a refund.

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Allowance 2: Free Television Licence

Once you qualify for the Household Benefits Package, you can get a Free Television (TV) Licence from your next TV Licence renewal date. To get your Free TV Licence, you must select the Television Licence option on the HBP form when you apply.

You will get a free TV licence for as long as you get the Household Benefits Package. You can find out more about the Household Benefits Package.

How to apply for the Household Benefits Package

You can apply online for the Household Benefits Package using MyWelfare.ie, if you have a MyGovID account.

If you cannot apply online, you can fill in the Household Benefit Package application form and return it to the Household Benefits Package section:

Department of Social Protection

Household Benefits Package

Social Welfare Services

College Road

Sligo

Ireland

Opening Hours: This office does not offer a service to personal callers. All queries must be made using the online enquiry form, by telephone or in writing.

Tel: (071) 915 7100 or 0818 200 400

Homepage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/e87d27-household-benefits-package/>

Email: householdbenefits@welfare.ie

If you wish to talk to someone face-to-face about your entitlements, you can visit your local Citizens Information Centre, Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office.

Learn new skills or retrain

Introduction:

If you are about to lose your job or are unemployed you can upskill or retrain. You can do this through the formal school and college system or outside of it.

The Department of Further and Higher Education has an online portal called the “**Right Course**”

<http://www.gov.ie/therightcourse>

It has information on:

- Further education and training places
- Courses available in higher education
- Courses for those on social welfare payments
- Grants, other financial supports and career guidance

Higher education courses

The [Springboard+ Programme](#) provides free higher education places if you are unemployed and looking to return to the workforce. There is a range of part-time courses from certificate to master's degree levels - levels 6 to 9 on the [National Framework of Qualifications](#).

[Apprenticeships](#) offer you a mixture of on-the-job training with an employer and off-the job training in a training centre. An apprenticeship generally lasts

for 2 to 4 years.

Adult education and community education courses

You don't need formal qualifications to take part in many of the full-time and part-time courses in the adult education and community education sectors. Adult education courses can include further and third-level education or continuing education and training. Courses are available both part-time and full-time. Community education is adult education and learning, generally outside the formal education sector. It promotes personalised learning and flexibility within learning groups.

The Education and Training Boards (ETBs), SOLAS and other agencies fund continuing education and training programmes. ETBs organise second-level, adult, community and second chance education. You can contact your local ETB for more details. They also operate the Vocational Training and Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) which provides a range of education and training courses if you are unemployed.

Further Education and Training (FET) courses help you develop or upgrade your skills in the commercial and industrial sectors if you are unemployed or have been made redundant. You can search online for training courses.

The Local Training Initiative Programme (LTI) is a project-based training and work experience programme carried out in the local community. It is run by local community groups. The programme is for unemployed people finding it difficult to get a job. It is primarily aimed at people aged between 18 and 35. You can find LTI programmes through your local ETB Training Centre or on fetchcourses.ie.

Community Training Centres are independent community-based organisations. They look after the training and employment needs of early school leavers, mainly aged between 16 and 21. If you are aged between 15 and 20 and have left school without any formal qualifications, the Youthreach programme will provide you with opportunities for basic education, personal development, vocational training and work experience.

Training and work experience

Employment schemes such as Community Employment and Tús provide short-term work opportunities for unemployed people. You can read more about the schemes to support employment on the following link: https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/unemployment_and_redundancy/employment_support_schemes/schemes_to_support_employment.en.html

Financial supports for training or education

The Back to Education Programme can support if you are getting a social welfare payment and you want to take up a second-level or third-level course.

The Part-Time Education Option Part-Time Education Option allows you to keep your Jobseeker's Allowance or Jobseeker's Benefit and attend a part-time day or evening course.

The Education, Training and Development Option allows you to keep your jobseeker's payment and attend a course not covered by the standard Back to Education Allowance such as a personal development course.

Other agencies and information supports

Agencies such as Fáilte Ireland, Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Teagasc, Coillte and the Crafts Council of Ireland offer you specialist courses in their specific areas of work.

Other organisations such as Centres for the Unemployed, Family Resource Centres and Local Development Companies also provide training.

Skillnet Ireland lets groups of private sector companies set up training networks to deliver accredited and industry-recognised programmes. Skillnet Ireland also offers some training to eligible unemployed people. The training is free if you are unemployed.

You can get information on further and higher education and training courses from [Qualifax](#). The database includes information for adult learners and recognition of prior learning with links to college and other education and training websites.

Renting out a room in your home

What is rent-a-room relief

The rent-a-room relief lets you earn up to €14,000 per year tax-free if you rent out a room (or rooms) in your home to private tenants. A self-contained unit, such as a basement flat or a converted garage attached to your home, can qualify for this relief.

While renting out a room that is part of your home is not covered by landlord and tenant law, renting out a self-contained unit is covered – see ‘Your rights and obligations’ below.

Depending on their circumstances, your tenant(s) may qualify for the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) – read more in ‘Housing Assistance Payment’ below. In certain circumstances, a tenant can claim [Rent Supplement](#).

Rules

For you to qualify for rent-a room relief, your home must be located in the State and you must occupy it as your sole residence during the year of assessment. This means that it is your home for the greater part of the year and is where people would normally expect to make contact with you. In most cases, you do not have to own the property – you could be a tenant and be sub-letting to someone else. (In these cases, you should check with your landlord that sub-letting is allowed – see our document on [tenants' rights and obligations](#).) However, if you are renting to a HAP tenant you must own the property and provide proof of ownership.

Currently, the total (gross) rent that you get, which includes any money that the tenant pays for food, utilities, laundry or similar goods and services, cannot exceed €14,000 in the tax year (1 January to 31 December) – see ‘Exclusions from rent-a-room relief’ below.

You cannot deduct expenses from your rental income while claiming rent-a-room relief. However, depending on the circumstances, it may be worth your while to opt out of the relief in a particular year in order to offset expenses against the rental income and avail of wear and tear allowances,

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see revenue.ie for examples of when this can be beneficial. The 'How to apply' section below describes how to opt out of rent-a-room relief. If you qualify for rent-a-room relief, the income you get from renting out the room will be exempt from PRSI, the [Universal Social Charge](#) or income tax. However, it must be included on your annual income tax return.

Rent-a-room relief will not affect your exemption from [Capital Gains Tax \(CGT\)](#) if you sell your home.

Exclusions from rent-a-room relief

You will not qualify for the relief if:

- Your gross income from rent and related services is over €14,000. In this case, Revenue will treat the full rental income minus allowable expenses as part of your total income for tax purposes and this should be included in your tax return.
- You are renting the room in your home to your civil partner, son or daughter (but there is no restriction in the case of other family members)
- You are an employee or office-holder in a company, and the company pays you to allow clients to use the room in your home on an occasional basis
- You are renting the room to short-term guests, for example, through an online accommodation booking site

The relief applies only to residential tenancies, not to short-term let arrangements. The occupants must be using the room on a long-term basis. So, renting a room to a student for the academic year or for a one-month course is covered, but providing accommodation to occasional visitors for short periods, for example, through an online accommodation booking site, is not, as this income is not considered to be rental income. This is because the visitors use the accommodation as guests rather than tenants. Revenue has published [a guidance manual on how this income is treated for tax purposes \(pdf\)](#)

If you normally rent out the room for the academic year and you rent it out for short breaks during the summer as well, you must identify the income you get from the short rentals separately from the income that qualifies for rent-a-room relief, when making your tax return to Revenue.

You can read more about rent-a-room relief on revenue.ie.

Housing Assistance Payment

If your tenant is applying for the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), you will need to provide certain information to the local authority, which administers the HAP. The local authority will pay you HAP directly. This information includes:

- The amount of the monthly rent
- Your bank account payment details
- An undertaking regarding the property's compliance with standards for rental accommodation
- An undertaking regarding your tax compliance
- Proof that you own the property

The local authority will inspect the property within 8

months of the first HAP payment, unless the accommodation has already been inspected in the last 12 months. An inspector will check that the accommodation meets the minimum physical standards for rental accommodation.

You must show that your tax affairs are in order by producing evidence of tax clearance from Revenue. Tax compliance is checked in 'real-time' on Revenue's electronic tax clearance system.

Read more in our document on HAP and in the landlord information booklet (pdf).

Rental income and social welfare payments

If you are getting a means-tested social assistance payment from the Department of Social Protection, you can get up to €14,000 per year for renting out a room in your own home without it affecting your social welfare payment.

This does not apply to short-term lettings (of less than 28 consecutive days). It also does not apply if you are renting a room to your employee or to an immediate family member. Immediate family members are:

- Your spouse, civil partner or partner
- Your child, or the spouse of your child
- Your parent, step-parent or parent-in-law
- Your sibling, including step-siblings or siblings-in-law
- Your grandparent or your grandchild
- Your aunt or uncle
- Your nephew or niece

Your rights and obligations

Self-contained units

If you rent out a self-contained unit in your home, such as a converted garage attached to your home or a basement flat, the rights and obligations under residential tenancies legislation apply to you. For example, you are obliged to register the tenancy with the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB), provide a rent book to the tenant and ensure that the accommodation provided meets minimum physical standards.

Residential tenancies legislation provides for security of tenure for tenants. These provisions are in Part 4 of the Residential Tenancies Act 2004. However, if the self-contained flat or apartment was originally part of the main house, you can choose to opt out of these provisions. This option is available under Section 25 of the Act. You must give the tenant notice in writing, before the start of the tenancy, if you wish to take this option.

Rooms that are not self-contained

If the part of your home that you rent out is not self-contained, you are not covered by landlord and tenant legislation, so the rights and obligations under that legislation do not apply to you. For example, you are not obliged to register as a landlord with the RTB, provide a rent book to the tenant. In general the accommodation you provide does not need to meet any minimum physical standards. However, if you are renting to a HAP tenant the accommodation must meet minimum standards.

This also means that private tenants living in your home are living under a licensee agreement, not a tenancy agreement, and are really only entitled to reasonable notice if you choose to terminate the agreement. Tenants are, however, entitled to refer disputes under the Small Claims Procedure.

Common claims that are heard under the Small Claims

Procedure include disputes about retention of a tenant's deposit for what they consider unfair reasons, or deductions from rent for damage to property that is over and above normal 'wear and tear'.

Your tenants can find out more about their rights in our document *Sharing accommodation with your landlord* and can also contact Threshold for advice— see 'Where to apply' below.

Agreement with your tenant

Before you arrange to rent out a room in your home, it is strongly recommended that you and the tenant agree some ground rules and put them in writing. If you and your tenant each sign and keep a copy of this agreement, you can both refer to its terms in the event of confusion or disagreement. These ground rules might include:

- How long is the tenancy going to last?
- How much notice will you or your tenant have to give if either of you chooses to end the tenancy?
- How much rent will the tenant pay and how often (for example, weekly, monthly)?
- How will this rent be paid (cash, cheque, standing order etc.)?
- When will the rent be reviewed and how much notice will you give the tenant of a rent review?
- How are utility bills (such as electricity, gas, phone, broadband, TV, waste charges) to be divided between you and the tenant?
- Can the tenant have visitors to stay overnight?
- Are there any restrictions regarding noise levels?

Rates

Rental income from renting a room in your home (and related services) is exempt from tax, up to a maximum limit of €14,000.

Where more than one person is entitled to benefit from the rent (for example, you and your spouse), this limit is divided between the individuals concerned.

How to apply

To claim rent-a-room relief you must record your rental income when making your annual tax return.

You can complete and submit your tax return form online using:

Revenue's myAccount Service if you are a PAYE taxpayer (Form 12)

Revenue Online Service (ROS) if you are self-employed or a PAYE taxpayer with other sources of income (Form 11)

Alternatively, you can complete a hard-copy annual tax return. You record your rental income for rent-a-room relief in the 'Exempt income' section of your tax return form and return the completed form to your local tax office.

The tax office can answer any queries you may have and will help if you have any difficulties completing the form.

If you wish to opt out of the rent-a-room relief in a particular tax year and be taxed on the rental income instead, you must notify Revenue in writing, on or before the return filing date for that tax year. Read more on revenue.ie.

Where to apply

Use Revenue's contact locator to find your tax office.

[index \(revenue.ie\)](http://index.revenue.ie)

Maynooth University and Hexafly BioTech collaborate to deliver sustainable soil enhancer that protects cereal crops from greenfly

Maynooth University and Irish SME Hexafly BioTech have pioneered a sustainable insect-based soil enhancer that boosts soil health and significantly reduces greenfly on cereal plants.

Prof Kevin Kavanagh, of the Department of Biology at Maynooth University, and Hexafly, are pioneering the use of insects and insect-based products for inclusion in feeds and as plant nutrients.

Barley aphids or greenfly are particularly difficult to control with traditional chemical insecticide, wreaking havoc in farms and causing substantial economic loss in agriculture. However, new research shows that an insect-based soil enhancer Hexafrass, is proving highly effective in fighting the pest.

The soil enhancer Hexafrass, derived from the waste product of black soldier flies, boosts soil health and actively promotes root development and plant growth. The research, funded by SSPC the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Pharmaceuticals, has found that plants growing in treated soil had reduced aphid infestation numbers and enhanced natural defence against disease.



Investigating the cause for the reduction in aphid numbers, Prof Kavanagh and Dr Anatte Margalit, a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Biology, used proteomic analysis (a form of genetic analysis of proteins) to reveal that aphids feeding on plants cultured in Hexafrass were rendered infertile due to changes in their internal biology.

Commenting on his findings, Prof Kavanagh said: “This discovery creates the possibility of a highly effective and environmentally sustainable method of controlling aphid populations using Hexafrass. By feeding on the sap of plants, aphids reduce the nutrient supply needed by the plant, effecting growth and development, and enhancing the risk of viruses that can lead to plant disease and death. Control of aphids is essential to ensure healthy plant growth and food production, but many aphids have developed resistance to conventional insecticides therefore the development of alternative, effective and environmentally sustainable treatments is essential.”

Alvan Hunt, CEO of Hexafly, said: “The findings of this research are highly significant for us. Funding from SSPC, the SFI Research Centre for Pharmaceuticals and our collaboration with Maynooth University has allowed us to co-develop novel applications for our products that will have commercial value in the coming months and years. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Professor Kavanagh as we continue to advance our research and development program and bring more discoveries to market.”

Through MaynoothWorks, MU’s knowledge transfer and commercialisation unit, Hexafly Biotech have solidified their relationship with the University, and Prof Kavanagh and his team, recently signing a licence agreement to collaborate and commercialise the outputs of this project and to develop novel applications of Hexafrass.

Dr Paul Tyndall, MaynoothWorks Commercialisation Executive at Maynooth University, welcomed the potential commercialisation opportunities from this collaboration. “It has been a real pleasure to bring this project full circle and successfully complete this licencing agreement with Hexafly, which is focused on a strong research and sustainable development agenda.

This discovery serves as a clear demonstration of the benefits of industry and researchers working together, something that we prioritise facilitating here in Maynooth University. We look forward to working with the Hexafly team in the future as they build on the success of this project in collaboration with Prof Kavanagh.”

MaynoothWorks captured the Intellectual Property (IP) generated during the research project, initiated licence negotiations and supported the successful licensing agreements. They also led discussions for further development of the IP with Hexafly, which continues to pursue company-funded collaborative research projects with the University.

Commenting on their role as the funding body, Dr Sinéad O’Doherty, Head of Strategic Development at SSPC, said: “SSPC has a strong commitment to supporting research excellence through our industry funding model, in particular with our Irish

SMEs, a crucial element of our economy. This work investigated the antimicrobial effects of an identified antimicrobial peptide, which was then characterised, and its activity against a wide range of pathogens established. We look forward to future engagement with Hexafly Biotech, and supporting their commitment to research for future market opportunities.”

Researchers from Maynooth University’s School of Law and Criminology, and Department of Critical Skills, MIT and Cornell University, have found that a Wikipedia article can increase a case’s citations by more than 20%, thereby influencing judges’ legal reasoning.

Researchers developed over 150 new Wikipedia articles on Irish Supreme Court decisions, written by law students, half of which were randomly chosen for uploading to Wikipedia, the other half held offline, to illustrate what would happen to a case with no related Wikipedia article. They looked at two measures - whether the cases were more likely to have citations as precedents in subsequent judicial decisions, and whether the argumentation in court judgments echoed the linguistic content of the new Wikipedia pages.

Cases with a Wikipedia article increased citations by more than 20%, a statistically significant amount. The effect was particularly strong for cases that supported the argument the citing judge was making in their decision (but not the converse). The increase was bigger for citations by lower courts. The research indicates that Wikipedia is used more frequently by judges or clerks who have a heavier workload, for whom the convenience of Wikipedia offers a greater attraction.

The Irish legal system proved the perfect testbed, as it shares a key similarity with other national legal systems such as the UK and US. It operates within a hierarchical court structure where decisions of higher courts subsequently bind lower courts. There are relatively few Wikipedia articles on Irish Supreme Court decisions compared to those of the US Supreme Court. Over the course of their project, the researchers increased the number of such articles tenfold.



In addition to looking at the case citations made in the decisions, the team also analysed the language used in the written decision using natural language processing. What they found were the linguistic fingerprints of the Wikipedia articles that they’d created.

“The text of a court’s judgment itself will guide the law as it becomes a source of precedent for subsequent judicial decision-making. Future lawyers and judges will look back at that written judgment, and use it to decide what its implications are so that they can treat ‘like’ cases alike,” says co-author Associate Professor, Dr Brian Flanagan, Maynooth University.

“If the text itself is influenced, as this experiment shows, by anonymously sourced internet content, that’s a problem. For the many potential cracks that have opened up in our “Information Superhighway” that is the Internet, you can imagine that this vulnerability could potentially lead to adversarial actors manipulating information. If easily accessible analysis of legal questions is already being relied on, it behooves the legal community to accelerate efforts to ensure that such analysis is both comprehensive and expert.”

Thompson, N.C., Flanagan, B., Richardson, E., McKenzie, B., & Luo, X. (2022) “Trial by Internet: A Randomized Field Experiment on Wikipedia’s Influence on Judges’ Legal Reasoning” in Kevin Tobia (ed). The Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Jurisprudence. New York: Cambridge University Press.



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth



Seeking accommodation option for students

We are currently seeking accommodation for students who will study at Maynooth University on a 7-day basis for the 2022-2023 academic year.

If you have a spare room, you might consider letting it on a self-catering or full/partial board basis, for one semester or the full academic year – whatever works! 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.

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Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Cllr Feeney appeals the decision of KCC to grant access onto Carton Avenue

Copy of my recent submission to An Bord Pleanála appealing the decision by Kildare County Council to grant an opening onto Carton Avenue to Cairn Homes Ltd.

A Chara,

Regarding the grant of permission for the above proposal to develop an access to Carton Avenue by Kildare County Council to Cairn Homes Ltd., I wish to appeal this decision for the following reasons:

- As part of the housing development application to you at ABP (file 310865-21) in July 16th 2021, the applicant included a shared pedestrian and bicycle link onto Carton Avenue as part of the development application to the Bord. The Bord rightly refused this request on Nov 1st 2021 stating that the proposed link should be omitted from the development because of "potential impacts on Carton Avenue which is of historical and landscape significance," outlining how important Carton Avenue is historically and that its integrity must be protected.
- At a Kildare County Council meeting in April 2019, it was unanimously agreed that no further work would be carried out on the Avenue until the Carton Master Plan would go on Statutory Public Display and would be approved by the Maynooth MD. The Minutes of the Maynooth Municipal District Meeting, held on Friday the 12th of April 2019, records this decision:
- "On the proposal of Councillor McGinley and with all members in agreement it was further agreed that no further work shall be carried out on the Avenue until the Master Plan goes on Statutory Public Display and is approved by the Maynooth MD." Regarding the Master Plan, at the March 2022 MD Council meeting I requested an update on the Master Plan for Carton Avenue and when it would be made available to the members and the public. In the response, I was informed that the Council is engaging a consultant to prepare a conservation plan for the Avenue and that the projected timeframe is September to December 2022.
- From reading the Planner's Report it is clear to me that the basis for accepting this proposed development is incorrect. In the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 the following zoning applies to the section of this proposal adjoining Carton Avenue:
- S - Carton Avenue - To protect and provide for passive amenity use of a 60 metre buffer zone on either side of Carton Avenue / the Lime Walk. The area covered by this zoning objective shall remain undeveloped and shall include a management regime so that the character and setting of this historic walkway is protected and improved.
- In the Zoning Matrix, Playing Fields and Park/Playground are Open for Consideration. This covers all of the 60-metre buffer zone. It is suggested in the Planners Report that because Playing Fields/Park/Playground is Open for Consideration that this justifies this development. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is quite clear that the buffer lands will be used at some stage for passive and active recreation, but nowhere does it state that a shared pedestrian/cycle path is open for consideration. It is very clear that the Objective of the S Zoning is to preserve the integrity of the Historic setting and landscape of Carton Avenue.
- In addition, the Planner's Report states that a pedestrian/cycle path connection from the Dunboyne Road to Carton Avenue, as outlined under the Roads Objectives Map of the Maynooth LAP, is effectively another reason to allow this proposal. Again, I state that this is incorrect. If you look at the Roads Objective Map (Drawing 200/18/905) in the Maynooth LAP 2013-2019, it is clearly talking about a shared pedestrian/cycle path along the Dunboyne Road and Blacklion Road to the Carton Avenue entrance opposite Carton House Estate. There is no suggestion whatsoever that there should be a shared pedestrian/cycle path from the new development to Carton Avenue.
- Carton Avenue has been in existence since 1750 and is a precious space and we need to retain its integrity. In 1981, the then owner, the Honorable David Nall Cain, gave Carton Avenue as a public amenity, in the care of Kildare County Council. Carton Avenue and the amenity have been well maintained by Carton House, Maynooth Tidy Towns and Kildare County Council over the years. However, in September 2018, when a 4m wide opening and two 2.2m wide footpaths were constructed from the Limetree Hall housing development onto the Avenue there was an outcry from the community supported by all local councillors about the incursion which was an appalling eyesore and was completely out of character with the Avenue.
- While permeability is important and I fully support all efforts to encourage and promote a modal shift to active travel, Carton Avenue Limetree Walk is an exceptional amenity; there is a preservation order on the trees and Kildare County Council is the custodian of the Avenue and has a duty to retain the integrity of this valuable and historic public amenity in Maynooth.

• I believe that no justification has been given for this unacceptable planning decision to destroy the integrity of Carton Avenue, compounding the outrageous planning decision that led to the creation of an access from Limetree Hall in 2018. It would seem to the residents of Maynooth that the intention of Kildare Co. Council is to destroy this wonderful amenity and I call on An Bord Pleanála to defend the people of Maynooth by calling a halt to the destruction of the integrity of Carton Avenue.

• To conclude, given the historic space that is the Avenue, the sensitivity of the area as acknowledged by the Bord in its refusal and the motion approved by members to await the delivery of a master plan for the site before any further such developments would take place, the Bord should overturn the decision by Kildare County Council.

Le meas,

Cllr Angela Feeney PhD

Climate Innovation Funding

Kildare County Council has issued a second call for the Climate Innovation Fund 2022. Who can apply? Community groups that foster innovative climate solutions in Kildare. Joint applications with SMEs, entrepreneurs, tradespeople, early-career researchers, education institutions and citizens active in Kildare are also welcomed.

How much? The amount for the Clane/Maynooth MD is €18,400 with the minimum funding request is €5,000 for any individual project. This funding grant is being provided from Local Property Tax funds as allocated by the elected members of Kildare County Council.

Closing date for application submissions is Sunday 11th September at 23:59pm For more details and how to apply, please visit: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/applications>. If you have any queries on this or other issues email afeeney@kildarecoco.ie

The Annual Kildare Garda Youth Awards

Get Nominating! The Annual Kildare Garda Youth Awards will return to the county next month. These Awards provide an opportunity to recognise the achievements of young persons and groups in our communities, whether that be in delivering positive social impacts or in overcoming challenge and adversity and are a real highlight of the year. Nominations can be submitted quickly and easily via our online link.

Submit Nominations:

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSdhmzN6NZh.../viewform...>

with opportunities being afforded to nominators to participate in the presentation of the selected award winners.

Event will take place in Newbridge Town Hall on Friday 16th September 2022 from 7 – 9pm.

Annual Play Day 2022

Kildare County Council's Annual Play Day Event 10th– 17th September. A Treasure Hunt will take place across the county and children are encouraged to get involved by picking up their treasure hunt leaflet from their local participating library.

Play Day is a national initiative aimed at promoting play and recreation opportunities for children and young people all over Ireland. The theme of this year's event is All Play Together and children are invited to join in the fun in Kildare by visiting local sights, answering the fun treasure hunt questions and return the leaflet to the local library for a chance to win a book voucher worth €10.

There are 700 book vouchers up for grabs for 2022 Play Day in Kildare and entries will be accepted until Saturday 17th September. But don't delay, the first 50 submissions to each location will win the €10 book vouchers.


Outdoor play has a positive impact on children's social, emotional, intellectual, and physical wellbeing. Kildare County Council is proud to support this creative play initiative which is co-funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

Further details available from parks@kildarecoco.ie.#KildarePlayDay



RIP Tom McMullon

Former long serving Chair of Maynooth Community Council, Mr. Thomas (Tom) McMullon sadly passed away on July 28th. Tom made such an enormous contribution to his own community of Cluain Aoibhinn and the wider community of Maynooth over many years through his work as Chair of Maynooth Community Council, setting up Maynooth Festival and the long-standing twinning between Maynooth and Canet-en-Roussillon in France.

Cllr Feeney extends her sincere sympathy to his wife, Maura, his sons Andy and James and the extended family. Tom will be sadly missed. Codladh sámh Tom.



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES



Carton Avenue

Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the approval by an Bord Pleanála for the Cairn Group’s proposed development at the Dunboyne Road. In particular, it welcomes that the permission prioritises permeability of active travel ie the link between the development and Carton Avenue over perceived impact on heritage. It is regrettable that the permission did not include the last few metres to link into the existing path in Carton Avenue but that is a matter for another time. Using parks and green areas for walking and cycling infrastructure is standard practice in the leading Irish local authority for the provision of active travel, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council, and elsewhere.

Female Cyclist Verbally Abused by Male Driver

It has been brought to our attention that recently a female cyclist using the traffic lane rather than the shared path on the Moyglare Road was verbally abused by a male driver. She was told to “Get onto the f***ing cycle track” by an irate male driver who objected to her choosing to use the outward bound traffic lane. The driver was obvious ignorant of the fact that bicycles are traffic too and cyclists are not legally bound to use cycle facilities.

Cycling Without Age

Cycling Without Age is an international movement which started in Denmark ten years ago to offer cycling to people who are no longer able to do so on their own – either through age or disability. Some years ago, Maynooth Cycling Campaign received funding for the purchase of a trishaw – a bike which can carry a pilot (driver) and two passengers. Due to a variety of reasons including Covid, the purchase did not go ahead and it was even considered that the funding should be returned. In recent months, however, a number of local authorities including Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Dublin City, Fingal, Wexford and Tipperary have become involved with Cycling Without Age and have purchased trishaws. Maynooth Cycling Campaign is discussions with KCC regarding plans for Kildare. More details will be provided next month.

St. Mary’s Boys School

The new St. Mary’s Boys’ School is nearing completion at the junction of the Moyglare and Kilcock Roads with the jury still out on the new appearance of the road junction. It is noted that the planning conditions require bike parking to be provided at a rate of 1 in 5 pupils plus 1 in 5 staff in accordance with the Kildare County Development Plan. As the school has been designed for 684 students, it is anticipated that more than 130 bicycle parking place will be provided. This assumes a cycling rate of 20% which may have been “adequate” at the time of planning permission but is inadequate when compared to the need to decarbonise transport in line with the government’s climate action commitments.

Local Authorities Failing to spend Cycling and Walking Funding

It was revealed that Irish local authorities only spent 58% of funding provided for walking and cycling in 2021. This is not a surprise to Maynooth Cycling Campaign which has highlighted how in recent years Kildare County Council (KCC) was one of the worst performing of 12 local authorities in the Greater Dublin and Regional Cities. To be fair to Kildare County Council, it takes time to ramp up schemes and there have been changes in personnel in KCC who are more sympathetic to active travel than their predecessors and we are hopeful that they are on the right path. However, we continue to have concerns about their commitment to high standards.

Kissing Gates

Two years ago, as the Public Participation Network’s representative on KCC’s Transportation, Safety & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee, Maynooth Cycling Campaign proposed the removal of kissing gates as a quick win for universal access to greenways and parks and their replacement with bollards in line with best international practice. In May, KCC officials rejected the proposal. In a letter last February, the Minister for Transport informed local authorities that all existing or future Greenways shall not include “non-compliant access control points” by which he meant kissing gates and similar type of accesses which are barriers to people with disabilities and to cyclists. Since then the NTA have published details of what should be installed instead. They are broadly in line with the proposals rejected by KCC.

Road Safety

Road fatalities continue to increase.

Year	Fatalities 1 Jan to 26 August
2019	85
2021	90
2022	104

With schools reopening again on 1st September, Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the announcement by the government that the fine for failing to stop at a school warden sign is set to double from €80 to €160. We hope that this will not be like many regulations which have been introduced but never enforced.

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.

Best Air Purifying Plants for Indoor Spaces

With increasing evidence that air purifying plants can clean the air in our homes and have a positive effect on our mental wellbeing, there's never been a better time to invest in one. Many chemicals are used as ingredients in products in our homes. Flooring material, electronics, and many other products that pollute your indoor air. The good news is that you can use air purifying plants to clean indoor air in your living areas, bathrooms, and even bedrooms. But what plants can clean air and remove toxins?

The best air purifying plants include the spider plant, snake plant, devil’s ivy, Chinese evergreen, peace lily, bamboo palm, dracaena, Barberton daisy, and weeping fig. Some of these houseplants are safe for cats and dogs but some are toxic.

When choosing the perfect houseplant, you want to consider whether or not it is safe for your pets (dogs and cats), and its growing requirements.

Below are a few of the best air purifying plants for all your indoor areas.

Aloe Vera

Aloe vera is one of the best air purifying plants you can buy as it continuously releases oxygen throughout the night while simultaneously taking in carbon dioxide (a good one for adding to the bedroom too). It's also relatively easy to maintain and particularly forgiving of forgetful waterers.

Position: In a bright spot but indirect light.

Care: Water it heavily once every two weeks.

Toxicity: Toxic to cats and dogs.

The Boston Fern

If nothing brings you more joy than tending to your houseplants, you'll get on well with the Boston fern, which likes attention. Scientists say the lush green houseplant is worth the maintenance though as a 2010 study by the American Society of Horticultural Science found that ferns removed more formaldehyde from the air than any other plant. They can also remove pollutants from car exhausts entering the home.

Toxicity: Non-toxic to cats and dogs.

The Lady Palm

This gorgeous air purifying plant can stand as tall as six feet and tolerates dark spaces in the home. It's one of the best air purifying house plants for helping to reduce levels of ammonia, according to NASA, as well as formaldehyde, xylene and toluene.

Lady palm, or rhaps excelsa, is native to Asia and has a unique appearance of broad fan-like leaves and bamboo-style stems.

Position: It's happy in low-light areas and makes a good hallway or living room plant.

Care: The lady palm enjoys generous amounts of water, with proper drainage needed to avoid root rot.

Toxicity: Non-toxic to cats and dogs.

The Spider Plant

The spider plant is known as one of the best air filtration houseplants because of a large cumulative leaf surface area for cleaning air, removing toxins like formaldehyde and benzene emitted by furniture polish, paint thinner, tobacco smoke, detergent aerosols, and air fresheners. Spider plants are air filters that tolerate low light conditions but prefer bright indirect light, which makes them easy to grow in pots and hanging baskets in most indoor settings such as bedrooms, bathrooms, living areas, etc. You can place this air cleaning plant in an office with a window or hung from the ceiling to get enough indirect sunlight.

The Peace Lily

A stunning house or office plant, peace lilies are air purifying plants loved for their beautiful flowers. NASA and RHS-approved for having in the house, they help clear the air of formaldehyde, trichloroethylene and benzene, a known carcinogen. It can improve the indoor air quality by 60 per cent and help reduce the levels of mould spores from the air.

Position: Peace lilies aren't fans of direct sun light as their leaves can burn so place it in a shady spot, while the flowers are more plentiful if they get more light.

Care: The low-maintenance air purifying indoor plant's leaves droop when it is thirsty, essentially telling you when it needs water, but once a week is recommended.

Toxicity: Toxic to cats and dogs.

Some of the benefits of Indoor Plants

- Indoor plants may help reduce stress levels
- Working with plants can be therapeutic
- Plants improve the quality of indoor air

Sharing your living or working space with living, “breathing” plant life can make your environment a happier, healthier place to be.

Source: www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/house-and-home/g32319013/air-purifying-plants/ Source: www.gardenine.com/best-air-purifying-plants

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Good food habits set early in childhood can last a lifetime.



Lunches provide around one third of our daily nutritional needs, so it's important to put some thought and planning into them. Here are some tips on how to prepare a healthy lunchbox that your child will eat and enjoy.

- Fluids are important for children – up to 6 cups of fluid should be encouraged daily. Milk and water are the best options. Straws and brightly coloured drinks bottles can make drinks more interesting!

- Get your child involved in packing lunches. Let them help choose some element of their lunch. Pick a colourful lunchbox or let them decorate one with stickers.
- Children often need to see and taste new foods several times before they accept them, so try out new ideas at teatime or the weekend before including them in a lunchbox Tired of packing the same old lunch? - Keep it varied

Help keep lunches cool and safe by following these tips:

REMEMBER THAT SANDWICHES CONTAINING MEAT OR OTHER FOODS THAT REQUIRE REFRIGERATION SHOULD BE KEPT AS COLD AS POSSIBLE UNTIL LUNCH. HELP KEEP LUNCHES COOL AND SAFE BY FOLLOWING THESE TIPS:

- An insulated box or bag can be used to help keep lunches cool. • It is important that lunches are not kept in a warm place such as near radiators or in direct sunlight • Throw away any perishable food that hasn't been eaten at the end of the day • Wash and dry reusable water bottles, lids and lunchboxes every day in warm soapy water • To keep the cool air in, minimize the number of times your child needs to open the lunchbox, by packing other food items that don't need to be kept cool separately. And last, always remember to wash your hands before eating lunch. Please note that your child's school may have a policy relating to food allergies.

- Include a wide variety of foods – fruit and vegetables, starchy foods, protein and dairy • Add interest to the lunchbox – try some of the following ideas: –

Healthy Lunches

Vegetables, salad and fruit At least one portion from the fruit and vegetables food group... • 1 medium apple, orange, banana, pear or similar size fruit • 2 small fruits – plums, kiwis or similar size fruit • A small glass (150ml) of unsweetened fruit juice • Half a tin (3 tablespoons or 4 dessertspoons) of fruit in its own juice



- 1 heaped dessertspoon of dried fruit (for example, raisins or sultanas) • 1 small bunch of grapes (10 grapes)
- 1 small salad (for example, dessert bowl sized salad of lettuce, tomato, cucumber and celery sticks) • 3 tablespoons or 4 dessertspoons of vegetables (for example, chopped or grated carrots).
- A bowl of homemade vegetable soup in a thermos flask for older children.

Dairy products are especially important in the diets of children and teenagers as they provide calcium to support growing bones and teeth. Low-fat natural yoghurt with fruit is the best option. Lean cuts of meat such as chicken breast are lower in salt than processed meats such as ham and bacon. Choose lean meat more often than processed.

Meat, poultry, fish, eggs, beans and nuts. One portion from the meat and meat alternatives food group... • 2 slices (50–75g) of cooked meat • 1–2 eggs (hard-boiled, sliced or mashed) • A small can (100g) of tuna, salmon, mackerel or sardines • 4 tablespoons of hummus - try out as a dip with carrots or celery Note: Fish such as tinned tuna or salmon should be included in the lunchbox at least once a week – remove any bone.



Wholemeal cereals and breads, potatoes, pasta and rice One portion from the bread and cereals group which would be... • 2 thin slices of wholemeal bread • 1 small bread roll • 1 tortilla wrap • 1 pitta bread • 4–6 crackers or breadsticks • 1 cup of cooked rice, pasta or couscous • 1 small bagel

Milk, yoghurt and cheese One portion from the dairy products food group... • 1 glass or mini-carton of milk (200ml) • A pot of natural or low-fat yoghurt (125ml) or custard • 2 cheese triangles • 2 thumbs (25g) of cheese such as cheddar, edam or gouda varieties Note: Low-fat dairy products are suitable for children over two years of age. Flavoured milks are also a good source of calcium but have a higher energy and sugar content than plain milk – check labels and compare brands.



It is important that children take in enough fluids during the day. If they do not drink enough, they may become dehydrated, thirsty, tired and weak. Drinks should always be included for break-time and lunch. Water and milk are the most suitable drinks for children. Because of its natural sugar content, unsweetened fruit juice should only be consumed with meals and ideally diluted (one part juice to ten parts water).

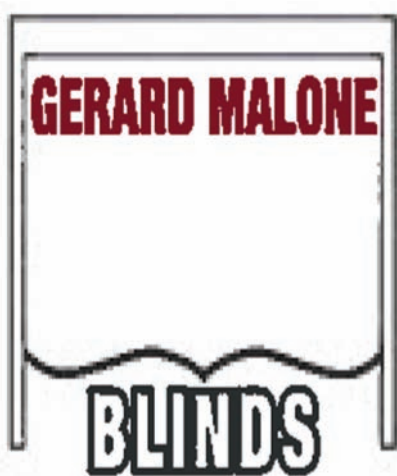
Children who eat a nutritious lunch in school are better able to concentrate and learn.

Source: www2.hse.ie/file-library/health-eating-active-living/healthy-lunchboxes.pdf

Memories of Old Maynooth - Photos from the Archive



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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Who Goes with Fergus?

'So you're going to college after a full day's work, more power to you.' 'Yep.' Colin was standing in an uptown bus behind the driver, a Leitrim man who, despite battling hectic traffic, obviously welcomed his conversation. 'Doing electrical layouts isn't that strenuous.' 'And what would those involve? 'Oh, drawings showing the exact locations of receptacles and switches, that sort of thing; it means the electricians don't have to waste time checking architectural and other drawings – their pay is much better than ours.' 'And where did you come by all that know-how?' 'In Galway Uni; I was studying Civil Engineering.' 'And why aren't you working at that?' Colin hesitated. He didn't like confessing that he hadn't got past repeating 2nd Year in U.C.G. but what the hell? This was America, a place of new beginnings. 'That's a good question,' he held tight to the back of the driver's seat as the bus swung out into another lane. 'I didn't finish in Galway and, anyway, my present job isn't too tiring, so in the evenings I can do a bit of studying and socializing.' 'I hear there's lots of smart Jewish guys in City College.' 'Yep, and plenty of other students, WASPS, Black Americans, Puerto Ricans, Europeans, one or two English; it's quite a mix. That's what I like about the place.' 'Well, I can only say I admire you.' 'Why?' 'You're getting a college education and you're not busting your chops driving through traffic like this for a living.'

At 129th and Amsterdam he said goodbye to the driver and dismounted. Now he was passing a group of teenagers from nearby Harlem, studiously avoiding eye contact. An unexpected blow to the side of his face rocked him. In a fit of anger he put down his satchel of books and challenged the fellow who had hit him to a fight. Surprised by this reaction, the others held back while the aggressor raised his fists. Soon he and Colin were dancing round each other, trading harmless blows. After a while it dawned on him that he was tiring. If he went down anything could happen. Best to call it a day while he was still on his feet. 'Alright,' he said, 'let's shake hands.' The request must have been so unexpected that his opponent acquiesced. 'Why did you hit me?' he looked him full in the face. The fellow shrugged, 'I don't know.' 'Well, you're certainly fast on your feet,' Colin acknowledged. He realized that his unexpected reaction had won the respect of this young fellow's mates, so they wouldn't attack him. Picking up his bag, he continued almost jauntily uphill to the college. You couldn't really blame those guys for resenting the intrusion of students into their neighbourhood. What were their prospects, apart from unemployment and petty crime? If they'd been given the opportunity he'd squandered: three years in Galway during which he had spent more time at plays in the *Taibhdhearc* and films in the Astoria than studying? But he had other things to consider now, particularly how Lillian would react if she saw his bruised cheek.

Lillian, a receptionist in The Plaza Hotel, was one of those glamorous, self-assured girls who wordlessly convey social expectations. It was to win the approval of her and her businessman father Tom Ryan that he had decided to complete his degree by taking evening lectures. Unlike the situation in Ireland, City College believed that technical know-how should be balanced by knowledge of the liberal arts. As a result, he found that while he just passed engineering courses, he got high grades in subjects such as Psychology, Sociology and English. If it weren't for Lillian agreeing with her father – but he wasn't being fair. The truth was he himself wished to wipe out the stigma of past failure. So what if Lillian wanted him to do well?

Presently his thoughts drifted to Alexandra Tomkins, or Sandi, as she preferred to be called. Would she be in his English class this evening? She was a vivacious young woman from St Albans who combined an upper-class accent with a freewheeling lifestyle. Guys in the college flocked around her like bees round a honeycomb. He had never ventured beyond group chitchat, convinced that any attempt to gain her interest would be met with amused indifference. Not that the traditional British attitude to 'Paddies' held sway in America; JFK's term in The White House, tragically cut short the previous year, had eliminated their last social barrier. But he had better focus on this evening's lectures. Half an hour later, after crossing the Neo-Gothic campus, he was sitting in a medium-sized room, listening to Lecturer William Miller discuss that evening's assigned poems: Thomas's 'Fern Hill', Frost's 'The Road Not Taken' and Yeats's 'Who Goes with Fergus?' Sandi was in the front row, busy taking notes when not asking questions, one of which was if Miller had ever met Dylan Thomas. This led to his recounting a visit to The Poetry Center where Dylan had taken the lead role in a performance of *Under Milk Wood*. Colin remembered seeing that play in the Circle in the Square with Lillian. He had been entranced but she, who loved Broadway productions, had been bored and critical of the theatre's rough seating. In the Frost poem Miller asked them to explain why the road taken really wasn't that different from the one kept for another day. Finally, it was the Yeats poem but instead of discussing it, he dismissed it as a charming but fanciful creation.

That was too much for Colin. Battling self-consciousness he raised his hand. "I think there's more to the poem than fanciful creation," he blurted out. 'Really!' Miller raised his eyebrows. 'Perhaps you'll enlighten us.' 'Well, first of all Fergus wasn't just a name Yeats picked at random,' Colin steadied his voice, 'he was the King of Ulster, who gave up his throne to his son-in-law Conchobhar, or Conor, on the understanding he'd get it back after a year.' 'And why did he give up his throne?' Miller was bemused or amused; it was hard to tell which. 'To please Nessa, his wife,' Colin explained. 'Anyway, when he failed to get the kingship back he reconciled himself to the ensuing situation. In fact, you could say he was the first beatnik.' This statement drew chuckles from the class. 'Go on,' Miller encouraged. 'How does that add significance to the poem?' 'Well it's about the conflict between art and life. Fergus wants to lead us to the deep woods and the level shore and to forget about love's bitter mystery. He rules those places that are the realms of poetic imagination. Yeats himself was –' 'I think we get the general picture,' Miller raised his hand, 'but unfortunately we've run out of time. For our next session I want you to read the assigned poems of W. H. Auden, Emily Dickinson and Ezra Pound - who, of course, influenced Yeats. Oh! And Colin Scott, I'd like a brief word with you.' 'Now I'm for it, correcting Miller before the class,' he rebuked himself, while avoiding the eyes of Sandi, filing past with other students. 'That was quite an impressive commentary,' the lecturer waited till they were alone. 'I'm sorry if I seemed to pass over Yeats's poem, but then - fortuitously let me confess - you stepped into the breach. You obviously have a good knowledge of his poetry.' 'Yes,' Colin agreed.

'I'm interested in Celtic mythology, Lady Gregory's *Cuchulain of Muirthemne* and –' 'Quite! Quite!' The lecturer raised his hands to indicate that he understood. 'By the way, what happened to the side of your face?' 'A young fellow struck me as I was coming here. It wasn't a vicious attack.' 'It still shouldn't have happened. If you want a lift to the subway later?' 'No,

thanks; I'll be fine.' 'Okay then. One final question: have you received a letter from the dean?' 'No', Colin shook his head. 'In that case I'll look into it,' saying which Miller hurried away before he could ask what he meant. When he emerged into the corridor Sandi left a group of fellows she was with and approached him. 'That was brilliant,' she seemed almost shy. 'Do you really think so?' he found her closeness intoxicating. 'I hope I didn't bore everyone.' 'Are you kidding? It was certainly miles ahead of Miller's bland dismissal, but', she pointed to his cheek, 'how did you get that?' He explained what had happened, hoping she wouldn't classify him as another brawling Irishman. 'Oh, I think that's just super!' she exclaimed. 'You won't mind if I use it for a short story: *Brave Student Fights Street Hoodlum*? I'll submit it to The New Yorker.' 'Fire ahead!' he grinned, 'just don't play up the Irish angle.' 'I won't,' she raised her hands, palms out. 'Actually, when I was growing up we used to holiday in Cornwall and people there have historic links with Ireland: they even spoke a Celtic language once – and, of course, there was that love affair between Tristram and an Irish princess –'

'Iseult – she came from Chapelizod, near Dublin – by the way, Miller said something about me receiving a letter from the dean. Is that good or bad?' 'It's terrific. If you're on the dean's list it means you're a top-class student. You'll probably end-up being asked to join Phi Beta Kappa.' 'Phi Beta Kappa, what's that?' 'It's an honors society. Many of the top scholars in the country are members.' 'Are you a member?' 'No, it's for graduates. But my friend is. I'm more interested in writing – not that my writing's anything special.' 'I'm sure it is. Have you any of your short stories with you?' 'No. But I'll bring one in tomorrow; it was published in last week's Village Voice – that's if you don't mind reading about antiwar protestors.' 'I'd love to. How about a coffee?' 'Can't, sorry, I have an American History lecture; Manifest Destiny – and to hell with the Injuns.' 'I have a Physics lecture myself, but I could walk you to the bus or subway after that.' 'Actually I have a lift.' 'In that case I'd better be on my way.' 'No, wait!' She touched his arm. 'I'm throwing a party for some friends this Saturday. Would you like to come? My apartment's on West 112th Street, near Columbia University.'

'That sounds great. I'll bring a bottle of whiskey.' 'A bottle of wine will do. Here, I'll give you my card; it has my telephone number in case you change your mind.' 'Fine. I'm looking forward to Saturday.' He pocketed the card then watched as she hurried after her friends. Damn it! He had clean forgotten that he had promised to take Lillian to a dance and meal in The Lorelei on Saturday. He'd have to come up with some good excuse or she'd have her father drive her round to his room on West 56th Street. Lillian and Tom weren't to be trifled with, but maybe that was his problem, always doing what they expected. Frost's poem about the two roads diverging came back to him; 'And sorry I could not travel both / And be one traveler, long I stood...' Maybe that was where he stood now, trying to get an engineering degree to satisfy the bourgeois expectations of the Ryans, even though something told him that his most intellectually rewarding pathway would be through Liberals Arts. He could probably scrape by as an engineer but at what cost to his peace-of-mind? Yeats in his subtle way had put his finger on the solution, turn away from brooding on 'love's bitter mystery' and follow Fergus. He'd have to think hard about that.

P.G. Nerney



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

<p>Highlights</p> <p>Yes, I look on them as such, Though small when set against What others have accomplished. I swam at the Great Barrier Reef, No wet suit, flippers, goggles, Just a pair of well-worn togs And for a few, tense moments Doubted that I’d reach The safety of our anchored ship.</p> <p>Then there was that time My wife and I visited China’s famous, ancient wall; We were supposed to walk A certain distance then turn back, But, disregarding strict instructions, We ventured blithely on Till, finally aware of time, We hastily retraced our steps.</p> <p>I’ll mention another venture, One where we didn’t flout the rules, Our visit to Yosemite, That magic Californian valley; A crowded bus took us deep Into a place of shade and silence Where we explored on foot Spots where bears and bobcats lurked</p>	<p>And brought a giant pinecone back.</p> <p>But not to overlook this land, Where many happenings of note Have left their imprint on my mind, I’ll include Antrim’s sea- washed Gobbins. Just conjure up an image of A half-decrepit, anxious couple Making their way along a path With stairways hewn from solid rock And down below the hungry sea.</p> <p>Today I can barely walk And past adventures shift into Things that mightn’t have occurred Or if they did they pale beside Discords that beset most countries Or, greatest danger, climate change, That warns us with threatening fires. Yes, we’re now poised upon the brink Of a vast, manmade abyss...</p> <p>Colin Scott 26 - 07 - 2022</p>	<p>SCHOOL DAYS AGAIN</p> <p>It is with great trepidation that I venture into an area «adding my sum of more to that which had (perhaps) too much». (As You Like It). However, here goes! Again, Shakespeare's words are apt. In the Merchant of Venice he has Jessica declare «our house is hell». Well, I can echo that by saying that «our school was hell» but unfortunately there was no «merry devil» to «rob it of some taste of tediousness»! «Tediousness»! Maybe not the most apt word for the reign of terror that was our school. It was a two- teacher country school with the Missus reigning over all up to second class. She wasn't averse to corporal punishment herself but it was on the Master's side that the «rod» was the real ruler!</p> <p>When it had to be replaced a sixth-class boy was sent to cut one in the hedge. Six is the most I recall getting at one time though I well remember having three several inches-long ridges on my head having been walloped for fluffing a line of poetry. That was unusual, however, and holding out the hand for as many lashes of that rod as were arbitrarily deemed fitting was the usual aide-mémoire! I counted up to 14 for less fortunate «boding tremblers». And tremblers we were, tracing «the day's disasters in his morning face»! (Goldsmith, The Deserted Village). As we approached the school each morning we turned a certain corner and if the bicycle wasn't in its place hope filled our hearts. That, however, was a rare occurrence.</p> <p>It was a horrible place to be. Children are natural learners and mistakes are part of learning. Why make children suffer pain because they are learners?</p>	<p>Why make them hate that which they love doing? They all cry at birth but they cry again, internally, when the cold air of threat and oppression hits them as they make their first steps in school. All the younger members of the various families knew what was in store for them but once inside the school door they didn't have long to wait before seeing it and feeling it themselves.</p> <p>The usual excuse offered for such behaviour is «Oh those were different days. Corporal punishment was part of life then». I utterly reject such vacuous comments. My school was under the management of the local parish priest or his curate. They knew what was going on and if they didn't they should have! They were ministers in the Church of Christ and that Church was always supposed to be a prophetic church. The essential rôle of a prophet is to see what's before his/her eyes and intervene to remedy anything out of place. Christ spent all his public life, and perhaps his private life too, doing just that. He showed people how and where they were out of touch with the will of God. Shouldn't his followers do the same?</p> <p>Do I forgive my teachers? I certainly do, just as Christ has forgiven me. «They did not know what they were doing»! Then why bring it up? Just to remind teachers of who they are! A teacher “can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration, can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is his/her response that decides whether a crisis is escalated or de-escalated, and a person is humanized or de-humanized”. (Haim G. Ginott).</p> <p>GM.</p>
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How to deep clean your Wheelie Bin

The recent hot weather highlighted quite a stinky problem for many Irish households, but one that is easily remedied. Often we can forget about our wheelie bins – particularly the household waste and compost bin – and how dirty they can get. Generally, it’s not a concern but when the temperature rises, so too does the stink. If your bins are stored near any area in which you might indulge in outdoor entertaining like barbecuing, then you’ll want to avoid it ruining another sunny day.

The first steps to a more hygienic outdoor bin start inside your home. Where possible, rinse packaging before you place it in the bin. This is something you should already be doing for your recycling but doing so on non-recyclable materials it can prevent a smell from forming. Similarly, if you use bin liners, make sure you expel as much air from them as possible before tying them off and placing them in your wheelie bin. Try to keep your bin in a shaded area as well. Too much direct sunlight will accelerate decomposition and make smells rise, which can also attract insects and flies.

You should wash out your bins every two months. Pour half a cup of white vinegar and some washing-up liquid into the bin and half-fill it with hot water. Allow it to sit for an hour before rinsing the water down a drain. Repeat this a few more times for the best result and turn the bin upside down with the lid open to air dry.

You can also scrub the inside of the bin to remove any grime. The easiest method is to turn the bin on its side so it’s lying on the ground. Using a long-handled brush, such as an old sweeping brush, scrub the side of the bin closest to the ground. Rotate the bin to repeat this on each inner side.

One of the most obvious reasons to keep a bin clean is to avoid attracting flies to it. However if you’ve noticed an increasing presence of them, there are a few other things you can do to keep them at bay. Flies hate citrus scents, so rub down the lid with citronella oil or any other citrus essential oil to repel them.

Don’t forget the exterior of the bin either. Give it a scrub with a solution of white vinegar and washing-up liquid in warm water to remove dirt and prevent a stink on the surface. And to avoid major smells from forming again, sprinkle the end of the bin with bicarbonate of soda and a splash of lemon juice.

Source: www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/healthandwellbeing



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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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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. (Nora)

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this special one (mention favour).
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Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



It is great to be back. We know from our members that the re-sumption of the Club on Thursday mornings has been looked forward to for such a long time and now our senior citizens are delighted to be able to meet again for a cuppa and a chat and to take part in activities. Transport to Saturday evening mass has also been availed of by some of our members, again a welcome return of this service. We are in the process of planning ahead and we will have more on that in the coming weeks and months.

Over the last number of weeks our Club members have enjoyed games of bingo and art classes which have proved to be very popular. We have had 12-14 people attending both activities. Lots of works of art are being produced by the end of each session. The results have been amazing as you will see from some examples below.

Bingo also brought its own fun, with great rivalry between those on one side of the room and the other as to who is winning. Both bingo and painting require concentration and it is not found wanting among our members.

The committee volunteers who run the Club ensure that everything is planned and prepared. Tea/coffee making, biscuits/buns

are all at the ready. Tea and a chat is just as important the activities. Transport is provided for those who need it. Thanks to Tony and Johnny for their help in always having the room set up for us.

A morning in the Club lifts the spirits and does everyone good.

**Susan Durack, PRO
Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee**



Enjoying chat and cuppa after art session



Our group of budding artists



Busy at Bingo



Flower Study by
Josie Egan



Starry Night by
Larry O'Brien



Starry Night by
Patricia Cusker



Starry Night by
Margaret Cullen



Flower Study by
Catherine Owens

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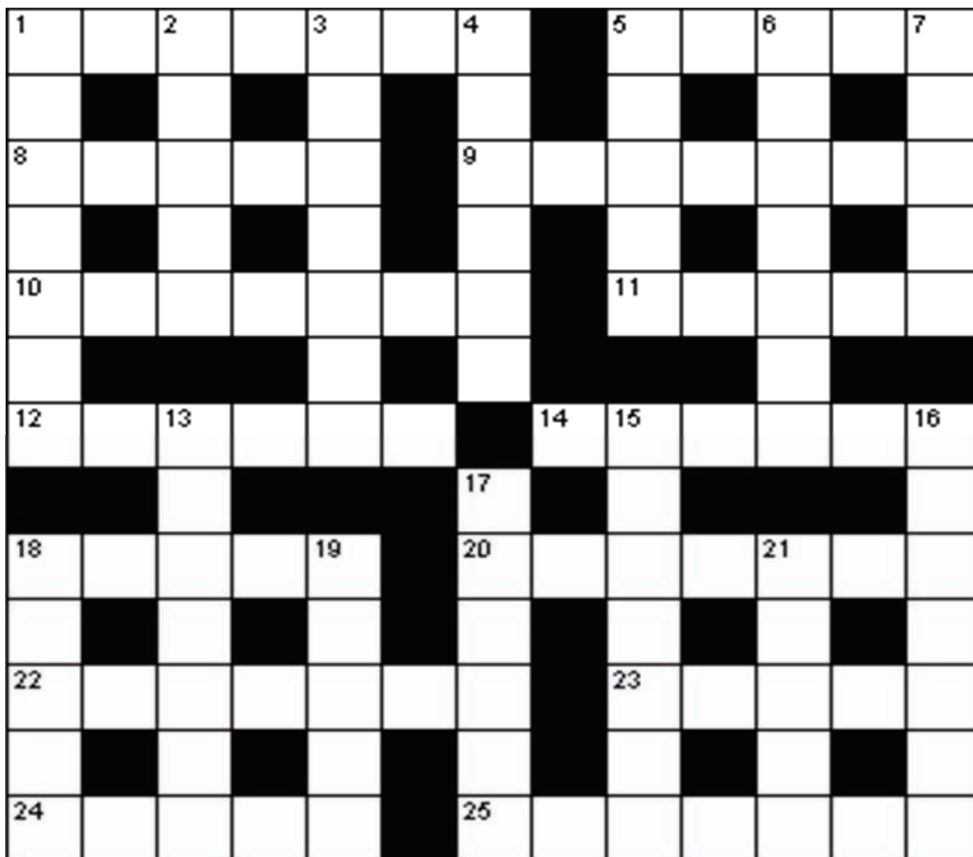
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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 23/07/2022 to 29/08/2022 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
221020	Kildare County Council	Eircom Ltd.	8.5m southwest of existing telephone kiosk to the side of Maynooth Garda Station, Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	19/08/2022
221012	Kildare County Council	CDS (Superstores International) Limited,	The Range, Carton Retail Park, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	18/08/2022
221006	Kildare County Council	John O'Brennan,	17 Leinster Cottages, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 V2D0.	16/08/2022
221000	Kildare County Council	Philip and Ann-Marie Donohoe,	Barrogstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	15/08/2022
22995	Kildare County Council	Grace and Barry Buckley,	No. 2, Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	12/08/2022
22314337	Kildare County Council	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd	Mariavilla, Moyglare Road, Maynooth	11/08/2022
22957	Kildare County Council	Darren Barrett	(Dowdstown), Rowanstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	04/08/2022
22953	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University,	Buckley House, Parson Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	03/08/2022
22931	Kildare County Council	The Society of the Divine Word,	Moyglare Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	29/07/2022

September 2022 Crossword - No. 516



Clues Across

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Theft (7) | 14. Soldiers (6) |
| 5. Ambit (5) | 18. Percussion instruments (5) |
| 8. Relating to a city (5) | 20. Burrowing rodent (7) |
| 9. Closest (7) | 22. View (7) |
| 10. Foster (7) | 23. Stroll (5) |
| 11. Public square (5) | 24. Choose (5) |
| 12. Floor covering (6) | 25. Pull out (7) |



Solutions to Crossword No. 515



Clues Down

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Curt (7) | 13. Habitual method (7) |
| 2. Watercourse (5) | 15. Oddment (7) |
| 3. Leave out (7) | 16. Excess (7) |
| 4. Distant but visible (6) | 17. Opportunity (6) |
| 5. Acute (5) | 18. Stingless male bee (5) |
| 6. Aromatic herb (7) | 19. Change position (5) |
| 7. Additional (5) | 21. Shinbone (5) |

Difficult

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

Sudoku Challenge

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

Super Difficult

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

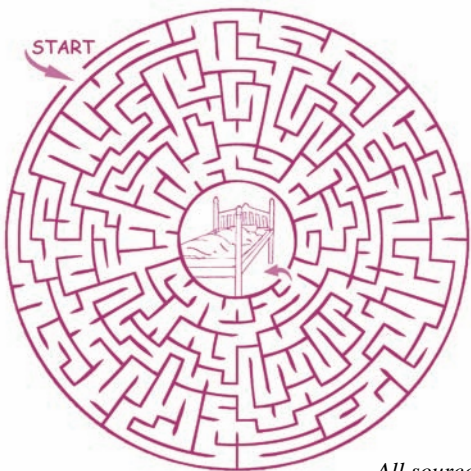


SUDOKU

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

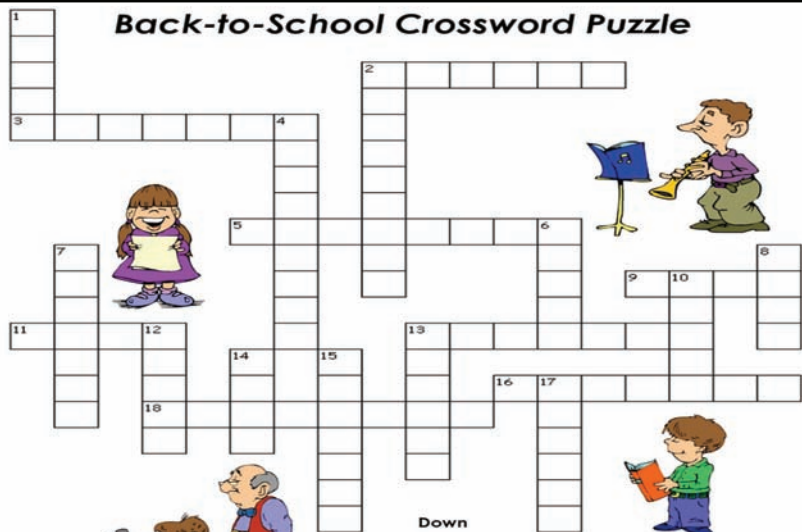
I can travel at nearly 100 miles per hour, but never leave the room.
You can cover me up, but that doesn't slow me down.
You will not know if I come only once or again and again and again.
What am I?

Answer: A Sneeze



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

Sudoku Answers



- Across**
2. tool for writing
 3. tools for coloring
 5. device for connecting to the Internet
 9. used to stick papers together
 11. another word for quiz
 13. to put a point on a pencil
 16. person who plans lessons and helps you learn
 18. book with blank pages for writing

Down

1. subject in which you learn about songs and instruments
2. person in charge of a school
4. yellow vehicle that brings kids to school
6. measuring tool
7. people you like being around
8. look at words and understand them
10. afternoon meal
12. what you do with your brain
13. place where students learn
14. subject in which you learn about numbers
15. place where books are kept
17. pink item that helps remove mistakes

Q: What happens if you throw a red sun hat in water?
A: It gets wet!



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

There are seven.



NB Children's Fun Page : If you have access to a printer and wish to complete the colouring or Puzzles for fun, you can print the single page by going to File -> Print and print the single page number only. Be sure to avoid printing ALL the pages of the Newsletter unless you intend to do so.

September Recipes

Roast whiting with chorizo and tomatoes

Ingredients: Serves 6

8-12 whiting fillets or similar
100g chorizo
250g cherry tomatoes
1 pepper, red or yellow
Small bunch fresh basil
Crusty white bread

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Remove the skin from the whiting by placing the fillet on the chopping board flesh side up. Use a sharp, flexible (if possible) knife. Make a small nick at the tail end but don't cut all the way through to the skin; this will give you something to grip. Carefully work towards the top of the fillet from the tail end, gripping firmly while using a saw-like motion with the knife. The skin should come away in one piece. Remove any bones you can feel. Repeat with each fillet. Place each fillet on a large oiled baking tray. Fold each one in half with the tail tucked underneath to create a small compact rectangle. Place a thin slice of chorizo on top of each one and then scatter the tomatoes, chopped pepper and remaining chorizo around the fish. Bake in the hot oven for 12-15 minutes until the chorizo is crisp, tomatoes ready to burst and the fish opaque. Scatter with torn basil leaves and serve straight away with crusty bread to mop up the sauce.



Lamb with olives and baked feta

Ingredients: Serves 4

2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tbs olive oil
250ml red wine
8 black olives, halved and stones removed
15g mixed herbs
1 shoulder of lamb, about 1.5kg, boned
2 large handfuls of spinach
200g feta cheese
200g cherry tomatoes
4tbs basil pesto

Method:

Mix the crushed garlic, oil, olives and roughly torn herbs. Rub this mix all over the inside of the lamb piece - no need to put it on the fat-covered side. Pour the red wine over and make sure every part of the meat is covered with the wine. Roll it all up and place in a sealed tupperware or zip-lock bag in the fridge for a few hours to marinate.

Preheat the oven to 170°C. Unroll the lamb and place in a roasting tray with 250ml of water and any of the marinade that hasn't been soaked up. Cover tightly with foil and cook for two to three hours (three is best). Then remove the foil, baste the meat with juices and add another splash of water, if needed. Turn the oven up high to 200°C and roast uncovered for 10 minutes or so until the meat is crisp and browned. Cover with foil and leave to rest for a few minutes before serving.

You can cook the feta while the oven is high and browning the lamb. Roughly chop the spinach. Place in a colander and pour over boiling water. Leave to cool slightly, then squeeze dry and place at the base of a small oven-proof dish. Place the feta on top and cover with the chopped tomatoes. Drizzle with oil and bake for 10 - 15 minutes. To serve, simply shred the lamb with two forks and then spoon over some over some of the pan juices. Serve with the hot baked feta and cauliflower purée or mashed potato and a drizzle of pesto or fresh herbs.



Apple and Chestnut Soup

Ingredients: Serves 4 - 6

2 pints of chicken stock
115g shallots
170g peeled potatoes
2 large apples
300g chestnuts (poached and peeled)
20g butter
200ml cream
Toasted hazelnuts (to garnish)
Seasoning, to taste

Method:

Melt the butter, then add shallots, apples and poached and peeled chestnuts. Cook until it's transparent in colour and then add diced potatoes. Season, then add chicken stock and simmer for 30 minutes approximately. Liquidize all ingredients and then pass through a fine sieve. Season to taste and then add cream. Garnish this soup with toasted hazelnuts and sliced fresh apple.



September Gardening

Autumn has started to creep in. It is now time to get ready for the start of the next season. Autumn is one of the best planting seasons as the roots of new plants will have time to establish before the onset of winter. Flowers buy spring bulbs and plant them as soon as possible, the fresher they are going into the ground, the better they will flower. Take cuttings of tender plants such as geraniums, marguerites, fuchsias and argyranthemums to carry over winter. Conditions are usually ideal with heat in the soil and adequate moisture to encourage rooting immediately. Continue feeding and watering baskets and other containers on a regular basis.

Shrubs & Roses:

Shrub roses and ramblers could now be pruned by removing some of the shoots that flowered. Roses that were pruned after flowering and were given some rose fertilizer will be showing a new crop of late buds and flowers - these can even flower into early winter if there is no frost. Evergreen shrubs could be moved now if they need to be given more space. Finish clipping hedges as soon as possible, all kinds of hedge can be clipped at this time and they will stay neat longer if clipped now. Prepare ground for planting trees and shrubs, including hedging, if not already done. The planting itself can take place now for evergreens or in two months for bare-root deciduous trees, or planting can be delayed until spring if the weather is wet and the ground becomes sodden. Do not plant until spring in an exposed area as the young trees will be damaged by strong winds before they get a chance to get established. Check that trees recently planted are properly staked and stake any old shrubs that appear top-heavy. Check on wall trained climbers that their support is solid.



Fruit & Vegetables:

If you have a fruit or vegetable patch, you will be busy harvesting. It is time to get out and start planting spring-flowering bulbs.

Dig up remaining potatoes before the slugs damage them. Plant spring cabbage into ground vacated by early potatoes. No

fertilizer is needed because the potatoes would have been adequately fed. This ground is also usually nice and open after potatoes – just the conditions that spring cabbage needs to make some growth before winter. Clean out cold frames and greenhouses so they are ready for use in the autumn. Cover leafy vegetable crops with netting.



Making Potpourri:

Garden Potpourri allows you to bring not only some of the flowers, leaves and pods inside with you, you can bring some of the scents of the season. It's not hard to make your own potpourri. Look for flowers that hold onto their colour and still look good when dry, like geraniums, lavender, peonies, and roses. Add in interesting seed pods, like sweetgum and rose hips. Pinecones make a nice chunky addition. For more colour, include berries like beautyberry and holly. You can include leaves, but they tend to fall apart quickly when dried. Look for thicker leaves, like leather-leaf viburnum and the lacy leaves of scented geraniums. Dried citrus peel and dried apple slices add fragrance and nice texture. For extra scent add some essential oils. No matter how you make your potpourri, do not use metal bowls or utensils. These can react with your ingredients and alter the fragrance. Glass, ceramic and wood are the safest materials. Plastic is fine too, but the scent will linger in it for weeks. A quick and easy way to mix up a batch of potpourri is to add a few drops of essential oil to your fixative, cover and set it aside for 3 - 5 days, so that the scent is completely infused. Then add your dry ingredients and stir everything together. Cover again and allow to steep for about 1 month. Check it occasionally, to make sure the scent is strong enough for you. If not, add more oil.



**GOOD
COOKS
NEVER LACK
FRIENDS!**

enjoy





FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

TOM CRUISE MOVIES QUIZ



Tom Cruise has had a long, successful career in Hollywood with many hit box-office movies.

Test your knowledge of this very popular actor in the following movie quiz:



1) In which film did Cruise make his debut?

- a) The Outsiders
- b) Taps
- c) Endless Love
- d) Risky Business



2) In what year was Risky Business released?

- a) 1983
- b) 1985
- c) 1990
- d) 1992



3) Name the character Cruise plays in the 1986 hit film Top Gun

- a) Lieutenant Steve Mitchell
- b) Lieutenant Phil Mitchell
- c) Lieutenant Randy Mitchell
- d) Lieutenant Pete Mitchell



4) In Rain Man, what job did Cruise's character Charlie have?

- a) Cop
- b) Real Estate Agent
- c) Car Salesman
- d) Fireman

5) In A Few Good Men, from which military branch are the soldiers who were court-martialled?

- a) Navy Seals
- b) Scouts Rangers
- c) US Air Force
- d) US Marines



6) Which actor co-starred with Tom Cruise in Neil Jordan's gothic horror classic Interview with the Vampire?

- a) Jack Nicholson
- b) Dustin Hoffman
- c) Brad Pitt
- d) Paul Newman

7) In which popular Tom Cruise comedy-drama, does the line 'Show Me The Money' appear?

- a) Mission Impossible
- b) Top Gun
- c) Jerry Maguire
- d) Jack Reacher

8) Cruise broke his ankle during a stunt for one of the Mission Impossible films - which one?

- a) Rogue Nation
- b) Fallout
- c) Ghost Protocol
- d) Mission Impossible II

9) In which controversial Stanley Kubrick film did Cruise star with his ex-wife Nicole Kidman?

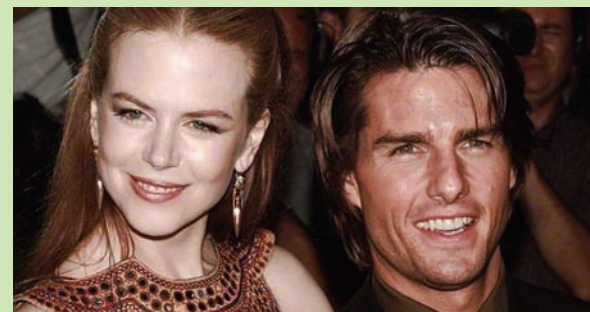
- a) Far and Away
- b) The Color of Money
- c) Eyes Wide Shut
- d) Born on the Fourth of July

10) Name the war film Tom Cruise appeared in as a German Colonel who was instrumental in the conspiracy to assassinate Adolf Hitler

- a) Valkyrie
- b) Lions for Lambs
- c) Edge of Tomorrow
- d) Inglorious Basterds

11) Tom Cruise worked with acclaimed director Martin Scorsese on which of the following films?

- a) A Few Good Men
- b) Goodfellas
- c) The Color of Money
- d) The Departed



12) Cruise received his first Academy Award nomination for what film?

- a) Magnolia
- b) Jerry Maguire
- c) Rain Man
- d) Born on the Fourth of July

13) Which recent record-breaking, highly successful film is a sequel to a popular 80s action film starring Tom Cruise?

- a) Risky Business
- b) Cocktail
- c) Mission Impossible
- d) Top Gun

Answers to Tom Cruise Quiz in October edition of Maynoath Newsletter

BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE

BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



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**Live Bands every Saturday & Sunday
during the month of September**

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Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



Local News - October 2022 - Issue No. 517- 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.



William Saults (1956-2022)

A tribute to a dedicated community activist and gentleman

It was with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of Willie Saults, a treasured member of our community. Willie was a native of Parson's Street known to all in the old and developing town of Maynooth. Willie touched the lives of so many people in the various activities, roles, and interests which he undertook. He was held in great respect and esteem.



Willie's involvement with Maynooth Town Football Club, Maynooth Community Employment Scheme, the Labour Party and his artistic pursuits and personal interests represents the range and impact of the man in Maynooth Community life.

He was a Trustee of Maynooth Town Football Club. The Club's tribute says it all.

"It is with deep sadness we learn of the death of Willie Saults, our esteemed club Trustee, Friend and Colleague. Willie was passionate about club and community. A former player of some class in his day, he gave more than he took out, as a dedicated volunteer for the club over many years, a community activist and passionate supporter of all things Maynooth.

As a Trustee along with others he provided his personal guarantee as security for borrowings, as required for our investment programme over the period of 15 years in facilities at Rathcoffey Road.

He, like the other Trustees was happily released from these chains of bank bondage this year with the debt repaid but committed as Trustee for new phase of funding required for our new All-Weather Project. He would have been so pleased to see the fantastic end product just completed this week, and maybe he did get sight of the finish line before leaving us.

Willie understood the social value MTFC could bring to the community. As Trustee he was hugely supportive of our efforts to develop and grow the club over the years for the benefit of young people's participation in sport. Willie was a pleasure to know, a quiet champion gone.

To Margaret and John, extended family and friends we offer our sincere condolences Ar dheis De go raibh anam".

One person's memory of Willie's soccer prowess described him as being able to "fly through the air" on the pitch, an apt image of the man that he was.

Willie was a founding Director of Maynooth Community Employment Scheme and was Treasurer from 2001 to 2010. He remained a member up until recent years. He was a regular attendee at the monthly meetings and actively took part in helping to organise the Maynooth Town Festivals and the St. Patrick's Day Parades. He took part in community quizzes and other community activities over the years. He was always ready to help, contributed ideas and advised.

Carrying on in his grandfather William's footsteps, Willie had a great sense of social justice which he pursued through his long-standing membership of the Labour Party. As a tribute from Maynooth Labour Councillor, Angela Feeney stated *"It is with great sadness that we heard of the passing of our dear friend and Labour comrade Willie Saults.*

Willie gave a lifetime of devoted duty and passion to the Labour Party and to all Labour causes. He served as the Maynooth Branch Chair for decades and was campaign manager for Emmet, John and myself. Willie was meticulous in his attention to detail and was a font of knowledge on politics. His grandfather, also William Saults, was a Labour Councillor in the 1920s of which Willie was rightly, very proud.

Above all, Willie was an absolute gentleman, so kind and caring, with a fantastic sense of humour. We all have very fond memories of our time at Party Conferences over the years which we treasure. He is a sad loss to us all. We extend our sincere sympathy to Margaret, his wife and all Willie's family at this sad time of loss."

What might not be so well known is that Willie had an artistic side. He wrote short stories and poetry. He was a diarist, a quality he inherited from his father John, who also kept diaries which Willie treasured. Willie was a gifted artist and was a whiz at cryptic crosswords. He was one of those rare individuals who combined both an analytical and creative mind.

Willie was interested in people, a listener, oft times an advisor and never sought the limelight. He was sociable, quick thinking and was noted for his witty refrain. His intelligence was instantly recognisable. This coupled with his non-judgemental and kind-hearted qualities endeared him to and earned the respect of all knew him. He will be greatly missed.

Our condolences to his wife Margaret, brother John and the extended family.
Suaaimhneas Siorai



Maynooth Town A.F.C. at the Isle of Man 88 Soccer International

Back Row - Left to Right: Brian McCall, Sam Feeney, Lenny Murphy, Paki Doohan, Ollie Durack & Noel Dempsey.

Front Row - Left to Right: Terry Moore, Willie Saults, Phillip Doyle, Dessie Farrell & Paul Gibney.



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

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

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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

In October the daylight hours have shortened and at the end of the month we change to winter time when the clocks go back an hour. There is also an autumnal feeling in the air as we experience seasonal reduction in temperatures. With the significant increases in electricity and gas prices this year I am sure we would all welcome a mild winter. While in the 2023 budget there are a number of additional supports that people will receive that are intended to assist with these costs, I have no doubt that there will still be people who will struggle to fund these unexpected higher costs. If you find yourself struggling to pay all your bills you should reach out and seek help as soon as you have concerns as waiting could only mean the problem will build up. Remember no matter what issue affects us there is always someone that we can talk to and help us to work our way out of the problem. In my opinion no one should be too proud to seek advice and help when we need it.

Being October, our student population has returned for the new academic year and aside from a busy university campus there is an obvious increase in both vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the town. Of course, new and returning students are welcome to the town and we wish everyone the best of luck with their studies. For students staying in Maynooth either on campus or in rented houses and living independently perhaps for the first time this is the chance to enjoy this new freedom, but it is important to remember that Maynooth is a permanent home to many people who are not students.

Local social media pages over August and September had many appeals from students desperately seeking local places to rent and a number of people were offering apartments and rooms to let. To me it seems more sensible for a more formalised arrangement so that students would be better protected. The need for appropriate fairly priced student accommodation is an ongoing annual issue and with student numbers increasing in Maynooth University, it is important that it is addressed. Since the beginning of September anyone moving around Maynooth particularly living on the approach roads such as the Straffan Road and the Moyglare Roads are finding that they are in long traffic queues much earlier than before. While there is no single cause for such volumes of traffic but increased numbers of university students travelling to Maynooth by car as well as construction traffic to major development sites in the area as well as earlier local runs to schools and people heading out of Maynooth to work are contributing causes. It would be very useful for Kildare County Council to do an updated traffic count and movement study in Maynooth. Perhaps there could be solutions put in place if we had a better understanding of the issue.

In September, many people in Maynooth were saddened to hear of the untimely passing of Willie Saults. Having worked with Willie for many years as a volunteer in several community organisations including Maynooth Community Employment Project, I knew Willie very well. A proud Maynooth man he cared so much for the town and his pragmatic approach to achieving things meant that he was a pleasure to work with and be around. The tribute to Willie on the front page is our way of thanking him for all his work. Our sincere sympathy to his wife Margaret and family and his brother John and his family and to Willie's many friends.

Paul Croghan
Editor

Copy date for the November edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be 5pm on Tuesday 25th October 2022

MAYNOOTH DRESSES

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Memories of Old Maynooth - Photos from the Archive



Visit to our archives to see our collection of Maynooth photos and past issues of Maynooth Newsletter on www.maynoothcep.com



Gold Medal Winners

2016
2017
2018
2019
2021

At the time of writing we are patiently waiting on the results of the Tidy Towns Competition 2022. They will be announced on the 28th October at an event in the RDS Dublin, if we have won a prize we will receive 4 invitations to attend. Fingers crossed for a good result, we hope to retain our Gold Medal status and maybe gain a few more points in the 8 categories.

Our Volunteers have been very busy during the month of September. We joined thousands of Volunteers across Ireland for the Clean Coasts event which happened on the 17th. We don't have a coast in Kildare but we do have the wonderful Royal Canal. We collected 15 bags of rubbish mostly beer cans between the harbour and Pikes Bridge, which can be detrimental to the wildlife. Next time we hope to secure a boat.

We have also been working with Brian from Green Pine Consultants and ecologist Fiona McGowan on Sustainability, doing more with less and Biodiversity in Maynooth. We did a walkabout of the town with Brian and we have had several zoom meetings discussing how to raise awareness by having bat walks, connect with Bird Watch Ireland, Wild Kildare etc.

We have been working with Gavin at Maynooth Train Station and other stakeholders in order to start painting a Mural on the walls at the new carpark. Work is in the very early stages yet but should really enhance that area for locals and visitors.

For Heritage Week we did a guided tour of Maynooth, stopping off at 16 historical locations. We hope to make this an annual event. Thanks to volunteers Pat Watson and Vincent Mulready who were our guides on the day.

We have suspended organised meet ups for Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings until 2023. Saturday morning clean ups will continue until further notice.



Again we would like to thank all our volunteers for all their hard work preparing the town for the judges visit last August.

If you would like to volunteer please contact us on WhatsApp on our Facebook page Maynooth Tidy Towns Association

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



Phone



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Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com

Stay safe everyone.





Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Cllr Feeney calls for measures to reduce speeding on Newtown Road

At the September Council MD meeting, Cllr Feeney asked that the Council install a ramp on the Newtown Road, Maynooth. Cllr Feeney stated that this Rathcoffey approach road to Maynooth is very busy and known for speeding as it is a straight road with lots of housing estates along that road from Castle Dawson, Cluain Aoibhinn, Newtown Road to Bond Bridge. Many residents have been in touch with Cllr Feeney asking for something to be done to address the issue of speeding.

Cllr Feeney suggested that a tabletop ramp be installed on the section near Cluain Aoibhinn to help reduce speeding on this section of road but she is happy for the Council to assess where best to position the ramp.

The Council said that this is a regional road and as such will be assessed based on the current traffic management policy for the Council. Initially, the Council agreed to carry out a speed survey to determine the appropriate traffic calming measures to be considered.

Flood alleviation measures at Mullen Park

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to confirm if all the flood alleviation measures for Mullen Park, Maynooth have been put in place. Cllr Feeney said that Mullen Park adjoins many other well-established estates in the town such as Carton Court, Maynooth Park and Greenfield Drive. She added that many of the residents from these estates, as well as the new residents in Mullen Park itself, are aware that the area was known for flooding and wanted reassurance from the Council and the developer that all the flood alleviation measures have been put in place as per the condition of the planning consent.

The Council replied stating that as a condition of their planning consent the developers at Mullen Park are required to install surface water drainage and attenuation systems with sufficient provision to cater for a 1 in 100-year storm event along with a 20% provision for climate change. The systems are designed to ensure ground infiltration and to ensure that any discharge to the Meadowbrook Stream is kept to a minimum.

The Council also added that the developer has confirmed that such a system has been installed and that flooding at the subject site is no longer occurring. Cllr Feeney welcomed the fact that the Council also added that it would continue to work with the developer to ensure the conditions of their planning consent are adhered to and that satisfactory evidence of same is recorded.

Message of thanks to Council Staff supporting Displaced Ukrainians

Cllr Feeney and Cllr Hamilton requested that a message of thanks be communicated to all the relevant staff members involved from the Council's Housing and Community Departments, for above and beyond support to the Ukrainian families hosted at Maynooth University during June, July and August. Cllr Feeney has been involved in the Maynooth University Ukrainian Action Forum and saw first hand the great work being done by all the Council staff. All Council members at the meeting agreed to this request.

Yellow Box at Straffan Crescent

Cllr Feeney welcomes the fact that the yellow box she asked to be installed at Straffan Crescent is now in place.

Public Consultation now open for New Fire Station for Maynooth

Kildare County Council has issued notice of a proposed development at this site at **Mullen Park / Griffin Rath Road, off Straffan Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare**

The proposed development will include:

- a single storey fire station building with three bays
- a training tower
- signage
- landscaping
- parking
- an entrance off the Griffin Rath Road
- site works associated with formation of new connections to existing public foul and surface water drainage, and existing utilities.

The proposal has undergone a preliminary examination under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, (and the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended) and the Planning Authority has concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

Where any person considers that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, he or she may, at any time on or before 16th October 2022, apply in accordance with the provisions of article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have such effects.

The proposed development has undergone Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EC) and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and the Planning Authority has determined that a Natura Impact Statement is not required in this instance.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development (Part 8 Ref No P82022.13) will be available on the Kildare County Council Consultation Portal from 19th September 2022 to 18th October 2022 at <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/part-8-proposed-new-fire-station-maynooth-planning-reference-p8202213> Submissions can be made via this portal until 4:00pm on 2nd November 2022.

Plans and particulars will also be available for inspection or for purchase for a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, during normal office hours (Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 4.00pm), excluding Bank Holidays and Public Holidays, and subject to managed access arrangements due to Covid-19 control measures, for a period of 4 weeks from 19th September 2022 to 18th October 2022, at: Kildare County Council, Planning Department (Public Counter), Level 1, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas Co Kildare, W91X77F.

To facilitate public access, a copy of the plans and particulars will be available for **viewing only** in the Kildare County Council Maynooth Municipal District Office, Leinster Street, Maynooth, from 19th September 2022 to 18th October 2022.

Details of this Part 8 will also be available to view on Kildare County Council's website at <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/Part8Schemes/roadsandtransportation/index.html>

Submissions or observations in relation to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made in writing on or before **4.00pm on 2nd November 2022 to:**

Chief Fire Officer, Newbridge Fire Station, Newbridge Industrial Estate, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. W12 PW70

Submissions should be clearly marked **“Maynooth Fire Station - Planning Submission - Planning Reference No. P82022.13”**.

Cllr Feeney asks for update on Community Centre for Maynooth

Cllr Feeney submitted a motion back in January 2021 suggesting that the Council consider the vacated site fire brigade council site for a much needed and long overdue community centre for Maynooth. Cllr Feeney stated that the site is in the town centre and close to the harbour field and the playground; it is an ideal location for a community centre.

Now that the planned new fire station is at public consultation stage (see above), Cllr Feeney at the recent Council meeting, asked for an update on the development of the Community Centre for Maynooth at the vacated fire brigade council site. Cllr Feeney was very pleased with the response from the Council when it confirmed that this area will be included in the Town Renewal Masterplan for Maynooth.

Willie Saults R.I.P.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of our dear friend and Labour comrade Willie Saults. A selfless community man in every sense of the word, Willie was a man of great integrity. He gave a lifetime of devoted duty and passion to the Labour Party and to all Labour causes. He served as the Maynooth Branch Chair for decades and was campaign manager for Emmet, John and Angela. Willie was meticulous in his attention to detail and was a font of knowledge on all things especially politics.

His grandfather, also William Saults, was a Labour Councillor in the 1920's of which Willie was rightly, very proud. Above all, Willie was an absolute gentleman, so kind and caring, with a fantastic sense of humour. We all have very fond memories of our time at Party Conferences over the years which we treasure. He is a sad loss to us all. We extend our sincere sympathy to Margaret, his wife and all Willie's family at this sad time of loss. Codladh sámh Willie.

October Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Children's Events

Secret Saturday Cinema

Date: Saturday 1st October

Time : 2:30pm - 4:00pm

Venue : Maynooth Community Library

Come to our animated children's film screening this Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm! Every film will be a surprise on the day, but all will be family friendly. Booking required, all children must be accompanied by an adults <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/768071>.

Baby and Toddler Stay & Play Group

Date: Every Thursday

Time : 10:00-11:00am

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

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 every Thursday morning 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!

Children's Illustrations Collage Craft Pack

Available From Friday October 14th

Venue : Maynooth Community Library

Age: 6+ years

Some books are read so often and so loved that the library copies end up in pieces and falling apart after a couple of years of lending. We at the library like to give these books a new life in the form of artwork so we invite the children of Maynooth to pick up our special collage making craft pack where they can give the illustrations and pictures of these well-loved books a new home. All you need is parental supervision, some scissors and a glue-stick to do this popular craft at home. We gave out a good amount over the summer but we still have some to pick up for those rainy days and school holidays. They now include a mixture of illustrations from fiction and colourful images from non-fiction and graphic fiction.

Cool Food School Halloween Workshop

Saturday 15th October

Date: Saturday 15th October

Time: 12pm - 1pm

Age: 6+

Join Deirdre from the award winning The Cool Food School for a fun, interactive Halloween themed cooking class. Deirdre has brought her fun approach to cooking and food education to thousands of children in libraries, schools and events nationwide. She is the author of the new children's cookbook, Chop, Cook, Yum!

Please book through Tickettailor:

<https://buytickets.at/childrensbookfestival/756909>

Secret Spooky Cinema

Date: Saturday 22nd October

Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

Come to our special *spooky* animated children's film screening for Halloween! Showing this Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm, the film will be a surprise on the day, but will have a family-friendly rating. Fancy dress is encouraged! Booking required, all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please Book through Tickettailor:

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/768073>.

Halloween Drawing Fun: Dog Zombies

Wednesday 26th October

Time: 3.30pm- 4.30pm

Age: 8+ years

Venue : Maynooth Community Library

Is your child a big Tom Gates fan? Or do they just love doodling like the protagonist? Come join Niamh in her annual Dog Zombie drawing session and get in the mood for the spooky .

Limited Spaces. **Book Through Tickettailor:**

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/764884>.

Trick and Treats for Halloween

Friday 28th October

Time: 3.30 -4.30 pm

Age: 4-10 years

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

Join us at Maynooth Library as we prepare for Hallowe'en. There will be music, arts and crafts and stories. Costumes are encouraged (the more creative the better). So come along and get into the 'ssssppiiiiirrit'! Suitable for children 4-10. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. **Please book through TicketTailor :** <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/769180>.

Book Busters Children's Book Club

Friday 28th October

3:45pm-4:30pm

Age: 8- 12 years

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

The Book Busters Children's Book Club continues in person in Maynooth Library! If your child aged 8-12 would like to take part, please email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie for further details.

Exhibition

"Celebrating the Elements" : an exhibition by artist

David Cassidy

Monday 17th – Friday 24th October

Artist David Cassidy will exhibit his oil and acrylic paintings on the theme of 'Celebrating the Elements' in Maynooth Community Library from the 17th – 24th October.

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

Adult Events

Breaking Point: Edel Coffey in Conversation with Rachael English

Date : Wednesday 5th October 7:00pm

Join author and journalist Edel Coffey, in conversation with Rachael English, for a discussion on her debut novel 'Breaking Point'. Presented in association with the Irish Writers Centre.

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

Booking Required:

<https://buytickets.at/kildarereadersfestival/729510>

KRF Book Club with Yan Ge

Date: Wednesday 5th October 8:00pm

In association with the Irish Writers Centre, we are delighted to welcome acclaimed author Yan Ge to our Kildare Readers Festival online book club. Join us to discuss her award-winning book 'Strange Beasts of China', available to borrow from Maynooth and Celbridge Libraries.

Online via Microsoft Teams

Booking Required :

<https://buytickets.at/kildarereadersfestival/753443>

Eoghan Smith in Conversation with Lynn Buckle

Date: Thursday 6th October 7:00pm

Eoghan Smith's new novel 'A Provincial Death' (Dedalus, 2022) has been described as lyrical and blackly comic. In conversation with Lynn Buckle, Eoghan will discuss A Provincial Death and his writing career to date. This event is presented in association with the Irish Writers Centre.

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

Booking Required:

<https://buytickets.at/kildarereadersfestival/729535>

Breastfeeding Support Group at Maynooth Library – Facilitated by Public Health Nurse

Tuesday October 25th

9.15 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.

German 'Stammtisch', informal conversation meet-up for adults

Thursday 27th October at 6.30pm-7.30pm

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

Do you want to practice your German? Maynooth Library hosts a monthly informal German conversation meet-up, for anyone with an interest in the language and culture in German-speaking countries. All levels from learners to native speakers are welcome. Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of every month. For more information please contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980493

BioEconomy Ireland Week: BioBeo and the Bioeconomy. Dr Máire Nic an Bhaird Maynooth University

Tuesday 18th October

Time: 7pm – 8pm

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

Maynooth University lecturer, Dr Máire Nic an Bhaird, from the Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, has a leading role in a €2 million bioeconomy education project for primary, secondary and 3rd level students across Europe. Máire will discuss the importance of building a sustainable network of interconnected European educators and stakeholders committed to promoting the bioeconomy concept through all channels.

Booking required :

<https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/768624>.

Regular Groups

Craft & Knitting Club

Every Monday

11.30am – 13.00

Maynooth Community Library

Bring along your various crafts to inspire and to be inspired. Different craft demonstrations will take place during the year.

Beginners Sewing Machine Classes (Adults only)

Tuesday Evenings

18.30 – 19.55

Maynooth Community Library

Must have your own sewing machine.

If you have an unused, unloved sewing machine then this is for you. Learn to thread, adjust tension, change needles, use different stitches and make some very simple projects to get you started.

If interested, please contact Maynooth Library on 045 980 483 to add your name to our waiting list. The classes will take place over a period of three weeks.

When the list has been completed and if people are interested we will start a sewing club.

Book Clubs

U3A (University of the Third Age) Book Club

Monday 10th October

10.30am – 11.30am

Maynooth Community Library

The U3A (University of the Third Age) Book Club meets on the second Monday of each month.

Wednesday Morning Book Club

Wednesday 19th October

11.00 – 12.00pm

Maynooth Community Library

The Wednesday Morning Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month.



Catherine Murphy TD

Social Democrats

Together, Better, Fairer

Catherine Murphy Constituency Office,
4 The Post House, Leixlip Shopping Mall, Main Street, Leixlip
Email: catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie
Constituency Office Phone: 01 6156625
Twitter: @CathMurphyTD

Is Bus Connects Working For You? Our Survey finds it's not fit for purpose in Leixlip



Public Meeting on Bus Connects

Venue:
Springfield Hotel

Date:
10th October 2022

Time:
8pm



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

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

Maynooth University

Catherine Murphy TD has written to the Public Accounts Committee and the Minister for Higher Education in relation to the stalled MU Student Centre project.

The Deputy has proposed that the University provide a full statement to address the three aspects of their rationale to terminate the project.

Maynooth University (MU) had said that rising costs linked to technical construction issues and hyperinflation "adversely impacted" its completion.

It was being funded through an annual student levy of €150 (£134) since 2015 and was due to be completed next year.

The university said it is "fully committed" to meeting the needs of students. Construction on the 3,700 sq-m building was due to be completed by July 2023, but it was terminated on Monday 26 September following a decision by the university's governing authority.

In a statement on its website, it said: "The university shares the disappointment of our students. "Maynooth University [MU], working in partnership with Maynooth Students' Union, remains committed to providing students with additional spaces for informal learning and gathering that are so important for a vibrant campus experience. "In the weeks and months ahead, the university will be providing significant additional social spaces, meeting pods, and seating, furniture and other infrastructure in buildings across the Maynooth University campus." The MU Student Centre aimed to serve as "a focal point for student activities", including a workspace for students involved in clubs and societies and "cultural, education and recreational events", the university said. Maynooth Students' Union (MSU) president Niall Daly said he was "angered" by the decision. "The project was the flagship project to be funded by the student levy," he said. "Students have been paying this levy, in addition to the student contribution, since 2015 and disappointingly none of the student levy funded projects have been delivered in that time."

Retrofitting funding meaningless if targets continue to be missed

Grandiose announcements and spin from the Government simply won't cut it

Extra funding in the budget for retrofitting and energy schemes will be meaningless if the Government continues to miss its own completion targets, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy, said: "There is a touch of Groundhog Day about the budget announcement to provide €513m in funding for energy transformation, including retrofitting. "The Government has now set itself a target to deliver 37,000 energy upgrades, including 6,000 homes under the SEAI energy poverty scheme, but we've heard of similar plans before. "Throwing money at notional retrofitting schemes is not enough – it must be matched by action by Minister Eamon Ryan to ensure that completion targets are met. "Figures provided to me by the Minister showed that of the 27,000 homes targeted for energy upgrades in 2022, just 8,628 had been completed by the first six months of the year. Under the Warmer Homes Scheme, 1,453 homes had been completed as of the end of May. "At this rate, the prospect of hitting the 27,000 figure by the end of the year is highly unlikely. "When it comes to climate action, grandiose announcements and spin from the Government simply won't cut it.

"More of the same will mean missing targets, resulting in growing numbers of households waiting longer for retrofitting programmes. "More of the same means more people on low incomes being disadvantaged because they can't afford to take out a loan to make their homes energy efficient. "In our alternative budget, the Social Democrats proposed an ambitious solar panel scheme for 100,000 homes, with work carried out free for low-income households. "Our measure would reduce energy bills by up to 40 percent and help future-proof the homes of those most at risk of heat poverty. "Our plan would be more effective and far-reaching than the "rooftop revolution" that the Minister likes to talk about."

Families of second level students abandoned by Government

Budget decision to exclude secondary schools is baffling. The families of second level students have been abandoned by the Government in today's budget, according to Social Democrats Co-Leader Catherine Murphy TD said: "It is frankly baffling to see the exclusion of second level students from the measures announced in Budget 2023. The reality is that the cost of sending a child to secondary school is generally much higher than the expense of attending primary school. "Parents are often

required to purchase expensive iPads or other digital devices, in addition to having to pay for insurance, school trips abroad and so-called voluntary donations.

"Even those students using traditional schoolbooks often have to buy new editions every year. This removes the option of purchasing them second-hand, passing them on to siblings or availing of book rental schemes. "It is also unfair that the families of sixth year students who have turned 18 also must pay for books without receiving any child benefit. "While the announcement of free schoolbooks for primary school children is welcome, it will come too late for parents who have already bought books for this term. The cost-of-living crisis is now, not next September. "In the Social Democrats' alternative budget, we proposed a range of measures to make education in Ireland genuinely free. We estimate it would cost an extra €113m and €140m in primary and second level schools respectively, representing just a 2 percent increase on the overall €12bn education budget for 2022.

"Budget 2023 falls well short of achieving that goal."

Vacant Homes Tax is too weak to work

New measure will encourage dereliction.

The new Vacant Homes Tax has been set far too low, according to the Social Democrats Co-Leader Catherine Murphy TD. Commenting on Budget 2023, Catherine Murphy said: "The new Vacant Homes Tax is too weak to work. This tax must be set at a much higher rate to bring vacant homes back into use. "The Vacant Homes Tax equates to just 0.3 percent of the value of a property, which is far too low. In our alternative budget, the Social Democrats called for this tax to be set at 10 percent, with a number of fair exemptions. "There are almost 90,000 vacant homes in Ireland. We must bring these properties back into use for the tens of thousands of people who are in dire need of housing. "Another flaw is that the Vacant Home Tax doesn't apply to derelict properties. This is a big mistake. Those who allow their vacant properties fall into dereliction shouldn't be given an opt-out of this tax. "This is a perverse incentive that will encourage dereliction. As things stand, the existing derelict sites levy is rarely collected by local authorities and is highly ineffective. "The new Vacant Homes Tax is typical of this Government's approach to tackling the housing crisis – it is lacking in both ambition and urgency."

Housing For All plan has clearly failed

Government needs to urgently address underlying causes of crisis.

The Government has missed key targets in the delivery of social, affordable and cost rental homes due to its failure to address the underlying causes of the housing crisis, according to Social Democrats Catherine Murphy TD.

said: "It is deeply concerning to read media reports today that the viability of the Government's Housing For All plan is at risk, with officials warning the Cabinet Committee on Housing that key delivery targets are unlikely to be met. "Every year, the Government makes promises to deliver much needed social, affordable and cost rental homes, and every year it fails to come even close to meeting its own targets. "In 2021, not a single affordable purchase home was delivered. The Government is so far behind in meeting its targets that it will not even answer questions about how many affordable homes have been completed. Over the last two weeks, the Taoiseach has failed to answer my questions on this in the Dáil, while the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien, was not able to give an answer on radio last week. "After failing to meet any of his Department's housing targets last year, the Minister promised that 2022 would be the year for delivery.

However, yet again, the Government is failing to meet the goals it has set itself. "At a time when rents, property prices and levels of homelessness have reached record levels, the latest figures show that the Department of Housing is 21 percent behind where it was this time last year in its capital spend. "The Government is naïve in the extreme to think that setting targets and a budget for housing is a sufficient response to this crisis. Without rolling up their sleeves and tackling blockages to delivery, such as the lack of skilled construction labour, our housing crisis will remain.

"A number of immediate steps need to be taken if social, affordable and cost rental homes are to be built. "This should include an end to the four-stage approval process for social housing construction, which is delaying local authorities in delivering homes. The tendering process for local authorities also must be changed so they don't need to go back out to tender for each individual construction project. This is leading to substantial delays and significantly increased costs. "Local

authorities and approved housing bodies should be supported in acquiring landbanks to improve the pipeline of housing for the next few years. "The severe skills shortage in construction, in 'wet' trades in particular, must be addressed with real urgency by the Minister. The hands-off, laissez-faire approach by Government simply has not worked."

Protecting the vulnerable a key priority in Social Democrats' alternative budget

Immediate threat to living standards and long-term challenges must be met.

Protecting the most vulnerable from the cost-of-living crisis is the key priority in the Social Democrats' alternative budget, published today. The party's alternative budget document, 'Responding to the Crisis: A Social Democratic Approach', aims to strike a balance between dealing with the immediate threat of rising prices while meeting the long-term challenges we face as a society.

Some of the main features of our budget include:

- €1.5bn in energy supports for households. This would provide cash payments to workers on a graduated basis – €800 to households with incomes of less than €50,000; €600 for households with incomes of less than €100,000; and €400 for households with incomes of less than €120,000.
- €1bn Energy Crisis Support Scheme for businesses.
- A windfall tax on energy companies.
- Significant investment in solar energy, with 100,000 households to benefit from solar panels.
- Genuinely free education, to include free books, classroom resources, school transport, an increased capitation grant and an end to voluntary contributions.
- A levy on investment funds to ensure they cannot avoid tax.
- A punitive tax on vacancy and dereliction so that desperately needed homes come back into use.
- Start to reduce third level fees, beginning with a €500 reduction in 2023.
- Increases to important welfare payments. This includes a €15 increase in core social welfare payments; an increase the weekly Fuel Allowance payment from €33 to €48; expanding eligibility for Fuel Allowance to recipients of the Working Family Payment; and a double social welfare payment in 2022, separate to the Christmas bonus.
- A Cost of Disability weekly payment of €20 for the first time in the history of the State.
- A reduction in childcare fees by 60 percent over two years.
- Addressing the crisis in home care supports with pay parity for Section 39 organisations.
- Increased access to free GP care for under 12s and increased access to GP visit cards for those aged 60-69, benefitting up to 275,000 people.
- The abolition of inpatient charges for all patients, saving them up to €800 per annum.
- A rise in the Minimum Wage increase by €1.50 to €12.
- A reduction in public transport fares by 30 percent and a cut in off-peak travel fares by 50 percent to avoid capacity constraints.

Speaking at the launch of the alternative budget, Roisin Shortall TD, co-leader of the Social Democrats, said:

"Before the current inflationary crisis, the cost-of-living in Ireland was already 36 percent above the EU average and we were the second most expensive European country in which to live. This meant that when prices began rising quickly, Irish people had little room for manoeuvre. "Next week's budget has to meaningfully address the twin energy and cost-of-living crises by putting money back in people's pockets. In this alternative budget we have outlined the substantial assistance that we would immediately provide to low and middle income families to help them withstand the coming winter."

Co-leader Catherine Murphy said:

"The cost-of-living crisis has been significantly exacerbated by the decades of underinvestment in critical public services that preceded it. We must address the chronic deficits that exist in our public services. "The Social Democrats believe that investment in public services is crucial if we want to ensure that costs, which the Government can control, are kept down. In this budget, we have outlined a number of significant investments we would make – in housing, healthcare, childcare, education and public transport – that would help to lower costs across the economy and provide real relief for workers and families."

You can download the full Social Democrats' alternative budget here.

[Alternative-Budget-2023-1.pdf \(socialdemocrats.ie\)](#)

ZERO WASTE MAYNOOTH

Z



LADIES CLOTHES SWAP SHOP

2-4pm Including Toy Swap
3-4pm Volunteers from
Cloth Nappy Library Ireland



**Maynooth Community Library
Saturday 8th October 2-4pm
Bring up to 3 items of
clothing/books in good condition
to swap at this event or next**



CLOTH
Nappy Library
IRELAND^{CLG}

Curious About Cloth Nappies?

North Kildare Nappuccino
Drop by to chat to volunteers
about cloth nappies



Local loan kit of
nappies
available to rent

Saturday, 8th October
3-4pm
Maynooth Library



For more information
please check out our website:

www.clothnappylibrary.ie

or email us on

info@clothnappylibrary.ie

Alternatively join the conversation on:

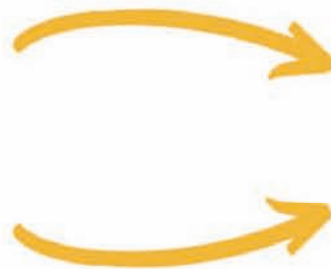




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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

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

Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie and from the

Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



Personal Retirement Savings Account (PRSA)

- What is a PRSA?
- Who can get a PRSA?
- Types of PRSA
- Do you need a PRSA?
- Rules
- Rates
- How to apply
- Further information

What is a PRSA?

A Personal Retirement Savings Account (PRSA) is a type of long-term personal pension plan. It is like an investment account that is designed to let you save for retirement in a flexible way.

Your PRSA is a contract between you and a PRSA provider in the form of an investment account. You can change employment and continue to use the same PRSA and you can switch from one PRSA to another at any time, free of charge.

You can get tax relief for the contributions you pay into your PRSA.

When you retire, you have the same options with a PRSA as with other personal pensions – read about [options on retirement for personal pensions](#).

Who can get a PRSA?

Most people can get a PRSA but they can be especially useful for people with no other pension arrangement. Employers that do not have an occupational pension scheme for their employees must provide access to at least one Standard PRSA. Employees who are not entitled to join a pension scheme within 6 months of service must be given access to a PRSA by their employer. [Read more about employers' obligations and PRSAs here \(pdf\)](#).

Types of PRSA

There are two types of PRSA:

- Standard PRSA
- Non-Standard PRSA

The main differences are:

- The charges are capped for standard PRSAs but not for non-standard PRSAs
- Types of investment are restricted in standard PRSAs but not in non-standard PRSAs

You can read more about the differences between Standard and Non-Standard PRSAs in [A consumer and employer's guide to PRSAs \(pdf\)](#) produced by the Pensions Authority.

Standard PRSAs are likely to meet the requirements of most people. The level of charges on your account is important to consider, as the charges imposed reduce the fund you can build up. On your retirement, the size of your fund will depend on your contributions and the investment performance less any charges. It is not possible to predict investment performance.

Charges on Non-Standard PRSAs are not capped and in most cases, are higher than Standard PRSAs. If you are considering a Non-Standard PRSA, ask for a full explanation of the differences between this product

and the Standard product. You should beware of promises of better returns on Non-Standard PRSA products as predicting investment performance is extremely difficult.

Do you need a PRSA?

If you are considering whether to invest in a PRSA, you should ask yourself the following questions. Is there an existing pension scheme available to me in my job?

If not, you should consider making provision for your retirement and a PRSA may be the option for you. If you already have a good pension arrangement, you may not need to make any additional provision, or you may be able to top up your benefits by making Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs). If there is no AVC facility, your employer must provide access to a PRSA.

Should I start a PRSA if I already have a personal pension plan?

You should seek professional advice based on your circumstances. Contact a broker or your pension provider for more information.

Do I need a PRSA if I already have a defined benefit scheme?

Defined benefit pension schemes promise a pension related to your salary (for example, two-thirds of final salary on retirement). You may not need to make any further pension provisions if you have this type of pension. Transferring from a defined benefit scheme into a PRSA involves a risk so you will need to assess your financial position and weigh up the advantages and disadvantages.

Do I need a PRSA if I have a defined contribution scheme?

A defined contribution scheme is also based on investment and has an investment risk - your pension will depend on the contributions you make, together with the investment performance of your fund, less any charges. If your employer is making a contribution to your existing scheme, you should find out whether this will continue if you transfer to a PRSA.

Rules

Investment of your money

Standard PRSAs invest only in pooled funds where the risk is spread across a large number and variety of investments. Non-Standard PRSAs can offer wider investment choices. However, you need to be sure that you understand the investment choices and the reasons why you should opt for them. If you do not understand how your pension will be invested, then you should consider if this product is best for you. You should also be sure that you can afford the monthly payment suggested and that this is the most effective payment for tax relief purposes - read more about tax relief and PRSAs below.

Approval of PRSA products

The Pensions Authority and the Revenue Commissioners are jointly responsible for approving PRSA products in Ireland. The Pensions Authority supervises the activities of PRSA providers in relation to their approved products and monitors compliance with the legislation about PRSAs. The Pensions

Authority also maintains a register of PRSA providers and their products.

Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman

The Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman can investigate and decide on complaints, concerning disputes of fact or law and errors in relation to occupational pension schemes and PRSAs. The Ombudsman can give any directions necessary to resolve the complaint or dispute and can give financial compensation. This financial compensation cannot exceed the actual loss of benefit under the complainant's occupational pension scheme or PRSA. The Ombudsman does not have the power to award legal costs. All decisions made by the Ombudsman are binding between the parties but can be appealed to the High Court.

You can read more about [making a complaint about your pension](#).

Rates

PRSA providers cannot impose a minimum contribution greater than:

- €300 a year
- €10 per electronic transaction or
- €50 per transaction for other methods of payment.

Contributions received by PRSA providers must be held in a custodian account.

Contributions made by an employer to a PRSA on behalf of an employee, are treated as a benefit in kind of the employee. Employees are entitled to income tax relief on these contributions subject to the usual limits on tax relief for pension contributions. Contributions to PRSAs are disregarded from assessment in means-tested social welfare schemes except Supplementary Welfare Schemes.

How to apply

If your employer does not operate an occupational pension scheme, or if certain restrictions apply to the scheme it does offer, your employer is required by law to provide access to at least one Standard PRSA. This rule applies to all employers, irrespective of the number of employees and the status of those employees (that is, whether they are full-time, fixed-term, part-time or contract).

Contact the HR manager or Payroll Section at your employment to find out more about the Standard PRSA(s) they provide.

Further information

Pensions Authority
Verschoyle House
28-30 Lower Mount Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

Tel: +353 (0)1 613 1900
Locall: 1890 656 565
Fax: +353 (0)1 631 8602

Homepage: <https://www.pensionsauthority.ie/>
Email: info@pensionsauthority.ie

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS/Cont.

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

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

Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie and from the

Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



Universal childcare subsidy

- What is the Universal Subsidy?
- How to qualify for the Universal Subsidy
- Rate of the Universal Subsidy
- How to apply for the Universal Subsidy
- Where to apply for the Universal Subsidy

What is the Universal Subsidy?

The Universal Subsidy is a childcare subsidy for children in Tusla-registered childcare who are over 6 months but under 15 years. The subsidy is deducted from the overall bill you get from your childcare provider.

How to qualify for the Universal Subsidy

To qualify for the Universal Subsidy:

- Your child must be over 6 months (24 weeks) but under 15 years of age.
- Your childcare provider must be registered with Tusla and in a contract with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to offer the Universal Subsidy.

The subsidy is not means-tested.

You cannot get the Universal Subsidy and an income assessed subsidy at the same time. However, you can choose which subsidy is of greatest benefit to you.

Rate of the Universal Subsidy

The universal childcare subsidy is paid at €0.50c an hour up to a maximum of 45 hours a week to all eligible children.

You can use the [subsidy calculator](#) on the NCS website to help work out what your entitlement will be.

For example, if your child is attending childcare for 45 hours a week, the subsidy you could get is €22.50 per week (€0.50 x 45 hours).

For example, if your child is attending childcare for 20 hours a week, you could get a subsidy of €10 per week (€0.50 x 20 hours).

How to apply for the Universal Subsidy

You should apply for the universal subsidy under the new National Childcare Scheme at ncs.gov.ie. You will need a verified MyGovID account and the date of birth and Personal Public Service (PPS) number for each child you are applying for.

You can apply by post by contacting the Parent Support Centre – see ‘Where to apply’ below. These applications will take longer to process and may affect the start date from which your subsidy can be paid.

The subsidy will be paid directly to your childcare provider and will be deducted from the cost of your childcare.

Your childcare provider must be registered with Tusla. You can get a list of contracted childcare

providers on ncs.gov.ie.

You can read more in our document on the National Childcare Scheme (NCS).

Where to apply for the Universal Subsidy

To find childcare providers in your area offering the Universal Subsidy contact your [City or County Childcare Committee](#). For more information on the National Childcare Scheme visit www.ncs.gov.ie or contact the National Childcare Scheme Parent Support Centre. Call (01) 906 8530 (9am - 5pm Monday to Friday) or email NCS@dcya.gov.ie.

The It Makes Sense loan

- What is the 'It Makes Sense' loan?
- Who can apply?
- How to apply
- Repaying the loan
- What is the 'It Makes Sense' loan?

The It Makes Sense loan (also known as the Personal Microcredit Scheme) is a small credit union loan at a low interest rate for people who are getting a social welfare payment. The scheme aims to reduce dependence on moneylenders that charge very high interest rates.

You can apply to borrow between €100 and €2,000. A maximum interest rate of 12% (12.74% APR) will apply.

If you are not a member of your local credit union, you can join and apply immediately for an It Makes Sense loan.

Who can apply?

You can apply for an It Makes Sense loan if you:

- Are aged over 18
- Are getting a social welfare payment
- Agree to repay the loan through the Household Budget Scheme if you get your social welfare payment at a post office

If your social welfare payment is paid into a bank or credit union account, you must repay the loan by standing order or direct debit. Check with your credit union whether it provides this option.

You can apply for a loan for any purpose, including to repay an outstanding debt.

How to apply

You apply for an It Makes Sense loan through your credit union. If you are not a member, you will need to apply to join.

Not all credit unions take part in the scheme – view a [list of participating credit unions](#) where you can apply.

The scheme rules may differ between credit unions. For example, some credit unions may offer loans at lower amounts or ask a member to save for a certain amount of time before applying for a loan. Contact your credit union for details.

Joining the credit union

If you are not already a member of the credit union you will need to provide:

- Proof of your identity – for example, a current passport or driving licence
- Proof of your address – for example, a recent household bill or a recent document issued by a government department
- Your PPS number

Applying for an It Makes Sense loan

If you collect your weekly social welfare payment at the post office, when you apply for the loan you need to bring 2 consecutive social welfare slips (from within the previous 4 weeks).

If you get your social welfare payment into a bank or credit union account, you need to bring recent statements for the account. Check with the credit union how many statements you need to bring.

Your local credit union can help you fill out a loan application form.

The credit union will decide whether to grant a loan and the amount of the loan.

Repaying the loan

You must repay your loan each week from your social welfare payment through the Household Budget Scheme or, if your credit union agrees, by direct debit or standing order from your bank or credit union account.

The maximum deduction from your payment that is allowed under the Household Budget Scheme is 25% of your weekly social welfare payment. This includes any other deductions that you may already have under the Household Budget Scheme (for example, for rent or for household bills).

The maximum interest rate you will be charged for an It Makes Sense loan is 12% a year (12.74% APR).

Paying your gas bills

- Introduction
- New protections to help customers this winter
- If you are struggling to pay your bills
- Getting a meter reading
- Understanding your bill
- How to use less energy
- More information

Introduction

When you sign up to a gas supplier, you should get regular and accurate bills. Suppliers must give you a range of options for paying your bills.

Recent increases in energy costs have had a big impact on the cost of living for households. If you are worried about paying your gas bills, help is available. You can contact your energy supplier to explore payment options or contact MABS for help and advice.

(Continued on page 15)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS/Cont.

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

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



(Continued from page 14)

New protections to help customers this winter

The CRU is implementing the following customer protection measures for this winter:

- Extended disconnections moratorium: the moratorium (or ban on disconnections) for all domestic customers is extended from 1 December 2022 until 28 February 2023 (increased from 1 month to 3 months). For vulnerable customers, the ban on disconnections is extended from 1 October 2022 until 31 March 2023 (increased from 5 months to 6 months).
- Extended debt repayment periods: to allow you a minimum of 24 months to repay debt (effective 1 November 2022).
- Lower debt repayments on Pay-As-You-Go top-ups: suppliers can deduct a maximum 10% to cover a debt repayment (reduced from 25%). For example, a €20 top-up would have €2 deducted to pay your debt (effective 1 October 2022).
- Financial hardship meter: if you are on a financial hardship meter, your supplier must place you on the cheapest tariff available (effective 1 December 2022).
- Vulnerable customer register: suppliers must actively promote the protections of the vulnerable customers register (effective 1 November 2022).

If you are struggling to pay your bills

Help is available if you are worried about paying your gas bills.

You can:

- Make an appointment for free confidential advice with the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)
- Contact your supplier to discuss payment options
- Contact your local Citizens Information Service

Your gas supply could be cut off if you do not pay your bills. MABS has more advice if you have [problems paying your bills](#).

Alternative payments plans

The supplier can agree to put an alternative payment plan in place for you. Suppliers must help you if you are in genuine financial difficulty. They must make at least 4 attempts to contact you before they disconnect your gas.

There is a ban on disconnections (known as a moratorium) between certain months and you have

a minimum of 24 months to repay your debt – see ‘New protections to help customers this winter’ above.

Claiming social welfare

Household Benefits package

If you are over 70, you can get the electricity allowance as part of the Household Benefits package. Some people under 70 may also qualify if they meet certain criteria. The allowance is paid either as a monthly credit on a customer's bill or directly to the customer.

Fuel Allowance

You can get [Fuel Allowance](#) if you are getting certain social welfare payments and satisfy the other conditions of the scheme. This year, extra once off payments of Fuel Allowance were paid on top of the normal seasonal allowance that is paid during the winter months.

Additional Needs Payment

The [Additional Needs Payment](#) can help you with an expense that you cannot pay from your weekly income. The amount that you can get depends on your circumstances and the type of help you need.

Vulnerable customers

Vulnerable customers who are registered as priority services customers cannot be disconnected. Elderly vulnerable customers who have problems paying their bills cannot be disconnected during the winter months (October 2022 to March 2023). The CRU has more information about [disconnection and your rights](#).

Getting a meter reading

Your gas meter measures the amount of gas you use. The readings are used by your supplier to calculate your bill.

A GNI meter reader will call to your property to record the amount of gas used since the meter was last read. This is done 4 times a year. An estimated reading will be used for the other billing periods.

When new meters are installed, they are located in external meter boxes. For older homes, the meter may be inside the home. If the meter reader cannot access the meter, they will leave a card in the mailbox letting you know they were there and asking you to submit your reading. You can also submit your meter reading directly to your supplier. If you do not submit a reading an estimated reading will be used to calculate your next bill.

Meters are the property of Gas Networks Ireland and must not be interfered with in any way. Interference with a meter is against the law and offenders can be prosecuted.

Understanding your bill

It can sometimes be difficult to understand the bill, particularly how the amount you owe is calculated.

You should receive a bill from your gas supplier every 2 months. It must be clearly marked whether the meter read used to calculate your bill amount was:

- A – an actual meter read by GNI
- C – a read submitted by you the customer
- E – an estimated meter reading

Check your bill to make sure that you are not getting too many estimated bills in a row as this could result in a large bill when an actual reading is taken. You can check your meter and submit your own reading at any time to ensure accurate billing. GNI has information on how to submit a meter reading.

CRU has more information about [understanding your gas bill](#).

How to use less energy

You can save on your gas bills by being more energy efficient.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) helps consumers to improve their energy efficiency. Get [tips and advice on how to save energy](#) on heating, timers and controls, temperature, hot water and draughts. lighting, hot water, cooking, appliances and draughts. Making small changes to be more energy efficient can help reduce your bills.

Energy efficiency grants

You may be entitled to a [grant to upgrade your home energy system](#) and improve the BER rating of your home.

This will lower the amount of electricity that you use. There are also [grants available for solar panels](#).

Get more information on how to [improve your energy efficiency \(pdf\)](#) and on the grants available from the [SEAI](#).

More information

Read more about:

[Switching suppliers](#)

[How to complain about suppliers](#)

[How utility suppliers are regulated](#)

Information courtesy of:
<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/>

MU welcomes Taoiseach for Celebration of 25th anniversary

Taoiseach Micheál Martin today visited Maynooth University for a celebration to mark its 25th anniversary as an independent institution. The Taoiseach also officially opened the new Technology, Society and Innovation (TSI) Building, Maynooth's landmark infrastructural development designed to enhance the University's excellence in research, education and skills development for future generations.

Spanning 10,500 square meters, the University's latest high tech hub will house living labs and break out rooms for interactive research; three large theatres of 500, 300 and 250-seat capacity, and research spaces for students, academics and collaboration with industry partners. It also includes a spacious outdoor plaza alongside for gatherings, cultural activities, events and performances.

This latest capital development on the University's North Campus will help to meet the capacity needs of a rapidly growing student population, rising to 15,000 this year, from 4,000 in 1997 when Maynooth was established as an independent institution.

The €48 million TSI Building is a landmark edifice and part of an overall €57million capital development project that includes modernisation and expansion of the Arts and Sciences buildings on the University's North Campus. The capital project was made possible by €25 million from the Government's Higher Education Strategic Infrastructure Fund announced in 2019.



Taoiseach Micheál Martin and President of MU, Professor Eeva Leinonen.
Credit: Maxwell Photography

Congratulating Maynooth University on its 25th anniversary and on its latest TSI building, An Taoiseach Micheál Martin, TD, stated: "I'm delighted to be here to celebrate Maynooth's 25th anniversary and to open the new Technology, Society and Innovation Building. Maynooth has always played a pivotal role in Ireland's education system, and its influence has grown nationally and globally, making a significant and distinctive impact on Irish society."

This is a fantastic resource and innovation space for future generations to study, explore and contribute to Ireland's workforce and innovation needs, as we move towards a digitally advanced and sustainability-focused society.

Maynooth University offers important strengths in those areas and I look forward to the contributions of its graduates and its academics over the next 25 years and beyond."

Welcoming the Taoiseach and guests, Maynooth University President, Professor Eeva Leinonen, said: "A key strength of Maynooth University is exploring the interaction between technology and humans to the benefit of society, everything from drone technology to data privacy, and climate change. So, it is incredibly fitting today, as we celebrate a quarter of a century as an independent university, that we open the Technology, Society and Innovation Building, showcasing those strengths and signifying our embrace of the future."

Chairperson of the Maynooth University Governing Authority, Dr Mary Canning, said: "As the student population of Maynooth University expands to over 15,000, the impact of this landmark building will be of huge importance to the education of our students, and to academics and partners in advancing research and innovation."

Since first established as an independent university, Maynooth has been essential in meeting the demands of a growing population across the Mid-East, Midlands and West Dublin region in particular. The increased capacity offered by the TSI Building will allow us to continue to do so well into the future."

In line with Maynooth University's green campus and sustainability approach, the TSI Building is heated by air source heat pumps, and includes green roofs, a solar PV array, and rainwater harvesting.



Designed as a 'Nearly Zero Energy Building' (NZEB), the TSI Building is expected to achieve Excellence in Energy Efficiency Design (EXEED) and Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) "very good" certification.

Maynooth University hosted a thank you event to mark the Maynooth Ukraine response and the partnership efforts of the Maynooth Ukrainian Action Group.



President of MU, Professor Eeva Leinonen, Dr Gemma Irvine, Vice-President for Equality & Diversity, Maynooth University and 16-year-old artist Oleksandra Atamanenko, a Ukrainian visitor from Kyiv and her family.
Credit: Maxwell Photography

Maynooth University hosted a thank you event to mark the Maynooth Ukraine response and the partnership efforts of the Maynooth Ukrainian Action Group. During the event, 16-year-old artist Oleksandra Atamanenko, a Ukrainian visitor from Kyiv, presented the University with her painting, titled 'Hands', to mark the occasion and symbolise the special relationship between the Ukrainian residents and university.

Held at the recently opened Maynooth University Technology, Society and Innovation (TSI) Building, the event paid tribute to the collective efforts of national and regional organisations who provided much-needed supports to some 1,200 Ukrainian guests who stayed over the summer months.

The Maynooth Ukrainian Action Group facilitated the expert work of professional agencies in working with families fleeing the war-torn country, while national and regional organisations stepped up to provide supports to families and children throughout their stay. The organisations included the Irish Red Cross (IRC), Helping Irish Hosts (HIH), Kildare Volunteer Centre, Kildare County Council, and a range of at least 20 organisations and volunteers across the Kildare and wider East-Midlands region.

Speaking at the event, President of Maynooth University Professor Eeva Leinonen, paid tribute to the many organisations and volunteers who responded to the call to provide supports and services to Ukrainian guests accommodated at the University. "I want to pay tribute to the collective work of all the organisations, agencies and volunteers who worked night and day to respond to the needs of our Ukrainian guests, who were forced to flee their country in the most terrible circumstances." "It was absolutely critical that the relevant agencies and organisation were facilitated and enabled to do their jobs in a strategic manner. This was accomplished through the combined efforts of the community and professionals in the Maynooth Ukrainian Action Group."

The range of professional services and voluntary supports at Maynooth included a Ukrainian Information Centre staffed by Ukrainian speakers, medical, welfare and legal information clinics hosted by the Irish Red Cross, sports, activities and English language classes on campus and in Maynooth Town coordinated by Kildare County Council in June, and the Kildare LEADER Partnership in August. On 24th August, Ukraine Independence Day, the University also hosted a family event organised by the Kildare LEADER Partnership. Additionally, Maynooth University was asked to host the National Student & Researcher (NSR) Helpdesk on behalf of the higher education sector, to support people displaced from Ukraine who would like to apply and continue their higher education studies or research in Ireland.

Dr Gemma Irvine, who chaired the Maynooth Ukrainian Action Group, said: "This is an excellent example of a university working hand in glove with its community to better serve society. The multi-agency approach adopted here, and subsequent learnings, will form the basis of a new Ukrainian Kildare Network which is being set up to coordinate supports for displaced Ukrainians living in Kildare."

Maynooth University Town F.C.



L.S.L. Senior Division - Sunday

Lucan Utd 0 Town 3

Town quickly banished the woes of their recent F.A.I. Cup defeat with this superb victory over a highly rated Lucan Utd side. Town dominated this game from start to finish with a performance that augurs well for future games. Town laid down their marker early by attacking right from the kick off and put the Lucan defence under immediate pressure. Following a good passage of play in the 30th minute the ball was played wide to Jack Reynolds on the right who cut inside and placed his shot wide of the Lucan keeper to open the scoring. Town continued to attack and doubled their score on half time. In a move which involved a number of players the Lucan defence was carved open to provide the chance for Jack Reynolds to duly accept and fire home for his second goal. The second half pattern remained the same with Town continuing the pressure. In the 60th minute full back Dylan Pearse went on one of his runs down the right before crossing into the box for Jackson Ryan to bravely head home to close the scoring. A number of changes were made at this stage without reducing the overall performance of the side.

F.A.I. Intermediate Cup

1st Round

Tolka Rovers 0 Town 1

Town surmounted their 1st hurdle in this first round encounter of the F.A.I. Intermediate Cup. Two evenly matched sides fought it out in a dour first half in which neither side could make the break through. Town broke quickly from the restart and with one minute gone Evan Murphy broke forward and hit an unstoppable shot from outside the penalty area into the corner of the net. Town pressed in an effort to increase their lead but a stubborn home defence were standing firm. Tolka creaked a number of chances themselves but Town's defence held firm and provided no clear cut chances. Overall a deserved win for the Town.

L.S.L. Senior Division - Sunday

Town 2 Crumlin Utd 1

The long awaited clash between league leaders and current Champions Crumlin Utd was well worth the wait. Town started brightly and laid out their intentions early pushing forward at every opportunity. They broke forward quickly in the 18th minute when a good movement provided the chance for Jack Reynolds to finish expertly. Town were pulled back to level terms before the break when Crumlin scored after slack marking by the Town defence. Town were now dominating proceedings when Jack Reynolds provided the chance for Callum Warfield to score from close range. A superb win which keeps us in the hunt for honours.

L.S.L. Senior Division - Sunday

Wayside Celtic 1 Town 0

This was a setback for Town in this poor game which had few highlights. The home side were intent in frustrating Town with their packed defence and total intent on the quick break. Town had numerous chances despite the defensive system mounted by Wayside but were unable to make the vital break through. The home side secured the winner when Town lost possession in midfield and Wayside broke forward to fire past Demer Sterio. Hard as Town tried they were unable to level the scores.

L.S.L. Senior Division - Sunday

Town 1 St. Mochtas 1

Both sides opened in a very careful manner and spent some time squaring each other up. Town began to get the upper hand and were shading the exchanges. Good play down the right saw Callum Warfield play the ball into the path of Jack O'Connor to expertly finish. Town were on top now and missed a number of chances before Saints were awarded a penalty. But keeper Shane Fagan got down to his left to pull off a top class save. Fagan brought off a good save later but was deemed by the referee to have fouled the Saints striker and awarded a penalty. The ref then sent off our keeper for the infringement. Demer then had to take up his duty between the posts but not having had a chance to warm up, had no chance with the penalty. A late penalty for Town was wasted and the game petered out for a disappointing draw.

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MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES



Celbridge Road Cycle Facilities

Maynooth Cycling Campaign expects that Kildare County Council will shortly go to public consultation on the long awaited Celbridge Road cycle facilities. In 2019, the Council proposed plans which were, to put it mildly, roundly condemned as inadequate.

It is to be hoped that the proposed plans will be to a higher standard than the recent Green Lane Leixlip proposals where councillors approved the retention of a shared path outside schools. We don't need a repeat of the Moyglare Road failure where students use the traffic lanes because there is no space for them on the "shared" path.

KCC's Visit to the Netherlands

The National Transport Agency proposes to bring a number of Kildare councillors and officials to see for themselves cycling facilities in the Utrecht region. In response to a similar visit by Galway councillors, the Connacht Tribune headlined an article on the visit "City councillors pack their bags for Dutch transport junket".

Maynooth Cycling Campaign condemns the headline and strongly supports the visit. It is difficult to envisage how the Dutch have managed to create an road environment which works for people of all ages and all abilities without actually seeing it in practice.

Maynooth Schools Traffic

Since the start of September, we have once again seen the failure of Irish transport planning with traffic queues stretching the length of the Moyglare Road from the Kilcock Road to the Maynooth Educational Campus at secondary schools opening and closing times.

There is a striking difference between the level of cycling to the two

Maynooth secondary schools. One has approximately thirty students who cycle whereas the other has had on occasions over one hundred. There is no obvious reason for such a marked difference. To see a (speeded up) video of pupils arriving at a Dutch secondary school, check out the video at the following link

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NUgB_xkIvU . Also note the space provided to cater for such a high level of cycling compared to the level provided in Kildare schools.

Cycling Without Age

Discussions are continuing with Kildare County Council over their support for the branch of a Cycling Without Age chapter in Maynooth and we hope that the way ahead will be clearer after a meeting in October. Maynooth Cycling Campaign expects to advertise shortly for volunteers who would like to drive/pilot the trishaw bike.

Collision in Celbridge

As a result of a collision between a driver and cyclist on the Shackleton Road in Celbridge, a cyclist was admitted to James Connolly Memorial Hospital in a serious condition. The Gardaí are appealing for witnesses to come forward and any road users with video footage (including dash cam) is asked to make this available to them. Anyone with information can contact Leixlip Garda Station on 01 666 7800, the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111 or any Garda station.

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.



James Lawless T.D. Kildare North

Phone: 01-6183587 - e-mail: james.lawless@oir.ie - Web: www.jameslawless.ie



Opening of Maynooth University Technology, Science & Innovation Building

I visited Maynooth University recently along with the Taoiseach to officially open the Technology, Society and Innovation (TSI) building, as well as to celebrate the 25th anniversary of MU being declared as an independent university. Maynooth University is at the heart of so many of the innovation and study initiatives around the county and beyond and of course is a popular destination for our students, providing a top-class education, within easy commuting distance. Both the Taoiseach and the new President of the College, Professor Eeva Leinonen, spoke about the importance of the public square and debate around the campus being as important as the formal learning within class, a point with which I entirely agree, as the essence of a broad education.

Development of Gaelcholaiste Mhaigh Nuad

I raised in the Dáil in July the predicament of Gaelcholaiste Mhaigh Nuad which is currently still awaiting a permanent campus building. At present the students are being facilitated in Manor Mills shopping centre pending delivery of permanent accommodation. It is imperative that this issue is addressed, and a permanent campus is established as soon as possible. I am arranging a meeting with Minister Foley and the Board of Management very soon to discuss this further and hopefully we will see progress on this site soon.

JUSTICE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Justice Committee, which I chair, has been extremely busy again throughout 2021/22. At a recent meeting of all Committees, the Taoiseach praised the "extraordinary throughput of the Justice Committee" and noted of the entire body of legislation going through the Dáil in that time, that the Justice Committee had processed close to 50% of it. The Committee combines scrutiny and processing of new legislation, from Government and opposition, along with regular elective modules on matters of interest to members.

The Justice committee processed 20 separate items of legislation or policy through its meetings in the last term. Among the many items we considered in the last term were:

- Data Retention Bill 2022- facilitate preservation of data for both national security and investigation of serious crime.
- Criminal Justice (Hate Crime) Bill 2021- to make it easier to secure prosecutions and convictions for crimes motivated by hate.
- Gambling Regulation Bill 2021 - establishing gambling regulator with powers to regulate advertising, gambling websites and apps.
- Policing Bill 2021 - consolidation of century worth of laws on garda powers.
- Report on Courts and Courthouses - refurbishment of all our courthouses and the need to provide for vulnerable court users including those with disabilities.
- Examination of Drugs Decriminalisation- whether health or criminal justice approach better.
- Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill 2021- Monitoring and management of sex offenders strengthened.
- Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2022 - implement biggest reform to judicial appointments in decades.
- Proceeds of Crime (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill 2020- aiming to seize assets of human rights abusers.
- Report on Rehabilitative Opportunities within the Prison System- examine the changes necessary to ensure the successful reintegration of prisoner's post-release

Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2024-2030

Kildare County Council are due to commence work on the Maynooth and Environs local area plan which will be the document to guide, manage and direct the development of the town and its environs for the next number of years. Both Kildare County Council and Meath County Council will be working on this plan to coordinate a planning framework for Maynooth. This is a very important piece of work and you will have the opportunity to make submissions regarding the future of Maynooth. I will keep in touch and let you know when the public submission dates are so you can make your submission.

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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 20/08/2022 to 29/09/2022 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
<u>221148</u>	Kildare County Council	Sky Castle Limited,	Maynooth Outer Orbital Road, Carton Demesne and Mariavilla Townlands, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	22/09/2022
<u>221126</u>	Kildare County Council	Ronan Coyne,	Kilmacredock, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	14/09/2022
<u>221120</u>	Kildare County Council	Micheal Walsh,	41 Cluain Aoibhinn, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 F1W2.	13/09/2022
<u>221117</u>	Kildare County Council	Patrick and Lynn Ryan,	Petka House, Laragh Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 KOF9.	12/09/2022
<u>221076</u>	Kildare County Council	Darren & Lorna Connolly	Garrai Na Crann, Kilmacredock Upper, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23D8X6	02/09/2022
<u>221066</u>	Kildare County Council	Glide Retail Limited,	Unit 22, Manor Mills Shopping Centre, Mill Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare W23 VP46.	31/08/2022
<u>221059</u>	Kildare County Council	CDS (Superstores International) Limited	The Range., Carton Retail Park, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	30/08/2022

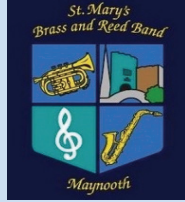
The Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029 are now on display.

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/proposed-material-alterations-draft-kildare-county-development-plan-2023-2029-0>

The closing date for receipt of submissions is 4 p.m. 27th October 2022.

St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

The highlight of last month was our visit to the International Music Festival in Bad Orb near Frankfurt in Germany where we joined 26 other Bands from all over the world giving music recitals all over the weekend.



The Band had the honour of opening the Festival on the first night and we were surprised and delighted that the Consulate General of the Irish Consulate in Frankfurt joined us for the occasion.

We gave five recitals over the three days which culminated in a Massed Band Parade to the Town Square where over 1,000 musicians came together in playing a number of selected pieces one of which can be seen on our Facebook page. We have already been invited to play at the next Festival which happens in 2024.

The Band barely had time to take a breath when we performed in the Square back in Maynooth for Cultural night on Friday 23rd September which went extremely well and was very much appreciated by the enthusiastic audience.

The Band are straight into rehearsals this month for our final two events of 2022 with our Mass for Deceased Members at 1oc on Sunday 6th November and our annual Christmas Concert in the Glenroyal Hotel on Sunday 11th December at 7.30. Hopefully as both of these events are indoors, we will have a good attendance as the Band has made great progress since the Covid restrictions we removed.

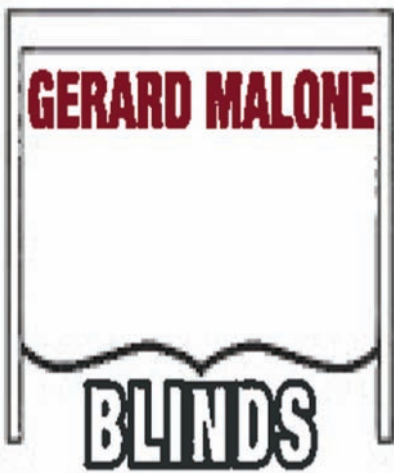
The Band are undertaking a Recruitment Drive for both the Senior and Academy Bands as we have had a number of musicians come to join us after the Summer so if you are an experienced musician and would like to join our Senior Band you are most welcome to drop in to our rehearsals any Monday night at our Band Hall on Pound Lane just off the Main Street

(eir code W23 N283) between 7.45 and 9.30 Bank Holidays excepted or contact 087 2537 906 for more information.

We are also looking to hear from beginners and improvers of any age to join our Academy Band which is under the direction on Francesca Sheridan and those interested in registering for the music classes can contact her at 087 716 8369 to register their interest.



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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Coursing Day

As a special treat their father decided to take Donal and his brother Tommy to a coursing meeting. Since this was a sport for men their three sisters were left at home – Not that Donal or Tommy were men, Donal being only ten and his brother one year older. After breakfast on Saturday Bob the farm horse was harnessed to the sidecar and, with their father driving, they set off to the demesne where the annual event was held. The four-mile journey was soon over, Bob trotting whenever the road was level or downhill. On driving through the gate in the massive demesne wall their father paid the entrance fee and in a corner sheltered from the sun by a leafy oak they took the horse out from under the sidecar, tied his reins to a wheel and gave him a small bundle of hay to eat.

Their neighbour Phil McCarthy approached them. He was furious because the organisers of the meet had netted forty hares on land belonging to him without asking permission. This land was a few miles from his home farm and covered in rushes. Hares gazed the surrounding well-kept fields, then retreated into the rushes to rest.

"I wouldn't mind, Phil spat, "but I'm told they came with their nets and beaters as if they owned the place." "Forty hares!" Their father began to fill his pipe. "That must be a record."

"It's that alright." In spite of himself Phil sounded pleased. "And those hares will be in prime form. The land up there has the best grazing in the county." Leaving Phil, they headed for the crowd standing near a four-foot high net-wire fence running in a straight line down the field. About sixty yards beyond this there was a parallel fence and the long stretch of ground between the fences ended in a barrier of vertical wooden laths covered with branches through which a hare, but not a hound, could pass. Once through the barrier, the hare was in an enclosure with straw shelters where it could feel safe.

There was a great air of festivity, people chatting and laughing, others with greyhounds on leads, others gathered around bookies to place bets. Further along, refreshment stalls and tables with games such as trick o' the loop and the three card trick were doing a brisk trade, while a loudspeaker blared out music. Their father gave Donal and Tommy five shillings each, telling them not to spend it all at once.

They watched the race that was about to start. A man, the slipper-in, was holding two excited greyhounds by leather leashes. Next moment, someone released a hare from a long, narrow wooden box with a dozen or more compartments, each containing a single hare. When the hounds saw the hare bounding down the field they went frantic but the slipper-in held them back till the hare was almost fifty yards ahead. Finally the hounds were let go and the race was on.

The judge, dressed in a scarlet coat and brown hunting cap, galloped down inside the fence to observe the progress of the chase. When the hare became aware of the hounds behind him he put on a spurt of speed but little by little the hounds gained on him. Just as it seemed that one of them would grab him, he turned suddenly, causing the hound to miss. After that the chase continued with the hare throwing off his pursuers by his ability to twist quickly. Despite many close shaves, where sharp, gleaming teeth were within inches of his back, the hare reached the wooden fence and dodged through an opening while the hounds were left jumping about outside.

In the races that followed the hare didn't always escape and his squeals as a hound's jaws closed on him rose above the noise of the gathering. Attendants would then

run up to collar the hounds and dispatch the wounded animal. Though Donal liked to see the hare get away, he did not become upset when the hounds caught one. The ability of the dogs was more engrossing than the fate of their prey.

Since there were only two hounds in each race, betting gave one a fifty per cent chance of winning. The hound that reached the hare first, causing him to turn, got a high number of points, after which subsequent turns earned fewer points and a kill more points. The hounds with the highest total of points won.

Donal and Tommy would have liked to place a bet on the races but didn't have enough money. They decided, therefore, to visit the games of chance, hoping to increase their funds. Donal was fascinated by the colourful operators, who called out spiels such as, "If you don't speculate, you can't accumulate; if you don't try you can't win." The trick o' the loop man folded a leather belt into a succession of loops and invited you to put a wooden pin into one of them. If the pin held the belt when the operator pulled the two ends across the tabletop, you won. The game seemed so simple that both boys risked a half crown and lost. After that they tried the wheel of fortune and tree card trick, occasionally winning a few shillings. Finally they tried the lottery, where you bought a rolled-up ticket with a number on it. If your number was a lucky one you got a prize. Needless to say, their tickets were duds so they bought biscuits and lemonade and headed back to their father. He was talking to his brother-in-law, their Uncle Peter, whose greyhound, Lazy Bones, was in the next competition, the Kingston Cup.

"I'm hoping he'll prove his name wrong," Uncle Peter said, when he had shaken their hands. "Here's something to put on him," he added, giving them a pound note each. Their father placed the bets for them and, bursting with anticipation, they hurried back to the fence to watch the race. At first Lazy Bones, a big fawn hound, was outstripped by his rival, a brindled bitch, but he gradually caught up with her, taking the first turn out of the hare. After a succession of twists and even running for a while back towards the start the hare evaded his pursuers and dodged into the safety enclosure. Moments later there was an announcement on the loudspeaker: "Lazy Bones is the winner by three points!" Donal and Tommy could hardly believe their luck: they were rich, having each won thirty shillings! "You'd be wise to stop gambling now," their father advised. "Lazy Bones will be up against stiffer competition next time."

"Why will he?" Tommy asked.

"Well, it's like this," their father explained. "Four of the eight dogs entered for the Kingston Cup have already been eliminated, so the next round is like the semi-finals; the standard is bound to be higher."

"All the same, that fellow of mine will make it," Uncle Peter declared, before hurrying off to pat his dog that was being minded by his grown-up son, Ronan. The boys didn't bet on the next race, but when it was Lazy Bones' turn to run again, they took out all their money.

"Put that back in your pockets," their father instructed, then, seeing their disappointed looks, he took a pound from each of them and handed it to the bookie. This time the odds were at even money.

"Aren't you going to bet yourself, Daddy?" Donal asked.

"Indeed, I'm not," his father said. "Gambling is a fool's game, but you'll learn that soon enough."

Despite this warning, Lazy Bones won again. At last the final race came. Although Tommy only placed two pounds on it, nothing would do Donal now but that he should risk the entire three and a half pounds he had. If

he won, he would have enough to buy a real leather football like the one his heroes on the county team used. "You're sure you don't want to keep some?" his father asked as Donal handed him all his money.

Donal shook his head. Unfortunately, although he killed the hare, this time Lazy Bones failed to win.

"Didn't I warn you?" his father said. "Tommy, you still have –"

He stopped talking as Uncle Peter strode up.

"Do you know what I just found out?" Uncle Peter fumed. "They ran short of hares and used one that had raced earlier. No wonder the other dog got the first turn. Lazy Bones is a slow starter. That hare must have been half dead already."

"All the same, Lazy Bones only lost by a point," their father consoled him. "He's still a young dog. He'll be a champion yet."

Maybe he will, Donal thought ruefully, but much good that will do me now that I've only a few pennies left. Later, Uncle Peter invited them to call into his place, a big two-storey house, on their way home. When they did, their Aunt Maggie treated them to a delicious roast beef dinner followed by jelly and custard.

"If you like I could get you boys a greyhound pup,"

Uncle Peter offered while they were having tea and sweet cake. "Ronan can show you how to care for him."

"You'd have to bring him for runs in the morning," Ronan added, "and cycle along the road with him on a lead to harden his feet."

"They have enough to do already between their school books and helping me bring in the cows and mind the cattle," their father pointed out.

"Oh, I only wish my men there were as sensible as you," Aunt Maggie remarked with a hint of exasperation. "That hound is more trouble than a baby, what with cooking special meals for him and feeding him raw eggs."

"Don't be put off by your aunt," Uncle Peter winked. "She's as fond of Lazy Bones as Ronan and myself."

"Oh, you men and your greyhounds!" Aunt Maggie poured more tea into their cups. "You never think of the poor hares."

"What's to think about?" Uncle Peter snorted.

"Hunting is as old as the hills. It's part of the natural order of things."

"I just don't see what's natural about setting hounds on a poor harmless creature," Aunt Maggie observed.

"It's just a bit of fun, Mam," Ronan told her.

"Yes," his mother retorted, "it's like what the frog said to the boys that were throwing stones at him, 'What's fun to ye is death to me.'"

Before the conversation could become heated their father decided that it was time for them to be off.

"There's the cows to be milked and herself will be wondering what kept us," he explained.

As they drove towards the front gate, Uncle Peter and Aunt Maggie called after them not to be so slow about their next visit. Their father assured them they wouldn't then with a flick of the reins urged Bob into a gentle trot.

Before he fell asleep that night in the bed he shared with Tommy, Donal thought about the hare Lazy Bones had caught. It was probably one of the ones netted in Phil McCarthy's field. After being taken from its home in the rushes it was brought away in a lorry, eventually ending up in the long, dark, narrow box. Then it was released and had to run for its life from two ravenous greyhounds. When it had slipped through the wooden fence it should have been safe but men had come and forced it back into the dark, narrow box. What was losing all his money compared to what the hare must have felt in that final race?

P.G. Nerney



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

<p>PRELUDE <i>(To Cheryl, Easter 1971)</i></p> <p>The wind breathes through the golden grass; Larks sing; The curlew’s flute bubbles upward into silence; A stream converses with itself; The earth is full of tender secrecy. Brown and green the heather tufts; Deeper green the curving hills Garlanded with yellow gorse, Studded with the russet roofs of farm sheds. Soft as children’s eyelids, Distant mountains ring my world P As I stride weightlessly Across this spongy, fenceless plain, Cro-Magnon man preceded by his dog. The latent certainty of life Gleams in the budding twigs, Smiles in the April sun, Pours out its gratitude from skylarks’ throats. Oh, all the world is hushed Though cattle low contentedly And one loud bee goes humming past. Why are you, then, so far away, Deep in the grime of city streets, You who are so like this land, So soft, so gentle, So secretive of life That soon must crown you like a burst of snow? My love, I search for you Upon this fragrant, trembling plain; My mate, my supple tree, My breath of joy!</p> <p>Colin Scott</p>	<p>Yellow Poppies <i>(At Donadea Church)</i></p> <p>Poppies for Remembrance Day are red But by the gateway of this hidden church Yellow poppies grow. Inside the grounds are neatly kept, The lawns new mown, the gravel clean: Because of dwindling numbers The church is only opened now For Sunday service.</p> <p>I scan the weathered names on headstones: Beloved rectors, wives, sons, daughters – People who once walked here as we do; In the vault behind the church Rests the family that built it: * Baronet, dame, esquire, various children... Over a cut-stone gateway By their ruined “castle” you can read: NISI DOMINUS FRUSTRA **</p> <p>When these words were inscribed The church was open every day And Catholics paid tithes to rectors: Yet the family may not resent My children playing by their vault, My daughter gathering the poppies Where red and green at last are blended...</p> <p>* <i>The Aylmers of Donadea</i> ** <i>Unless the Lord (build the house, they labour) in vain (who build it).</i></p> <p><i>Patrick Devaney</i></p>	<p>The quality of preaching!</p> <p>No one should stand in a pulpit whose awareness of his/her congregation is not dwarfed by awareness of God. And I'm not suggesting some vague notion of God but the very real and palpable Son of God, Jesus Christ. Jesus, of course, gave us a very clear idea of God in his parable of the Prodigal Son. When the son had demanded his share of the inheritance and had gone off to sow his wild oats his Father didn't say "Good riddance" and moan to his other son about that "wretched boy who has turned his back on me". Rather he longed and watched for the day when his poor errant son would return.</p> <p>When he did return, and not for any great love for his Father but so that he could maybe become a servant in his Father's house and have food enough to stay alive, his Father was more than alert. He had been on the lookout for him and was full of gratitude to his once lost son for having come back and had no hesitation in having the fatted calf killed and declaring a feast. Wonder if he always had a fatted calf on the ready? He is a forgiving God in whose heaven there is more rejoicing over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine who have no need of repentance. That is a figure of speech, of course, but it leaves no doubt in anyone's mind as to the mercy that the Christian God has on offer. So any preacher whose internalised image of God, is that of the Father of the Prodigal, who walks with such a God, is a preacher who has got something to say of relevance to his listeners.</p> <p>Imagine the apostles on Pentecost Sunday, if you can. The Holy Spirit had taken possession of them and they were so carried away that they spoke languages they had never learned! They were so delirious, so at one with the truth of the Holy Spirit and the entire Jesus story that those listening to them thought they must be drunk. And this wasn't just for the one day of Pentecost. It continued for weeks or months and even years afterwards with Jesus' followers not caring a morsel for their own safety but acting and speaking like people possessed not by the devil but by God himself.</p> <p>Where did that divine possession all go? What became of that delirious enthusiasm? We must today sit and struggle with half enunciated, scarcely thought out, much less meditated upon, banal statements concerning the greatest Being who ever walked this earth- Jesus himself through whom this stupendous universe is being created, second by second. The only whiff of enthusiasm in many preachers may be noticed when some local event or sport's contest is announced or commented on! Go bhfóire Dia orainn!</p> <p>G.M.</p>
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Pet care for the Winter

- **Keep pet active and warm on chilly days. Put a warm on the pets, like us they get cold too. Consider taking shorter walks if the weather is bad.**
- **Always bring a torch with you. Buy hi-vis winter jackets if you can. These will keep the pet warm and also make them visible in the dark evenings. If they escape you should be able to see them quicker.**
- **Check their paws after each walk. Grit and salt can get stuck in between their toes. This can cause irritation, burns and even make their paws bleed. So after every walk, wash their feet to remove any residue.**
- **Cats may prefer to stay indoors especially at night. Provide lots of toys and a scratching post to keep them occupied and active.**
- **If walking pets on snow or ice, dry their paws once inside as this warms them up and prevents frostbite.**
- **Move small animals inside if you can or move them to a dry, draft-free area. If they have to stay outdoors, place extra blankets over their hutch and give them extra warm bedding inside.**
- **Dogs with arthritis and weak joints can easily slip so support them by investing in a harness with a grab handle.**
- **Stay away from frozen lakes/canals. Dogs have a tendency to wonder onto them and may fall through the ice. For their safety and yours - always have them on a leash.**
- **Every morning check your car engine and under your car as cats may seek warmth in your car if the night is cold.**
- **Be careful when using anti-freeze. This is extremely toxic to animals even fatal. The sweet taste of anti-freeze is very tempting to them. Clean up any spillage immediately. Symptoms to watch for are: drinking more, pet very tired and drunk-like, vomiting, seizures, panting, twitches, spasms and collapse. If your pet has any of these, get them to a vet IMMEDIATELY.**
- **Indoor animals like hamsters also need to given extra bedding and kept away from drafts to stop them from going into hibernation.**

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REMINDER DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCK.

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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.
Thanksgiving for favour received. (EPL)

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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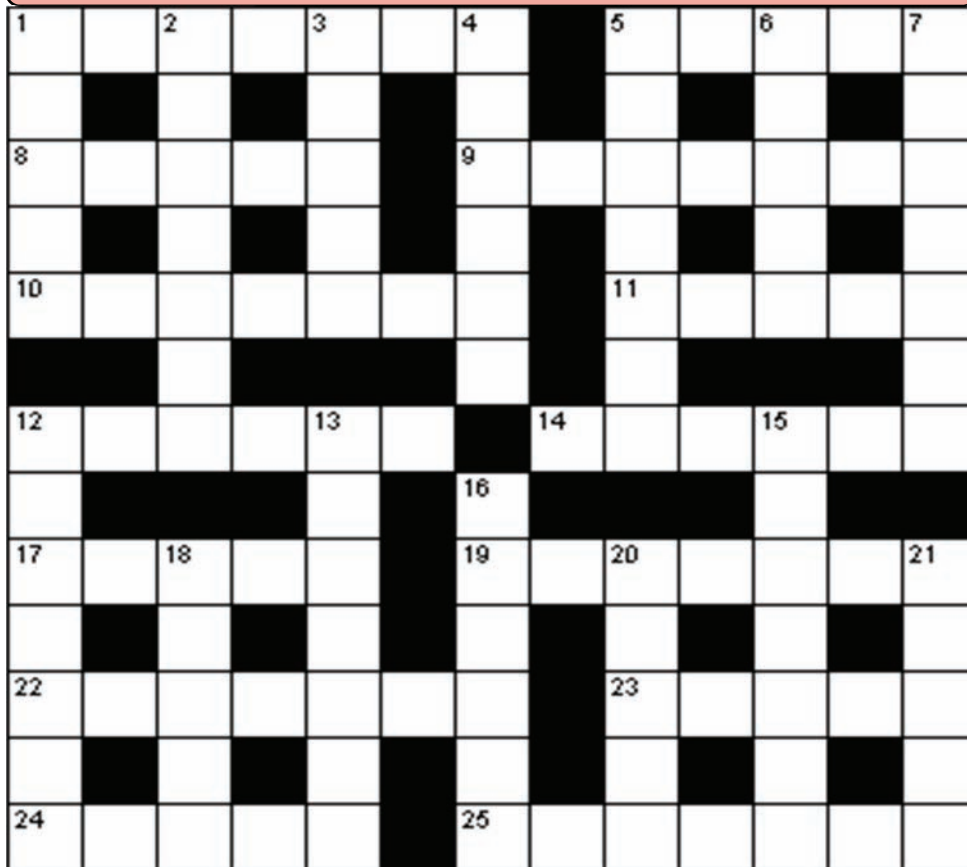
Never known to fail.
Thanksgiving for favour received. (RD)

Tips for storing Vegetables and Fruit

Things to consider when storing vegetables and fruit that will not only keep them longer but also keep their taste and texture longer

<p>Veg to Store in Fridge Asparagus, Beans (snap), Brussels sprouts, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Radishes, Beets, Carrots, Parsnips, Rutabagas and Turnips</p> <p>Never to Store in Fridge Onions, Shallots and Garlic Note: Do not store near potatoes. Potatoes excrete moisture and speed up decay</p> <p>Potatoes, Pumpkins, Winter Squash (Butternut) & Tomatoes Note: Do not store potatoes near onions and apples, as these give off ethylene gas that spoils the potatoes</p>	<p>Store in Cool Space in Kitchen Cucumbers, Eggplant, Summer Squash (Zucchini) and Peppers</p> <p>Fruit to Store in Fridge Apples, Berries (Strawberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, Blueberries), Citrus (Oranges, Grapefruit, Lemons), Grapes, Pears, Melons, Stone Fruit (Peaches, Cherries, Nectarines, Apricots, Plums)</p> <p>Never to Store in Fridge Bananas, Avocados, Pineapples, Tropical Fruit</p>	<p>Storing Herbs Leafy herbs such as Coriander, Mint, Parsley and Dill keep their stems submersed in a glass of cool water, then cover with a plastic bag. Store woody herbs such as Rosemary, Thyme, Chives, Sage, Oregano in a fridge, wrapped loosely in a damp paper town.</p> <p>Most other herbs will keep for a short time unwashed and refrigerated in tightly sealed plastic bags with a little moisture to prevent wilting. For longer storage, use moisture and gas-permeable paper and cling film. Plastic cuts off oxygen to the plants and promotes spoilage.</p>
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October 2022 Crossword - No. 517



Clues Across

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Freedom (7) | 17. Banquet (5) |
| 5. Berate (5) | 19. Gossip (7) |
| 8. Rhinal (5) | 22. Embrocations (7) |
| 9. Amazing (7) | 23. Entomb (5) |
| 10. Impassive (7) | 24. Arrows (5) |
| 11. Tendency (5) | 25. Mariners (7) |
| 12. Fruit (6) | |
| 14. Loved (6) | |



Solutions to Crossword No. 516



Clues Down

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Golf course (5) | 13. Countries (7) |
| 2. Woodwind instrument (7) | 15. Rice dish (7) |
| 3. Object surviving the past (5) | 16. Dissertation (6) |
| 4. Annual (6) | 18. Change (5) |
| 5. Perfumed (7) | 20. Legal excuse (5) |
| 6. Earth's protective layer (5) | 21. Tall tales (5) |
| 7. Feared (7) | |
| 12. Perplexed (7) | |

Difficult

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

Sudoku Challenge

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

Super Difficult

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

Halloween Cup Cakes

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup dark chocolate chips
- 1/3 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 package white cake mix (regular size)
- 1-1/4 cups water
- 3 large egg whites
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 1/2 teaspoon orange paste food coloring
- frosting:
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 3-3/4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 ounces unsweetened chocolate, melted
- 4 to 5 tablespoons evaporated milk



Assorted decorations: regular and Mega M&M's, Laffy Taffy, Candy Corn, Mega Buttons, Oreo Cookies, sprinkles, pretzels, marshmallows and edible pens

Method

- Place chocolate chips in a small bowl. In a small saucepan, bring cream just to a boil. Pour over chocolate; let stand 5 minutes. Cool to room temperature, stirring occasionally. Refrigerate, covered, until firm.
- Preheat oven to 350°. Line 18 muffin cups with paper liners. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, water, egg whites, oil and food coloring; beat on low speed 30 seconds. Beat on medium 2 minutes.
- Fill prepared cups three-fourths full. Top with 2 teaspoons chocolate mixture. Bake 18-22 minutes or until top springs back when lightly touched. Cool in pans 10 minutes before removing to wire racks to cool completely.
- For frosting, in a small bowl, beat butter, confectioners' sugar, vanilla and salt until smooth. Beat in melted chocolate and enough milk to reach desired consistency. Frost cupcakes. Decorate as desired.



Source: www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/truffle-filled-cupcakes/

Halloween Cocktails

You'll simply shake or stir these Halloween-worthy drinks just like any other cocktail recipe, but many include cool special effects. From pumpkin-like garnishes to blood-red layers, these show-stopping and delicious cocktails and shots will both charm and frighten your guests.



Halloween Cocktail

Containing 2 oz vodka, cranberry juice, a splash of ginger ale, and our old friend dry ice - this Halloween cocktail is so much tastier than its ghoulish name would indicate.

The recipe suggests dropping a small piece of dry ice into the cocktail and waiting until it has melted completely - then garnishing with a maraschino cherry. You could opt for another red fruit like strawberries, raspberries, or even cranberries.

Haunting Halloween cocktail

An ominous black beverage made using black vodka, standard vodka and pomegranate juice, the haunting Halloween cocktail ticks all the boxes. Add a skeleton decoration and a sweet seasonal blackberry to make it look extra hellish – but it will still taste heavenly.

Ingredients

ice cubes
125ml black vodka , or use Crème de cassis and a touch of black food colouring, but it will be much sweeter
100ml vodka
250ml pomegranate juice (we used Pom)
4 dashes orange bitters
8 blackberries
pomegranates , to serve (optional)
To garnish the glasses
1 tbsp honey or golden syrup
black sanding sugar , or black cake decorating sprinkles



Method

Dip your finger in the honey or golden syrup and run around each rim of four martini glasses. Pour the black sugar or sprinkles onto a small plate and roll each glass rim on its side, gently coating it.

Fill a large cocktail shaker with a big handful of ice cubes and pour in the black vodka, vodka, pomegranate juice, and bitters. Shake and divide among the glasses. Thread the berries on cocktail skewers and place one in each cocktail.

To make it even more haunting, drop some pomegranate seeds in the drink and scatter more on your serving tray for a bloody fang effect.



Witch's Brew Punch Bowl

Ingredients

(6 ounce) package lime gelatin
2cups boiling water

3cups chilled pineapple juice
1(2 liter) bottle chilled lemon-lime flavored soda or
(2 liter) bottle ginger ale
2cups chilled vodka (optional)

Method

Pour the gelatin mix into a large bowl. Slowly stir in the boiling water. Stir at least 2 minutes, until the gelatin is completely dissolved.

Stir in the pineapple juice, the entire 2 liter of soda and the vodka. Let cool to room temperature.



Red Devil

Method

Mix alcohols into an ice-filled cocktail shaker. Add the juice and grenadine, and shake. Serve in a 10-12 oz. glass.

Ingredients

1 1/2ounces vodka
1 1/2ounces peach schnapps
1 1/2ounces Southern Comfort
1 1/2ounces gin
2ounces triple sec
2ounces orange juice
grenadine

Glowing Gecko

Ingredients

1ounce Midori melon liqueur
1/2ounce vodka
1/2ounce rum
1/2ounce Rose's lime juice
1ounce prepared sweet-and-sour mix

Method

Combine ingredients with ice in a shaker. Shake and strain. Serve over ice in a martini glass.



Making cocktail recipes at home can be pretty simple.

While it might seem intimidating, making a great cocktail is 100% accessible.

Scary tasty Cocktails will add infinitely more fun to any evening!

Source: www.rebelsmarket.com/blog/posts/10-creative-halloween-cocktails-for-a-chilling-night-in.html

Source: www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/top-10-halloween-cocktail-recipes

Source: www.food.com/recipe/glowing-gecko-35232

How to use less energy and reduce your bills

The more energy you use, the more it costs. If you can use a little less energy, you'll save a little more on your bills, and using less energy is easier than you might think. Acts as simple as leaving your phone on standby, or overfilling the kettle, could be costing you hundreds of Euros a year. It starts with changing a few energy habits.

Heating

Unless you want to spend all of your time at home under a blanket, you will need to use electricity or gas to heat your home. However, that doesn't mean that you can't control how much it costs to have a cosy home.

Outside of big energy efficiency changes like new windows or insulation, you can save money by changing your habits around heating. The first step is to ensure that heat flows freely around the areas you want to heat, so avoid blocking radiators with furniture or curtains. Once you know the heat is flowing effectively, you need to keep it in the right places. Close doors and curtains and avoid leaving windows open while the heating is on. The longer you can retain heat in your home, the less energy you will need to use on heating.

It's also important to think about waste. Turn off the heating when you don't need it; if the house gets too warm or you're going out. It's easy to set a timer and forget about it but remember that heating an empty house will cost you just as much as heating a full one. Finally, consider turning down the thermostat in your main living area, if you have one. Dropping the temperature by just one degree will make a significant difference to your heating bills but won't make your home any less comfortable.

Lighting

Lighting is the other obvious opportunity for reducing energy costs. While individual lights don't require a huge amount of energy, lighting a home can be a big energy user if not monitored closely.

Little things like leaving lights on in unused rooms start to add up on your electricity bill, but we all do it from time to time. Just cutting that habit will make a difference, but if you really want to reduce your energy usage, consider using lamps and dimmer switches to reduce the amount of energy you use to light each room.

It's also worth investing in **LED light bulbs**, they may cost a little more up front but will use less electricity than a standard bulb and last up to ten times longer.

In the kitchen

Lighting and heating are the obvious energy users but there are plenty of other potential energy savers around the home. For example, you can save money by making sure you fill the washing machine every time you use it. You will reduce the overall number of loads you run and a full load in a washing machine uses less energy than two half loads. It also helps to reduce the temperature of the cycle you use.

The same applies to the dishwasher, and you can make an additional saving by turning it off before the drying cycle and opening the door to allow the dishes to dry naturally. Another common bad habit is leaving the fridge door open while preparing food. For every 10–20 seconds the door is open it takes 45 minutes for the fridge to cool down to its original temperature, so it's important to keep the door closed.

The living room

A lot of the energy we waste in our homes on a daily basis is through appliances that we just aren't using. Appliances on standby can use up to 20% of the energy that they would use when switched on, so turn off all your appliances on standby (yes the TV too) at the switch on the wall. Or just plug them out.

It's also important to unplug your phones, tablets or laptops from their chargers as soon as they have reached 100%. One charger may not make much difference but, when you have multiple chargers and other devices on standby, they can be responsible for up to 10% of your electricity bills.

You don't need to renovate your home or stock up on blankets to save money on your energy bills. Just changing a few habits will mean less energy usage and smaller bills.

Cook efficiently

- A lot of household energy is used in the kitchen and there are many little changes you can make to save money.
- Only heat the water you need If you are making tea for one, just fill the kettle for one cup.
- Use a microwave if you regularly reheat meals, rather than using energy to heat your oven.
- Match your pan size to your burner on the hob and cover your food when it is cooking to keep heat in.
- Steam your vegetables or use less water for boiling.

- Conserve heat: Only pre-heat your oven for the specified time, defrost food before cooking and keep the oven door shut while cooking.
- Use a slow cooker wherever possible; they are energy-efficient and perfect for family meals

Batch cook when using the hob, and especially the oven. Not only will you be able to freeze extra portions (and thus filling your freezer and increasing its efficiency) and save on weekly electricity costs, you'll also have a supply of homemade meals on hand.

Hang your clothes out to dry

The tumble dryer is one of the most expensive appliances in our homes, so use it sparingly.

Dry your clothes outside if possible or on a clothes horse next to a radiator.

Energy-saving gadgets and tools

There are some great energy-saving gadgets and tools to help you cut back even more on your energy bills. Some of the best savings are available with:

- Energy-efficient lightbulbs: they cost a fraction of the cost of traditional lightbulbs to run and could save you up to €22 a year, depending on the power of the bulb.
- Radiator boosters: designed to move the hot air around the room and away from the radiator and the windows, which ensures you have a consistent even room temperature.
- Solar chargers: mean you can charge your phone for free - simply leave the charger by the window during the day and then plug your phone into the solar charger at night.
- Draft excluders: fixed to doors and your letterbox will make a noticeable impact on your heating bills.
- Chimney balloons: can stop heat escaping up into your chimney and the cold descending down into your home.
- Lagging jacket and insulation: add to pipes will keep your water hotter for longer and reduce the amount of time the boiler is on.

Switch your gas & electricity supplier

The best way to reduce your energy costs is to switch to a discounted deal using our free gas and electricity comparison service. Here's an example of the money you could save: **Electricity:** The average user on a typical standard tariff can save up to €378 by switching to the cheapest electricity deal, and those with higher usage stand to save even more.

Gas: The average user on a standard tariff can save up to €252 and even more if you live in a large household.

Source: www.electricireland.ie/news/article/how-to-use-less-energy-and-reduce-your-bills

Source: switcher.ie/gas-electricity/guides/energy-saving-tips/

Extra Tips

- Why not use battery operated table lamps on occasion. They add functionality, beauty, and lighting to a room. They feature creative styles and options, enabling you to choose the design that best complements your main furniture and décor. Also great lamps to have in the event of a power outage which we may have this year.
- Use nightlights, especially in the bathroom. They are cheap to run.
- Thermal lined curtains are another affordable money-saving system.
- Educate your household so everyone recognises the importance of saving energy. Try and turn energy saving into a game for kids to help them to remember to switch things off.

Estimated meter readings

Don't depend on estimated meter readings, submit them yourself and save on your energy bill! Underestimated bills could mean your faced with a nasty surprise that you haven't budgeted for.

The main benefit of cutting back how much energy you use in the home is you will save money on your energy bills, but making your home more energy efficient can also have huge environmental benefits.



Math Crossword

Start	11	-		=	3	+		=	18
End									-
	9	=							
		-							
	14								
		+							
		5							
			-	19	=		+	15	=



Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?

Because he doesn't have any guts.



What has hundreds of ears but can't hear? A cornfield.



Junior



Colour and find the objects



Trick-or-Treat



APPLES	HAUNTED HOUSE	PRINCESS
BAT	JACKOLANTERN	PUMPKIN
BLACK CAT	MASK	SPIDER
BOO	MOON	SPOOKY
CANDY CORN	MUMMY	SUPERHERO
COSTUMES	NIGHT	TRICK OR TREAT
GHOST	OCTOBER	VAMPIRE
GOBLIN	PIRATE	WITCH
HALLOWEEN		

NB: If you wish to complete the Puzzles/Colouring for fun, you can print the single page by going to File -> Print and type in the Junior Page number only. Be sure to avoid printing ALL the pages of the Newsletter unless you intend to do so.

All sourced from Google Free Printable Puzzles

F
u
n





As Autumn draws in on the garden, the days shorten and the garden begins to wind down. October is still a very busy time of the year preparing for spring as well as carrying out a range of general tasks and garden maintenance. What you do now will determine your success in spring.

The following are the main garden jobs for October

Cut back perennials once the foliage has died down and add to compost heap. Lift and divide poor flowering or overcrowded perennial plants. Lift and store tender bulbs, corms and tubers once foliage has died down such as dahlias, tuberous begonias etc. Continue to plant winter and spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, tulips, crocus, etc. in borders or patio containers. As a rule of thumb most bulbs should be planted at approximately three times their own height with a few exceptions. Plant wallflowers, forget-me-not, sweet william, violas, myosotis, cyclamen and other spring bedding plants in borders or patio containers.



Late autumn is a great time to plant shrubs and perennials for plants to "settle in" before the new season. Autumn is the ideal time to plant Clematis

An excellent time to plant fruit trees and a range of soft fruits such as blackcurrants, gooseberries and raspberries. Enrich the soil before planting with a good compost such as 'Erin Excel Multipurpose Compost'. A good time to scarify established lawns and spike the surface with fork or lawn aerator to help drainage. Apply an autumn lawn feed such as 'Evergreen Autumn 2 in 1' which contains moss killer if it has not already been applied.

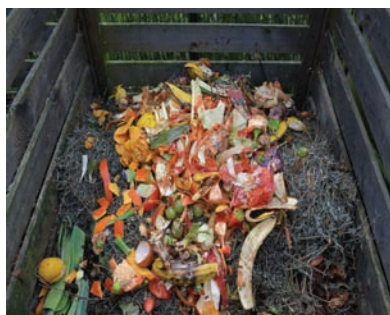


Start putting root vegetables such as carrots and beetroot into storage. Sow broad beans for early crop next year. Prepare soil for next season by adding organic manure at the same time as digging. Do not leave soil exposed too long before covering with black polythene, sheeting or mulch. Now is a good time to clean algae, moss, etc. off driveways and footpaths

Herbs such as Basil, Dill, Chives and Parsley can be sown now for growing on your windowsill throughout the winter. From your armchair take stock of this year's garden and make a few notes or sketches for next spring, a digital camera has become an invaluable garden companion taking snapshots of where herbaceous plants are located before they die back so you don't damage their roots during a winter dig, capturing images of borders you'd like to replicate at home or simply just a memory jog so you remember which areas of the garden look like they need improving. Why not keep a photo diary of your garden with pictures taken each week? Reflect on what grew well, what failed miserably, and what changes you will make next year. You will be surprised at how useful these notes can be when you start ordering seeds and plants for next year!



How to make a simple leaf mould bin If your garden has trees it is worth saving the leaves to make leaf mould which is an excellent mulch for the garden. It is easy to make a pen; just mould chicken wire into a bin with stake in each corner to give structure. Rake up and pile the leaves in and they will rot down over the gardening year ready to spread on borders as mulch following winter/spring. You can tell when it's ready as it will be well rotted, and crumbly.



Easy Halloween Fun Treats for All

Pretzel Treats

Ingredients:

Mini Pretzels, White Chocolate, Coconut Oil or Melted Butter, Candy Eyeballs



Method:

Line a baking tray with parchment paper. Melt white chocolate in a bowl with coconut oil or melted butter. Don't overcook or melt chocolate in the microwave at 20-30 second bursts. Now dip pretzels in melted chocolate, one at a time. Use a fork to dip pretzels. Turn them over to coat both sides and shake off any excess. Shake out chocolate from the bottom hole so that it looks like an spooky open mouth. Place them on the prepared baking sheet. Immediately place candy eyeballs on the top two holes of pretzel. Work quickly as the chocolate becomes hard at room temperature. So, if it does get hardened, then just microwave it for another 10-20 secs.

Witch's Fingers Sugar Shortbread

Ingredients:

1.5 cup All Purpose Flour
1 cup Melted Butter
1/2 tsp Baking Powder
1/2 tsp Vanilla Extract
1 Bag of Red Candies
1/4 cup Castor Sugar
Green Food Colouring
Almonds Flakes (for nails)



Method:

Prepare the Dry ingredients. Add flour, food colouring (as much as you wish), baking powder, and salt in the same bowl. Mix it all lightly. Use your hands to make a soft sugar cookie dough. Grab one ball of the sugar cookie dough and roll it between your palms. Place it on the work surface and lightly roll it to give it about 2-3 inch length. Even out the edges. Use your fingers to make two dents. Grab a butter knife and make the markings. Use a sliced Almond at the tip of the finger. Press it gently so that you get a dent. Remove the almond and fill the dent with the melted red candy. Stick the almond on the finger. Apply some more melted red candy at the base of the finger. Carefully lift up the cookie and place it on your baking dish. Freeze for 15 mins or refrigerate for 30 mins. Bake these Sugar Cookies for 15 mins at 160C or 320F.

Halloween Skeleton Cookies

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups white sugar
1 cup butter, softened
2 eggs
1 1/2 tps vanilla extract
1 1/2 tps almond flavouring
3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt

Icing:

1 cup confectioners' sugar
2 tps milk, add more as needed
2 tps light corn syrup, or more as needed
1/4 tsp vanilla extract
1 (1.5 ounce) tube black decorating gel



Method:

Cream sugar and butter in a bowl. Add eggs, 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract, and almond flavouring and mix well. Stir flour, baking powder, and salt together in a second bowl. Add flour mixture to the creamed butter mixture and mix. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill in the fridge for 3/4 hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F /175 degrees C. Line 2 baking trays with baking paper. Dust work surface with sugar and roll out dough into a 1/4-inch-thick circle. Cut out figure shapes and arrange cut-out cookies on prepared baking sheets. Bake in the preheated oven for 8 to 10 mins. Transfer to wire racks. Cool completely, about 20 mins. Stir 1 cup confectioners' sugar and milk together until smooth. Beat in corn syrup and 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract until icing is smooth and glossy. Add more corn syrup if too thick. Spoon icing into a piping bag with a small plain tip. Draw and fill circle inside the head for the skull and a skeleton on the body, including 3 horizontal lines for the ribs. Let cookies stand until icing dries completely, best overnight. Use black decorating gel to draw eyes, a nose, and a mouth on the skull and let cookies dry again.

Sourced from: magik.com & allrecipes.com





FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

Halloween Movies Special



With the spooky season of Halloween witches, púcaí and goblins nigh, it's time once again to enjoy our favourite scary movies on these dark, chilly Autumnal evenings. To whet your appetite, here are some interesting facts about three all-time classic horror films.

The Exorcist, William Friedkin (1973)



1) The vomit that Linda Blair spewed was actually split-pea soup. Specifically, the special effects crew decided to use Anderson's version of the soup because Campbell's split-pea soup wasn't green enough

2) According to Exorcist writer William Peter Blatty, the shooting of the film was supposed to be about 90 days long. It ended up being shot in about 210 days. Blatty revealed that 'strange and sinister things happened from the very beginning.'

3) William Friedkin's first choice for the role of Chris MacNeil was Audrey Hepburn, but she would only take the role if filming happened in Rome. Anne Bancroft was also considered for the part, but once it was known that she was pregnant, she was ruled out.



4) The Exorcist was the first horror film to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture.

5) To do the scenes in the bedroom when it is so cold you can see the air coming out of the actors' mouths, director Friedkin had the set built in a huge freezer.

6) While rumours of many deaths and strange events surrounding The Exorcist's production were largely sensationalised for publicity purposes, two of the film's actors did in fact die. The Irish actor Jack MacGowran whose character died in the film, also died of influenza shortly after completing his role. Likewise, the character of Mary Karras died in the film, and the actress who portrayed her, Vasiliki Maliaros, also died of natural causes shortly after completion of her role.

7) The scream of the demon being thrown out of Linda Blair was actually created by recording squealing pigs being driven into slaughter.

8) The Exorcist was filmed before the steadicam had been invented, so to show actors going upstairs toward the demonic bedroom, a makeshift seat-swing was designed using pulleys and rope, and guided by crew. The handheld shot was groundbreaking for its time.

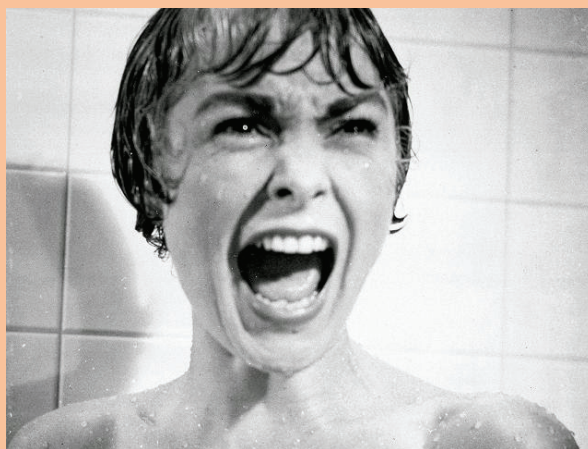
Psycho, Alfred Hitchcock (1960)

1) Although it lasts for only 45 seconds on screen, the sensational stabbing/shower scene in Psycho took seven days to shoot and utilised 70 different camera angles.

2) The blood in the terrifying shower scene in Psycho is actually chocolate syrup.

3) Psycho was the first American movie to show a toilet, and hear one flushing - both viewed as taboo in that Hollywood era of the early 60s.

4) Psycho somewhat stirred controversy when it was released, because it was the first time that a leading actress' - Janet Leigh - character dies during the first third of the film. Before Psycho, the leading character either lived throughout the film or died at the end. It was unheard of to kill off the lead actor/actress so early in a film's running time.



5) Alfred Hitchcock adapted Psycho from a story by author Robert Bloch, who had modelled the character of Norman Bates after American serial killer Ed Gein. Other characters very loosely based on Gein are Buffalo Bill in The Silence of the Lambs (1991) and Thomas Hewitt in The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (1974). The main similarities to Gein that appear in Psycho include the feminine qualities of Norman Bates and the disturbingly strong attachment to a cruel, dominating mother.

6) Alfred Hitchcock didn't want to have the ending of Psycho given away. So after buying the rights to make the movie, he purchased every copy of the book that he could possibly find, so that no one would be able to read it and discover what happens before watching his film. Similarly, during the cinema release of Psycho, nobody was allowed in the cinema after the movie had started because of Janet Leigh's shock demise in the early stages of the film.

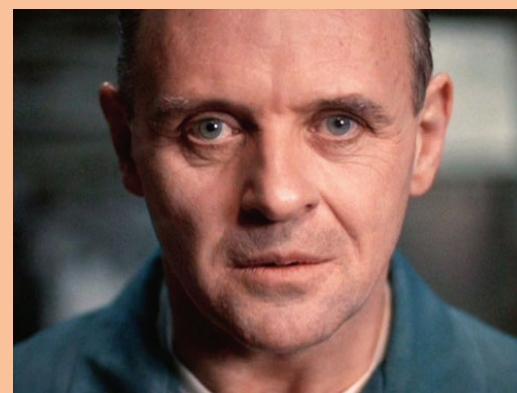


The Silence of the Lambs, Jonathan Demme (1991)

1) In Silence of the Lambs the plan was to dress Anthony Hopkins in a yellow or orange jumpsuit. Hopkins convinced director Jonathan Demme and costume designer Colleen Atwood that Hannibal would seem more clinical and unsettling if he was dressed in pure white. Hopkins has since related in interviews that he got the idea from his fear of dentists.

2) Anthony Hopkins' performance in Psycho is the second shortest (at 24.52 minutes of screen time) to win an Oscar for Best Actor in a Leading Role (behind David Niven turn in Separate Tables (1958) at 23:39 minutes).

3) When studying the character he played, Hopkins noticed similar characteristics in reptiles. Reptiles only blink when they want to, and do it consciously. Therefore, in the movie, the British actor fascinatingly only blinks in special moments and very consciously.



4) Anthony Hopkins described his vocal intonations for Dr. Hannibal Lecter as 'a combination of Truman Capote and Katharine Hepburn.'

5) Although, it feels a lot more on screen, Anthony Hopkins and Jodie Foster only share four scenes throughout during the course of Silence of the Lambs

6) Jodie Foster claims that during the first meeting between Dr. Hannibal Lecter and Clarice Starling, Anthony Hopkins's mocking of her southern accent was improvised on the spot. Foster's horrified reaction was genuine since she felt personally attacked. She later thanked Hopkins for evoking such a visceral response in her.



Answers to Tom Cruise Movie Quiz

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| 1. c) | 8. b) |
| 2. a) | 9. c) |
| 3. d) | 10. a) |
| 4. c) | 11. c) |
| 5. d) | 12. d) |
| 6. c) | 13. d) |
| 7. c) | |



BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE

BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



Live Bands every Saturday & Sunday during the month of July

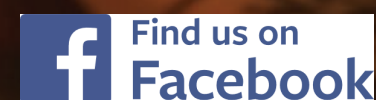
**Live Bands every Saturday & Sunday
during the month of October**

We look forward to seeing you soon.

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**Parties Catered For to book
e-mail: info@clockhouse.ie
Web: www.clockhouse.ie - Tel: 01-5054725**

Great Food Served 7 Days



Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



Local News - November 2022 - Issue No. 518 - Online Version

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The views & opinions expressed in this Publication are those of the contributors.



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

Congratulations to Maynooth Tidy Towns on retaining their Gold Medal status in the 2022 Tidy Towns National Awards competition. A fabulous increase of 10 points on last year's marks. A full report for Maynooth is available on page 6.



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2023 *FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG MAIGH NUAD 2023*

The Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee have been busy over the last few weeks on preparations for the 2023 event. The 2022 event, arranged at extremely short notice, was one of the most successful staged in Maynooth. The Committee will build on that success for 2023 and hope to expand in particular on post parade events for children.

Further details and Entry Forms will be in the December Maynooth Newsletter



Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade 2022





Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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Letters to the Editor

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

Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

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

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

Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter

Editorial

The lack of proper planning for Maynooth has been an issue for decades but this is not just a problem for this town but is one experienced throughout Ireland. The issue is that unlike in most other countries much infrastructure is only delivered when the housing is already in place. There is also little support provided towards building communities and most especially services in these new communities. Services such as childcare and medical care seem to fall outside the remit of those who plan to expand housing stock and in places like Maynooth getting a childcare place or a doctor are examples of the failure by the current planning system to deliver for the community. Maynooth is a very unique place with the presence of Maynooth University which brings additional pressures to the services in the area not to mention the traffic and the inadequate response to parking provision needed to cater for the volume of people needing parking in the town.

Every five years Kildare County Council proposes a new development plan for Maynooth and as we border County Meath in Moyglare area the most recent plans up for approval by both local authorities for Maynooth and environs are open for public consultation. **The deadline for submissions is Friday 11th November 2022 at 4pm.** For more information on how and where to make your submission go on line to <https://consult.maynooth.ie/>

Some residents in Maynooth are living in developments where management companies have been put in place. Owner Management Companies (OMC) require residents to become managers and most likely company directors to oversee the maintenance of the area in the development where they have purchased their home. The Housing Agency is holding an event in Glenroyal Hotel on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 between 7pm and 8.30pm. The event is arranged so that all stakeholders involved in multi-unit developments, principally residents, owners, OMC directors and renters can understand their roles and responsibilities. The event which is free to attend will also look at the challenges faced by OMCs and managed estates as well as the resources that are available to support those involved. For more information <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/outreach-event-for-stakeholders-in-multi-unit-developments-tickets-429073058067?aff=ebdssbcitybrowse>

Since Covid the National Tidy Towns Competition results are now delivered in late October instead of early September. These results were eagerly awaited by the 882 entrants in the 2022 competition of which 750 groups attended the awards ceremony which took place in the RDS in Dublin on October 28th. Maynooth Tidy Towns made a very strong application again this year and were awarded with an increase of ten marks bringing the score this year to 352 marks out of a total available of 550 marks. Trim in County Meath were the overall winners with a score of 366 Marks so it shows that Maynooth scores very well and many of us hope that we could be the national winner sometime soon. Having spent twenty-five years as a Maynooth Tidy Towns committee member and writing our application for the competition I know the hard work that the current committee and volunteers have to do to achieve this result.

I am also conscious that in 2022 we lost Richard Farrell (dec'd) who gave forty years of leadership to Maynooth Tidy Towns and it is people like Richard that built the foundations and the ethos that makes Maynooth Tidy Towns the incredible organisation that it is with such a positive approach to making Maynooth a place where it is nice to live regardless of the competition. The full 2022 report is published in this edition of the Maynooth Newsletter.

Finally, as you start your Christmas shopping please shop local first if you can get what you want.

Paul Croghan - Editor

Copy date for the December edition of the Maynooth Newsletter will be 5pm on Friday 25th November 2022



MAYNOOTH DRESSES

Find us at Unit 3 San Feliu, Fagan's Lane, Maynooth
(Behind EBS Main St)



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1st October 2022 until 31st December 2022

MAYNOOTH AND ENVIRONS JOINT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024 - 2030

PRE-DRAFT PUBLIC CONSULTATION



MAYNOOTH LOCAL AREA PLAN 2024-2030
MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Invites you to a
Town Hall Meeting
Venue
Maynooth Community Space
(Between The Range & The Post Office)

TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 7.30PM

To Discuss
Community Issues & Needs

Topics to discuss include: Housing, Swimming Pool, Community Centre, Traffic Congestion.

Have your say!

Maynooth Community Council is hosting a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 7.30pm in the Maynooth Community Space (between The Range and The Post office) to hear your views on the future of Maynooth. Kildare County Council have opened a public consultation on the pre-draft stage of the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2024-2030 and they need to hear from you. This is your opportunity to see what's planned and have your input included in our submission to KCC.

As a Metropolitan Key Town, Maynooth has been identified as having the capacity and future growth potential to accommodate above average growth in the region. As part of the Strategic Plan, Maynooth has been allocated a population increase of up to 10,000 persons over the period to 2031, provided there is the necessary investment in employment creation, services, amenities and sustainable transport.

Copies of the issues paper and maps of the proposed zoning will be available to view on the night. Full details are available at <https://consult.maynooth.ie>.

Gaelscoil Ruairí Launches Maynooth's First School Lotto

Gaelscoil Ruairí has become the first local school in Maynooth to launch a weekly lotto with the aim of raising funds to expand its science, music and reading resources. The first lotto draw took place on Thursday, 20th October 2022. Tickets now available to buy at <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/gaelscoilruairi/>. The funds raised will also be used to invest in additional resources for the new school building which was granted planning permission at a site on the Moyglare Road in 2021. These resources will include soft surface for the school yard and school iPads to support the school's digital plan.

Lotto details:

Gaelscoil Ruairí's Lotto will take place weekly, at 8pm every Thursday. The Jackpot starts at €250 and increased weekly if not won, up to €2,000. A weekly prize of €20 will also be drawn at random. The lotto, which is being organised by [ourfundraiser.ie](https://www.ourfundraiser.ie) is open to anyone who wishes to take part. Tickets are €2.50 per line or 3 lines for €5. Tickets can be purchased at - <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/gaelscoilruairi/> The winning lotto numbers will be published on <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/gaelscoilruairi/> weekly along with the winners details.

School Principal Póla Ní Chinnsealaigh said - *"I was delighted when our Coiste na dTuismitheoirí suggested we sign up for this weekly lottery. Weekly lotteries are a great way of raising much needed funds in schools and I hope everyone can get behind it to help promote it amongst our families, friends and the local community. Our target is to raise money to use, along with funding from the Department of Education, to deliver a well-rounded educational experience for the pupils at Gaelscoil Ruairí. The money raised will further enhance what we already have and ensure we can realise our vision for the new school building once it is built, proving a positive environment for the children and teachers."*



Gaelscoil Ruairí students pictured launching the lotto are Principal Póla Ní Chinnsealaigh (left) and Member of Gaelscoil Ruairí Board of Management, Laoise Uí Dhonnaghaile with students (l-r) Isa Ó Donnghaile, Fionn Mac Maonagail, Saoirse Nic Mhaonagail, Fiadh Nic An Bháird, Oran Ó Murchú.



Gold Medal Winners
 2016
 2017
 2018
 2019
 2021


On the 28th October four of the Maynooth Tidy Towns Committee will make our way to the RDS Dublin for the annual Tidy Towns prize-giving ceremony. We know we have won a prize otherwise we would not have received an invitation. We hope and pray it's the same colour as the previous 6 years, Gold. We do not receive our medal on the day, it will be presented to us at another ceremony later in the year. This event will be organised by the County Council of the regional winner in this region, hopefully Kildare.

Our Mural at the car park in the train station is progressing nicely and should be completed this month. Thanks to Antoon Knapp for all his hard work and diligence.

Lots of work was completed during the month of October—cutting back trees, not butchering them, on the Meadowbrook interchange. We cleared Landys Field opposite Castle and the area opposite the Glenroyal on the Straffan Road. We only cut back once a year in October it's better for biodiversity in that area. We have our own Strimmer but we hired a cutting machine. The information board at Carton Avenue was upgraded and cleaned. Lots of litter picking and scuffling in all areas was carried out.

Stepping Stones Special School contacted us last month, we had a meeting with Sandra to set the wheels in motion. She gave us a tour of their wonderful facility on the Moyglare Road. She explained that they would like their senior students to get involved with the community. We suggested litter picking and supplied them with vests, pickers, bags and gloves. They have already made a start by litter picking in their own premises. We wish them well, every little thing helps. We have ordered thousands of bulbs and will be planting them over the next couple of weeks.

Thanks to the ladies in the ICA who organised refreshments for us after our clean up on October 22nd.

We also have our  Christmas Tree ordered and we will let you know when we will be erecting it in Courthouse Square, probably sometime in December.

We hope to have solar lights this year in order to protect the national grid and blackouts in the town.

Please Follow/Like our page on Facebook

If you would like to volunteer please join us on any Saturday morning in Courthouse Square at 9am, just show up all equipment supplied or contact us on WhatsApp via our Facebook page.

Mary Molloy - PRO Maynooth Tidy Towns Association



Tidy Towns Competition 2022

Adjudication Report

Centre: Maynooth - Maigh Nuad Ref: 377

County: Kildare Mark: 352

Category: G Date(s): 13/06/2022

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2021	Mark Awarded 2022
Community – Your Planning and Involvement	80	55	57
Streetscape & Public Places	80	44	45
Green Spaces and Landscaping	80	51	52
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality	55	38	40
Sustainability – Doing more with less	55	24	25
Tidiness and Litter Control	90	57	58
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	35	36
Approach Roads, Streets & Lane	55	38	39
Total Mark	550	342	352

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht: Fáilte chuig Comórtas Na mBailte Slachtmhara Super Valú don bhliain 2022. Táimid buíoch daoibh as ucht nahiontrála a chur chugainn, agus guimíd gach rath ar bhúr gcuid oibre amach anseo. You have a large group of volunteers who are very active. They attend conferences and training throughout the year, and travel any distance, to help better understand this competition. It has changed and evolved a lot over the years as national policy has changed. You work closely with relevant bodies and community groups. Maynooth University’s Green Forum, and the Green Campus work closely with Maynooth TidyTowns and should be congratulated. Your entry included your group’s aims for the next five years. Perhaps you could organize some surveys, or erect a suggestion box, to garner ideas from the students, residents, and businesses, to help direct your work also? We particularly liked your quote ‘Small changes executed by each of us can improve the place we live in and our quality of life’. This is an ideal mantra for this competition.

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí: We were excited to read in your 2022 entry form of your advanced plans to develop a heritage trail in Maynooth. It was your adjudicator’s first time visiting and we were excited to see many of the famous buildings such as Saint Patrick’s College and the entrance to Carton House. It is important to collect information from suitable sources, so we welcomed reading that you are working closely with the Heritage Officer of Kildare County Council and your local Heritage Group. With a surprisingly compact centre to Maynooth, it would be quite easy for visitors to negotiate a trail. Well done on testing your draft trail on students at the University.

We applaud your work to advance aesthetically pleasing shopfronts. Most premises looked well. The Town Library was freshly painted and looked very well. The ‘Avenue Restaurant’ caught the eye as it was nicely painted, but it was felt that the scale of advertising hoarding on the gable end of the building was not suitable for its strategic location. Interior shutters allow for window shopping even when premises are closed. This was noted in the windows at NCS Auto Parts, for example. The large, original windows and floor tiles at the entrance of this shop were admired. Maynooth Bookshop also has lovely window displays, and pleasant signage. But we were also not sure about neon lights on some traditional buildings. Several different groups all helped to enhance the ICA hall. Elsewhere the new educational buildings, including Gaelscoil Raurí, were admired. The planting schemes at the school entrances were lovely.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú: There are not many villages in Ireland with such a lovely presentation of mature trees as found in Maynooth. Well done on maintaining them and pruning the growth from the basis of the lime trees. Planters have been carefully positioned to make a strong impact – such as the three-tiered planter at the top of Main Street, at the entrance to Carton House. It was lovely to see the ‘managed for wildlife’ signs, and bee-friendly mowing in the estate here. Congratulations to Maynooth University – driving around the campus it was a pleasure to see how you are managing your grounds with wildlife in mind also. We also liked the landscaping in the car park at St Patrick’s which helped soften this area.

The OPW is also a partner for the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, so it was disheartening to read that they mowed their grounds very early in the season. Maybe this was one over enthusiastic, new staff member? The simple act of allowing dandelions to grow in e.g. April, allows much-needed food for pollinators, many of which are just emerging from hibernation. The long roots are good at aerating lawns also. Perhaps you can run a campaign to persuade all landowners, including homeowners, hotels, government bodies and schools to make Maynooth Ireland’s Pollinator haven and all pledge not to cut dandelions until May?

The volunteers of Maynooth Tidy Towns have worked regularly to pick up litter remove graffiti, power wash street furniture, and hand-pick weeds as necessary. are striving not to use weedkiller. However, you are struggling with weed management at Courthouse square. Perhaps the County Council may be persuaded to manage weeds here using a handheld weed-burner for example? Or perhaps you could apply for a grant so one could be used by scheme workers? We loved to see where flowers have been allowed to flourish on walls – such as the ivy-leaved toadflax. Another big piece of work completed last summer was removal of the broken and dangerous timber fencing at the Meadowbrook Interchange – again well done on this hard work.

Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality / An Dúlra agus an Bhithéagsúlacht i do cheantar: Well done on your extensive work over the last 12 months for this category of the competition. You are rounded applauded for completing your five-year Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021. The works at the Joan Slade Enhancement Project was one of the last key projects to be completed and tremendous effort was put into exposing the traditional stone walls here. During National Tree week another 50 trees were planted in Greenfield estate as part of a plan to rejuvenate an area that has had problems with dumping. Ten of you also took part in a citizen science project researching and recording insect populations. Why does this matter? It is estimated that pollinators provide a service worth nearly €900 million to the Irish economy. The actions of these ten volunteers and providing their findings to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (www.BiodiversityIreland.ie) is important to help monitor these declining species. You are now drafting your second long-term Biodiversity Action Plan. This time you have a lot of different pressures. The town is attracting many new developments –homes, supermarkets, and installation of fibre optic cabling. This has disrupted some of your previous work but comes with opportunities. Thanks to the quick thinking of your volunteer Sean Lyons, 40 trees were saved and relocated. They had been planted five years previously but were being removed to make way for a footpath & cycleway. The builder helped the volunteers and residents replant them in Meadowbrook estate.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán: This category of the competition is about reducing your environmental impact and taking action to be more sustainable. You have rainwater collection tanks at both the Parish and the Larine Centres. You are considering where you can locate some more - ideally near raised beds or planters, as they will need more watering than traditional flower beds. There were some stretches of cycle lanes, and we observed limited cycling facilities. We would recommend more cycle parking at sports facilities, for example. Have you any cycling facilities near the Greenway such as bike parking or permanently installed bike pumps? You are also looking at ways in which you can reduce the electricity use through the ‘Maynooth Unplugged’ initiative of Maynooth University. Electric Ireland estimates that some appliances can use 20% of their electricity whilst in stand-by mode – so let’s pull the plug on this! You are very good at salvaging and reusing equipment. At Parsons Court the new flowerbeds consisted of ‘recycled’ stone, soil and even plants! This was one of many examples provided where you have recommissioned items elsewhere. Finally, we applaud your close links with construction companies building Maynooth. You have encouraged them to adopt greener ideas, such as repurposing felled trees for public seating.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair: Thanks to all your hard-working litter pickers. Last Summer 35 Kilos alone of cans and bottles were picked up! A transient student population has many positive impacts, and some negative, on any small community. It is good that you are working closely with the University and the Council and the Student’s Union to develop a Litter Management Plan. As mentioned in your entry, cigarette butts were also noted as an issue on adjudication day. Does your litter plan target specific actions for these? You raised awareness of the issue of dog fouling by running a poster competition with school children. Well done. You have many regular volunteers picking up litter on discrete areas and you hope to expand on this as the number of residential homes increases. Your volunteers help the hard-working scheme personnel with litter picking during the weekend patrols around the Greenway. The new litter bins were admired on the Main Street. Christmas lights were in situ in the Summer and the permanent erection of these on buildings is not attractive and should not be encouraged. Driving into Maynooth along the Naas Road, on the LHS there was a large frame that would have held up large advertising hoarding. As there is nothing there now, can this be removed now please?

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta: With many new residential estates being developed in Maynooth it's important to link with them where possible. There are other ways to involve new residents. Men’s shed could provide kits of pre-cut bird houses for specific events. Families could then assemble their own bird boxes that could be erected in public green areas. Keep being creative! We applaud your efforts to target those estates were there are quite high population of student residents. You are supporting Resident Associations and helping their reactivation where necessary. You could replicate the works at Larine Centre with helping groups make their own herb gardens? You could also encourage them to follow your example to scuffle at the base of walls to remove weeds, as opposed to using weed killer. We visited Castle Dawson to appreciate the new raised beds. We also applaud the tremendous efforts of your volunteers at the garden of Saint John of God Residential Centre. Nearby Newtown Inn was busy, and the trees here provided nice shade.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí: Last autumn, over three weekends, up to 35 Maynooth TidyTowns volunteers helped rebuild floral beds and assisted with the delivery of topsoil by Aiden Burke to greatly enhance the Celbridge Road Junction with Straffan Road. Thank you for providing the ‘before and after’ pictures here that helped demonstrate the extent of work involved. With many new homes being built, you are recommended to apply for funding for a permeability survey of all the residential areas across Maynooth. This should identify better places and easier access to promote cycling, walking, electric scooters (there were lots) and the use of public transport. Side lanes off Main Street were nicely maintained such as School Lane. The HSE Day Centre had a nice garden, and No 144 Dunboyne Road caught the eye too. The opening of the Greenway last year has proved extremely popular. You are now considering how travellers can be enticed into the village from this new arrival point. It would be important to keep it natural, and easily maintained. You are also planning to enhance the overpass with Irish Rail. You are recommended to view the landscaping at Kill around their footbridge over the motorway. You can get some great ideas from this village, and from the free planting guidance available at www.pollinators.ie

Concluding Remarks: As a first visit your adjudicator was impressed by the many heritage structures of Maynooth. Biodiversity and Sustainability projects feature strongly in your submission. Your entry form also stood out for the number of impressive projects that your volunteers have tackled over the last 12 months. You obviously have an abundance of energy. Well done on your great work and your submission and your participation in this competition for over 50 years.

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



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Stay safe everyone.





Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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Cllr Feeney contacts the NTA about the 139 Bus Service

On foot of many requests from residents in North Kildare, Cllr Feeney contacted the National Transport Authority and JJ Kavanagh, calling for a review of the current 139 bus service. Cllr Feeney stated that while it is great to see the uptake on this route, many people are left standing at the bus stop due to the service being oversubscribed. In an effort to positively engage with a solution, Cllr Feeney suggested an increase in the frequency of buses into and from Maynooth, Monday to Friday, because the young people travelling to Maynooth University need this service urgently. She also suggested that the NTA re-examine the time table to see if, now that there is full return to college and work post-Covid restrictions, that the actual bus timetable meets the needs of commuters. Finally, Cllr Feeney suggested a double decker bus might be considered to meet customer demand for service in order to ensure that passengers are carried more safely on the 139 bus.

On October 24th the NTA provided the following reply to Cllr Feeney:

“Dear Councillor Feeney,
I refer to your enquiry in respect of the 139 service operated by J J Kavanagh.
From the 19th of October, the following additional capacity will be provided on the route for the remainder of the term:
Retention of the 2 supplementary services currently operating during college term:
· 07:00 Naas to Blanchardstown
· 17:00 Blanchardstown to Naas is supplemented by an additional capacity bus from Maynooth to Naas, departing Maynooth at 17:45
Provision of the following additional supplementary buses on the following trips during college term:
· 07:00 Blanchardstown to Naas
· 09:00 Naas to Maynooth
· 15:00 Blanchardstown to Naas is supplemented by an additional capacity bus from Maynooth to Naas, departing Maynooth at 15:45

The Authority will keep this under review and any extension of the supplementary services beyond this term will be subject to funding availability”.

Cllr Feeney will continue to actively engage with the NTA and providers on these issues for commuters in North Kildare.

Footpaths Repairs

Cllr Feeney asked for an update on planned footpath repairs in the municipal district and if the Council could confirm if older estates in the town such as Railpark and Greenfield Drive and others in need of repairs will be included. The Council said that the Municipal District Office is currently examining locations and identifying a list of works to repair minor footpath falls and disrepairs throughout the Municipal District and that Railpark and Greenfield Drive estates are included on this list.

Yellow Box needed at Hayfield Estate

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to install a yellow box at Hayfield Estate as many residents have great difficulties accessing the line of traffic on the very busy Meadowbrook Link Road in order to enter the Straffan Road. Cllr Feeney added that with traffic being so heavy in the town, we need to come up with any measures possible to make sure people can go about their business. The Council confirmed in its response that it will assess this request from Cllr Feeney.

Update on Electronic Speed Sign on Pikes Bridge Road

Cllr Feeney asked for an update on her earlier request to install an electronic speed sign on the Pike's Bridge Road.

She stressed how busy this road has become as many drivers use this road to avoid the congested centre of the town. Cllr Feeney said that she continues to support the local residents and local Gardai and residents on highlighting and addressing the speeding issues. The Council said it is in the process of collecting speed count data and that once analysed, any additional measures deemed necessary will be reviewed. Cllr Feeney asked for the area engineer to follow up and provide her with a timeframe for this important safety issue.

Columbarium Wall in Straffan Cemetery

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to install a columbarium wall at Straffan cemetery. The Council said that the current programme for construction of columbarium walls in a number of cemeteries in the county is currently at design stage and will likely be delivered in 2023 as part of the capital programme. The Council said that consideration can be given to the inclusion of Straffan as part of the next programme and Cllr Feeney welcomed this.

Have your Say on Maynooth Local Area Plan

The Maynooth Local Area Plan 2024-2029 Pre-draft Issues Paper is available to view online <https://consult.maynooth.ie/> and at Maynooth public library and at Council offices.

Cllr Feeney is encouraging Maynooth residents to view the plan and to make submission online at <https://consult.maynooth.ie/>; or in writing to: Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department, Áras Chill Dara, Naas, Co. Kildare,

Closing Date for Submissions is Friday November 11th

M4 Bus Priority Pilot

Kildare County Council has launched plans for M4 Bus Priority Measures Pilot. M4 Eastbound pilot will be the first hard shoulder bus priority on a motorway in Ireland 14th October 2022. The Public Consultation as part of the Part 8 Planning Application, for the first Bus Priority pilot to be trialled in Ireland. The project will see the introduction of hard shoulder bus priority measures on the M4 Eastbound between Junction 7 Maynooth and Junction 5 Leixlip, representing a significant step towards sustainable transport in Ireland.

The project will run from Junction 7 Maynooth through Junction 6 Celbridge finishing at Junction 5 Leixlip and include emergency refuge areas and noise mitigation measures. The development is expected to reduce bus journey times and traffic, increase bus passenger numbers and the reliability of bus services as well as reduce the volume of cars on the road. The Bus Priority Pilot project is a collaboration between Kildare County Council, the Department of Transport, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the National Transport Authority and South Dublin County Council as part of the delivery of the overarching National Development Plan 2021 – 2030. Delivery of the development will be managed by Kildare NRO and Engineering Consultants, ARUP. A public consultation has been launched as part of the Part 8 planning application for the project, providing an opportunity for input and feedback on plans for the development. Closing date for submissions is 25th November. You can access the consultation portal here - <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/.../part-8-proposed-m4-bus...>
For more information about the project, check out this video – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxF0jn6rabs>

Upcoming Motions and Questions at November Council MD

Cllr Feeney has submitted the following motions and questions for the November Council MD.

Motions

1. That the Council reinstates the yellow box at the end of Pound Street onto Mill Street Maynooth.

2. That the Council engages with stakeholders in Maynooth to create further permeability on to the Canal Greenway.

Questions

1. Can the Council update members on any planned community bike parking for residents in the MD particularly for those in terraced housing with limited or no space for this purpose?
2. Can the Council provide an update on what measures are being made to improve safety on the Boreen Road in Straffan?

If you have any issue you would like raised as a motion or question, please email Cllr Feeney at afeeney@kildarecoco.ie.

Cllr Feeney participates on panel at ‘Women for Election’ event

Cllr Feeney participated in the Women for Election ‘Supporting More Women for Local Election in Offaly’ launch event in Tullamore on October 18th. Angela was part of a panel discussion entitled ‘Inspiring and equipping More Women into Local Politics’ along with Cllr. Yemi Adenuga, and Cllr. Clare Claffey. Minister Pippa Hackett, Fianna Fáil Diversity Officer, Marguerite O’Loughlin and Minister Peter Burke were also panelists on the theme of ‘Paving the way for More Women in Local Politics.’

‘Supporting More Women for Local Election in Offaly’ is a comprehensive training and awareness programme that will aim to engage, encourage and inspire women and women of diversity from all across the county to consider getting involved in politics. Offaly ranks as the lowest County in Ireland for female representation at Local Government level, with just one female Councillor out of 19. In the 2019 Local Elections, only 8 women ran out of a total of 36 candidates across the three Local Electoral areas in Offaly, that’s just 22% of candidates.

The Programme for Government 2020 sets out to change this so that the council chamber truly reflects the diversity of the county. The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government has funded a programme supporting women for Local Election in Offaly. The programme will be delivered by Women for Election on behalf of Offaly County Council, and includes a variety of training programmes across October and November.

The launch had a full attendance and brought together community groups, public representatives, members of the PPN, LCDC and Offaly County Council to formally launch the campaign. Minister of State in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Peter Burke launched the campaign at the event in Tullamore and the video for the campaign was screened at the event.

Recent Meetings attended by Cllr Feeney:

September 1st Strategic Policy Committee at Áras Chill Dara at 2:00 pm
September 2nd Council MD at Áras Chill Dara at 10:00 am
September 12th Briefing on County Development Plan Áras Chill Dara at 10:00 am
September 26th Council Plenary Meeting Áras Chill Dara at 3:00 pm
September 30th Budget Briefing for MD (online)
October 4th Maynooth Local Area Plan briefing at 2:00 pm (online)
October 7th Council MD in Áras Chill Dara at 10:00 am
October 12th Maynooth Local Area Plan Drop in event at Glenroyal Hotel
October 19th Comhairle na nÓg event with second level students at Westgrove Hotel Clane
October 21st Presentation on Maynooth Social Housing Development at 9:00 am (online)
October 21st Presentation on Budget for the MD at 10:00 am (online)

November Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



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twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Children's Events

Slime Making Workshop with Noeleen Bontempi

Date: Wednesday 2nd November

Time: 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Age: 6- 10 year olds

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

Why not keep in the Halloween spirit this mid term- break with this slime making workshop for 6- 10 year old given by Noeleen Bontempi where children will make three types of slime normal, fluffy and glow in the dark! All children under the age of 8 attending the workshop must have a parent/guardian remain in the library building during the workshop.

Booking here: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/784543>.

Secret Saturday Cinema

Date: Saturday 5th November

Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

Come to our animated children's film screening this Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm! Every film will be a surprise on the day, but all will be family friendly. Booking required, all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Book here! <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/785312>

Bilingual English- Irish Juggling workshop

Date: Saturday 19th November

Time: 3.00 - 4.30pm

Age: 7+ years

Circus Skills Workshop – Ceardlann dhá-theangach

by Stephen McGinley of www.juggle.ie

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

The workshop is open to all, and will be led through Irish and English language. Circus Skills workshops are inclusive and fun. Try Feather balancing, Platespinning, flowersticks and more fun activities. The skills taught are selected to be fun and achievable. Each participant gets to try several fun props and learn new skills. Each workshop also includes a high skill juggling demonstration. All children under the age of 8 attending this workshop must have a parent/guardian remain in the library building during the workshop.

Tá an ceardlann oscailte do chách, agus beidh sí á stiúradh trí Ghaeilge agus trí Bhéarla. Bíonn ceardlanna Scileanna Sorcais spráúil agus oiriúnach do chách. Bain triail as cothromú Cleite, Plátaí, Flowersticks agus lámhcleasaíocht. Roghnaítear na scileanna le bheith spráúil agus indéanta.

Tá taispeántas lámhcleasaíocht i ngach ceardlann. Caithfear tuismitheoir /caomhnóir páiste fun bhun 8 mbliana d'aois atá ag freastal ar an gceardlann fanacht sa bhfoirgneamh leabharlainne le linn na ceardlainne.

Book here : <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/784598>.

Dinovember at the Library !

Wednesday 30th November

3.00 - 4.00pm

Age- 6- 10 years

Dinosaurs are taking over the library in November! Join Maynooth Community Library for an afternoon of fun dinosaur activities. Try your hand at excavating dinosaur fossils, arts and craft, and much more. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the event. Limited Places Available.

Book now ! <https://app.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/786747>

Adult Events

Breast-feeding support group with Public Health Nurse

Date: Tuesday 8th November

Time: 9.15 am - 10.45 am

Venue: 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.**

ADAPT Citizen's Think In

Date: Tuesday 8th of November

Time: 6-8pm

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

ADAPT's Think-Ins are public forums where people come together to discuss some of the ethical issues we face in the digital age. At a Think-In, you will have the opportunity to interact with researchers at the cutting-edge of Artificial Intelligence research and development. You don't need to have any previous knowledge of AI – we will provide all of the information you need. ADAPT's #DiscussAI Think-Ins are part of ADAPT's

interactive and collaborative programme of public events about Artificial Intelligence and how this ground-breaking technology impacts all of our lives and society.

Book here: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/772798>.

Fall for Poetry: An evening of sharing poetry [online event]

Thursday 17 November

6.30pm- 7.30pm - Online

Join us for an evening of autumn themed poetry readings, hosted by Maynooth and Ballitore Libraries. Some of you may wish to read a poem aloud, or you might like to just listen while we enjoy the colourful palette of your favourite poems. All welcome.

Book now: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/781090>

Breast-feeding support group with Public Health Nurse

Date: Tuesday 22nd November

Time: 09.15 am – 10.45am

Venue: 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 22nd November

Healthy Ireland Programme : Nutritional requirements of Children with ASD

7.00 pm - 7.50pm

Online Talk via MS Teams

"Many children with ASD have selective eating that goes beyond typical 'fussy eating' behaviour and is a cause for major concern for many parents. Trying to ensure a child meets their nutritional requirements along with all the other needs of the child with ASD can sometimes become overwhelming.

Join Blaithin O'Neill pediatric dietitian working at Nutrivive, on how to overcome these feeding challenges and helpful tips to make your child's diet more varied and nutritionally balanced".

This is an online talk. The MS Teams link will be sent to the people who have booked in for the talk in advance. **Book here :** <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/785255>.

Meditation class with Cliona Sharkey

7-8pm

Thursday 24th November

Maynooth Community Library

Meditation is a practice that trains our awareness and attention to achieve greater mental clarity, stability and calm. Mindfulness and meditation are increasingly popular as research and awareness grows about their many health and wellbeing benefits. Practiced regularly, the cumulative effects can be significant. Come and try it for yourself at a Meditation class on 24th November. Suitable for all, no experience necessary. **Booking here :** <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/785316>.

Monday 28th November

10.00am- 11.00 am

Maynooth Community Library

Book here: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/785400>

Age Friendly Exercise Session & Health Talk for Older People

Siel Bleu Ireland is a charity social enterprise which aims to provide access to exercise for everyone. We work with a variety of health conditions and age groups all around Ireland. This event in collaboration with the Kildare Libraries will include a sample exercise session as well as a talk on how to build exercise into your routine. We will talk about the benefits of exercise as well as showing you how to implement it. This session will be led by one of Siel Bleu expert trainers and will finish with a Tea/Coffee/Chat for our well-being.

Book here : <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/785400>.

Clothing: Wear comfortable clothes and runners

Note: if participants have any condition that may affect them exercising, please let the instructor know at the start of the session

Exhibitions

HSE/ EVE Larine Art Exhibition

Maynooth Community Library

7th – 14th November

Title: A Love of Nature

This art exhibition demonstrates the amazing talent of a group of individuals attending HSE/EVE Larine in Maynooth. The theme of the exhibition highlights how nature contributes to positive mental health and well being. We hope you enjoy this exhibition as much as we enjoyed painting each piece

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Library Groups & Regular groups

Baby and Toddler Stay & Play Group

Every Thursday 10:00-11:00am

Maynooth Community Library

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 every Thursday morning 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 Creative Writers' Group

Thursday 10th November

Age: 12-15 years

Time: 6pm - 7pm

Location: 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.

German 'Stammtisch', informal conversation meet-up for adults

Thursday 24th November

6.30pm-7.30pm

Venue: Maynooth Community Library

Do you want to practice your German? Maynooth Library hosts a monthly informal German conversation meet-up, for anyone with an interest in the language and culture in German-speaking countries. All levels from learners to native speakers are welcome. Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of every month. For more information please contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980493

Craft & Knitting Club

Every Monday

11.30am – 13.00

Maynooth Community Library

Bring along your various crafts to inspire and to be inspired. Different craft demonstrations will take place during the year.

Beginners Sewing Machine Classes (Adults only)

Tuesday Evenings

18.30 – 19.55

Maynooth Community Library

Must have your own sewing machine.

If you have an unused, unloved sewing machine then this is for you. Learn to thread,

adjust tension, change needles, use different stitches and make some very simple projects to get you started. If interested, please contact Maynooth Library on 045 980 483 to add your name to our waiting list.

The classes will take place over a period of three weeks.

When the list has been completed and if people are interested we will start a sewing club.

Maynooth Zero Waste

Saturday 12th November

2pm - 4pm

Save waste and money! **Drop in, no booking required.**

Book Clubs

U3A (University of the Third Age) Book Club

Monday 14th November

10.30am – 11.30am

Maynooth Community Library

The U3A (University of the Third Age) Book Club meets on the second Monday of each month.

Wednesday Morning Book Club

Wednesday 16th November

11.00 – 12.00pm

Maynooth Community Library

The Wednesday Morning Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month.

Book Busters Children's Book Club

Friday 25th November

3:45pm-4:30pm

Maynooth Community Library

The Book Busters Children's Book Club continues in person in Maynooth Library! If your child aged 8-12 would like to take part, please email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie for further details

YA Bookclub

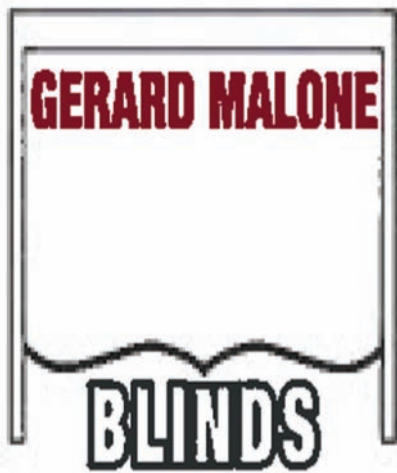
Friday 25th November

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.



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MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

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

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

Public Meeting on Bus Connect

Venue: Springfield Hotel

Date: Monday 28th November 2022

Time: 8.00pm

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WELCOME ADDITIONAL 139 SERVICES

Having written to the National Transport Authority requesting additional bus services on the 139 route, the Kildare Social Democrats team of Catherine Murphy T.D. Cllrs Aidan Farrelly, Nuala Killeen and Bill Clear have received confirmation that additional services have been sanctioned by the Authority.

In response to the request by the Social Democrats, the following additional services on the route for the remainder of term:

Retention of the 2 supplementary services currently operating during college term:

07:00 Naas to Blanchardstown

17:00 Blanchardstown to Naas is supplemented by an additional capacity bus from Maynooth to Naas, departing Maynooth at 17:45

Provision of the following additional supplementary buses on the following trips during college term:

07:00 Blanchardstown to Naas

09:00 Naas to Maynooth

15:00 Blanchardstown to Naas is supplemented by an additional capacity bus from Maynooth to Naas, departing Maynooth at 15:45

As a group, we decided to write directly to the NTA because we were hearing from dozens of people every day during September and October that were being left behind. It was yet another example of a failing public transport service in Kildare.” Said Cllr Aidan Farrelly.

“While I welcome the response from the NTA of additional services, I note that the first of these additional services leaves Blanchardstown at 07.00am, where I would argue this service is not at capacity travelling to Naas, but instead travelling from Naas serving Maynooth University,” said Cllr Aidan Farrelly.

“The additional supplementary buses will be of exceptional value. We need our public transport services to be consistent, reliable and affordable. Students and staff of Maynooth University were being left stranded at bus stops, missing class and other important meetings. For those who had the option, they would jump in a car. But for most, they missed much of the day,” Farrelly continued.

Cllr Nuala Killeen welcomes the additional services and urges the NTA to keep the services catering to peak time customers and school services under review. The 139 is a popular service that travels to where people want to go so it is understandable that additional resources are no required. I am hopeful that the NTA will continue to assess the unmet need of other services that leave people behind”

“I’m delighted that students will not be left on the roadside along the route on their way to Maynooth University. Hopefully we will see a big improvement in this service.” Said Cllr Bill Clear.

Cllr Aidan Farrelly is hosting a public meeting on bus services in Kildare in the Westgrove Hotel in Clane at 7.30pm on November 7th. Everyone is welcome to come along and share their issues and experiences. Cllr Farrelly will be compiling a report of these experiences and sharing with the NTA along with various service providers.

Education Minister Must Explain Change in ‘Assessment of Need’ Process for Children With Disabilities

Principals and special education teachers are not qualified to diagnose disabilities or specific learning disabilities

The Minister for Education must confirm whether legal responsibility for assessing the educational needs, of children with additional needs, is being transferred to school principals, according to Social Democrats Co-Leader Catherine Murphy TD.

Schools received an “information note” from the National Council of Special Education (NCSE), outlining a new process for determining children’s educational needs as part of the assessment of needs process.

“The National Council of Special Education has told schools that, following a High Court case in 2021, it “now has the responsibility to nominate an appropriate person to carry out an assessment of education needs on behalf of the HSE under the assessment of need process”. According to the NCSE, school principals and special education teachers will now be nominated, by it, to complete these assessments.

“This is hugely concerning for a number of reasons. Most obviously, principals and special education teachers are not qualified to diagnose disabilities or specific learning disabilities. If principals and teachers are responsible for conducting these assessments, are psychologists or speech and language therapists going to play any role?

“It is also important to note that the NSCE failed to consult with schools in advance of announcing this fundamental change to the assessment of need process. The instructions they have now circulated suggest the NCSE is trying to divest itself its legal responsibilities to children with disabilities.

“We all know that the assessment of need process is under huge pressure with more than 2,500 children on a waiting list for assessment. However, the answer to these endemic problems is not to try to take shortcuts or foist the legal responsibility for these assessments onto already overburdened principals and teachers.

“The least that children deserve is timely assessments undertaken by appropriate professionals. When is the government going to live up to the commitments in the Disability Act and provide these important interventions on time?”

Overdue reform of licencing laws vital for night-time economy

Comprehensive transport plan also needed to ensure success of extended nightclub hours

The long overdue reform of licencing laws will help protect livelihoods and provide a welcome boost for the night-time economy, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. She said: “Businesses dependent on late-night trade have struggled to recover from almost two years of enforced closure, with many pubs and nightclubs in a battle for their very survival since Covid restrictions ended.

“There has been a significant drop in the number of nightclubs over the past two decades. It has been reported there are now just 100 nightclubs and 200 late bars operating in Ireland. Contrast this with the year 2000, when there were 100 nightclubs in Dublin alone, and an additional 422 outside the capital.

“The modernisation of our antiquated licencing laws, which are 200-years-old, will allow nightclubs to stay open until 6am, bringing Ireland in line with norms in other European countries. This will be an additional selling point for our towns and cities in attracting international tourists and providing revellers with greater choice when it comes to socialising. “The proposed extension of pub opening hours to 12.30am every night may also help prevent the closure of many struggling family businesses around the country. “A vibrant night-time economy is vital if we are to sustain jobs and protect Ireland’s reputation as a tourism destination.

“However, the Government also needs to come up with a comprehensive plan to improve late-night transport in tandem with new closing times. In Dublin, for instance,

this could include the extension of bus, DART and Luas services to reflect the changes. As things stand, it is difficult to get a taxi. If people can’t get home after a night out, it creates a sense that the area is unsafe.”

Government must reintroduce mobility supports for disabled people

The independence, mental health and employment prospects of disabled people is being limited, and in some cases completely erased.

Almost 10 years after the closure of two vital mobility schemes, the State is continuing to fail disabled people, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. “In 2013, the Government discontinued the Mobility Allowance and the Motorised Transport Grant after the then Ombudsman found the schemes to be in breach of the Equal Status Act. This was because those over the age of 65 were not entitled to apply for either payment. “However, rather than simply widen eligibility criteria, the Government axed both payments. Disabled people and their families have now been waiting almost 10 years for replacement schemes.

“The Government has also created a deeply unfair situation whereby those who were already in receipt of the supports continue to receive them, but others in exactly the same position cannot access these or alternative schemes.

“The Government’s own Cost of Disability Report found that it costs between €9,500 and €11,700 more every year to live with a disability in Ireland. Mobility, transport and communications represent almost one-quarter of this extra expense. People who are blind or have a serious vision impairment have to pay €737 extra; for individuals with mobility difficulties it is €500; and for chronic illnesses it is between €600 and €735.

“The independence, mental health and employment prospects of disabled people is being limited, and in some cases completely erased, by the failure of successive governments to replace these vital transport schemes. The delay is inexcusable.

“The Ombudsman’s report on this situation, released in November 2021, was unequivocal in condemning the lack of action. He wrote: ‘Nine years later, there is no evidence of any real progress that would serve to enhance the lives of those for whom these schemes were intended to assist with their daily lives. This is of huge concern to me.’

“Disabled people deserve better than two defunct schemes and a third – the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Scheme – that is so excessively restrictive it is impossible to access.

“After nearly a decade of delay, the Government must now tell us when these schemes will be replaced.”

Latest Damning Report Into An Bord Pleanála Must Be Published

The problems in An Bord Pleanála extend much further than allegations concerning just one board member

A new report into further planning issues at An Bord Pleanála must be published in full and identify those involved in breaches of procedure, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy.

Deputy Murphy was commenting after the Irish Examiner published details of the leaked report which confirms further serious issues in the planning authority’s decision-making processes.

“According to the Irish Examiner, an internal review by An Bord Pleanála has confirmed board members made decisions in cases in which they knew the applicant or appellant; made decisions on cases in their local areas; and inspectors’ reports were regularly changed after interventions from board members.

“It has also been confirmed that planning for major Strategic Housing Development (SHD) schemes was

(Continued on page 12)



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

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(Continued from page 11)

decided by two-person boards while files for complex SHD schemes were not routinely assigned to senior board members.

“Clearly, the problems in An Bord Pleanála extend much further than allegations concerning just one board member, who has now left the authority. This report confirms that other board members are now embroiled in similar controversies about their decision making – and the public has a right to know who those board members are.

“It is not acceptable that this report has yet to be published and we are relying on leaks to the media to ascertain the scale of the problems within An Bord Pleanála. The Minister must now publish this report in full – and ensure that those involved in these breaches are identified in the report.

“Public confidence in An Bord Pleanála must be restored, but in order for that to happen we must have full transparency and full accountability.”

Cynical and cowardly Government response to motion on mother and baby homes

The Government’s cowardly actions will not be forgiven and will serve as a shameful legacy of its term in office

The Government’s decision not to oppose the Social Democrats’ private members’ motion on mother and baby homes has been described by Catherine Murphy TD as cynical and cowardly.

“The Government was presented with an opportunity to finally achieve real justice for survivors and recognise the litany of human rights violations that occurred in these institutions, in addition to the suffering of those who were boarded out and abused.

“Like the Commission of Investigation that preceded it, the proposed redress scheme is deeply flawed and does not take into account the individual trauma experienced by survivors. Thousands of victims are also excluded from the scheme, including children who spent less than six months in an institution. This cannot be allowed to stand.

“Our motion called for the removal of an obligation for survivors to sign a waiver, which would preclude them from seeking justice in the courts. We also proposed an immediate interim payment while a proper redress scheme is developed.

“Some survivors will receive as little as €5,000 under current proposals, despite a lifetime of pain – you would get multiples of that for a whiplash injury.

“We want the Government to have the guts to stand up to the religious orders and pharmaceutical companies and demand substantial financial contributions for the role they played in the systematic abuse of innocent women and children.

“In allowing our motion to pass, the Government is cynically trying to give the impression that it agrees with our proposals, while in reality we all know it fully intends to plough ahead with a miserly redress scheme that is deeply insulting to survivors and their families.

“The Government’s cowardly actions will not be forgiven and will serve as a shameful legacy of its term in office.

“The Minister is deluded if he thinks this issue is just going to go away. I am determined to fight this so-called redress scheme, which ignores survivors’ needs and disregards human rights abuses, every step of the way.”

Government must act to end tragedy of child poverty

Scarring effects of living in persistent poverty as a child can be lifelong

The Government must immediately outline how it intends to end the scandal of child poverty in Ireland, according to Social Democrats Catherine Murphy TD.

Catherine Murphy made her comments to mark the 30th International Day of the Eradication of Poverty on Monday, October 17.

“Based on the most recent CSO figures, Social Justice

Ireland estimates there are over 580,000 people in this country living in poverty, of which almost 164,000 are under the age of 18. Another stark statistic is that more than 690,000 citizens are experiencing deprivation, with nearly 205,000 of them children.

“Of all the avoidable tragedies in this country, there is hardly a greater one than that of child poverty. The scarring effects of living in persistent poverty as a child can be lifelong, affecting everything from emotional development, mental health and physical wellbeing in adulthood to educational attainment and labour market participation.

“It is hugely wasteful as it inhibits economic potential in adulthood and reduces the contribution people can make to society. Dealing with the repercussions later in life is far more expensive – and less effective – than early interventions, which lead to future savings on welfare and criminal justice, as well as higher tax revenues.

“Eliminating child poverty requires a combination of targeted child and adult income supports, in addition to access to quality public services and genuinely free education.

“The Social Democrats have called for the creation of a multi-departmental Child Poverty Unit, to be overseen by the Department of the Taoiseach. Funding could be ring-fenced for the development and implementation of a National Child Poverty Action Plan within this unit, monitored by an Oireachtas Oversight Committee to ensure that key targets are met.

“The derisory Qualified Child Increase of €2 recently announced by the Government will have zero impact on reducing poverty levels for vulnerable families or single parent households dependent on social welfare.

“The Government needs to acknowledge that children live in households with adults. This means child poverty cannot be eliminated without providing proper financial supports to entire households.

“We are also of the view that our social protection system should be benchmarked to the cost of a Minimum Essential Standard of Living. This would help ensure that everyone has enough to live a dignified life and eliminate the corrosive effects of child poverty.”

Government Must Reveal How Much An Bord Pleanála Shambles Will Cost

We need answers about how much this mess is likely to cost taxpayers

The chaos engulfing An Bord Pleanála is costing the State dearly as fees for delays and legal challenges soar, according to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy. “Today, the Irish Independent reported An Bord Pleanála (ABP) has paid out more than €1 million to developers because of a backlog in processing applications for Strategic Housing Developments.

“Meanwhile, this week we also learned that planning permissions for more than 1,700 housing units have been quashed after ABP conceded High Court legal challenges to these developments.

“That decision was made after allegations of objective bias were raised in respect of ABP’s decision-making process – and ABP will be on the hook for all of the legal costs arising from those challenges.

“In the Dáil yesterday, I asked Public Expenditure Minister Michael McGrath how many planning permissions were going to be quashed as a result of this scandal and what were the cost implications for ABP – and therefore, the State. “Bizarrely, the Minister said he was unable to provide that information – despite the fact that ABP has opted not to defend certain High Court cases, so that information should be readily available.

“Clearly, the fall-out from the controversy engulfing ABP is continuing to wreak havoc in the planning system – and is having major cost implications for the State. We need answers about how much this mess is likely to cost taxpayers. “At a minimum, ABP should be transparent about the number of SHD applications that are pending and

likely to incur hefty fines because of delayed decision making. We also need clarity about the timeline for the rollout of urgent reforms. “Ultimately, the government need to consider whether those in leadership positions in ABP, who have overseen this shambles, are up to the task of instituting the kind of root-and-branch reform that is required.”

Maynooth University Where’s My Levy Campaign

Catherine Murphy TD was very concerned about the issue relating to the student facilities project for Maynooth University being shelved

Catherine raised the issue at the Public Accounts Committee in respect of additional resources that are sought from students in relation to student services. I welcome where these are treated separately. There were referendums in Maynooth to collect an additional amount going back to the 1990s. The money was to be borrowed from the European Investment Bank and then paid back by the levy. That levy was increased in 2015 to provide the new building, which had commenced. Now the project has terminated. There is a big protest outside Maynooth today. Maynooth started as a college with about 5,000 students. There are now about 15,000 so it is one of the more rapidly growing universities. There are people from all parts of the country attending it and there are many positive things to say about it. However, where there is a dedicated amount of money for particular projects, is it set out in the accounts that it is used for the purpose for which it is collected? It appears this project has been ended and, instead of that facility being provided, they are told there will be additional spaces in other buildings around the campus, seating and things like that. It is not what the students voted for. The issue is about how it is accounted for and holding them to account for delivering things that are collected for. It is a big deal to be paying €150 on top of the €3,000. The student body has got bigger there over the years.

Catherine Murphy TD requested that the University and the President of the College be written to by the PAC. The students are not at all happy with how the thing has been portrayed. A key condition attached to the 1999 levy referendum was that if any of the conditions were broken, the referendum would be deemed null and void, so they were being very clear about what was expected and that was set out. I completely understand about the hyperinflation and I believe this project has gone something like 50% over what was originally tendered. We need to understand that. To go back to the 1990s, there was a €40 per student fee at that time and that went up to €150 in 2015. That was to be discontinued when the facilities were in place but none of the facilities that were supposed to be in place have been provided. That is why there is such frustration that the money was collected but the services have not been delivered. There is a wider issue and I believe we should be looking at this when we are looking at the universities and, in particular, where there are additional charges, how they are handled and what is delivered from them. There cannot be a university without students.

Parliamentary Question in respect of the matter; 267. To ask the Minister for Education and Skills if he has engaged with the governing authority of Maynooth University in respect of a decision to terminate a capital project on its campus (details supplied). [48663/22]

Maynooth University recently informed my Department that its’ Governing Authority has taken the difficult decision to terminate the Maynooth University Student Centre contract.

My Department does not have any direct involvement in

(Continued on page 13)



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

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(Continued from page 12)

the project in question, as no direct exchequer funding was being provided by my Department for this project, which was solely being funded by European Investment Bank borrowings serviced by income from a student levy. However, all capital projects advanced by publicly funded Higher Education Institutions must comply with the provisions of the Public Spending Code. I understand following detailed consideration on a number of matters, including the risk associated with continuing with a project that would breach the Public Spending Code, the Governing Authority decided to terminate the contract. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are governed by the Universities Act 1997, the Institutes of Technologies Acts 1992 to 2006 and the Technological Universities Act 2018. Within the meaning of these Acts, HEIs are autonomous bodies and are responsible for their own day-to-day management and operational affairs including dealing with policy and procedure in relation to any levy payable by students for services or campus facilities.

The expenditure that has been incurred to date on the project will be met by the University from financial reserves. No financial contribution is being sought from the exchequer and there will be no impact on the student levy collected from the MU student body. Maynooth University are considering the most appropriate means of meeting the need for additional student spaces on campus, in the short and long term, in the overall context of achieving value for money in any future investment. I would strongly

encourage the University to continue engagement with the student representative body, on the next steps for this project.

Catherine had asked for a defibrillator to be installed at Maynooth Castle.

312. To ask the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if the OPW will fund the purchase of defibrillator and cover the costs of the training of the usage of defibrillator by OPW staff based in Maynooth Castle. [51857/22]

The OPW is continuing to review the feasibility of installing defibrillators at heritage sites across the country, including at Maynooth Castle. In the interim, the Deputy might be interested to know that a defibrillator has been installed in the Gate Lodge at Maynooth University (South Campus), which is situated immediately adjacent to the Castle main entrance.

Changes to Fuel Allowance

Fuel Allowance is a payment to help with the cost of heating your home during the winter months.

You can get Fuel Allowance, if you are getting a long-term social welfare payment to help with the cost of heating your home. The Fuel Allowance season normally begins in late September of each year and ends in April.

2022/2023 Fuel Allowance season

Fuel Allowance will be paid from the week starting Monday, 26 September 2022. It will be paid for 28 weeks. The current rate of Fuel Allowance is €33.

If you qualify for the allowance, it is generally paid with a social welfare payment on the same day. You can choose to get the Fuel Allowance paid weekly or paid in 2 lump sums.

Budget 2023: Fuel Allowance

It was announced that people getting the Fuel Allowance will get a once-off payment of €400. It will be paid the week starting 14 November 2022.

People aged 70 and over will qualify for Fuel Allowance as long as their weekly means (which includes their State Pension) is not above €500 per week for a single person and

€1,000 per week for a couple in January 2023.

People aged under 70, weekly allowable means above the applicable State Pension (Contributory) rate will increase by €80 from €120 to €200 in January 2023.

Disablement Benefit and half-rate Carer's Allowance will be disregarded in the means test for Fuel Allowance in January 2023

Where there is a planned increase in the income limits for 2023, Catherine suggests you check your eligibility in respect of the scheme.

Catherine Murphy TD

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Social Democrats



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Saturday, 12th
November
2-4pm
Maynooth Library

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Electricity Account Credit

Introduction

It was announced in Budget 2023 that domestic electricity customers will get €600 credit to help reduce electricity bills. The credit will be paid in 3 instalments of €200. The first payment will be made from November 2022. The second electricity credit will be made from January 2023. The third will be made from March 2023.

What is the electricity account credit?

The Electricity Costs Emergency Benefit Scheme II was announced in Budget 2023. Domestic electricity customers will get €600 credit to help reduce electricity bills.

The Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) is overseeing the scheme. The CRU has detailed guidance on how the scheme will operate.

When will the credits be paid?

The payment is automatic, and you do not need to apply for it. The €600 credit will be paid in 3 instalments of €200.

You will get:

The first instalment between 1 November and 31 December 2022
The second instalment between 1 January and 28 February 2023
The third instalment between 1 March and 30 April 2023

The date you get your credit depends on the date that your supplier normally sends you your bill. The credit may not appear on your first bill during these payment periods, this will depend on your individual billing cycle. Suppliers will have information on their websites with the exact dates the credit will show on customers' bills.

You should see a 'credit line' on your bill in the amount of €183.49 (this is €200 excluding VAT). The total payments will be €550.47 across the 3 instalments. It has the identifier 'Government Electricity Credit 1, 2 or 3' or an abbreviated version of this depending on your supplier (for example Govt. Credit). It must include "Government", "Govt" or "Gov" and must state "1", "2" or "3" to show which instalment you are getting.

Am I eligible for the credit?

The credit applies to all domestic electricity accounts registered with an electricity supplier in the Republic of Ireland. You are eligible for the credit if you are registered on the effective dates as either:
An urban domestic customer (classified as DG1)
A rural domestic customers (classified as DG2)

The effective dates are:

27 October 2022 (for first payment period)
20 December 2022 (for second payment period)
27 February 2022 (for third payment period)

Can I get the credit for my holiday home?

The credit applies to every domestic electricity account. This means that if you have multiple homes in Ireland with a domestic electricity account you get the credit for each account.

I use pre-pay electricity

Your supplier will contact you by text, email or on your top-up note to tell you the credit has been applied to your account.

Most pre-pay electricity meters will accept each of the €200 credits in full. Your supplier will contact you with specific instructions on how to redeem your credits.

Hardship meters

If you have an older pre-pay meter that has a pre-pay limit, you may have to redeem each of your electricity credits over separate top-ups (vends), over the

space of a few days.

To redeem your credits, you should pay €10 towards your electricity. Your credit will then be automatically added to the top-up. You should allow one day between each €10 payment.

Number of top-ups:	Amount you should pay:	Amount of credit automatically applied to your €10
First top-up	€10	€90
Second top-up	€10	€90
Third top-up	€10	€20

You will need to repeat the process above for each of the 3 €200 credits.

Can I use the credit to pay my gas bill?

The credits cannot be used towards your gas bills. The scheme uses domestic electricity eligibility criteria because not every household has a gas connection. This way most households get help with their energy bills.

I am in rented accommodation

If you are a tenant in rented accommodation and you pay your landlord directly for your electricity (rather than the electricity provider), your landlord should pass the credit on to you.

If there is a dispute between you and your landlord, you should try to resolve this informally. If you cannot come to an agreement, you can contact the RTB's free mediation service, where an independent mediator will help you reach an agreement. Or, you can apply for 'adjudication' with the RTB, where an independent adjudicator will look at all the evidence and make a decision about your case.

What if I switched suppliers?

If you switch electricity supplier, the supplier you were with:

- On 27 October 2022 is responsible for giving you the first credit
- On 20 December 2022 is responsible for giving you the second credit
- On 27 February 2023 is responsible for giving you the third credit

A supplier can apply the credit to your closing bill or credit you back through the same method pay your bills.

If I don't get the credit

Suppliers will have information on their websites with the exact dates the credit showed on their customers' bills.

Contact your electricity supplier if you do not receive your credit by:

- 31 January 2023 (first instalment)
- 31 March 2023 (second instalment)
- 31 May 2023 (third instalment)

You can find the contact details for your electricity supplier on your most recent bill or statement.

If there is a dispute

If you cannot resolve the issue with your supplier, you can contact the CRU's Customer Care Team for help.

You can contact the CRU Customer Care Team on 1800 404 404 or email customer care@cru.ie.

More information

Check the CRU website <https://www.cru.ie> for updates about the electricity account credit.

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

As most of you will be aware November is usually the time of the Maynooth Senior Citizens Annual Sale of Work which unfortunately could not happen this year. We would have to organise that event several months in advance, which Covid prevented.



However, the Committee is pleased to announce that it is organising a **table quiz** night in support of Maynooth Senior Citizens on **Friday November 18th at 8pm in the Newtown Inn**. We hope to get as many teams as possible to celebrate the first fundraising event since Covid restrictions eased. So if you or anyone you know would like to make up a team please come along for what promises to be a fun filled night with team prizes, raffle prizes and spot prizes. Hope to see you there.

In the meantime our other services continue. The morning club numbers have increased so the word has got out about how enjoyable that morning is with activities such as bingo and art. We are currently meeting on Thursday mornings 10.30am to 12.30pm. Transport can be provided. The bus service for Saturday evening Mass is also ongoing.

We would welcome new members to our committee. If you have an interest in volunteering for our organisation please email maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com

Susan Durack, PRO Maynooth Senior Citizens (0877874582 evenings)

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

(EST 1965)

Fundraising Table Quiz

Friday 18th November, 2022
8pm

Newtown Inn, Maynooth

Teams of 4, €10 per person
Raffle and spot prizes galore

SAVE THE DATE

'Woodlands for Health' autumn school hosted at Maynooth University

Maynooth University hosted a two-day 'Woodlands for Health' autumn school, attended by invited experts from more than 14 organisations, including representatives from Nordic countries.

Extending sustainable forestry and forest management for recreation, health and well-being, were among the topics discussed at the event, which was hosted under the €10.5million GoGreenRoutes project.

Led by Dr Tadgh MacIntyre at Maynooth University, the GoGreenRoutes initiative, funded under Horizon 2020, aims to develop nature-connectedness across Europe, Latin America and China.

Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity, Pippa Hackett TD, who opened the event, outlined the work of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on 'Project Woodland'.

Minister Hackett said: "Through Project Woodland, my Department has been engaged in extensive consultation over the past 18 months or so to find out what we in Ireland want as a nation from our trees, woods and forests." Minister Hackett explained that that a Deliberative Dialogue took place last May, together with surveys across all sectors of society and bilateral meetings with stakeholders from across the forestry sector and environmental NGOs. She said this initiative "provided a platform for a diverse group of 100 citizens to learn about the values associated with trees and forests, the challenges we face, and to discuss and deliberate on the future of Irish forests".

"We have found that there is almost unanimous support in Ireland for the establishment of more forests, and this aligns with commitments in our Programme for Government and in our Climate Action Plan to urgently expand the area of forests in Ireland."

Sharing a Nordic perspective, Finnish Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Raili Lahnalampi, and President of Maynooth University, Professor Eeva Leinonen, also from Finland, discussed their country's deeply held cultural connections to

forests, and its world-leading position in sustainable forest management.

Professor Leinonen said: "I am heartened to hear of the Nordic dimension of this important collaborative project. My ancestors come from the Finnish forests, quite literally, and I personally have a deep relationship with nature and forests which cannot be put into words. I believe that Ambassador Lahnalampi would concur with the sentiment that the Finnish forest is imprinted in our DNA, it is in our cultural understanding of the world around us; the past, the present and the future."

Attendees also heard from policy makers and researchers on forest ownership initiatives, policy frameworks and research policy.



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth





Preparing for Christmas Early

The festive season will be here before you know it. Planning ahead is the best way to save money, headaches, and even your sanity!

Have your family already started having the "Christmas Chat?" Who's going to host? Where is it going to be? What time will lunch be made? Who is being invited? What are you getting for so-and-so? And so on. If you leave everything till the last minute, or even till just approaching Christmas, you could find yourself stressed out, unhappy, panicking and not even looking forward to the most wonderful time of the year.

Getting organised in plenty of time for Christmas is by far the best way to make sure that you will actually have the energy and enthusiasm to enjoy Christmas.

Use a Christmas to do list as your own countdown to Christmas checklist for the big tasks you need to do in preparation for Christmas 2022. The best way to organise a Christmas to do list is to break it down week-by-week. This means there is a series of easy to deal with checklists to work through each week, rather than one overwhelming big long list.

Below is a sample list which can be broken down into weekly check lists.

- Agree family Christmas plan for Christmas day – who and where
- Define a budget
- Start a Christmas master checklist for food, gifts, cards and decorations
- Do pre-Christmas declutter
- Check what you need to host overnight guests – towels, bedding etc.
- Book tickets for Christmas events – pantomime, ice-skating etc.
- Put events and activities on your calendar – school plays, panto etc.
- Book Santa
- Plan travel/book tickets/work out routes and timings
- Update your Christmas card list
- Check you have enough crockery and cutlery for Christmas meal
- Start adding ideas for gifts to master checklist
- Buy Advent Calendar/s for kids

- Buy Christmas cards
- Order artificial Christmas tree
- Buy decorations
- Order Christmas stockings/sacks
- Order ingredients for Christmas cake and pudding
- Order Christmas turkey
- Plan Christmas food menu
- Add ingredients and food to Christmas food order
- Make Christmas cake and pudding
- Get kids to write their letter to Santa/gift wishlist

- Shop Black Friday (25 November 2022) for Christmas gifts
- Buy Christmas gifts
- Write Christmas cards and address envelopes
- Buy wrapping paper, gift tags and sellotape
- Wrap and mail gifts that need sending
- Write and send Christmas cards
- Buy real Christmas tree/put up Christmas decorations
- Buy stocking stuffers/Christmas Eve box fillers
- Make Christmas wreath and hang it
- Buy Christmas puzzle/games
- Buy batteries, bin bags and matches/electric candle lighter
- Stock up on extra-wide foil for turkey and leftovers storage
- Wrap Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers
- Place gifts under the tree that aren't being delivered by Santa
- Do final grocery list check.
- Put together Christmas Eve boxes
- Do big Christmas grocery shop
- Put together Christmas Table Centrepiece
- Put together Christmas Eve/Christmas Day timeline

A Christmas to do list that will help you get prepared for Christmas in the most stress-free way possible, by breaking down all the tasks into weekly bite-sized checklists.

Source: www.mumsmakelists.com/christmas-planner/

Source: www.bagssoflove.co.uk/blog/how-to-get-ready-for-christmas



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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 23/09/2022 to 27/10/2022 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
221254	Kildare County Council	Frank & Louise McNulty	Sparholt Cottage, Timard, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	24/10/2022
221256	Kildare County Council	Greenfield Shopping Centre Limited	Greenfield Shopping Centre, Maynooth Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	24/10/2022
221250	Kildare County Council	The Board of Management of Presentation Girls' School	Presentation Girls' School, Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	21/10/2022
221247	Kildare County Council	Namphueng Somrang	28 Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	20/10/2022
221214	Kildare County Council	Sky Castle Limited,	Maynooth Outer Orbital Road, Carton Demesne and Mariavilla Townlands, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/10/2022
221187	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University	Leinster Street Cottages, Leinster Street, Maynooth, Co Kildare	30/09/2022



Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

CÚPLA FOCAIL

Recently my sixteen-year-old was getting ready to spend two weeks in the Carraroe Gaeltacht and like many a dutiful dad I reminded him that while it was alright to have a bit of craic with the girls attending the *Coláiste*, he should also practise his Irish. He shrugged: "Since I've absolutely no intention of going to university, what use am I ever going to have for Irish?" Instead of arguing, I smiled indulgently, knowing that he was reflecting an attitude only too prevalent in today's Global Village. My own experiences, both in secondary school and Galway University, had given me a more positive outlook on our national language but even though I was one of those who had fallen for Pearse's dream of an "Ireland not free merely but Gaelic as well", there were always the mockers and pragmatists and I got into many a heated argument with them. Apart from the fellows who demanded to know when I would ever need to use Irish in everyday life, there was a well-meaning American friend in New York who confessed his bewilderment that a country like Ireland, which had produced so many of the world's top writers in English, should waste time and money on the effort to revive 'a dead language'. Hadn't James Joyce in spite of his linguistic skills turned his back on Gaelic? I tried my best to convince the doubters, then one night on the subway I had the proof – the irrefutable proof – that my position vis-à-vis the language wasn't entirely misguided.

I was returning from Brooklyn on the BMT, having seen a girl safely home after a dance in City Centre Ballroom, and since it was about 3 a.m. the train carriage was practically empty, just a few frail middle-aged men and two tall, nattily dressed heavies with rolled-up umbrellas and dark hats, like those favoured by pimps. These two sat near the end of the carriage, on opposite sides of the aisle. There was no guard around and in the harsh artificial light we slouched like zombies on the long plastic seats that faced the central aisle. After barrelling along for some time, the train stopped and an old wino got on. As soon as the train moved off, the wino lost his balance and staggered towards one of the 'pimps'. Without rising, the 'pimp' hit him full across the jaw with his open hand and sent him reeling across to the opposite side, where his friend repeated the action. Soon the wino was bouncing back and forth like a ping-pong ball, driven by well-aimed clatters to the side of his face. The other passengers stared straight ahead, seeing nothing, afraid to get involved. Convinced that the wino would soon be beaten senseless, I impulsively rose to intervene. The bashing stopped and I sat down. Once the unthinking moment had passed my hot courage gave way to fear. The 'pimps' exchanged some words *sotto voce* then one of them juttied out his chin an, fixing me with a cold stare, demanded, "Suppose you didn't like it?" Now I was in real trouble. On his own and without a sturdy umbrella handle as weapon one of the 'pimps' could flatten me with a single blow; the two of them together would decimate me. If they decided to attack, none of the other passengers would lift a finger to save a reckless fool. What was I to do? If I spoke English the 'pimps' would know from my voice that I was scared out of my wits. Then an idea dawned.

"*Cad é sin a duirt tú?*" (What is that you said?) I put on a puzzled expression. "*Ní thuigim focal a bhfuil tú a rá*" (I don't understand a word you're saying.) I could see that the 'pimps' were unsure – Was it because I was a foreigner, an unknown entity? Maybe they were afraid that I carried a knife? They exchanged glances – Perhaps they were going to attack after all? But my luck held. Instead of sorting me out, they rose when the train reached the next station and walked wordlessly out. My *cúpla focail* had saved, if not my life, at least my skin. There's a sequel to this story. A few years after the incident on the BMT I was in Carraroe, studying for *An Ceard Teastas Gaeilge*, an exam that all vocational teachers were required to pass if they wished to be made permanent. One day I fell into conversation with an American student touring Ireland. When I recounted my run-in with the 'pimps', he gave it as his opinion that far from being deterred by 'an unknown entity', they were probably

ashamed that a foreigner had seen them beating up an old man. Whatever the reason, my years studying Irish hadn't been entirely wasted. And I passed the *Ceard Teastas* too, my examiner expressing surprise that after eleven years spent in New York I could speak Irish so fluently. As my old silver-tongued teacher of Irish, Fr. Corrigan, might have said, "*An té nach bhfuil laidir, ní mór do a bheit glic.*" (The person that isn't strong has to be smart.)

By P.G. Nerney

Diaries

Today I chanced upon some diaries written during summer breaks back home when I was caught between two worlds: undergrad in Galway, draftsman in New York.

Entries were mainly about nature – wildlife encountered on my brother's farm; gazing at Orion in the heavens – laced with stream-of-consciousness reflections *à la* Joyce's Dedalus. Some passages awoke lost loves, madcap college mates, vague regrets for wasted time, uncertainty about what lay in store.

More than fifty years since then, and back for most of those in Ireland, tonight I again observe Orion, high above our bungalow's dark roof, vivid as if in that infinity of radiant constellations all my earthly experiences, marriage, children, loss, gain, are just sparks that one day will turn dust.

By Colin Scott

The Wonder of Plants

For months, Kathleen had been waiting to get her left hip replacement. 'You will definitely have it done by November' and then, 'Definitely by January', she was reassured. Each time the hospital postponed the operation on account of Covid cases, the pain was getting worse.

Stuck in the house, as she was, unable to do any gardening, she was left with the not unpleasant task of tending to her potted indoor plants. "Why don't you get plastic flowers?" her husband glibly remarked. 'They'd be far less trouble.'

Christmas was fast approaching. 'Don't worry, you will have your new hip by the beginning of February' the surgeon's secretary assured her for the fourth time when she phoned. Kathleen was beginning to give up hope of ever having her agony relieved.

Entering Lidl supermarket in order to get Christmas provisions, she noticed a five-tiered metal frame laden with poinsettias. The large, expensive pots were on the bottom shelf, but on the fifth tier, there were small, two-inch wide pots each containing a tiny poinsettia. Kathleen could not reach them, so she asked an assistant if she could get one down for her. As these pots were so high up, they had not been watered and the plant Kathleen received was a pretty poor specimen. 'Not another damn flower', her husband muttered but, at €1.99, Kathleen felt it would bring some Christmas cheer.

Once home, Kathleen carefully watered the wrinkled poinsettia but as the soil was so dry, the water ran off. On impulse she put the pot in a small bowl of water and left it alone over night. In the morning, it was definitely less droopy. Most of the withered green leaves had to be removed but the small red flower, which is actually a leaf, had improved.

Day by day, the single poinsettia got stronger and Kathleen

placed it on the lounge windowsill between a wooden reindeer and a colourful Santa Claus figurine.

'If that plant can survive, surely I can cope with the pain' she would tell herself. However, she could not endure the suffering and her sympathetic family doctor phoned a large Dublin hospital. Within the space of three weeks a professor saw Kathleen for an initial assessment and then, as he had a cancellation, he replaced her shattered bone the following week. He said that Kathleen's condition was the worst case he had ever seen and that it was as though she had been walking on a fractured hip. He could not believe how she had managed to keep going for so long!

Three days later, feeling a different but more bearable sort of pain, Kathleen hobbled into the lounge on two crutches, which the hospital had provided and there was the poinsettia still in its two-inch pot. It looked even prettier than before and, during the protracted convalescence, that small plant really helped to keep her spirits up.

By Cheryl Leak

My Father's death

He was in his 99th year, out planting cabbages a few days before St Patrick's Day when he had a stroke. In hospital he rallied, was able to talk a little again and was none too happy with some of the other three patients in his ward. He was discharged home after a month or so but was no longer mobile. With the aid of a "lift" my sister-in-law, Mary, was able to nurse him and had him sitting in the kitchen at a little table where she could feed him and give him drinks.

It was there I found him when I dropped in about lunch time in late June. He had just had some food and Mary, was giving him a small drop of whiskey from a plastic mug. Once finished she put the mug out of his reach on the table. I noticed that he was trying to hook the handle of the mug with the crook of his stick. I went over and helped him drain what was left. Shortly afterwards I had to leave as I had to go back to my work and had just sat down at my desk when Mary rang. Apparently he had indicated to her that he wanted the television turned up as the Dáil was just about to vote in Bertie Ahern as Taoiseach. She turned up the volume and looked back at him to see if it was alright. But he had gone beyond noticing as his head had slumped. He died later that evening without hearing a word about Bertie.

He died! Went to heaven, I believe. What a change for him. He had ruled over his house for seventy years and not always with the good will of his subjects. And subjects we were. There was very little negotiating. The farm was run his way and indeed well run. But he was always the gaffer. Now that he was dead he had to fit into a life totally different. Not the boss. Not the one who had to be deferred to on all occasions, but a spiritual being forever turned towards the Divine where for the first time he became the creation he was always meant to be. What a revelation!

The same is in store for all of us! We will die as Christ died though probably not with the same amount of suffering and probably not with the same injustice. He died an ignominious death, because he wouldn't retract a word of what he had said, was raised again and now lives forever, the Holy One of God. What a future! What a hope! And the more we realise how totally dependent on our Creator we are the more prepared we will be for the next and final phase out lives.

My father did his best in difficult circumstances and had very little spiritual guidance to interpret his life for him. I once heard him moan "What the hell is the use of it all? We have more possibilities to get help on our journey. Let's avail of them! November, remember! Month of the Holy Souls!

By GM

Snow White Comes to Maynooth



An Nuadha Players are well advanced in their preparations for this year's pantomime, Snow White. It is fantastic to be able to bring a pantomime to stage again - hasn't happened since December 2019 for obvious reasons!!

A new generation have now come to the fore, both in the cast and in the chorus, with many young adults joining our ranks – pity there are not more young males in the mix but we are hoping they will see the light and realise how much fun it can be! Part of our mission is to ensure that younger talents are encouraged and given a platform to showcase their abilities. And the future of theatre in Maynooth looks bright if these young people are anything to go by.

This year's production will take place from 1st to 4th Dec (7.30pm on Thurs. 1st, Fri. 2nd, Sat. 3rd and 2.30pm on Sat. 3rd and Sun. 4th). As for the past 20 years we will be performing in the Aula Maxima, St. Patrick's College and we would like to thank the College for all of their assistance over the years. We still dream of the day when Maynooth has a theatre of its own but until then we would be lost without the College allowing us to use the Aula Maxima. It is hard to believe that a town the size of Maynooth has no community building that can accommodate arts and creative activities. Building communities is not just about building houses and apartments. Surely Local Property Taxes from residents in Maynooth could be invested in the provision of some genuine community facilities for those residents.

Tickets for the pantomime are available through Maynooth Bookshop (many thanks to Ursula and her team) or online at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/annuadhplayers>

Tickets can be purchased at the door using card or cash but we do advise pre-booking. Prices are €15 for adults, €12 for concessions and €45 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children). Groups of 10+ are also priced at €12 per person. A feel-good show is guaranteed – a great way to get yourself fully into the Christmas spirit! See you there!

An Nuadha Players proudly present Snow White

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ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAYNOOTH

THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER
7:30PM

SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER
2:30PM & 7:30PM

FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER
7:30PM

SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER
2:30PM

ADULT €15
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GROUP (10+) €12 EACH

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Public Meeting of Maynooth Cycling Campaign

Maynooth Cycling Campaign will be holding its first 2022 public meeting in November at which we will be giving an update on cycling advocacy both county wide and nationally. Details to follow.

Cycling Without Age - Storage of Trishaw Bike

As part of its Cycling Without Age initiative, Maynooth Cycling Campaign is looking for a secure covered location such as part of a garage to temporarily store a trishaw bike. The location would be required for approximately two month March- April next year until its permanent home is in place. It is still our target to have the trishaw for the 17th March. If you have something that you think may be suitable, please contact us at maynoothcycling@gmail.com.

At the end of October, Kildare County Council held a meeting with interested parties in Naas but there was little progress to report on funding.

Kildare Cycling Standards

Kildare County Council continues to fall behind best international practice in the width of cycle lanes provided. While most of western Europe provides a standard 2m effective width, Kildare County Council generally provides 1.7m with a 2m constructed width but with no safety buffer between the edge of the cycle track and the kerb.

In the Netherlands increasing congestion on many cycle lanes has led the Dutch Fietsberaad and Crow organisations to now look for a minimum 2.3m effective width to allow for comfortable overtaking and side-by-side riding. In the recent revision to Norwegian bike standards, 2.3m was also recommended.

Obviously, in providing cycle facilities on existing roads, space is limited but the new standards will apply to green field developments and reflects the international reallocation of road space.

Ireland - Second Highest Car Dependency in EU

It should come as no surprise that a recent EU wide survey found that Ireland's car dependency was the second highest next to Cyprus.

While Ireland is committed to a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and zero emissions by 2050, the survey showed Ireland was one of only five EU member states where car dependency levels actually increased. It found that 76% of Irish people use a car as their main transport mode on a typical day — up 8 percentage points since a similar poll was conducted in 2019. Kildare County Council must start to put numbers on the impact of its strategy annually to show what progress, if any, it is making.

Maynooth Student Blames Lack of Car Parking

On a similar theme, students at Maynooth University are blaming a lack of parking facilities for making lectures inaccessible.

In the 1980s or 1990s, in one of his RTE Radio 1 programmes, Pat Kenny recounted how in his time in university, the big issue on Irish campuses was the Vietnam War. He compared it to then current pressing issue at Carlow IT where the major issue for students was lack of car parking.

While many young people are passionate about the threats of climate change, too many have a enlarged sense of entitlement to car parking being provided for their convenience. Towns and cities with third level colleges usually have high levels of cycling. In Groningen in the Netherlands, it is estimated that 50% of journeys are by bike. In Cambridge the local authority only gives permission for expansion of the university on condition that the level of vehicular traffic does not increase. In Maynooth, it is estimated that the level of cycling in the population as a whole is estimated at 3% and the roads are congested.



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BOOK LAUNCH

Monuments & Other Poems
Lee Sheridan



SATURDAY, NOV 26TH


TOWNHALLS BAR MAYNOOTH

St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Our Annual Mass for Deceased Members takes place on Sunday 6th November at 1oc. This is one of our most important events of the year where we pay tribute to the many deceased members who have worked so hard to ensure that there would always be a Band in Maynooth. This year, unfortunately, some relatives of deceased members have to make a choice between the Band Mass and the blessing of the graves in Laraghbryan Cemetery which this year happens at 2oc but with the time needed for the setup of the Band the 1oc Mass is the only time that suits. Hopefully this can be addressed for future years.

Christmas is fast approaching and it's time to dust off our Christmas CD's to make them available to those who might not already have a copy and they will be on sale in Maynooth Bookshop on the Main Street from 2nd December and at our usual Christmas Collections on 17th December. Apart from being a really nice Festive stocking filler it is a very important contribution towards the running of the Band and we hope people will take that in to account when they come across them.

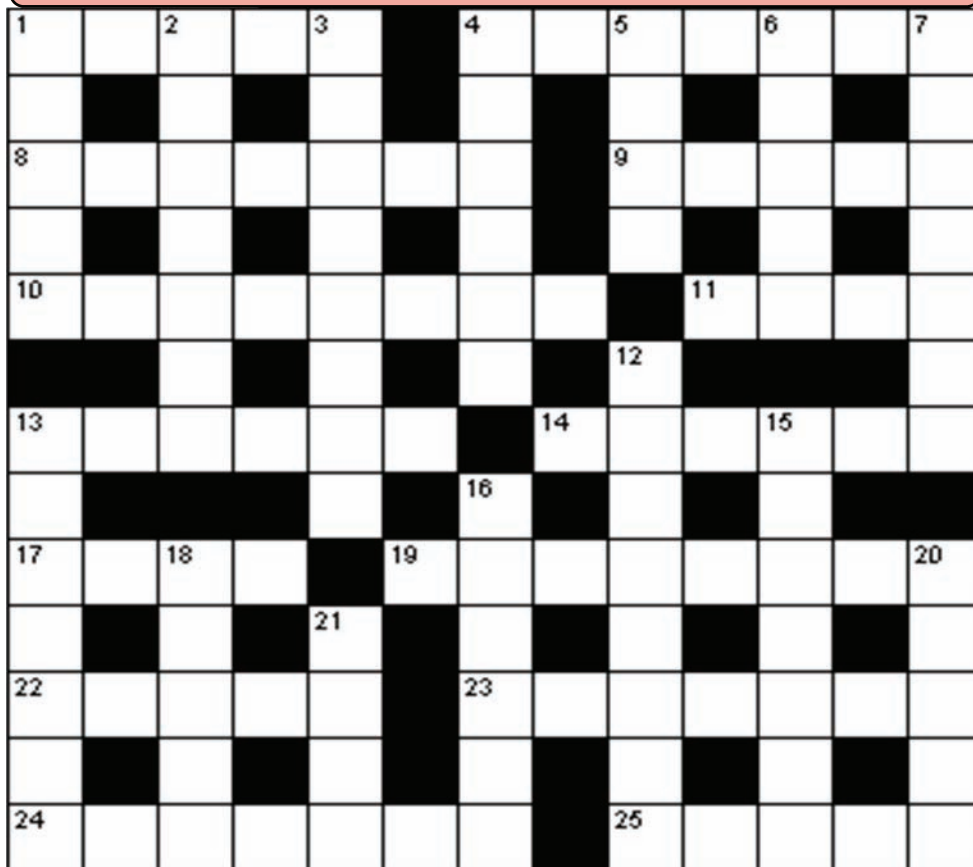
Last month, for the first time ever, the Band did a leaflet drop to every house in Maynooth to make people aware of



the presence of TWO Bands in the town, our Senior Band for experienced musicians and the Academy Band for those still in the early learning stages. Rehearsals for the Senior Band take place on Monday nights (Bank Holidays excepted) between 7.45 and 9.30 in the Band Hall on Pound Lane and the Academy Band rehearses in the same place on Saturday mornings at 10am. You are welcome to drop into those recitals at any time if you are interested in joining us or alternatively you can call 087 2537 906 for information on the Senior Band or 087 7168 369 about the Academy Band. You can also email our Secretary at sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie. We look forward to meeting you, particularly if you are a new resident of Maynooth and we will make you feel very welcome.



November 2022 Crossword - No. 518



Clues Across

1. Topic (5)
4. Environment (7)
8. Layer (7)
9. Soda water (5)
10. Cheap passage (8)
11. Sport (4)
13. Six feet deep in water (6)
14. Invalidate (6)
17. Artifice (4)
19. Glorious (8)
22. Torpid (5)
23. Quantities (7)
24. Aged (7)
25. Covers a wide area (5)



Solutions to Crossword No. 517



Clues Down

1. Chores (5)
2. Sincere (7)
3. Outside (8)
4. Respectful deference (6)
5. Computer memory unit (4)
6. Latin American dance (5)
7. Diplomatic (7)
12. Famished (8)
13. Surreptitious (7)
15. Brilliant musical passage (7)
16. Bee house (6)
18. Velocity (5)
20. Measured portions of medicine (5)
21. Celestial body (4)

Difficult

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

Sudoku Challenge

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

Super Difficult

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

MU's Centre for Irish Language awarded over €2 million by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht

Maynooth University's Centre for Irish Language has been awarded over €2 million by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to support Irish-language teaching and testing initiatives.



At an event in Maynooth University today, the Minister of State for the Gaeltacht and for Sport, Jack Chambers TD, announced funding of €2,084,330 to the Centre for Irish Language Research, Teaching and Testing. This funding will provide continued support for four of the Centre's Irish-language projects over the next three years:

€1,604,881 for Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG)
 €255,332 for the Certificate in Teaching Irish to Adult Learners
 €149,700 to support Irish language programmes in the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris
 €74,417 for the online teaching and learning resource Vifax

TEG is a suite of independent language proficiency tests available for Irish, broadly aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), at five levels from A1 (Beginner) to C1 (Advanced). Since its establishment in 2005, TEG exams have been taken by almost 12,000 candidates all over Ireland and abroad. The system is used as an independent, valid and reliable benchmark for Irish language proficiency in a range of academic and professional contexts. Their use in professional contexts is becoming increasingly important in the implementation of national language policy and strategy, in particular the [Official Languages \(Amendment\) Act 2021](#), which aims to ensure that 20% of new employees recruited to the public sector will be proficient in Irish by the year 2030. Last week, Minister of State Chambers announced a '[new era](#)' for Irish language professional development across the Civil Service, with TEG certification to be integrated into all Irish-language courses provided for Civil Service employees. In addition to the exams and certification, TEG syllabuses and resources provide learners and teachers with clear learning targets that enable learners to develop fluency in Irish, step by step. TEG funding has been tripled to over €1.6 million to support additional developments in the TEG system over the next three years.

The Certificate in Teaching Irish to Adults was established as an online programme in 2019 and provides training and mentoring to those teaching Irish to adults in a range of contexts, including in Gaeltacht areas and overseas, in community settings and at third level. It is the only certified course of its kind and its online delivery has made it accessible to students from a diverse range of backgrounds and locations. An accompanying online resource hub provides free open-access training and professional development materials to all interested in best practice in Irish-language teaching.

Lárionad na Gaeilge has been providing Irish-language classes in the Centre Culturel Irlandais (CCI), Paris since 2005. These very popular classes are attended weekly by approximately 60 students at four levels, many of whom take TEG exams in Paris. The Lárionad also promotes and supports Irish language cultural events and activities in CCI. Renowned Donegal singer, Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh of Altan, will perform in CCI on 25 November 2022 at an event to recognise the achievements of TEG graduates and alumni. The collaboration between the Lárionad and CCI is particularly special, due to the close historical links between Maynooth and the Irish College in Paris, which houses the CCI today.

Finally, Lárionad na Gaeilge's Vifax project has also seen its funding renewed and increased for the next three-year period. Vifax is an online multimedia language-learning resource, consisting of weekly lessons based on authentic news bulletins from Nuacht TG4. It has been produced by Lárionad na Gaeilge since 1998 and is made freely available to teachers and learners online each week. It was the first resource of its kind available for Irish and received the European Language Label for innovation and excellence in language teaching and learning in 1999. Vifax is co-funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and COGG. Increased funding will support a number of developments, including a new teaching and learning package to be launched in summer 2023, based on Ros na Rún, the long-running TG4 drama series.

In his address, Minister Chambers emphasised the key role of TEG in the efforts to widen the use of Irish in the state sector. "*Lárionad na Gaeilge is at*

the forefront of expanding the learning and teaching of the language to numerous communities and contexts here at home and abroad. My Department's goal under the Official Languages (Amendment) Act, 2021 is for 20% of the employees of the state system to be fluent in Irish by 2030. I am therefore very happy that my Department is investing €1.6 million to provide for an expanded TEG programme. In this regard, it is vital that a transparent and effective assessment of progress in terms of fluency in Irish is carried out; with collaboration between Lárionad na Gaeilge here and other partners, approximately seven hundred and fifty (750) employees from the Civil and Public Service will be able to achieve TEG certification per year."

Welcoming Minister Chambers to Maynooth University, President of Maynooth University, Professor Eeva Leinonen spoke about the significance of this funding for the Centre's projects. "*As a linguist and as a native of Finland, I understand the importance of state policies and services that support and promote bilingualism and language rights for all members of society. I'm very proud that Maynooth University's Centre for Irish Language is playing an important role in supporting those national policies, and in providing the structures, pathways and resources to help adult learners re-engage with Irish and to become competent and confident users of the language."*

Speaking at the event, Director of Lárionad na Gaeilge, Aoife Ní Ghloinn thanked the Minister and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, for their continued support for the work of Lárionad na Gaeilge, and she paid tribute to the staff, whose expertise, creativity and dedication were at the heart of the Centre's achievements and pioneering work.



Photo: Pictured L-R: President of MU, Professor Eeva Leinonen, Sián Ní Mhaonaigh, Director of TEG, Minister of State for the Gaeltacht and for Sport, Jack Chambers TD, and Aoife Ní Ghloinn, Director of Lárionad na Gaeilge.
 Credit: Seán Ó Mainnín

MU researchers receive four IRC Laureate Awards

Maynooth University researchers have received four IRC Laureate Awards in the 2022 Irish Research Council (IRC) Laureate Awards. The four researchers have been awarded a combined €2 million for their work across diverse themes including climate change, law, astrophysics, and early Irish studies.

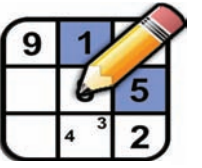
The IRC Laureate Programme supports exceptional early and mid-career researchers who demonstrate research excellence, and applicants go through a rigorous, independent international peer-review process.

MU has secured two Starting (early stage), and two Consolidator (mid-career) awardees. The Programme aims to enable academics to develop their research profile for future European Research Council funding competitions. The grants will enable researchers conduct independent research for a four-year period, and provide funding for additional post-doctoral or postgraduate students.

Announcing the awards, Minister Harris congratulated the award recipients, stating: "*These talented researchers will no doubt contribute hugely towards the world-class excellence that is the bedrock of our research system in Ireland, pushing the boundaries of research knowledge and finding new discoveries that deepen our understanding of the world around us, by looking to the past, questioning the present, and unlocking our future potential."*



Junior Fun

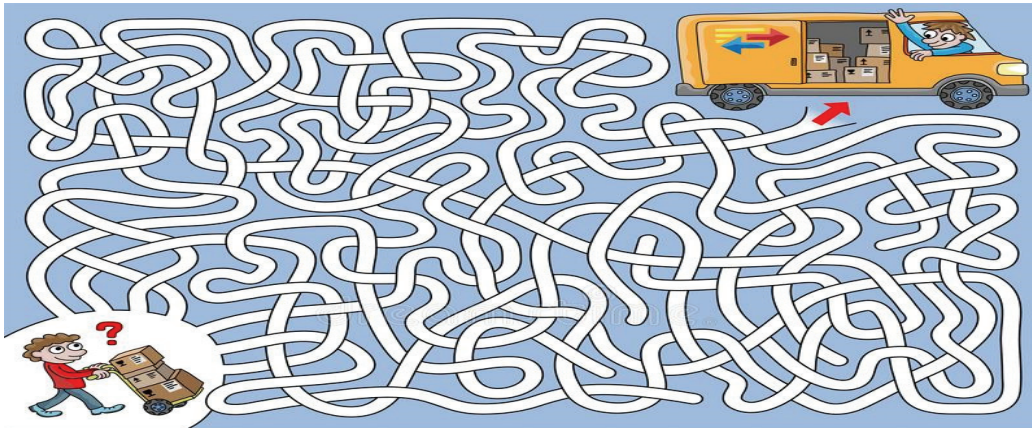


Winter Cryptogram

Decode the words by finding each substitute letter!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Q			W								P									Z	Y				O

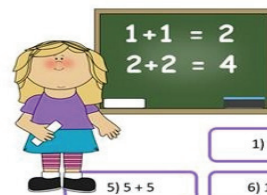
B H S O O R B M
 Q D D Y Z
 T
 E D R Y
 E D H M
 E M B E
 M W E W P Q W B
 E
 V S B W L H R E W
 E E Z E
 V B W W O W
 T
 U R Y
 E S
 S E S E H W Z
 M T T E S
 F S Y Y W A Z



Diltoids- number riddles

Diltoids are short riddles that give you a number(s) and the first letter of each word. See how many of these diltoids you can solve.

- 365 d_____ in a y_____.
- 11 p_____ on a f_____ t_____.
- 8 l_____ on a s_____.
- 60 m_____ p_____ in E_____.
- 4 y_____ between O_____ g_____.
- 007 J_____ B_____.
- 6 l_____ on an i_____.
- 60 s_____ in a m_____.
- 1 t_____ in this c_____.
- 10 f_____ on my h_____.
- 1 f_____ and 2/3 h_____ on a c_____.
- 1 m_____ on the m_____ in 1969.
- 9 p_____ on a b_____ t_____.
- 52 w_____ in a y_____.
- 168 h_____ in a w_____.
- A_____ l p_____ 4s.
- 24 h_____ in a d_____.
- 1000 g_____ in a k_____.
- Q_____ E_____ has 4 c_____.
- 1.3 b_____ p_____ in C_____.
- S_____ W_____ and the 7 s_____ m_____.
- 7 w_____ of the w_____.
- 366 d_____ in a l_____ y_____.



Crossword Numbers Puzzle

1) 4 + 3	2) 1 + 15	3) 3 - 2	4) 17 - 9
5) 5 + 5	6) 11 + 2	7) 4 + 23	8) 55 + 11
9) 20 + 30	10) 51 - 2	11) 27 : 3	12) 19 + 11
13) 28 : 14	14) 9 : 3	15) 3 x 4	16) 2 x 7
17) 10 : 1	18) 21 + 15 + 43	19) 3 x 10	20) 18 + 2
21) 5 + 6	22) 100 : 10	23) 36 : 6	24) 50 : 25



All sourced from Google Free Puzzles

NB If you wish to complete the colouring or Puzzles for fun, you can print the page by going to File -> Print and put in this page number to avoid printing ALL the pages of the Newsletter unless you intend to do so.

Best winter plants for pots

With the best winter plants for pots you can inject plenty of seasonal colour and interest into your garden even when temperatures drop.

Bright summer blooms inevitably fade as the seasons shift. But, the best winter plants for pots will keep the spirits lifted and the garden looking beautiful, despite colder temperatures and darker evenings.

There are plenty of stunning winter garden ideas that will bring a smile to your face on frosty days. But one of the best ways to brighten up an outdoor space is to plant some gorgeous containers. With flowerbeds and borders looking a little bare over the coldest season, using pots is a great way to ensure there is still plenty of interest in your garden during the months ahead. Of course, many winter-flowering plants will provide vital nectar for foraging wildlife too – even more reason for introducing them to your plot.

Winter Aconites

The sun-yellow flowers of winter aconites cheer us in January and February. 'After flowering, plant them out in humus-rich moisture-retentive soil in semi-shade, where they will naturalize.' They don't grow too tall – only around 4in (10cm). Try planting up a cluster of smaller pots for an instant uplift, or dot the bulbs around the perimeter of a larger container. Pollinators adore these buttercup-like blooms, so they're perfect if you're looking for winter wildlife garden ideas.



Crocuses

In shades of yellow, lilac, deep purple and frosty white, early crocuses are well-loved winter plants that are perfect for pots.

Try 'Pickwick', a larger variety with white goblet flowers and purple veining, which will bloom in February in milder regions. Blue Pearl is another favourite with its silvery-lilac petals and deep yellow throats, or try 'Snow Bunting' for white, star-shaped blooms with sunshine-yellow centres. If you love a deeper purple hue, then opt for 'Whitewell Purple', as shown above.

They like well-drained containers positioned in the sun (they won't flower in shade). After flowering, plant them out in a sunny patch of a border or lawn, where they will form clumps over time.

Coral bells

Coral bells, otherwise known as heucheras, have pretty flower spikes in summer. However, the frilly, semi-evergreen foliage in a wide range of colours makes it a good pick for winter container planting too, especially in regions where temperatures don't drop too low.

Pansies & Violas

Create a container of pansies and you are guaranteed a cheering display all through autumn, winter and into early spring. These bedding plants are one of the best plants for beginners if you follow a few simple rules. Choose plants which are labelled as 'winter-flowering' to guarantee they will thrive in colder weather.

Plant them out at the start of autumn (before the end of September), so they form buds before the frosts arrive. Plant in multi-purpose compost with a handful of grit to aid drainage. In dry spells, or if there is an Indian summer, make sure the compost is moist to touch – plants can still dry out and die in the colder months.

Pack the container with plants for a full display. Deadheading flowers regularly will encourage repeat blooming. For extra impact, opt for one colour, rather than a mix of shades – try 'Swiss Giant Orange' for a blaze of gold, or 'Coolwave Raspberry' for a cushion of velvety plum.



Heather

Whether it is a shade of white or dark pink, heather is one of the best winter plants for pots as it brings delicate beauty to your displays. It also makes a good bee-friendly plant. Heathers only thrive in acid soil, so buy a bag of ericaceous compost. Add a 1–2in (2.5–5cm) layer of grit at the base of the container first, as they do not like to have soggy roots. Grow them in a sunny spot, or partial shade.



Good choices for winter flowering varieties are E. carnea 'Springwood White', which has trailing stems, and E. carnea 'Springwood Pink' for a bright pop of colour.

Although we associate scented plants with warm summer days, there are some cold-weather heroes which are perfect for placing by the porch for a blast of fragrance in winter sunshine.

Sweet box, or *Sarcococca confusa*, is a brilliant option for the best winter plants for pots. It has a profusion of tiny, spidery, white flowers on glossy evergreen leaves in the winter, which turn into black berries over

summer. It's an easy-care plant, with no pruning needed. Just remove any dead sprigs in late spring.

For a beautiful citrus scent in a pot, try winter-flowering honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) which has creamy-coloured flowers on semi-bare branches from January. Plant in a large container for the best results.

Camellias

They may need a bit of extra TLC, but it's worth learning how to grow camellias for the spectacle of showy flowers lighting up the patio in late winter. Camellias come in shades of pink, red and white, with open flowers contrasting with their evergreen foliage.

They're ideal for growing in pots to add some winter interest to your patio gardening ideas. But, they do need to be planted in well-drained ericaceous (acid) soil, and if possible, they should be watered with rainwater from a water butt. Put them in a sheltered spot near the house, and protect early buds from frost with horticultural fleece. Prune after they have flowered, and keep them well-watered through spring and summer, as this is when the buds are forming. It's definitely worth the effort, as they will reward you with a stunning display in late winter and early spring.

Cyclamen

The flag-like flowers of cyclamen offer tons of beauty during the winter months. And, whether you prefer a hot splash of lipstick pink or a more ethereal palette of white for your garden colour scheme, there's a flower to suit.

The ones on sale in supermarkets tend to be tender, indoor cyclamen. So, make sure you choose a hardy variety called *Cyclamen coum* or *Cyclamen hederifolium* if you're after the best plants for winter pots. Plant them at the same depth as the pots you buy them in and avoid letting the containers becoming waterlogged, as this will damage the roots. They can be bought as bulbs, but for a quick solution, ready-grown plants are inexpensive and create an instant uplift.



Snowdrops

They're among the first flowers to nose through the ground in January and February, and a pot or two of snowdrops delivers a welcome boost to wintry gardens. Snowdrop bulbs can be planted in the autumn, or they may be grown 'in the green' (with their leaves still attached) in March or April for flowering the following winter. They are happiest when growing in the ground in a shady garden border or raised bed – those grown in containers will need repotting every year. Don't forget about the greater snowdrop too (*Galanthus elwesii*) – it has large, honey-scented white flowers above glaucous leaves in January and February.

HOW DO YOU PLANT A WINTER CONTAINER?

A mix of bright flowers and berries with shapely evergreens and graceful grasses always looks good. Go for instant impact with pretty colour combinations or perhaps try a more minimal statement pot with ornamental foliage that adds interesting shape and texture.

Make sure you put your container into position before you start filling it otherwise it will be too heavy to move. Fill the pot generously as plants grow slowly during the colder months and you don't want to leave any obvious gaps. Once planted up, put the pots where they will get most light. Regularly check the compost for signs of drying out, and be careful not to overwater them.

- All winter containers should have drainage in place to prevent plant roots getting sodden. Use plenty of crocks or broken up polystyrene plant trays. If possible, also raise the pot on feet or bricks for increased drainage and to avoid frost damage.
- Mix some slow release fertiliser in with multipurpose compost and part fill your pot, gently firming in as you go. Position the largest plant, which becomes the 'backbone' of your planting scheme, teasing out any dense roots as you go.
- With your largest plant in place, experiment with the layout of other plants before committing to planting. Move them around to achieve the effect you like best. Aim for a good contrast between any foliage and flowering plants.
- Work from one side of the pot to the other. Rather than fill the pot with compost and then dig out planting spaces, place each individual plant. Once you are happy with the arrangement start to pack compost around the roots of each plant, firming them in as you go.
- Water regularly, but let compost nearly dry out in between times so it doesn't become waterlogged

Source: www.gardeningetc.com/advice/best-plants-for-winter-pots

Source: www.gardeningetc.com/advice/how-to-plant-a-winter-container

“Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years.”



November Gardening

Our leaves are falling as well as our temperatures.

Isn't there always something to be doing in our gardens, be it pruning, tidying or sowing/planting. Nevertheless, there is something easy about our gardens in November, it's our time for reflection but with one eye on the forthcoming year. Some people think that Autumn is the time to hack everything back before winter really sets in, however, it's actually not a good time to prune many trees and shrubs, better done in late winter or early spring. Cherries if pruned are vulnerable to silver leaf disease, then evergreens are usually tackled in early spring after flowering. Beech, Hawthorn, Hazel, Climbing and Shrub Roses like to be pruned right now. I think, being out there in the garden is therapeutic in itself even if one achieves nothing. Honestly, I simply cannot imagine life without plants and flowers, even one single beautiful bud to look at, to admire near you, on your desk speaks volumes. Different plants and different scents evoke different emotions.



Early/Mid November:

Try to finish off bulb planting soon. In fact this is a great time to be planting tulips but if your soil is heavy put some coarse grit into the planting holes. Check tree stakes and ties before winter winds cause damage. Plant bare root hedging plants. Grass growth generally slows down a little this month, so only give your lawn a light mowing if the grass is dry. If you have not already done so, treat the lawn to a dose of autumn lawn fertiliser and aerate it. This treatment will pay dividends in the spring. If your garden is lacking colour plant some winter flowering shrubs now. Sow fast maturing carrots, radishes, winter hardy salad onions etc. in the greenhouse for April harvest. Clean patios and concrete paths to remove potentially slippery moss and algae.

Late November:

Garden birds benefit from extra feeding all year round, but it is especially important in the winter months. Try to put out appropriate food for the species living in your garden and make sure that water is readily available too. Prune free standing apple and pear trees after leaf fall. Begin washing pots and trays in disinfectant ready for the new sowing season.

November Gardening Tips:

Shorter days, darker evenings mean only one thing its officially Winter! We hope you will find these November gardening tips helpful to guide you through the beginning of Winter!

Rake leaves and make leaf mould or compost. Clean, sharpen, and oil garden tools. Finish winterizing your water garden. Start forcing bulbs like paperwhites, hyacinth and amaryllis for the holidays. Add organic matter to beds. Cover compost so that rain doesn't flood and leach the nutrients. Also remember to keep weeding.



Check that indoor plants are receiving enough water, humidity and air circulation. Cut back the yellowing foliage of herbaceous perennials, and lift and divide overcrowded clumps to maintain their vigour. Now is a great time to prepare a perennial vegetable bed which can be planted up with rhubarb crowns, asparagus crowns and now is the ideal time to plant currant bushes whilst they are dormant. Once plants are dormant, it is a good time to lift and relocate any plant that you want to move. Gather up fallen leaves from around the base of rose bushes which suffered from blackspot or rust this summer, to reduce the chance of infection next year. Sweep paths and surfaces regularly. In "Open" gardens you have to do this on a daily basis. In winter try and do all the surfaces visible from the house fairly regularly to avoid the drab, neglected look. Chopped or left whole, leaves make an excellent mulch for vegetable crops, they suppress weeds and retain soil moisture.

Mediterranean style stuffed peppers

Cook time: 50 min.

Yield: 6 stuffed peppers

Ingredients:

- ◆ 1 small yellow onion, chopped
- ◆ 1/2 lb ground beef
- ◆ Salt and pepper
- ◆ 1/2 tsp allspice
- ◆ 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- ◆ 1 cup cooked or canned chickpeas
- ◆ 1/2 cup chopped parsley, more for garnish
- ◆ 1 cup short grain rice (soaked in water for 15 minutes, then drained)
- ◆ 1/2 tsp hot or sweet paprika
- ◆ 3 tbsp. tomato sauce
- ◆ 2 1/4 cups of water
- ◆ 6 bell peppers, tops removed and cored
- ◆ 3/4 cup chicken broth (or water)



Method

1. In a medium heavy pot, heat 1 tbsp. of oil. Sauté the chopped onions until golden. Now add the meat and cook on medium-high heat, stirring occasionally until deeply browned. Season with salt pepper, all spice and garlic powder. Stir in the chickpeas and cook briefly.
2. To the same pot, now add the parsley, rice, paprika and tomato sauce; stir to combine. Add the water and bring to a high simmer until liquid has reduced by one half.
3. Turn the heat to low. Cover and cook for 15-20 minutes or until the rice is fully cooked and no longer hard or too chewy.
4. While the rice is cooking, heat a gas grill to medium-high heat. Grill the bell peppers for 10-15 minutes, covered. Be sure to turn the peppers occasionally so that all sides get charred. Remove from the grill and let cool briefly.
5. Preheat the oven to 150° C.
6. Assemble the bell peppers, open-side up, in a baking dish filled with 3/4 cup broth or water. Spoon in the cooked rice mixture to stuff each of the peppers to the very top.
7. Cover the baking dish tightly with foil and place it in the oven at 150° C. Bake for 20 -30 minutes.
8. Remove from the oven and garnish and garnish with parsley, if you like. Serve immediately with your favourite salad and a side of Greek yogurt.

French toast

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

- ◆ 1 egg
- ◆ 75 ml milk
- ◆ 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- ◆ 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ◆ 1 pinch salt
- ◆ 4 slices bread



Method:

1. Beat together egg, milk, cinnamon, vanilla and salt.
2. Heat a lightly oiled frying pan or flat griddle over medium heat.
3. Soak bread slices in egg mixture for 20 seconds on each side or until thoroughly coated. Cook bread until browned and crisp.

Serve hot!!

Eggy bread is always popular for breakfast or brunch at the weekend, plus it's something the whole family can enjoy! But if you fancy these for dessert instead, give them a light sprinkle of icing sugar and serve with toffee sauce and vanilla ice-cream and a selection of berries.



FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

The Films of Martin McDonagh



Irish filmmaker/screenwriter Martin McDonagh's latest film offering, The Banshees of Inisherin has received critical acclaim at both the Venice and London Film Festivals. The cast were given standing ovations at both festivals recently.



THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN (2022)

McDonagh's black comedy-drama, set in the Irish Civil War period on a remote island in the West of Ireland reunites the In Bruges dream team of Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson. The Banshees of Inisherin is a bitter tale of fractured friendship between two men. Padraic, a well-meaning farmer (Farrell) and Colm (Gleeson) have been friends for years, socialising everyday in the local pub on the island. Suddenly, out of the blue, Gleeson's character decides he doesn't like Padraic anymore. Farrell's Padraic is understandably bewildered by his best friend's rejection of him. This is the catalyst for turmoil, dark humour and gory violence in McDonagh's story. The mutual conflict sees both men go to horrible, bizarre lengths to prove their particular viewpoints.

Farrell conveys the pain and desolation at the loss of someone he considers a close friend. It is a brilliant, nuanced performance which travels the acting gamut from confusion denial, determination to blind fury.

Brendan Gleeson is equally superb as an intelligent, cold man cutting ties with a former friend and becoming increasingly disturbed in his behaviour. Barry Keoghan as a village idiot type and Kerry Condon (who plays Farrell's no-nonsense sister) provide excellent support to the main stars.



The Banshees of Inisherin is probably McDonagh's most satisfying and beautifully-crafted film to date. The director's work has always been possessed of a sardonic, acerbic and very Irish manic humour that mixes the surreal with sudden flashes of violence. Relationship break-ups are a common theme in films, but rarely has the ending of a friendship been so forcefully and poignantly depicted on screen in the writer-director's latest work. Both Achill Island and Inis Mór were used as filming locations and, as expected, provide a breath-taking backdrop to the action of the film.

The costumes and gorgeous cinematography are exceptional. Panoramic beach scenes are reminiscent of David Lean's Ryan's Daughter, which was also filmed partly on Achill in the 1970s. The Banshees of Inisherin is side-splittingly funny, powerful, macabre and incredibly bleak by turns. It may be dark and uncomfortable viewing, but it's easily one of the best films of 2022, McDonagh's work is sure to scoop up many nominations/wins in the upcoming Awards season.

Since the success of his black comedy crime-drama thriller In Bruges in 2008, Martin McDonagh has earned himself the reputation of being one of the most daring and creative film directors in Hollywood. Prior to his film career, McDonagh had made his mark as a gifted playwright, writing and directing stage plays in the West End of London. The Irishman's offbeat brilliance as a playwright made an easy transition to the Big Screen - peculiarly suited to his trademark dark humour, violence, and themes of redemption - leaving audiences often bewildered by McDonagh's offbeat, quirky story choices.



While Martin McDonagh's scripts can be brutally irreverent and glib, the very nature of how the lines are delivered, and how he treats taboo topics (punching women, verbally abusing dwarves/overweight people, stealing dogs or murdering priests) are all delivered in uproarious fashion in his films. All McDonagh's films from In Bruges, Seven Psychopaths, to Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri are peculiarly good-humoured films despite the drug-dealing, contract-killing, violence and morally repugnant elements to them.

IN BRUGES (2008)

McDonagh's second film, In Bruges has become such a cult hit, that any visitor to the Belgian town is obliged to caption any social media post with 'In Bruges'. Forget the medieval borough with its venetian canal and romantic parks, Bruges is now the home of McDonagh's infamous characters: a child-killing hitman, the one-eyed "poof," and the horse-tranquilized dwarf. The writer-director's screenplay is full of the most derogatory, highly-charged, and hilarious lines ever put on screen. Brendan Gleeson, Colin Farrell, and Ralph Fiennes deliver arguably some of their best work under McDonagh's polished direction.



In Bruges revolves around two hitman, who go underground in Bruges, as Colin Farrell tries to escape his past. Farrell's portrayal of the hot-headed, impulsive Ray, who had killed a young boy in a botched hit job, is brazenly funny, yet deeply vulnerable. It is a testament to the brilliance of In Bruges as an agonising story of a man who struggles with a moral dilemma between right and wrong. Farrell's performance evokes much sympathy with a character who made a grave error, and is trying to make peace with the sins of his past.

Brendan Gleeson is perfectly cast as Farrell's partner in crime, the initially exasperated veteran hitman Ken, who, unlike Ray, is filled with child-like wonder by the Belgium town's beauty and charm. Both Gleeson and Farrell have fabulous, natural on-screen chemistry, as their characters assume the personas of a caring uncle and an off-the-rails, melancholic, borderline-suicidal nephew. The actors' dynamic onscreen is always fascinating to watch.



English actor Ralph Fiennes brings much relish to the role of Harry, the deranged organized crime boss motivated by his strict code of conduct and moral principles, albeit with a murderous nasty streak. One of the standout moments of In Bruges is undoubtedly Gleeson's ascent of the Tower in the town's main square, to the haunting strains of Luke Kelly's rendition of Patrick Kavanagh's Raglan Road.

SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS (2012)

Seven Psychopaths is arguably McDonagh's funniest, most manic film. It provides several laugh-out-loud moments in the midst of the ridiculousness and mayhem that ensues onscreen. Boasting an all-star cast, including Colin Farrell, Sam Rockwell, Christopher Walken, Woody Harrelson and Tom Waits, the film delivers on multiple levels about the nature of friendship, creativity, and trust. The overriding plot of the film tells the story of a struggling screenwriter (Colin Farrell) constrained by his abuse of alcohol, who finds himself in desperate straits when his oddball best friend (Sam Rockwell) steals the dog of an LA gangster (Walken). Rockwell is the real highlight of Seven Psychopaths with his hilarious and scene-stealing turn as the dog-napper in question. McDonagh proves to be the master of his art by pulling together a truly dark comedy, posing the question, if you believe the world around you is crazy, how are you sure you are not the crazy one?



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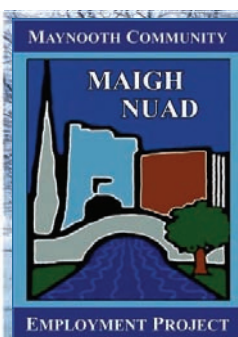
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Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



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.



Keep your Business in Maynooth to Keep Maynooth in Business

Christmas, 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. Let's 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 organisations. Everyone working together will continue to make Maynooth a great place to live in.

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



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

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Letters to the Editor

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

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:

1. Promote Maynooth's Town Centre as the core of activity and prioritise the 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.
5. Encourage modal shift from private motor vehicles to sustainable travel 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**



taxy

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



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of Ireland Maynooth

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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 18th 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 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 11th 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

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
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| • Becks Beauty.Life | • Maynooth Post Office |
| • Beetroot Maynooth | • McCartan's Pharmacy |
| • Bella and Me Beauty | • McCormack's Pharmacy |
| • Bistro 53 | • McDonalds, Maynooth |
| • Blooming You Beauty | • McMahon's |
| • Blue Ribbon Hairdressers | • Meridian 16 Restaurant |
| • Boots, Maynooth | • Moulin Rouge |
| • Brady's Clockhouse | • My Vet |
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| • Careplus Pharmacy, Maynooth | • News 4 U |
| • Carraig Donn, Manor Mills | • Nutmeg |
| • Carton Golf Club | • OB1 Hairdressers |
| • Cherri Hand and Foot Spa | • O'Brien's, Manor Mills |
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| • Dawson's Menswear | • O'Neill's Steakhouse |
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| • Elvery's, Manor Mills | • Royal City |
| • Ely, Maynooth | • Sasta on the River |
| • Emma's Place | • Sean Tracey |
| • Eurosaver | • Shade, Manor Mills |
| • Flowers by Sue | • Sherry Fitzgerald, Brady |
| • Glass Doll | • St. Patrick's Pharmacy |
| • Hot Heads Hairdressers | • Stonehaven Restaurant |
| • Ink Jet World | • Super Valu, Maynooth |
| • Jump Juice, Manor Mills | • Supermacs Maynooth |
| • Kiran and Satya | • Sweetpea Kids, Maynooth |
| • La La Lara, Manor Mills | • Three Pin Electrical |
| • Lana Restaurant | • Tommy's Butchers |
| • Leonidas | • Uniform Warehouse |
| • Life Credit Union | • Upstairs Downstairs |
| • Linda Murphy | • V.I.P. Vaping |
| • Liz Callaghan | • Willow and Wild |
| • Mahers Centra | • Yeah Burger |
| • Manor Mills S.C. | • Zipyard, Maynooth |
| • Mark Nolan | |
| • Mary Hegarthy | |

St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band



Another year is coming to an end and the Band continues to grow with new members joining up and hopefully the leaflets that went to all the houses in Maynooth last month will attract some more 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 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 Saturday 17th December with the proceeds going towards the upkeep of the Band for the coming year which, like everyone, is getting more and more expensive to run.

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who has supported the Band over the past year through donations at recitals and by buying CDs and our 90th Anniversary Souvenir Calendar, your generosity is really appreciated. The Band's CD is a perfect stocking filler and is available from Maynooth Bookshop on Main Street.





YOU ARE INVITED
TO

ST. MARYS BRASS & REED BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DEC | 11 | 7.30 pm

GLENROYAL HOTEL
MAYNOOTH



Admission €5.00
Children Free





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.

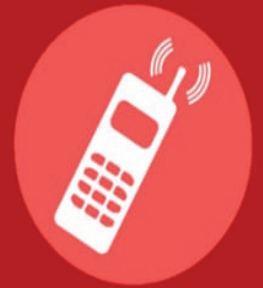
***Mary Molloy - PRO
Maynooth Tidy Towns Association***



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- * Social Welfare
- * Education
- * Services for Senior Citizens
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- * Housing Adaptations and Planning (Level Access Showers, Extensions, Rebuilding Ireland Housing Loan)
- * Social Housing
- * Estate Issues
- * Community Issues
- * Environmental Concerns
- * Employment Concerns
- * Covid - 19 related queries



Phone



E-mail



Cllr. Angela Feeney

Tel. 087 238 1962

Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com

Stay safe everyone.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year



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.

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-maynooth-and...>

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.

December Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



[facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService](https://www.facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService)



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

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

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.

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Seasons Greetings to all

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.

"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



**Maynooth
University**
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Catherine Murphy T.D. Social Democrats, Kildare North.

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

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 short-term 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 short-term 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 gold-plated 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 €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 report published earlier this month by the National Oversight and Audit Commission showed that almost 4,500 council owned homes are currently vacant.

"The report also revealed that the average time taken to re-let 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 live."

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 €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

(Continued on page 12)



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

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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 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-of-living crisis. He must immediately intervene by using his veto 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]

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

Location	No. of CWOs	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

downloaded at www.gov.ie. It is available in all Intreo 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 Róisín 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 of 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.”

(Continued on page 13)



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

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481. To ask the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, 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 **€450,000** was awarded. The 2023 allocation will remain at **€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

Social Democrats



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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

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, trimming 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

Town 2 Glebe North 2
3 Pens 1 Pen

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.

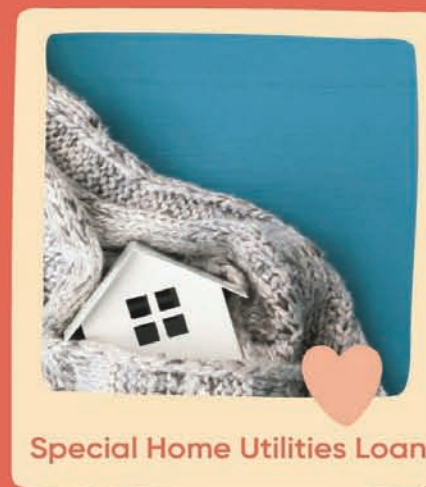
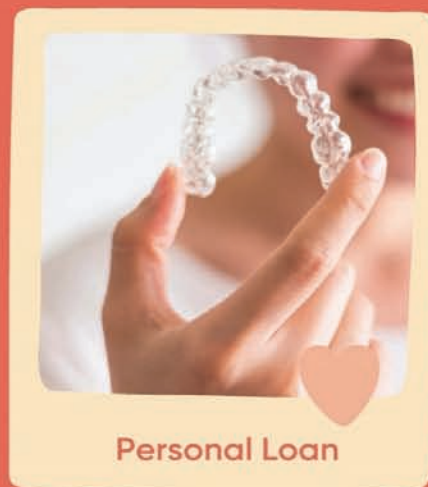
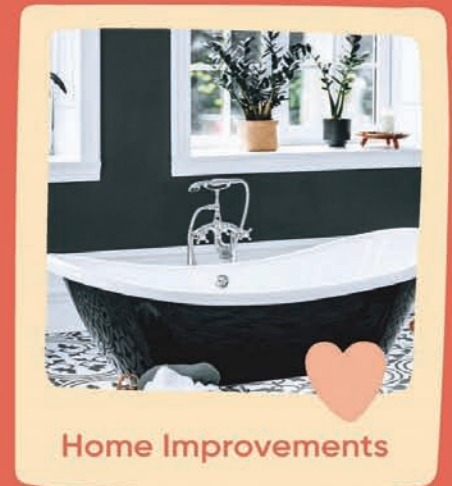
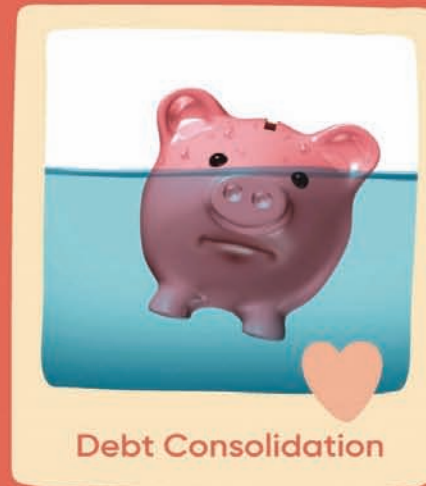
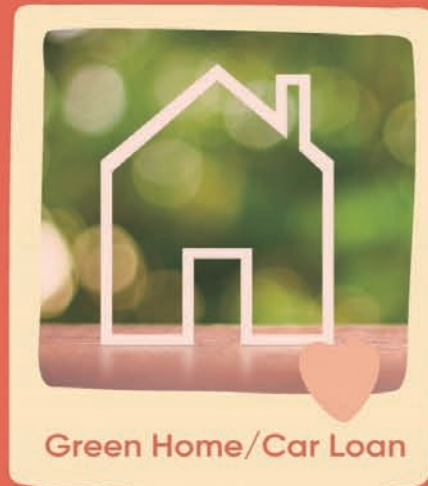
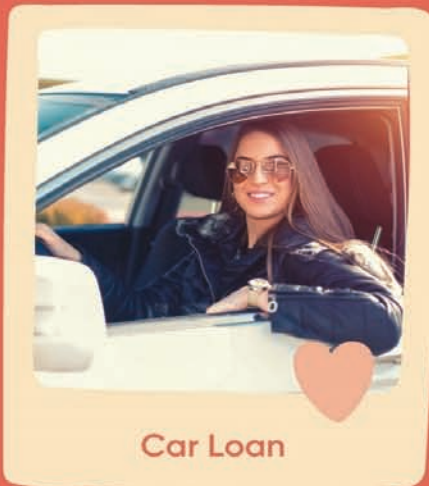
Despite taking the lead Town just could not push home their advantage and Jackson Ryan’s goal was only a consolation.

Seasons Greetings to All

L.S.L. Senior Sunday		P	W	D	L	F	A	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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Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

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



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 [our page on taking out a mortgage](#).

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 [credit history](#).
- **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 - [compare mortgages](#) and look for the lowest interest rates.
- Finding out if there's an [early exit charge](#) 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 [incentives](#) such as cashback offers. Some lenders may offer you cashback when you switch your mortgage to them. This could save you money on [fees and expenses](#).

Before making any important financial decisions, it is a good idea to [get financial advice](#).

How to choose a new mortgage

For help comparing mortgage providers, you can use the [Competition and Consumer Protection Commission \(CCPC\) mortgage switching calculator](#).

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 [early exit charge](#) 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 [Brokers Ireland](#) website to find a broker in your area.

Step 4 - Gather your paperwork

You will need to provide [documentation](#) including:

- Proof of your identity
- Proof of income (payslips, or accounts if you are self-employed)
- Proof of employment and your address
- Bank 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 [Law Society's website](#) 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 [Central Bank of Ireland's mortgage measures](#) 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 [3-step plan for making a complaint](#) about financial services providers.

The Central Bank of Ireland has an explainer on [how to complain about a financial services firm](#).

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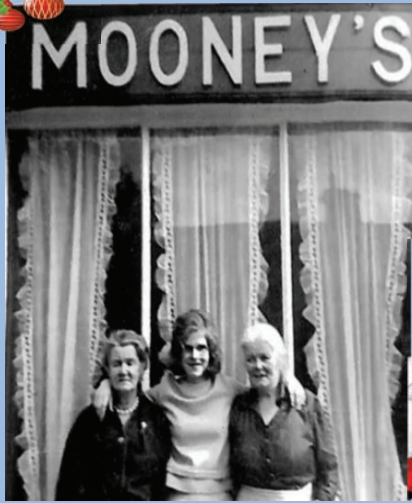
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Lorna@countykildarelp.ie 085 8421347

www.heads-up.ie



Memories of Old Maynooth - Photos from the Archive



Visit to our archives to see our collection of Maynooth photos and past issues of Maynooth Newsletter on www.maynoothcep.com

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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-eyed 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

Of spotlight and starlight;
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.

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

As if it were formed of the foam
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.

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
Of other generations,
Echo upon echo upon echo?

P. Devaney

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

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 <https://gofund.me/f70bcaaf>

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
Gawgaws in the shape of bells and angels and
stars. And the supermarkets with their overlaid
shelves, Turkeys, puddings, cakes, whiskey, beer
and wine. Other shops coaxing the punters to buy
their wares, Frillery 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, aiséin gan cheangal!

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

GM.



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St Patrick's Day Parade



Application Form 2023

This Year's Theme: Celtic Mythology



Closing Date for Entries: 5pm Friday 3rd March 2023

Name of Business/Group: _____

Address: _____

Contact e-mail: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

- ♦ All vehicles entering **must** have a float, preferably a live band with traditional, rock or pop music.
- ♦ HGV's, lorries or cars **without** a float will not be accepted.
- ♦ Entry Fee does not include Insurance cover. All participants/Floats should have suitable Insurance cover.

Do you wish to do a demo (2-3 mins) at Reviewing Stand? Yes ☐ No ☐

Entrance Fees: (Cheques should be made payable to "Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade")

Commercial Float ~ €60 Club/Organisation ~ €30

First Time Entry ~ €10 Bands ~ Free

Please submit two paragraphs about your club/organisation or business with this application

The categories for which prizes will be awarded are as follows:

1	Best Commercial Float	Trophy	2	Best Club Float	Trophy
3	Best Band	Perpetual Cup	4	Best School Float	Trophy
5	Best Portrayal of Irish Culture (Dr Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin Perpetual Trophy)	Perpetual Trophy	6	Best Portrayal of Environmental Awareness	Trophy

Applications with entry fee to be sent to:
Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade Committee
c/o Unit 10, Carton Retail Park,
Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Organised by:
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MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES



Public Meeting of Maynooth Cycling Campaign

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

To Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82530794821?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82530794821?pwd=K2JyNnZZYjJQaml4YXhMYUJlSVVGpDQOT09)

[pwd=K2JyNnZZYjJQaml4YXhMYUJlSVVGpDQOT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82530794821?pwd=K2JyNnZZYjJQaml4YXhMYUJlSVVGpDQOT09)

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. Patrick's 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 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."



Towpath between Confey and Louisa Bridge Closed Off for Works

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.

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 fiction 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 grant-aided Pete to pursue a project to compose and record ten new and original pieces of Irish tradition music and songs.

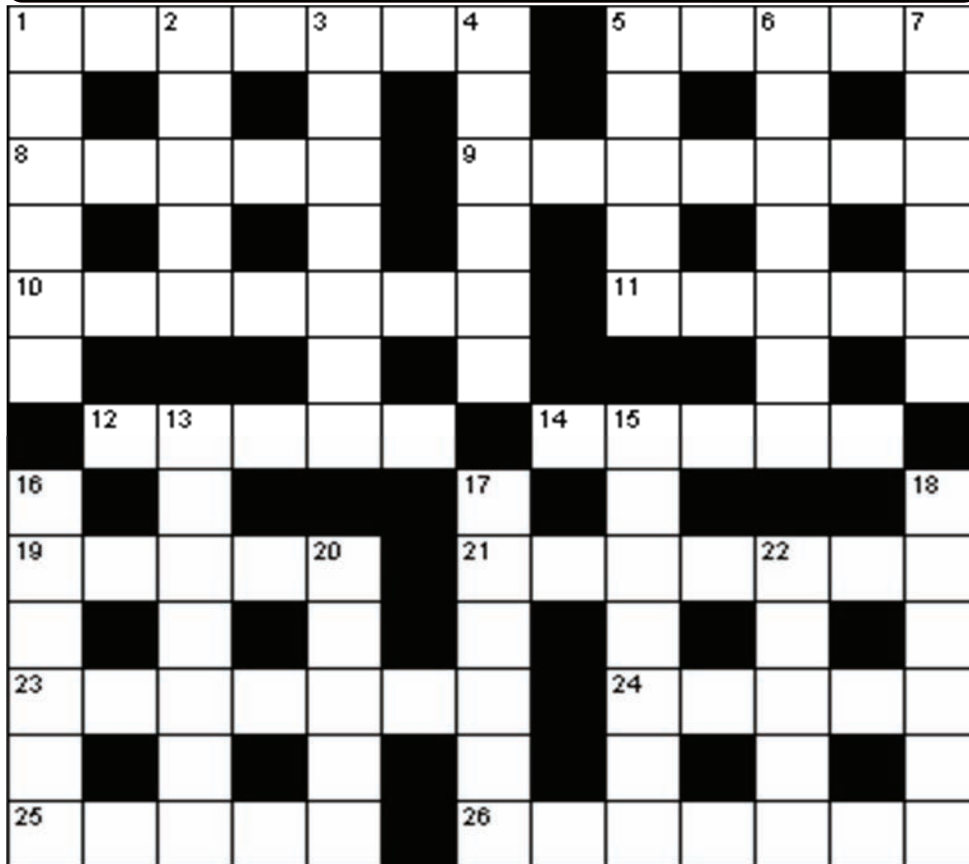
"The Arts Office were very supportive of my idea to write some new tradition material to add to the already fantastic collection of works written by local Kildare artists and written with Kildare themes." "The grant enabled me to dedicate a block of time to compose and record the music pieces and the 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 Kildare-born 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 traditional 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 compositions 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.



December 2022 Crossword - No. 519



Clues Across

1. On the way (2,5)
 5. Sound (5)
 8. Dog-like mammal (5)
 9. Free from blame (7)
 10. Entrap (7)
 11. Music speed (5)
 12. Compare (5)
 14. Book of maps (5)
 19. General kind of something (5)
 21. Unaffected (7)
 23. Pasta strips (7)
 24. Impromptu (2,3)
 25. Part of a church (5)
 26. Defraud (7)



Solutions to Crossword No. 518



Clues Down

1. Reverberated (6)
 2. Rolls of film (5)
 3. Oblivious (7)
 4. Jubilant (6)
 5. Valuable item (5)
 6. Quandary (7)
 7. Nocturnal wildcat (6)
 13. Type of rock (7)
 15. Percussion instrument (7)
 16. Schedule (6)
 17. Visitors (6)
 18. Comestible (6)
 20. Figure out (5)
 22. Legally acceptable (5)

Difficult

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

Sudoku Challenge

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

Super Difficult

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

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 2½ 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/1¾oz 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



Leftover Ideas

Creamy Curried Turkey & Rice Soup

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

Ingredients

2 tbsp olive oil	1 onion
3tbsp Thai red curry paste	2 x 400g cans coconut oil
400ml chicken stock	100g risotto rice
4 large eggs	200-300g leftover turkey shredded
340g can sweetcorn, drained	2 -3 limes, juiced
2 spring onions, sliced	

Method

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 in the coconut milk, chicken stock and risotto rice and bring to a simmer. Cook for 15-20 mins or until the rice is tender.
2. 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 the 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	25g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
200ml milk	400g leftover hard cheese, cut into chunks
100ml double cream or crème fraîche	4 eggs, separated
Grating of nutmeg	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 fraîche 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 carrots or swede, finely chopped
150g leftover cooked Brussels sprouts, finely sliced	100g leftover cooked stuffing, finely chopped or crumbled
50g leftover cooked cabbage, or any cooked veg	1 clove of garlic, grated
1 tsp grated ginger	splash of tabasco
100g leftover cooked sausages, finely chopped	100g leftover turkey, shredded or finely chopped
50g cheese, grated (any kind)	2 tbsp bread sauce or mayonnaise
1 tbsp chopped herbs (coriander, parsley or chives)	5 tbsp plain flour
1 tbsp toasted sesame oil	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 oven for 5 mins until deeply golden and crisp on the outside and cooked through.



December Gardening

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

Materials Needed:

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



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

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-the-way 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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Christmas conundrums to ponder...

Across

- Put this at the top of your Christmas tree
- They followed a star to find baby Jesus.
- "Jingle all the way"
- The day after Christmas
- ___ upon a star
- All Mariah Carey wants for Christmas
- Gold, incense and...
- Rudolph the red nosed...
- What a snowman is made of
- Charity group name that got to #1 with "Do they know it's Christmas?"
- ___ to the world

Down

- Red and white striped treat
- Hang these Christmas decorative balls with tinsel
- What you do before giving a present
- Santa flies around the world in it
- O little town of...
- The Christmas season
- Stand underneath this for a kiss
- A round object you hang on your door at Christmas
- Watch the kids perform in the school ___ play.
- American Government agency that tracks Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve

NB If you wish to complete the colouring or Puzzles for fun, you can print the page by going to File -> Print and put in this page number to avoid printing all the pages.

What 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

Break the Code to find the Christmas Songs



Sourced from: Google Free Puzzles

Christmas Brain 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. Snow 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?



Junior for Fun



O	P	R	I	N	L	I	G	G	Q	Q	R	G	L	U	N	H	Z	E	F
C	H	Z	Q	E	J	A	O	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	I	R	L	Q
M	B	M	O	L	S	Z	T	V	W	U	P	O	B	N	D	T	T	V	V
N	H	N	J	O	L	L	Y	N	U	Y	E	N	M	I	H	C	C	E	U
X	P	M	N	P	P	S	F	I	A	G	K	A	C	L	Y	V	H	S	Z
D	L	A	E	H	X	C	E	L	B	S	F	P	G	C	E	T	Q	E	G
Z	O	M	N	T	H	E	D	A	Y	S	G	N	I	T	E	E	R	G	M
S	D	Z	I	R	V	T	Q	P	S	G	S	B	W	C	C	P	W	V	Q
P	U	I	Z	O	V	A	J	A	E	O	R	U	A	C	F	S	O	G	S
G	R	E	H	N	X	R	L	B	P	Y	N	N	N	H	R	S	O	I	L
B	N	Z	C	S	T	B	H	J	O	M	D	P	I	M	O	A	B	V	M
Y	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	Y	R	D	E	E	S	M	C	I	U
G	O	C	N	O	R	L	D	K	C	O	Q	O	N	R	T	T	W	N	B
W	K	Y	Q	C	Z	E	J	A	G	O	V	T	D	R	Y	S	D	G	Q
L	O	R	T	K	L	C	N	I	C	G	P	N	R	Y	L	I	N	X	S
J	N	X	J	I	R	E	F	B	A	V	A	P	J	E	H	R	D	C	Z
X	L	W	O	N	H	T	A	E	R	W	V	I	I	L	E	H	A	Y	E
W	L	R	D	G	Z	G	Y	L	D	J	C	G	N	X	E	C	M	B	O
M	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	L	S	U	H	J	A	W	N	Z	A	M	J
I	X	P	D	B	T	V	H	S	K	M	W	S	E	L	D	N	A	C	U

Word Search

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| BELLS | RUDOLPH | ELVES | JOY |
| CANDLES | SANTA | FROSTY | MERRY |
| CANDY CANE | SEASON | GIFT | MISTLETOE |
| CARDS | SLEIGH | GIVING | NOEL |
| CELEBRATE | STOCKING | GREETINGS | NORTH POLE |
| CHIMNEY | TREE | HOLIDAY | REINDEER |
| CHRISTMAS | WREATH | JOLLY | |

Unscramble the letters on top of each set of boxes to form a new Christmas-related word. Then, unscramble the bonus letters (those in circles) to discover the bonus solution.

G I C T K O N S	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>
C A R P I F L E E	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>
Y I M N E C H	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>
S T E E M O L I T	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>
N A R S T O M E N	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>
S N E T L I	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>
H I G L E S	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>
N E S T S P E R	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>
L I N T K E W	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>

The Bonus Solution is:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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CHRISTMAS CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Find out the Christmas words and match them with the correct picture:

Sourced from: Google Free Puzzles



NB If you wish to complete the colouring or Puzzles for fun, you can print the page by going to File -> Print and put in this page number to avoid printing all the pages.



FILM/DVD MONTHLY BY BERNIE CLAXTON

Christmas Movies Quiz



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*?

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



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

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



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

- a) George
- b) Hector
- c) Clarence
- d) 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) Maureen O'Sullivan
- b) Maureen O'Hara
- c) Geraldine FitzGerald
- d) Peggy Cummins



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

- a) In The Ventilation System
- b) Under A Table
- c) Hanging Out The Window
- d) Behind The Door

10) What object does George promise to give Mary in *It's a Wonderful Life*?

- a) A Ring
- b) The Moon
- c) A Car
- d) Flowers



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

- a) White Christmas
- b) Meet Me In St Louis
- c) Holiday Inn
- d) 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*?

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



13) In *The Muppet Christmas Carol* film, which Muppet played Bob Cratchit?

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

Merry Christmas

The Answers to the Christmas Movies Quiz 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"

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& Best Wishes for the New Year.***

Great Food Served 7 Days