

# Maynooth Newsletter

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



**Local News - November 2022 - Issue No. 518 - 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.*



**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







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

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## Letters to the Editor

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

## Mission Statement

The Maynooth Newsletter is a community focused publication available free to the people of Maynooth. It plays an important role in gathering together, recording and distributing community based news. We encourage all groups and individuals in the community to submit material to let us know about their activities and any upcoming events. The Newsletter exists for your enjoyment and we hope you continue to enjoy your monthly read and keep us informed of your activities.

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

## Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

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

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

**Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter**

## Editorial

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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)



**Our new 2023 Communion Dresses are now in stock**  
**Communion Dress Clearance from €99**



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**Phone: 01 6293585**



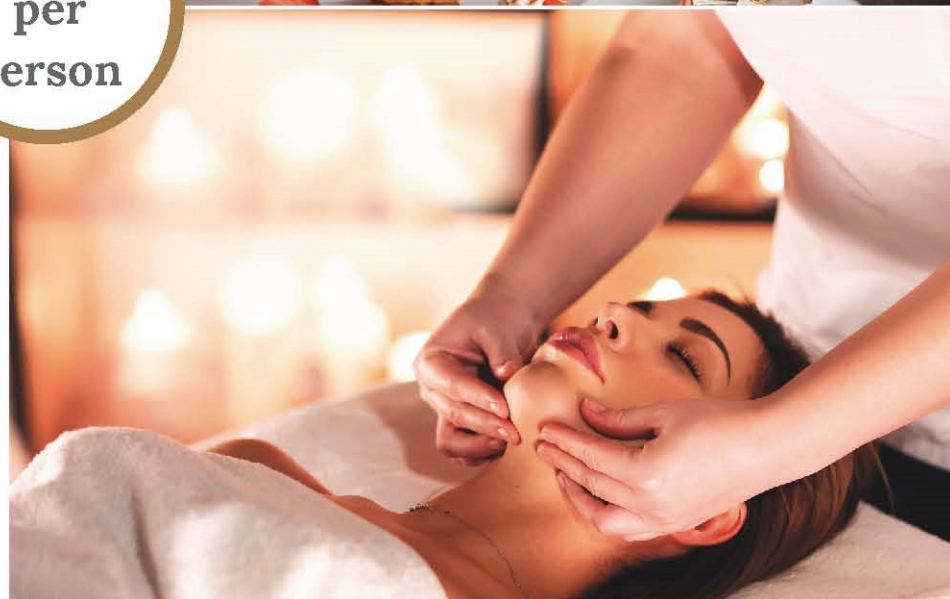
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Choose from one of the following  
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Offer valid Monday – Thursday from  
1st October 2022 until 31st December 2022



## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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:

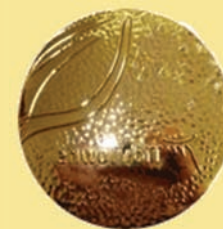
Gaelscoil Ruairí's Lotto will take place weekly, at 8pm every Thursday. The Jackpot starts at €250 and increased weekly if not won, up to €2,000. A weekly prize of €20 will also be drawn at random. The lotto, which is being organised by [ourfundraiser.ie](https://www.ourfundraiser.ie) is open to anyone 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 Valu 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.



# Online Office

## Here to help with

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



Phone



E-mail



**Cllr. Angela Feeney**

**Tel. 087 238 1962**

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

**Stay safe everyone.**







## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



### 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](mailto: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: [@kildarecoco.ie](http://www.kildare.ie/library/maynoothlib) Ph: 01-6285530



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



[twitter.com/kildarelibrary](https://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](http://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 Nutrive, 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

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) for further details

### **YA Bookclub**

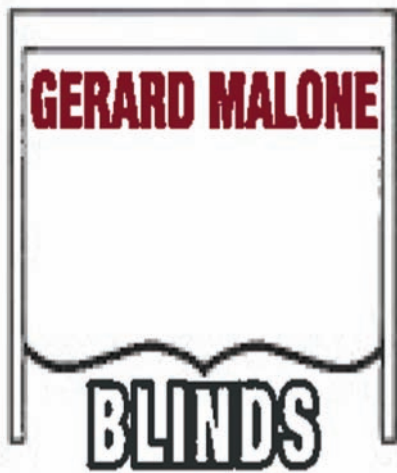
**Friday 25th November**

**4.30pm - 5.30pm**

**12 - 15 year old's**

**Online**

New members welcome. Please contact Maynooth Community Library on [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) for further details.



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## **MULLIGAN'S GARDEN SHEDS KILCOCK**

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**GARDEN SHEDS REPAIRED &  
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DECKING, & SIDE GATES  
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**Mon - Fri 8:30 - 18:00**

**Saturday 8:30 - 17:00**

**01-6287397**

**085-2846781**



## **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.)

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

*(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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10am to 1pm

Unit 4 Posthouse  
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Ph; 089 2444 793

Representing Kildare North in Dáil Eireann

## Social Democrats





# ZERO WASTE

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**November**  
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or email us on  
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Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

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*Information is also available online at [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) and from the*

*Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121*



## 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@cru.ie](mailto:customer@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 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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/](http://www.mumsmakelists.com/christmas-planner/)

Source: [www.bagsoflove.co.uk/blog/how-to-get-ready-for-christmas](http://www.bagsoflove.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 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Dec (7.30pm on Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup>, Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2.30pm on Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sun. 4<sup>th</sup>). 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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THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER  
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SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER  
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FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER  
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SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
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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](mailto: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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**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

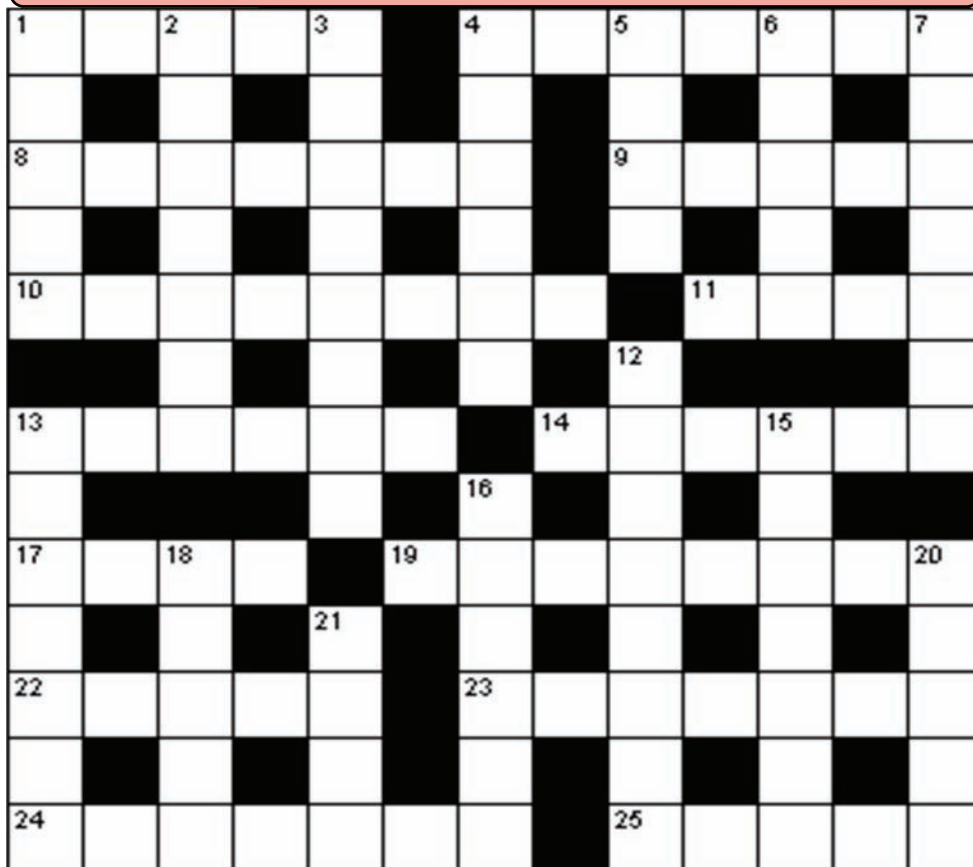


the presence of TWO Bands in the town, our Senior Band for experienced musicians and the Academy Band for those still in the early learning stages. Rehearsals for the Senior Band take place on Monday nights (Bank Holidays excepted) between 7.45 and 9.30 in the Band Hall on Pound Lane and the Academy 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](mailto: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.

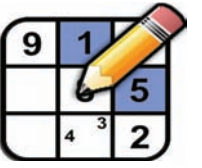
MU has secured two Starting (early stage), and two Consolidator (mid-career) awardees. The Programme aims to enable academics to develop their research profile for future European Research Council funding competitions. The grants will enable researchers conduct independent research for a four-year period, 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

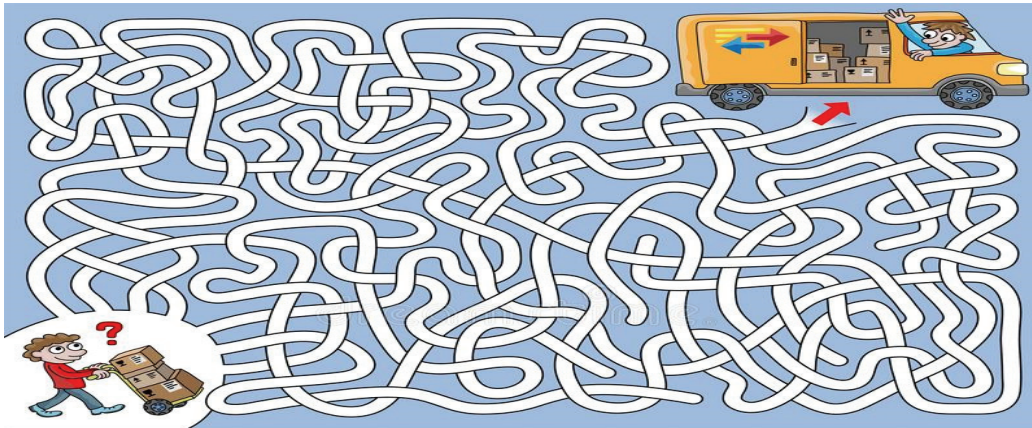


## Winter Cryptogram

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

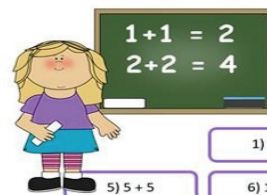
B H S O O R B M  
 Q D D Y Z  
 T  
 E D R Y  
 E D H M  
 E M B E  
 M W E W P Q W B  
 E  
 V S B W L H R E W  
 E E Z E  
 V B W W O W  
 T  
 U R Y  
 E S  
 S E S E H W Z  
 M T T E S  
 F S Y Y W A Z



### 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](http://www.gardeningetc.com/advice/best-plants-for-winter-pots)

Source: [www.gardeningetc.com/advice/how-to-plant-a-winter-container](http://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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