



# Local News - February 20223 - Issue No. 520- 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.





# **Clean to European Norms**

12	Waterford City Centre
T13	Ballinasloe
T13	Dublin Airport Environs
15	Wicklow
16	Athlone
17	Sligo
18	Dublin City - Crumlin
19	Galway City Centre
20	Portlaoise
T21	Navan
T21	Tralee
23	Tipperary
24	Waterford City - Ballybeg
25	Carlow
26	Roscommon
27	Longford
28	Killarney

# **Moderately Littered**

ı	29	Cork Northside
ı	30	Tallaght
	31	Dublin City Centre
Š	32	Drogheda
	33	Limerick City South - Galyone

# Cleaner than European Norms

1	Naas
T2	Kilkenny
T2	Maynooth
4	Castlebar
5	Ennis
6	Letterkenny
7	Cavan
8	Monaghan
9	Mullingar
T10	Gorey
T10	Midleton

# Littered

34	Dundalk
35	Galway Inner City - Ballybane
36	Ballymun
37	Limerick City Centre
38	Cork City Centre
39	Dublin North Inner City

# **Seriously Littered**

40 Cork City - Mahon

# Naas is cleanest as survey shows marked fall in litter levels in 2022

The final litter survey of 2022 by business group Irish Business Against Litter has shown a significant rise in the numbers of areas deemed clean across Ireland. Three quarters of the 40 cities and towns surveyed were clean, compared to just over half this time last year. While Naas was again top of the rankings, city areas showed greatest improvement, notably Dublin City. IBAL says the prevalence of plastic bottles and cans in the study strengthens the case for the impending Deposit Return Scheme. Cleanliness levels nationwide improved by 6% in 2022, with Naas pipping Kilkenny and Maynooth in the rankings. An Taisce, who carry out the surveys on behalf of IBAL, praised Naas for attaining "a level of cleanliness and presentation that should inspire local authorities across the country to better things". The Main Street was singled out as 'exceptionally well presented and maintained'. For the third year in succession, Waterford was the cleanest city, ahead of Galway.

# Cities on the rise

Urban areas improved by 12%, yet they continue to occupy the lower positions in the IBAL rankings. Mahon in Cork deteriorated to 'seriously littered' at the foot of the table, with An Taisce reporting dumping as a definite issue: "many sites were let down not just because of casual litter but due to presence of dumped items", such as dirty nappies. There was little improvement in 'littered' Cork City, which suffered from a number of blackspots, such as Kennedy Quay, Carmelite Place / Western Road and the North Ring Road where "there was no let up on the dumping along this road – as well as bags of rubbish, there were larger household items e.g., chairs, white electrical appliances. It was in a very, very poor state."

By contrast, Dublin City Centre rose to 'moderately littered' as did Galvone in Limerick, recording one of its best scores of recent years. Dublin's North Inner City was again littered but much improved on 12 months ago.

"The results reflect a pattern of improvement since the peak of the Covid pandemic, when litter levels soared, especially in cities," said IBAL's Conor Horgan. "In particular we are seeing local authorities concentrate their efforts on ridding areas of heavily littered sites. We have no reason to believe this improvement will not be sustained. Cleanliness is a virtuous circle: clean streets beget clean streets, inspiring a pride and consciousness of the environment among people."

# A strong case for Government schemes

Plastic bottle and cans continue to be a major source of litter, second only to sweet wrappers and present in one in three of the 500-plus sites surveyed. IBAL believes the findings bolster the case for a deposit return scheme, which is due to be introduced this year, and which will see consumers paying a deposit which they can reclaim on returning their containers to a retailer or other collection point. "Based on this data the scheme is sorely needed and stands to rid our streets of a significant amount of litter. The same applies to the proposed coffee cup levy," commented Conor Horgan. While there was a fall in the prevalence of coffee cups, they were still found in 25% of sites surveyed.

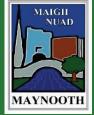
The survey showed cigarette butts remain a persistent form of litter. "We welcome the announcement that cigarette manufacturers will now be contributing to the cost of clean-up, but we really need to see preventative measures such as widespread butt disposal facilities alongside innovative packaging which can store butts," said Conor Horgan.

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



FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG MAIGH NUAD 2023

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



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# aynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

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Website: www.maynoothcep.com

# **Letters to the Editor**

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

#### **Mission Statement**

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

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

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

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

# **Maynooth Newsletter Archives**

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

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

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

**Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter** 

# **Editorial**

It is always great to hear about new community initiatives in Maynooth particularly if they are likely to deliver real benefits. In January there was a well-attended launch of the Maynooth Autism Friendly Town programme. Maynooth will participate in the structured programme managed by "As I Am" the training and advocacy organisation supporting people with autism in Ireland. The programme follows a series of principles aimed at fostering autism inclusion and empowerment in local communities.



Having been part of the development of Maynooth Educate Together National School for over a decade I was very pleased with the fact that the school was the first school in Maynooth to provide dedicated educational opportunities for children with additional educational needs. Special classes catered for children of primary school age and ensured that children with autism were educated and integrated with their peers. It is good to see that the Maynooth Boys School is also providing special classes in their new school building thus helping to meet the huge demand for these classes.

The committee who are promoting the Maynooth Autism Friendly Town programme will put a three-year plan in place to raise awareness of the main barriers to inclusion for autistic people living in Maynooth including understanding issues such as communication and sensory processing. One of the priorities for the Maynooth committee is the provision of appropriate educational opportunities so that children with autism can progress through the education system and secure school places at all levels appropriate for their needs. The Maynooth Newsletter will watch their progress with more than a passing interest and hopefully we will get ongoing progress reports.

I was delighted with Maynooth's performance in the IBAL competition coming in joint second in the autumn assessment last year. It was during my time as Secretary of Maynooth Tidy Towns, that Maynooth was first included in the IBAL league. Towns are included by IBAL for a period of time and then they are replaced by other towns. I remember that at one stage we had a visit from the late Dr. Tom Kavanagh who was one of the founding figures in IBAL to talk to us about how the IBAL competition works. Of course, the competition is aimed at rating local authorities on how they manage litter in designated locations in the towns included in the competition. While local authorities such as Kildare County Council provide litter management services these are always inadequate to deal with litter.

Maynooth Tidy Towns play a major role in litter management in this area with one member doing daily early morning litter collection. In fact, I saw members of tidy towns collecting litter during Christmas. Success in competitions such as IBAL needs everyone to support the effort to keep Maynooth free of litter. Coming joint second should spur us all on to try for first in the next IBAL judging and who knows become the winner of the National Tidy Towns competition in 2023. Of course, congratulations to Naas on topping the table as Ireland's cleanest town.

There is no doubt that since Covid we all have more appreciation for the outdoors and appropriate places to exercise. Walking is by far the commonest form of exercise and in Maynooth we have some nice walking routes. A number of years ago I was involved in two projects that supported the development of walking routes. One project saw some community activists of the time publish four walking routes of the town. The second was as part of the Royal Canal Amenity Project, the upgrading of the Royal Canal Towpath in Maynooth so that it could be used as a walking route. The recent campaign to further extend the Royal Canal Towpath upgrade as a marked walking route is welcome. Some work has been done on part of the route between Maynooth and Leixlip and more works will be done as part of the Maynooth Eastern Relief Road but this work is some time away.

Paul Croghan Editor

Copy date for the March edition will be 5pm on Friday 24th February 2023

# **MAYNOOTH DRESSES**

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

Now Selling Boys Communion Suits, Jackets and Chinos White & Ivory Communion Dresses, Accessories & Shoes



Transition Year Ball and 2023 Debs Dresses
Cute Boy's and Girl's Christening Gowns
New for 2023: Confirmation Dresses & Jackets
See our Perfect Bridal Shoes, Just Arrived in store!

For All Our Opening Hours Visit our Website on: www.maynoothdresses.ie

Phone: 01 6293585







# The North Kildare Bowls Club A Safe Haven for Retirees in a Post-Covid Lockdown

As the world continues to navigate the aftermath of the Covid-19 lockdowns, many retirees are looking for safe and healthy ways to stay active and engaged with their community. The North Kildare Bowls Club offers just that, providing a welcoming and well-maintained environment for retirees to come together outdoors, stay active, and make new friends. Established just five years ago, the North Kildare Bowls Club has quickly become a staple of the local community. Its beautiful green and well-maintained facilities provide the perfect setting for league play, tournaments, and social events. But the club is more than just a place to play bowls – it's a community where retirees can come together and build lasting relationships.

One of the club's most active members, Billy Kennedy, has been a member since the opening of the club. He said, "After being cooped up for so long during the pandemic, I was eager to get out and stay active. The North Kildare Bowls Club provided me with the perfect opportunity to do just that. The club's facilities are top-notch, and the community of members is welcoming and friendly." The North Kildare Bowls Club is more than just a place to play bowls. It's a community where retirees can come together, stay active, and make new friends. The club's Public Relations Officer, Johann Taljaard, said "We're proud to offer this service to the retirees in our community, and we're always looking for new members to join us."

The club's facilities are not just restricted to retirees, it welcomes players of all ages and abilities. The club also provides an opportunity for families to bond over the sport, and to create lasting memories together. North Kildare Bowls Club also plays an important role in the community, by partnering with local organisations. This helps to reach potential members who may not be aware of the club or the sport of lawn bowls. The club's dedication to the community extends beyond providing a place for retirees to stay active. The North Kildare Bowls Club is also committed to giving

back to the community through annual fundraisers. In October bank holiday, the club raised €2550 for Parkinson's, showing their dedication to the community.

The sport of lawn bowls may not be as popular as it once was, but the North Kildare Bowls Club is working hard to change that. With its beautiful facilities, friendly community of members, opportunities for league play and tournaments and its commitment to giving back. If you are looking for a way to stay active, make new friends and be part of a community that cares, North Kildare Bowls Club is the place for you. People can contact our secretary via our website northkildarebowlsclub.org or via email at northkildarebowls@gmail.com, and we will be happy to assist you with any information or questions you may have.





# > we're going places <

Call Us 01 6289999





# Food Budgeting Tips

Know your budget and stick to it. The food shop maybe one of the biggest household expenses. Try to spend the same amount every week. Planning meals in advance ensures that you will stick to your shopping list

Make a shopping list and be mindful of how much things cost. Check what you have before you make your final list. Keeping your cupboards, fridge and freezer organised makes this much easier.

Once a month clean out your cupboards, fridge and freezer and use any leftovers or ingredients near their use by date. Rotate ingredients to reduce food waste.

Make sure you have all your vouchers/coupons before heading to the shops. Bring your own shopping bags.

Be weary of special offers - don't buy them unless you can freeze them or they are ingredients with long expiry dates. Don't buy them just because they are on special offer - think do you really need them or will they be used.

Be aware of prices and maybe look around in various shops for the cheapest price or deals. Check on-line for deals in various supermarkets.

Try making meals in advance and freezing them. This ensures less waste and put a list of your prepared frozen meals on the fridge to help with your meal plans.

Source: mabs.ie

# St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

The Band is just getting its breath back after an exceedingly busy 2022. We held our AGM last month and are starting to set the wheels in motion to see if we can repeat the performance this year. February is historically a very quiet month but March is a totally different story with FOUR and possibly FIVE events happening starting with a recital in Carton House on Saturday 11th quickly followed next day by the Dunboyne St. Patrick's Day Parade and then five days later we have at least

another two parades, Maynooth and Kilcock.

We are at the planning stage for our Summer programme and we hope to do a number of recitals in the Square in Maynooth as well as Kilcock and Castletown in Celbridge. Over the course of 2022 we have had some musicians come to play with the Band and if there are any others out there who would like to join us please feel free to talk to any of our band members at these recitals or call our Secretary Joe

Garvin on 086 1737 024, we are a very friendly group and you will be made most welcome.



Kilcock Parade 2022

# Online Office

# Here to help with

- \* Medical Cards
- \* Health Issues
- \* Social Welfare
- \* Education
- \* Services for Senior Citizens
- \* Housing Support and Grants (Windows/
- Doors, Insulation, Roofing, Electrical)

  \* Housing Adaptations and Planning (Level Access Showers, Extensions, Rebuilding Ireland **Housing Loan)**
- \* Social Housing
- \* Estate Issues
- \* Community Issues
- \* Environmental Concerns
- \* Employment Concerns
- \* Covid 19 related queries











Cllr. Angela Feeney

Tel. 087 238 1962

Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com Stay safe everyone.



# Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



# Maynooth Primary Care Centre Update

Cllr Feeney has been pursuing the need for a Primary Care Centre for Maynooth over the past few years and has been in constant communication with both the HSE and the Minister for Health on this issue. A town the size of Maynooth, with such a large and growing population, really needs this very important health service, particularly at a time when it is so difficult for many residents to get access to GP services. In May 2022, in response to her request to the Minister for Health for an update, Cllr Feeney was informed that "the centre is being delivered via the HSE's Primary Care Centre Operational Lease mechanism. Maynooth was included on the latest National advertisement seeking expressions of interest from third Parties in the Provision of Primary Care Centre via Operational Leases. The selection process is at the final stage, letters inviting interested parties that met all qualifying criteria to submit a priced offer were issued, and the evaluation process of responses received is currently underway". In October 2022 Cllr Feeney again requested an update from the HSE and the response was very disappointing and really concerned me saying, "it was considering extending footprint of Leixlip Primary Care Centre". Cllr Feeney said that this is simply not good enough and is unacceptable. So at the meeting, she asked the Council to write to the HSE and to the Minister, calling for this much needed service for Maynooth. The Director and area manager as well as all members agreed to do this and Cllr Feeney will continue to keep this issue to the forefront.

# **Maynooth Community Centre Update**

At the January 2021 Council meeting Cllr Feeney submitted a motion suggesting using the vacated fire station/council site for a community centre for Maynooth, as it would be ideal. The area manager and members of the Council's public realm team, met Cllr Feeney and some other councillors at the current Maynooth fire station and Council offices site during the Summer to discuss possible options. The Council has confirmed that consultants are working on the project and that an urban designer has been identified. Cllr Feeney is delighted to hear from the Council that delivering a Community Centre is a priority project and that URDF funding capital funding, along with previous development contributions, has been allocated and that the project will progress fairly rapidly in this prime location.

#### **Swimming Pool Update**

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide clarification regarding the possibility of a new application for a swimming pool in Maynooth given the delay in the appeal response from the Department for the Council's earlier application. The Director replied saying there has still been no response from the Department regarding the appeal. Cllr Feeney stated that not getting any formal response is at best, discourteous given that we are years in this limbo situation and that her concern is that we are possibly missing out on other options. The Director agreed that we should explore other options and that she is in discussions with K Leisure for this purpose.

# Housing Emergency needs to be called out

At the Plenary of the Council, Cllr Feeney called on the Council to support the 'Raise the Roof' campaign by writing to the Minister for Housing calling for urgent action, through legislation, if necessary, to address the current housing emergency and growing levels of homelessness in the county. In speaking to the motion, Cllr Feeney stated that the private rental market is at its lowest in terms of supply since online records began. More and more people are turning to their local authority for help. The number of properties within HAP limits advertised continues to decline and that potential homes are being lost to short-term let solutions. She stated that homelessness is a serious issue in the county and there are thousands of people waiting on the Council's social housing waiting list. However, not all members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing calling for urgent action. The motion did not receive the support of the majority of FF/FG councillors so her motion fell by one vote.

# **Footpaths Update**

Cllr Feeney asked that the footpaths immediately to the left and right of the old entrance at Laraghbryan Cemetery, Maynooth be surfaced in tarmac to enhance accessibility. Most of the other pathways in the cemetery are tarmacked; however these remaining paths, if tarmacked, would make it easier for those with mobility issues, people with buggies to visit the cemetery. The Council agreed that this will be added to the footpath works for the municipal district and will be carried out in the coming weeks. She 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. The Council also confirmed that it has sent out a tender for footpath works at Cluain Aoibhinn, drop kerbing on the Dunboyne Road, works on Dublin Road in Maynooth as well as Bridge Street in Kilcock, Highfield in Kilcock, Abbbeyfield in Kilcock and on the Enfield Road in Kilcock opposite the Garda station.

# **Yellow Boxes**

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to install a yellow box at The Crescent, Straffan Road, Maynooth and at Hayfield Estate. She is happy to report that the yellow boxes are now in place at these locations. She also asked the Council to reinstate the yellow box at the end of Pound Street onto Mill Street Maynooth. In speaking to the motion, she said this is a

very busy location and it can be very difficult to get out on to Mill Street from Pound Street if turning left but even more difficult if trying to turn right. Cllr Feeney reminded the meeting that there used to be a yellow box at this location. In its response, the Council said that works for Phase five of the North-South cycle corridor for Maynooth will be happening on Mill Street early in the New Year and that the yellow box will be reinstated when those works are complete.

## **Fuel Allowance Changes**

More people are entitled to the Fuel Allowance under new guidelines that came into effect in January 2023. The new system is now open for applications and all changes take effect from 2 January 2023, but you can apply now in advance. To find out more and see if you are eligible: <a href="https://services.mywelfare.ie/">https://services.mywelfare.ie/</a>.../pensions.../fuel-allowance
The easiest and quickest way to apply for Fuel Allowance is through the new Online Application System at-<a href="https://services.mywelfare.ie/">https://services.mywelfare.ie/</a>

#### **Family Resource Centre Needed**

Cllr Feeney asked the Council to provide a much-needed family resource centre to serve the needs of the municipal district. South Kildare is well served with Family Resource but North of the county does not have any such service and it is really badly needed to support families. It was agreed to refer the request to the Kildare Local Community Development Committee.

#### **Community Grants Schemes Open**

Kildare County Council 2023 Community Grants Schemes is open for Applications. These applications are open earlier than usual and closing date also earlier than usual so make sure to get your application in! Closing date is March 10th.

# Types of grants available:

- 1. The Community Grants Scheme is open to all groups engaged in activities or projects which encourage community participation, volunteerism and which benefit communities in County Kildare.
- 2. The Festival Grants Scheme is open to all voluntary groups which organise and run key festival events in County Kildare, such as community fun days, historical re-enactments, drama/musical/food festivals, intercultural days or annual parades.
- 3. Local Authority Estate Residents' Association Grants for the purpose of open space maintenance are now open.
- 4. Private Estate Residents' Association Grants for the purpose of open space maintenance are now open.

# Link here to application:

https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServ.../Community/CommunityGrants/

Please Note: There are some changes in the Residents Association Grants allocation formula, so if you can attend the information session in person (evening of January 31st in Town House Naas) or online (February 15th on Zoom) that will be useful for questions you might have and to get some tips on making a successful application.

# Register here for sessions:

In person in Naas January 31st: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.ie/.../kcc-community-grants...">https://www.eventbrite.ie/.../kcc-community-grants...</a>
Zoom online meeting February 15th:

https://www.eventbrite.ie/.../kcc-community-grants... https://www.eventbrite.ie/.../kcc-community-grants...

Please share with your community groups.

# Well done on IBAL National Award

Great news to hear today that in the National Irish Businesses against Litter (IBAL) survey results Maynooth is joint second with Kilkenny. Huge thanks and congratulations to all involved, Tidy Towns, Kildare County Council, Local Businesses and all who keep our town tidy. Maynooth Tidy Towns Association volunteers who work so hard week in, week out, in all weather. Maith sibh.

# 'Maynooth Through the Ages' Lecture Series

A really interesting series of free lectures is being offered in the coming weeks on the theme of 'Maynooth through the Ages' by the History Department at Maynooth University. Cllr Feeney is honoured to have been invited to chair one of the sessions at my alma mater.

# My upcoming Motions and questions to Council

- That the Council writes to the businesses in the vicinity of Doctor's Lane Maynooth regarding bins being placed on footpaths and making it unsafe for pedestrians.
- That the Council installs pencil bollards at the grass verges near the entrance to O'Neill Park in Maynooth.
- What is the process for selecting which local newspapers are used by the Council in its communication of Council consultation matters to residents in the MD?
- What are the planned upgrading and retrofitting repairs to the Council housing stock in the MD?

Please get in touch by phone 087 2381962 or email <u>afeneey@kildarecoco.ie</u> if I can help in any way.

# February Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

# **Climate Action Events**

# **Maynooth Zero Waste Ladies Clothes Swap** Saturday 11th February 2 - 4pm

You might find the outfit of your dreams! Zero Waste Maynooth hosts its monthly Ladies Clothes Swap Shop. Reduce textile waste by swapping clothes - great for the environment and your pocket! Bring up 3 items of clothes in good condition and get something new to you. Drop in anytime between 2pm - 4pm

## Kids Toy Swap Maynooth Zero Waste Saturday 11th February 2 - 4pm

Kids Toy Swap Maynooth Zero Waste- let the kids enjoy swapping too! Small items only please. Drop in anytime between 2pm and 4pm.

Clothes Mending Session with The Craft Corner Saturday 11th February at 2-4pm

Repair drop-in session with The Craft Corner - join us to answer any mending questions and offer some tips. Reduce waste, save money and the clothes we have by repairing

# North Kildare Nappuccino at Maynooth Library Saturday 11th February at 2 - 4pm

The Kildare branch of Cloth Nappy Library Ireland will be joining us to answers any questions on Reusable Modern Cloth Nappies. A brilliant way to cut back on trips to the rubbish bin and reduce your waste charges. Plus, kinder to babies skin! Drop in anytime between 2pm & 4 pm.

#### **Brigid 1500 for Children & Adults**

The Story of St. Brigid with Storyteller & Singer Helena Byrne

# Wednesday 1st February at 3.30pm - 4.30 pm Venue: Maynooth Community Library

Join in in this wonderfully fun and interactive storytelling session with storyteller and singer Helena Byrne where children will learn all about St. Brigid and her story. Suitable for ages 7+

Book your ticket via Ticket Tailor here: https:// buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/827044.

# St. Brigid's Cross-Making Workshop with Willow Wonder's Beth Murphy

Friday 3rd February at 12am - 1pm Maynooth Community Library

Learn how to make a St. Brigid's cross from rushes with Beth Murphy from Willow Wonder. Adults can attend on their own or with a child. Families attending the workshop will make one St. Brigid's cross per family. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For Adults & Children aged 8+

Book your ticket via Ticket Tailor here: https:// buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/828011.

# **Ireland Reads Events for Children and Adults**

Ireland Reads: Share Your Love...For Poetry. An evening of sharing poetry.

Thursday 16th February at 6.30pm (Online via Teams) Poetry lovers, we invite you to join us as we celebrate 'Ireland Reads' and Valentine's Day. Maynooth and Ballitore Libraries will host an evening of sharing poetry readings. Some of you may wish to read a poem aloud, and others might like to just listen, while we enjoy your favourite poetry.

Book your ticket via Ticket Tailor here: https:// buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/840809

# Ireland Reads: Online Book Club with author Caoilinn Hughes

Wednesday 22nd February 2023 8pm (Online via

We are delighted to have acclaimed Irish author Caoilinn Hughes join to discuss her 2020 novel The Wild Laughter. The book can be borrowed from our Kildare branches and is also available as an eAudiobook on Borrowbox, narrated by Chris O'Dowd. Join us online for a friendly book club discussion!

Book your ticket via Ticket Tailor here: https:// buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/837411.

# **Book Busters Children's Book Club** Friday 24th February 3:45pm

Our Book Busters children's book club for ages 8-12 meets on the last Friday of the month at 3:45pm. New members are welcome! Contact maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie. to

# Ireland Reads: Oliver Jeffers Short Film & Reading

## Saturday 25th February 2023 11:30am

To celebrate Ireland Reads Day, join the staff of Maynooth Community Library for a short, animated film screening based on an Oliver Jeffers' classic, followed by a family reading party of one of his most cherished children's picture books.

Book your ticket via Ticket Tailor here: https:// buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/837640

## Ireland Reads: workshop with Author & Illustrator Jennifer Farley

Saturday 25th February at 3pm - 4pm

Read and draw to celebrate Ireland Reads! Join author and illustrator Jennifer Farley for this fun workshop as she reads from her book Scout's Best Day Ever - an Adventure Around Ireland. Jennifer will then show the children how to illustrate some of the favorite characters from the book! Suitable for ages 7- 10 years

**Book your ticket via Ticket Tailor here https://** buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/838388.

# **Children's Events**

# Baby and Toddler Stay & Play Group Every Thursday at 10am - 11am

If you have a young baby or toddler and would like to meet other parents or minders 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

# Song & Rhyme Time for 0 - 2 year olds Friday 3rd and 10th February at 10am

A special pocket of time for you and your very young child, specifically tailored for children under 3. There'll be Nursery Rhymes, Action Songs and an engaging story to support their literacy development. Places are limited and one ticket is required per child. All children must be supervised during this session.

# Book your ticket via Ticket Tailor here:

Friday 3rd February: https://app.tickettailor.com/ events/maynoothlibrary/836788

Friday 10th February: https://app.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/836789

## **Little Makers Morning** Saturday 11th February at 10am – 11.30am

Let their imaginations run wild! Join us for a morning of making for 2-7 year olds. Practice fine motor skills while having fun! Build amazing creations using construction toys such as Magna-Tiles, PlusPlus, Duplo, Mega Bloks, Lego and more, a doodling corner, puzzles and a crafting station. While not all activities will be suitable for all ages there will be something for everyone! Booking required drop in anytime between 10am & 11am.

Suitable for ages 2-7 years
Book your ticket via Ticket Tailor here: https:// buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/840492

# **Drop in Valentines Day Card Making Workshop** Tuesday 14th February 3.30 – 4.30pm

A fun, quick, drop-in workshop where your child can make a card for someone they care about, be it mum, dad, grandparent or their bestie!

Suitable for ages 6+.

No booking required.

## Story-Time for 3 - 6 year olds Friday 17th and 24th January at 3pm

A story-time specifically tailored for children 3 and older. There'll be a few stories, and some popular Action Songs to support their stage of literacy development. Places are limited and one ticket is required per child. All children must be supervised during this session.

Book your ticket via Ticket Tailor here:

Friday 17th February: https://app.tickettailor.com/ events/maynoothlibrary/836792

Friday 24th February: https://app.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/836793

# **Young Adult Events**

## **Online Teen Writers Group** Thursdays 2nd and 9th February at 6pm

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 if they wish and very important quiet writing time too.

Contact Maynooth Library at maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or 045 980 493 for more information.

Suitable for ages 12-15

# Teen Book Club for Ages 12-15 - Taster Session Friday February 17th at 4pm at Maynooth Library

Maynooth Library is starting a brand new in-person book club for ages 12 to 15 and it needs you! - or any book lovers you know. This is a book club with a difference; while there is always a suggested book to pick up, members can read whatever they like and share their best BookTok recommendations. We know us bookworms are shy so to put you at ease, the meetings will be drop-in; all the teens will be new, and they can bring along a book/ comic/audiobook they've enjoyed recently or choose one of our picks below.

# Available for Teen Book Club Pickup now:

'Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess' by Nancy Springer (Detective)

'Scythe' by Neal Shusterman (Dystopian, similar to Hunger

'Wonder Woman: Warbringer' by Leigh Bardugo (author of the Shadow and Bone Series, Superhero/Fantasy

# **Adult Events**

# **Breast Feeding Support Group with Public Health** Nurse

## Tuesday 14th & Tuesday 28th February 9.30am -10.45am

The group will be facilitated by the Public Health Nurse (PHN). All breast-feeding Mums and Mums to be welcome. Women who are pregnant are welcome as this will give the opportunity 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-toone 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. \*\*\*Please ring the library doorbell between 9.30am & 10am as the library doors will be closed, and you will be let in\*\*\*

# Decade of Commemorations Lecture by John Dorney -The IRA War On Entertainments, 1923 Thursday 16th February 7pm - 8pm

In March 1923 the anti-Treaty IRA, in response to the ongoing execution of their prisoners, anti-Treaty IRA Chief of Staff Liam Lynch declared a ban on public entertainments including sports, theatre and cinema during a period of 'national mourning'. This resulted in a concerted campaign which involved stopping sports and burning theatres and cinemas, only ended by the close of the Civil

(Continued on page 8)

# February Events at Maynooth Community Library Cont/....

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



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# twitter.com/kildarelibrary

# (Continued from page 7)

War. John Dorney is an independent historian, editor of The Irish Story website and author of 'Peace After the Final Battle the Story of the Irish Revolution' (2014) and 'The Civil War in Dublin, the Fight for the Irish Capital' (2017). **Book your ticket via Ticket Tailor here:** <a href="https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/837389">https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/837389</a>.

# Beginners Level Adult Sewing Machine Classes Tuesday 14th, 21st & 28th February

Learn how to sew using a sewing machine and these fun, informal classes with Mary! These classes run for three consecutive weeks on Tuesday evenings from 6.30 - 7.55 pm. Participants must be available to attend all 3 classes. Please register interest by emailing <a href="maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie">maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</a>, calling 045980493 or by dropping in to us.

#### Art Exhibition

# Colour Me Bright by artist Beverley Henley Thursday 2nd - Tuesday 28th February

Beverley Henley has been painting for over 20 years. Her work is vibrant and contemporary and she primarily paints in acrylics, oils, and gold leaf. Now based in Maynooth, Henley has lived in Seville, Los Angeles, and Paris. Her paintings are uplifting, happy and full of vitality and colour. The Colour me Bright exhibition contains original abstract pieces with flow and form, floral works, and abstract paintings based on local places.

Beverley Henley's Art Exhibition will be available to view in Maynooth Community Library's exhibition space, on the ground floor of Maynooth Community Library Thursday

2<sup>nd</sup> - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Please note that is a multipurpose room and may not be accessible to the public at all times – if you wish to view these works you can ring Maynooth Community Library to inquire when the space will be accessible.

# Colour Me Bright Exhibition Opening Saturday 18th February 2- 4pm

Join us for the opening of Colour Me Bright Beverley Henley. Everyone is welcome! Light refreshments will be provided in the gallery area and you can chat to the artist about her work. The "Colour me Bright" exhibition contains original abstract pieces with flow and form, floral works, and abstract paintings based on local places.

# Maynooth Community Library's Exhibition Space Open for Bookings

If you are a local artist or art group and would like to book our exhibition space please contact us. Maynooth Community Library's Exhibition Space is available to host exhibitions from March 2023. For booking enquiries, please email <a href="maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie">maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</a>.

## Craft & Knitting Club Every Monday 11.30am – 13.00

Bring along your various crafts to inspire and to be inspired. Different craft demonstrations will take place during the year. Socialise and create!

# German 'Stammtisch' informal conversation meet-up for adults

Thursday 23rd February 6.30pm-7.30pm

Do you want to practice your German? Maynooth Library

hosts a monthly informal German conversation meet-up, for anyone with an interest in the language and culture in German-speaking countries. All levels from learners to native speakers are welcome. Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of every month. For more information, please contact Maynooth Community Library at <a href="maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie">maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</a> or 045 980493

#### **Book Clubs**

## U3A Book Cub

Monday 11th February 10.30am – 11.30 am
The U3A book club meet on the 2nd Monday of each month. New members welcome. Please contact <a href="maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie">maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</a> or telephone 045980493 for further details.

# The Tuesday Murder Club: Crime Book Club Tuesday 14th February 7pm - 7.50pm

This brand-new Crime Book Club will meet on Tuesday 14h February 7.00pm – 7.50pm. The club will continue to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you'd like to join, please email Maynooth Community Library at <a href="maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie">maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</a>.

## Wednesday Readers Book Club Wednesday 15th February at 11.00am – 12.00pm

The Wednesday Readers Book Club meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. New members welcome! Please contact <a href="maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie">maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</a> or telephone 045980493 for further details.

# **Maynooth University Town F.C.**

# **Charlie Cahill Cup**

# Greystones Utd 0 Town 7

Town paid a pre-Christmas visit to the seaside town of Greystones for this Charlie Cahill Cup game. The trip proved fruitful with Town putting on an impressive display in brushing aside the home side in a one sided affair.

Goals by Calum Warfield (2), Jack O'Connor (2), Jack Reynolds, Paddy O'Sullivan and Jay Amour completed the score line.

# L.S.L. Senior Division Sun.

# Town 3 Kilnamagh F.C. 1

Town recommenced their league campaign with this solid performance against their Dublin rivals.

Town were sluggish in the opening minutes following the Christmas break but then settled and put on a very impressive show as the game wore on.

Calum Warfield capped a fine performance with two goals following assists from the impressive Paddy O'Sullivan. Dean O'Shea chipped in with a goal from his full back position.

# L.S.L. Senior Division Sun.

# Town 5 Malahide Utd. 1

Malahide began in whirlwind fashion and struck in the second minute with a shot from outside the areas to open the scoring. Town settled quickly and were on level terms soon

after with an angled shot from Calum Warfield. This spurred Town to maintain their quick tempo and Paddy O'Sullivan shot his side in front with a delightful free kick.

Paddy chipped in with another goal followed by one each by Evan Murphy and Dean O'Shea. This closed the scoring before half time. Town made several changes after the break and easily cruised through for an easy win to maintain our push for honours.

	L.S.L. Senior Sunday	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Points
1	Maynooth University Town FC	13	8	2	3	27	17	10	26
2	Liffey Wanderers	16	6	6	4	25	22	3	24
3	Killester Donnycarney FC	13	6	5	2	20	11	9	23
4	Wayside Celtic	15	7	2	6	19	16	3	23
5	St. Mochtas FC	11	7	1	3	21	17	4	22
6	Ballymun United	15	5	4	6	24	26	-2	19
7	Glebe North FC	13	4	6	3	19	15	4	18
8	Kilnamanagh AFC	16	5	3	8	21	32	-11	18
9	Crumlin United FC	15	5	2	8	22	24	-2	17
10	Home Farm FC	14	4	5	5	16	18	-2	17
11	Lucan United FC	11	4	4	3	21	15	6	16
12	Malahide United	13	3	3	7	13	26	-13	12
13	Bangor Celtic F.C	10	2	4	4	13	15	-2	10
14	Bluebell United	11	3	1	7	13	20	-7	10



# Coláiste Naomh Eoin An Ghaeltacht sa Bhaile

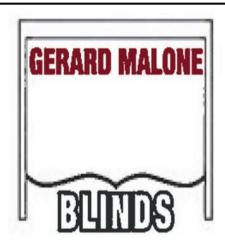
# Winner of the Memorex Culture Award Gaeltacht Summer Courses 2023

Maynooth University, Maynooth Cúrsa A: 05/06/23 - 16/06/23 Please Note: Cúrsa A starts on Bank Holiday Monday.

> Castleknock Community College Cúrsa F: 03/07/23 - 14/07/23

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# **Department of History**

in association with

Department of Adult Education, Maynooth University Library, and St Patrick's College Maynooth

presents

# Maynooth Through the Age

Free to the public online spring lecture series 13 February - 27 March 2023





# Maynooth Through the Ages: Aspects of Town and University History

When: Monday, February 13, 2023 - 19:00 to Monday, March 27, 2023 - 19:00 Where: Maynooth University Library

Department of History in collaboration with Department of Adult Education, Maynooth University Library, and St Patrick's College Maynooth presents ComMUniversity Lecture Series

Maynooth Through the Ages: Aspects of Town and University History. This event is free to the public. Booking is essential via the links below.

# **Programme:**

13 February - 19:00

Maynooth from earliest times to c. 1600, Dr Michael Potterton

19:00 Welcome, Professor Terence Dooley, Head of Department of History 19:10 Introducing the ComMUniversity Lecture Series, Dr Derek Barter 19:30 Maynooth from earliest times to c. 1600', Dr Michael Potterton Chair: Alexandra Caccamo

This illustrated lecture will take participants on a virtual tour of Maynooth from its earliest human settlement to the end of the Middle Ages. The place-name 'Maynooth' derives from Mag Nuadat, the plain of Nuadha, a legendary Leinster figure. There is evidence for prehistoric activity in the area before several early churches were established in this border territory between the north of Leinster and the ancient kingdom of Meath. When the Anglo-Normans arrived in Ireland, Strongbow (the earl of Pembroke) granted north-eastern Kildare to Maurice FitzGerald, who built a castle at a strategic location at the confluence of two streams. The castle provided shelter for a growing settlement and soon there was a weekly market and an annual fair. Grain from the hinterland was ground at a watermill on the River Lyreen. There was a library and a chapel in the castle and Laraghbryan functioned as the parish church.

In 1316 the FitzGeralds became earls of Kildare and they rose to become the most important family in Ireland by the sixteenth century – the 'Great Earl' (Garret Mór) and his son (Garret Óg) both served long periods as king's lord deputy in Ireland. Maynooth was a key site and its castle was crucial to the defence of the beleaguered English colony centred 25km away at Dublin. A college was founded in 1518 but the Dissolution and the failed rebellion of Silken Thomas dealt a double blow to Maynooth in the 1530s and 40s.

Dr Derek Barter is the Continuing Education Co-Ordinator in the Dept. of Adult and Community Education (DACE) Maynooth University and Director of the Communiversity. Returning to education as a mature student Derek completed his PhD in

History in 2009 while he was working as an Adult Educator for the CDETB in Dublin's inner city. It was here that he became interested in Community Engagement, Widening Participation and Access. He established the ComMUniversity in 2012 and has been bringing academics out to local communities and libraries in the Leinster area since that time to engage people in subjects such as Local History, Politics, Economics, Philosophy, Criminology to name but a few. Click to find out more about the ComMUniversity

Dr Michael Potterton is a lecturer in the Department of History at Maynooth University. His core field of research is the history and archaeology of medieval Ireland, with special reference to landscape and settlement – urban, rural and hinterlands. He has established an international reputation as an innovative researcher, a dynamic teacher and an accomplished writer and editor. He has published thirteen books (as author, co-author or co-editor)

Alexandra Caccamo is the Special Collections Librarian at Maynooth University. She is responsible for overseeing the collections in the historic Russell Library, St. Patrick's College Maynooth and the special collections and archives of Maynooth University.

# 20 February - 19:00

Building Maynooth 1700-1900: some key features in the making of the village and the creation of a small town'. Prof Arnold Horner Chair: Susan Durack

This talk will explore how Maynooth was transformed and subsequently consolidated over a long period from the mid-eighteenth century. A particular focus will be the changing lay-out and appearance of the Main Street area and its immediate vicinity. A series of maps, some of them created for the landlord proprietor, the earl of Kildare (later duke of Leinster) helps document the extent to which Maynooth changed. In the early 1700s, much of Maynooth, formerly a medieval stronghold, was run-down and ruined. However, from the 1750s, the village was greatly re-developed along a new Main Street. The establishment of the college in 1795, together with proximity to the great estate at Carton, helped sustain the village in later decades. This is a talk that offers an insight to the origins and heritage aspects of the present-day Main Street area.

Dr Arnold Horner formerly taught Geography at University College Dublin. He contributed two chapters on the development of Maynooth to Terence Dooley (et al), Aspects of Irish aristocratic life: essays on the FitzGerald's and Carton House (Dublin, 2014). He has also contributed a history of Maynooth to the Irish Historic Towns Atlas series being produced by the Royal Irish Academy. Specialising in the geography of Ireland and in the history of mapping in Ireland, he has written three books Mapping Offaly in the early nineteenth century (2005), Mapping Meath in the early nineteenth century (2006) and Mapping Sligo in the early nineteenth century (2011). Susan Durack MA is Senior Library Assistant, Special Collections and Archives, Maynooth University.

# 27 February - 19:00

Carton House: a brief history from c.1730 to the present, Prof Terence Dooley. Maynooth treasures: the Russell Library, its collections, and beyond, Susan Durack Chair: Cathal McCauley

For almost 800 years, from their arrival with the first wave of Anglo-Normans in 1169, the FitzGeralds, earls of Kildare, marquesses of Kildares, and, from 1766, dukes of Leinster, were the pre-eminent noble family living in Ireland, dominating the social, political, economic, and cultural landscapes. In 1729, they built their Palladian mansion at Carton, a monument to their status which came to house magnificent collections of art, silver, and furnishings, while outside the demesne was designed as one of the finest examples of eighteenth-century landscape in Ireland. But 200 years and seven generations later all had changed utterly. Indebtedness and profligacy, untimely deaths and family misfortune allied to the revolutionary social and political changes that swept Ireland from the late nineteenth century meant that by the early 1920s the FitzGeralds had lost – quite literally as a gamble – the house and all its appurtenances. This talk provides an overview of the reasons for this calamitous fall.

Terence Dooley is Head of Department of History, Professor of History, and Director of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish houses and Estates. He is the author of many books including The decline and fall of the dukes of Leinster, 1872-1948: love, war, debt and madness (Dublin, 2014) and Burning the Big House: the story of the Irish country house in a time of war and revolution.

'Maynooth treasures: the Russell Library, its collections, and beyond', Susan Durack

At the end of the tree lined avenue from Carton Demesne and the Main Street of the planned town of Maynooth lies St. Patrick's College in which the Russell Library is situated. Located in the Pugin designed St. Mary's quadrangle, the Russell Library houses important and significant collections. This talk will give a brief overview of the history of the library and its special collections, focusing on selected items. It will also reference the on-going development of special collections and archives held in the John Paul II Library, which are of great importance to researchers.

Susan Durack MA is Senior Library Assistant, Special Collections and Archives, Maynooth University.

Cathal is University Librarian at Maynooth University (MU), Ireland. He previously worked in a number of roles in University College Dublin (UCD) Library. Prior to joining UCD, he worked for FGS (now Grant Thornton) as Director of Consulting. In 2016 he led

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## (Continued from page 10)

the move of the IReL initiative to MU and he was the founding Director of the Irish University Libraries Collaboration Centre at MU - a shared services centre that provides electronic resources and ORCID consortium support to the Irish third level sector.

Cathal is President and a Council Member of the Library Association of Ireland, a member, and former Chair, of the Irish Universities Association Librarians' Group and Treasurer of the Consortium of National and University Libraries in Ireland. Cathal is a member, and information coordinator, of IFLA's Library Building and Equipment Section. He is co-chair of the Irish IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) National Committee responsible for bringing the WLIC and almost 2,000 delegates from 110+ countries to Dublin in 2022. In 2020 he worked with colleagues to draft a call for action on the electronic content crisis that was subsequently endorsed by all Irish library sectors and became the basis of the Irish involvement in the #ebookSOS campaign. He is a regular speaker nationally and internationally on a range of libraryrelated issues including open access, library design and change management.

# The revolutionary life of Lord Edward FitzGerald, 1763-1798, Dr Liam Chambers Chair: Prof Marian Lyons

Lord Edward FitzGerald was born in 1763, the twelfth child of the most senior peer in Ireland, James, duke of Leinster, and his wife Emily, daughter of a leading English aristocrat, Charles Lennox, the second duke of Richmond. Lord Edward's early career followed the kind of path typically pursued by an aristocratic younger son: the military profession coupled with an Irish parliamentary seat on the family interest. In the 1780s, FitzGerald saw action during the American War of Independence, but as the decade wore on he became increasingly disillusioned with his military career. When the French Revolution broke out in 1789, FitzGerald embraced it with enthusiasm. Unlike those who quietly shed their revolutionary zeal as the full implications of events in France revealed themselves in the early 1790s, FitzGerald's support for the revolution only grew. He witnessed the Terror at first-hand and was soon identified as a leading Irish radical. He finally joined the Society of United Irishmen later in the 1790s and played a pivotal role in organising the 1798 rebellion. Lord Edward was arrested only a few days before the rebellion broke out and died of wounds inflicted during his capture, on 4 June 1798. He was only thirty-four years old when he died. In the nineteenth century, Lord Edward was presented as a Romantic figure, who stumbled into revolution almost by accident. In reality, Lord Edward was a convinced radical. This lecture re-examines Lord Edward's revolutionary life 225 years after his death.

Dr Liam Chambers is senior lecturer and Head of the Department of History at Mary Immaculate College Limerick. His research interests include eighteenth-century Irish history; Irish migration to early modern Europe; history of Catholicism; Irish students, and clergy and colleges in early modern Paris. His books include Rebellion in Kildare 1790-1803 (Dublin, 1998).

Prof Marian Lyons is Professor of History at Maynooth University. She has published on Franco-Irish relations and Irish migrants in Europe during the early modern period, and on various aspects of Irish history including religion in the late medieval and early modern eras, the House of Kildare, and the emergence of professional medicine from the early 1600s onwards. She is a Trustee of the Catholic Historical Society of Ireland and of the Jacobite Studies Trust, and a member of the Irish Manuscripts Commission.

# 20 March - 19:00

# A tour of Maynooth College Chapel, Dr John-Paul Sheridan Chair: Rev Prof Michael Mullaney

# Meet at entrance of South Campus

At the centre of the life of any seminary is its chapel. The college chapel in St Patrick's College is the apotheosis of nineteenth-century ecclesiastical design, combining the tenets of neo-Gothic revivalist architecture and the devotional style which became common in Irish church decoration in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The chapel is 68 metres long, 12 metres wides and 21 metres high.

This talk will be in two parts. To begin there is the story of the chapel's construction and decoration in the neo-Gothic style. The second part is an explanation of the chapel's iconography, and how the interior was influenced not only by conventional ecclesiastical design, but also by the assistance of the college's academic community from that time

Two architects were responsible – J.J. McCarthy was the architect who gave the imposing neo-Gothic building and William Hague, who won the contract for the design of the interior. It is Hague's interior decoration as well as McCarthy's spacious design that helps make this the architectural jewel we see today. This is greatly assisted by the considerable work of restoration and lighting design which was undertaken prior to the college's bicentennial in 1995. All this combines to leave such a lasting impression on all who visit the chapel today.

Dr John-Paul Sheridan is a priest of the Diocese of Ferns and was ordained in 1990. He joined the staff at Maynooth in 2014 as Education Programmes Coordinator. He lectures in the areas of Religious Education, Theology and Liturgy. Following a request from a colleague to show some visitors around the college chapel, he went away to learn a few facts about it. He has been learning ever since. He has given numerous talks and tours of the chapel. He was joint editor (with Professor Salvador Ryan) of the recent publication, We remember Maynooth: a college across four centuries (Dublin, 2020).

Rev Prof Michael Mullaney is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly, the President of St Patrick's College, Maynooth, and Professor of Canon Law at St Patrick's Pontifical University.

Since 2019, he has also been the President of the European Federation of Catholic Universities (FUCE). He serves as a Judge of the National Marriage Appeals Tribunal of Ireland and as a canonical advisor to the National Case Management Reference Group (NCMRG) attached to the Catholic Church's Safeguarding Office. At weekends, Fr. Michael serves as a parish chaplain in the parish of Holycross-

Ballycahill, Tipperary

# 27 March - 19:00

Women in the "new" Maynooth: the early years, Prof R.V. Comerford. Dr Jennifer Redmond in conversation with Dr Mary Cullen

Chair: Dr Angela Feeney

Before 1966 the core female presence in the College was the small community of sisters located in the Senior Infirmary. Labouring, maintenance, and housekeeping work was done preponderantly by men. The kitchen was staffed by men, although one of the sisters from the infirmary was at least nominally in charge there.

To retain financial and academic viability, Maynooth needed more students. Women religious were an obvious group from which to recruit. In anticipation of the 1966 decision to admit 'externals', female congregations were canvassed systematically. The response was very positive and initial expectations were that the 'new' Maynooth would have nuns as a large proportion of its student population. In the event, large numbers of sisters did become students, but in a matter of years lay students came to predominate.

Accommodating the enclosed regime of a seminary to the demands of the new population of students and staff posed many challenges that impinged on issues of ethos, access, and societal norms. The working out of these over a period of a decade and more is an intriguing story

The purpose of this paper is to look at the roles of women in that story, from gaining anxious permission for camogie in the List field (provided only players were present!) in the late 1960s, to the opening of the creche and the contribution of female staff to women's rights activism in the late 1970s.

Prof R.V. Comerford was Professor of Modern History and Head of Department at Maynooth, 1989-2010. He is the author of Ireland (London and New York, 2003) [in series 'Inventing the nation']; The fenians in context: Irish politics and society, 1848-82 (Dublin and New Jersey, 1985; 2nd ed., 1998); C.J. Kickham: a study in Irish nationalism and Irish literature (Dublin, 1979); while his contributions to New history of Ireland include Introduction and primary narrative for 1870-91 in vol. 6, ed. by W.E. Vaughan (Oxford, 1996), and primary narrative for 1850-70 in vol. 5, ed. by W.E. Vaughan (Oxford, 1989).

Dr Jennifer Redmond is Assistant Professor in Twentieth-Century Irish History in the Department of History at Maynooth University. She is on the executive committee of the Irish Historical Society and sits on the Editorial Boards for Women's History Review and the Documents in Irish Foreign Policy series. Her publications include Moving Histories: Irish Women's Migration to Britain, from Independence to Republic (Liverpool University Press, 2018) which was longlisted for the Michel Deon prize. Jennifer is a specialist in modern Irish social history with a focus on gender, women and migration.

Dr Mary Cullen was the first female member of the academic staff at St Patrick's College Maynooth (later NUI Maynooth) and taught for three decades there. She was the first president of the Women's History Association of Ireland which she helped to found in 1989, an all-island professional association for scholars in women's history that is still thriving today. The WHAI initiated an essay prize in honour of Mary and her co-founder Dr Margaret MacCurtain which has been awarded over the last decade. Mary was a visiting lecturer at Trinity College Dublin where she taught women's history for many years as part of the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies, inspiring further generations of students. Her writings over many decades were collected in the book Telling it our way. Essays in gender history published by Arlen House in 2013. Mary was also a contributor to the Field Day anthology of Irish women's writing. In her interview with Dr Jennifer Redmond, Mary will reminisce on her academic career, her role as a pioneer in the field of women's and gender history in Ireland and internationally.

Dr. Angela Feeney is a proud graduate of Maynooth University; having been awarded the President's entrance scholarship to Maynooth University, she completed a BA in French and Gaeilge, a H.Dip.Ed., a Masters in French and a PhD in Education at the University. A former Head of School of Languages, Law and Social Science in TU Dublin and previously a lecturer in French, Angela has spent most of her professional life working in higher education and was awarded Chevalier des Palmes Acacémiques status by the French government for her work in fostering collaborations between Ireland and France. Angela has acted as a national assessor on Canada-EU joint consortia and as a national representative on the Digital Online Training and QualiTraining projects for the European Commission. Her research interests include Translation Studies, French-Canadian literature and student engagement. Currently, Angela is an elected public representative and serves as a Labour Councillor on Kildare County Council.

'Maynooth from earliest times to c. 1600', Dr Michael Potterton Tickets, Maynooth Eventbrite

# MU welcomed as full member of the Arqus European University Alliance

Maynooth University joins the Arqus Alliance's efforts to build a forward-looking, open, integrated and research-driven European University, establishing transformative excellence and worldclass research opportunities.

The Alliance officially welcomed Maynooth University on 20th January with a visit to Ireland. The Maynooth University becomes the ninth full member of the Alliance, completing its enlargement strategy initiated in 2021. Maynooth University not only brings a dynamic, rapidly-growing, research-led and engaged institution to the Alliance, but also makes Arqus more diverse thanks to incorporating new languages and a new culture

Universities within the Arqus Alliance work together to create opportunities for partnership among their institutions, strengthening ties across the European higher education sector. Already, Arqus has established initiatives such as joint Master's programmes, summer and winter schools, staff professional development, and public policy papers. The alliances also provide member universities with increased access to European research funding for collaborative research projects.

After the incorporation of the University of Minho and the University of Wroclaw a year ago, Maynooth University now becomes the ninth member of the Arqus Alliance, joining Granada, Graz, Leipzig, Lyon 1, Padua, Vilnius.

Maynooth University is an internationally recognised institution located 25 kilometres outside of Dublin, Ireland, and is the nation's fastest growing university. Maynooth University is ranked #1 in Ireland in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) Young University Rankings 2022.

Maynooth University's leadership in the field of digital transformation and data, climate change and sustainability, and European integration, were identified by the Alliance as priority research areas. Additionally, as host to Scholars at Risk Europe, and in driving Ireland's sectoral response to helping Ukrainian students and researchers access the Irish higher education system, Maynooth University has demonstrated its commitment to widening participation and inclusivity.

On 16 June 2022, Maynooth University celebrated its 25th birthday, having been formally established as an autonomous university in 1997. Yet, it traces its origins to the foundation of the oldest seat of learning in Ireland, the Royal College of St Patrick in 1795, drawing inspiration from a heritage that includes over 200 years of education and scholarship.

Today, Maynooth University is a place of lively contrasts—a modern institution, dynamic, rapidly-growing, research-led and engaged, yet grounded in historic academic strengths and scholarly traditions.

With over 15,000 students from more than 100 countries, Maynooth offers a range of programmes at undergraduate, Master's and PhD level in the humanities, science and engineering, and social sciences including business, law, and education. The University also offers a range of international programmes and partnerships.

Maynooth University shares extensive experience with Arqus' eight other partners in pursuing collaborative projects and a common profile as an internationalised institution engaged in comprehensive research, with deep regional engagement.

Pictured below right to left: Professor Dorothy Kelly, Arqus Coordinator and Vice-Rector for Internationalization at the University of Granada; Professor Patrick McCole, VP-International at Maynooth University; Professor Eeva Leinonen, President of Maynooth University, and Fernando Galán, Arqus Executive Manager.



By joining the Alliance, Maynooth University joins more than 320,000 students, 24,000 academics and researchers, and 17,000 professional staff in the mission of working on the transformation of European higher education, research and innovation through deep cooperation and progressive integration, in pursuit of an equitable and sustainable future by together:

- Educating critical and socially engaged European citizens, equipped for lifelong learning, leaving no-one behind.
- Generating excellent, open, challenge-driven, innovative, and reflective knowledge.
  Acting as a committed multi-level societal and global player.
  Bringing down barriers to

effective cooperation
In 2021, the Alliance adopted an
enlargement strategy to incorporate new
members with a view to strengthening its
pan-European nature, to help fulfil the
Arqus mission of bringing about
inclusive systemic impact, building on
the added-value brought by new
institutions of a similar profile in new
geographical, cultural and linguistic regions.



Dorothy Kelly, Coordinator of the Arqus Alliance and Vice-Rector for Internationalization at the University of Granada, has expressed that "the incorporation of Maynooth University to the Arqus Alliance is exceptional news for us and we couldn't be more pleased. Maynooth University champions a balanced commitment to learning, teaching and research as equally important aspects of the university's mission. Moreover, it is strongly committed to promoting and advancing quality and diversity, which is a fundamental value of our Alliance."

President of Maynooth University, Professor Eeva Leinonen, said: "Partnering across disciplines, borders and cultures will be critical to solving the problems we face as a global society. The European University Alliance provides us with this opportunity, and we are delighted to find such common cause within the Arqus Alliance. We look forward to working with such an esteemed group of colleague institutions and, more importantly, to the benefits the Alliance envisions for students, staff and across European society." Arqus is looking forward to making feel Maynooth colleagues at home in this new stage of the Alliance. As the Irish proverb says "Ní neart go cur le chéile", which means "There is strength in unity" or "we are better together".

Further information about the Arqus Alliance at https://arqus-alliance.eu/

# Government announces €1.2m in funding to MU-led STEM project

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD, and Minister for Education Norma Foley TD, have announced €1.2 million in funding to extend the STEM Passport for Inclusion project.

The project, led by Dr Katriona O'Sullivan at Maynooth University, addresses gender inequalities among female pupils in socially disadvantaged communities through an innovative programme of mentoring and education supports.

The &1.2 million project will be funded jointly by the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Discover Programme (&300k), the Department of Education (&300k), and Microsoft Ireland (&600k).

Speaking about the project, Minister Simon Harris said: "I am delighted to announce today that £1.2million has been awarded to the STEM Passport for Inclusion project. This is a really worthy programme which aims to engage Transition Year girls with STEM, opening pathways to further and higher education. My Department is committed to increasing the number of women and girls studying and working in STEM subjects. I hope that initiatives like this one will help to inspire a new generation of female leadership in science, research, and innovation."

Pictured below left - right: James O'Connor, VP Microsoft Ireland and Dr Katriona O'Sullivan, Maynooth University with STEM Passport to Inclusion participants Kelechi Unaegbu and Sinéad Keane

Minister Foley said: "I would like to congratulate Katriona O'Sullivan and her team on this wonderful initiative. The Recommendations on Gender Balance in STEM Education launched earlier this year, illustrated the importance of encouraging female participation in STEM. In Ireland, out of almost 120,000 people working in STEM, just one-quarter are women. The STEM Passport for Inclusion project was included in the recommendations and is an



excellent initiative which aims to make STEM subjects more accessible and attractive to female students across the country."

The STEM Passport for Inclusion offers female secondary school students the opportunity to graduate with a university-accredited STEM skills module, and to develop a meaningful mentoring relationship with women in Industry. Recent research conducted by Maynooth University has shown that 16% of female students were not studying a science subject at Higher Level for the Leaving Certificate, while 6% of female students do not have the opportunity to study STEM subjects at Secondary level. The initiative provides a platform for girls to understand, participate and celebrate STEM, in order to increase STEM awareness and create pathways to further and higher education in STEM.

(Continued on page 13)

# (Continued from page 12)

Dr Katriona O'Sullivan, of Maynooth University's Assisting Living and Learning (ALL) Institute, said: "I am delighted that STEMp.inc has got the combined support of SFI, the Department of Education and Microsoft to expand nationally. We aim to ensure that every young woman, irrespective of socio-economic background, gets a chance to see where they fit in the STEM eco-system. I am looking forward to growing our partnerships with Atlantic Technological University, and Munster Technological University and other industry partners, as well as expanding our work with Microsoft's Dream Space team as their vision and passion for STEM has ensured that the 1,250 young women we have worked with so far are motivated and ready to excel in the STEM workforce.' The STEM Passport for Inclusion programme was co-designed by the education leads at Microsoft Ireland and Maynooth University and is delivered by Microsoft's Dream Space team at its campus in Leopardstown, Dublin, and in the RDI Hub in Kerry. The national programme will empower 5,000 Transition Year girls from unrepresented communities to gain a Level 6 STEM qualification, which may not otherwise be available to them, and go on to apply for STEM courses at Maynooth University, Munster Technological University and Atlantic Technological University.

# Youthreach staff wellbeing report by MU highlights workload pressures

Maynooth University has published 'The Youthreach Employee Wellbeing Report 2022: A review of employees experience of working in the Youthreach Sector'. This national study reports on the experience and wellbeing of frontline staff working in the Youthreach Further Education and Training (FET) programme.

The report indicates significant challenges facing frontline Youthreach staff including workload pressures, difficulties taking time-off, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of recognition of their role and responsibilities.

The report also highlights the dedication and commitment of Youthreach staff to their student cohort who often come from marginalised and disadvantaged communities and have dropped out of mainstream education pre-Leaving Certificate.

The Youthreach Programme is the Irish government's primary response to early school leaving and is designed to provide young people with access to education and training, progression and social inclusion. It is an integrated education, training and work experience programme that has a strong emphasis on personal development. The programme operates country-wide across 112 Youthreach centres, with 6,779 learners in 2020.

One-third of the Youthreach sector, some 325 staff, responded to a survey developed by researchers in the Department of Adult and Community Education at Maynooth University in December 2021. Almost half of the respondents worked in the role of a resource person (47%), followed by teachers (31%), Centre coordinators (15%), Centre managers (4%) administrators and others (3%). The survey measured resilience, mental health, compassion fatigue and explored participants' experiences and sense of wellbeing while working at Youthreach.

The frontline Youthreach staff identified a lack of recognition at a systemic level, with participants describing a lack of awareness or consideration of the value of the

Youthreach programme, especially by statutory agencies whose focus of attention, they suggest, is on mainstream school or Further Education and Training (FET) provision. This lack of recognition and parity of esteem with teaching colleagues in second level education was mentioned most often as the main challenge facing Youthreach staff. Participants noted pay levels, conditions, career progression, holidays and entitlements as key issues when compared to secondary teachers.

Some 80% of participants reported heavy workloads, with half regularly working in the evening, and a quarter regularly working over the weekend. Youthreach employees were found to take significantly less time off over weekends and holiday periods compared to second level teachers.

One quarter of participants reported burnout; this measure increased in likelihood with length of service in Youthreach. The sense of burnout was expressed by Youthreach staff, who experienced compassion fatigue due to the complex needs of learners within the Youthreach system.

Participants indicated that the complex needs of young people in Youthreach facing disadvantage and exclusion worsened during Covid-19, with participants describing the challenges of maintaining relationships with Youthreach learners significantly impacted by the pandemic.

Despite workplace stress, the findings nonetheless indicate wellbeing among Youthreach staff as relatively high, as employees reported significant psychological and social resilience that help them deal with work-related challenges, while also developing skills to help them cope with adversity.

Researchers also found that personal commitment, values and positive relationships that are formed between Youthreach employees and learners underpin the resilience of Youthreach staff.

Dr Michael Kenny, Associate Professor, Department of Adult and Community Education at Maynooth University explained: "Youthreach employees describe their commitment to young people and deep connection to learners' lives as bringing purpose and meaning to their own work and life, despite the significant challenges they face. This report reveals the valuable contribution of the Youthreach programme and Youthreach staff in supporting vulnerable young people who have left school early."

Speaking to the educational approach of the Youthreach Programme, Dr Bernie Grummell, Associate Professor, Department of Adult and Community Education at Maynooth University comments "The distinctive value of the person-centred and holistic education provided by Youthreach which builds positive relationships with students in safe environments is clear. This is crucial for learners who have had negative experiences in their school education. The positive learning and relationships that Youthreach provides in our education system needs to be recognised at a sectoral level, especially in terms of ensuring parity of esteem between Youthreach staff and their colleagues at second level."

Dr Jolanta Burke, Associate Professor at the Centre of Positive Psychology and Health, RCSI, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, said: "The report demonstrates the strength and resilience of Youthreach employees. However, it has also highlighted the need for significant changes to happen in the Youthreach sector to prevent employees' distress. More action needs to be taken by the Department of Education to reduce the risk factors impacting employees' wellbeing."

# Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 12/12/2022 to 26/01/2023 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
<u>2362</u>	Kildare County Council	Darragh Hickey,	73 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	26/01/2023
<u>2354</u>	Kildare County Council	Damien Travers	Taghadoe, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	24/01/2023
<u>2350</u>	Kildare County Council	Sarah O' Flaherty	Kilmacreddock Upper, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/01/2023
2334	Kildare County Council	Patrick O'Callaghan and Paula Curran,	5 The Rise, Moyglare Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	18/01/2023
2329	Kildare County Council	Vladimir Anghel,	15 Beaufield Green, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	17/01/2023
221517	Kildare County Council	Damien Travers,	Taghadoe, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	21/12/2022
221524	Kildare County Council	Sarah O'Flaherty,	Kilmacreddock Upper, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	21/12/2022
<u>221516</u>	Kildare County Council	Hilary Cronin and Stephen Madden,	Glenhall, Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	21/12/2022
221499	Kildare County Council	Niall and Rhona McNerney,	225 Kingsbry, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	16/12/2022
<u>221469</u>	Kildare County Council	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd.	Mariavilla, Moyglare Road & Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	12/12/2022



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

# Grouse Quest

Nowadays crossing the border is no big deal but back then it was a different matter. Republicans were planting bombs everywhere, Loyalists were on the rampage and the British army had shot dead thirteen civilians in Derry. Not that I had any intention of crossing the border: I just wanted to talk to a man who lived near it, J.P. Mc Shane. So here I was at the wheel of my new Renault with my brother-inlaw John beside me, and my wife Gwen and her mother in the back. We had spent the night in a B & B and, the weather being perfect, were on the road soon after breakfast.

"You're sure we won't be shot?" my mother-in-law Liz asked in her arch Bristol accent.

"You'll be as safe as a house on fire," I assured her. "Listen to him, Gwen," she said. "I told you Irishmen were crazy. Why do you want to see this Mc Shane chap

"Tom wants to get additional information for his novel," Gwen explained. "He had two chapters published already in, Dog and Gun, but he needs to do more research." "Why not do it in a library?" Liz riposted.

"It's not the same," I told her. "This will be the real Mc Coy. We'll be able to see young grouse in a pen, and, anyway, I want to show you the real Ireland.

'I thought that was Wicklow," Liz countered.

"Tom loves the West of Ireland," Gwen explained. "The first book he wrote was set in Galway.'

"I'm inclined to agree with Tom," John said, his mild voice belying the fact that he was a Bristol police sergeant. "Wicklow is more like the Scottish Highlands; this is really

different." I could have crowed assent, my eyes roaming over the

hedge-enclosed fields, shining, green hills and pale-blue mountains ahead.

The further north in Connacht we travelled the wilder and more unspoilt the scenery became. Just over an hour's steady driving brought us to the town where Mc Shane lived. The place was quiet, almost no traffic or pedestrians and no sign of a patrol car. I parked near a newsagent's and went in to ask directions. The girl behind the counter gave me a quizzical look then shook her head. "Try the chemist's," she suggested. This was strange: when interviewed on the radio J.P. had definitely said he lived

As I crossed the street in my blue shirt and pants it occurred to me that the girl might have mistaken me for an off-duty guard. The chemist looked down at his hands as I made my enquiry. Yes, he knew J.P. but the grocer's further up would be able to give proper directions. Feeling a little puzzled, I thanked him and walked to the grocer's. To appear casual, I purchased some biscuits before asking where J.P. lived.

"I wouldn't know the exact place," the assistant said, "but the filling station up the road might."

"You're fairly close to the border here," I remarked. "Did you have any trouble?'

"Oh, didn't you know? Our school was bombed." He glanced fleetingly at my face.

'No," I confessed. "Was anybody killed?"

"Not this time."

'And has the town been affected in any other way by the Troubles?"

'Yes," he seemed reluctant to discuss it. "Since the Brits blew up the bridge we've lost half our customers, the ones from the North."
"That's tough," I remarked, thanking him and hurrying

back to the car.

At the filling station I asked the owner if he knew where J.P. lived.

He shook his head. "Why do you want him?"

As I explained about the grouse a burly customer paying for petrol said, "Oh, I know that man; he lives just a mile up the road. Follow my Land Rover."

When the Land Rover pulled out John noticed its yellow number plate. "That's a Northern Ireland registration," he said.

Which is funny, I thought. How come this bloke knows where J.P. lives and the locals don't? Suppressing my unease I cruised along, noting a high mountain rising on our left and the scarcity of houses. Mile after mile passed with the countryside growing more and more deserted. By now the Land Rover had disappeared.

"I don't like this, Tom," Gwen's voice quavered. "Can we turn back?'

To calm her I began to sing about "The mountain streams where the moor cocks crow.'

"Maybe we should stop?" Liz interrupted my serenade. "No," I said. "If we came this far we may as well see it through."

Next moment we rounded a bend and there was the Land Rover about ninety yards ahead with the driver lying under it. I pulled into the other side of the road with the intention of walking forward to ask if he needed help.

"Keep going!" John urged sotto voce so that the women wouldn't hear.

I knew what he was thinking: this would be a perfect spot for a hijack. Stepping on the accelerator I shot past the Land Rover. To my relief it didn't follow. Maybe it really had broken down? I sped on with the intention of turning off at the first opportunity but over two miles passed without any intersection. Then we were crossing a bridge and ascending a low hill. The surface was pitted as if the road hadn't been repaired in ages. At the top of the hill three big men stood right in the middle of the road, opposite a stone-built, two-storey farmhouse. As I drew to a halt my mind was racing. Were these paramilitaries or former B-Specials? If so, it would be best to act the friendly tourist.

"Hello." I called out, lowering the window.
"What do you want?" The leading fellow's tone was decidedly unfriendly.

"Does J.P. Mc Shane live near here?" I said. Ignoring my question, the fellow poked his head in the car window. "Who have we here?" he demanded.

At once Liz piped up: "This is my son-in-law, Tom – he's a writer – and this is my daughter Gwen, his wife, I'm Liz and this is my son, John. We're – that is John and I are just over on a holiday." Oh, how grateful I was for her confident English accent!

The big, hulking fellow withdrew his head.

"What do you want with Mc Shane?" He sounded less truculent.

"I'm told he raises grouse," I said.
"Aye," he snorted, "It's about all he does. You can reverse down over that bridge. The first cottage to the left."

"Is it okay if I turn around?" I asked. For answer he made a circular motion with his hand and stepped back to his companions.

"Whew!" John breathed in relief.

Watched by the three surly giants, I swung the car around and headed downhill.

'Oh, Tom, can we please go home now?" Gwen begged. "I'm scared."

"Having come this far, we might as well visit Mc Shane's," I demurred.

"And we English are supposed to be the stubborn ones!" Liz's voice betrayed grudging admiration.

John and I got out and walked towards Mc Shane's, an oldfashioned cottage with decaying thatch such as a bachelor might inhabit.

"Do you reckon that the bridge back there marks the border?" John said. "Those fellows looked rather hostile." Very likely," I replied. "We must have crossed by an unapproved road.

"And we still have to pass the bloke in the Land Rover," John reminded me. "I could have sworn it was a gun and not a wrench in his hand."

"This is bandit territory all right." I tried to sound nonchalant.

By this time we had reached the cottage and I knocked on the door. There was no answer. I knocked again then peered through the window. The place looked empty. We

walked to both ends of the house but could see no sign of grouse pens: they were probably kept out on the side of the mountain. Had I put all our lives in jeopardy for nothing? "We'd better call it a day," John advised. "People are bound to be wary of a stranger making enquiries about grouse: they probably reckon you're after other game." "You mean I could be gathering information for the police?"

"Or the I.R.A. – as you said, this is bandit territory." I was as tense as a coiled spring on the return journey, expecting at any moment to come upon the Land Rover blocking the road. If that happened I would have no option but to swing round and head back across the bridge in the hope that the three big fellows would take pity on us. What I wouldn't give for the sight of a garda patrol car! But the road was empty and the countryside had a sinister air as if gunmen were lurking behind every bush.

"It's gone!" John's voice brought me out of my incipient nightmare. He was right: the Land Rover wasn't where we had passed it. Maybe it had pulled into some field thought the only thing visible in the fields was the occasional bullock.

"He didn't come our way so he could have driven to an approved border crossing," John speculated. "Is there one near here?"

"Yes," I said. "I think there's one about eight or nine miles to the east."

"You're not going to chase after him?" Liz was only half

"No," I assured her. "I'm not that crazy."

At long last the filling station came into view and I relaxed. In no time we were driving through the town and heading

"Well, that was quite a trip," Liz remarked. "I thought those hillbillies were going to murder us all."

"You should have written to J.P. first," Gwen said. "That way you could have arranged to meet him in the town." "You're right," I conceded. "Anyway, I'm going to treat you all to a nice dinner in The Bush Hotel in Carrick." "No you won't," John said. "This one's on me." "No, it's my turn," Liz insisted.

After the tension of the previous few hours it was good to get back to the normality of squabbling, and the closer we got to Carrick the more it seemed that we had let our imaginations run riot. After all, the "hillbillies" were probably three locals unused to people crossing from the South and as for the driver of the Land Rover, he might have been an innocent guy repairing his car. Late that evening when we got back to Kinnegad, where Gwen and I had our new home, the grouse quest had taken on the aura of a harmless, if exciting adventure.

About a fortnight later – by this time Liz and John had returned to Bristol – I was in the bank where I worked as a junior financial adviser when a customer came in to see me. He was a respectable looking man in his forties who spoke with a faint northern accent. After the usual polite exchanges he remarked, "You were looking for J.P. Mc Shane recently.

"That's right." I tried to hide my surprise.

"And you had your brother-in-law with you."

I nodded as alarm bells started to go off in my head. "We checked into your background," the man continued, "and we figure you're all right – I myself read your articles in Dog and Gun – and we know your uncle was a republican. But – and this is for your own good, so don't take it wrong – if you want to visit Mc Shane's place or even to go grouse shooting with him, don't bring your brother-in-law along. We know he's a sergeant in the Bristol police. Enough said. Oh, and by the way, I'm

going to call it?" 'The Keeper of the Red Grouse," I mumbled.

"A good title," he said. "Grouse learn to keep their heads down when it's the open season.'

looking forward to your next novel – what is it you're

With that he rose, shook my hand and walked quietly out the door.

By: Patrick Devaney



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

# The Problem of Evil

"Why do I suffer? This is the rock of atheism. The slightest throb of pain, even if it stirs merely in an atom, makes a rent in creation from top to bottom." According to Hans Küng, Georg Büchner attributes these sentiments to Thomas Paine. Indeed Paine, Nietzsche, Dawkins, Stephen Fry and many, many others, all very intelligent men, have been seriously preoccupied with the problem of evil and suffering.

Surprising? Maybe not. "Great wit to madness sure is near allied and thin partitions do their bounds divide". For surely it's madness to think that of ourselves we count for anything? Our very existence from second to second is in the hands of our Creator!

There is no "problem of evil". It is merely the birthpangs of creation in which God has intimately involved us. As a fisherman throws out his hook and line, so our Creator threw out his imaginary line at the end of which was this infitesimally small unit of being from which he has been drawing ever since all things, from the most basic particles, and will go on drawing all things to himself until all is spiritual and this material world is no more. God is a Spirit, after all!

We, humans, are merely in a transitionary stage, existentially involved in the work of creation. Shakespeare didn't know this! Neither did Thomas Aquinas!

But then they didn't have modern science to help them. Père Teilhard knew it. Our bishops don't know this! Our priests and ministers don't know this for if they did they wouldn't be content to mumble a few outworn clichés to a starving gathering of Christians!

So why do we suffer and how can we counter Paine's assertion? By stating that there is no "rent in creation". Creation is a work in progress and its method, chosen by our Creator, is for our own ultimate bliss. Had we never known pain we could never experience freedom from pain. Had we never known deep sorrow how could we delight in the ecstacy of happiness? Well done good and faithful servant. You have been trustworthy over a few minor things, enter into the joy of the Lord.

Because of the manner in which God has set things in motion we can "merit" the happiness in store for us. Of course the labour of creation isn't easy and God was well aware of that. So he sent us a model to show us how to go about cooperaing in the work of creation. He sent us his 'Idea' of himself, his "Son". He lived, suffered, died for his us our path.

Mankind has made enormous blunders down through the ages and is still making them! Think of The Ucraine and all the wars born of human pride, revenge, vanity and greed. Think of the numberless innocents who have died at the hands of those who have taken the Hippocratic oath!

But remember also that it is written: "Let your sins be as red as scarlet, I will wash them white as snow; be they red as crimson I will wash them white as wool".

The Lord will have the last word when all will be brought to perfection in his mansion of many rooms! "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard not hath it entered into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for those who love him", for those who love his creation!

GM

# **Unexpected Gifts**

We reckoned it an eyesore, a pole supporting three high-tension wires above our bungalow's back garden, but as days and weeks slipped by, perched on the wires like music notes, starlings, finches, house martins, swallows...

This change of outlook holds for other things:

that time we left the town where we had raised

five children to settle in this dull one without castle or university – regrets until new prospects dawned: a theatre, Cúpla Focal <sup>1</sup>, LitLab <sup>2</sup>.

There was a bigger change before that one, leaving The New World of reinvention beyond the western ocean – where I had overcome past failures, grown in confidence –

to seek a more fulfilling job back east with, salary apart, a storm-proof life.

Now, in my ninth-decade, the final change: a farewell to the world of living things.

I think of bosom friends, once brimmed with life,

who one by one passed to the great unknown

and trust, despite doubts born of reason, they will await me in some realm to come.

# **Colin Scott**

<sup>1</sup> an oral Irish group <sup>2</sup> a literary group



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Boiler Installation Cylinders, Immersions, Radiators Attic Tanks, Basins Baths & WC Replaced etc.

**Bathroom Renovations Shower Doors, Shower Screens Fitted** 

**Paul Bradley 087 959 8840** 



North Kildare Nappuccino Drop by to chat to volunteers about cloth nappies

Local loan kit of nappies available to rent

Saturday, 11th **February** 2-4pm Maynooth Library

For more information please check out our website: www.clothnappylibrary.ie or email us on info@clothnappylibrary.ie

Alternatively join the conversation on:













# LADIES CLOTHES SWAF



Maynooth Community Library 11th February 2-4pm Join us once a month, free event

Joining us this month:

The Craft Corner - drop in with your clothes mending project & get advice from Vanessa.

Plus a kids toy swap!

**Cloth Nappy Library Ireland** Chat to volunteers about modern reusable nappies







# EARTH BABY FAIR

GLENROYAL HOTEL 22ND APRIL 10-4PM



\* WWW.CLOTHNAPPYIRELAND.IE



A BABY & ECO FAIR

FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR CLOTH NAPPY LIBRARY IRELAND





# **TABLE**





# ST MARYS GAA, LEIXLIP

- 24th February 2023
- 8 pm
- €5 pp







# Interview skills & CV writing Part 1

Writing a CV could be an overwhelming task, especially when we have been out of work for some time, into one job for a very long time and / or if we are sending our candidacy for a position in a different industry/ sector to our background.

I want to press pause on the graphic / aesthetic of a CV for now. That's the easy part!

There are many examples of CV templates out there. The way the content of a CV is organized and looks on paper is important AND!! even more key is the quality of the content itself.

So let's see how to identify what goes into a CV to make sure we present our best most authentic foot forward in a candidacy.

# Do not sell yourself, present yourself

We have heard too many times that, when applying for a job, you have to sell your experience. This could be a dangerous game as selling (or overselling) might land you the wrong job.. You want to clearly outline your experience, skill set and potential in a truthful way.

"Over" selling, inflating scope and responsibilities of past roles might make you look the best person for the job and might also set you up for a challenging ramping into a new role.

This does not mean that you should not consider roles where there is the potential to grow and be exposed to bigger responsibilities. If this is the case, simply state that is the type of role you are looking for and, in this case, highlight your ability to learn fast and the transferable skills.

# How? Read on!

# Play scavenger hunt with your skills!

We learn and develop skills in E V E R Y T H I N G we do and when we undertake one, or more, tasks repeatedly we become experts at it. Though, we might become blind to the skills we develop as we take those tasks and the abilities we need to perform them for granted. So! In a chronological way (most recent to least recent) go back to the jobs you have had, list the job titles down on a sheet of paper and ask yourself the questions below:

- 1. What tasks did I carry out on a daily basis? (Really jot down every task assigned to you and also what you'd take on spontaneously, just cause you saw a need for it)
- 2. What positive (expected from the job at hand) outcomes did I create? Don't forget the times when you over-performed!
- 3. What behaviors did I show to create said outcomes?

This simple exercise not only will help you populate your CV but will also give you plenty of material to eventually prepare for an interview in a way that is factual and convincing.

I hope you land the job you desire, need and want!

Valentina Tortorelli Executive Principal Recruiter, Life and Career Coach @ theintentionallife.ie





# **Gold Medal Winners**

2016 - 2017 2018 - 2019 2021 - 2022

After a very successful year in the Tidy Towns Competition 2022, we were pleasantly surprised to come joint second with Kilkenny in the IBAL Competition 2023. We should get a certificate in recognition of this achievement. We are still waiting for the invitation to Trim from Meath County Council for the presentation of our 6th Gold Medal. Trim were the regional winners and they also won the All Ireland Competition. Maybe I can report on that event in the March Newsletter.

We ceased our meet ups on the 2nd of December for 2022 season due to the inclement weather. We resumed our meet ups for 2023 on the 7th January where we removed the Christmas tree and Crib from the square. Tree was brought to the Kildare County Council recycling yard on Leinster and the Crib was put in storage until next December. There was lots of litter picking all around the town, we cleared some areas of dumping and we are delighted to see the Spring bulbs sprouting all over the town. We cleared some of the foot paths on the Kilcock Road of rotting leaves.

Looking forward to March and The St Patrick's day parade on the 17th.

If anyone wants to volunteer please follow us on Facebook for updates, we meet at our shed in The Council Car every Saturday morning at 9am.

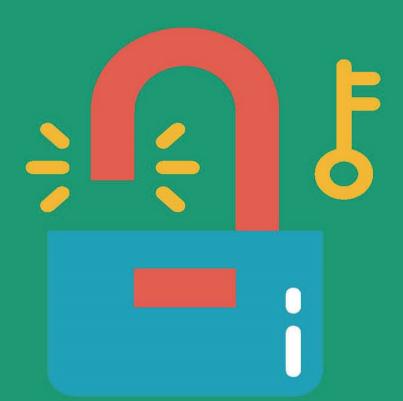
Mary Molloy - Maynooth Tidy Towns PRO





# unlock some extra cash!

feeling the pinch of the cost of living increases? transfer your existing loans and credit card balance to us and see what you could save!





Warning: If you do not meet the repayments on your loan, your account will go into arrears. This may affect your credit rating, which may limit your ability to access credit in the future

Warning: Changing your loans may result in you paying over a longer term and/or paying more interest over the life of your loan. Warning: The cost of your repayments may increase

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

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

Information is also available online at <a href="https://www.citizensinformation.ie">www.citizensinformation.ie</a> and from the

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



# **Rent Tax Credit**

- What is the Rent Tax Credit?
- How much is the Rent Tax Credit?
- Can I claim the Rent Tax Credit?
- How to claim the Rent Tax Credit
- Further information

# What is the Rent Tax Credit?

An income tax credit reduces your income tax by the amount of the credit.

A new Rent Tax Credit was introduced on 15 December 2022.

You can claim the tax credit for rent payments you made in 2022 by making an income tax return for 2022.

The Rent Tax Credit will be available for the years 2022 to 2025.

# **How much is the Rent Tax Credit?**

The amount of the credit is 20% of your rent payments in the year, up to a maximum credit of:

- €500 for an individual
- €1,000 for a couple who are jointly assessed for tax

If a number of people pay the rent for a property, each individual or couple can claim the Rent Tax Credit for the rent they pay.

You cannot claim for payments for:

- A security deposit
- Repairs or maintenance
- Board, laundry or other services

# Can I claim the Rent Tax Credit?

You can claim the credit for rent payments you have made for:

- Your home.
- A second home that you use to take part in your work or an approved course (a course that is eligible for tax relief on third-level fees)
- A property that is used by your child to take part in an approved course, if they are under 23 at the start of their first year

You cannot claim the credit if you are getting housing support which includes:

- The Housing Assistance Payment
- Rent Supplement
- The Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Cost rental housing

# **Registration of your tenancy**

Your tenancy must be registered with the Residential Tenancy Board, unless it is a type of tenancy where this is not required, called a licence arrangement.

This includes where you are sharing with the owner in a rent-a-room or digs arrangement. In some cases, only the types of tenancies that must be registered with the Residential

Tenancy Board are eligible for the credit. This applies if:

- You are related to your landlord or
- You are claiming for a property that is used by your child

# Your landlord

Your landlord must not be:

- A housing association or approved housing body
- A local authority
- Your parent
- Your child

If the property is used by your child to attend a course, the landlord cannot be any relation to you or your child.

# **How to claim the Rent Tax Credit**

If you are a PAYE taxpayer, you can claim the tax credit for rent paid in 2022 in myAccount:

- 1. Sign in to myAccount
- 2. Go to the 'PAYE Services' section
- 3. Click 'Review your Tax 2019–2022' and select 2022
- 4. Click 'Request' under the 'Statement of Liability' section
- 5. Click on 'Complete your Income Tax Return'
- 6. In the 'Tax Credits & Reliefs' page, select 'You and your family' and click on 'Rent Tax Credit'
- 7. Enter the information requested

For rent paid in 2023, it will be possible to claim the tax credit before the end of the year using Revenue's Real-Time Credit facility.

# If you are self-assessed

If you are registered for income tax self-assessment, you will soon be able to claim the tax credit for rent paid in 2022 by using the Revenue Online Service (ROS):

- 1. Sign into ROS
- 2. Open the 'My Services' screen
- 3. Click on 'File Return'
- 4. Select 'Income Tax' from the dropdown menu
- 5. Select the 2022 tax year
- 6. Go to the 'Rent Tax Credit' section of the tax return and enter the information requested

#### **Further information**

Revenue has published a detailed guide to the Rent Tax Credit (pdf).

# Free Legal Advice Centres (FLAC)

- What is FLAC?
- How can I get free legal advice?
- Can I volunteer to work at FLAC?
- Contact

## What is FLAC?

The Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC) is an independent voluntary organisation that offers free basic legal advice.

The main functions of FLAC are to:

- Provide free basic advice and information to people with legal queries
- Promote equal access to justice through advocacy campaigns
- Conduct research in priority areas of law in the name of the public interest

FLAC does not offer a representation service and cannot assist you with finding legal representation. The Law Society has information on how to find a solicitor. FLAC does not provide legal aid which is administered by a separate body, the Legal Aid Board.

# How can I get free legal advice?

FLAC offers a telephone information and referral line Monday to Friday. The phone line is free of charge.

FLAC cannot provide legal information or advice via email or post.

You can find a list of guides containing legal information on the FLAC website.

# **FLAC Phone Advice Clinics**

FLAC also offer free legal advice phone clinics on a limited basis, in conjunction with Citizens Information Services (CIS). The volunteers who answer the phones are qualified to practice law in Ireland.

This is a free confidential service that may provide:

- First stop assistance
- Basic legal information
- Advice, such as the next steps you need to take
- A referral to another appropriate service

If you already have legal representation, the FLAC Phone Advice Clinic cannot give you a second opinion on your legal issue.

You can make an appointment by contacting your local Citizens Information Centre (CIC). You can learn more about these clinics on the FLAC website.

# Can I volunteer to work at FLAC?

It is usually necessary to be fully qualified to practice law in Ireland to volunteer with FLAC. FLAC posts volunteer opportunities on their website as they arise.

# Contact

Free Legal Advice Centre 85/86 Upper Dorset Street Dublin 1 D01 P9Y3 Ireland

Opening Hours: Lines open 9:30am – 1pm

Tel: +353 (0)1 906 1010 Homepage: http://www.flac.ie

Contact Form: https://www.flac.ie/contact/

# St. Brigid's Day / Lá Fhéile Bríde



Lá Fhéile Bríde falls on the 1st February, it is a time of Imbolg. This is an ancient festival which marks the beginning of Spring. This festival became Christianised in Ireland and became known as St. Brigid's Day. St. Brigid is Ireland's most important female Saint. Here in Ireland from 2023 St. Brigid's Day will be a new annual national holiday, therefore equalling her status to St. Patrick, who is our Patron Saint. The first Monday in February will now be known as St. Brigid's Day; the Celtic Goddess of Ireland. But if the 1st February falls on a Friday then that Friday will be the Bank holiday.

St. Brigid enter the home". People inside the house would reply "You are welcome, St. Brigid". When she entered the house, she would go over to the table which was laden with food and sit and say grace before eating. Then after eating, all would make crosses from the rushes and sprinkle them with holy water.

Some parts of Ireland, there are groups called Biddy Boys. This group went from house to house with a straw figure of the Saint which was dressed in white, or straw costumes or both. They would collect money or food for a party in St. Brigid's name. The group would also be wearing various strange costumes and music. It was unlucky and thought mean to refuse them a donation.



There was also a tradition of marching with a doll known as a Brideóg also called Miss Biddy. This was a figure of the Saint, made from straw and dressed in white. This doll was carried in the march. Occasionally a girl, dressed as the Saint, was there too. She carried crosses and offered blessings to the houses. This custom has been brought with the Irish to various other countries they emigrated to. This custom was observed by locals as strange and even some thought this incited violence.



In 1830 in Kensington in London one such procession was described as marchers scandalising the local shopkeepers by marching their pagan dolly up the High Street and thrusting it into the shop doorways which sent refined customers for the smelling salts. The Police did not confront the mob but they did arrest the dolly and locked her in a cell until a woman turned up to the station asking to collect her sister's dress which was on the Celtic goddess.

# Who is St. Brigid? She was born in Dunda

She was born in Dundalk in 450AD and she was the founder of the first monastery in Co. Kildare. Her father was a pagan chieftain of Leinster and her mother was a Christian. She joined a convent and eventually asked her father for some land so that she could build a convent. Her father said that he would give her as much land as her cloak would cover. She placed her cloak on the ground and she prayed to God that her cloak would grow and it did, it covered acres, as legend says. St. Brigid was always by the bed of sick and dying people. One particular time she was by the sick bed of a dying pagan chieftain, this could very well have been her father, telling him stories of her faith and her total trust in God. She started telling the story about the Cross and Christ, while doing so, she picked up rushes from the ground and started making a cross. The chieftain then asked to be baptised just before his death. So over time the creating of the cross came to be known as the "Saint Brigid's Cross". The tradition of making the cross for St. Brigid's Day still continues to this day. The crosses are hung over or beside doors and are said to ward off evil, fire and hunger. St, Brigid is renowned for her kindness and faith towards all.

She died at age of 75 in AD 525 and is buried in the very church that she created. Later in years her remains were exhumed and brought to Downpatrick to buried along side our patron St. Patrick and St. Columcille, which shows just how much esteem St. Brigid is held here in Ireland to be buried alongside as an equal to St. Patrick. Her skull was brought to Lisbon where it is still to this day. It is widely believed that three Irish Knights brought her head to Lisbon, the reason - no one is exactly sure why but it is thought that they brought it with them to keep them safe from sickness while on their crusades. It is preserved in the church in Lumiar in Lisbon.

# **Customs**

On the eve of St. Brigid's Day, she is said to pass over the whole of Ireland give her blessings to the people and the land. Offerings were left out for her. These were

offerings of bread and butter. People also left out items for her to bless as she passed. Occasionally water and salt were left out and after these were thought to have curative properties. Each part of Ireland would have their own varied traditions, such as in Antrim, where a place was set at the table for her where she had passed over a poor person from the locality who was invited in her place to enjoy the meal.



It is still a tradition in Ireland to make St. Brigid crosses and place them at doors in the



house for protection of the household, farm and land. Many primary schools in Ireland to this day still make the crosses. The day before the old crosses from the previous year would be burned before the new ones would be put up. In some parts of Ireland if there was a female member of the family called Brigid, she would leave the house with a pile of rushes and return knocking three times on the door saying "Go down on your knees and let

# St. Brigid's Well

There is a well in Co. Kildare which is situated in the Black Abbey grounds. This abbey was founded in 1212 by the Knights Hospitaller. It is now in ruins. This well is a very popular place for pilgrims as it is thought to have healing properties. It is fitting that St. Brigid, Ireland's only female Saint, be given equal status to our male patron Saint, St. Patrick, in recognition of her kindness to the sick and dying, her compassion and her faith. In honour of St. Brigid, we should try to make this day as important a day as St. Patrick's Day in our celebrations and show a little more kindness on 1st February.





Sourced: www.rte/cultural.ie. Images: Google Free Images.



# Maynooth Cycling Campaign Notes

# **Maynooth Cycling Without Age**

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is delighted to reveal that before Christmas, it ordered a Danish trishaw as part of Cycling Without Age in Kildare. Cycling Without Age is

an international community based movement which enables elderly or people with mobility problems to enjoy the pleasures of cycling by riding a trishaw, although they may not be physically able to cycle on their own. A trishaw is an electric tricycle which carries a pilot and two passengers. The pilot controls the trishaw and brings the passengers to a park, along a greenway or just around their local town.

We are grateful for financial assistance from Kildare Sports Partnership, Kildare County Council and Healthy Ireland for its purchase. Delivery is due in March - before St. Patrick's Day. We propose to use the trishaw at weekends so are looking for a number of people to volunteer as pilots. If you are interested email us at <a href="maynoothcycling@gmail.com">maynoothcycling@gmail.com</a>. Training will be arranged.

We also have had preliminary discussions with Genil Training/St. John of God regarding use of the trishaw Monday to Friday. The one outstanding problem is somewhere to store the trishaw. We have raised the matter with Maynooth University and are hoping that they will grant permission to store it in one of their secure bike sheds but it is difficult to get engagement from them.

vulnerable road users. Serious injuries in Kildare for Q1 to Q3 increased from in 2021 to 39 in 2022.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political cycling advocacy group.

Further information on the campaign is available on our website.

Cycling Without Age was started by Ole Kassow in Copenhagen 2012. Ole wanted to help the elders get back on their bicycles, but he had to find a solution to their limited mobility. The answer was a trishaw and he started offering free bike rides to the local nursing home residents. It spread from Copenhagen across Denmark and then went international. Now it has a presence in more than 50 countries with over 3,700 trishaws and 35,000 trained pilots.

It was established in Ireland in 2017 by Clara Clarke in Dun Laoghaire but now there are over 70 CWA trishaws in locations including Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, Blanchardstown, Clonakilty, Wexford Town, Cashel and Tipperary. Next month Maynooth will join that list.

# An Garda Siochana Reports

An Garda Siochana has not yet revealed the number of bike thefts in Kildare for the final quarter (Q4) of 2022. From a look at the published figures from the last three years, bike theft is likely to have increased in 2022 compared to 2021.

	2020	2021	2022
Q1	23	14	24
Q2	39	19	38
Q3	53	47	33
Q4	14	25	
	129	105	95

Preliminary estimates of Kildare road fatalities suggest a reduction from 8 in 2021 to 4 in 2022. Nationally, however, there was a big increase in the fatality of vulnerable road users. Serious injuries in Kildare for Q1 to Q3 increased from 36 in 2021 to 39 in 2022.

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





# **Oliver Reilly**

Leinster Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare Mobile 086 8105581 - 01 6289452 24 Hour Service



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

Main Office, Naas Tel: 045 868230 Paul Reilly Mobile: 086 8105581

Funeral Home
The Harbour
Leinster Street
Maynooth





01-629 0370
Unit 3, Fagan's Lane, Maynooth
Main Street, Kinnegad
info@gildeasopticians.ie
Gildea's Opticians
www.gildeasopticians.ie

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with Medical Card or PRSI





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(beside Citizens Information Centre) **Dublin Road, Maynooth** 

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Tel: 01-6293246 Fax: 01-6293247

Also At: 29 Eaton Square Terenure Dublin 6

Email:info@hegartyssolicitors.ie

Website: www.hegartyssolicitors.ie

# Maynooth I.C.A. Notes

Maynooth Guild are looking forward to a very busy year ahead. Some of our members will attended the launch of Daffodil Day in January 2023. Members will also do collections on Friday 24th March for this event.

Members will also be attending Kildare weekend in An Grianán from 19th to 21st May 2023. We are looking forward to our Federation meeting on 18th February which will include a Quiz and Simnel Baking Competition. It is hoped to have this event in Castledermot. Our members celebrated Nollaig na mBan with an outing for coffee in one of the Towns restaurants/ We also intend to do something similar for St. Brigid's Day and National Women's Day.

Each month we hold a competition at our meeting. Members will also attend the Regional ICA meeting in the Galway Bay Hotel on 11th March and also our national AGM which will be held in the Silver Springs Hotel on 27th May 2023. Tickets are now on sale for our Easter Hamper Raffle. The Guild will be doing a trip to Kilkenny to see the Ross Tapestry. The Guild will also be doing a collection for the Samaritans. Goods needed are hats, gloves, scarfs, tooth brushes, soaps, shampoos etc.

Some of our members also take part in exercise classes each week, walking, dancing, swimming, pole walking etc. Our monthly meeting is always held on the first Thursday of the month and our Craft Nights take place every Monday night. All are welcome.

**Nora Mc Dermott PRO Maynooth ICA** 

# THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

> Never known to fail. Thanksgiving for favour received. (ELP)

# THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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> Never known to fail. Thanksgiving for favour received.

~ Have Fun While Advertising Your Organisation ~







# **Application Form 2023**

This Year's Theme: Celtic Mythology



# Closing Date for Entries: 5pm Friday 3rd March 2023

1	ldress:	
-	entact e-mail:	
-	ntact Person: Telephone:	
٠	All vehicles entering must have a float, preferably a live band with traditional, rock or pop music.	
	HGV's, lorries or cars without a float will not be accepted.	
٠	Entry Fee does not include Insurance cover. All participants/Floats should have suitable Insurance c	over
Do	ou wish to do a demo (2-3 mins) at Reviewing Stand? Yes No	
E	trance Fees: (Cheques should be made payable to "Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parad	<u>de")</u>
	Commercial Float ~ €60 Club/Organisation ~ €30	
	First Time Entry ~ €10 Bands ~ Free	
	Please submit two paragraphs about your club/organisation or business with this application	

he	categories for which prizes will b	e awarded a	re as	follows:	
1	Best Commercial Float	Trophy	2	Best Club Float	Trophy
3	Best Band	Perpetual Cup	4	Best School Float	Trophy
5	Best Portrayal of Irish Culture (Dr Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin Perpetual Trophy)	Perpetual Trophy	6	Best Portrayal of Environmental Awareness	Trophy

Applications with entry fee to be sent to: Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade Committee c/o Unit 10, Carton Retail Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Organised by:

**Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade Committee** E-mail: maynoothparade@gmail.com Naoise Ó Cearúil (Chair) Mobile - 086-7280050

# **Watkins Tile Centre Main Street** Leixlip

"We have you covered for all your ceramic wall & floor tiles"

> **Opening Hours: Monday to Friday** 9.00 am - 5.00 pm Saturday 9.00 am - 2.00 pm

Closed during the week for lunch 1pm -2pm

One Stop Tile Shop with a huge selection of wall & floor tiles

Catering for everyone with a personal touch!

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# Kennels, **Grooming And Day Care**

Animal Physio & Hydro Therapy

Cooldrinagh Lane Weston, Leixlip, Co. Kildare

Tel: 087 8046168 Email: topdogsgroom@yahoo.com www.topdogsgroom.com



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

# **Bus Eireann Bus 115 Undergoing review**

Catherine Murphy TD has stated that a comprehensive review of the Bus service 115 is due to take place and has received the below update from the National Transport

"The national Transport Authority can confirm that Bus Éireann has just started a comprehensive review of route 115, in order to make some timetable adjustments and add additional peak time trips. This is aimed to solve punctuality, frequency, reliability and capacity issues. Please note that any adjustments proposed will be subject to funding and resources (buses and drivers) availability.

We can't give a definite date yet as this is still a work in progress but we will update you when the review is complete."

# Ongoing delay in retrofitting loan scheme will impact Ireland's climate ambitions.

Government can only offer vague timelines on when lowcost loan scheme for households will be available Ongoing delays in the rollout of a low interest loan scheme for retrofitting will make Ireland's carbon reduction targets even more difficult to achieve, according to Social Democrats Co-Leader Catherine Murphy TD.

"A low interest loan guarantee scheme – designed to help households make up the difference between the cost of retrofitting works and SEAI grants - was a key feature of the Government's Climate Action Plan when it was announced in 2021. More than two years later, it is still not up and running and we still don't know when it will be open for applications.

"This scheme, which will provide low-cost loans of up to €50,000 per household, was due to be in place by last summer. Environment Minister Eamon Ryan told me on two separate occasions that it would be launched in the third or fourth quarter of 2022, but this did not happen. "According to reports, there has been extensive due diligence between the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Irish banking and credit union sector, and that "significant progress" has been made in identifying

"Yet, all Government can say is that the scheme will be launched "in the coming months". Such a vague timeline is utterly unacceptable.

"The cost of retrofitting is completely out of reach for most families and it is simply not good enough that this scheme is not yet finalised. Even when the loans are available, retrofitting will remain pie in the sky for those homeowners already struggling to pay their mortgages. "So far, the Government's retrofitting ambition, which aims to see 500,000 homes upgraded to a B2 energy rating by 2030, is looking increasingly unattainable."

# Homelessness figures highlight need to extend eviction ban and increase tenant in situ purchases

. Lifting the ban at the end of March will create a tsunami of evictions, with homelessness services already completely overstretched

The latest homelessness figures highlight the need for an extension of the ban on evictions and a ramping up of tenant in situ purchases, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy, said:

"Figures released today show that homelessness has yet again hit record levels. There were 11,632 people living in homeless emergency accommodation over the Christmas period, 3,442 of them children.

"This represents a shocking 40 percent rise in the number of children in emergency accommodation in just one year. "Lifting the ban at the end of March will create a tsunami of evictions while our homelessness services are completely overstretched already.

"The Government must extend the eviction ban and use the time to grow our social housing stock. A relatively quick

measure that keeps families in their homes would be the rapid expansion of tenant in situ purchases.

"We have seen such purchases rolled out sporadically across the country, with some local authorities using them more than others. The Minister needs to issue clear direction to all local authorities and provide the necessary funding to ramp up tenant in situ purchases to save people from the ordeal of becoming homeless.

The Government has wasted the breathing space provided by the eviction ban and has allowed the crisis to get even

"We cannot grow accustomed to grim records like this being broken month after month. Homelessness has a deep and lasting impact on those who experience it. These are people, not just statistics."

# Minister can't see the wood for the trees on Coillte deal

Ireland's Forest Strategy has been undermined by partnership with UK investment firm Coillte's controversial partnership with a UK investment firm is undermining Ireland's new Forest Strategy before it has even begun, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy.

"The long-delayed Forest Strategy says all the right things and makes big commitments. But based on this Government's track record and the recent Coillte deal with Gresham House, it is not worth the paper it is written on. 'Not surprisingly, there are widespread objections to this arrangement. Under the plan, Coillte – a public body – will do all the heavy lifting by sourcing tens of thousands of acres in rural Ireland, planting trees and managing the forests. However, private international investors will reap the rewards.

"Already, €25 million of public money has been invested in the fund to facilitate a corporate land-grab of huge swathes of rural Ireland.

"The Coillte deal highlights serious flaws in the Government's approach to forestry policy and climate action. The State should be developing our forests in a way that supports biodiversity and a sustainable forestry sector. "The Minister for Agriculture seems to have been asleep at the wheel by allowing this agreement to be signed off without proper public scrutiny or debate. Minister McConalogue has stated that the Coillte deal is not the Government's preferred option, yet his department has been aware of a proposed public/private partnership for almost two years.

"It appears that the Minister has been unable to see the wood for the trees when it comes to the Coillte deal. Coillte makes a profit of €100 million a year and has a landbank of over 1.1 million acres – so why exactly does it require the involvement of a UK-based investment firm? "All of this undermines the credibility of Ireland's new Forest Strategy before it has even begun."

# Taoiseach finally admits that Government's own target for social housing was missed

The Government must now explain why the State cannot or will not – build enough social homes

The Taoiseach has finally admitted that the Government's own target for the delivery of social homes in 2022 was missed, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine

"When questioned in the Dáil today by Catherine Murphy TD, the Taoiseach conceded, for the first time, that the target for social housing had not been met last year. This admission is a departure from the usual Government spin on housing delivery figures.

"It is important to remember that the initial target for newbuild social homes in 2022 was 9,000, but this was quietly reduced to 8,000 in November. By September, just over 2,700 social homes had been delivered, with more than 70% of them acquired from the private sector.

"Last December, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform warned that only 6,500 social homes were likely to be delivered by the end of the year. This falls short of the original target set by the Government by as much as 30%.

"The shortfall in the delivery of social homes is not surprising when you consider that, according to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the Housing Minster failed to spend almost €1 billion of his capital allocation last year. This is a grave insult to the record numbers of people living in emergency homeless accommodation and the tens of thousands of renters struggling to pay unaffordable rents.

"Following the Taoiseach's admission of his Government's spectacular housing policy failure, he now needs to explain why the State cannot – or will not – build enough social homes and outline what immediate action he is going to take to address this."

# Government must act to increase awareness of tax credit for renters

Some renters losing out on rebate because landlords are not registered with Residential Tenancies Board The Government needs to do more to raise awareness of the €500 annual rent credit introduced in Budget 2023, according to Catherine Murphy.

"It has been reported that only a fraction of those who are eligible for the credit – worth €500 per year to an individual or €1,000 per couple – have claimed it so far. It is estimated that up to 400,000 people are entitled to claim the refund, but just over 78,000 have applied to date. 'Significantly, a survey by Taxback.com revealed widespread lack of public awareness about renters' entitlement to the credit, which can be applied for retrospectively for 2022.

"With exorbitant rents putting households under severe financial pressure, it is important that as many people as possible avail of this budgetary measure. Given the low uptake so far, it is clear that the Government needs to run an awareness campaign to encourage more renters to apply to Revenue for the refund.

'Separately, some tenants are excluded from applying for the credit because their landlords are not registered with the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB). This is completely unacceptable and highlights the requirement for proper enforcement to ensure that landlords are fully compliant with the rules."

# Damning CAMHS report demands immediate **Government response**

It is time that the Government stopped wringing their hands about dysfunction within the health service and actually did something about it

A damning report by the Mental Health Commission has revealed that the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is failing children across the country, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy.

"Last year, a shocking report into South Kerry CAMHS revealed that hundreds of children had received risky care, with scores suffering "significant harm". Today, we learn that the dysfunction laid bare in South Kerry last year is replicated across the country.

"In fact, Inspector of Mental Health Services, Dr Susan Finnerty, was so disturbed by her review of CAMHS that she published an interim report to highlight serious failings in the service.

"Those concerns extend to 140 children "lost" in the Midwest CAMHS; children not receiving follow up appointments for up to two years, despite children being on medication; chronic understaffing of CAMHS teams; an increasing reliance on telepsychiatry; and children reaching the age of 18 without being transitioned to adult services. "Families spoke about their children deteriorating while on waiting lists and being forced to try to seek help from the private healthcare system. One family had to pay €90 a

(Continued on page 24)



# 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 23)

round trip of three hours to do so.

"It is time that the Government stopped wringing their hands about dysfunction within the health service and actually did something about it. The children who are being failed by CAMHS will not get their childhoods back. It is a national scandal that some children have been seriously harmed by CAMHS, rather than helped.

'It is notable that some of the issues highlighted in this scathing report could be addressed if the Sláintecare plan was implemented – particularly, the implementation of Regional Health Areas. The report notes that Community Health Organisations (CHOs) are unable to plan for the services they need locally because HSE budgets are centralised. Recruitment is also centralised, meaning local services have huge difficulty in hiring the staff they need at the time they need them.

'Minister Donnelly must now come to the Dáil and answer questions about this latest damning report into CAMHS and tell us what he intends to do about it. This is an interim report, but the response from Government must be immediate."

# NCT operator must be held accountable for unacceptable delays

Confirmation that Road Safety Authority is engaged in legal process to impose penalties relating to NCT contract is welcome – but must be fully pursued

The Government must urgently address ongoing delays being experienced by motorists trying to access National Car Testing (NCT) centres and apply appropriate penalties on operator Applus+ for any breaches of its contract, according to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy.

"In recent years, motorists have experienced unacceptably long delays when trying to book a test in their preferred centre – often up to several months at some locations with factors such as staff shortages and Covid-19 being

"According to the NCT's website, none of the centres around the country can offer appointments within the 28day period, with Leinster and Dublin seeing the longest waiting times.

"Despite the NCT's customer charter promising a free test if no appointment is available within a 28-day period, the Road Safety Authority (RSA) has confirmed that no customer was offered this concession last year. Will eligible drivers now be entitled to a refund and, if so, will Applus+ be held liable for these payments under the terms

'It is also worth noting that the NCT contract was rolled over for a further 10 years in 2020. We need to know if key performance indicators were met by the company before the contact was renewed by the RSA.

"At the core of this issue is vehicle safety and compliance with road traffic legislation. It continues to be an offence to drive a car without a current NCT certificate under the Road Traffic Act 1961, with motorists at risk of five penalty points on their licence, a fine of up to  $\in 2,500$  or three months in prison.

"While we are advised that insurance companies are taking a pragmatic and understanding approach to the issue of backlogs at testing centres, drivers remain concerned they may not be covered in the event of an accident for not having a valid NCT certificate.

"The high demand for tests demonstrates that motorists want to be compliant, but the system is not allowing them

"Minister of State Jack Chambers confirmed to me in the Dáil today that the RSA is engaged in a legal process to impose penalties on Applus+ for not providing services to the State, as contracted. This approach must be fully pursued by the Government to restore public confidence in

the NCT system and ensure there is full accountability for week to see a private occupational therapist while driving a the sub-par levels of service currently being offered.'

# Government must act as house prices hit record levels and continue to rise

House prices nationally are now 3 percent above their highest point at the peak of the property boom Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy has called on the Minister for Housing to explain what he is going to do to address the rising cost of home ownership after figures released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) revealed that property prices have reached record levels. Deputy Murphy, said:

"It is deeply concerning that house prices in Ireland have reached record levels and continue to climb. The national Residential Property Price Index (RPPI) shows an 8.6 percent increase in the 12 months to November 2022, with values in Dublin rising by 7 percent and by 9.8 percent outside the capital.

This means house prices nationally are now 3 percent above their highest level at the peak of the property boom in April 2007, increasing by nearly 130 percent since 2013. "The Government needs to urgently change tack on its housing policy. The Minister must immediately act to increase the supply of social, cost rental and affordable purchase homes, and tackle delivery bottlenecks when it comes to land and financing.

"In addition, the scandalous waste of vacant properties must be confronted head on with the introduction of a punitive tax to heavily discourage leaving homes empty. Given the prohibitive cost of home ownership, it is clear we cannot just rely on the property market to solve the

# Reform of ethics legislation must not be delayed by controversy engulfing Paschal **Donohoe**

It would be bizarre and grotesque for reform to be further delayed because the Minister overseeing SIPO was the subject of an investigation

Long overdue reform of our ethics legislation must not be further delayed by the controversy that has engulfed Minister for Public Expenditure Paschal Donohoe, according to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy.

"Minister for Public Expenditure Paschal Donohoe has conceded he failed to properly record his election expenses and has now asked SIPO to amend his 2016 election statement. A complaint in relation to the matter has also been made to SIPO.

"The Minister has quite rightly recused himself from any ministerial duties relating to SIPO while the complaint in relation to his election returns is investigated. However, this necessary recusal should not slow down much-needed reform of our ethics legislation.

"Until the Cabinet reshuffle, Michael McGrath had been responsible for reform of our ethics legislation. It makes sense for that responsibility to now revert to the Finance Minister.

"On December 13, Minister McGrath received approval from the Cabinet for a review of ethics legislation to be published, but that has yet to happen. There is no reason to further delay the publication of this review. The Minister should also confirm when updated ethics legislation is likely to be published.

"SIPO has been calling for increased powers of investigation and enforcement for 20 years – and it would be bizarre and grotesque for reform to be further delayed because the Minister overseeing SIPO was the subject of an investigation.

"Minister McGrath had been responsible for SIPO until December and should now confirm that he will immediately oversee the next steps of its long overdue reform process.

"In the first instance, the review of our ethics legislation should be published this week and the Minister must confirm when updated legislation is likely to be published."

# Slow rollout of eating disorder teams must by addressed by HSE

Model of Care was supposed to deliver 16 specialist eating disorder teams - but just three are operating The slow delivery of specialist eating disorder teams across the country is potentially putting lives at risk, according to Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy TD "Of the 16 community-based teams promised under the HSE's National Model of Care for Eating Disorders in 2018, just three are operational. The pace of progress is completely unacceptable and represents a significant gap in our mental health services.

"The clinical programme aimed to establish an eating disorder network comprising eight adult teams and eight CAMHS (Child and Adult Mental Health Service) teams. Last year, the HSE informed me that nine multidisciplinary teams would be in place by the end of 2022. However, it has now emerged that serious recruitment difficulties have delayed progress on the programme, which was expected to be delivered within five years. "It is widely accepted that outpatient specialist care is the most effective treatment setting for many people with eating disorders. The Model of Care was intended as the blueprint for the rollout of a community-based network to address the unmet need for dedicated eating disorder services.

"Recent years have seen an alarming rise in psychiatric inpatient admissions for children and adolescents presenting with eating disorders, an issue that predominately affects women. This is an area that is constantly under-resourced, despite eating disorders being among the psychiatric conditions most associated with mortality.

"Lack of investment means people often have to go to the UK for treatment, paid for by the State, while others are forced to spend thousands on private care. We need greater intervention at primary care level to prevent these situations escalating to inpatient admissions. "I will be seeking an update on this issue when the Dáil resumes next week. Any recruitment or funding barriers delaying the rollout of public eating disorder services must be urgently addressed by the Minister for Mental Health

# COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS REPLY TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY R1657 (ii) PAC33

Ollscoll Mha Nuad Maynooth University Oifig an Uachtarain Office of the President Our Ref; P/CL 11 January 2023

and the HSE."

Ms. Sarah Cremin Committee Secretariat Committee of Public Accounts

Dear Ms. Cremin,

I refer to your correspondence on behalf of the Public Accounts Committee, requesting information on the following issues:

- 1. The University's rationale for terminating the construction contract for a new student centre.
- 2. Details of the student levy fund, including details of how much was collected from students since it was established,

(Continued on page 25)



# 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 24)

how much was collected annually, what it is being used for, and what the remaining balance is. I have outlined below the relevant information on each of these issues.

## 1. Rationale for terminating the student centre construction contract.

It is important to recognise at the outset that the University remains committed to delivering a new student building. We fully recognise the ongoing need for additional student spaces and facilities. The decision that was taken by the Governing Authority ("GA") of the University on 22nd September 2022 was to terminate a specific construction contract for delivering the MU Student Centre due to the issues outlined below.

The GA has responsibility for the strategic direction of the University, the management and administration of its revenue and property, and the general conduct of its affairs. Members of the GA are drawn from the staff, students, graduates and external organisations.

At its meeting on the 22nd September, the GA decided the construction contract for the MU Student Centre had to be terminated. The decision was made because the costs for construction were projected to be 50% more than the costs of the original contract. This would mean that a breach in public procurement rules would be likely, as the Public Spending Code states that this level of increase (over 50%) is not allowed. As a public sector institution, Maynooth University is a steward of public monies and we are obligated to abide by the Public Sector Spending Code, the Capital Works Management Framework and the European Union (Award of Public Authority Contracts) Regulations 2016.

The reason for the increase in project costs was due to technical issues and an escalation in costs. Also, as it was still in the early stages of construction, further increases could have occurred. The decision to terminate the contract was informed by legal advice received by Maynooth University. The risk associated with continuing with a project that would breach the Public Spending Code was a primary concern of the GA

The expenditure that has been incurred to date on the project, approximately €1.6m, will be met by the University from financial reserves. No financial contribution is being sought from the exchequer, and no student levy monies (as detailed below) have been lost as a result of the GA's decision to terminate the construction contract for the MU Student Centre. The student levy funds remain ring-fenced for student facilities projects.

Following the decision of the GA to terminate the contract, the University is currently considering the scope for legal redress against certain parties involved in the project, with a view to cost recovery. As outlined below, we are also considering the most appropriate means of meeting the need for additional student spaces on campus, in the short and longer term, in the overall context of achieving value for money in any future investment. Since technical issues associated with the project were first identified, the University has sought to act prudently at all times, comply with relevant governance requirements, engage with stakeholders in an open and constructive manner, and act in accordance with legal advice, in order to prevent a challenging situation from becoming an even more serious issue. The University is currently reviewing the process that led to the termination of the construction contract and this will form the basis of an interim Project Completion Report (PCR) as per the Public Spending Code, in order to capture any lessons learned. This PCR will be submitted to the Higher Education Authority once it has been approved by GA.

Student levy income and expenditure The student levy has been in place at Maynooth University

since 1992, with student classes each year contributing to a . fund for the development of student facilities from which future students will benefit.

From 2015, following consultation with Maynooth Students' Union ("MSU"), the levy was increased on an incremental basis until it amounted to €150 per annum per student. The levy has been frozen at €150 per year since the 2018/19 academic year and this will remain the case until such time as the projects within scope are substantially delivered. Since 2015, €11m has been collected in total through the student levy.

The cost to build a student centre is significant and, therefore, in order to meet the scale of the planned student facilities and to deliver them in advance of collecting the amount of funding needed to cover the costs, the University took out a loan from the European Investment Bank (EIS). The student levy is used to repay the portion of the loan that is being used to provide the student facilities.

The total funding available for student facilities, financed in part by the EIS loan, is €34.2m. To date, almost €7.5 million of this funding has been spent and the remaining €26.7m remains ringfenced for student facilities.

The €7.5 million expenditure to date is broken down into: land for student facilities (€4 million), commuting facilities including a bus terminus, bus parking and car parking facilities (€1 million), enabling infrastructure ( over €1.4 million) and sports infrastructure (€1.1 million).

The University has ring-fenced the remaining  $\ensuremath{\mathfrak{C}} 26.7 m$  to be invested on student facilities, including a student building, and remains committed to addressing the need for spaces for MSU, university clubs and societies, meetings, informal learning and groupwork, places to eat and relax between classes, and other activities. There is also a recognised need for enhanced sports facilities and a shared ambition for a dedicated cultural space on campus.

A detailed summary of the student levy monies collected and expended on student facilities is outlined below.

# (Editors Note\* Table referred to above has been included at the end of the Letter\*)

# 3. Next steps

In addition to the above information on the rationale for the termination of the construction contract for the MU Student Centre, and the breakdown of the student levy, I would also like to outline the current position in relation to our planning for the delivery of future student facilities.

Following the decision of the GA to terminate the student centre construction contract, the Student Facilities Project Advisory Group (SFPAG) was established to make recommendations to GA on the development of student facilities for the immediate, medium and longer term. The group comprises students and staff and is chaired by Professor Peter McNamara, Dean of the Faculty of Social

Membership of the Advisory Group is drawn from students and staff from MU, along with an external expert. The Advisory Group is considering the following as part of its

- Requirements of student facilities regarding space for informal study, groupwork, discussion and argument in the immediate and longer term and agreed recommendations.
- Requirement of students facilities regarding social space in the immediate and longer term and agreed recommendations.
- Requirement of a student building to provide student facilities.
- Consider feasibility in terms of risk, costs (within the existing financial envelope) and delivery.

- Research the current landscape and best practice regarding student facilities provision in Irish and international higher education contexts.
- Consider current best practice with regard to immediate and long-term student facilities for the size and scope of MU.
- Agree methodology to consult with the broad student body on the Student Facilities Project.

The first meeting of the SFPAG was held on 6th December 2022. The group is working collaboratively to make progress and regular updates will be shared with the student and staff community at MU. The group is scheduled to submit its proposals to GA by June 2023.

I hope the above information addresses all of your queries. However, should you require any further information, I am happy to provide any additional detail that may be necessary.

Yours sincerely, Professor Eeva Leinonen President Maynooth University

Amount	Details
€11million	Total amount of the student levy collected since 2015
€34.2 million	Funding allocated for student facilities (EIB loan)
€7.493 million	Amount spent to date on student facilities
€26.7m	Funding remaining and ring-fenced for student facilities including student building
€7.493 million	Breakdown of money spent to date on student facilities
€4m	Towards the purchase of land for student facilities and infrastructure
€1m	Commuting facilities including a bus terminus, bus parking and car parking facilities
€1.425m	Enabling infrastructure, including the developments on the campus ring road (€792k), undergrounding of overhead electricity cables to make the land purchased developable (€246k), and furniture for student social spaces in various building (€387k)
€1.068m	Sports infrastructure, including floodlighting of three pitches on the North Campus (€602k), upgrading of the surface of the all-weather pitch (€198k), and additional gym equipment (€268k).

Below is the link to the Public accounts committee debate to which the letter applies.

https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/ committee of public accounts/2023-01-26/9/#spk 866

# Maynooth Community Employment Project Community Employment Scheme

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**Applicants Must be eligible under the Department of Social Protection Guidelines** 

Eligibility can be checked at your local DEASP Employment Services/Intreo Office

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

# Gardening Recycling Using Everyday Objects

# Canning Jar Lids/Tin Cans

Make a hole in used canning lids and thread them using heavy twine. Then hang them up to scare birds away from young plants.

Nail the lids to a stick to use them as name markers for plants/veggies.

Cover coffee cans with patterned paper to make lovely vases.

Cans can be also used as scoops for scooping compost into pots or even using the cans for starting seeds.

# Baby Food Jars

These jars can be used to store seeds, twist ties and any other small garden items. Remember that the seeds jars will need to be put in a dark place or you can paint them black.

# Metal Baskets

Recycle old metal baskets from a fridge or freezer to cover seedlings to stop animals getting at them.

When its frosty throw nets over these baskets to protect young seedlings. You can also do this to protect them from heavy rain.

# Plastic Sandwich Bags

Sandwich bags can be used for cuttings to be rooted. Don't forget to add water. Keep them mostly closed tight and hang them up on a clothes line so you can see when the roots have formed.

# Milk/Soda Bottles

Clean and dry the bottles before using them. Cut 1/3 off the bottom. Bury the neck of the bottle into the ground beside the plant that needs a lot of water and top up daily. The cut off part of the bottle can now be used as a seed starter tray or even as a paint tray.

# Plastic Bags

As a time saving idea, tie a plastic bag to your garden apron so that you can throw in weeds, trimmings etc. thus saving you time so you only have to go to the compost heap in one trip. This plastic bag can be used numerous times.

## Feather Pillows

Feathers from old pillows can be left out for birds as they can use them to build their nests. If they get blown away, the birds will find them.

# Waste Paper/Cereal Boxes

Newspaper and all paper including junk mail can be composted. Cover with grass clippings and the worms will love them. Cereal boxes can be also put into the compost heap. Why not use the boxes as organisers for seed packs, desk organisers or draw dividers.

# Coffee Filters

These can be used to dry out seeds and can be used multiple times. When they get too worn out, use them for sprouting seeds.

# Old Carpet Bits

These can be used as weed barriers under a layer of mulch for paths.

# **Used Dryer Sheets**

These are especially great for putting at the bottom of pots before putting soil in to stop soil from pouring out the bottom. Also helps slugs from entering the pot to harm the roots.



Sourced: kidsgardening.org

# How to keep Spiders out of your home

Do a weekly clean of your home to remove dust, dirt, and debris. Keeping your house clean will ensure there are no pieces of food on your floors that can attract spiders. Dust and dirt in the corners of rooms can also serve as a great hiding spot for spiders, so be sure to sweep or vacuum these areas regularly. Clean window sills and frames once a week, or daily, to prevent spider webs from forming.
You can also apply a natural vinegar or essential oil spray as part of your weekly clean to

keep spiders away.

Check indoor plants for spiders. Spiders can hide in the leaves of indoor plants and spin

webs in the plants. Make sure you check indoor plants every few days for spiders and remove them if you find any. You can also spray a natural pest repellent on the plant, such as white vinegar or essential oil spray. Another option is to make a spray out of 1 to 2 teaspoons (4.9 to 9.9 ml) diatomaceous earth powder and 2 to 4 cups (470 to 950 ml) water and apply it to your plants to keep spiders away.



While most plants can tolerate being sprayed with vinegar, you may want to spray a small area first just to make sure yours won't be affected.

Try spraying the area about once a week until you don't see spiders anymore.

Remove any spider webs inside your home. If you notice spider webs or cobwebs on your rafters, corners, or window frames, use a cloth to wipe them away. This will prevent new spiders from moving into the webs. Keep windows and doors to the outside closed. Prevent spiders from wandering inside your home by keeping windows and doors that open to the outside shut as much as possible. Installing screens on your doors and windows can help keep pests out while still allowing you to enjoy the fresh air.

# Maintaining the Outside of Your Home

Turn outside lights off at night to deter bugs that spiders like to eat. Having outside lights on at night can attract flies and other pests. The presence of insects will, in turn, attract more spiders. Shut off outside lights at night to keep the perimeter of your home insect-

Keep outdoor plants away from the sides of your home. Spiders tend to burrow in the leaves and folds of plants. Try to arrange outdoor plants so they are at least 1 ft away from the sides of your home. You can also spread diatomaceous earth, a white powder made of fossilized remains of algae, around plants or spray it on plants to kill spiders.

Avoid planting plants that will try to grow on the sides of your home,

Fill any gaps or cracks on the outside of your home. Inspect the exterior of your home to ensure you do not have any cracks in the foundation or gaps forming in your roof or under your doors. Fix any gaps, cracks, or holes by filling them with cement or filler.

You should also do regular maintenance on the outside of your home to ensure spiders cannot get in by checking for gaps or cracks once a month and fixing them as needed.

**Applying Natural Remedies**Use a vinegar and water spray on cracks or crevices in your home. Fill a spray bottle with half white vinegar and half water. Then, apply the spray to any cracks or crevices in the floors, walls, or windows of your home, as well as on the window sills. Do this once a day

Vinegar may kill spiders if they come into direct contact with them, but even if you don't spray the spider directly, it can help ward them off.

Do not apply the spray to any varnished surfaces, as the vinegar may damage them. Apply essential oils like peppermint, tea tree, and cinnamon. These essential oils are a great natural way to deter spiders from hanging out in your home. Put 15-20 drops of essential oil in a spray bottle with 3 to 5 cups (710 to 1,180 ml) of water and spray your home once a day for a natural spider repellent.

Swap out different essential oils in the spray so the spiders do not get used to the scent of one particular oil.

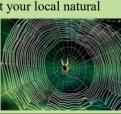
Rub citrus peels on the floorboards and window sills in your home. Lemon and orange peels are a natural deterrent for spiders. Rub floorboards and window sills with the peels once a day so the smell lingers. You can also have a bowl of citrus fruits in your kitchen to keep spiders out of this area.

Be aware that this could strip the paint off of your windowsill, so if you do try this, test it in an inconspicuous area first. You could also try placing citrus peels near your window sills and doorways to discourage spiders.

Put horse chestnuts in the corners and window sills in rooms. Horse chestnuts have a smell and texture that deters spiders. You can buy horse chestnuts at your local natural food store or online. They tend to last a long time and require no upkeep. Spread 4-5 horse chestnuts in each room, especially near

windows, to keep spiders away.

Source: www.wikihow.com/Keep-Spiders-Out-of-Your-House



# Fun Facts about Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day is celebrated every February 14th as couples across the globe honor their spouses, partners, and sweethearts. Hundreds of years of traditions and customs have made it into the holiday that we observe today.

People think of the best Valentine's Day ideas for their special someone, the perfect gifts to get them, and how to make those they love feel special.

We know Valentine's Day is the most romantic day of the year. St. Valentine, a Catholic saint who was executed by Roman Emperor Claudius II on that date sometime during the third century A.D. Saint Valentinus composed a letter to the girl of his prison guard some time recently he was executed. His letter was marked 'From your Valentine'. He was buried on February 14th. Valentine's Day was not related with sentimental cherish until the center ages. By the 1700s in Britain it started to take after the Valentine's Day we know nowadays.

- Valentine's Day is the second most popular day of the year for sending cards. Christmas is the first most popular..
- · About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year.
- Approximately 27 percent of those who buy flowers on Valentine's Day are women. Only 73% are men.
- Cupid is said to be the symbol of valentines. Cupid is the son of Venus. Venus is the Roman god of love and beauty.
- The heart is associated with Valentine's Day as it is considered the source of all human emotions.

- Red rose is a favorite flower of Venus. For this reason red rose is also the symbol of Valentine's Day. All over the world, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.
- 220,000 is the average number of wedding proposals on Valentine's Day each year.
- More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.



- Lace is often used on Valentine decorations. The word "lace" comes from the Latin laques, meaning "to snare or net," as in to catch a person's heart.
- . 60% of America's red roses are grown in the state of California
- At the end of the 5th century, Roman Pope Gelasius officially declared the date of February 14 "St. Valentine's Day." It wasn't until the Middle Ages, though, that the holiday became associated with love and romance, a tradition that first started from the common belief in France and England that birds started their mating season on February 14.
- In Wales, wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on Valentine's Day. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favorite Valentine decorations on the wooden spoons. These symbols meant the heart would be unlocked for love.

Source: www.theholidayspot.com/valentine/facts.htm Source: www.thepleasantgarden.com/blog/interesting-facts-about-valentines-day/

# **Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee**

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee resumed its Thursday Morning Club on the 12th Jan. We are happy to say that people were eager to return. We have had bingo sessions and a return to art classes. In the weeks leading up to

Christmas each member of the morning club produced a pack of homemade Christmas cards which featured a "Christmas Robin". This activity was really enjoyed by all.

The Mass Bus service continues on Saturday evenings. The Fuel provision service was also carried out before Christmas. This is a costly service and we acknowledge two grants which go towards the overall costs. These are from the HSE, Department of Older Persons, Section and from Kildare County Council, local property tax grant.

Our first meeting of 2023 will take place on Tuesday 7th February. The agenda will be a long one as there is much to discuss. Our AGM will be coming up in April. If anyone thinks they would like to be involved with the work of the Committee please contact us to find out what is involved. We welcome new members. We will update everyone in the next issue as to any developments from the meeting. In the meantime, enjoy the coming of Spring....

Susan Durack Secretary/PRO

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.

Phone: 0877974582

e-mail: maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com

# **Heart shaped Chocolate Cake**

**Prep Time: 20 minutes Cook Time: 60 minutes** 

# **Ingredients:**

- 100g butter
- 100g caster sugar
- 4 medium happy eggs
- 80g self raising flour
- · 30g cocoa powder

# For the icing:

- 50g butter / 50g 72% cooking chocolate
- · 20g cocoa powder / 250g icing sugar

# **Instructions:**

- 1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/Gas Mark 4. Mix the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Mix the happy eggs together in a separate bowl, then slowly add to the butter mixture. **Top tip:** if the mixture starts to curdle, add a tbsp of flour.
- 2. Fold in the flour and cocoa powder until it has an even consistency **Top tip:** if the mixture won't drop off the spoon, it's too thick, so add a little warm water.
- 3. Pour the mixture into a heart shaped baking tin. Bake in the oven for 40 minutes.
- 4. To test whether the cake is cooked, probe it in the middle with a skewer, if the skewer comes out clean, it's cooked.
- 5. Remove from the oven and cool on a rack.
- 6. For the icing: Melt the butter and chocolate together over a low heat. Add the cocoa powder, then mix in the icing sugar with a fork, adding warm water until it has a thick consistency. Wait until the cake is cool before icing it.

www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/08/14/easy-heart-shaped-chocolate-cake-recipe-for-valentine-s-day

# Homemade Detox Drinks

Boost your immune system to avoid colds. Flushing out your system gives your body extra energy to fight against germs. So you can have a cold-free winter!

- Lose weight to feel great. ...
- Get glowing hair, skin and nails.
- · Boost your Metabolism.

Homemade detox drinks, or detox drinks are beverages made with functional ingredients that help to detoxify the body's vital organs. A regular intake of detox drinks aid in weight loss, boosts body metabolism and helps proper digestion.

# Cucumber mint detox drink

This concoction not only aids in the removal of toxins from the body but also tastes wonderful.

When cucumber and mint are combined in water, they make an excellent digestive aid.

Cucumber contains antioxidants that help fight free radicals and aids in the clearance of toxins from the body due to its moisturizing impact.

Toss a few cucumber slices and fresh mint leaves into a big pitcher. Allow it to infuse for a while and then sip from it throughout the day.



# Apple cider vinegar drink

Apple cider vinegar is a fermented drink that replenishes the gastrointestinal tract with beneficial microorganisms. It can aid with weight reduction, an upset stomach, cough, dry and chapped skin, and cleaning surfaces, among other things.

Thanks to the good bacteria, it helps to enhance the immune system. It also maintains the skin's health and radiance. It helps to lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol, and enhance cardiovascular health.

Take 10-20ml of apple cider vinegar in one glass of lukewarm water. Add half spoon of lime juice and to give a sweet effect you can add a teaspoon of honey to your drink.



## Lemon ginger water

This drink works wonders for weight loss. In a glass of lukewarm water, squeeze half a lemon and add an inch of grated ginger. Ginger includes gingerol, which is believed to help digestion and avoid stomach disorders.

Lemons are high in Vitamin C as well as antioxidants, which help the body fight free radical generation.

## Haldi tea

Haldi tea has a lot of health benefits because of its excellent balance of antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds.

Turmeric is a potent liver cleanser, therefore it improves liver function and hence promotes immunity.

When ginger is added, the anti-inflammatory effects are doubled.

Take 2 cups of water. Add 1/2tsp of Haldi and an  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of ginger. Bring it to boil till it reduces to half. Add  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp of black pepper powder n sip slowly.

#### **Beetroot detox juice**

Beets are high in fiber and low in calories. Adding fiber to your diet can help you lose weight and control your appetite. It's an excellent liver cleanser.

Chop the beetroot into cubes and toss them in the blender.

Add a few mint leaves and a pinch of salt. Drink while still fresh.

# Orange, ginger and carrot juice

Orange, carrot and ginger drinks are high in nutrients and can be used as detox drinks for weight loss.

This detox drink is high in vitamin C, beta-carotene, and fiber aids in weight loss and digestion.

In addition, ginger is a traditional cure for digestion and bloating, which aids in weight management.

Juice 2 oranges and 1 carrot separately. Pour the juice into a blender add ½ inch grated ginger. Blend for 30 seconds and then squeeze half lemon. Strain and serve.

# Apple cinnamon detox water

Apple detox water recipes are beneficial for a variety of reasons.

Apples contain pectin, which binds to heavy metals in your system and allows them to be flushed out more easily, which benefits your liver.

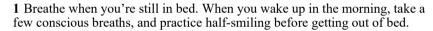
Apples also contain antioxidants and flavonoids like Vitamins C and B Complex. Cut 2 apples with their skin into large chunks.

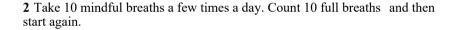
Fill a Mason jar with chunks of apple, add 1 cinnamon stick and fill with water. Let it sit overnight in the refrigerator.

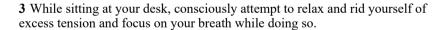
Source: www.healthystripe.com/blog/homemade-detox-drinks



# **Tips for Every Day**







4 At lunch, change your environment. If you take your lunch, or work from home, go into another room to eat. This will enable you to relax while eating.

**5** Take some time to relax consciously. Close your eyes and breathe, counting your breaths and letting go of the day behind you and ahead.

**6** At the end of the workday, try retracing the day's activities. Acknowledge and congratulate yourself for all you have accomplished and then make a list for tomorrows tasks.

7 When you get home, try to unwind by leaving work at work. Change out of work clothes, say hello to everyone in the house, not forgetting your pets. Take a moment to yourself then wash your hands to cleanse yourself from your work day.

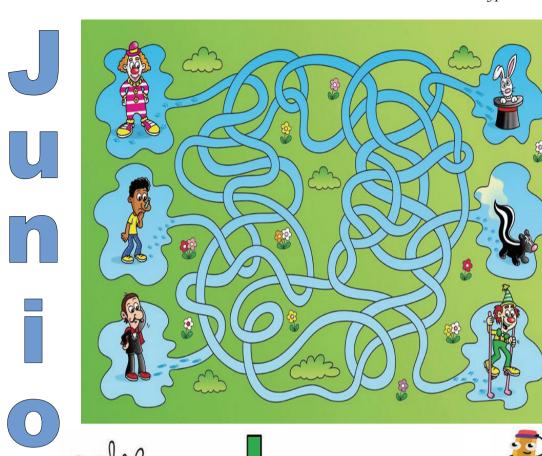
**8** Before falling asleep, bring awareness to your breathing and your body-take five full breaths, all the way in and out. This will activate the parasympathetic nervous system and will help you rest.

Sourced from: www.mindful.org and www.liferam.org

# **20 DAYS Mindfulness Challenges**

- 1 Just stop and relax. Let yourself relax before starting next to-do item.
- 2 Have no expectations for the next 30 days. Take each day as it comes.
- 3 Walk for 15 mins daily, during your lunch or after work.
- 4 Compliment someone each day.
- 5 Drink water while sitting for maximum benefits.
- **6** Chew your food as much as possible. This aids your digestive system.
- 7 Start your day with any seasonal fruit.
- **8** Write down 3 things that you are grateful for every day.
- 9 Smile more.
- 10 Listen to good music for the mood you want to be in, not your current mood.
- 11 Avoid negative people.
- 12 Create a moment folder. Take a photo of best moment of the day and save in a folder. After the challenge, look at the photos and you will see all the happy memories you had during the challenge.
- 13 Accept yourself.
- 14 Practice self-care. Take time each day just for you.
- 15 Meditate for 5-15 mins each day.
- 16 Plan your weekly meals on a Sunday.
- 17 Don't complain for the 20 days.
- 18 Don't copy others.
- 19 Have your dinner before 8pm.
- 20 Read a book in 20 days.





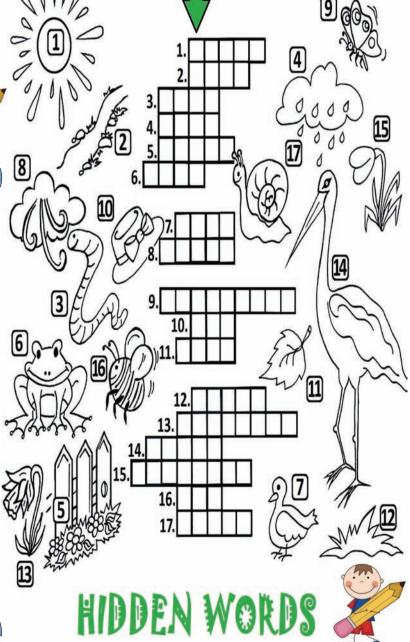
# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

Find 10 differences between the 2 pictures!





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.





S

Sourced from: Google Free Printable Puzzles

# Fish and chips for two

This easy recipe for beer-battered fish and chips serves two people, so it's ideal for an anniversary, date night or Valentine's Day. Fish and chips pair perfectly with Champagne or fizzy wine, too!

The battered fish here also works beautifully in a taco with pickled red onions and spicy mayo.

# **Nutrition: per serving**

Calories - 1,131kcals
Fat - 67.1g (7.1g saturated)
Protein - 44.2g
Carbohydrates - 79.8g (6.5g sugars)
Fibre - 6.8g
Salt - 2.5g



- 500-600g floury potatoes such as maris piper, cut into 1cm thick batons
- Sunflower oil for tossing and deep frying (about 500ml)
- 50g plain flour, plus extra to dust
- 25g rice flour or cornflour
- Large pinch paprika
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp baking powder
- Large pinch bicarbonate of soda
- 150ml ale, lager or sparkling water
- 2 x 200g sustainable skinless white fish fillets, such as haddock, sole or plaice
- Tinned mushy peas, lemon wedges, malt vinegar and ketchup to serve

# For the homemade tartare sauce

- 75g good-quality mayonnaise
- 1 tsp English mustard
- ½ tbsp each finely chopped gherkins, green olives and capers
- ½ tbsp each snipped fresh chives and chopped fresh parsley and squeeze of lemon juice

# Method

- Heat the oven to 220°C/200°C fan/gas 7. Soak the prepared potatoes in water for at least 30 minutes, then drain well and dry on kitchen paper. Toss in a bowl with a little sunflower oil to coat, then arrange on a lined baking tray and bake for 30-40 minutes or until golden and crispy, tossing halfway through.
- Mix the batter just before using. Mix the flours, paprika, salt, baking powder and bicarb in a bowl. Make a well in the centre and pour in the ale (or lager/water), mixing until you have a thick batter. Stir together the ingredients for the tartare sauce.
- Pour the sunflower oil into a wok or large pan to no more than half full, then heat to 190°C on a thermometer (or until a small cube of bread browns in 30-40 seconds). Trim the fish so you have evenly sized fillets, then season lightly, dust with plain flour, then dip in the batter to coat.
- Carefully add the fish to the oil, one fillet at a time, and fry for 3-4 minutes, turning halfway through, until golden and cooked throughout. Remove with a slotted spoon, drain on kitchen paper and keep warm while you cook the other fillet.
- Meanwhile, heat through the peas. Serve the fish and chips with the mushy peas and tartare sauce, plus lemon wedges, salt, malt vinegar and tomato ketchup.

Source: www.deliciousmagazine.co.uk



The days are beginning to lengthen and officially spring has arrived. Certainly our gardens are starting to show signs of life with early bulbs making an appearance. While this is a busy month with plenty to do both indoors and outside, the rewards in the months to come will make it all worthwhile. Baby plants including Busy Lizzies, Petunias, Begonias, Blue Lobelias, Trailing Lobelias, Marigolds and Pansies can be potted indoors for super colour for borders and containers during summer. For summer colour in flower borders and beds, plant up some summer flowering bulbs including Double Dahlias, Long Stemmed Gladiolas, Double Begonias and Scented Lilies. Place

the potted bulbs in a bright warm location to encourage early growth and early flowering. Summer flowering bulbs can be planted out of doors in early April. Summer flowering Lupins planted in late February will reward you with a stunning show of colour in early summer. Lupins provide long stemmed flowers from May to mid summer and are ideal for adding a splash of vibrant colour in shrub beds and borders.



Now is the time to prune your Wisteria and prune your winter flowering shrubs. Plant your Lily and Allium bulbs. Start chitting potatoes in a bright, cool, frost-free place. Raised beds warm up quicker and drain faster on heavy soil. Continue to plant raspberry canes for the summer. Though St Brigid's Day (Feb 1st) is considered the start of spring, it's really still winter outside in the veggie patch. Come February we should be itching to get started with seed sowing and of course you can get lots of vegetables

started in seed trays on a sunny windowsill indoors. The problem is that when they are bursting from their pots and ready to be planted out in a few weeks time, it may be still too cold to do so. The relative lack of light (due to the short days) can cause problems for seedlings at this time of the year – tiny seedlings literally strain to reach the light and can end up getting too long and "leggy" as a result. Patience is the ultimate virtue.



Turn over the soil only if the weather is dry – if the soil sticks to your boots it's too early for digging! Keep off the soil to prevent soil compaction - use timber planks to stand on for access. If you have not already done so order/buy your seeds, spuds and onion sets. "Chit" or sprout seed potatoes – put them in a container (e.g. used egg carton or empty seed tray) and leave them in a bright warm place. Check the pH of your soil – you can buy a soil pH testing kit in any garden centre. Lime your soil now if required

(to reduce acidity in very acid soils), particularly important in your brassica bed. Finally, we can sow some seeds. On a sunny windowsill indoors, in a heated greenhouse or on a heating mat: sow celery, globe artichokes, celeriac, leeks, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, peas, aubergines, peppers/chillipeppers. In a polytunnel or greenhouse: beetroot, brussel sprouts, summer and autumn cabbage, carrots, leeks, lettuce, radish.

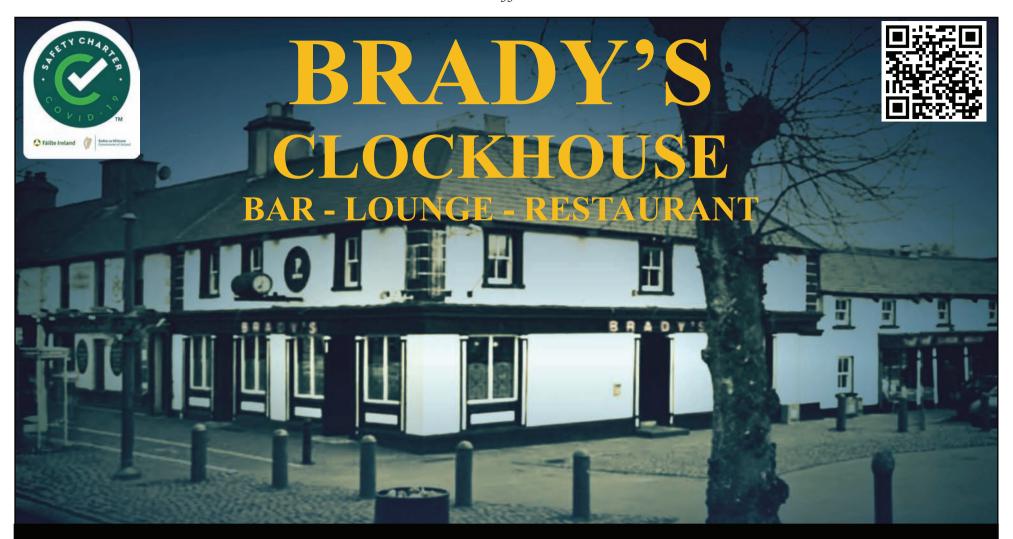


Outside: Weather permitting you can try planting out broad beans, spinach, kohlrabi, onion and shallot sets, Jerusalem artichokes, parsnip and early pea varieties. Building Mini Tunnels: Mini tunnel kits really are incredibly versatile for all sorts of weather and pest protection. The frame kit can be knocked together in about 15 minutes to produce a very strong and long lasting structure. The beauty is you can attach any cover you like including green windbreak, insect protection mesh, fleece or polythene depending on what the tunnel is to be used for. February is a nice time to do this sort of stuff and I can

guarantee you will be absolutely delighted with yourself in April when you proudly whip a ready made tunnel out of the shed. Although February is the shortest month, it can also be the most important in the gardening calendar. February is the month for renewal and regrowth; "February is an important month in the gardening calendar. You have 28 days to look after your wild birds, sow, grow and tackle your garden moss." Now is the time to begin weeding if you want to stay on top of your weeds. Tidy lawn and border edges.



**Happy Gardening !!** 



Live Bands every Saturday & Sunday during the month of February

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Like us on Facebook @BradysClockhouseMaynooth

Parties Catered For to book e-mail: info@clockhouse.ie
Web: www.clockhouse.ie - Tel: 01-5054725