





Local News - March 2024 - Issue No. 532 - Online Version

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





# MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2024 féile lá fhéile pádraig maigh nuad 2024



The Parade will start at 11am from Greenfield Shopping Centre goes down Straffan Road, onto Main Street and finishes at Tesco (Carton Retail Park) by 12pm.

Please Note: Traffic diversions will be in place for the duration of the Parade.

## The Flickering Tide - Local Author / Fundraiser

Local writer and musician, Pete McCluskey has just added another first to his writing career. Normally a writer of contemporary fiction, Pete has just published his first book of poetry titled. "The Flickering Tide".

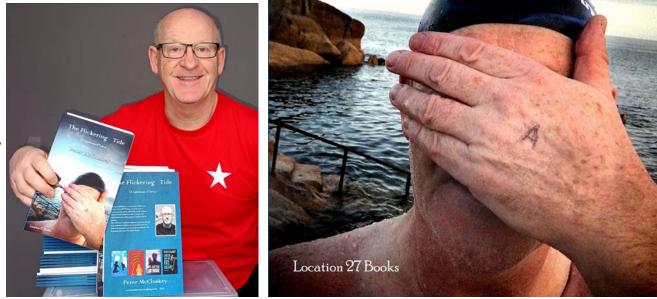
"The 60 poems in this collection were written over the past twelve months and they range in style from humorous to melancholic to human stories. Many people shy away from poetry because they have a feeling it can be difficult to understand but my style of writing is much more accessible and straightforward. Of course, I have some serious works in the book but I have also have a number of light and humorous verses. I've even included some Limericks."

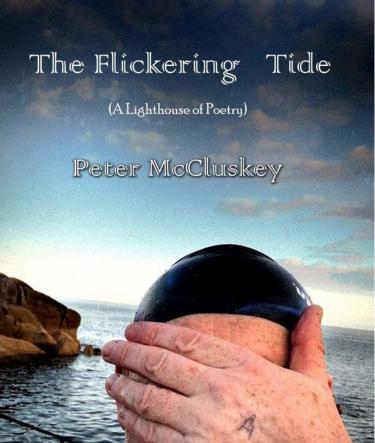
Peter was prompted to complete and publish the book when he came into contact with Saint Francis Hospice in Dublin.

"Both my father and sister were extremely well looked after and cared for by the hospice and I wanted to make an effort to raise any small

amount of funding I could to help the hospice to maintain their excellent services."

Pete has opened up a Go Fund Me page and would be delighted if people would donate something small to this event and in return he'll send them a signed copy of his book. "I'm not expecting huge sums - just maybe the price of a cup of coffee or a beer would be great."





The GoFundMe address is <u>www.gofundme.com/</u> <u>f/poetry-for-hospice</u>.

Contact Pete: 0851744633 pmccluskey2@gmail.com www.petermccluskey.com

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

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

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

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

#### Letters to the Editor

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

#### **Mission Statement**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

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

Between February and April this year, Maynooth University Library is hosting a series of lectures under a programme called "Maynooth through the Ages" at the John Paul 11 Library. The lectures cover a range of Maynooth related topics going as far back as the beginnings of the town with the arrival of the Fitzgerald's in the 12<sup>th</sup> century to more modern times includes a focus on key events, people and institutions. Having already attended two of these lectures, I look forward to going to more lectures. While these events are open to the public: tickets are scarce as all events are booked out. While a large attendance has been present at these lectures, the university library is operating a list to reserve a place to attend the remaining lectures: you need to contact Maynooth University Library.



*Photo above: Dr. Seamus Cullen speaking to the audience before delivering his lecture on "Revolution in Maynooth 1912-1923" on February 26<sup>th</sup>.* 

While we are all looking forward to the St. Patrick's Day events in Maynooth and as March 17<sup>th</sup> is on a Sunday, we have a public holiday on Monday March 18<sup>th</sup> so we have a long weekend to relax as well. The weekend before, on the previous Sunday, we celebrate "Mother's Day". For those of us still able to enjoy the day with our mother, make sure not to miss the opportunity to treat her well on the day and indeed on other days as well.

In 2024, the Irish Cancer Society are marking the return of their major fundraising event "Daffodil Day" on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. You can support Daffodil Day with your school, college or workplace, or maybe you'd like to host your own event with friends and family. You can sell Daffodil Pins in your business, or volunteer to join the bucket collections, if approved to take place in Maynooth. You can also take part in the 12,000 Steps Challenge and be sponsored. As progress continues to be made on developing improved methods of treating cancer all funds raised are important.

March ends with Easter which is earlier this year than in other years with Good Friday on March 29<sup>th</sup> and Easter Monday on March 31<sup>st</sup>. I would prefer to have Easter to be later in April when the weather should be better. Nonetheless, I wish you all a great March and enjoy all of the holidays this month, particularly to all the mothers in Maynooth.

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#### <u>Disclaimer</u>

While every care has been taken to display accurate information, Maynooth Newsletter will not be held responsible for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused as a result of any inaccuracy or error within.

All information should be verified from an independent source.

**Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter** 

Paul Croghan Editor

## Copy date for the April edition will be 5pm on Tuesday 26th March 2024





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# Gold Medal Winners 2016 - 2017 - 2018 2019 - 2021 - 2022 2023

#### **Maynooth Heritage Trail Launch**

The Maynooth Heritage Trail was officially launched on Thursday, 22nd February 2024 in Maynooth University Library by Professor Terence Dooley, MA, Ph.D. (NUI) H.Dip.Ed. This was a project undertaken by a sub-committee of Maynooth Tidy Towns, with funding and support from Kildare County Council.

On display were copies of the Heritage Trail leaflets, the storyboards to be placed around the town, also banners and a slideshow of Maynooth Tidy Towns projects and activities. Professor Dooley gave a brief but comprehensive history of Maynooth, from its foundation in the 12th Century, when Maurice Fitzgerald had a castle built along the Lyreen River, through to the 20th Century era of Rebellion and beyond.

The development of Maynooth as a University town, beginning with the opening of Saint Patrick's College as a Catholic Seminary in 1795, has added to its rich heritage. He highlighted the influence of the Fitzgerald family during their time in residence in the castle and later in Carton House. He also stressed the importance of preserving and promoting the heritage of Maynooth, asserting that the Heritage Trail will be instrumental in achieving this.

Chairperson of MTT, Breedge Conway explained how the trail came to be: On a sunny September morning in 2021, MTT volunteers were painting the ICA hall, located close to the harbour. There was great curiosity as to the origins of this building, a former Army hut from the Curragh Camp. The realisation, that hundreds of people pass by this and other historical buildings and locations in the town, led to the formation of a sub-committee to devise a Heritage Trail.

The trail begins at Duke's Harbour, on the Royal Canal, the first of many locations associated with the Fitzgerald (Geraldine) family. The conclusion of the Heritage Trail is in Courthouse Square, whose history is synonymous with r ebellion and the fight for independence in 1916.

The initial aim was to develop a leaflet to allow for self-guided tours, with information Storyboards installed at the Harbour, outside Maynooth Castle and on the Green beside the Band Hall on Pound Street/Lane. The Storyboard on Courthouse Square will be updated with Heritage Trail information. A link on the Maynooth Community Council website will contain all Maynooth Heritage Trail information, including an Irish language version of the leaflet.

While researching and devising the trail, guided walks were given, proving very popular with all involved.

The Maynooth Heritage Trail was a registered event for National Heritage Week in 2022 and 2023. Some of the local schools have already done the tour and more have expressed interest in booking. Thanks to the staff and children of St. Mary's Boys' and Presentation Girls' schools, Maynooth University and other groups for their participation and valuable feedback on these walks.

Volunteers from the Heritage Trail sub-committee kindly give of their time to run these and aim to continue doing so on a regular basis.

Thanks was given to the many groups and individuals who supported this project:

Professor Terry Dooley, ICA, Kildare County Council at local, municipal, and County level, Brigid Loughlin KCC Heritage Officer, Cathal@Creative Signs Celbridge, INKJET Maynooth, Maynooth Community Council, author Adhamhnán Ó Súilleabháin, artists Antoon Knapp, Sean Mc Govern, Mairead Conway for permission to use their material, the extended Buckley and Bean families, Elaine Bean and her colleagues in MU Library for organising the launch.



A special thanks to Maynooth Tidy Towns. The enthusiastic support of the committee and larger volunteer group over the past two years ensured a successful conclusion to this unique project.

The members of the Heritage Trail sub-committee, Mary Connolly, Mary Mc Gaver, Patricia Watson, Georgina Ward, Paula Fitzpatrick, Breedge Conway, Paul Cahill, Vincent Mulready and Michael Kenny worked tirelessly on the project for more than two years. They are justifiably proud of the completed project.

More Photos of Launch continued on Page 9



In thanking those who attended the launch, Breedge concluded by asserting the hope that the Maynooth Heritage Trail will be enjoyed by them, their families, friends, and many visitors to the town.

Breedge Conway - Maynooth Tidy Towns Association Chair

# **Online Office**

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# 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

Wishing you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day













# Cllr. Angela Feeney Tel. 087 238 1962 Email. angelafeeney@gmail.com Stay safe everyone.



Thank very much for your continued support

## MEC PTA Maynooth 10K/5K – Sunday 21st April 2024 @ 10am in the MEC campus

The 2024 Maynooth 10K/5K will take place on Sunday April 21st starting at 10am in the Maynooth Education Campus (MEC) on the Moyglare Road. This year's event was officially launched at the campus sports hall on February 20th.



Pictured at this year's launch were Siobhan McCauley, MCC Principal, Jacinta Murphy and Ciarán O'Domhnaill MPPS Deputy Principals, Catherine O'Hagan MCC Deputy Principal, representatives of sponsors Blasco Solicitors and Glenroyal Hotel & Leisure Club, Sarah Knaap chairperson of MEC PTA, Eimear White vice-chairperson of MEC PTA, Una Phillips Chairperson of Maynooth 10k, Patrick Gilligan PRO Maynooth 10k along with students from both MCC and MPPS.

Leixlip Arch Club

This year we welcome new sponsor Blasco Solicitors who will provide t-shirts for our volunteers and stewards.

# Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MAYNOOTH SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE AGM WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE GERALDINE HALL, ON MONDAY 8TH APRIL AT 8PM. ALL WELCOME.

We would like to encourage more people to commit to join our committee. If you feel you would like to get involved please contact us at the email below.

The Rock n Rory music night will take place on Saturday 2nd March in the Roost. Tickets are €20. The proceeds will go to Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee. We would like to extend our thanks to Dominic O'Keeffe for nominating Maynooth Senior Citizens as their designated charity. Fundraising is an important and constant consideration for our committee.

Our weekly club meetings are continuing and we have some plans already made for during the year. More news about those as and when.

Wishing all our members a happy St. Patrick's Day and Mothers' Day.

Susan Durack - PRO Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee. E-mail: maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com

Glenroyal Hotel & Leisure Club are back on board this year and will sponsor a number of prizes including the star prize of a night's stay in the hotel with breakfast included. All finishers in the race will be entered in this prize draw. The finishers medal will take a new direction this year as we switch to a sustainable locally made wooden style medal. The exciting new design is currently under wraps but will be announced soon! As always, we extend our gratitude to Pearls Dental Maynooth for their continued support in sponsoring the medals. The ever-popular Specsavers snood is back again this year, and all finishers will receive one in addition to the medal. Thank you to Specsavers Maynooth for coming on board again this year.

This is our fourteenth year organising this event and each year we call on all sectors of the community to assist us and without fail they gather and give of their time and expertise. This positive aspect of our community is greatly appreciated. Without the support of our business community, volunteers, sponsors, and associate organisations, the Maynooth 10K/5K would not be possible.

Financial support is vital to cover organisational costs, including health and safety measures which alone cost over  $\notin 2,000$ . We also greatly appreciate the support from the Community Employment Scheme office to advertise the event.

Both the 10K & 5K will start at the MEC Campus and run down Moyglare road, turning left through Mariavilla across Lyreen Avenue to the Dunboyne Road. The 10K runners will then make their way to Carton estate via the Blacklion road and return to the MEC Campus by Carton Avenue, Dunboyne Road, Lyreen Avenue and the Moyglare road. The 5K runners will continue as far as the Blacklion roundabout and then turn back the same route to the campus. We are very grateful to Carton House Hotel for allowing us to avail of this scenic route.

Please note that the 10K and 5K races get underway at 10am sharp at the MEC Campus.



New Sponsor Alvaro Blasco pictured with Sarah Knaap, Una Phillips, and Patrick Gilligan of the Maynooth 10k committee at this year's launch.

Register at MCC (W23 P2R0) from 8am on Sunday morning or on-line at www.popupraces.ie.

Entry fee is €20 for an individual or €40 per family of 2 adults and 2 children. There is ample parking at the campus and a supervised cloakroom will be available during the race. All participants and friends are invited into the school after the race for our prize-giving ceremony and refreshments provided b our hard-working MEC PTA Committee. This event is a fundraiser organised by MEC PTA (Maynooth Education Campus Parent Teacher Association) for the upkeep of the multi-purpose playing fields shared with Maynooth GAA on the Moyglare road. Funds are also used for other PTA approved activities for the benefit of our students.

We hope to welcome hundreds of runners, joggers, and supporters to our town on Sunday 21st April and we wish you all a most enjoyable day!



## St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

The Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade marks the start of our 2024 engagements and hopefully it will be a rain free event this year. We are already working on our programme of recitals for the year and we will have further news on those events in the April Newsletter.

Did you know that the first Maynooth St. Patrick's Day

Parade was organised by the Band in the 1970s. It was a very small parade which started from the gates of St. Patrick's College going straight up the street and ending up on the Dublin Rd.

Due to the small number of non-playing numbers attached to the Band at that time it was very difficult to organise and thankfully the Community Council took over and the Parade has grown since then.

However, it is worth remembering that the Band paraded through the town on St. Patrick's Day every year before that with two exceptions. On one occasion we

marched in the Dublin Parade with very sad results when our Bass Drummer, Ned Kiely from Celbridge, collapsed at the end of a very long parade and unfortunately passed away in Jervis Street Hospital, now Jervis Centre, in Abbey Street.

The other occasion that we missed the Maynooth Parade was in 1998 when we were invited to take part in the Kansas City USA Parade which

was of the few America Parades to take place on 17th March. The Band won the prize for the Best Band on the day which was a bonus as was the Mass on the morning of our departure which was celebrated by the Bishop of Kansas City with the Soloist none other than Eurovision winner Dana.

# Easter Traditions in Ireland

Easter is one of the most important religious holidays celebrated around the world. In Ireland, it is a time of great significance and has been celebrated for centuries with a range of customs and traditions that reflect the country's rich cultural heritage. From religious services to food and drink, Easter traditions in Ireland are unique and deeply rooted in the country's history.

#### **Religious Observances of Easter**

Ireland is a predominantly Catholic country, and Easter is an important religious observance. Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter Sunday is a time of solemn reflection and preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many churches hold special services throughout the week, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

On Palm Sunday, people traditionally carry branches of palms and other greenery in a procession to commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday marks the last supper of Jesus with his disciples and the washing of feet. On Good Friday, Catholics fast and attend a solemn service commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus.

Easter Sunday itself is a day of celebration, with special masses held in churches across the country. Many people also attend the "Sunrise Service" which is a popular way to welcome the new day and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

#### Easter Eggs

### Gaeilge Nuada

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Your local Irish Speaking Community! Bhur bpobal Gaeilge áitiúil! gaeilgenuada.ie

Ciorcal Comhrá sa Leabharlann 11.00-12.00 Every Tuesday / Gach Máirt

Bricfeasta ag Caifé Sásta 09.00-10.00 Every Friday / Gach Aoine

Cluichí Cártaí - Card Games Acor House (Bridge Club above 'I Love Organic' shop) 20:00-21:30 Sunday / Dé Domhnaigh

03/03/2024 agus dataí eile! other dates to be decided!

Club Míosúil - Monthly Club <u>Glenroyal Hotel</u>

19.00-21.00 Wednesday / Dé Céadaoin 20/03/2024 29/05/2024

24/04/2024 26/06/2024



• Ciorcal Comhrá 💬

• Club Leabhar 📚

sólaistí ar fáil!

• Learners' Class

Cluichí Cláir Teaghlaigh (6-12 b.d'aois) Family Board Games (age 6-12 + parents)

Maynooth Public Library Leabharlann Phobail Maigh Nuad 12:00-13:00 Saturday / Satharn

23/03/2024 18/05/2024 20/04/2024 22/06/2024



Lá Teaghlaigh 25/05/2024 Gaelscoil Ruairí

25/05/2024 Gaelscon Ruarri

All Welcome!

#### Easter Sunday Lunch

Easter Sunday is a time for families to come together and share a special meal. In Ireland, the traditional Easter Sunday lunch consists of roast lamb, vegetables, and potatoes. This is a time-honored tradition that dates back to ancient times when lamb was seen as a symbol of spring and renewal. Irish people also enjoy hot cross buns, a sweet pastry that is traditionally eaten on

Fáilte Roimh Chách!



Good Friday. The cross on top of the bun symbolizes the crucifixion of Jesus.

#### **Easter Parades**

Easter parades are a longstanding tradition in Ireland. The parades are held in towns and cities across the country and feature colorful floats, bands, and performers.

The biggest parade in Ireland is held in Dublin, where thousands of people gather to watch the procession. The Dublin parade features marching bands, floats, and performers from all over the world. It is a colorful and exciting event that attracts visitors from far and wide.

#### The Easter Rising

The Easter Rising is a significant event in Irish history that took place in 1916. It was a rebellion against British rule and led to the establishment of the Irish Free State. The 1916 Easter Rising is commemorated every year in Ireland with ceremonies and events. The most significant event is the Easter Sunday Commemoration, which takes place in Dublin's Garden of Remembrance. The ceremony includes a reading of the Proclamation of Independence, which was read out during the Easter Rising. Easter is a time of great significance in Ireland, and the country's traditions and customs reflect its rich cultural heritage. From religious observances to parades and special meals, Easter is a time for families and communities to come together and celebrate. Whether you are in Ireland or abroad, celebrating Easter in the Irish way can be a great way to connect with your Irish heritage or learn more about this fascinating culture.



Easter eggs are a popular tradition in many countries, and Ireland is no exception. In Ireland, eggs have long been a symbol of fertility, new life, and rebirth. The tradition of giving and receiving Easter eggs dates back to the early Christian church, where they were a symbol of the empty tomb of Jesus.

Chocolate eggs have become a popular way of celebrating Easter in recent years, and many families give them to children on Easter Sunday.

However, in Ireland, it is also common to dye hard-boiled eggs in bright colors and decorate them with stickers or drawings.



Source: www.yourirish.com/traditions/easter-in-ireland



## Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News E mail: angelaemfeeney@gmail.com - Phone: 0872381962

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\* \*\*\* Labour \* \*

#### Public lighting on the Celbridge Road

At the February Municipal District Council meeting Cllr. Feeney asked the Council to install public lighting on the Celbridge Road near Obelisk Lane. In speaking to the motion, Cllr. Feeney said that the section of road in question is very dark and is near a bad bend. She added that there are a couple of bus stops on the road and a footpath on one side of the road only. Many residents who live nearby contacted Cllr. Feeney about this issue, saying how unsafe they feel trying to walk to or from the bus stops to their houses. They and their children get the bus to travel to Maynooth University, or to schools and to work. The Council said the request has been added to the Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Schedule. The Public Lighting Section will get a quotation for the lights.

#### **Goalposts at the Harbourfield**

Cllr. Feeney asked the Council to carry out repairs to the goalposts at the Harbour field, Maynooth. She said that the repairs are needed and should be carried out as soon as possible because many parents have been in touch about the safety of the goalposts. It is a popular area for many families to gather and for children to kick a ball around. The Council parks department informed Cllr. Feeney that it would inspect the goalposts and see if they can be repaired and if they cannot be repaired the posts will be removed and replaced.

#### **Social Housing Maynooth Update**

Cllr. Feeney called for an update on the status of the proposed social housing development at Greenfield Maynooth. She was informed that the tenders have been assessed and the Council are doing due diligence regarding insurance, performance bond, and cost breakdown with the preferred tenderer before entering into a contractual agreement. As this is a design-build contract, the contractor will have some upfront design work before commencing on-site. Cllr. Feeney welcomed the fact that it is hoped to be on-site in the next four to six weeks.

#### Taking In Charge Update

Cllr. Feeney asked for a report on the Taking in Charge of estates in the municipal district. The bi-annual report was provided and she will be in touch with the relevant residents association to provide them with the updates and do any follow up work to progress the taking in charge.

#### Safety Measures at Schools on Celbridge Road

Cllr. Feeney welcomes the installation of safety measures at the schools on the Celbridge Road in Maynooth to help reduce speeding motorists and prevent unsafe parking. Cllr. Feeney said that it is only a start but an important one to keep our children safe while we wait for the bigger job. Cllr. Feeney thanked the Council municipal office staff for their prompt action on this.

**EV Chargers are now operational at Council car park** At the January meeting Cllr. Feeney asked when the Electric Vehicle fast chargers would be activated. She was informed that the chargers had been installed and that all the necessary paperwork had been completed, it was up to ESB Networks to activate the chargers. Cllr. Feeney is happy to inform residents that the EV chargers are now activated and available for use, they are located at the Council car park, near the Glenroyal Hotel and Supervalu Maynooth.

#### **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road**

Cllr. Feeney was informed that Kildare County Council has received correspondence from An Bord Pleanála confirming the Compulsory Purchase Order for the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road, with some minor amendments. While it had been anticipated that this notification would be issued last September, Cllr. Feeney said that it is great to finally get past this hurdle. The Project Team is in the process of re-engaging with the Design Team to complete the detailed design. Timelines will be provided in the coming weeks, and Cllr. Feeney will update as these arrive.

#### **Cllr. Feeney's Upcoming Motions and Questions:**

#### **Motions:**

1. That the Council enters into a continuation of the management of Maynooth Community Space in partnership with the Maynooth Community Employment Project for the benefit of existing and newly formed community based groups, and with continued advisory support from an integrated and diverse local stakeholder group that will report to the MD.

**2.** That the Council carries out a review of the existing double yellow lines in Silken Vale Maynooth.

#### Questions

**1.** Can the Council provide an update on the boundary reinstatement between Railpark Estate and the recent development at Bridge End Maynooth.

2. Can the Council provide an update on the delivery of a playground in Straffan.

Motion at Full Council (joint motion with Cllrs. McEvoy, Coleman, Curran, Cussen, Farrelly, Kelly, Liston, Power, Quinn, Ward and Hamilton):

That the Council assist with analysis and reports from Census 2022 data and any efforts to coordinate school population data and applications between the Department of Education, the KWETB, and other school patrons to simplify the process of securing school places across the county, particularly in areas where investment in education capacities has yet to align with population expansion.

# Mary Cowhey & Company Solicitors

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E-mail: info@marycowhey.com www.marycowhey.com Happy Easter to all our Advertisers, Contributors & Readers from all the Staff at the Maynooth Newsletter



Join thousands of people in Ireland in the fight against cancer this March by supporting Daffodil Day

**HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE** 

## RTÉ series 'My Uni Life' captures MU student life

A second series of My Uni Life provides a unique and authentic insight into campus life and the experiences of students and staff across the country as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of a typical university year.

Starting on 16th February, the series will feature students and staff of Maynooth University including Mary-Kate Lynch, All-Ireland Winning footballer with the Meath Ladies Football team and stalwart of her university Gaelic football team, as well as fourth year law student Katelynn Doran, who is the first recipient of a Women's Rugby scholarship.



Prof Conor Murphy and researchers from the ICARUS Climate Centre will feature as they investigate the effects of climate change on a field trip to the Wexford coast.

A year in the life of Irish universities, will see students as they embark on the first and final days of their university adventure; witness the fledgling friendships, and capture the culmination of life-changing and life-affirming journeys on graduation days.

Photo: (1 to r) ICARUS Researchers:<br/>Prof Conor Murphy,SMohamed Suleiman Bile, Dr Gerard<br/>McCarthy and Rebecca O'Neill.C

Speaking about the series, Jim Miley, Director General of IUA said, "It's great to be back on campus for the second series of My Uni Life to show first-hand how our universities are

providing exciting opportunities and a life-shaping experience for Students. We also get a 'birds eye' view of the working day of some of the 20,000 staff in our universities and the impact of our colleges on their local communities and regions."

More information on the series can be found on www.iua.ie/myunilife2

#### Booker Prize winner Paul Lynch appointed Distinguished Writing Fellow

Maynooth University is delighted to announce that 2023 Booker Prize Winner Paul Lynch has been appointed Maynooth University Distinguished Writing Fellow.

#### **Hot Cross Buns**

**Hot Cross Buns** are Traditional spiced, sticky glazed fruit buns with pastry crosses. Served as a classic Easter treat, the buns can also be enjoyed at any time of year. Eat them warm with a nice spread of butter too. SO good! They say that the cross on the bun represents a cross, and the bread represents the end of Lent. There are also many theories on the origin of Hot Cross Buns. Recipe makes 12 buns.

#### **Ingredients for the buns**

- 625g/1lb 6oz strong white flour, plus extra for dusting (see tip for alternatives) 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp ground mixed spice (or a combination of ground spices such as cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg, cloves and ginger)
- 45g/1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>oz unsalted butter, cubed, plus extra for greasing
- 85g/3oz caster sugar
- 1 unwaxed lemon, finely grated zest only (alternatively use finely grated zest of ½ orange or 1 tangerine/satsuma)
- 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tsp dried fast-action yeast
- 1 free-range egg
- 275ml/9½fl oz tepid milk (non-dairy milks are also suitable) 125g/4½oz dried mixed fruit of your choice
- -

#### For the topping

- 2 tbsp plain flour (see tip for alternatives)
- 1 tbsp golden syrup or runny honey, gently heated, for glazing (see tip for alternatives)

Paul Lynch is a multi-award-winning author of five novels – his Booker winner Prophet Song (2023), Red Sky in the Morning (2013), The Black Snow (2014), Grace (2017), Beyond the Sea (2019) -- making him one of Ireland's most prolific and critically-acclaimed contemporary authors.



Maynooth University National University of Ireland Maynooth

Prior to winning the Booker Prize in November, his novels were nominated for and have won a long list of prizes, including the Prix du Premier Roman, the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction, Prix Gens de Mer and the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year. Professor Alison Hood, Dean of Arts, Celtic Studies & Philosophy, said that Maynooth University was delighted with the appointment.

"Paul's novels are testament to an extraordinary and visionary talent. Paul was Maynooth University's Arts Council Writer-in-Residence in 2023. This appointment means that

Maynooth University welcomes Paul back as a colleague in the Department of English, where he will teach on the MA in Creative Writing."

Prophet Song, Paul's Booker Prizewinning novel, is an act of 'radical empathy', envisioning a dystopian Dublin that is terrifyingly recognisable. Written in part as a response to the Syrian refugee crisis and begun when Paul was Kildare County Council Writer-in-Residence at Maynooth University, Prophet Song demonstrates the power of literature not only as a space of refuge or beauty, but as a space of devastating political commentary and, indeed, prophecy.



Paul Lynch, Distinguished Writing Fellow at Maynooth University, (Photo credit: Joel Saget)

Novelist Esi Edugyan, the Chair of the Booker Committee, described Paul's work in this brilliant novel: "Here the sentence is stretched to its limits – Lynch pulls off feats of language that are stunning to witness. He has the heart of a poet, using repetition and recurring motifs to create a visceral reading experience. This is a triumph of emotional storytelling, bracing and brave.

- Turn out the proved dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knock back the dough. Shape into a ball again and return to the bowl, then cover again with the teatowel and set aside for a further 30 minutes to rise.
- Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and divide into 12 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a ball, then flatten slightly into a bun

shape using the palms of your hands. Cover the buns again with the teatowel and set aside to rest for 5–10 minutes.

- Grease a baking tray with butter and transfer the buns to the tray. Wrap the tray very loosely in baking paper, then place inside a large polythene bag (or cover loosely in lightly oiled cling film). Tie the end of the bag tightly so that no air can get in (if using) and set aside in a warm place for a further 40 minutes to rise. Preheat the oven to 240C/220C Fan/Gas 8.
- Meanwhile, for the topping, mix the plain flour to a fairly thick smooth paste with 2 tablespoons cold water (you may need to use slightly less or more water to get the right consistency). When the buns have risen, remove the polythene bag and the greaseproof paper. Spoon the flour mixture into a piping bag (or a plastic food bag with a corner snipped away) and pipe a cross on each bun
- Transfer the buns to the oven and bake for 8–12 minutes, or until pale golden brown. As soon as you remove the buns from the oven, brush them with the hot golden syrup, then



#### Method

• For the buns, sieve the flour, salt and mixed spice into a large mixing bowl, then rub in the butter using your fingertips. Make a well in the centre of the mixture, then add the sugar, lemon zest and yeast. Beat the egg and add to the flour with the tepid milk. Mix together to a form a soft, pliable dough.

• Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface. Carefully work the mixed dried fruit into the dough until well combined. Knead lightly for 5 minutes, or until smooth and elastic.

• Grease a large, warm mixing bowl with butter. Shape the dough into a ball and place into the prepared bowl, then cover with a clean teatowel and set aside in a warm place for 1 hour to prove.

set aside to cool on a wire rack.

#### **Recipe Tips**

For the dough, you can use up to half wholemeal or spelt flour instead of all white, but you may need to add a little extra milk or water. You can even use plain flour at a push, but be aware that the dough won't rise as much and the end result may be a tad heavy. For the topping, any white-coloured flour will work, from cornflour to rice flour. Feel free to use what you have in – just ensure the paste is thick enough (different flours will absorb differing amounts of water).

If you haven't got golden syrup or honey for glazing, any sugar syrup will do (agave syrup, maple syrup etc). Or try dissolving 1 heaped tsp of any granulated sugar in a little hot water.

Source: www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/hotcrossbuns

# Maynooth Heritage Trail Launch Photos Cont/....

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## International Women's Day March 8th 2024

With well over a century of history and change, the first International Women's Day (IWD) was held in March 1911. IWD isn't country, group or organization specific. It's a day of collective global activism and celebration that belongs to all those committed to forging women's equality.

- providing women and girls with access to quality education and training
- · elevating women and girl's participation and achievement in sport
- promoting creative and artistic talent of women and girls
- · addressing further areas supporting the advancement of women and
- International Women's Day

On an organizational or group basis, there are many ways to ensure the needs, interests and aspirations of women and girls are valued and included. Organizations and groups can #InspireInclusion through action in areas such as:

- forging women's economic empowerment
- · recruiting, retaining and developing female talent
- · supporting women and girls into leadership, decision-making, business and STEM
- designing and building infrastructure meeting the needs of women and girls
- · helping women and girls make informed decisions about their health
- · involving women and girls in sustainable agriculture and food security

girls

See the following website for events on the day www.internationalwomensday.com/2024themedublin.ie/whats-on/listings/internationalwomens-day/

Source: www.internationalwomensday.com/2024theme

# **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service which provides a free and confidential service to the public. Information is also available online at <u>www.citizensinformation.ie</u> and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



#### **Deposit Return Scheme**

#### What is the Deposit Return Scheme?

When you buy a drink in a container with the Return logo you are charged a small refundable deposit. You can then claim back the levy by returning the empty container.

This is a new bottle and can recycling system and is known as the Deposit Return Scheme. The scheme began on 1 February 2024.

The cost of the deposit is automatically added to the cost of the drink.

You can reclaim the deposit by returning your containers once they are empty and undamaged.

#### What containers can be recycled?

Most drinks containers such as bottles, cans and

tins made from plastic, aluminium or steel can be returned once they are between 150ml and 3 litres in size and have the Re-turn logo on them.

The containers should be empty, undamaged and in their original shape. The barcode must also be readable.

#### What is not included in the recycling scheme?

If your container doesn't have the Re-turn logo on it, you can't return it and it should be recycled as normal.

- Containers which are not included in the scheme and can't be returned include:
- Glass bottles or containers
- All dairy products (for example, milk containers, yogurt containers, etc)
- Containers over 3 litres

You will not be able to return drinks containers which were bought before 1 February 2024 as these will not have the Re-turn logo.

#### How much does the deposit cost?

The deposit costs between 15-25 cent depending on the size of the container.

- Containers between 150ml to 500ml have a 15 cent deposit
- Containers over 500ml to 3 litres have a 25 cent deposit

#### Where can I return my containers?

You can return containers to shops that sell drink containers with the Re-turn logo, regardless of where you bought them. At these shops you can either return the containers:

- Using a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM), or
- Manually in the shop

Not all shops will have a Reverse Vending Machine.

If a store does not have a RVM but they sell containers with the Re-turn logo, the shop may allow you to manually return containers in store, unless they have a take back exemption.

#### **Take Back Exemptions**

Certain businesses can apply for a take back exemption, for example, retail outlets with less than 250 square meters of customer facing store space. Re-turn have more information about <u>take back exemptions (pdf)</u> and what shops can apply for them. https://re-turn.ie/wp-content/uploads/Take-Back-Exemptions.pdf

#### How do I collect my deposit?

If you are using a Reverse Vending Machine, you will be given a voucher for the value of

#### Dog licences and ownership

#### Introduction

10

If you own a dog, you must have a dog licence and get your dog microchipped. See below for more information. You can also check below if you have a restricted breed of dog. Your dog must be under your control, or the control of another responsible person if it is outside your home or premises. You are liable for any injury or damage your dog causes to people or livestock.

#### Dog ownership and the law

Local authorities are responsible for the control of dogs under the Control of Dogs Act 1986. They can appoint dog wardens, provide dog shelters, seize dogs, impose on-the-spot fines and take court proceedings against dog owners.

You can be banned from keeping a dog if you have been convicted of cruelty to a dog under the Protection of Animals Acts 1911 and 1965.

#### Dog licences and dog control

#### Do I have to get a licence for my dog?

If your dog is over 4 months old you must have a dog licence. Puppies under 4 months who are still with their mothers don't need a licence, but once they leave their mothers they must have a licence.

There are 3 types of dog licence:

• An individual dog licence, which costs €20 and is valid for 1 dog for 1 year A 'lifetime of dog' licence, which costs €140 and is valid for your dog's lifetime

A general dog licence, which costs €400 and is valid for 1 year. This covers multiple dogs at one location

You can apply for an individual or lifetime dog licence at your local post office or licences.ie. A general dog licence application must be sent to your local authority.

Licences are not needed for:

- Guide dogs for blind people
- Dogs in the possession of a local authority
- Dogs in the possession of the ISPCA or Gardaí
- Any dog imported into the State for less than 30 days

#### Do I have to get my dog microchipped?

A microchip is a tiny electronic device injected by a vet under the skin of the dog. The microchip is coded with a unique number the dog. It can be scanned at the vet, animal rescue organisation or the animal welfare unit at your local authority. Read more about microchips for dogs at https://www.dogstrust.ie

You must get your dog microchipped by a vet and registered under your name on an authorised database before they are 12 weeks old. This also applies if a dog leaves the property where they were born before they are 12 weeks. Getting your dog microchipped costs approximately 25 euro, some organisations will do

this for free or at a lower price such as the DSPCA mobile vet clinic.

#### Does my dog have to wear a collar?

A dog must always wear a collar. A collar must have the name and the address of the owner. If your dog doesn't have this identification, a dog warden can give you can an on-the-spot fine (See 'Penalties' below). If you don't pay this fine within the specified period, you can be prosecuted by the local authority.

#### What powers does a dog warden have?



the number of containers you returned. You can choose to use your voucher to buy something in that specific shop or to refund your voucher for cash.

If you returned your items using an RVM, you can only use or refund your voucher in that same shop where you returned the bottles. You cannot reclaim your voucher in a store if you used a RVM from a different store.

Re-turn ie have an interactive map, which shows you all the locations where you can return your containers.

#### **More information**

For more information on this scheme and how it works, you can visit the Re-turn website.

#### https://re-turn.ie

Dog wardens have the power to:

- Request the name and address of anyone suspected of an offence under the Control of Dogs Act
  - Seize and detain any dog
  - Enter any premises (except your home) to seize and detain a dog

You can be arrested by a Garda if you:

- Obstruct a dog warden in the course of their work.
- Refuse to give your name and address to a dog warden.
- Give a false name and address to a dog warden.

A dog warden can ask you for evidence of your dog licence and if you can't do this, they can issue an on-the-spot fine (see 'Penalties' below).

(Continued on page 11)

# **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS (Cont.)**

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(Continued from page 10)

#### **Barking, fouling or stray dogs**

#### My neighbour's dog won't stop barking. What can I do?

If your neighbour's dog won't stop barking you should talk to your neighbour first. If you can't resolve the issue with them, you can make a complaint to the District Court and look for a hearing. When you get a court date, you must notify the dog owner using a court form, which is available from your local authority or District Court.

You can find advice on how to stop your dog barking and low cost training from the Dogs Trust and DSCPA.

#### **Dog fouling**

It is an offence to let a dog under your control foul a public place. If it does happen, you, or the person in charge of the dog, must remove the faeces and dispose of them in a proper and clean way.

If your dog fouls in a public place and you don't pick up the faeces, you can get a  $\notin$ 150 on -the-spot fine. Read more about fines below.

#### Stray and lost dogs

Stray dogs are dogs that are in a public place and are not accompanied by the owner or a responsible person. Dogs that are not under proper control are also considered stray dogs. You can get an on-the-spot fine if your dog is not under proper control. Stray dogs can be seized by the dog warden or Gardaí and brought to a dog pound. These dogs may be put down or re-homed if their owners do not claim them within 5 days.

If your dog is lost, has strayed or is missing, you should contact your local dog warden to check if your dog is there. Before you collect it, you may have to pay a re-claim fee and produce a current dog licence.

If you have found a lost dog you can report it to the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) who will be able to help.

#### **Unwanted dogs**

If you have a dog that is no longer wanted, please contact the ISPCA. Dog charities or pounds may also accept unwanted dogs, although you may be charged. Local authorities can accept unwanted dogs and put them down if they cannot be rehomed or transferred to an animal welfare group.

#### **Restricted breeds of dog in Ireland**

No breed of dog is currently banned in Ireland. But if you have certain types or breeds of dog there are additional rules you must follow. This applied to the following types of dog, as well as strains or cross-breeds of these breeds:

- American pit bull terrier
- English bull terrier
- Staffordshire bull terrier
- Bull mastiff
- Dobermann pinscher
- German shepherd (Alsatian)
- Rhodesian ridgeback
- Rottweiler
- Japanese akita
- Japanese tosa
- Bandog

In Ireland restricted dogs (or strains and crosses of them) must be:

- Kept on a short strong lead (under 2m)
- With someone over the age of 16, who is able to control them

Offence	Fines since 1 Dec 2023	If you don't pay the fine
No dog licence	On-the-spot fine: €150 paid to your local authority	You can be prosecuted in the District Court with a maximum fine of $\notin 2,500$ or 3 months' imprisonment (or both)
No identification on dog	On-the-spot fine: €200 paid to your local authority	You can be prosecuted in the District Court with a maximum fine of €2,500 or 3 months' imprisonment (or both)
Stray dog	On-the-spot fine: €150 paid to your local authority	The pound will hold a dog for at least 5 days. Dogs not re-claimed from the dog pound within 5 days may be put down, rehomed or transferred to an animal welfare group.
Dog not kept under control	On-the-spot fine of €300 paid to your local authority	You can be prosecuted in the District Court with a maximum fine of €2,500 or 3 months' imprisonment (or both)
Breach of bye-laws (setting out times when dog may be unleashed in public)	Fines up to €2,500 on conviction.	N/A
Dog fouling public place	Owners or dog handlers who do not dispose of dog faeces in a responsible way may receive an on-the-spot fine of €150.	You can be prosecuted in the District Court with a maximum fine of €4,000, and €600 per day for continuing offences on summary conviction.

**Dog control penalties** 

Information

#### **Rules on selling dogs in Ireland**

There are rules about the sale and supply of pets, including dogs.

If you sell or supply 5 or more pets in a calendar year you must: Register with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

- Keen records about net animals for sale or supply
- Keep records about pet animals for sale or supply
- Include certain information if you are advertising an animal for sale. For example, if you are advertising a dog for sale, you must include its microchip number
  Not sell or supply pets under a certain age (8 weeks for dogs)
- If you are advertising a dog for sale, the advertisement must have the dog's microchip code.

These rules are set out in the Animal Health and Welfare (Sale or Supply of Pet Regulations) 2019.

There is a Code of Practice for people who sell and supply pet animals.

#### **Guard dogs**

A guard dog used at a non-residential business premises must be accompanied by a handler or secured so that it cannot roam freely around the premises or escape. A notice must be displayed at the entrance, informing the public that a guard dog is on the premises.

The guard dog must wear a collar displaying the name and address of its owner. It must also carry an electronic implant containing a permanent identification mark provided by the ISPCA. This implant must be inserted by or under the direct supervision of a veterinary surgeon authorised by the ISPCA. The dog owner is responsible for the cost involved in inserting the implant.

- Muzzled when in a public place
- Wearing a collar with the name and address of their owner, at all times

The rules on muzzling and leashing do not apply to dogs used by the Gardaí, the Dublin Harbour Police, State Airport Police and rescue teams in rescue operations. The rules on muzzling do not apply to guide dogs for the blind.

#### Dog control penalties and fines

Local authorities can introduce bye-laws about dog control.

If you are given an on-the-spot fine, this is given immediately without a court process. You will have to pay the fine to pay before a certain number of days or a future date. If you do not pay the fine, you may be prosecuted in court. Kennels where more than 5 guard dogs aged over 4 months are kept must register with the local authority. There are specific rules about keeping guard dogs.

#### More information and contacts

National Animal Centre, Derryglogher Lodge, Keenagh, Co. Longford, Ireland Tel: +353 (0)43 332 5035 - Fax: +353 (0)43 332 5024 Homepage: http://www.ispca.ie/ - Email: info@ispca.ie

The Department of Rural and Community Development publishes statistics on dog control.

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Happy St. Patrick's Day to all our Customers



#### Disaster

I don't want to talk about it – I have to talk about it. It started out so promising way back in Seventy-three; We're heading for Senegal or some such fabulous destination, Shangri-La, Hy Brazil, El Dorado, and then, beneath a turquoise sky, this sudden jolt! Why go on? Enough to say we grounded on a sandbank and all the smart ones hogged the lifeboats; us fools, we built a raft. The lifeboats towed us for a day or two, but then the weasels cut us loose... explained they had to save themselves. At first we marked our turf with a tricolour or union jack fluttering in spray-drenched breezes, but what did that achieve? As if pieces of coloured cloth and the pride we took in them could somehow alter our predicament. Hour after hour the mounting horror: provisions consumed... empty water flasks!

Soon the weakest died – we tipped them overboard, but then – You don't know what a parched throat and empty stomach are. They stretch one on the rack. All – or most of us –were now half mad. Day after day we lost all human reservations, turned into ravening animals determined to survive – That's only how I can explain, not condone, what happened. Maybe I've already said too much – but: no, I must go on. You see, we're burning up inside and there is liquid blood in living veins and arteries, and food, raw meat, in bodies – Now I see you're shocked, but if someone's already dying you're only hastening his demise – That's what I told myself; that's why I'm talking to you now. Don't you dare judge me – No, judge me if you think you must. But if you find it in your heart to pray for me, then add a curse for those mob-beguiling leaders who set us on our course.

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**By: Colin Scott** 

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www.heads-up.ie







Plar	Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 29/01/2024 to 29/02/2024 Information from Kildare County Council Website											
App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date								
2460169	Kildare County Council	Shannon & Colin Fallon	28 Parklands Square, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	27/02/2024								
2460163	Kildare County Council	Patrick Brady	6 Parklands Crescent, Maynooth, County Kildare	26/02/202								
2460155	Kildare County Council	Patrick Brady	6 Parklands Crescent, Maynooth, County Kildare	23/02/2024								
2460137	Kildare County Council	Neil Cusker	547 O'Neills Park, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	20/02/2024								
2458	Kildare County Council	Declan & Caitriona Foley	Crannog, Leinster Park, Maynooth, Co.Kildare W23F1H9	14/02/2024								
2455	Kildare County Council	Jimmy Mc Mahon & Sons	Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	13/02/2024								
2460090	Kildare County Council	Shannon & Colin Fallon	28 Parklands Square, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	08/02/2024								
2460071	Kildare County Council	Shannon & Colin Fallon	28 Parklands Square, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	31/01/2024								
2460062	Kildare County Council	Neil Cusker	547 O'Neills Park, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	30/01/2024								

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# **Oliver Reilly**

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

#### Record number of people in homeless accommodation

Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy has responded to figures published showing that the number of people in homeless accommodation has risen by 213.

Deputy Murphy said: "There are now 13,531 people living in homeless emergency accommodation – the highest ever recorded in the history of the State.

"Shockingly, 4,027 of these are children and 197 are pensioners.

"How long will this Government allow more and more people to go through the trauma of becoming homeless? "Since they have taken office, homelessness has increased by 56 per cent while child homelessness has increased by 52 per cent.

"This is a damming record and an abject failure by this Government.

"I have been consistently calling for the reintroduction of the ban on no-fault evictions since it was lifted.

"This is not a radical measure – it is the norm in most European countries where people who pay their rent do not have to live in fear of homelessness.'

#### Minister has serious questions to answer over latest RTÉ debacle

Media Minister Catherine Martin has serious questions to answer about her own handling of the crisis in RTE, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy

"The Minister is claiming she was kept in the dark about exit packages agreed with senior RTÉ executives last year. If this is the case, then it is clear the Minister didn't ask the right questions when these resignations were announced.

When senior executives left RTÉ, the Minister apparently expressed no curiosity about the deals that underpinned these departures. This lack of curiosity is extremely troubling, given the Minister now feels she was led astray about the nature of these resignations. "There is a further point that the Minister must now urgently clarify. In her resignation statement, the former Chair of the RTE board, Siún Ní Raghallaigh, said she informed the Department of the process involved in the resignation of Richard Collins the day after he left the organisation.

"Are we to understand from this that the Department was, in fact, aware that there had been an exit package and that it had been approved by the Chair? If so, was the Minister informed and, if not, why not?

"The Minister, in my view, showed a lamentable lack of judgment in agreeing to proceed with a Prime Time interview last night in circumstances where serious issues had arisen about the Chair of the RTÉ board. Instead of discussing those issues with the Chair of RTÉ at the first available opportunity, she preferred to effectively fire her live on air on RTÉ's flagship current affairs programme.

"The net result of this is that an already crisis-engulfed broadcaster has been thrown into further turmoil. Given the brutal treatment of Ms Ní Raghallaigh by the Minister, and this escalating crisis, it is unlikely that successor candidates will be lining up to take on the job that is now vacant.

"RTÉ cannot be left rudderless at a time when the organisation is in such turmoil. A large degree of that turmoil can be ascribed to the hands-off approach and chronic indecision of a Minister who has not kept on top of this ongoing crisis. The Minister has serious questions to answer about her handling of this debacle."

#### House prices continue to skyrocket under this Government

House prices in Ireland are continuing to rise and show no signs of stopping under this Government, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy.

Deputy Murphy said: "The latest Residential Property Price Index from the CSO paints a grim picture for those hoping to buy a home of their own.

"House prices have risen by 4.4 per cent in the 12 months leading up to December 2023. This has left the median cost of a home at €327,500, rising to a staggering €444,000 in Dublin. "It is more expensive now to buy a house than it was at the peak of the property boom in 2007. "The Government's failure to get to grips with this crisis is turning homeownership into a pipedream for many.

"There are measures that could and should be taken to increase the supply of genuinely affordable homes to rent and buy. "I have put forward a number of amendments to the Planning and Development Bill 2023 that would put the delivery of affordable housing at the heart of the planning system. "These include the introduction of a specific zoning for affordable housing. This is a key feature of housing delivery in Vienna, one of the most affordable places to live in Europe. "Zoning for affordable housing would ensure that enough affordable homes are built and that these homes continue to be affordable for future generations. "I am calling on the Government to support these practical, workable and constructive solutions."

managing to scrape a D- grade. This is against the backdrop of almost 4,000 children living in homeless emergency accommodation. "This is deeply concerning as we know the serious damage that homelessness can have on a child's mental and physical health, as well as their development. "In addition, Government efforts to end direct provision only received a D grade. The report said that increased pressure on International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) and the war in Ukraine have resulted in a deterioration of standards for children and young people seeking asylum.

"The Taoiseach has previously stated that he wants Ireland to be the best country in Europe to be a child. However, the Children's Rights Alliance report shows that the Government still has a considerable distance left to travel before such an aspiration can be achieved."

#### Expansion of School Transport Scheme must be accompanied by systemic reform The planned expansion of the School Transport Scheme must be rolled out in tandem with a major overhaul of the system, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. Deputy Murphy, said:

"According to reports over the weekend, Minister for Education Norma Foley is working on an expansion of the scheme. A long-delayed review is set to recommend that thousands of students who live closer to their schools will be eligible for a bus place instead of having to apply for concessionary tickets.

"While this is very welcome news for many families, it must be remembered that there are still children waiting on a promised school bus service for the 2023/24 term that commenced last August. "Unfortunately, there is every reason to fear that hundreds of families will face a repeat of last year's school transport debacle when the new term begins this autumn.

"In some areas, including North Kildare and neighbouring Wicklow, problems that marked the start of the last academic term - including driver shortages, last minute cancellations and promised bus routes that never materialised - still persist. "With applications to the School Transport Scheme set to open at the end of this month,

the Minister has so far failed to outline what - or if - additional measures have been put in place to prevent a repeat of these issues. "I have repeatedly called for the establishment of a new national school bus service that is removed from the control of the Department of Education and is instead placed under the remit of the Department of Transport. There should also be a major recruitment drive to attract part-time drivers in

rural areas. "This issue has caused no end of disruption and stress for parents, some of whom have had to take time out of their annual leave – or even quit their jobs – so they can drive their

children to school. This is also putting more cars out onto our roads when we are trying to meet our climate action targets. "While I am in favour of expanding the School Transport Scheme to more families, this must happen in tandem with systemic reform of how it currently operates."

#### **Report shows State is failing children in key areas**

The Children's Rights Alliance Report Card 2024 shows that the State is failing to deliver on key child welfare commitments contained in the Programme for Government, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy.

Deputy Murphy said:

"The report card, published today, offers a bleak assessment of the Government's performance in a number of areas.

'When it comes to children's mental health, the Government has been awarded a derisory E grade. This reflects the continued practice of admitting children to adult psychiatric units and the worrying rise in waiting lists for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) – which currently stands at around 4,000.

"According to the report, an E grade is unacceptable and is due to the Government taking steps in the wrong direction, with no positive impact on children.

"The Government didn't do much better in the family homelessness category, just managing to scrape a D- grade. This is against the backdrop of almost 4,000 children living in homeless emergency accommodation.

"This is deeply concerning as we know the serious damage that homelessness can have on a child's mental and physical health, as well as their development.

"In addition, Government efforts to end direct provision only received a D grade. The report said that increased pressure on International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) and the war in Ukraine have resulted in a deterioration of standards for children and young people seeking asylum. "The Taoiseach has previously stated that he wants Ireland to be the best country in Europe to be a child. However, the Children's Rights Alliance report shows that the Government still has a considerable distance left to travel before such an aspiration can be achieved."

#### Report shows State is failing children in key areas

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"The Government didn't do much better in the family homelessness category, just

Sale of Beacon Hospital a missed opportunity for the Government The sale of the Beacon Hospital in south Dublin represents a missed opportunity for the Government to deliver on a key Sláintecare commitment, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. "It emerged this week that a deal has been reached to sell the Beacon Hospital to the asset management wing of the Australian owned Macquarie Group for a sum believed to be in excess of €400 million.

"News of the sale comes as the Government continues to dither over the selection of sites for the development of two elective hospitals in the capital. Four elective hospitals -

(Continued on page 16)



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

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#### (Continued from page 15)

two in Dublin and one each in Cork and Galway were recommended as part of the rollout of Sláintecare, with a delivery timeline of 2027/28.

"The proposal was based on the experience of the National Health Service in Scotland, where this policy innovation had been very successful. Crucially, in Scotland, the NHS purchased a private hospital and brought it into use quickly for elective procedures. Arising from the success of this, they then built a second elective hospital. "I have repeatedly called for the purchase of an existing private hospital to speed up delivery of an elective facility in Dublin – a call that has been ignored by the Government. "Having a dedicated elective-only hospital would help to free up capacity in existing hospitals and crucially would enable significant progress on waiting lists. "Given the runaway costs and delayed opening of the National Children's Hospital, the Government should be well aware of the pitfalls and challenges of building a new hospital from scratch. "While sites for standalone elective hospitals in Cork and Galway were announced in April 2023, we are still waiting for a decision on either of the Dublin sites, meaning the delivery targets set out under Sláintecare are extremely unlikely to be met. This makes it all the more frustrating that the Government did not examine the feasibility of making its own bid for the Beacon Hospital."

# Revised €2.2 billion cost of National Children's Hospital likely to be a conservative estimate

The final cost of delivering the new National Children's Hospital is likely to exceed the  $\notin 2.24$  billion projected by the Government and may not be known for years, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy.

Deputy Murphy, who is vice-chair of the Public Accounts Committee, said:

"Confirmation from the Minister for Health today that the cost of building the hospital has shot up by more than  $\notin$ 500m will come as little surprise. It has been clear for some time that the final figure was likely to come in over the  $\notin$ 2 billion mark, which is a considerable distance from the revised  $\notin$ 1.4 billion estimated cost of the project back in 2018.

"The development has been beset with disputes between BAM and the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board (NPHDB), with thousands of claims amounting to hundreds of millions lodged. Any claims not settled through the agreed resolution process between the contractor and the NPHDB could end up in the High Court, meaning it could be many more years before the final cost of the children's hospital is known. "The Taoiseach suggested today that there would be years of disputes with the developer over payments that could result in costs being spread out over 10 to 15 years. This makes it even more likely that the  $\notin$ 2.24 billion figure announced by the Government may turn out to be a conservative estimate of the final bill.

"It is also concerning that the opening date of the children's hospital appears to be a moving target. Despite the Minister for Health's stated ambition that the facility will start treating its first patients in April or May of 2025, he added a caveat that this would be subject to the developer delivering on its commitment. Given the number of times the timeline for the completion of the hospital has slipped, this is hardly a ringing endorsement by the Minister and certainly does not inspire confidence."

# Changes to allocation model for Special Education Teaching (SET) hours will be devastating for children with additional needs

Changes to Special Education Teaching allocations will have a devastating impact on children with additional needs, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. Deputy Murphy said:

"The decision by the Department of Education to completely remove children with complex needs as a criteria for the allocation of Special Education Teaching (SET) hours is dangerous and completely illogical.

"The purpose of SET hours is to provide extra teaching supports to children who require additional supports in schools. For years, these hours have been allocated based on a combination of factors – including the number of children with complex needs in a school.

"Removing the number of pupils who require – and are legally entitled to – extra educational supports from the criteria for allocating extra educational supports makes absolutely no sense. Moreover, it is detrimental to the education, wellbeing and development of children with complex needs.

"Schools were first made aware of the upcoming changes by a leaked document last Friday evening which indicated that many were about to have their SET hours slashed. "All of Ireland's cites are designated as Rent Pressure Zones, where it is illegal to raise the rent by more than 2 per cent a year. Yet is abundantly clear that these rent caps are being widely flouted as standard practice in every city.

"How are ordinary people supposed to continue paying these skyrocketing rents? "Renters in Ireland already face some of the most expensive rents in Europe, which are at their highest level in the history of the State. "They cannot support these unsustainable increases. It is causing many to delay having families and many more to think about starting a new life overseas.

"It is clear that the Minister for Housing is presiding over a dysfunctional rent regulation system that is failing to protect tenants. He must take immediate action to ensure that the Residential Tenancies Board is fully resourced to stop these illegal rent increases."

#### Secondary school enrolment crisis caused by Government's failure to plan

The Department of Education's failure to plan for population growth and local demand has resulted in a deepening secondary school enrolment crisis for parents and students, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Mutphy.

Catherine Murphy TD, said:

"The shortage of second level places is a major issue in my Wicklow constituency, but also in counties such as Dublin, Kildare, Galway and Cork.

"Parents and children are at their wits' end, having so far failed to secure a first-year place in their local secondary school.

"This should be a happy time for pupils as they approach their final year of primary school and look forward to the next chapter in their educational journey. Instead, they are left feeling anxious and upset due to the uncertainty of their situation as they scramble to secure a school place before the start of the academic year in September.

"Many families now face the prospect of long commutes to and from schools outside their areas. However, in extreme cases, it is feared that some children may have to rely on a home tuition grant scheme. "It is unconscionable that families should be put in this invidious position. Schools are not just places of learning – they are also vital social outlets, where students forge new friendships and get to participate in sports and other recreational activities. Having to stay at home could have a detrimental impact on a young person's development and mental health.

"At the heart of this avoidable crisis is a failure by the Government to plan ahead and take into account demographic changes in growing communities.

"School principals have been warning about this looming crisis for months. The Department of Education only needs to look at the numbers coming up through fifth and sixth classes in primary schools to see what projected demand will be for first-year places. "The Minister for Education needs to immediately outline how she plans to address the appalling situation faced by parents and students around the country – not just for the next academic term, but for the years ahead."

#### School gives Government a lesson in what a real rooftop revolution looks like

The Government's solar panel programme for schools is not nearly ambitious enough and falls well short of the rooftop revolution promised by the Minister for Energy, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine murphy TD.

Catherine Murphy TD, was responding to reports that a school in Co. Clare has become the first in the country to produce all its electricity using solar power.

"The entire school community at CBS Primary in Ennis is to be commended for this wonderful achievement. The  $\epsilon$ 67,000 cost of installing 90 solar panels on the roof of the school was met through fundraising, with around  $\epsilon$ 10,000 in electricity savings already achieved in the first year. This means the project will pay for itself in six to seven years. "Another plus is that excess electricity generated from the solar panels was sold back to the national grid, earning revenue for the school and providing a source of clean, renewable energy to homes and businesses.

"The success of the Ennis initiative has highlighted the shortcomings of the Government's Solar for Schools programme, which is being rolled out across the country this year. About 4,000 schools will be eligible to apply for up to  $\notin 10,000$  in funding under the scheme.

"However, this scheme will only cover the cost of a six kilowatts system with the installation of around 16 solar panels on the rooftops of schools – the equivalent of what you would see on an average family home.

"In addition, to allow for fluctuations in weather conditions, the Government needs to consider providing schools with extra funding for the purchase of batteries to boost the capacity of solar PV systems.

This week, schools are facing the very real prospect of losing permanent teachers, while parents and children fear that vital supports will be taken away from them.

"I am now calling on the Minister for Education to carry out an immediate review of this shortsighted decision, and for a comprehensive explanation as to why complex needs will no longer be taken into consideration."

#### RTB report shows rent caps are still being widely ignored

New figures indicate that rent caps are still being widely ignored in parts of the country covered by Rent Pressure Zones, according to Social Democrats TD Catherine Murphy. Catherine Murphy TD, said:

"Rents in existing tenancies rose by 5.2 per cent nationally, according to the latest Rent Index Report carried out by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) on behalf of the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB).

"Rents in existing tenancies rose by 4.3 per cent in Dublin, 9.3 per cent in Waterford city, 3.5 per cent in Cork, 5.8 per cent in Galway city and 7.7 per cent in Limerick city.

"The Government's approach to solar power is lacking in ambition. CBS Primary in Ennis have highlighted what is possible in comparison to what the State is facilitating. "Energy Minister Eamon Ryan clearly needs a lesson from this school to show him what a real rooftop revolution looks like." School Places Parliamentary Question For Written Answer on : 13/02/2024 Question Number(s): 311 Question Reference(s): 6459/24 Department: Education Asked by: Catherine Murphy T.D.

#### QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Education the steps she is taking in 2024 to ensure adequate *(Continued on page 17)* 



#### 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 16)

provision of second level school places in Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth, Kilcock, Prosperous, Clane, Sallins and Naas, County Kildare for 2027 and beyond; and if she reviews residential development and population increases in her planning.

#### REPLY

I wish to advise the Deputy that requirements for school places is kept under on-going review in the context of available information on population, enrolments and residential development activity.

In order to plan for school provision and analyse the relevant demographic data, my Department divides the country into 314 school planning areas and uses a Geographical Information System, using data from a range of sources, including CSO Census data, Child Benefit and school enrolment data, to identify where the pressure for school places across the country will arise and where additional school accommodation is needed at primary and post-primary level.

Major new residential developments have the potential to alter the demand for school places at a local level. In that regard, as part of the demographic demand analysis, my Department monitors planning and construction activity in the residential sector. This involves the analysis of data sources from Local Authorities and the CSO along with the engagement with local authorities and the construction sector. In this way, up-to-date information on significant new residential developments is obtained and factored into the demographic analysis exercise. This is necessary to ensure that schools infrastructure planning is keeping pace with demographic changes, at a local level, where there is a constantly evolving picture with planned new residential development.

The 2023 demographic exercise indicates that 79% of the 314 school planning areas at primary level show static or decreasing enrolments for the period to 2027 compared with 2022. At post-primary level some 78% of school planning areas are anticipated to have increased enrolments for the period to 2030, with most expected to reach a peak within the next two or three years.

Where demographic data indicates that additional provision is required, the delivery of such additional provision is dependent on the particular circumstances of each case and may, be provided through:

• Utilising existing unused capacity within a school or schools,

• Extending the capacity of a school or schools,

• Provision of a new school or schools.

If additional accommodation is required, the aim to try and facilitate this, as much as possible, by way of expansion of existing schools rather than establishing new schools. The expansion of existing schools is consistent with wider Government objectives under Project Ireland 2040 for an increased emphasis on compact growth. In respect of post primary schools, new post primary schools must have a student enrolment capacity of 600-1,000 students and must be co-educational. A lower threshold of 400 students may apply to Gaelcholáistí, having regard to the alternative of establishing an Irish-medium unit (Aonad) in an English-medium school.

New schools are only established in areas of demographic growth as the resources available for school infrastructure have to be prioritised to meet the needs of areas of significant population increase so as to ensure that every child has a school place.

These new arrangements also give an opportunity to patrons to apply for the patronage of new schools. The criteria used in deciding on the patronage of new schools place a particular emphasis on parental patronage and language preferences and an analysis of existing provision in the areas where the schools are being established. This approach is underpinned by a 2011 Government Decision.

The Department will continue to liaise with Local Authorities in respect of their County Development Plan and any associated Local Area Plans with a view to identifying any potential long-term school accommodation requirements across school planning areas

**MELROSE CALLS FOR FULL-TIME GARDA STATION IN MAYNOOTH** There are just 15 Gardaí in total assigned to Maynooth's 17,000 inhabitants Saturdays, it opens from 10.00am to 12.00 midday.

Even within that, Minister McEntee admits that "these hours cannot be fulfilled due to priority calls for service".

Commenting on the response, Mr. Melrose said:

"Maynooth's population continues to grow far beyond its amenities, and yet public infrastructure and services lags well behind the bare minimum.

"It is to the detriment of us all that the Gardaí continue to be under resourced in our area. Figures released to me by the minister show that there are just 15 Gardaí in total assigned to Maynooth. Compare that to a similarly sized town in Kildare such as Leixlip, which has 68 Gardaí and a fully-staffed, full-time, station, it is clear that we have been forgotten about. "Our current Garda force is stretched thin, making it challenging to effectively address the growing demands of our community. For example, our roads policing force has been cut by nearly 14% since 2009, with a decline of 313 Gardaí nationally. We need to reverse these austerity-era cuts in order to effectively manage our roads. "Expanding Garda resources in Maynooth goes beyond a mere numbers game. We must ensure that a strong Garda presence is not only felt in neighbourhoods, but that it is viewed as welcome and reassuring by placing community policing at the centre of

community building and engagement. "Community Gardaí have been working tirelessly to create this environment, in areas such as tackling drug crime and supporting those fleeing domestic violence. "I am calling on the Garda Commissioner to urgently review the imbalances that exist in our Division and to fully support the Gardaí working in North Kildare by providing the

our Division, and to fully support the Gardaí working in North Kildare by providing the resources necessary to operate a fully staffed, full-time station in Maynooth. It is a crying shame that we have a Garda station that is essentially a derelict building".

16<sup>th</sup> Feb. '24 **Notes to editor:** Peter Melrose Local Area Rep, Social Democrats Tel: 0892637612 Email: peter.melrose@socialdemocrats.ie PQ Record: https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2024-02-13/472/?highlight% 5B0%5D=6526&highlight%5B1%5D=24

For Written Answer on : 13/02/2024 Question Number(s): 473 Question Reference(s): 6527/24 Department: Justice

Asked by: Catherine Murphy T.

#### QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Justice the number of gardaí, by rank in the Kildare division, by station.

#### REPLY

I am informed by the Garda authorities that at the end of December 2023, the latest date for when figures are available, there were 431 Garda members assigned to the Kildare Division. This represents an increase of over 38% since the end of December 2015. The table below sets out these Garda members by station.

KILDARE DIVISION	Station	Tota
KILDARE DISTRICT	ATHY	37
	CASTLEDERMOT	3
	KILDARE	44
	MONASTEREVIN	5
	NEWBRIDGE	60
	RATHANGAN	2
	KILDARE DISTRICT TOTAL	151
LEIXLIP DISTRICT	CARBURY	5
	CELBRIDGE	16
	KILCOCK	6
	LEIXLIP	68
	MAYNOOTH	15
	LEIXLIP DISTRICT TOTAL	110
NAAS DISTRICT	CLANE	13
	KILCULLEN	9
	NAAS	141
	ROBERTSTOWN	7
	NAAS DISTRICT TOTAL	170
KILDARE DIVISION TOTAL		431

The Garda Station in Maynooth is woefully under-resourced and is failing the town, according to local area rep for the Social Democrats, Peter Melrose.

In figures released to Catherine Murphy TD by Minister for Justice Helen McEntee, it has been revealed that the station operates part-time opening hours; Mondays and Thursdays the station is open from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and





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

#### **Mysterious Powers of Three**

By Cheryl Devaney

Number three is considered to be the perfect number: the number of time – past, present, future; birth, life, death; beginning, middle and end.

Representing divine wholeness, completeness and perfection, three occurs many times in the Bible. Three angels visited Abraham announcing that his wife, Sarah, was to give birth to a son. Jonah spent three days and nights inside a great fish. Jonah had refused to obey God's command that he was to prophesy in the ancient Assyrian city of Nineveh. Instead, he boarded a ship heading for Tarshish. A huge storm blew up and when Jonah confessed that he had disobeyed God's orders, the sailors threw him overboard. Immediately the violent weather stopped but Jonah, while floundering in the sea, was swallowed whole by a monstrous fish. Whilst in its body, he repented and the fish, which was approaching the shore, coughed Jonah up on to the beach. Later, Jonah went on to convert the Ninevites.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus states that, like Jonah, the Son of God will also be in 'the heart of the earth for three days and nights'. This was a foretelling of Jesus' resurrection on the third day after His crucifixion. Following Jesus' birth, three wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and later, Jesus predicted that before the cock crowed, Peter would deny knowing him three times. He raised three people from the dead; the only son of a widow from Nain, a religious leader Jairus's daughter and Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus of Bethany.

Whilst Saul was on his way to Damascus, he fell to the ground hearing Jesus asking 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' Saul opened his eyes but could see nothing. Acts Chapter 9 states 'And for three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.' Saul converted to Christianity, later being known as Paul.

Saint Patrick used the three leaves of the shamrock to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity and the sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist - which laid the foundation of every Christian life.

Ériu and her sisters, Banba and Fódla were members of the Tuatha Dé Danann and formed a triumvirate of goddesses. When the Milesians arrived in Ireland from Galicia, each of the sisters asked that her name be given to the country. This was granted although Ériu (Éire) became the main name used; the other two are often used as poetic names for Ireland.

The three daughters of Zeus, known as The Three Graces, were each able to bestow a particular gift on humanity; mirth, elegance and beauty. The Greek philosopher and

# My Chequered Life Chapter 2

So it was off to London for me on my very first flight. My mother came with me, availing of the opportunity no doubt to see my two brothers and her own brother. One of my brothers, Eamonn, who had been in London for twenty-five years, met us at the airport and brought us to the underground and in no time we were in North London enjoying a nice lunch prepared for us by Eamonn's wife. We then went for a few drinks in a Local pub called The Hercules where we met my uncle and another brother of mine who was in London studying to be a radiologist. He introduced me to the owner of the pub, the first of many, many times I was to meet him!

I stayed in my uncle's place that night, met his partner and all that and the following day my uncle took me to the local butcher's shop and introduced me to Peter, the manager, who asked me if I had ever heard of spring lamb or if I had ever cut up nice New Zealand spring lamb. I told him I hadn't but I had heard of it. He seemed happy enough that I had heard of it so he told me and my uncle he'd "give me a shot". I started the very next day and my job was to keep a certain cabinet stocked with gigot chops. As there were no electric saws in the shop, big and all as it was, with twenty-five or so people working there, I had to cut the chops by hand. Over the next few months I cut thousands of Dublin who liked me and paid me £100 a week. It was hard work but the £100 a week lightened it quite a bit. I had more money than I knew what to do with it. I bought a car and careered around London enjoying freedom and money the likes of which I had never before experienced.

mathematician, Pythagoras, felt three was the number of harmony, wisdom and understanding. It is the first number that forms a geometrical figure, the triangle. If you have a large number to divide by three, for example 1356, you can add each of the individual digits together, that is 15, and, if there is no remainder, a person can tell whether or not it is evenly divisible by three. Plato divided his utopian city into three populations - labourers, warriors and philosophers, who were the rulers,

Valknut is a symbol of three interlocked triangles used in Viking times as a symbol for the slain. It is associated with the Norse God, Odin who would protect dead warriors, allowing them to spend their afterlife in Valhalla, the majestic 'Hall of the Slain'. Borromean Rings are three interlocking rings. If any single ring is removed, the two remaining rings will fall apart. For centuries it has been known as a symbol of strength in unity in many parts of the world.

The three large Iris petals were a symbol of power in ancient Egypt and were often carved on sceptres of their rulers and pharaohs.

The Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799 in the Nile Delta, has inscriptions in three languages - Demotic (a popular Egyptian script), hieroglyphics and classical Greek. It helped to reveal the secrets of hieroglyphic writing to scholars in 1822.

The Troika (from the collective numeral of the Russian word for three) is a three horse harnessed sledge and gives its name to a committee of three members working in an administrative capacity. There is also a triumvirate, a political regime ruled by three powerful individuals usually in Communist countries.

The three primary colours red, yellow and blue are mixed to obtain most other colours and three wise monkeys are a Japanese pictorial rule of conduct embodying the proverbial principle 'see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil'. The images are often used to refer to a lack of moral responsibility when people chose to look the other way or feign ignorance.

Feng Shui, which literally means 'wind-water', is a traditional Chinese practice from Taoism, an ancient Asian philosophy, which claims to use energy forces to harmonize individuals with their surroundings. Groupings of three items are used to bring good luck and if a house has a three in its address, it is believed that this home will attract specific chi energy. Chi is a life force that flows through you and everything.

Heart, lungs and brain are the organs known as the Tripod of Life. Their united action is necessary for the maintenance of life. The belief that to try something a third time will bring good fortune would also seem to indicate that the number three plays an important role in today's world.

job, "wink wink". He had been expected back on Sunday morning. I had been drinking in the Archway Tavern and arrived home at about eleven pm. She heard me coming in and thinking it was my uncle, came down to let him have it. When she saw it was me she came straight over and punched me hard in the face. Half in shock, all the anger and hatred I had within me towards the people who had abused and bullied me as a child exploded in me and I grabbed a knife that was on the kitchen table and stabbed her repeatedly with it. Drink and anger to blame? No! I was and I have regretted that outburst ever since. I didn't like her and she didn't like me but I knew and I know I shouldn't have done that. I had cut my own hand badly so I wrapped a tea towel around it and went to a friend from the butcher shop and told him I had been attacked by a burglar and got cut defending myself. He drove me to the hospital. A nurse put a temporary bandage on my hand and while I was there in a cubicle waiting to be attended to I heard somebody had just died in the cubicle beside me and I peeped out and saw two policemen. I was sure it was my aunt they were talking about so I tiptoed out to my friend and told him I was okay. I stayed with him that night and his girlfriend gave me clean clothes in the morning, and after breakfast I left and walked about until evening.

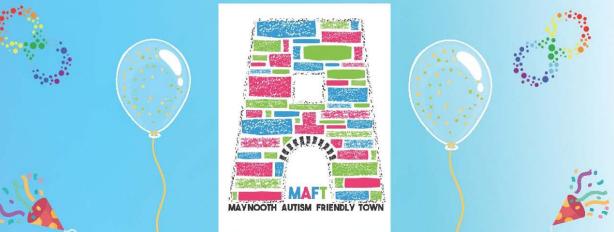
I passed by my aunt's house and all seemed just as usual, no police cars, no sign of anything amiss. Was I the only one that knew the scene inside? I walked and walked and eventually found myself on Hornsey Road, dawdling outside the Police Station, wondering would I go in. I didn't but walked on to Kings Cross station. Sitting there in the chops and kept that cabinet stocked with them and mince as well. I got on well with Peter middle of the crowds I felt numb. All except my hand which was sore and throbbing. The blood was congealed on the bandage so I just stuck it into the pocket of my black body warmer. Looking at the train timetables I saw that there was a train leaving for Holyhead at 9.30, two and half hours later. I got some strange looks from the ticket man who couldn't but notice the blood on the notes I was giving him. Feeling very guilty, I told him I had an accident at work and had to go home. I arrived home in Moonagh late the following afternoon, told them all about being attacked by a knife-wielding weirdo and my father, on the advice of the local doctor, brought me to the hospital. The doctor there had a lot of trouble stitching up my greatly swollen hand, 15 stitches! The local Gardaí had been to my house by the time my Dad and me got home and it was quickly decided that I had to go straight back to London. My elder brother travelled with me and on arrival at Holyhead I was arrested and was in Highbury Corner Police Station about ten o'clock on Easter Tuesday morning.

"At home" things weren't so good. My "aunt" tired of me very quickly. My drinking, my slovenly ways, my uncle's new lease of life since my arrival, all got her down. My uncle and I did meet often enough for a drinking session but often enough too he had "other business" unknown to herself and his excuse was always that he had been with me. And the cat! Once or twice I sat in the cat's chair and I was told very clearly that I was not more important than the cat. I continued with the drinking and to avoid being harangued nightly by my aunt I began to stay in the pub until she had gone to bed which was about ten as she had to get up very early each morning to go to work, cleaning offices.

Things rested so for a year or more and on Easter weekend my uncle was away doing a

All place names & personal names are fictitious.

GM.



# Maynooth is Autism Friendly Town of the Year

Maynooth Autism Friendly Town was nominated at the AslAm awards, on the 24th of February, and after our first year came away with the top prize of

#### Autism Friendly Town of the Year

We would like to thank all of the town champions that have embraced what we are trying to achieve and all of the parents and kids whose positivity show that we are making a difference in the town.



#### March Events



# St Patrick's Day Quiet Zone

Following the success of the dedicated quiet zone in the Paddy's Day Parade last year we are delighted to set this up again this year.

Keep an eye on our socials for more information

#### **Bowling Hangout**

MAFT, in collaboration with AsIAm Ireland, successfully held an exciting Hangouts Bowling night for Tweens, Teens, and young adults, with 31 autistic young people taking part in the event.

Additionally, we arranged an exclusive hangout for autistic adults, attracting participants from across the country. It's heartening to witness the formation of friendships through all of these events, and we eagerly anticipate planning the next one shortly.





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# MULLIGAN'S GARDEN SHEDS KILCOCK

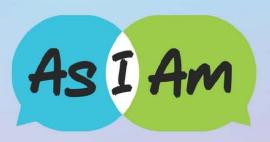
ALL TYPES OF TOP QUALITY PRESSURE TREATED TIMBER GARDEN SHEDS

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For updates on these exciting programs and to stay connected with the MAFT Association, keep an eye on our newsletter and our Social Media. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our upcoming events!

IRELAND'S **AUTISM** CHARITY Contact us on our social media or email autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com Saturday 8:30 - 17:00 01-6287397 085-2846781





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

#### **Derrylow Walkabout - Part 2**

The Leylands were among our closest neighbours. Pat, the father was a tall, friendly, redfaced gentleman and his wife was a good-natured woman who never hesitated to speak her mind. The settle bed in their kitchen, which was used as a bench to sit on during the day, always intrigued me. Maggie and Frank, the youngest children, were our weekend playmates and their eldest brother, John Robert, drove a long cart laden with milk cans to the creamery in Croghan. Mary Jane, P.J., Joe and Lizzie were the other members of the family but only Frank and Mary Jane are now left in the house.

Steve is curious about Leyland's limekiln, which has recently been restored by Fás workers. I recall the time Liam and Douglas Boyd led my brother and me in single file around the fiercely glowing crater with its cloud of pungent white smoke and how Mrs Leyland shouted at us to get down before we fell in and were burned alive. We climb up to the newly plastered rim and I explain how the lime was made: first a layer of coal and turf, then a layer of limestone that had been quarried in the adjacent field, then the same repeated till the maw of the kiln was filled and a fire was lit underneath. The lime was spread on land as fertiliser or used to whitewash houses. A scholar born in the next townland, Fr. John McGreevy, wrote a poem about this once-thriving local industry: "By the straight road to Croghan, / Each fifty yards in, / Rest the limekilns of Boher / With the things that have been." How keenly he too must have experienced the tug between past and present when he revisited these scenes of his youth!

But the day is waning, so we continue our journey past the field where we used to play Gaelic football, frequently to the annoyance of the owner. Nowadays, young fellows travel by car to well-tended grounds in Croghan and Carrick-on-Shannon for their games. A minute's walk brings us to the crossroads where the grown-up fellows used to play pitch-and-toss or just sit and watch the sparse traffic. At Hallowe'en a bonfire was lit before the junction with the Faus Road, but our father wouldn't let us go near it for fear we might get injured in the inevitable horseplay. A sudden loud bang from the direction of Boher reminds us that modern fireworks have made this festival even more hazardous. We pass the field where the house of the Gannon brothers, two bachelors, once sheltered behind ash trees, keeping to the verge to avoid hurtling cars with their headlights already on. I point to a grassy hill enclosed by whitethorn hedges: a thatched cottage stood there with roses growing against the lime-washed walls, the prettiest house in the entire townland. The Spellmans who owned it were childless so they brought their niece, Annie, to live with them. Annie fell in love with a landless young man and despite the objections of her guardians, married him. As far as I know, the aunt and uncle refused to leave the farm to the young couple. Today bullocks wander where the picture-postcard cottage used to gaze down on pedestrians, carts and bicycles or the occasional car raising a cloud of fine, white dust.

A fairly new bungalow built by a retired bachelor stands silent, though not deserted, on our left and up a beech-lined avenue on our right we glimpse Gilmartins' bungalow, which replaced their solid, two-storey Derrylow House. The Gilmartins, especially Francis and Michael, were also our playmates, whether looking for birds' nests in springtime or hunting rabbits with our dogs in winter. Patrick was too grown-up for us but Mary, Bridgie and Elizabeth were friends of our sisters. I can recall their mother warning us about venturing across a rickety upper floor in the old house to look at a jackdaw's nest and their father, Milo, walking along this stretch of road, with a blackthorn stick, round which he had looped both elbows held against his back.

Raindrops begin to fall as we turn in the boreen leading to my brother's home, which waits with lighted windows at the top of the hill. An ordnance survey map of 1904 shows

# How to make a Chocolate Easter Egg

Easter wouldn't be Easter without a chocolate egg, but why not break with tradition and make your own this year?

Use the best quality chocolate you can afford (at least 80% cocoa solids) to really make all the difference. The amount you'll need will depend on the size of your mould, which should come with instructions to guide you.

#### HOW TO MAKE A CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG

this boreen leading to eight houses, though in my youth there were only four: Butlers' two -storey slated house on the brow of the hill; Beirnes' thatched farmhouse further over to the right; Dowd's on the brow of the next hill to the rear – beside a roofless ruin where the Butlers formerly lived - and our own house down in the valley to the left. All that remains of Beirnes' house, where Lena, Mary Ann and their brother lived with their parents before moving to the adjacent townland of Enagh, is a pile of grass-grown rubble. Dowds' house still stands, though empty and forlorn. It once had a neat garden beside the cobbled entrance street in which flowers such as marigolds and bachelor's-buttons grew. Ned, the father, was a fine old gentleman with a watch chain dandling across his waistcoat. The children, Mick and his sister B., were already grown-up when we were young.

Halfway up the boreen we pass the attractive new bungalow built by my nephew and his wife, and on the opposite side I detect a notice advertising a site for sale – whatever critics may think of "one-off houses", they have brought life back to this particular townland. On the hilltop, just across from my brother's bungalow, an English couple with a small son are renovating Butlers' two-storey house - another development that is reversing the haemorrhage of people from Derrylow.

Jimmy Butler was a friendly giant of a man who sometimes ploughed fields and mowed meadows with his horse for my father. His sons were grown up so we hardly knew them but his daughter Belinda used to treat us to hot potato cakes spread with melting butter whenever we visited. One sunny afternoon while we were "helping" Jimmy save hay in the hill field near their first house – this mainly consisted of hitching rides on the wooden, horse-drawn tumbler - she brought us a hatful of delicious plums, explaining that they were a present from a Mrs. Carrol. Eventually, we made the not-unwelcome discovery that the plums had come from their own orchard near the bog! Martin Hessian, who later bought Butler's house and farm, once arrived unexpectedly to count cattle and found me near the top of a plum tree, filling my pockets. For some reason, he didn't upbraid me. Belinda Butler had set woodbines and roses in the hedge bordering their house, a treat for the senses as one walked up the hill. I could spend a day talking about that family, the wooden privy they had built in a shelter-bed of evergreens and the exotic henhouse with glass windows in a field south of the boreen, but the drizzle hurries us on.

As we enter my brother's back hallway to remove our wellingtons the delighted shrieks of his small grandchildren playing hide-and-seek in the darkened bedrooms greet us: unlike me, they – the next generation – as well as Steve and Aileen, are coming to this place without the burden of memory. Years ago in New York, I met my Uncle Michael, who had emigrated in the early Twenties, and he could describe every house and turn of the road hereabouts as if they were imprinted on his brain. He always dreamed of returning but I knew if he did he would find the changes upsetting. My sister told me recently that when she brought our mother to see the abandoned house a few miles southeast of Elphin in which she grew up, my mother then near the end of her life, insisted, "This is not the place." Of course she was right: the place in her mind was the living entity.

While my sister-in-law prepares tea, my brother brings me out to the turf shed to look at a dead hawk he has found. Since it appears slight for a sparrow hawk, we wonder if it might actually be a Merlin. Could a bird like this have made the strange calls I heard coming from the willows? Looking at the graceful head and tail, and the strong, greyish blue wings, images of that once-proud life now lost forever in the rain-drab, darkening landscape mingle with thoughts of the cosy fire and feast waiting for us inside and I experience again that conflict of sadness and joy which the walkabout repeatedly stirred in me.

By P.G.Nerney

minutes, or until the chocolate has completely set. Meanwhile, repeat steps 4 to 6 with the second mould.

Once the chocolate has set, repeat the process a few times until you've built up a layer of chocolate around 1/2 cm thick.



- Put both moulds in the fridge for a further 10 minutes to allow the chocolate to set completely.
- To remove your eggs from their moulds, squeeze the casing gently, working your way around the edge (the warmth from your hands will help).

- Break your chocolate into rough chunks, then finely chop into small pieces the finer the better!
- Half-fill a small pan with water and bring to a gentle simmer over a low heat. Rest a heatproof bowl on top, add the chopped chocolate to the bowl, then allow to melt, stirring occasionally.
- Using oven gloves, remove the bowl from the heat and leave to cool to 35°C. Check the temperature with a cooking thermometer.
- Spoon the chocolate into your mould, one tablespoon at a time, tilting the mould so the chocolate covers the surface. Don't worry if you make a mess! Tip any excess chocolate back into the bowl.
- Allow the chocolate to cool slightly, then, using a butter knife, scrape around the rim of the mould to get a clean edge.
- Lay out some greaseproof paper and place the mould flat-side-down on top for 15
- · Brush the remaining melted chocolate around the rim of each of the chocolate egg halves, then gently press them together so they stick in place. Leave for a few minutes until the chocolate sets, then it's ready!
- A homemade treat like this is a super-cute present for friends and family. If you're feeling creative, why not jazz it up with icing, ribbon or more melted chocolate? If chocolate eggs aren't your thing, then embrace regular eggs instead! As well as being packed with protein, they can be just as fun. Paint them with the kids or team them up with asparagus for delicious soldiers with a twist.

Source: www.jamieoliver.com/features/how-to-make-a-chocolate-egg/





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## People who thrive in their retirement years usually adopt these daily habits

#### **Staying Physically Active**

Have you ever noticed how some seniors seem to move with more ease and energy than others? Well, it's no coincidence. People who thrive in their retirement years make it a point to stay physically active. I'm not just talking about going to the gym or running marathons (although that's great too). It's about incorporating physical movement into their daily routine.



Maybe it's a morning walk in the park, an afternoon swim, or even a set of movements at home. It doesn't have to be strenuous or timeconsuming.

The key is consistency. Remember, our bodies are built for movement. Keeping active not only benefits our physical health but also our mental well-being. So, why not adopt this habit today? It's never too late to start. Keep in mind: This is easier said than done, especially if you're not used to being active. But trust me, the rewards are worth it.

And remember, always consult with your healthcare professional before starting any new exercise regime.

So there you have it – the first habit of people who thrive in their retirement years. Simple, right? Let's move on to the next one. This one's also about exercising, but this time it's the mind that gets a workout.

#### **Keep on Learning**

Now, this is a habit I can personally vouch for. People who thrive in their retirement years embrace the concept of lifelong learning. They understand that the mind, like the body, needs to be exercised regularly to stay sharp and agile. So, if you want to thrive in your retirement years, consider adopting a habit of lifelong learning. It could be anything from reading a book, taking up a new hobby, or even enrolling in a course. The goal is to keep your mind active and engaged. Remember this: You're never too old to learn something new.

#### Maintain a strong social network

We're not just talking about family and old friends here, although they are indeed important. These individuals also make an effort to meet new people and form new relationships. This could be through volunteering, joining clubs or social groups, or participating in community events.

Staying socially active provides a sense of belonging and emotional support. It helps stave off loneliness and isolation, which are common issues amongst the older population. But more than that, a strong social network can also stimulate our minds, keep us involved in the world around us, and even improve our physical health.

So, if you want to thrive in your retirement years, consider investing time in building and maintaining your social network. Remember, we humans are social creatures by nature. We thrive on interaction and connection with others.

#### Follow a Balanced Diet

Those who thrive in their retirement years understand the importance of following a balanced diet. They tend to eat lots of fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, whole grains, and healthy fats. They understand that what they put into their bodies can directly affect their energy levels, mood, and overall health.



According to the World Health Organization, a healthy diet can help prevent several diseases such as diabetes, heart

disease, stroke, and some types of cancer. But it's not just about the physical benefits.

So if you aim to thrive in your retirement years, pay attention to your diet. It's a simple habit that can make a significant difference in your life.

Consuming a balanced diet can also enhance our mental agility.

#### Cultivating a positive mindset

People who thrive in their retirement years have a secret weapon – cultivating a positive mindset. They're not oblivious to life's challenges. They face the same ups and downs as the rest of us. But they choose to focus on the positive aspects of life.

Certain foods are known to boost brain health, improving memory and cognitive function.

They practice gratitude, celebrate their victories - no matter how small - and see challenges as opportunities for growth rather than setbacks.

This positive mindset enables them to navigate life's challenges with grace and resilience. It helps them maintain their emotional well-being and enjoy a higher quality of life. Cultivating a positive mindset is a habit that anyone can adopt at any age. It might take some practice, especially if you're naturally inclined towards pessimism, but the benefits are absolutely worth it. Remember, life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. So why not choose positivity?

#### **Prioritizing self-care**

While all the habits I've discussed so far are important, there's one that ties everything together - self-care.

People who thrive in their retirement years understand that taking care of their own physical, mental, and emotional well-being is not a luxury - it's a necessity.

They carve out time in their daily schedule for activities that rejuvenate them. This could be anything from taking a leisurely bath, meditating, reading a book, or simply sitting in silence and observing nature. It's about listening to your body and giving it what it needs. It's about honoring your feelings and allowing



yourself to rest and recharge. Prioritizing self-care isn't selfish. It's about preserving your health and well-being so you can be the best version of yourself. After all, you can't pour from an empty cup. So listen to your body, cherish your emotions, and make time for yourself. Because you matter.

#### **Embracing the golden years**

If you've been nodding along as you read through these daily habits, you're already on the right track to thriving in your retirement years.

But remember, it's not about perfection. It's about making small, consistent changes that align with these habits. It's about creating a lifestyle that supports your well-being and happiness. Start by identifying which of these habits resonate with you the most. Which ones do you already practice? Which ones could use a little work? Remember, selfawareness is the first step towards change. Next, take action. Maybe it's adding a 15minute walk to your daily routine, or setting aside time each day for learning something new. Perhaps it's reaching out to a friend or family member for a chat, or practicing gratitude before bed. These small changes can create a ripple effect in your life, leading to big transformations over time. And remember this - retirement is not the end. It's just the beginning of a new chapter, one filled with opportunities for growth, exploration, and self-discovery.

#### Embrace these golden years with open arms. After all, age is just a number. What truly matters is how we choose to live our lives.

Source: geediting.com/people-who-thrive-in-their-retirement-years-usually-adopt-thesedaily-habits

Source: https://geediting.com/people-who-thrive-in-their-retirement-years-usually-adoptthese-daily-habits



#### **Prayer to the Sacred Heart**

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for a special favour, take it Dear Jesus and place it in your Sacred Heart where the Father sees it and so it will become your favour not mine.

Promise publication, never fails!

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.

March Events at Mayne	ooth Community Library
	brary maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService	twitter.com/kildarelibrary
March Events Maynooth	writing 'sleep-centric' bios. Participants will read and discuss Bernadette Mayer's
Young Adult Events Online Teen Writers Group Thursday 7th and Thursday 14 March 6pm - 7pm - Ages 12-15 A social group for young writers aged 12 to 15, to chat, share work and bounce ideas. Online via MS Teams.	hypnagogic sonnets – that is, poems written while falling asleep. Finally, participants do some freewriting exercises which suggest the possibilities of writing with sleep, or other states of non-attention. Sharing will be optional, but encouraged. The workshop is led by Hilary White, a writer and researcher, and currently an Irish Research Council, Government of Ireland 2023 Postdoctoral Fellow at Maynooth University. <b>Book your free ticket here</b> : <u>https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/1161181</u>
Teen Book Club Friday 15th March 4pm - 5pm - Ages 12-15 A book club with a difference; while there are always bookclub books to avail of, teens can bring along their own recommendation to discuss during the meeting. Book Rec for March meeting available in the library now: 'Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie' (12+), 'Little Thieves' (14+)	Breast Feeding Support Group with Public Health Nurse Tuesday 12th & Tue 26th March , 9.45 - 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. No booking needed, just drop in. ***Please ring the library doorbell between 9.45 am & 10am as the library doors will be closed, and you will be let in***
Adult Events Chair – based Yoga Class for Adults	Children's Events World Book Day Reading and Illustration Workshop with Author and Illustrator Jennifer Farley Thursday 7th March
Monday 4th March - 10.30 am – 11. 30 am Chair based yoga is the practice of yoga sitting in the chair or using the chair as support to stand. This is a unique and inclusive class for all people, including those with physical limitations. Christine of Yográ Yoga Studio, Maynooth, provides classes in a safe and accessible environment for everyone to enjoy the physical and mental benefits of Yoga. Book your free ticket here : <u>https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/1161106</u>	<b>3pm – 4pm</b> <b>For Ages 7- 10 years</b> Join award-winning children's book illustrator and author Jennifer Farley for the 'Wonder -Vet Workshop'. Jennifer will read from her book "Wonder Vet" followed by an illustration workshop where everyone will learn to draw some of the animals. All children attending this workshop must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. <b>Book your free ticket here</b> : https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/1161263
MU English in the Community: Talk on ' How Digital Humanities change how we seen Ireland in the Renaissance ' by Professor Pat Palmer Thursday 14th March - 7-8 pm Join us for a talk in this new 'MU English in the Community' series of talks and writing workshops, a collaboration between the Department of English at Maynooth University and Maynooth Community Library. This talk is given by Professor Pat Palmer , who will discuss the MACMORRIS Digital Humanities project, a Deep Map which brings together writings in Irish, English, Spanish, Latin, and Italian, to give us a sense of the choices which were being made in early modernity – choices which continue to shape our present. You can see the MACMORRIS website here: <u>https://</u> macmorris.maynoothuniversity.ie/ * Drop in *	Seachtain na Gaeilge : Design your own Kite Workshop as Gaeilge with Anyone4Science Monday 11th March – Luan 11ú Márta 4.10pm - 4.55 pm For Ages 8+ Celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge with Anyone 4 Science in Maynooth Community Library. In this fun workshop as Gaeilge you will learn about flight and how machines stay in the air, everyone will design and make your own Kite to take home. Suitable for ages 8 and over . All children attending this workshop must be accompanied by a parent /guardian. Book your free ticket here : https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/1161358
Homelessness and Housing Support Information Clinic Tuesday 5th March - 2.30pm – 4.30pm Looking for advice on homelessness and housing supports? Visit this Kildare County Council drop-in clinic in Maynooth Community Library to learn about the supports available. *Drop in*	World Poetry Day : Poetry Writing Workshop with Yvonne Cullen for ages 7-10 Thursday 21st March 3pm - 4pm Ages 7- 10 years Poetry writing workshop with Yvonne Cullen . All children attending this event must be
<b>Poetry Café with Luain Press</b> <b>Tue 5th March - 6pm - 7pm</b> Blurb: Passionate about poetry? So are we! Come by to read, chat, share and even create	accompanied by a parent /guardian Book your free ticket here. <u>https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/1165610</u>
poetry! *Drop in*	Stories, Songs and Games in Italian for 2 to 5 year olds Sat 23rd March 2024 9.30 - 10.30am Suitable for 2 to 5 years
Age Friendly Coffee Morning Wednesday 13th February - 10am - 11.30am As part of our Age Friendly Programme, drop in for a cup of tea/coffee and a chat with library staff and find out more about the libraries online and other services.	Join us for some stories, songs, fun activities and games in Italian. Booking required: <u>https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/1036783</u> Cluichí Chláir do Teaghlaigh trí Ghaeilge / Family Board Games through Irish
*Drop In. No booking required* Celebrating World Poetry Day: An evening of sharing poetry	Satharn 23ú Márta / Saturday 23d March 12 i.n. / 1.30 i.n. / 12pm – 1.30pm
Thursday 21 March 2024 6.30-7.30pm. Online event. World Poetry Day is held on the 21st March each year and celebrates cultural and literary.	Aois 6- 12 / Ages 6- 12 Do pháistí atá idir 6 agus 12 bliana agus a gcuid tuistí/ caomhnóirí - for children aged 6- 12 and their parents/ guardians. Cuirfear cluichí cláir ar fáil. Board games will be

23

World Poetry Day is held on the 21st March each year and celebrates cultural and literary diversity.

Join us for an evening of sharing your favourite poetry from across the globe. You may wish to read a poem aloud or just listen to poetry.

provided. Caithfear tuismitheoir / caomhnóir a bheith in éineacht le gach páiste a bhfuil ag freastal ar seo. All children attending this must be accompanied by a parent / guardian. Fáilte roimh chách . All Welcome

Book your free ticker here : https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/1161366

#### Book Launch Basil McBride's 'Word of the Week' Thursday 21st March - 7pm - 8pm

Basil McBride is the alter-ego of Maynooth local, Lee Sheridan. Sheridan was shortlisted for the Red Line Book Festival 2023 Poetry Competition. Basil McBride's 'Word of the Week' is a collection of humorous articles that grew from a literacy initiative in the school that Basil works in. The aim of the initiative is to teach students a new word each week. There is something for everyone in the collection; most of the articles are flash-length entries and arranged thematically. \* Drop In \*

MU English in the Community: Creative Writing Workshop 'Sleep and hypnagogic writing with Dr. Hilary White Saturday 23rd March - 11am - 12pm A one-hour reading and writing workshop. Participants will introduce themselves by

#### Stories, games and fun activities in Italian for 6 to 9 year olds Sat 23rd March 2024

3 - 4pm

#### Suitable for 6 to 9 years

A chance for children to practice their Italian and learn more about Italy and its culture through stories, fun activities and games in Italian.

Booking required: https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/1036805

#### Exhibitions

' Portraits ' by Louise O'Keeffe Tuesday 5th March - Tuesday 2nd April

'Portraits by Louise' is her first solo art exhibition. Louise's art is deeply personal,

(Continued on page 24)

	n Community Library (Cont.)
For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/li	brarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService	twitter.com/kildarelibrary
(Continued from page 23)	Maynooth Women's Group
with a sense of her direct connection to her subjects, and to the material she uses. She loves painting, drawing, photography and pottery. In this series of portraits she has used	1st & 3rd Saturday each month 11.30am – 12.45 pm
bright colours to create a vibrant and personal collection of artwork.	A meeting space for local women usually held on the first and third Saturday of the
$(\mathbf{D}_{1}, \mathbf{r}_{1}, \mathbf{r}_{2}, r$	month at 11.30am.
'Portraits ' by Louise O'Keeffe Exhibition Open Evening Thursday 7th March - 6pm – 7pm	Women's Ex-Pats Group
Join us for the opening of the exhibition 'Portraits' by Louise O'Keeffe.	Last Tuesday of the month
*Drop in Event*	6.30pm- 7.30pm
Maynooth Community Library's Exhibition Space Open for Bookings	Calling all women who have relocated to Ireland, returned from abroad, or local ladies interested in welcoming expats! Our Women's Group offers a meeting place at the library
If you are a local artist or art group and would like to book our exhibition space, please	to chat, make new friends, and share stories about transitioning to Ireland. Join us for an
contact us. Maynooth Community Library's Exhibition Space is available to host	enriching experience of community, support, and connection.
exhibitions from February 2025. To be placed on a waiting list to use the exhibition space in 2024, or for booking enquiries, please email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie.	Maynooth Movie Club
	Tuesday 26th March, 7.00-8.00pm
Climate Action Events	Join us for the Maynooth Movie Club for adults for in depth discussion and general chat
Maynooth Zerowaste Saturday 9th March - 2pm – 4pm	about movies! There will be a DVD of a film being discussed available at reception.
Ladies Clothes Swap Shop - Join a free community event with Zero Waste Maynooth as	For more information please email <u>maynooth@kildarecoco.ie</u>
it hosts its ladies clothes swap shop. Bring up to three pieces of clean clothes in good	or phone us on 045 980493.
repair and swap for something new to you! All sizes and brands welcome. Enjoy swapping clothes as a way to tackle textile waste and save some money !	Book Clubs
The Craft Corner - Vanessa from The Craft Corner is back to help us learn some tips on	U3A (University of the Third Age) Book Club
repairing clothes. Vanessa is a fantastic teacher who can help tackle those repairs with	Monday 11th March 10.30 - 11.30am
your clothes and bring them back to life. Kids toy swap - bring one, take one! Let's get the kids used to the idea of swapping	New members welcome.
before buying !	
Cloth Nappy Library Ireland - volunteers on hand to chat to about modern cloth nappies.	FanSci Book Club! Tuesday12th March , 7pm -8pm
Such a great step to save waste and money. Kildare Libraries aspires to contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development	Maynooth Community Library's has started new fantasy/ science-fiction book club!
Goals; 10 (Reduce Inequalities), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12	Contact maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie for further information or just drop in.
(Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action)	Crime Book Club, Tuesday 19th March
Library Groups and Regular Groups	7- 8pm
Craft & Knitting Club	The Crime Book Club meet on the third Tuesday of each month @ 7pm in Maynooth
<b>Every Monday - 11.30am – 1.00pm</b> Bring along your various crafts to inspire and to be inspired. Different craft	Community Library. The March meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th March @ 7pm. For further
demonstrations will take place during the year.	information please contact <u>maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</u>
Ciorcal Comhrá / Irish Conversation Group Tuesdays / Dé Máirt - 11.00am – 12 i.n.	Midlands LGBT+ Project Book Club Thursday 21st March
Ciorcal Comhrá / Irish conversation group. Fáilte roimh chách! All welcome!	6.30 - 7.30pm
Date: 6 Taddar Crown	Maynooth Library host an LGBTQ+ book club every month in partnership with Midlands
Baby & Toddler Group Thursday Mornings - 10.00 – 11.00am	LGBT+ Project. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month and this month are reading 'Modern Nature' by Derek Jarman. Copies of the book are available for collection
If you have a young baby or toddler and would like to meet other parents or minders in	at the main desk.
the area, come to our new stay and play group every Thursday morning at 10am.	
*Drop In. No booking required*	
MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN NOTES	St. Patricks Day Parade
March 2024	Maynooth Cycling Campaign will be taking part in this year's St.Patrick's Day Parade in partnership with St. John of God. The
Iviarch 2024	Maynooth Cycling Campaign will be taking part in this year's St.Patrick's Day Parade in partnership with St. John of God. The theme for the parade is Pirates so we would invite parents who
Access of Cyclists to Ferries	would like to join us with their children to get "decked out" for the $\frac{2}{2}$
The Irish Cycling Campaign has urged the support of an Uplift petition to the CEO of	parade. Let us know at <u>maynoothcycling@gmail.com</u> if you can join us.
Irish Ferries and other ferry companies about their ban on the carriage of bikes on certain	join us.
Irish routes. Maynooth Cycling Campaign endorses their campaign and would everyone to add their name to the petition. The petition can be found here.	Cycling Without Age

24

to add their name to the petition. The petition can be found here.

#### **Annual Meeting AGM**

Maynooth Cycling Campaign organised an AGM last November but we did not get

Maynooth Cycling Without Age closed down for the winter months but now is ready to open up again. Maynooth Cycling Campaign will be in touch over the next few week to organise training for pilots.

We have also been in touch with St. John of God/Genil Training in relation to training

enough attendees to constitute a quorum. Consequently, we are considering organising a second one in March in order to regularise a number of issues. The most important one is that we are considering moving from an organisation with a mailing list of supporters to a membership based organisation with an annual cost is  $\in$  30.

This is in line with cycling campaigners elsewhere in Ireland and would allow us to become a more effective organisation with a greater impact on the provision of cycling infrastructure in Maynooth and Kildare in general.

In part, this has arisen as Maynooth Cycling Campaign is in the process of making an application for funding under the Community Climate Action programme. One of the requirements is that applicants are locally based and have a local bank account. National organisation are not eligible. Maynooth Cycling Campaign supports the Irish Cycling Campaign and had intended to join it but to do so would disqualify us from applying for the said funding.

some of their staff members.

#### Flooding at Hayfield Estate

Some years ago, Maynooth Cycling Campaign made representations to Kildare County Council about the repeated ponding of water of the cycle track at the entrance to Hayfield Estate. It was discussed at a recent meeting of the campaign and we are grateful to Cllr. Peter Hamilton who offered to look for an update on the situation. He received a response that the developer has agreed to complete the wearing course at the entrance in the short term in order to alleviate the ponding issue.



Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party political (\*) cycling advocacy group. If you wish to join us, email us at maynoothcycling@gmail.com. Further information on the campaign is available on our website.



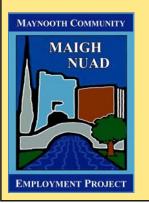
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# MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT SECRETARIAL SERVICES

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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.



# St Patrick's Day Recipes



**Multi-Seed Guinness Brown Bread** 

#### Ingredients:

50g plain flour 350g wholemeal flour 75g porridge (rolled) oats 50g pinhead oatmeal 2tsp bicarbonate of soda 1 large egg 100ml Guinness 400ml buttermilk 2tbsp treacle (optional) 3 tbsp mixed seeds (e.g. pumpkin, sesame, poppy, sunflower) Butter for greasing Pinch of salt



#### Method:

Preheat the oven to 160°C/325°F/Gas Mark 3. Grease a 900g (9 x 5 x 3 inch) loaf tin. Place the flours, oats and salt in a large bowl. Sift in the bicarbonate of soda and stir together. Beat the egg in a seperate bowl, add to the dry mixture and stir again. Add the Guinness, buttermilk and treacle (if using) and mix to a sloppy consistency. Finally, stir in two tablespoons of the seed mixture. Pour into the prepared tin and spoon the top with a wet spoon. Sprinkle the remaining seeds over the surface and bake for 1 hour. Turn the loaf out, then pop it back inside the tin upside down and bake for a further 15-20 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

#### \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*

#### **Bread & Butter Pudding**

#### Ingredients:

8 slices of white bread 50g butter (more if required) 50g sultanas Ground nutmeg or cinnamon 2 eggs 450ml of full-fat milk 50g granulated sugar



#### Method:

Remove the crusts from the bread. Butter each slice on one side only and cut into triangles. Use some of the butter to grease an oven-proof dish. Cover the base of the dish with one layer of bread triangles keeping the buttered side down. Sprinkle some of the sultanas on the bread with a little nutmeg or cinnamon. Repeat with another layer of bread, sultanas and spice, finishing with a layer of bread with the buttered side up. Beat the eggs with the milk and sugar and pour over the bread layers. Let it sit for half an hour so that the bread soaks up the liquid. Bake at 180°C/350°F/Gas 4 for about half an hour or until golden and puffy. Eat on its own straight from the oven.

#### Irish Oaty Apple Crumble

# **Ingredients:**

For the Crumble: 150g plain flour 150g jumbo oat flakes 175g light brown sugar 200g cold butter, cut into pieces Single cream, to serve For the Filling: 600g apples, cut into chunks 1 tbsp plain flour 60g brown sugar



# March Gardening

#### Flowers

28

- Pick off any developing seed heads on daffodils and other spring bulbs, but leave the foliage to die back naturally.
- Finish pruning roses early in the month.
- Cut dogwoods, willows, cotinus and paulownia right down to the base to promote vigorous new growth.
- Tidy up alpines as they start to flower, removing dead foliage, then mulch with grit to keep the foliage off damp soil.
- Plant faded forced bulbs out in the garden for blooms next year.
- Plant lilies and other summer-flowering bulbs in pots and borders. Take a look at our complete guide to planting bulbs.
- Feed ericaceous shrubs, such as rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and pieris, with an ericaceous fertilizer.
- Tidy up borders, removing established and newly -germinating weeds.
- Mulch borders generously with garden compost.
- Plant new roses and other shrubs and climbers.
- Sow wildflower seeds in trays or modules, to produce plants for your own mini-meadow.
- Check tender new shoots for aphids, and remove before infestations get out of hand.
- Continue deadheading spring flowers and any remaining winter bedding so they don't set seed.
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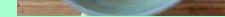
remaining winter bedding so they don't set seed.

## Garden Maintenance

- Give your lawn a spring boost by building or buy a new compost bin, ready to recycle the coming season's garden waste.
- Dig out a new pond, or install a water feature, to attract more wildlife.
- Put slug barrier products around the new shoots of hostas and other susceptible perennials.
- Find out how to deal with slugs and snails organically.
- Replant pots of bulbs from indoors into borders, once the display is over, then water in well and apply liquid feed.
- Check that tree ties aren't too tight and that stakes are still firmly anchored in the ground.
- Prune out any wind-damaged branches on trees and shrubs.
- Fork up emerging shoots of perennial weeds, such as ground elder, removing every bit of root.
- Place bug boxes or bundles of hollow stems in sheltered corners, where insects



#### Juice of 1/2 lemon



#### Method:

Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/Gas Mark 5. Place the flour, oat flakes, brown sugar and butter into a large bowl. Using your fingertips, rub all the ingredients together until it resembles chunky breadcrumbs. In a large baking tin, toss the apples with the flour, sugar and lemon juice until combined. Add the crumble mix on top of the filling and spread over the top until everything is evenly covered. Bake in the oven for 35 - 40 minutes or until crumble topping is golden brown and the fruit is soft and bubbling beneath. Serve in generous portions with a drizzle of fresh cream. You can vary the ingredients for the crumble mix itself by using wholemeal flour and nuts.

Source: bbc.co.uk/food

can lay their eggs.

- Find out how to make a bug box.
- Keep putting out food for garden birds, as the breeding season gets underway.
- Chop down winter-grown green manure and dig into the soil, to get the veg plot ready for sowing.
- Cut back winter-flowering jasmine to keep it within bounds and encourage flowers next year.
- Source: GardenersWorld.com









St. Patrick's Day 2002













Solution

to find the difference



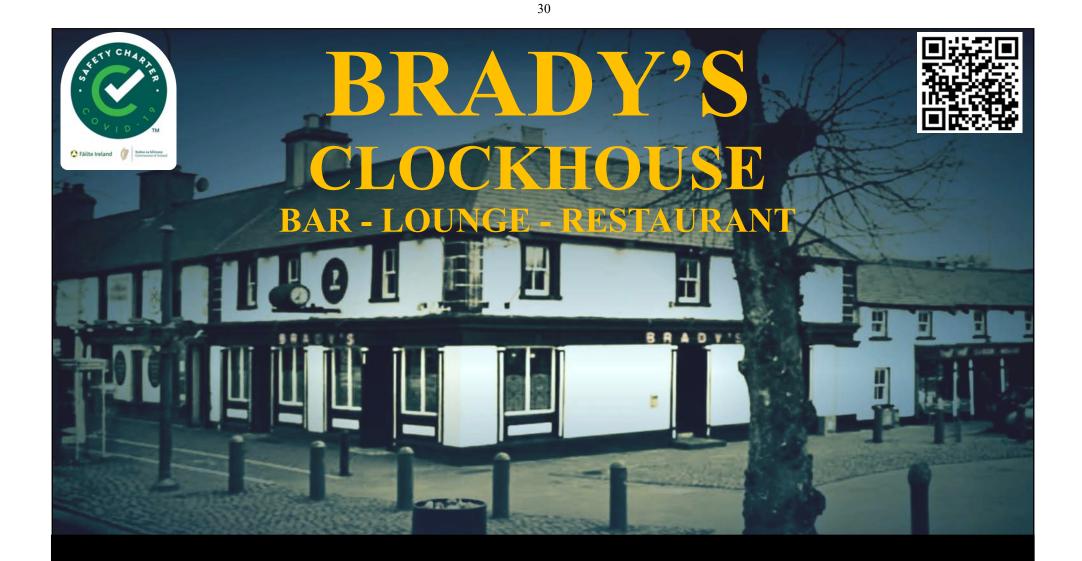


#### THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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.

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Never known to fail. Thanksgiving for favour received.



# Live Bands every Saturday & Sunday during the month of March & on St Patrick's Day

# Live Racing during Cheltenham Week



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## Maynooth Through the Ages



Department of History in collaboration with Maynooth University Library, and St Patrick's College, Maynooth presents Maynooth Through the Ages. Following a very successful series in 2023, we are delighted to bring you details of our second series. This event is free to the public. Booking is essential via the links below. Please note, each talk must be booked separately

4 March 2024 - 19:00-20:30 Beyond the gates: Untold stories of family life in the Historic Irish House - Colette Jordan

Beyond the gates: Untold stories of family life in the Historic Irish House This talk by Colette Jordan encapsulates a family and social history, with some new sources casting fresh light on the FitzGerald family, including periods of joyous celebration and love, tinged with heart-breaking trauma and loss.

11 March 2024 - 19:00-20:30 From Ballot Box to Council Chamber: Kildare's first County Council elections of 1898 - Liam Kenny

The 1899 elections achieved notable 'firsts' under a number of headings – not least being the first time that women were granted the franchise on the island of Ireland. 'From Ballot Box to Council Chamber' focuses on the inaugural Kildare County Council elections of spring 1899 as a case study which was reasonably representative of the elections which took place across Ireland. There is also a contemporary topical note in that local elections are due in June 2024, 125 years after the first local elections in 1899.

#### 25 March 2024 - 19:00-20:30 Tomás Ó Fiaich and Maynooth/Má Nuad, 1940s-1970s Prof Vincent Comerford

Tomás Ó Fiaich was one of the most charismatic figures of the second half of the twentieth century in Ireland. He studied at Maynooth from 1940 to 1944 and returned in 1953 as lecturer, charged with introducing Modern History as a subject in the NUI degree program. From the late 1950s he began to make an impression outside the walls. He was chair of a government commission on the Irish language, editor of several journals, and in 1964 was elected to the senate of the NUI. When Dr Jeremiah Newman was appointed president of Maynooth in 1968, Fr. Ó Fiaich was made registrar. He was a key figure in the expansion and transformation of the College under Newman. As president from 1974 Tomás prevailed upon the trustees to look for independent university status for Maynooth. Advanced discussions with the department of Education took place, but before any conclusion Monsignor Ó Fiaich was appointed archbishop of Armagh in the summer of 1977. At the same time the college was sliding into a traumatic internal dispute that changed its immediate prospects. Independence, would have to wait for twenty years.

8 April 2024 - 19:00-20:30 The Science & Ecclesiastical Museum at St Patrick's College, Maynooth - Dr Neil Trappe

A talk about the Science & Ecclesiastical Museum at St Patrick's College, Maynooth, highlighting the history of the museum and some of interesting items held in the museum, followed by a tour.

#### 15 April 2024 - Campus tour 19:00-19:45

Chapel tour - 20:00-21:00 St Patrick's College Campus tour and College Chapel Tour Pat Watson

The tour takes you through the history of the campus from its Georgian beginnings in Stoyte House in 1795 through to Pugin's imposing Gothic building of St Patrick's. The College Chapel forms part of the tour with a chance to see the beautiful interior with arguably the largest choir stalls on the world. No tour would be complete without a word about some of the colourful characters and traditions associated with the College. *Please note: due to numbers there are two separate booking links, and if you wish to attend both you will need to book for each event.* 

#### 1916 Proclamation - one of a few in public hands.

Booking link: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/news-events/maynooth-through-ages

#### **Our speakers**

Prof Marian (Mary Ann) Lyons has published extensively on Franco-Irish relations and on Irish migration to continental Europe in the early modern period, and is particularly interested in jacobite migrants in Paris, c.1690-c.1730.She has also published on various aspects of Irish history including the Kildare dynasty, religion in late medieval and early modern Ireland, women, and the emergence of professional medicine from the early 1600s onwards. She has co-edited several essay collections on Irish migration to Europe in the early modern period, jointly curated the 'Strangers to Citizens: the Irish in Europe, 1600-1800' exhibition at the National Library of Ireland (2007-09) and coauthored Strangers to citizens: the Irish in Europe, 1600-1800 (2008). She is currently working on a biography of Thomas Arthur, M.D., of Limerick. Arising from her interest in local history, she is General Editor of the Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History series (Four Courts Press), and joint editor, together with Daithí Ó Corráin of The Irish Revolution 1912-23 series (Four Courts Press).

Dr Seamus Cullen is a historian based in North Kildare. His broad research interests include all aspects of local history in Kildare with a particular interest in military history between 1795 and 1923. He has published extensively on 1798 and 1803 in Kildare. In recent years, he has focused on the history of the Irish Revolution and is the author of Kildare: The Irish Revolution, 1912-23 (2020) which is the Kildare volume of the Irish Revolution series.

Colette Jordan was formerly a Research Officer in the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates. During that time she was given unrivalled access to the family papers of the FitzGerald family, Dukes of Leinster in their home in Oxfordshire. There she was entrusted with many of their, previously unseen, family diaries, letters, recipe books, rent books, etc. and permitted to bring them to Maynooth University to have them copied and recorded. Similarly she travelled to Boston to meet with members of the Laughlin family who had owned Castlehyde, now the home of Michael and Niamh Flatley. Again the family very kindly gave her letters, diaries, visitor books, etc which were invaluable in compiling the social history of Castlehyde. Since then she has been commissioned by the late Prince Khalid AbDullah, legendary owner of Frankel, to research and produce a history of his stud farm near Kilcullen - the New Abbey Estate. Similarly, she produced a history of his stud farm in Tetbury in Gloucestershire - the Estcourt Estate. She is currently working with Jay and Christy Cashman, owners of Kilkea Castle near Athy. Colette speaks regularly to local history societies on life in the Big House - upstairs and downstairs.

Liam Kenny is Director of the Association of Irish Local Government and a former staff member of both Kildare County Council and the "Leinster Leader" newspaper. He has a long association as a student with Maynooth University graduating with an MA from the History Department in 2011. His interest in the 1899 local elections stems their role in ushering a change in Irish politics from the landed elite to the middle-class farmers and merchants or from unionism to home rule.

Prof Vincent 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 the 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 Neil Trappe is a senior lecturer in the Experimental Physics Department at Maynooth University. His research interests are in the field of optical design and analysis especially for astronomical instrumentation. He became curator of the Science & Ecclesiastical Museum in 2023.

Pat Watson taught History and Geography for many years at St Wolstan's Seconday School, Celbridge. Since retirement she has developed her interest in local history and is now involved in providing guided tours of St Patrick's College, Chapel and campus. She is also author of a booklet on the College Chapel.

As a member of Tidy Towns, Pat is currently working on story boards of the town's history as part of a Heritage Trail around Maynooth. To date the Heritage group has given several tours of the town to pupils of local National Schools as well as giving guided tours to the public during Heritage week over the last two years.

15 April 2024 - 19:00-20:30 Tour of Maynooth College Chapel by Dr John-Paul Sheridan

Dr. John-Paul Sheridan, a lecturer at Maynooth College will take you on a tour of the iconic nineteenth College Chapel from the history of its foundation to the architecture and the decoration.

Due to popular demand we have added a second tour of the College Chapel

22 April 2024 - 19:00-20:00 Tour of the John Paul II Library - Elaine Bean Opened in 1984, the John Paul II Library is the heart of the Maynooth Campus. Since its extension in 2013 the library foyer has been a popular welcoming space for the local community. Some of the highlights will include seeing our collection of over 400,000 print items on over 10km of shelving and learn about our different study spaces, the foundation stone, blessed by Pope John Paul II on his visit to Maynooth in 1979, our Energy Pods, designed to revive you with a power nap, the power of 3D printing, and the Dr John-Paul Sheridan is a priest of the Diocese of Ferns and from 2014 has been a lecturer at St. Patrick's Pontifical University. He was co-editor (with Salvador Ryan) of We Remember Maynooth, published in 2020. He has a huge interest in the history of the South Campus, in particular the College Chapel.

Elaine Bean is senior library assistant, facilities and events at Maynooth University Library. Elaine facilites and coordinates both virtual and in person events which support both the university and local communities and has designed and delivered numerous information literacy programmes both within the university and to transition year students in local schools. Elaine was awarded the Maynooth University President's Individual Award for Service Excellence and team award for Services Innovation and Service Excellence.

		Maynooth Community Contacts I				
Group Name	Contact Number	E-Mail Address	Facebook Page/ Website			
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an Post Sorting Office Maynooth	01-6293390					
Bernard Durkan T.D	01-6183732	bernard.durkan@oireachtas.ie	www.facebook.com/bernarddurkan			
Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's)		sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie	https://www.facebook.com/maynoothband/			
Catherine Murphy T.D.	01-6183099	catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie	https://www.facebook.com/catherinemurphytd			
emetery Committee (Laraghbryan)	01-6293018					
Church of Ireland	01-6292163	secretary@meath.anglican.org				
Citizen Information Centre	1890777121	maynooth@citinfo.ie				
Cllr Brendan Wyse	087 2328867	brendan.wyse@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/brendanwysefg			
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Community Welfare Services	0818607080	Kildarecws@welfare.ie				
Employment Office	01-6106000	bo.maynooth@welfare.ie				
ntreo Employment Services Office	01-6016360	EstMaynooth@welfare.ie				
James Lawless T.D.	01-6183587		https://www.fachacl.com/JonesLawlossEE/			
		james.lawless@oireachtas.ie	https://www.facebook.com/JamesLawlessFF/			
Kildare Civil Defence	045 980529	pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie				
Kildare County Council	045 - 980200	customerservice@kildarecoco.ie				
Idare County Council (Local Office)	01 - 6286236					
Kildare MABS	0818 07 2600	kildare@mabs.ie				
Maynooth Autism Friendly Town	0863329050	autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/maynoothaft/			
Maynooth Community Care Unit	01-6106351					
Maynooth Community Church	01-5054990	office@maynoothcc.org	https://www.facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/			
Maynooth Community Library	01-6285530	maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie.	facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService			
Maynooth Cycling Campaign	086-8252934	Maynoothcycling@gmail.com	https://maynoothcyclingcampaign.com/			
Maynooth Fishing Club	01-6293202	info@maynoothfisheries.com				
Maynooth GAA Club		secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie	https://www.facebook.com/maynoothgaa/			
Maynooth Health Centre	01-6106130					
Maynooth Kilcock Lions club		contact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org	https://www.facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/			
Maynooth Library	01-6285530	Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie	www.facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService			
Maynooth Newsletter	01-6285922	office@maynoothcep.com	https://www.facebook.com/MCEPNewsletter			
Maynooth Senior Citizens		maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com				
Maynooth Students Union	01-7083669	frontdesk@msu.ie	https://www.facebook.com/MaynoothSU			
Maynooth Tidy Towns	083 304 6130	maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie	https://www.facebook.com/MaynoothTidyTowns			
Maynooth Town Football Club	086-1060654	info@maynoothtownfc.ie	https://www.facebook.com/MTFC1969/			
North Kildare Club	01-6103909	info@northkildareclub.ie				
North Kildare Tennis Club	01 0100707	info@northkildaretennis.ie				
Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth	01-6293018	Ŭ				
· ·		maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com				
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Zero Waste Maynooth	087-9949183	zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com	https://www.facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth			

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"Community Contact" in the subject line.