



# Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - FEBRUARY 2026 - ISSUE NO. 553



## IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS
- ◆ MAYNOOTH LIBRARY NOTES
- ◆ NEWS FROM SENIOR CITIZENS
- ◆ LABOUR PARTY NOTES
- ◆ ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND NOTES
- ◆ FIANNA FÁIL NOTES
- ◆ MAYNOOTH 850
- ◆ AN NUADHA PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE
- ◆ LIBRARY NOTES
- ◆ KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
- ◆ MEMORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES
- ◆ WRITERS' CORNER
- ◆ MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY NOTES

## MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2026

### FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG

### MAIGH NUAD 2026

Parade Entry form is available on page 4

Use this link <https://tinyurl.com/3m4a83fz> to register online (preferable) or printed forms are available for collection from the Newsletter Office



## Homebird Exhibition - Alicia Donnan

Alicia Donnan is a visual artist based across Dublin and Kildare, whose work focuses on creating truthful and resonant visual narratives reflecting queer culture and Irish youth affected by the housing crisis. Her photographic practice likes to document the complexities of identity and community through an empathic and collaborative lens.



Her process is rooted in open communication, as she likes each image to reflect both her vision and the individuality of her subjects. Prioritising trust and representation, she crafts visual narratives that are intimate and strongly reflective of contemporary life in Ireland. Alicia graduated with a first class honours BA in Photography in 2024 from TU Dublin.

Since May of 2025, she has worked part time as a gallery assistant at TØN Gallery Temple Bar. Last year she exhibited in a number of group shows such as Reds Gallery and Rua Red in Tallaght. In her spare time she has self published and printed a number of 'zines' (miniature magazines) which have sold in Photo Museum Ireland and the Library Project.

She has also hosted zine making workshops at TØN gallery and for Tallaght photographic society. Her project Homebird began in 2023, as part of her graduate project for college. She wanted to photograph this project to capture the beauty of intimate, everyday moments that evoked feelings of being at home and how these feelings were resonant in particular places.

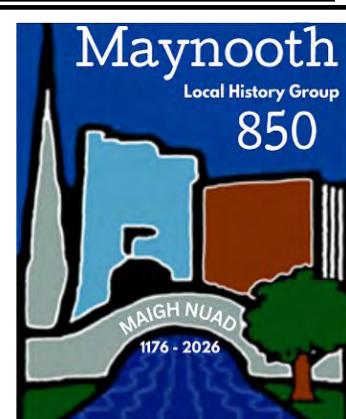
She made this project primarily to draw attention to the beauty and desirability of living in Ireland but questioned whether she would be able to afford to home here in the future, due to Ireland's housing crisis and current cost of living. After experiencing living in three different locations in Ireland, the city, a commuter town and a farm, Alicia explores the difference between each location through personal experience and memories.



Please join Alicia for the opening of the exhibition in the Maynooth library on the 5th of February from 6pm to 8pm.



The show will open daily during library opening times until the 28th of February.



## Maynooth 850

Celebrations begin on February 9th with the 2026 Maynooth Through The Ages lecture series. These will be followed throughout the year with a range of other events to mark this important anniversary in the history and development of our town.

Maynooth Newsletter will keep you updated on the events. We offer our support and best wishes to the Maynooth 850 Committee.

For more details see page 7



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 Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

## Registered as a Charity in Ireland RCN # 20100063 - CHY # 21086

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 online publication available free to the people of Maynooth. It plays an important role in gathering together, recording and distributing community based news. We encourage all groups and individuals in the community to submit material to let us know about their activities and any upcoming events.

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

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

### Maynooth Newsletter Archives

The management and staff of the Maynooth Community Employment Project started a project in March 2011 to acquire and digitise all available issues of the Maynooth Newsletter dating back to 1975.

These back issues along with current issues are available by following the archive link on our webpage - [www.maynoothcep.com](http://www.maynoothcep.com).

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

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

### Disclaimer

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**

## Editorial

A new year comes for many of us with new plans and ideas how we want to spend 2026. Yes, like many of you it would be a good idea for me to look after my health by taking more exercise. The words health and wellbeing are often used together and I would like to plant a few ideas about well-being. As a gardener myself, it is a place to reflect as you plant seeds and knowing that they will do their best to grow and produce food or flowers. Some plants often do better when planted together, either to create a better growing environment or to protect each other in their own plant community.

But even more important for our wellbeing are our relationships. Our busy lives can mean that we do not stay in contact with family and friends. Many people have commented to me that they received and sent fewer Christmas cards than in previous years. I still get a lift when I open my letterbox and find a letter or card, all be it more often notices and bills. Living in the more technological age, we contact people through social media and the messages are soon gone into cyberspace. Even bills are now mainly delivered by e-mail or into an online account.

The reduction in written communications has an impact for the future of the postal service. Yes, the cost of postage continues to rise in Ireland. But think of the good feeling that you get when you receive a personal letter. So, my suggestion is that people write a letter to a family member or a friend and you will make a difference to their wellbeing. It being February you can always take the opportunity to send a valentine card to a special friend.

Another factor that can impact on our wellbeing is the sense of belonging in a community. Of course there is no strict definition of what constitutes a community. In fact, we all belong to several communities at the same time. These are where we live, schools, sports activities, work and our religious activities. On 18 of February, we mark the beginning of Lent for Christian communities with Ash Wednesday and in the Islamic tradition, the period of Ramadan also begins on the same date. In Ireland there is a strong tradition of welcoming people into our communities and we are curious to get to know people of different life experiences. This tradition is strong in an ever increasing population of Maynooth.

Our wellbeing is also enhanced by volunteering and getting involved in things that help the common good of all. In Maynooth, there are a range of organisations run by volunteers that make Maynooth a better place for us all. In some organisations such as sports clubs, people get involved because they have children or indeed, they want to be more active and support sporting activities.

There are others such as Maynooth Tidy Towns members who contribute to the care of our environment and our sense of place. There are hobbies and interests such as drama, art, music and local history and scouts to mention just a few. There are many others such as the Maynooth Senior Citizens volunteers who make a real difference to the lives and activities available to our older residents.

I do not normally mention individuals but Maynooth recently lost a lady who passed away in her 103rd year. She was Mrs Margaret Walshe (nee O'Neill) from the centre of the town. When I look back through some of our own archives of Maynooth, Mrs Walshe and her family are an integral part of the community of our town. Our sincere sympathy to her family and friends on your loss. Many of us will not get the length of life that Mrs Walshe enjoyed, but looking after our wellbeing in 2026 will ensure that we live our life to the full.

Paul Croghan  
Editor

**Submission Date for March Edition is 5pm  
on 23rd February 2026**



MAYNOOTH ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE  
•2026•

# MEDIEVAL MAYNOOTH

Celebrating 850 Years of Maynooth



Participant Applications open now



Follow us on Facebook:  
Maynooth St Patrick's Day Parade

2026

# Maynooth

## St. Patrick's Day Parade 2026

### Application Form - Medieval Maynooth

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

**Name of Group:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you want to perform at the viewing stand? 2-3 min max. Tick for YES**

**All applications must include two paragraphs about their group/business.**

Entrance Fee does not include insurance cover. All participants should have suitable insurance.

**Commercial Entry - €60 | Community Group - €30**

**Cheques should be made payable to: Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade**

**Account Transfer - Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee**

**IBAN: IE60AIBK93320136873023**

**BIC: AIBKIE2D**

**Best School Float**

**Best Commercial Float**

**Best Band**

**Best Club Float**

**Best Portrayal of Environmental Awareness**

**Best Portrayal of Theme**

**Perpetual Muireann Ni Bhrolcháin Award for Best Portrayal of Irish Culture**

**Applications to:**

Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade,  
C/O Unit 10 Carton Retail Park,  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare

**Organised by:**

Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee  
maynoothparade@gmail.com  
Naoise Ó Cearúil (Chair) - (086) 728 0050

This year Maynooth turns 850 years old!

To celebrate - the theme for our St. Patrick's day parade this year will be:  
**'Medieval Maynooth'**

Maynooth was founded in the 13th century as a Norman settlement by the Fitzgerald family who lived in Maynooth Castle.

What better way to celebrate our wonderful town's history than by creating your very own Norman helmet!

Here is a handy template >

**Step 1:** Design your helmet. Colour, paint, stick or glue!

**Step 2:** Once your design has dried, glue this sheet to a cereal box or other cardboard you have handy.

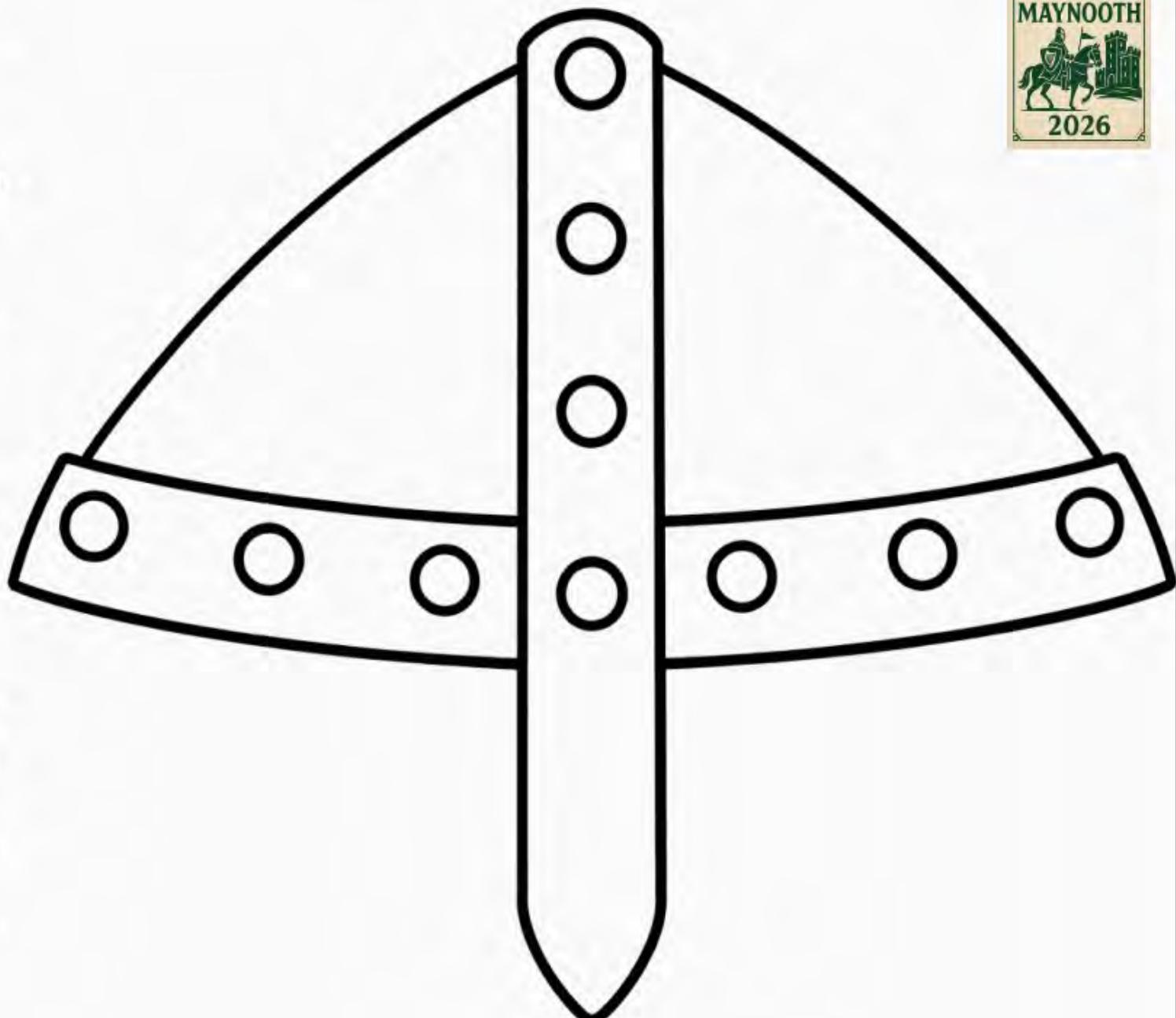
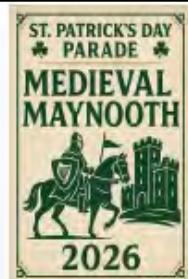
**Step 3:** Once the glue has dried, carefully cut out your helmet.

**Step 4:** From your remaining cardboard, cut a long strip, attaching it together at the ends with some tape to create a band for your head.

**Step 5:** Carefully attach your complete helmet to the band.

We can't wait to see your costumes and creations on the day!

Crom Abú!



# taxy

> we're going places <

Call Us 01 6289999





## NTA Allocation

The NTA has announced their 2026 allocation from the Department of Transport to local authorities. A total of €360 million has been allocated for active travel schemes. Kildare County Council has been allocated €9.5 million which is less than last year and makes no allowance for inflation. Among the projects receiving funding is Mill Street (€1.7 million), Royal Canal Greenway (€0.6 million), Celbridge Road (€1.0 million) and Maynooth Educate Together Safe Routes to School (€20,000). Maynooth Cycling Campaign especially welcomes the funding for Celbridge Road which is long overdue.

## Road Fatalities - Kildare

The RSA Provisional Review of Fatalities (2025) lists seven fatalities in Kildare, although the figures are not up to date. In Kildare County Council, "Safety" used to be included in the title of a Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) formerly titled Transport, Safety and Emergency Services. "Road Safety" featured in a number of agendas for SPC meetings under the item "Road Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport," but there has never been any review of previous year's road fatalities in Kildare - with one exception. That was in 2019 when Maynooth Cycling Campaign brought it to the attention of the Chair of the Kildare Cycle Forum. He put it on the agenda of the Forum and included it in the agenda of the SPC so that Kildare fatalities were at least noted.

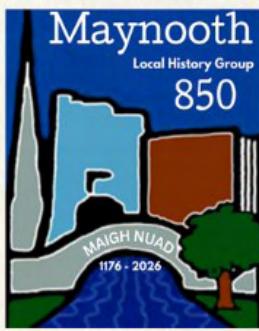
## Road Fatalities - National

The end-of-year figures for road fatalities were published and make grim reading. One hundred and ninety people were killed on Irish roads in 2025. This was an increase of 15, or 8.5%, over 2024, which was also an increase on the previous year. The number of cyclists killed increased from 12 to 14 (16.6%). In 2025, cyclist fatalities doubled compared to 2022. While there has been a big reduction in fatalities compared to the 1990s, in recent years this trend has been reversed despite increased provision of higher-quality infrastructure. There is no information on serious injuries in 2025. As far as we are aware, the Road Safety Authority is still resolving its problem with public access.

## Funding for Local Climate Action

In December, Maynooth Cycling Campaign lodged an application for funding with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications for two climate-related projects. The first was to purchase a wheelchair trailer to offer Cycling Without Age (CWA) cycles to people who are wheelchair dependent. The second project was to offer the community the loan of FollowMe/Gator tow bars to link the bike of a parent and a young child. The outcome of the application is not expected until March. If you have a small child who is unable to cycle on their own and who restricts the opportunity for the rest of the family to cycle, the Gator tow bar may be of benefit. Find out how it works here. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPvfhnJ\\_Hw0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPvfhnJ_Hw0)

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is an independent local lobby group for better cycling facilities in Maynooth and Kildare generally. If you would like to support our efforts, we welcome new members. Why not join us - you can find details <https://maynoothcyclingcampaign.com/join-us-2/>



# Maynooth 850 Spring Lecture Series

**Maynooth 850 is delighted to collaborate with Maynooth University, History Department in the 2026 Maynooth Through The Ages lecture series. Each of the six events will focus on an aspect of Maynooth's history and life as the town marks this significant anniversary in 2026.**

## Monday 9 February

**Paul Croghan, Maynooth: From Fitzgerald Castle to commuter town**

The opening lecture sets the scene for the series. The establishment of the Geraldine Castle where two rivers meet, created the focal point from which a settlement developed. It can be argued that Maynooth at times was considered as the capital of Ireland. The creation of a village that reflected their importance has given us probably the best surviving example of a planned landlord town in Ireland. The evolution of Maynooth as a commuter town reflects the change from a key agricultural centre to a service centre to meet the needs of our residents. Important too has been our continued and expanded Significance as a centre of education. Key features of this settlement, we call Maynooth.

Paul Croghan is the Chairperson of the Maynooth Local History Group who are leading the Maynooth 850 celebrations. He holds a B.A. in Economics and Politics from UCD and a Diploma in Genealogy from UCC.

This lecture will be followed by the official launch of the 'Maynooth 850' celebrations by Professor Terence Dooley, Department of History, Maynooth University.

## Monday 16 February

**Liam Kenny, Troops don't behave like clerics': Carton House in wartime 1941- 43**

Carton House is among Ireland's grandest houses and a long-time residence of the ducal Fitzgeralds. Less well known is its role at the forefront of Ireland's anti-invasion precautions during the fraught years of "the Emergency" in the 1940s. This talk will present the cast of characters who flitted through the house as it hosted the headquarters of a military operation intended to fend off unwelcome attention by wartime belligerents.

Liam Kenny is a current postgraduate student of Irish History in Maynooth University. He has written extensively on Co Kildare's local history and broadcasts on KFM local radio.

## Monday 23 February

**Sarah Larkin, The Salamanca Archive and Maynooth College**

This talk will look at the Salamanca Archive, which contains the archives of the Irish Colleges in Salamanca, Santiago de Compostella, Seville, Madrid, Alcalá de Henares, and Lisbon which are kept in the St Patrick's College, Maynooth archives. The presentation will highlight records from the collection, as well as explore the links between the Irish Colleges and Maynooth College.

Sarah Larkin is the archivist for St Patrick's College, Maynooth. She holds a BA (Hons) in Fine Art & History of Art, and an MA in Archives and Records Management. She has worked as a professional archivist in religious archives for over ten years and has been working in St Patrick's College since 2017.

## Monday 2 March

**Denis Bergin, Maynooth and 'its' Colleges: Town, Gown and Renown?**

Denis Bergin has been involved with the life and heritage of Maynooth's historic college campus for more than sixty years, as student, alumnus and convenor since 2013 of a movement to document and highlight significant people and places in the unfolding of a 200-year-plus narrative. In this presentation he will apply his lifelong trade as writer and editor to investigating some of the issues and discoveries that have arisen in his pursuit of the amazing story of 'the miracle on the Lyreen' - how an isolated and hidebound institution became an open, diverse and adventurous centre of learning, located in a thriving country town with the potential to be a

future Oxford or New Haven. Along the way he will include accounts of some unusual happenings and coincidences, as well as a few offbeat observations, with subjects that include a love story that begins in Stoyte, Tomás Ó Fiaich's Very Short History of Ireland, when Maynooth became Ballymena, the curse of the Ardagh scientists, Mary O'Rourke and the mill connection, the Italian professor who tried to save Ireland, the Carton-related Augustinian on the way to sainthood, six world-class alumni you've never heard of, and a local citizen's wish list for future prosperity.

## Monday 9 March

**Eamon Healy, Tracing your Maynooth ancestors: A practical guide to free online resources**

Discover how to trace your Maynooth ancestors using free online resources. This beginner-friendly session covers essential Irish genealogy records — census returns, civil registration, church records, and Griffith's Valuation — with a focus on the Maynooth area. Learn a proven research sequence, explore key websites, and see a worked example tracing a local family through the records. You'll leave with practical skills to begin uncovering your family's story.

Eamon Healy has worked as a professional genealogist at Ancestry.com for over a decade, helping thousands trace their Irish roots. He recently completed his PhD in History at Maynooth University, where his research examined administrative responses during Ireland's Great Famine. Eamon combines hands-on genealogical expertise with academic research to make Irish family history accessible.

## Monday 23 March

**John Paul Sheridan, Tour of the Historic Buildings of the South Campus**

Since its foundation in 1795 and the acquisition of Stoyte House, Maynooth College has made a considerable contribution to architecture. The overall design of the campus has left us with a beautiful place to work, live and study.

Rev. Dr John-Paul Sheridan has been a member of the faculty of St. Patrick's Pontifical University since 2013 and works in the area of Theology and Education. His interest in the history of the college, in particular the College Chapel goes back to his time as a seminarian at Maynooth in the 1980s.

## Monday 30 March

**Terence Dooley, The Irish Land Commission in Maynooth and Kildare**

For most of its existence from 1881 to 1992, the Land Commission was the most important state body operating out of rural Ireland where its long tentacles spread into every nook and cranny, as, indeed, its ghost continues to do. It began life as a regulator of fair rents but soon evolved into the great facilitator of land transfer, and by extension the main instigator and architect of rural reform. This lecture will look at the impact of the Land Commission on Co. Kildare, and, where appropriate, on the Maynooth area.

It will provide historical background to the Commission's establishment, before examining the role it played in land transfer up to independence, and in land redistribution and migration schemes after 1922. The lecture will conclude with a discussion on the possible reasons why its archives have not yet been opened to the research public (except on an extremely limited basis.) While no one has officially admitted that they might reveal a great deal of political corruption and skulduggery, it is a possibility that is hard to dismiss.

Terence Dooley is Full Professor of History at Maynooth University and Director of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates.



**Labour**

# ONLINE OFFICE



**Cllr Angela Feeney**



## HERE TO HELP WITH

- Medical Cards
- Health issues
- Social Welfare
- Education
- Services for Senior Citizens
- Community Issues
- Environmental Concerns

- Housing Support & Grants (Windows/Doors, Insulation, Roofing, Electrical).
- Housing Adaptations and Planning (Level Access Showers, Extensions, Rebuilding Ireland Housing Loan)
- Social Housing
- Estate Issues



**Phone**



**Whatsapp**



**Email**

**If I can help**

**Email:** [afeeney@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:afeeney@kildarecoco.ie)

**Call:** 087 - 238 - 1962



**Zoom**



**Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News**

Email: [afeeney@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:afeeney@kildarecoco.ie)

**Labour**

## JANUARY UPDATE

### M4 Priority Bus Lane Delayed Opening

The M4 bus lane project has been completed for some months now but still not in use. The full opening of the Bus Priority Lane requires legislation to be passed, allowing for the hard shoulder to be used for this purpose.

The project requires new legislation for buses to use the hard shoulder, a process involving the Dept of Transport. I have called on the Minister for Transport to progress the legislation so that this much needed facility can be used as intended.

The priority bus lane, the first of its kind on a motorway, is on the M4 between Maynooth and Leixlip and uses the hard shoulder as a full-time bus lane for buses to bypass traffic congestion.

The M4 bus priority lane aims to increase bus efficiency, reduce car dependency and improve public transport reliability during peak times. It is really badly needed.



### Active Travel Scheme Funding

€16 million funding has been allocated for active travel schemes in Kildare, to make it safer to walk, cycle and connect between our towns and villages. We all want to leave the car at home but it needs to feel safe for us to walk or cycle.

Schemes funded include:

Mill Street Active Travel Scheme – €1,700,000  
 Celbridge Road Active Travel Scheme – €1,000,000  
 Dublin Road Active Travel Scheme – €1,000,000  
 Kilcullen Road Active Travel Scheme – €800,000  
 Green Lane Active Travel Scheme – €870,000  
 Naas to Kill Active Travel Scheme – €525,000  
 Dublin Road Naas Connector Active Travel Scheme – €400,000  
 Royal Canal Greenway (Maynooth to Leixlip) – €600,000  
 Safe Routes to School initiatives in Clane, Newbridge, Leixlip, Prosperous and Rathangan – €710,000 combined  
 Bus Stop Enhancement Programme - €500,000  
 Full details on the NTA and TII websites. Thanks to Kildare County Council for delivering these schemes.

### Appointment to Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership

I am honoured to be appointed by the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration to Kildare Local Community Safety Partnership (KLCSP)

The KLCSP brings together local councillors, An Gardaí, public services, community and voluntary organisations, businesses, education, and local residents to coordinate practical responses to community safety issues in a collaborative, locally driven model of community safety.

Core functions:

- Act as a forum to discuss and coordinate local community safety.
- Develop and adopt a three-year Local Community Safety Plan through public consultation.
- Implement, monitor and review the plan, and report annually.
- Host public meetings and support neighbourhood safety fora.
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders and support community initiatives.

Our first meeting takes place at the end of February and I will make sure to keep everyone updated.

### Spirit of Brigid Festival 2026.

As a member of the Spirit of Kildare working group, I am thrilled to see such fantastic events happening over the bank holiday weekend with something for everyone. In Maynooth, on January 31st, there is a free outdoor 'Volkidana' which brings a breathtaking fireside storytelling spectacle to Maynooth—where myth blazes to life through puppetry, aerial artistry and elemental performance in the tale of the Raiders of Cooley.



Expect a legendary tale reborn in sparks, shadow and soaring imagination, inviting audiences of all ages into a world where folklore roars with fire." There will be three performances at 6pm, 7pm and 8pm with the 6pm show being Autism friendly. Lots happening across Kildare.

Full details of events here: <https://www.spiritofbrigid.ie/>



[afeeney@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:afeeney@kildarecoco.ie)



087 - 238 1962

# Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

Tel: 087-0023636 Email: [dphelan@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:dphelan@kildarecoco.ie)



## JANUARY UPDATE

### Happy New Year



Looking back on 2025, I honestly don't know where the year went. It was my first full year in this role and it turned out to be one of the busiest and most rewarding years of my life. There were long days, a lot of learning, and many conversations with residents, community groups and local organisations across Maynooth and beyond. From housing and roads to schools, sport and inclusion, every issue mattered because it affected real people and real families. I'm so grateful for the support, kindness and encouragement I received throughout the year, and I'm very excited to continue working with and for our community in 2026.

### New Accessible Footbridge at Maynooth Train Station is Officially Opened



Just before Christmas, the new fully accessible footbridge at Maynooth Train Station was officially opened, and it was such an honour to attend this important occasion. Accessibility and inclusion are at the heart of everything I do, so seeing this project completed means so much it will make a real difference to so many people in our community. I was especially proud to see my good friend and Cathaoirleach Carmel Kelly officially opened the bridge, marking a wonderful milestone for Maynooth and for access for all.



Chief Executive's Report  
on Submissions/Observations Received to  
Proposed Variation No. 3  
of the Kildare County Development Plan  
2023 – 2029 (as varied)



### Keeping you informed and how this role works!

The new year started off with a bang with the review of the County Development Plan one of the most important documents guiding how our county grows and develops. Each of the 41 councillors is given an opportunity to review the entire plan for the whole County, and while Maynooth had only five submissions due to our recent Local Area Plan, there were many other towns and lands across our Municipal District that also needed careful consideration. I have spent a significant amount of time going through this document in detail to ensure that our area is properly represented and that future development is planned in a balanced and responsible way.





Maynooth CEP

# MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER



## OUR SERVICES

- Photocopying
- All Typing (letters, CVs, Assignments etc)
- Printing Documents, Print from Email
- Scanning Documents
- A3/A4 Poster/Flyer Design



- Lamination Service
- Other Office Services are Available on Request
- Booklets/Cards
- Design Service



**Open Monday - Friday**  
**Times: 9am - 1pm & 2pm - 4.30pm**



**Unit 10, Tescos S.C. Carton Retail Park,  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare.  
(Beside Coyne's Butchers)**



**office@maynoothcep.com**



**01 - 6285922**

## LIAM DUFF CRASH REPAIRS



**Call (01) 628 7434**

e-mail: [info@liamduffautos.ie](mailto:info@liamduffautos.ie)  
web: [liamduffautos.ie](http://liamduffautos.ie)

### VEHICLE RECOVERY

24 Hour  
Vehicle Recovery  
**087 257 9400**  
**087 929 1719**

### CRASH REPAIR

Crash Repairs  
CSS Approved  
Tyre Fitting Service  
Laser Wheel Alignment  
Puncture Repairs

### TYRE SERVICES



**MARY COWHEY & COMPANY SOLICITORS**  
  
Our firm provides high quality legal assistance carefully tailored to each individual client. We work only in the best interests of our clients.

### OUR SERVICES

- MOTOR & WORK RELATED ACCIDENTS
- HOUSE PURCHASE / SALE
- WILLS / PROBATE
- &
- ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES
- FAMILY LAW
- DIVORCE
- SEPARATION

Phone.  
01 - 628 - 5711

Email.  
[info@marycowhey.com](mailto:info@marycowhey.com)

### ABOUT US

Mary Cowhey & Company serves private clients, community organizations and small businesses. All of our Solicitors are members of the Irish Law Society, have current Practising Certificates and carry Professional Indemnity Insurance.

### LOCATION

Mary Cowhey & Co.  
Suite 2/3 Manor Mills,  
Maynooth  
Co. Kildare  
Ireland

Website  
[www.marycowhey.com](http://www.marycowhey.com)





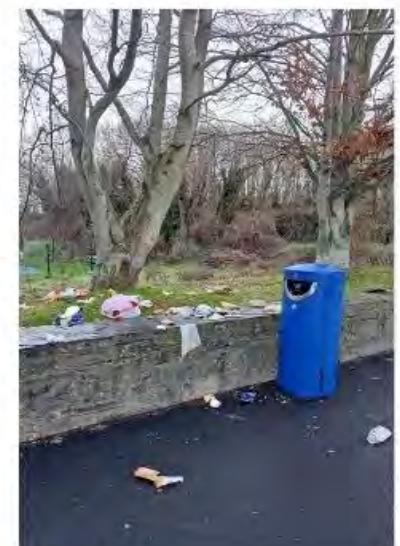
Maynooth Tidy Towns are proud to host volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. No matter your age or situation there is a place in Tidy Towns to fit within your schedule. Our volunteers are both the creativity and the muscle behind our work. Shaping our shared goals and driving the actions to make them a reality.



Tidy Towns is not just a competition. Tidy Towns is a support program where participants are encouraged to improve standards of our town from year to year. Even a single hour is appreciated. Volunteering doesn't have to be a long term commitment. All levels of involvement go a long way, and you may even find it gives back more than it asks of you.

We erected the Christmas tree and Crib in the square. Mark Nolan organised the switching on of the lights and the visit of Santa Claus for the children before the rain spoiled the celebrations.

December was a busy month for the volunteers but we found time to celebrate the Christmas season with a little meet up in the square on the 20th December. We treated the volunteers to some Mulled wine, mince pies and thanks to Mark Nolan for the sandwiches and other treats. For January we concentrated on litter picking all over the town especially the Harbour area - so much dumping.



Thanks again to everyone who helped us during 2025 especially The Glenroyal Hotel, Kildare County Council, all the local people who sponsored our tea/coffee and Brontie.ie and Kevin Honor for his new initiative in order for people to donate in Shoda for our refreshments.

Four of us have been invited to Aras Kildara, Naas on Sunday 1st February for a St Bridget's day celebration. More about that in the March edition.

If you want to volunteer please contact us on Facebook/Instagram or email us at [MaynoothTidyTowns@outlook.ie](mailto:MaynoothTidyTowns@outlook.ie)





*An Nuadha Players  
Community Theatre*

Community spirit and seasonal magic were in plentiful supply this Christmas as An Nuadha Players Community Theatre brought the house down with its 2025 pantomime, *The Sword in the Stone*, enjoying a highly successful, near sell-out run in Maynooth.

lively blend of slapstick humour, Irish wit, colourful characters and plenty of audience participation. From the opening scene to the final bows, laughter and applause filled the Aula Maxima as Arthur's journey toward his legendary destiny unfolded on stage.

Performances across the cast were met with warm audience response, supported by the wonderfully eccentric wizard Merlin and his apprentice Merlot, whose antics kept both children and adults thoroughly entertained. Comic duo Hmm and Haww provided no shortage of mischief, while villain Judge Blackthorn drew the traditional boos and hisses that every good pantomime demands. The climactic moment — the attempt to pull the sword from the stone — was met with enthusiastic encouragement from the audience, adding to the sense of shared fun.

The production was further enhanced by a series of lively and well-choreographed dance numbers, which brought colour, energy and polish to the stage and earned strong applause throughout the run. The kids' scene proved to be one of the standout moments of the show, winning over audiences with its confidence, charm and infectious enthusiasm, and marking its young performers as real stars of the production- ones to watch for sure!

Supporting all of this was a strong chorus and ensemble, whose singing, movement and comic timing added depth and atmosphere to every scene, helping to drive the story forward and maintain the show's pace from start to finish.

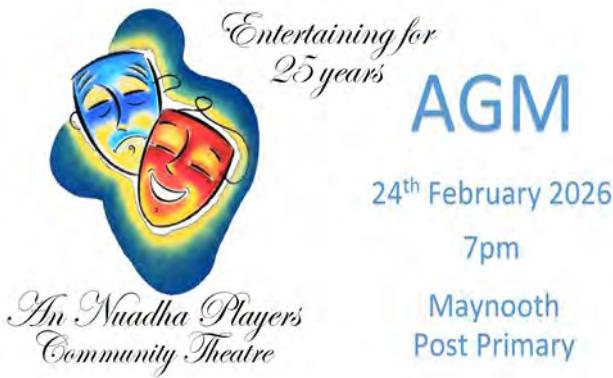


Written and directed by Rían Glynn, with Marie McAndrew as Musical Director and Meadhbh Fitzgibbon Moore as Choreographer, the production featured a cast of more than 30 local performers, combining first-time stage appearances along with familiar faces well known to Maynooth audiences. Dazzling costumes, catchy musical numbers and a fast-paced, joke-filled script ensured the show appealed across generations, making it a true family occasion.

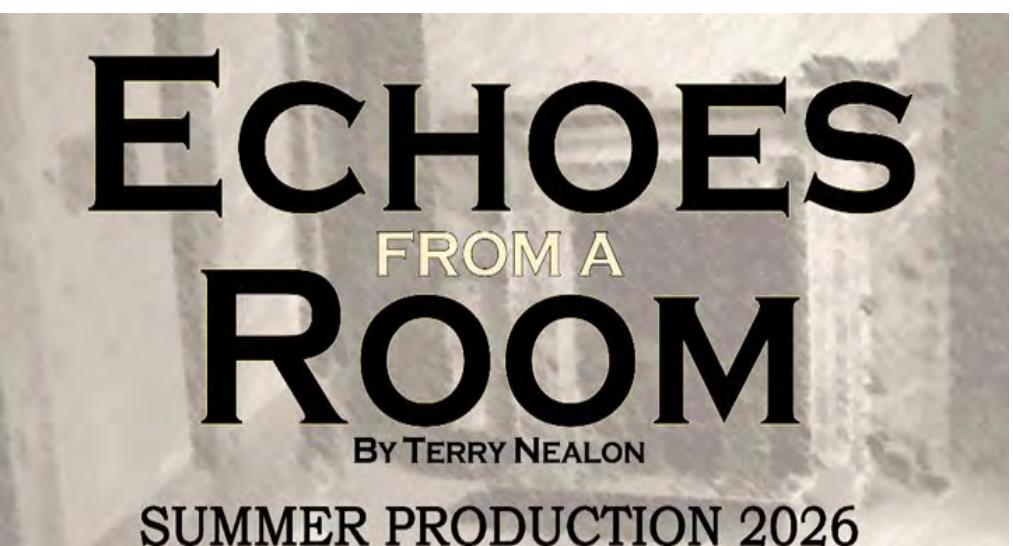
An Nuadha Players continues to value the strong community support behind the scenes and would like to extend our sincere thanks to the shows main sponsors — Kildare County Council, Life Credit Union, Maynooth University, St. Patrick's College, Karaoke House and Dance LA — whose continued generosity helps keep this much-cherished community tradition alive, as well as the many other businesses who donated raffle prizes. It is much appreciated.

With its near sell-out run from December 4th to 7th, *The Sword in the Stone* proved once again that local theatre in Maynooth is thriving, leaving audiences smiling, applauding and already looking forward to next year's pantomime.

### Save The Date: Our AGM is 24th Feb



It's that time of year again - time to reflect on the last year and elect our committee for 2026!! We would love your input into the year ahead so please come along and have your say. We will elect our Committee for the coming year and for those interested, but under 18, we also have a Junior Committee. Our AGM is the perfect time to meet everyone, find out what our group is about, and get all of your questions answered. We always love welcoming new members to our group and on to the committee so please invite anyone you think would be interested. We will also be providing more details on our plans for Summer Production 2026 and Christmas Pantomime 2026 at the AGM, as well as other plans we have for the year, so be the first to find out more and ask any questions you might have.



An Nuadha Players are delighted to announce our Summer Production, 'Echoes from a Room'. This is a piece close to the hearts of so many of our members as it was written by longstanding member and friend, the late Terry Nealon.

'Echoes from a Room' was Terry's first full length play and reflects his experience as a supervisor in a city centre workplace in the mid-sixties - the scars of which he still bore at the time he wrote this play by his own account! The play was a labour of love and is a testament to a group of women who were very much the product of their time and place but who found their own way of overcoming the odds.

We are delighted to welcome Síomha Glynn to the directors' chair and are so excited for this production. Auditions will be happening in early March with the show running in July.

Check out our website for more information:

[Echoes From A Room, Summer Production 2026](#)





# St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Can we wish all our friends and followers a belated Happy New Year as we get our breaths back after a very successful 2025.

Not resting on our laurels, we have already put together a full programme for this year, including entries for our Academy Band in the National Band Championships in Ardee in May and the Senior Band heading to the South of Ireland Band Championships in Clonakilty in July where we have been promoted to the Senior Section after winning all before us in the Intermediate Section last year.

St. Patrick's Day Parades will get the year off on the right foot while April sees us giving a concert in the Community Church near Tesco and we will be paying a return visit to the International Music Festival in Bad Orb in Germany in September.

Local recitals will include the Picnic in the Park in the Harbour Field in June. Our annual visit to Farmleigh in the Phoenix Park is very much up in the air this year due to Ireland's Presidency of the EU from 1st July but hopefully it might happen when the OPW knows if recitals can go ahead.

If you play a musical instrument or would like to make a start, we would love to hear from you. If you are interested you can contact us on [sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie](mailto:sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie) or Facebook and Instagram.



- Supply and Installation of Blinds
- Roller Vertical Venetian Roman Velux
- Home Consultations
- Professional Service with Competitive Prices
- Over 14 years experience in Window Blinds

**Mobile: 085 7338847**

**Phone: 01 - 6210100**

Email: [gerardmaloneblinds@gmail.com](mailto:gerardmaloneblinds@gmail.com)

[www.gerardmaloneblinds.com](http://www.gerardmaloneblinds.com)

Follow me on facebook



**Phelan**  
Working with **Naoise Ó Cearúil TD**

**If you have any issues or want to arrange an appointment feel free to get in touch.**

**Contact Donna:**  
Email: [dphelan@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:dphelan@kildarecoco.ie) / Tel: 087 002 3636

**Contact Naoise:**  
Email: [naoise.ocearuil@oireachtas.ie](mailto:naoise.ocearuil@oireachtas.ie) / Tel: 01 618 4193

*Donna & Naoise*

**Fianna Fáil**  
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

For the latest info and press releases visit [fiannafail.ie/news](http://fiannafail.ie/news)

Follow us

# First Class Upholstery

**Sofas and Chairs**

**Recovered Like New**

**Paul Kinsella**

087 2158242

Palmerstown

Dublin 20

[pkinsella57@hotmail.com](mailto:pkinsella57@hotmail.com)



ALL  
ABOUT.

5.02 — 28.02.2026

Alicia Donnan  
Homebird



Photography exhibition  
opening 5.02.26  
6-8pm



**Headstones**



**Grave cleaning**



See our large range of stones on  
our online brochure which can  
be accessed via our website.



**Servicing**

Laraghbryan Cemetery,  
Maynooth

**Additional  
Inscriptions**



**Thinking of replacing your PVC Windows?**

**Call: 01 620 3232**

**Email: [office@keanewindows.ie](mailto:office@keanewindows.ie)**

**[www.keanewindows.ie](http://www.keanewindows.ie)**

**Opening Hours**

Monday – Friday: 9:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday – Bank Holidays: 12:00 noon – 4:00pm

Apply for  
Finance Now  
Get Approval  
Online Today

**UNIT 1, TRINITY COURT,  
FONTHILL INDUSTRIAL PARK  
DUBLIN 22**

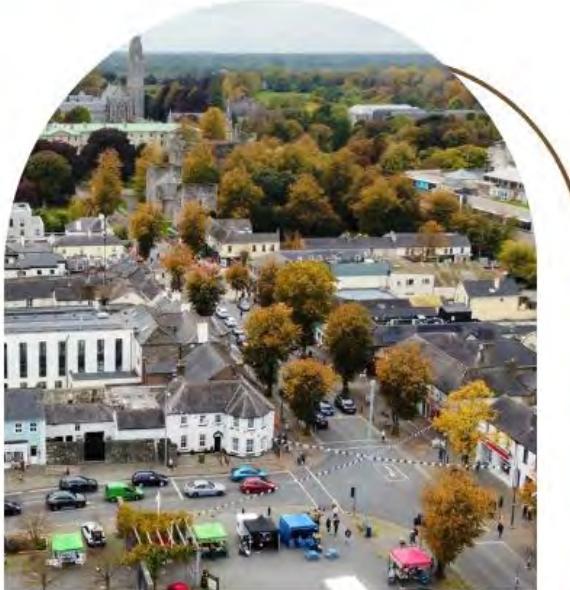
**Showroom Open 7 Days a Week!**



## BE PART OF MAYNOOTH LOCAL MARKET

If you've ever popped by Maynooth Local Market to pick up something you can't find anywhere else, chatted to the person who made or grew what you're buying, or simply enjoyed the buzz on Court House Square on a Saturday morning, this note is for you.

The market is run entirely by volunteers. It works because local people give some of their time to help with set-up, organisation, communications and the day-to-day jobs behind the scenes. Volunteering is flexible, low-pressure, and often just means lending a hand, having a chat, and being part of something positive in the town. No special experience is needed, and there is absolutely no expectation to be there every week.



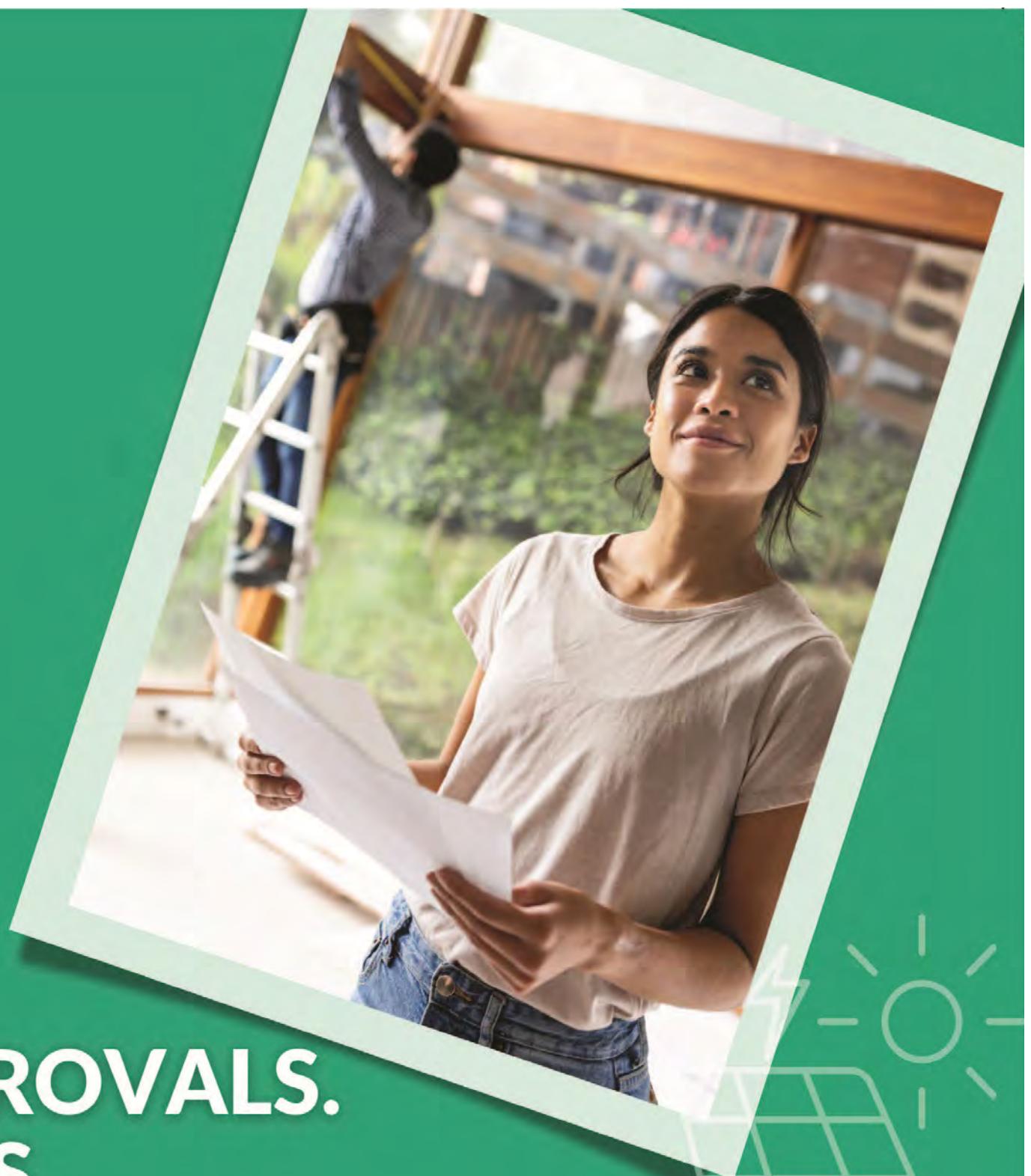
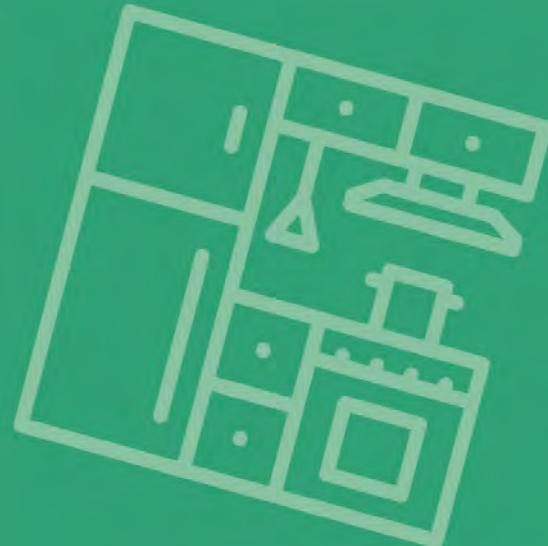
If you enjoy the market and would like to help support what's already been created, and what comes next, we would love to hear from you at [maynoothlocalmarket@gmail.com](mailto:maynoothlocalmarket@gmail.com).



We also regularly hear from local makers and producers who would like to trade at the market, and we are always happy to talk to potential vendors. But at the heart of the market is the community that shows up each week to support local producers and small businesses.

Over the past few years, the market has grown steadily, built with limited resources and a lot of goodwill. This year, we're hoping to build on that with practical improvements, like having a dedicated shed to store market equipment, and with special market days to mark occasions such as St Patrick's Day, Easter, our second anniversary and a summer festival. These moments have always been part of the market, and we're hoping to make them even better this year.





## FAST APPROVALS. BIG LOANS. HUMAN DECISIONS.

At Life Credit Union we put members first. That means decisions in hours, not weeks—and loans up to €100,000 to transform your home the way you want.

**Your dream home starts here.**

**ONLINE** - scan the code

**IN BRANCH** - make an appointment

**BY PHONE** - call 045 879 622, select 2



Quick Home Loan

Rates vary depending on loan amount. Loans are subject to approval. Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. Over 18s only.

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

Life Credit Union is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

**Life**  
credit union

# GILDEAS OPTICIANS



Mon - Fri 9:30am - 18:00pm  
 Saturday 9:30am - 17:30pm  
 Sunday Closed  
 Lunch From 13:00pm - 14:00 pm  
 Appointments Monday - Saturday

## OUR SERVICES:

- Eye Examinations & Eye Care
- Medical Card & PRSI Contributions
- And Much More

### CONTACT US

01 - 629 - 0370  
 Info@gildeasopticians.ie  
 www.gildeasopticians.ie



## Hegarty's Solicitors

MARKET HOUSE, DUBLIN ROAD, MAYNOOTH, CO.KILDARE

## HEGARTYS SOLICITORS

### Our Services

 Making a Will or need advice about Family Law?

 Buying, Selling, or Remortgaging property?

 Need Help with Debt Collection?

### About Us

Our main focus is providing you with first class customer service while dealing with all your legal needs. We understand that our success not only depends on getting you the best legal outcome, but also on giving you the best possible service at each stage of your case.

### Contact Us:

Tel 01 - 629 - 3246

Fax 01 - 629 - 3247

info@hegartyssolicitors.ie

www.hegartyssolicitors.ie

## Grow Mental Health Peer Support Meetings

with Amanda

**Tuesday**

**11am to 1pm**

**Leixlip Library, Captain's Hill**

**For more information contact:**

**086 136 7423**

**amandadempsey@grow.ie**



## OLIVER REILLY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Leinster Street,  
 Maynooth,  
 Co.Kildare.  
 W23 V99E

### OUR SERVICES:

- Funeral Services.
- Coffins.
- Burials, Cremations, Resomations.
- Celebration of life services.
- Funeral music
- Funeral vehicles.
- Funeral planning.
- Repatriation services
- Obituaries



**24 HOUR SERVICE**

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

 [www.reillysfuneralhome.ie](http://www.reillysfuneralhome.ie)

 Paul Reilly Mobile: 086 - 810 - 5581  
 Maynooth number: 01 - 628 - 9452

 Oliver Reilly Funeral Directors  
 Compassion and care since 1963



# Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



Morning Club resumed on Tuesday 13th January. Our first monthly committee meeting will take place on Monday 9th February at 8pm in the Geraldine Hall.

December saw a great afternoon out for Christmas Lunch for our Senior Citizens on Sunday 7th December in the Springfield Hotel. We had a turn out of about 90 people. It was an enjoyable afternoon and early evening with music, dancing and lots of spot prizes and Santa did the needful (thank you Johnny). We also held the annual raffle.

On behalf of the committee Susan Durack, Chairperson welcomed everyone and noted that as we neared the end of 2025 it was also the closing of our 60th year in existence. A major achievement for a voluntary group. A brief reminder of our activities was outlined.

The chairperson thanked the boundless support of the Maynooth business community who gave spot prizes for our annual quiz held in the Newtown Inn and for the Christmas lunch. Our thanks to those who gave individual donations. We were in receipt of two significant donations from Mr. Pat Barton and Mr. David Geoghegan whose sponsorship of our group is so much appreciated.

The work of the committee, in particular former chairperson Garry Bermingham who did so much work during his tenure as chairperson, was noted. We are delighted that Garry is staying on as a committee member. Others were always on hand to help us throughout the year - Paul Daly and Elaine and Eithne Bean, Melanie Oliver, Catherine Heslin and Brendan Malone.

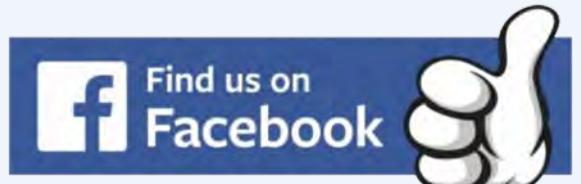
Our thanks to Kildare County Council and the HSE National Lottery for funding received during the year. Also thanks to Kildare Wicklow Training Board and the SICAP for the provision of courses during 2025.

As we look forward to 2026 we are in the process for getting our program ready for the coming year. Keep an eye on our facebook page to see what will be happening in the coming weeks. Our clubs continue on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (Geraldine Hall), beginning with art and bingo.

Please contact us at [maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com](mailto:maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com) for any further information or 0877974582 (Susan)

Susan Durack, Chairperson,  
Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.

MAYNOOTH THROUGH THE AGES PROGRAM.....





# BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE

## BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



**Live Bands every Saturday & Sunday**

**Table Quiz every Monday night at 9.30pm**

**Like us on Facebook**

**@BradysClockhouseMaynooth**

**e-mail: [info@clockhouse.ie](mailto:info@clockhouse.ie)**

**Web: [www.clockhouse.ie](http://www.clockhouse.ie) - Tel: 01-5054725**

**Great Food Served 7 Days**

## The Retiring Club

Meets Every Monday from 10am til Noon  
Except Bank Holidays



A cuppa, a chat and great company guaranteed.

Bring a friend, invite a neighbour, and meet  
new friends!

### Location

Maynooth Community Church      At the Tesco Roundabout  
Dublin Rd, Maynooth, Co.Kildare,      Lots of parking available!  
W23 P02A



- Top Quality, Pressure Treated Fencing Panels
- Heavy Duty Timber Post and Rail Fencing
- All General Timber Sizes
- Kennels, Garden benches, Decking, Side gates. All supplied and fitted.

### Opening Hours

Monday to Friday - 8am to 6pm  
Saturday - 9am to 2pm

01 - 628 - 7264

[info@mulligansawmills.ie](mailto:info@mulligansawmills.ie)

## MU study finds death of a pet can be as intense as loss of a person

Grief following the death of a pet can be as deep and as distressing as that for a person, new research by Prof Philip Hyland of MU's Department of Psychology shows.

It found that 93% of people who experienced the death of a pet had also experienced the death of a person. When asked to identify the bereavement that caused them the most distress, more than one-in-five or 21% of these people chose the death of a pet.



The study, titled No pets allowed: Evidence that prolonged grief disorder can occur following the death of a pet, found that people can experience clinically significant levels of prolonged grief disorder (PGD) following the death of a pet.

PGD has been defined by two 'core' symptoms -- longing for the deceased and preoccupation with the deceased -- and a set of 'associated' symptoms including intense emotional pain, feelings of guilt or sorrow and difficulty accepting the death.

Published in PLOS One, the research was based on a survey of 975 adults in the UK and showed that 7.5% of people who had lost pets met the diagnostic criteria for PGD.

This was about the same as the proportion of people who had a close friend die (7.8%), a family member such as a grandparent (8.3%), a sibling (8.9%), and even a partner (9.1%). Only the death of a parent (11.2%), and in particular, the death of a child (21.3%) were markedly higher.

Study author Prof Hyland notes that despite considerable evidence that people form strong attachments to their pets, and experience high levels of grief following their death, the current guidelines do not allow PGD to be diagnosed following the death of a pet.

"If people can develop clinically significant levels of grief following the death of a pet, then it is essential that this is recognised in the scientific literature so that mental health professionals can communicate with the public in an appropriate and accurate manner, and people who need, and desire, clinical care are afforded the opportunity to access it," he says.

Prof Hyland believes that the PGD guidelines be expanded to include pets too: "Considered in light of evidence that people view grief related to the death of a pet as less legitimate than grief related to the death of a person and that many people grieving the loss of their pet feel embarrassed and isolated as a result, the decision to exclude pet loss from the bereavement criterion for PGD can be viewed as not only scientifically misguided, but also as callous."

## MU to lead first all-island mental health Research network

The first all-island mental health collaborative research network – CO-PRIME – has been set up to help combat mental ill health in a more coordinated way right across Ireland and will be headed up by MU's Director at the Centre for Mental Health and Community Research, Prof Sinead McGilloway and supported by MU's Social Sciences Institute for its duration.



"By combining mental health research expertise and resources north and south, this initiative – which is the first of its kind in Ireland – will bring real benefits to people who are affected by mental health difficulties and their families," said Prof Sinéad McGilloway, who is working in collaboration with Dr Eve Griffin from the National Suicide Research Foundation and Professor Brian McGuire from the University of Galway.

The five-year CO-PRIME (COproducing and Promoting Research and Innovation in Mental HEalth) initiative, funded by the Health Research Board aims to reshape some of the ways in which mental health research is conducted and, in particular, how the knowledge and evidence arising from research is used across the island to help inform services and shape government policy.

"The launch of CO-PRIME is a very important moment for mental health research across the island of Ireland," said Prof McGilloway, speaking about the exciting initiative.

"For the first time we are bringing together diverse voices, including those with lived experience, to build a truly collaborative, inclusive and evidence-informed approach to understanding and addressing mental health needs."



**Maynooth University**  
National University of Ireland Maynooth

"As well as helping people with mental health difficulties, this network will benefit other stakeholders working in the area including health and social care services, researchers, policy makers, community organisations and the general public."

"CO-PRIME has many specific goals it aims to achieve. It will support meaningful and sustained collaboration across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Crucially, it will embed the involvement of people with lived experience of mental health difficulties across all of its activities".

"We will also foster a culture of wide stakeholder involvement in the design, conduct and application of research, including perspectives from marginalised and underrepresented communities," said Co-Lead, Dr Eve Griffin, "and we will promote evidence-informed, rights-based approaches in mental health policy and practice".

"We will aim to build capacity across the mental health 'ecosystem' through training, education and researcher development," said Co-Lead, Prof Brian McGuire.

"We know that mental health difficulties affect directly or indirectly every community, family and part of society, and through CO-PRIME we are working to address that in a more co-ordinated, all island fashion," said Prof McGilloway.

Speaking about the new network, Minister for Mental Health Mary Butler said: "The new all-island Collaborative Research Network will transform how research is coordinated, build research capacity, embed lived experience within research projects, and ensure research findings are translated into real-world impact."

## MU celebrates two College soccer titles

Maynooth University (MU) is celebrating double title success with the Women's Senior A and Men's Fresher A soccer teams at the Colleges and Universities Football League (CUFL) Finals, recently held at Athlone Town Stadium.

The Women's Senior Squad, captained by Becky Watkins, claimed the Premier Division title after a tightly contested 0-0 match went straight to penalties.

Sarah Power secured the victory by scoring the decisive winning penalty, sealing the championship after a 5-4 sudden death shootout win.



The Men's Fresher A Squad, captained by Kian Brunton, secured the Division 3 title, with a commanding 5-0 win over Ulster University Magee.

Goals came from William Smyth, Luke Feighery, Ethan Hall and a two-goal brace from James McGelligot.

Barry Prenderville, Soccer Development Manager with Maynooth University Sports Office said: "These achievements highlight the incredible talent, dedication, and teamwork within our soccer programme. A huge congratulations to all players and coaching staff for their hard work and commitment."





## Dean's Lecture

Laura Bates

### ‘How to Fight a New Age of Sexism’



Public Talk  
All Welcome!

‘Extreme misogyny is flourishing online, boosted by a form of algorithmically-facilitated mass radicalisation we have never experienced before. We stand on the precipice of a new society transformed by AI, a society in which new technologies risk embedding existing inequalities into its very foundation. How do we move forward without repeating the mistakes of the past? How do we fight a problem that so many people still refuse to see?’

**Laura Bates, feminist activist and best-selling author, will explore the unprecedented threats this new age of sexism presents, and some of the ways we can rise effectively as a community to meet them.**



Eventbrite

Post-Lecture  
Reception

Thursday, 26 February 2026

5:30-7:30 pm

Iontas Building, Maynooth University



## Fireside Stories with Volkidana

This year Volkidana performed an amazing fireside storytelling display through aerial dance and puppetry. Telling the tale of the Raiders of Cooley.

Wonderous performances with fire and colourful lights bringing legendary folklore to life which appealed to all ages, young and old.



Des Tumulty with Ruby and Biscuit enjoying the performance





# THOMAS MCCORMACK'S STORY

## SURVIVOR OF THE RMS LUSITANIA

### SINKING MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 1915

A familiar giant of the Atlantic, the Lusitania had already completed 201 crossings between Liverpool and New York. On 1 May 1915, she left New York's Chelsea Pier 54 on what would be her 202nd—and final—voyage, commanded by Captain William Turner. The day before her departure, a chilling warning appeared in American newspapers: the German Embassy cautioned that British and allied ships entering the war zone around Britain and Ireland sailed “at their own risk.” In a grim twist, the notice was printed alongside an advertisement for Lusitania’s very voyage, a forewarning that history would soon make unforgettable.

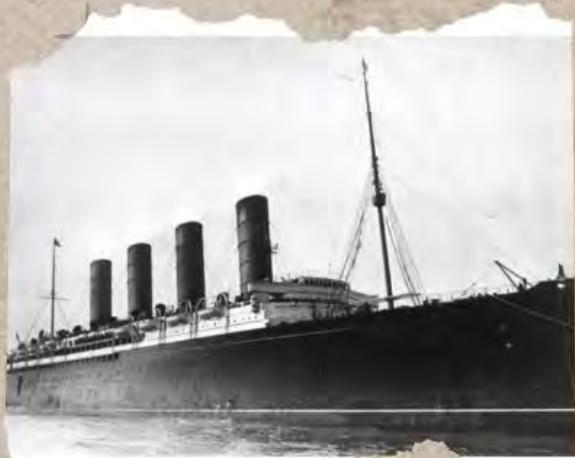
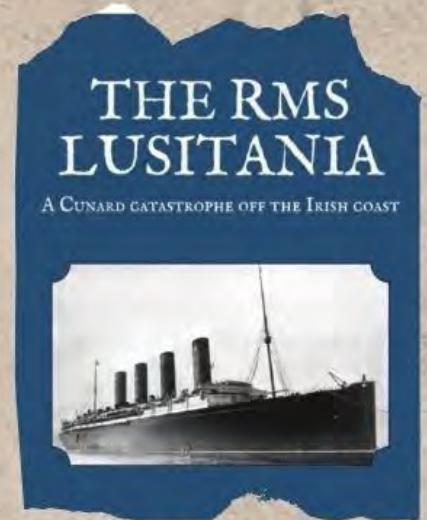


Image from wiki / Public Domain

Thomas McCormack from Robertstown, Co.Kildare Thomas was among those who survived the tragic sinking of the Lusitania in 1915. Before sailing from New York, he saw no warnings of danger. During the voyage, passengers threw wreaths and flowers into the sea — a tribute, he was told, to the Titanic below. On May 5th, Thomas heard rumours on board of a possible attack.

During the voyage, lifeboats were being readied, but a crewman assured him it was “just precaution.” Two days later, while walking the promenade deck, he heard two sudden bangs - the torpedoes had struck. Panic swept the ship as it began to list sharply.

McCormack was knocked down by the rush of people; Thomas watched a lifeboat of women and children crash into the sea. Reaching the stern, now rising high above the water, he could not recall whether he jumped or fell - only that he was suddenly fighting for his life among wreckage and bodies.

Amid the chaos, he managed to pull two children—a brother and sister—from the sea and pass them safely into a lifeboat. For the rest of his life, he often wondered whether they had survived the ordeal. Though he lost all his belongings in the disaster, he was profoundly grateful to have been rescued and never forgot the kindness shown to the survivors in Queenstown (now Cobh) Co. Cork.

#### EXTRACT FROM “RMS LUSITANIA, A CUNARD CATASTROPHE OFF THE IRISH COAST”.

This booklet offers a compelling exploration of one of history's most controversial maritime tragedies. It follows the Lusitania's story from her celebrated launch as a triumph of Edwardian engineering to her tragic sinking by a German U-boat off the coast of Ireland in May 1915.

Through vivid accounts of the ship's construction, her luxurious service, and the lives of those aboard on her final voyage, readers gain both a personal and historical perspective on the human cost of war. The booklet also examines the immediate aftermath of the disaster from the international outrage it provoked to its influence on shifting public opinion during the First World War.

Beyond the established history, this work engages with enduring questions: Was there a government cover-up? What secrets might the Lusitania have carried in her cargo holds? Could political motives have shaped the tragedy? Drawing on survivor testimonies, official records, and modern investigations, this booklet invites readers to consider whether the full truth of the Lusitania's fate has ever truly surfaced.

Both a tribute to those who perished and an inquiry into the mysteries that remain, this booklet is intended for history enthusiasts and curious minds alike. More than a century later, the Lusitania remains as an enduring mystery.

The Booklet available individually for €10 or can be purchased as part of the ‘Historic Hibernia Maritime Series’ which includes four historical booklets about - RMS Leinster, RMS Titanic, RMS Empress of Ireland and RMS Lusitania for €30!

Available instore and online - In-store locally at the Maynooth bookshop  
Online - [historichibernia@gmail.com](mailto:historichibernia@gmail.com) or instagram @historic\_hibernia



# MAYNOOTH AND THE IRISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Behind Maynooth's familiar streets and scholarly calm lay a town shaped by raids, reprisals, and resistance during the Irish War of Independence.

Best known for its historic castle and college, Maynooth nonetheless became, between 1919 - 1921, a microcosm of Ireland's struggle for self-determination. Although County Kildare experienced less violence than other regions, Maynooth's strategic importance — its RIC barracks, courthouse, and proximity to Dublin — ensured it could not escape the national conflict.



The War of Independence began on 21<sup>st</sup> of January 1919 with the ambush at Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary, coinciding with the first meeting of Dáil Éireann. In North Kildare, the local IRA under leaders such as Patrick Colgan soon began targeting symbols of British authority.

By 1920, RIC barracks in Leixlip, Kilcock, and Maynooth were evacuated as officers were transferred to fortified stations. Acting on orders from IRA headquarters, Patrick Colgan, Officer Commanding of the North Kildare Battalion, oversaw the systematic destruction of vacated barracks across the county, including those at Leixlip, Clane, Sallins, and Maynooth. The Maynooth barracks was burned after the sergeant and his family were escorted safely from the building, reflecting efforts to avoid civilian casualties.

Later that year, the Maynooth Courthouse and Town Hall, located in the town square, were destroyed using approximately 30 pounds of gelignite by local IRA members with assistance from the Dublin Brigade. The attack was a symbolic blow against British Crown authority.

## ESCALATION AND REPRISALS

As Crown forces attempted to reassert control, rumours circulated that Leinster Lodge, near Maynooth Castle and college entrance, was to become a new police station. In 1921, approximately forty IRA volunteers carried out a carefully planned raid on the house. The occupants were removed, belongings cleared, and the building set alight. The burned ruins of Leinster Lodge, alongside the destroyed barracks and courthouse, visibly marked the town's resistance.

Crown forces soon returned, occupying a former dispensary building in the town square known as Larine House, which became North Kildare's police headquarters. The presence of the RIC and the Black and Tans intensified local tensions. Reprisals followed, most notably the raid on Buckley's shop, which was damaged and vandalised with slogans such as "God Save the King" and "B&T," demonstrating the intimidation faced by civilians and business owners.

IRA commander Paddy Mulaney organised a reprisal ambush on the Kilcock Road near Kavanagh's Mill. During the exchange of fire, RIC Sergeant Hughes was killed before the Volunteers withdrew. Fearing further reprisals, many civilians temporarily evacuated Maynooth. A curfew from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. was imposed, and markets and fairs were banned within a two-mile radius of the barracks, severely disrupting everyday life.



## DID YOU KNOW?

McMahon's pub, also known as Caulfield's (and earlier the Geraldine Arms), also bore the marks of the conflict. In a period of reprisals and curfews, small pubs were not just social spaces but places of whispered resistance and, at times, intimidation. A mirror in Caulfield's bar once carried a bullet hole — local tradition holds that a drunken Black and Tan fired at his own reflection. The damaged mirror became a lasting reminder of how the War of Independence intruded into the everyday life of Maynooth.

By – Alan Cleary

Tour Guide, Author and Historian

Sources – [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) – [SeamusCullen.net](http://SeamusCullen.net) –

[KildareLibraries.ie](http://KildareLibraries.ie) – Little Book of Kildare –

[Maynoothtown.ie](http://Maynoothtown.ie) –

Images – Alan Cleary

## HUMAN COST AND CONCLUSION

The conflict also took a psychological toll. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1921, Constable Harold Stiff, aged 27, died by suicide in the barracks. Born in Cork in 1893, Stiff had served in World War I and suffered from "shell shock". He joined the RIC in August 1920, and the ambush in Maynooth on 21<sup>st</sup> of February 1921, which claimed the life of Sergeant Hughes, may have contributed to his deteriorating mental health. Harold Stiff is buried in Laraghbryan Cemetery, Maynooth.

A nationwide truce came into effect later in 1921, though Crown forces remained in Maynooth for several months. In 1922, the remaining RIC and Black and Tan forces withdrew from the town and formally handed over the barracks to representatives of the Provisional Government. This marked the end of British policing in Maynooth and the town's transition into the emerging Irish Free State.



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

### Of Bumblebees and Wasps

Nowadays the bee is an endangered insect but in my youth there was no scarcity of honeybees, bumblebees and their less-welcome cousins, wasps. When saving hay, we children often came upon a small nest of bees in ground hollows, an exciting discovery. Nests were also to be found in mossy banks. To our shame, we usually robbed the nests, wrecking them in the process. What a treat for us was the wild honey squeezed out of the combs onto our tongues! This was an elixir, better than anything we could buy in sweetshops and left us completely indifferent to the bees' welfare. Such callousness was not untypical of rural communities, where, in general, there was little sympathy for foxes, badgers, hedgehogs, kestrels, magpies, frogs, bumblebees and other such forms of wildlife. As Seamus Heaney put it in his poem, *The Early Purges*, 'on well-run farms pests have to be kept down.' Why we regarded bees as pests was probably because of their ability to sting.

Later, as I began to grow aware of the wonders of nature, I sometimes made amends for robbing the bees by placing undamaged combs in a cardboard box near the nest – there were closed cells containing larvae in some combs, as well as open cells filled with honey. To my amazement, by the next day the colony would have covered their new home with a roof of wax. How the cardboard might stand up to rain didn't particularly worry me, though, no doubt, I figured the little architects had lined the walls with more wax. On the rare occasion when I was stung, my mother would rub the affected area with vinegar or washing blue.

If the bees were pushovers, wasps were a different matter. Once, when our pal, John, from the neighbouring farm, noticed them entering and leaving a hole beside a small boulder embedded in the bank beneath our laneway, we decided to investigate. John yanked at the boulder while I lay on the margin above and my brother Liam stood a little further back. Suddenly the boulder came free and a hoard of angry wasps swarmed out. Instead of attacking John, whose face was right before them, they veered upwards. Immediately, I jumped to my feet and began racing back up the lane, slapping at the furies dive-bombing my head and shoulders. Time and again they succeeded in stinging me and it was not till I reached our house that they gave up the pursuit. Once indoors, my mother began treating me, while warning me never again to be so foolish. Amazingly, I had only four or five stings.

The following day, John, my brother Liam and I revisited the scene of the attack, bent on vengeance. Using handfuls of moist clay and keeping well back from danger, we pelted the hole where the nest was. In no time the hole was completely covered over, so that we reckoned the wasps inside would suffocate. Next day we found that the clay has set into a hard mass, in the middle of which there was a neat hole through which wasps were emerging. The colony had outwitted us! After that we left them alone. When, months later, we removed the clay cover, we found the almost spherical nest with its paper outer covering and horizontal tiers of cells. Whatever their viciousness, those wasps were first-class builders.

Nobody in our area kept hives but, nevertheless, a swarm of honeybees decided to colonize our sidecar, which stood abandoned near the hayshed, its shafts pointing skyward. This once-prized mode of conveyance had in its centre a rectangular 'well', or compartment for luggage, on the underside of which there was a small weep-hole. One summer's day I noticed bees entering and leaving this hole. It didn't take me long to conclude from the low hum inside that they were using the well as a hive. Probably a swarm led by some young queen had sent out scouts that had discovered the sidecar. By now I had enough sense not to attempt to remove any of the honey. Anyway, the thought that the bees had deigned to become our neighbours was quite pleasing.

By springtime the well had fallen silent and, gingerly, I removed the wooden lid, expecting to find a pile of dead bees. Instead, to my surprise, I found an array of vertical amber combs filled with honey. There wasn't a single live bee around. Obviously, the colony, led by another young queen, had migrated to some new location. When I broke off a comb and carried it into our house the whole family, including my mother, was amazed, but wary of eating a section, so I decided to risk being poisoned. What an experience that was, a rich, sweet taste that far surpassed the taste of any shop honey. The flavour of wildflowers and heather was mingled in it, as if the bees had left this present in recompense for their brief stay with us.

P.G. Nerney

# 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  
 Information is also available online at [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)  
 and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121*



## Part-time Workers

### Introduction

If you work part-time, you have the right to be treated fairly compared to your full-time co-workers.

The rights of part-time employees are protected in law. You cannot generally be treated less favourably – in other words, you must be treated at least as well as comparable full-time employees.

Read more below on ‘the laws on part-time work’.

### What a Part-time Worker is

You are a part-time worker if you work less hours than a comparable full-time worker doing the same type of work.

A comparable full-time worker works for the same employer as you, and either:

1. Does the same job in the same or similar conditions
2. Is capable of substituting or temporarily replacing you in performing the work
3. Does the same or similar work with only minor variations in responsibilities and working conditions
4. Does work of equal or lower value than yours

For example, a part-time sales assistant can compare themselves to a full-time sales assistant who is doing the same job, in the same shop.

### Agency Workers

Part-time agency workers can only compare themselves to comparable full-time agency workers. They cannot compare themselves to full-time permanent workers.

### Casual Workers

A casual worker is a part-time worker who works on a casual basis. Casual workers are normally on standby to do work as required without fixed hours or attendance arrangements.

You are a casual worker if you have less than 13 continuous weeks’ service, are not in regular or seasonal employment, or are casual based on a collective agreement.

### Job-Sharing

If you job-share, you are a part-time worker and have all the legal entitlements of part-time workers.

### Flexible Working

Flexible hours and other flexible working arrangements are generally at the discretion of your employer and are not covered by specific legislation.

### Less Favourable Treatment

Employers cannot treat a part-time employee less favourably compared to full-time employees, unless there are valid, objective reasons for doing so (known as objective justification or objective grounds).

You can be treated less favourably in relation to pensions, but only in very specific circumstances – see below.

### What are objective grounds for different treatment?

Employers can treat you less favourably if they have objective grounds. This means the difference in treatment is appropriate and necessary for a legitimate business purpose.

An example of objective grounds could be not providing you with health insurance, even though full-time workers get health insurance. This could be justified because it’s more costly for your employer to provide insurance to part-time employees.

Objective grounds for treating part-time workers less favourably than full-time workers may be different for casual part-time employees.

## Pensions and Part-Time Workers

Part-time workers should generally have the same access to pension benefits.

However, if you work less than 20% of the normal hours of full-time employees, your employer does not have to give you the same pension benefits as the full-time employee.

However, your employer can choose to give you the same pension benefits as a full-time worker if they want to.

### Paying Tax, PRSI and USC

You may have to pay taxes and social contributions, depending on how much you earn.

### PAYE

PAYE is an income tax, which is deducted from your wages by your employer using Revenue’s ‘Pay As You Earn’ system.

The rate of tax you pay depends on:

1. Your income or salary, and
2. Your tax credits (tax credits reduce the amount of income tax you must pay)

Read about how your income tax is calculated. If your tax credits are more than your gross tax (your total tax due), you do not have to pay any income tax.

### PRSI

PRSI is your ‘Pay Related Social Insurance’ (also called your social insurance contributions). The amount of PRSI you pay is based on your earnings and the type of work you do.

### USC

The Universal Social Charge (USC) is tax you pay on gross income (this is your total pay before any money is deducted, including your basic salary and any overtime, commission or bonus).

If you earn more than €13,000 a year, you pay USC on your full income.

You do not pay any USC if your total income is €13,000 or less a year.

### Part-Time Hours and Overtime

You are entitled to overtime pay if your full-time co-workers are paid overtime.

However, your employer can decide that you must work the same number of hours as a full-time employee before you are entitled to overtime pay.

### Example

Your full-time co-workers must work 39 hours a week before they get overtime pay. Your employer can decide that part-time employees must also work 39 hours before getting overtime pay.

If you typically work 20 hours a week, you will be paid at your normal rate for hours worked between 20 and 39 hours. Any hours you work beyond 39 hours will be paid at an overtime rate.

By law, employers don’t have to pay higher rates like ‘double time’ for overtime. However, they must pay at least the normal hourly rate for overtime hours worked.

### Switching to Part-Time

If you are a full-time worker and you want to switch to part-time, you have the right to ask your employer. Your employer does not have to agree, but they should think about ways to make part-time work accessible to employees.

Your employer should consider your request for part-time working

*Continues on page 28*

# 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  
 Information is also available online at [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) and from the  
 Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121*



From page 27

without discrimination, in line with employment equality legislation.

## New Right to Request Flexible Working

Since 7 March 2024, you have a new right to request a flexible working arrangement if you are a parent or carer.

You can request flexible working from your first day in a new job but must have 6 months of continuous service before the arrangement can start.

For full practical guidance for employers and employees on making and handling requests for flexible working arrangements, you can read the Workplace Relations Commission's (WRC) Code of Practice for Employers and Employees on the Right to Request Flexible Working and Right to Request Remote Working.

## Can I work part-time after taking parental leave?

You are entitled to ask for a change in your work pattern or working hours for a set period when you return to work after taking parental leave.

Your employer must consider your request and give you a response within 4 weeks, but they don't have to accept your request.

## If your request for part-time working is refused

If your employer refuses your request for part-time work, they must give you a reason for the refusal (for example, that the change would lead to staffing difficulties).

If you are unhappy with your employer's response and you believe they have breached your employment rights, you can make a complaint to the WRC – read 'Making a complaint' below.

## Penalising Part-Time Employees

Your employer cannot penalise (or punish) you when you:

1. Exercise your right to be treated as favourably as comparable full-time co-workers
2. Refuse your employer's request to change from full-time to part-time work (or the opposite)
3. Object to actions that breach the Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act
4. Give evidence in any proceedings under the Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act or give notice of your intention to do so

Your employer is considered to have punished you if they:

1. Dismiss you
2. Make an unfavourable change to your work conditions
3. Treat you unfairly, including selection for redundancy
4. Take any other action that is prejudicial to your employment

## Exceptions

There are situations where employers are not considered penalising part-time employees. For example, your employer asks you to change from full-time to part-time work (or the opposite).

However, the following conditions apply:

1. Your employer must have substantial grounds to justify the request and to take any action after your refusal
2. Any action taken by your employer must follow the terms in your contract of employment and employment rights legislation

## Making a Complaint

If you have a complaint, you should speak to your employer directly. If you cannot resolve your complaint informally, you can bring your complaint to the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) using the online complaint form.

You must make the complaint within 6 months of the dispute taking place. The time limit may be extended for a further 6 months, if there is a reasonable cause which prevented you from bringing the complaint within the normal time limit.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Laws on Part-Time Work

The law on part-time work is set out in the Protection of Employees (Part-Time Work) Act 2001. This Act applies to all part-time workers, including casual workers.

Part-time employees' entitlements are generally in proportion (pro-rata basis) to full-time employees' entitlements. This means that they should be in proportion to your hours.

However, minimum periods of continuous service are required for the purpose of:

1. Unfair dismissal, under the Unfair Dismissals Acts 1973-2015, and
2. Redundancy entitlements, under the Redundancy Payments Act 2003

\*\*\*\*\*

## More Information

Workplace Relations Commission - Information and Customer Service  
 O'Brien Road  
 Carlow  
 R93 E920

Opening Hours: Mon. to Fri. 9.30am to 1pm, 2pm to 5pm

Tel: (059) 917 8990

Locall: 0818 80 80 90

Homepage: <https://www.workplacerelations.ie/en/>

Read more about the rights of part-time workers in the WRC's explanatory booklet for employers and employees (pdf) on their website.

## Part-time work and social insurance (PRSI)

### Introduction

Part-time workers over 16 years of age and earning over €38 in each PRSI contribution week are liable to pay social insurance. It is called Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) because the amount of social insurance you pay depends on your earnings and the type of work you do.

If you are a part-time worker you may not be making the maximum amount of PRSI contributions each year. The tax year and the PRSI contribution week start 1 January every year. As a result, the PRSI contribution week can differ from the working week. If you are in part-time work you need to be fully aware of the possible effect this can have on your social insurance entitlements.

### How many PRSI contributions do part-time workers pay?

You pay a PRSI contribution for each PRSI contribution week you work. You must be working on at least 1 day in each PRSI contribution week to pay a contribution.

If you have a week-on, week-off work pattern, you may not pay a contribution in the week you are off if it coincides with the PRSI

Continued on page 29

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

*Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth*

**Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service which provides a free and confidential service to the public. Information is also available online at [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) and Tel: 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121**



From page 28

contribution week. This can happen whether you work a full 5 days every second week (such as Monday to Friday) or if you work a split week, such as Wednesday to Friday one week, followed by Monday and Tuesday the next. It all depends on the starting day of the PRSI contribution week, which is determined by where 1 January falls each year.

### **Example: PRSI contribution week runs from Monday**

In a year when 1 January falls on a Monday, then each PRSI contribution week in that year runs from Monday to the following Sunday. If your work pattern is week-on, week-off, Monday to Friday, you miss paying PRSI in every second PRSI contribution week, as you are not working at all during each of those weeks. In this situation, you would pay only 26 contributions in the year.

Similarly, if your pattern is Monday to Friday for 3 weeks, with 1 week off, you would pay 39 contributions in the year.

However, if you work Wednesday to Friday in one week, followed by Monday and Tuesday the next, you will pay the full 52 contributions in the year, as you will have worked during each Monday-Sunday PRSI contribution week.

### **How much PRSI do part-time workers pay?**

To determine the rate of PRSI you and your employer pay, your gross pay is divided by the number of contribution weeks that is covered by your pattern of work. More information can be found in our page about your liability to pay PRSI.

If you earn between €38 and €352 you do not have to pay PRSI. However, your employer pays PRSI. More information can be found in our page about your employer's duty to pay social insurance.

## **Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme**

### **Introduction**

The Part-Time Job Incentive (PTJI) Scheme allows certain people getting Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) to take up part-time work and get a special weekly allowance instead of their jobseeker's payment. It is intended to be a stepping stone to full-time work. You must be available for and seeking full-time work while you are on the Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme.

### **Rules**

You can participate in the PTJI Scheme if you get part-time work for less than 24 hours per week and immediately before that you were:

1. On long-term Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) for at least 312 days. Days of unemployment on Jobseeker's Benefit (JB), Jobseeker's Benefit Self-Employed, Jobseeker's Pay-Related Benefit or the Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment can count towards the 312 days if you were getting the payment immediately before you got Jobseeker's Allowance.
2. Getting a weekly JA payment of at least €160.90 if you are single or €262.40 if you are getting an increase for a qualified adult.

You must also undertake to remain on the scheme for 2 months. You can do more than one part-time job but the total hours worked must be less than 24. The part-time job you get must be likely to last at least 2 months and be insurable at PRSI Class A or J.

Self-employed people are not eligible for this scheme.

### **Duration of Payment**

Initially, you can stay on the PTJI scheme for one year. This may be extended for a further period. While on the scheme, you must continue to look for full-time work.

If you get full-time work but then lose it, and get another part-time job, you can return to your original Part-Time Job Incentive claim if you meet all the PTJI conditions. The Part-Time Job Incentive will only remain in payment for the duration that has not been used previously.

### **Rates 2026**

Instead of your usual payment, you will get a weekly allowance of:

€160.90 per week if you are single or €262.40 per week if you are getting an increase for a qualified adult

There are no increases in these rates for qualified children. The allowance is paid regardless of how much you earn in your job. The allowance is not taxable. However, your wages will be taxable in the usual way.

### **How to Apply**

Once you have secured the part-time job, you should contact your Intreo Centre or local Social Welfare Branch Office to apply for the PTJI scheme.

You will be asked to complete the application form PTJI1 (pdf) and give details of your part-time employment.

Your employer has to complete form PTJI2 at the end of each 4-week period to confirm the hours that you worked and that you are insurably employed. You must sign a declaration (using the same form) confirming that you worked less than 24 hours each week. You must return this form to your Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office. If there is any delay in returning this form, payment is suspended until the form is received. Payment is made weekly by EFT.

If your job ends or you finish the PTJI you may re-qualify for long-term Jobseeker's Allowance as long as there is no change in your circumstances (other than finishing the part-time job). Alternatively, you may qualify for Jobseeker's Benefit if you have enough PRSI contributions.

### **Secondary Benefits**

No secondary benefits are paid while you are on the Part-Time Job Incentive scheme. You can keep your medical card while you are on the PTJI scheme regardless of your earnings for a maximum of 3 years. You can continue to qualify for Rent Supplement but your earnings will be assessed against your supplement.

### **Appeals**

The Part-Time Job Incentive scheme is a non-statutory scheme and you cannot appeal a decision to the Social Welfare Appeals Office. If you are not happy with a decision on the scheme you can appeal to the Officer in charge of the Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme at your local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office.

### **Where to Apply**

You can apply for the Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme to your local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office.

# Events at Maynooth Community Library



For further information contact: [www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](http://www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) Ph: 01-6285530  
[facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService](http://facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService) [twitter.com/kildarelibrary](http://twitter.com/kildarelibrary)

## Events for Adults

### Luain Press Poetry Café

*Tuesday 3rd February, 6pm - 7pm*

Join us in the Maynooth Community Library for chats, readings, and creative opportunities.

\*Drop in, no booking required \*

### St. Brigid's Cross Making Workshop for Adults

*Friday 6th February, 3pm – 4.30pm*

Join Beth Murphy from Willow Wonder Workshops. Take time out of your busy schedule to reconnect with Brigid through story and creativity. Make your own Brigid's Cross and learn about the different types of Brigid Crosses and the stories behind them.

Booking link : <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSEENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=23619268>

Goal 3(Good Health & Well being); Goal 13 (Climate Action )

### Community Grants Information Clinic

*Wednesday 11th February, 10 am – 1.00 pm*

Need help with your community grant application?

Drop in to one of our information clinics for guidance and support from our team. Grant Schemes covered: Community Grant; Festival Grant; Residents Association Grant.

What to bring: Laptop; Login details; Scanned bank statement; Project quotes.

\*Drop in, no booking required\*

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 17 ( Partnership for the goals ); Goal 13 (Climate Action )

## Events for Children

### Illustration Workshop with author/illustrator Jennifer Farley

For ages 7 - 10

*Saturday 28th February, 3pm – 4pm*

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.

#### About Wonder-Vet

Wonder-Vet is a picture book which tells the true story of Aileen Cust - The first female vet in Ireland and Great Britain. She was born in Ireland in 1868 and later became the first female veterinary student and eventually the first female veterinary surgeon in Great Britain and Ireland. She led an extraordinary life, and Wonder-Vet shows how Aileen's love of animals encouraged her to never give up on her dream of becoming a Vet.

All children must be accompanied by a parent/ guardian

Booking link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSEENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=23060210>

## Age Friendly Programme

### Age Friendly Coffee Morning

*Wednesday, 11th February, 10am – 11.30 am*

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.

\*Drop In. No booking required\*

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals:  
 Goal 3(Good Health & Well being); Goal 13 (Climate Action )

## Climate Action Events

### Zero Waste Maynooth

*Saturday 14th February, 2pm – 4pm*

Ladies Clothes Swap - Bring one, take one. All size clothes and brands welcome once in good repair. No large bags of clothes, please.

Kids Clothes Swap - Delighted that our friend Anna will host this clothes swap for kids. Clothes from two years upwards. Maximum six items per person. All clothes to be in good repair.

Learn to Repair Clothes - Vanessa from The Craft Corner will be joining us to show you how to mend your clothes and keep them for longer. Drop by with a project you're working on or items that need repair and learn how to mend.

Kids Toy Swap - Let's get the kids into the idea of swapping! Small toys only and no broken/dirty toys please

### Cloth Nappy Library Ireland

Volunteers available to show you how modern cloth nappies work. They are way easier than years gone by, super cute, saves waste and saves money .

\*Drop in, no booking required\*

Kildare libraries service supports the following sustainable development goals: 11 (sustainable cities and communities); 12 (Responsible consumption and production); 13 (Climate Action ).

## Exhibitions

*'Homebird': exhibition in photography by Alicia Donnan  
 5th – 28th February*

Alicia Donnan is a visual artist based between Dublin and Kildare whose practice explores identity, place and belonging in contemporary Ireland. Working primarily through photography, her project 'Homebird' captures the beauty of intimate, everyday moments that evoke feelings of being at home and how these feelings are resonant in particular places.

### Exhibition Opening

*Thursday 5th February, 6pm – 8pm*

Exhibition opening of 'Homebird' by Alicia Donnan. Light refreshments provided. \*Drop in \*, all welcome!

### Exhibition Bookings

If you are a local artist or art group and would like to book our exhibition space, please contact us. Maynooth Community Library's Exhibition Space is available to host exhibitions from January 2027. To be placed on a waiting list to use the exhibition space in 2026, or for booking enquiries, please email [maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie).

## Groups and Clubs

### Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

*The Library Craft Club meets every Monday, 11.30am - 13.00pm (except on Bank Holidays).*

Bring something you are working on, and exchange ideas and skills with this social craft group.

### Baby and Toddler Group

*Every Thursday, 10am – 11am*

If you have a young baby or toddler and would like to meet other parents or minders in the area, come to our stay and play group every Thursday morning at 10am. \*No need to book, just drop in!\*

### New Origami Club for Adults

*Thursday 19th February, 6.30pm – 7.30pm*

What can you do with a piece of paper and your imagination? Join us for an evening of happy folding, mindfulness and creativity at Maynooth Community Library on the third Thursday of each month. \* Drop in. No booking required \*

Goal 3(Good Health & Well being); Goal 13 (Climate Action )

For further information about Kildare Library Service Events, why not subscribe to our events newsletter at the following link:

[Kildare Library Service - Newsletter Subscribe Form](http://Kildare Library Service - Newsletter Subscribe Form)

# Maynooth Community Employment Project

## Producing the Maynooth Newsletter

### Memories From the Archives

### 1986



Link to the Archive: [www.maynoothcep.com](http://www.maynoothcep.com)

# MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 103

FEBRUARY EDITION

PRICE 20p

#### RELOCATION OF MAYNOOTH POST OFFICE

The news that Maynooth Post Office was to be relocated from its present location in the Main Street to O'Brien's Shopping Centre first began to circulate in the days immediately before Christmas last. Following various representations received on the matter, the Chairman of Maynooth Community Council, Proinnsias Breathnach, sent an urgent letter to the Chief Executive of An Post expressing concern at the proposed move on four grounds:

1. The inconvenience it would cause to most users due to the location of the shopping centre on the other side of the town from the main residential districts. Particular concern was expressed concerning the plight of old age pensioners.
2. The effect the move would have on the town centre.
3. The lack of consultation on the matter with the local community, given that the Post Office is a major public facility.
4. The need for a full-scale Post Office, run directly by An Post, in a town of Maynooth's size and status.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Community Council on January 6, it was decided to formally oppose the move, and to organise a house-to-house petition. Petition forms were distributed without delay to all Council members.

The matter was discussed at a special meeting of the full Council on January 13. This meeting showed that, except in a few areas, the vast majority of residents were opposed to the move. In all, 1,150 signatures were obtained on the petition.

At this meeting, the following motion was carried by a majority of 31 votes to one, with one abstention:

"That, while having no objection to the person appointed postmaster, Maynooth Community Council objects to the relocation of Maynooth Post Office from the town centre, and calls on An Post to rescind the move."

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Community Council received a reply from An Post in which it was stated that An Post was obliged to operate as a commercial enterprise, and would base decisions such as where to locate post offices on commercial considerations only. The letter confirmed that Mr. Bill Donovan, the Manager of O'Brien's Supermarket, had been appointed Postmaster in Maynooth and that the Post Office would be located in a temporary premises in the shopping centre pending the construction of a permanent unit in the coming six months. The letter stated that no suitable premises could be found in the Main Street, although the position of Postmaster had been advertised twice. Finally, the letter stated that the volume of business through Maynooth Post Office was too small to justify upgrading to full post office status.

The Community Council was subsequently presented with three petitions objecting to the move: one, with 903 signatures, collected by 17 traders in the Main Street and Greenfield Shopping Centre from among their customers; one containing the signatures of 37 local traders; and one, containing 145 signatures, collected at the Annual New Year's Dinner of Maynooth Old Folks Committee. The Council Chairman then wrote to the Chief Executive of An Post and the Chairman of An Post, Mr. Fergal Quinn, seeking an urgent meeting in order to present them with the four petitions and to discuss the issue. This is the latest position as these notes are being written.

Letters have also been sent to An Post by the authorities of Maynooth College (which provides most of the Maynooth Post Office's business) and the College Student Union, both objecting to the relocation. At its January meeting, the Celbridge Area Committee of Kildare County Council decided to support the position of Maynooth Community Council, as a result of which the County Development Officer wrote to An Post objecting to the move, citing the County Council's view that the move was not in keeping with the proper development of the town of Maynooth.

For further information contact:

Proinnsias Breathnach (Chairman)  
285222 (work); 285241 (home).  
Pat Moynan (PRO)  
379911 ext. 123 (work)  
Siobhan Hall (Administrator) 286399

#### BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Belated Birthday greetings to:

Siobhan O'Keeffe, Johnstown, Enfield	Dec. 10th
Noel Tracey, Greenfield	Dec. 16th
Garry Thompson, Summerhill	Dec. 25th
Noel McGovern, Greenfield	Dec. 31st
John Fanning, Greenfield	Dec. 31st
Doreen Tracey, Greenfield	Jan. 14th
Karina McGovern, " (5)	Jan. 14th
David Tracey, Greenfield	Jan. 17th

Best wishes for a happy birthday to Siobhan O'Keeffe, Johnstown, Enfield (Dec. 10th) from Una, Tommy & family in Maynooth.

Also belated birthday wishes to Sandra O'Keeffe who celebrated her birthday on Nov. 5th.

#### RECENT BIRTHS

Congratulations to Tony and Mary Bean, 7 Willowbrook Lawns, Celbridge, on the birth of a baby daughter.

#### PRESENTATION CONVENT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The following are the winners in our Christmas Draw this year:

1. Antoinette Mooney, 826 Greenfield.
2. Bridie Furlong, 110 Carton Court.
3. Mrs. K. Lawlar, c/o Noeleen O'Brien, Pagestown.
4. Ted Dillon, 58 Maynooth Park.
5. Sheila Grassick, 43 Carton Court.
6. Marie Farrelly, Killeaney.
7. Darina O'Malley, 5 Lawrence Ave.
8. Elizabeth Serridge, 1189 Greenfield.
9. Ian Fitzgerald, 21 Ardeevin Drive, Lucan.
10. Bridget Barrett, c/o Paul McCarthy, Laraghbryan.

We would like to thank everybody who supported our draw and all those who contributed so many prizes so generously.

P. Rice, Secretary.

#### TREES, TREES, TREES

Maynooth College Buildings Officer, Mr. Colm Buckley is to be congratulated on having in excess of 200 trees planted on the Colleges old and new Campus over the last few months.

These plantings will substantially contribute to the "greening" of Maynooth in the future and other bodies and institutions may well take note.



Grainne Farrelly's trip to Brussels was kindly sponsored by Barberstown Castle Hotel and she is shown here receiving her cheque from Ann Nevin, Manageress, Barberstown. Also in the picture are Grainne's parents, Mary and Noel.

<b>App #</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Development Address</b>	<b>App Date</b>
2660029	Kildare County Council	Donal & Laura O'Leary & O'Leary	16 Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	14/01/2026
2660019	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University	Buckley House, Parson Street, Maynooth, Co, Kildare	13/01/2026
2660017	Kildare County Council	Colm and Cora Donnelly	65 Carton Wood, Maynooth	12/01/2026
2660015	Kildare County Council	Anna Marie Flanagan & Lorenzo Pesiri	47 Kingsbry, Greenfield, Maynooth	09/01/2026
2561496	Kildare County Council	Keltston Properties Ltd	Lands at Mullen Park, Mullen Park Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/12/2025
2561498	Kildare County Council	Michael Brassil	88 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth , Co. Kildare	23/12/2025
2561483	Kildare County Council	Fiona & Ross Fitzgerald	1 Rockfield Square, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	22/12/2025
2561468	Kildare County Council	Maynooth Montane Limited	Lands at "Railpark West", in the townland of Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. The application site is bounded to the northwest by the dwelling known, as 'Rosturk House', Old Railpark/Parklands Grove (W23 X2F1), to the north by the dwelling known as 'Beal Na Bláth' Old Railpark/Parklands Grove (W23 N6E8) and to the northeast by an existing, residential dwelling and outbuildings along Old Railpark/Parklands Grove (W23 CH89). The eastern boundary adjoins the permitted Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (MERR), and the southern boundary is bordered by agricultural lands.	19/12/2025
2561469	Kildare County Council	Katie and Dwyer McCaughley	No. 29 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	19/12/2025
2561467	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University	Buckley House, Parson Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	19/12/2025
2561440	Kildare County Council	Colm and Cora Donnelly	65 Carton Wood, Maynooth, Co Kildare	17/12/2025
2561445	Kildare County Council	David Greally	202 Old Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	17/12/2025
2561441	Kildare County Council	Ann Howley	2 Laurence Avenue, Maynooth, County Kildare	16/12/2025
2561422	Kildare County Council	Gothafa Ltd	20 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	15/12/2025
2561415	Kildare County Council	Gothafa Ltd	20 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	12/12/2025
25180	Kildare County Council	Darius Vilimas	Site No. 17 Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/12/2025
2561389	Kildare County Council	Ann Howley	2 Laurence Avenue, Maynooth, County Kildare	06/12/2025
2561386	Kildare County Council	Kevin and Orla Moriarty	3 Linden Avenue, Linden Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	05/12/2025
2561383	Kildare County Council	Aleksandar Zimbakov	KELA00002460, Town Centre (GZT Zoning: M2 – City/Town/Village Centre, central area), Maynooth	04/12/2025
2561373	Kildare County Council	Moriarty Kevin and Orla	3 Linden Avenue, Linden Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	03/12/2025

# Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

Naoise Ó Cearúil TD 086 7280050 naoise.ocearuil@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/naoiseoceanuil/	Réada Cronin T.D. 01-6183823 reada.cronin@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/ReadaCroninSinnFein	James Lawless T.D. 01-6183587 james.lawless@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/JamesLawlessFF/	Joe Neville TD 086-6062207 joe.neville@oireachtas.ie
Cllr. Tim Durkan 086-8632784 tim.durkan321@gmail.com	Cllr. Angela Feeney 087-2381962 angelaemfeeney@gmail.com facebook.com/cllrangelafeeney/	Cllr. Peter Melrose 089 263 7612 peter.melrose@socialdemocrats.ie	Cllr. Donna Phelan 0870023636 dphelan@kildarecoco.ie
Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com	An Nuadha Players annuadhaplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha	An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390	Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/
Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018	Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org	Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie	Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland
Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie	Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie	Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie	Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie
Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236	Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie	Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft	Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie
Maynooth Post Office 01-6286259	Maynooth Community Care Unit 01-6106351	Maynooth Community Church 01-5054990 office@maynoothcc.org facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/	Maynooth Community Library 01-6285530 maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie facebook.com/ KildareCountyLibraryService
Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com	Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com	Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/	Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130
Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/	Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie	Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter	Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com
Maynooth Tidy Towns 083 304 6130 maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie facebook.com/MaynoothTidyTowns	Maynooth Town Football Club 086-1060654 info@maynoothtownfc.ie facebook.com/MTFC1969/	Maynooth Students Union 01-7083669 frontdesk@msu.ie facebook.com/MaynoothSU	North Kildare Club 01-6103909 info@northkildareclub.ie
North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie	Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com	SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003	Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth

If you wish to have your Community contact added, updated or removed from the above listing please  
e-mail: [office@maynoothcep.com](mailto:office@maynoothcep.com) with "Community Contact" in the subject line.